

AUTOMOTIVE

The Portland Observer

Oh Say Can You See, Start, Steer And Stop?

Starting, steering and stopping a car can present problems. That may be good news for people in the emergency road service or auto body repair business but its tough on motorists and their insurance companies.

A little preventive maintenance can go a long way toward averting the pitfalls. First, be sure your battery and electrical system are healthy.

An engine that needs a tune-up, a battery or an oil change is starting with a severe handicap. It may need the help of an emergency road service truck.

Good tires, brakes and steering are critical emphasizes the Car Council. If it's been a while since you've invested in wheel alignment and a

close inspection of tires, do it now.

Have the brakes inspected at the same time, suggests the Council. Brake wear is insidious, often barely noticeable until it has reached the critical stage.

Finally, be sure you can see and be seen. Are all of your lights working? Turn signals? Brake lights? Emergency flashers? Are your windshield wipers wiping clean? Washers working?

If you are straining your eyes to peer through damaged windshield glass, look into having it replaced. A common cause of poor vision is pitted glass, where refracted light from oncoming headlights or glaring sun can be blinding.



"New car fever" is a condition that strikes most Americans every year or two. Compelling ad campaigns and dealers' sales pitches fan the flame until that pricy, state-of-the-art car seems almost irresistible. That's when you need someone to say, "Wait! consider your options. Sleep on it. A bargain isn't a bargain unless you need it. A penny saved..." Well, you get the picture.

Although rarely publicized, there are some options to consider in the car buying decision, and the Car Council has detailed them in their pamphlet entitled "Renew Or Replace: RX For Making A Decision." It offers a realistic look at ways to get another year or

To Renew Or Replace: That Is The Question

more use from one's present car, thereby delaying the need to decide on a new (or newer) one.

The basic premise is that, instead of high-tailing it to the dealer's showroom, owners should consider "renewing" their present cars. In this throw-away society, it's important to realize that no matter how much work your car may need, it probably won't cost as much as buying a new one.

Written for the average consumer,

the pamphlet answers lots of questions one might have about renovating a vehicle. The information is covered in readable, bite-size

sections packed with helpful ideas. One sidebar, for example, suggests ways to combat "new car fever" while another offers pointers on replacement parts.

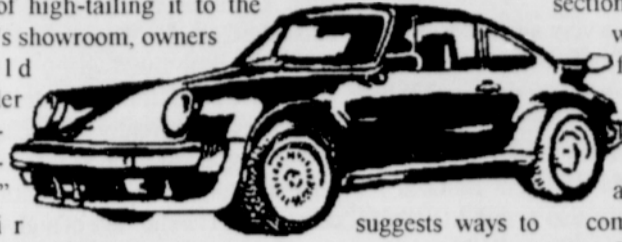
Also covered are the financial aspects of renovating vs. replacing. Perhaps the most eye opening section is a scenario, complete with figures, of



an average age car with an estimate of what it might take to get the car back in tip top shape vs. cost of replacing it.

The pamphlet discusses both sides of the case, playing devil's advocate with an entire section devoted to the positive points of buying a new (or newer) vehicle. The section entitled "The Point of Diminishing Return," addresses the problems of the car owner whose vehicle is in need of extensive repair or the owner whose transportation needs have changed.

The pamphlet is available free of charge. Send a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope to Car Care Council, Department r, One Grande Lake Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452.



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88 4 Hyundai Excel	72 4 Ford Courier P/U	83 A Merc Cougar
83 A Honda Accord	82 A VW Vanagon GL	85 A Subaru 1800 S/W
82 A AMC Eagle	86 A Olds Cutlass	82 A Jaguar XJ6 4.2

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14 AT THIS PRICE
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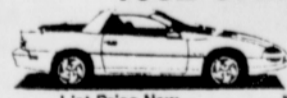
3.1 V6, Air conditioning, Tilt wheel, Cruise control, Power steering, Power disc brakes, Air bag, AM-FM stereo, ABS brakes, Power windows.

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