



## FAST TALKING

Geoffrey Bond may be the fastest surgeon around.

Somewhere in Nebraska this spring, Bond and a passenger were doing about 80 in a 65 mph zone. Law enforcement was not pleased; an officer pulled them over. "He was a nice guy and gave us a warning," says Bond. "We took pictures with him. Then, about three miles down the road, he was coming after me again, and this time I knew I wasn't speeding."

Turns out the cop wanted copies of the photos. In addition, the officer pledged to give Bond a few bucks—an unusual end to a traffic stop. Why?

Bond was driving as fast as he could to help transplant patients. And no, this wasn't a scheme for offering his own organs to be harvested.

The assistant professor of surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and transplant surgeon at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute gassed up his Lotus Exige S and spent a week in May tearing about various oval tracks, drag strips, and road courses to raise money to support transplant patients who can't afford immunosuppressant drugs and to raise awareness of the need for transplantable organs. (Bond recommends speeding on official courses, only, rather than public highways. Yet he admits that when the patrolman stopped him, he was rushing toward the next race. After Bond explained why he was in the mood to move fast, the officer declared he would solicit his colleagues to donate to the cause.)

The 2007 Tire Rack Cannonball One Lap of America race began and ended in South Bend, Ind., spanning 18 events in seven days and covering nearly 4,000 miles, ranging from Salt Lake City, Utah, in the West, to Lexington, Ohio, in the East. Bond's Lotus was festooned with the names of sponsors who covered his costs and donated to the Odenbach Fund of the Starzl Institute. A poster promoting organ donation came along for the ride.

Bond finished 31 in a field of nearly 100—19 places ahead of his 2006 finish.

—Joe Miksch

—Photo by Steve Rossini