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Standing my ground with a big stick

Wednesday, July 09, 2014

Recently there have been several articles about proper etiquette for walkers, runners and bikers when sharing the trail. I've added my opinion about confronting a solid wall of walkers either in front of me or coming toward me.

Lately though, my problem has been my country road. There are no shoulders. Sometimes just a strip of grass. Often just a ditch.

Biking there is way too dangerous, but I do like to walk or run the 1 mile uphill and back down to our house which is where the road ends at the lake.

There's not much traffic, but drivers do tend to speed. I don't know why. Probably, because they can.

I always wave at oncoming cars and since we're in the south, they usually wave back. However friendly they may be, they don't leave me much room as I cling to the leftmost part of the pavement.

When I decided to incorporate a bit of upper body work into my walk, I noticed something different.

I began carrying my 50 year old baton from HS, and twirling it as I walked. As a car approaches, I give it a wave with the baton. Amazing! Now they move over almost into the other lane. Drivers may not worry about hitting me, but they don't want me to scratch their car.

I don't run with the baton, but maybe I can substitute a lightweight stick – like I'm in a relay race – and see if it has the same effect.

Note: For longer distances I either drive to the gym for a treadmill or on to town where there are sidewalks. No, I don't take my baton.

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**OPTIMIST1948**

You are not waving a baton while exercising. The drivers are doing their duty to get out of the way of a *very* short parade!
2526 days ago



**MARYJEANSL**

This made me laugh, picturing the drivers swerving to get away from such a dangerous weapon. Great idea!

2530 days ago

**COMEUNDONE87**

love it

2530 days ago

**DOVESEYES**

2530 days ago

**PHOENIX1949**

Twirl on.

2530 days ago

**ONEKIDSMOM**

They would do well to stay out of MY way if I attempted to twirl a baton... all thumbs, here!



Creative solution for a common problem!



2530 days ago

**EGRAMMY**

Love the image of you with your baton...

2531 days ago

**KANSASROSE67**

I am smiling broadly at the picture of you twirling your baton at those cars! On my country road, there is a hay business and I have to share the road with semis. Not fun, but they do slow down and move over for me. And I definitely move over for them!

2531 days ago

**LINDAKAY228**

Wow, that's a great idea!

2531 days ago

**DR1939**

Walking or running teaches you a lot of things about driving. When we walk in town we notice how people do not stop for people in the crosswalks or if they do it is at the last minute. They also overrun the stop signs and block the crosswalk. We are lucky, both places where we walk on roads the roads are fairly wide. The most narrow has a bike path and Minnesotans are good about avoiding bike paths (downtown Minneapolis seems to be an exception). Our biggest problem is bikers on the walk/bike paths. They come up behind us and do not signal, just pass. As we usually walk side-by-side any little wobble would put us in the biker's path. We've had some close calls.

2531 days ago

**TERI-RIFIC**

Coincidentally, I was almost brushed by a car this morning. What a jerk! It could have been on purpose. I should have had a stick!!

2531 days ago

**WATERMELLEN**

Well done!! And so effective yet humorous!!

P.S, How about resurrecting that majorette strut too??

2531 days ago



Comment edited on: 7/9/2014 9:16:32 AM

**PHEBESS**

On St. Thomas, there are often dogs loose, and many walkers or runners walk with a big stick to fend off dogs who run at them, barking. There was one guy we saw at the beach every day with a crow bar. (We called him Crow Bar Man.)

So there are multiple reasons to walk softly and carry a shiny stick! (Had to do that.)

2531 days ago



MISTYDAZE42



2531 days ago



LEWILL1982

You know, I've started waving but also more "flagging" my arm when cars approach me or when I cross a street. Some cars don't want to move out of the way and then act like we're the ones in the way. Glad the baton works!

2531 days ago



IFDEEVARUNS2

Thanks for the laugh! Whatever works.

2531 days ago



CD14815535

You know, I was gonna ask about taking the baton to town! Well, you know this side of the road, trail, walk is *my* pet peeve. Maybe the drivers think if you're out there with a baton then you

just might be someone who would throw it, too.

2531 days ago



P.S. Nice job of getting some strength in!



SLIMMERJESSE

Good idea. Stay safe.

2531 days ago



BOOKLOVINGGIRL

So funny! Good for you



2531 days ago



CD9543726

That's frickin' hilarious. :D

2531 days ago



MISCHAKEO

That is too amusing! What a good discovery for your walks or runs. Keep that baton with you and get those cars to give you space!

You have made me smile today. Thanks for writing.

2531 days ago



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