

# Stop for the red lights, dammit! (And the stop signs, too.)

When we see so many people run red lights, we wonder where the cops are. They can't be everywhere, of course, but how do so many drivers ignore red lights and stop signs with impunity? And what kind of frontier attitude is there about ignoring traffic signals?

If my wife and I didn't pay that much attention to motorists who ignore red lights and stop signs before, we do now. It's kind of a "whose ox is being gored" mentality, probably.

And our ox got gored.

On the morning of September 19th, Mrs. Herald was on her way to work, traveling north on Converse toward E. Lincolnway. Proceeding cautiously on a green light (and when I say

"cautiously," folks, I mean cautiously - she has held a driver's license since Coolidge was prez and has never received a traffic ticket nor been involved in an accident). She did not have a clear line of sight to the west (with Poor Richards and the overgrown trees/shrubs on the east and north sides of the building) and could not see a Ford Explorer with Colorado plates ignoring his red light and crossing her path too late for her to stop.

Now, the little Mercury Tracer shown below was not just transportation to my wife. She took great pride in its looks, reliability and functionality. It was treated like royalty and showed it. It was bought new in 1997 and had 89,779 miles on the odometer at the time the Colorado fool ran a red light and she hit the side of his

tank when she could not stop with so little warning of his lawlessness.

In the last few years, the average miles put on the car monthly was ~275 to 300. Fewer than 10 a day!

Fortunately, there were witnesses sitting at the red traffic light on Converse, facing west, who attested to the guy running a red light. His whine when he exited his Explorer was that he had the green. Too bad, greenie, Wyoming motorists saw differently and quickly put him in his place. He was cited for running a red light. Within a couple hours (while my wife was still receiving medical care), he called our insurance company, reported the accident and said my wife was at fault. A couple days later, I called his insurance company to make sure the accident had been reported and he had told them the same thing - that she was at fault. He was trying to shift the blame as though it wouldn't surface in the CPD traffic scene investigation (and his ticket) who was at fault. Mrs. Herald was lucky. Very, very lucky. The force of the impact could have caused much more serious injuries. To this point, she suffers from an injured right foot that will need surgery. Her air bag kept her from the windshield and, as one person who saw the car later told her, "she kept you safe." Meaning her treasured car. We don't disagree.

Since that morning, I have driven even more defensively here in town. And it shocks and amazes both me and my wife (I am now her chauffeur) how many drivers run through red lights and ignore stop signs. And a good share of the offenders have Colorado plates. Wake up, dammit! Stop for the red lights, jackasses!

## What is Max thinking? Or is he?

It must have been pretty slow at the office. The office of the Wyoming Secretary of State, that is.

Max Maxfield has been State Auditor and/or Secretary of State here for more than a dozen years. Yet, except for his wife, his family, and his office staffers, most around here couldn't pick him out of a lineup.

Talk about keeping a low profile. I do it on purpose. Max just can't buy any exposure. A lot of voters still think he's Pete.

Out of nowhere, he called a press conference to announce that he's bringing action against the State's term limits law that applies to the executive branch. There are several things pretty weird about this action. First, when Anderson, Hageman and Cathcart (along with a voter) brought similar action as term limits applied to the Legislature, they had to wait until they tried to file their candidacy and were refused. In other words, they had to be aggrieved. Max's action is like the boy who whines a girl turned him down for a date BEFORE HE ASKED HER! Max has suffered no damage and the District Court should bounce this act of grandstanding immediately. If not, the Supremes made it clear how they would rule - WHEN THE NEED AROSE! And, the need hasn't arisen and they'll kick it back if the stunt is certified to them for a decision.

Interesting comments by Joe Meyer, also. The Cathcart action had him the defendant. Now, he says term limits are unconstitutional. Then, he defended them. Where I come from, we call that hypocritical. No wonder he's fed at the public trough so long.



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