

Portlandia Skit: Emo Insurance
by

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EXT. PORTLAND INTERSECTION - DAY

Peter (of Peter and Nance) is driving his Prius. He comes to an intersection where he doesn't have a stop sign and doesn't need to stop. There is a bicyclist waiting for Peter to keep driving but Peter slows down and stops unnecessarily, to be polite. The angry bicyclist yells at Peter and makes aggressive hand gestures.

BICYCLIST

Go! You don't have a stop sign!
What's your problem!?

We see Peter's face, in extreme shock at this verbal assault. Dramatic music plays for several seconds.

In slow motion, the Bicyclist shakes his head at Peter, mouths the word "FUCK!" and starts to cross the road. Peter is still in shock. Cars are honking behind him.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. PETER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Peter lays in bed, staring at the ceiling, dazed and depressed. We hear the voice of the Bicyclist echoing in Peter's mind.

BICYCLIST (V.O.)

You don't have a stop sign!!! Go!
Go! Go!

Peter draws the covers up to his chin. Nance enters.

NANCE

Peter. It's been three days. You need to move on.

PETER

I just need a little time.

NANCE

I can't go through this again.

PETER

It's gonna be okay, Nance.

NANCE

Are you sure, Peter? That's what you said last time when that trucker made those obscene gestures and--

PETER

No! Please don't bring that up.

NANCE

I've got something that will help.

Nance pulls out a laptop and places it in Peter's lap.

A commercial starts to play that features a Spokesman speaking over a backdrop of stock car and driver images.

SPOKESMAN

Do you live in Portland? Do you own a car? Do you often get emotionally distressed while driving?

(dramatic pause)

You're not alone. MANY Portland area drivers have sustained crushing emotional injuries while behind the wheel. But now your friends at Respectful Insurance have the solution. Emotional Driver insurance. "EmoDriver" coverage reimburses you for the following potentially traumatizing incidents:

The following list is accompanied by scrolling text.

SPOKESMAN (CONT'D)

Shouted or mouthed curse words.
Aggressive statements. Obscene gestures. Political slurs.
Arguments with passengers.
Offensive talk radio. Observing animals that have been run over and who are now deceased. Strongly worded bumper stickers.
Purposefully slow pedestrians.

The Spokesman returns to the screen.

SPOKESMAN (CONT'D)

Not only are you covered in harsh moments like these, you are covered for humiliating faux-pas, such as not knowing when to go at a 4-way stop, or missing a wide-open opportunity to merge...EmoDriver coverage; helping you survive the mean streets of Portland.

The video finished playing on Peter's laptop. Peter closes the computer and behind the laptop, in the bedroom, is the Spokesman from the commercial.

PETER
What is HE doing here?

NANCE
They make house calls.

PETER
What?

SPOKESMAN
We've found it easier on our
clients to come to them.

PETER
(agitated)
I don't understand!

The Spokesman sits down on the bed beside Peter. He caresses Peter's hair and face gently, forwardly.

SPOKESMAN
Shhh. It's all right, Peter. It's
all right.

NANCE
Peter. After your last...incident,
I bought you coverage.

SPOKESMAN
That's right, Peter my boy. You're
completely covered and your claim
has been approved. And, as part of
your emotional benefits...

The Spokesman pulls out a large basket filled with puppies and slowly dumps them all over Peter. Peter hugs a puppy and smiles through his tears of joy.