

AUTO BRIEFS

VOLVO PICNIC FOR YOUNG SKIER

A caravan of Volvos gathered in West Friendship, MD in September, to show off their cars and raise funds for skier Abiri Ward, an aspiring Olympic Ski racer. The event was held by Old Cars Unlimited, several Volvo dealers in the Washington area and *News Dimensions*, an AOW distribution newspaper. Prizes were awarded for the oldest Volvos, including 240s, 800s, and 900-series; the most eccentric and the most loved Volvos and those with the most mileage. Ward began skiing at age two and currently attends Burke Mountain Academy (Ski School) in East Burke, VT.



VOICES

Which car company has the best brand image in the black community?

By Genea Luck



"General Motors because a GM car is supposed to be the most economical for blacks to own. And I will only buy a GM car. I also like Buicks and Cadillacs. I've owned several Buicks."

Vivian Walker
Memphis, TN



"I would have to say GM and its Oldsmobiles. They are larger cars and in our community a larger car is a symbol of status and power. The more you have is important."

Brian Jones
Phoenix, AZ



PRESIDENT REPEALS LUXURY TAX ON CARS

A six-year-old luxury tax on automobiles will be phased out and eliminated by the year 2002. The repeal is part of the Small Business Job Protection Act/ Minimum Wage Bill signed by President Clinton last August. The current luxury tax rate, which applies to automobiles above \$34,000, was reduced from 10 to nine percent in August and will drop to eight percent for calendar year 1997. Enacted in 1990, the luxury tax will drop by one percent each year until it expires in 2002.

TOYOTA HELPS YOUTH CLEANUP ENVIRONMENT

More youth from Washington, D.C. will help clean up the environment thanks to a \$2 million grant from the Toyota Motor Corporation. Toyota made the donation to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) to help the environmental organization expand its Urban Education Initiative. The Initiative is part of the Foundation's three-year program called "CLEAN," (Children Linking with the Environment Across the Nation). The funding will help CBF train over 3,000 minority students, who participate in hands-on field trips and conduct community cleanup projects in four cities -- Baltimore, MD; Richmond, VA; Norfolk, VA, and Washington, D.C.

DON'T DRIVE ASLEEP!

It was just 20 years ago that drunk driving became a major public concern. Now, falling to sleep behind the wheel is increasingly in the spotlight. The National Sleep Foundation and the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has begun an awareness campaign to make drowsy driving as socially unacceptable as drunk driving is today.

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