

Dissipating Lives or the Cross-Section of Society

Left Lane

The Left Lane opens to the southbound traffic. Every morning at 7:00 it opens. The Red X switches to The Green Arrow.

Red Car

The Red Car floors it out of the driveway. It leaves its Red House, and Red Dog, and drives very quickly with a Red Person. The Person cannot be late to work again. The Boss does not like tardiness. The person does not like lateness, and it doesn't like red, either.

The Band

The Band always practices on Wednesdays. Practice makes perfect, and perfect practice makes perfect performances. The Band is not a Marching Band, but a Band that Marches. The Band is only as strong as its weakest link, and the Piccolo section isn't helping much today.

Mr. Hampton

Mr. Hampton lives near the corner. His house is green; his lawn is trimmed; and he reads The Daily Paper every morning at 8:00. His dog, Cornucopia, eats one scoop of Alpo and one slice of corned beef for breakfast.

The Band

The Band plays a B Flat concert scale, a

chromatical scale, and a half note scale. The Saxophone player's dad is a Truck Driver, and he hates scales. The Band plays "Free Ride" and "White Dawn" and "Madame Butterfly." The Piccolos make the birds fly away.

Blue

The Person is feeling a little better. He is changing his color again. The Light changes color for him too. The Person is calming down, and he likes the way the sun glints off his shiny Blue Car.

Mr. Hampton

The Dog is full. Mr. Hampton clips on the leash and locks the door to the green house. The Dog leaves his yard and does his business in The Neighbor's yard. Mr. Hampton and the dog go for a walk every morning. They always walk the same way and on the same side of the street. The Dog always stops at the same places.

Northbound

The traffic goes north, and The Green Arrow goes south. Two police officers fill their quotas.

Ranks

The Band lines up in military formation across the field. The Trumpets line up first. The Clarinets play "The Star Spangled Banner." No one salutes the flag.

The Boss

The Boss is filling out The Pink Form. The Person has been late way too much. No one can ever be late. The Pink Form has tiny black print with a perforated edge on top. The Boss is not tiny, and he spills his coffee across the form. The Boss curses and wishes he had a dry shirt.

The Cadence

The Drums beat out a left-right rhythm. The

Band moves in formation across the field and into the parking lot. People parked their cars in the parking lot, and The Band has to march around them. The Piccolos try to march over them.

Tragedy

On the city's northeast side, a truck driver hits a car who hits a truck who hits a tree. The Paramedics would be more than happy to come, but it is during their coffee break. The Ambulance Driver reaches for another streusel.

Cornucopia

The Dog sniffs a pole. Mr. Hampton checks his watch. Both dog and owner turn left down Sinclair Street. The Dog howls with the sirens in the distance.

Detour A

The Person is almost there. His white car makes him happy, and his tongue licks his white teeth. The Ambulance is there. The Person doesn't see The Ambulance. The Officer blocks the road, and The Person is forced to turn right. The Person flips him off and squeals the tires of his red car. The Red Sun makes him angry.

Red

The Dog jumps out of the way of a speeding car. Mr. Hampton yells at the car and pats The Dog. The Dog pees on a bush.

Intersection

The Band is marching. They play "Flamingo Lips" and "Touch Me." Nobody applauds. They march past a gas station, and a swimming pool, and they march past an old man with his dog. The dog barks at the tubas. The old man just stares. The Band marches past cars and through a red light. Nobody tries to stop them.

Red

The Person is stopped at a red light. The light turns green, and the band keeps coming. The Person is very late, and he really hates piccolos.

Employment

The Boss has given up on The Person. A new Pink Form has been filled out and stuck in The Person's Mailbox. Ms. Violet is shown to her new office and welcomed onboard. The Boss smiles at her and asks what she is doing tonight.

The Band

The Band is finished now. Everyone shines his instrument, and Trumpets empty their spit valves. The Band shatters into 121 pieces and walks away. No one says anything to anyone anyway.

Security

The Dog is free. Mr. Hampton picks up The Daily Paper. He reads an article about an alien ship being found in Texas and remembers that he has to call his mother.

Unemployment

The Person is driving around. He has nothing to do. He drives past a green house with a perfect green yard and green trees. He remembers his hideous Red House and hates his Red Car. He throws his work ID out the window.

Coffin

Mr. Hampton remembers that his mother is dead and calls The Dog. The Dog gets an extra can of Alpo for being so good. Mr. Hampton finishes off the corned beef.

The X

The Green Arrow is gone.

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