

*Walking in
the footsteps of
Nikki Giovanni
begins at the doors of
Historically Black
Colleges and
Universities.*

How many times have you heard it? A child you may know says, "I want to be just like...." Walking in the footsteps of any of our great black minds often begins with the schools they attended - Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's). It's these schools that have empowered and graduated the likes of Nikki Giovanni, author and poet; Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and former Mayor of Atlanta; Herman Cain, President and CEO of Godfather's Pizza; Spike Lee, filmmaker; and thousands of others who understand what a significant role HBCU's

play in our community. Nissan believes that HBCU's play a crucial role in the economic, cultural and intellectual development of African American communities and the world as a whole. That's why every summer Nissan sponsors the Nissan-HBCU Summer Institute to help enrich and develop HBCU faculty. In turn, the faculty will have better tools and aids to empower our children and help HBCU's provide African American students with a vital gateway to opportunity as academicians, scientists, doctors, financiers and business people. Nissan is dedicated to taking people places.

NISSAN

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manual. Also offered in GXE and the more luxurious GLE. Maxima remains a very competitive sports sedan. ALTIMA, used as a competitive benchmark by GM newcomers Malibu and Cutlass, has few '97 changes other than a leather interior for the GXE and a Limited Edition package option. Power comes from a spirited 150hp 2.4L four.

INFINITI

At last, Nissan's luxury division gives flagship Q45 a complete makeover. They've shortened the wheelbase by two inches, and provided more interior room in the process. Actually, the styling of the previous iteration still looked fresh and contemporary even seven years after its debut. At first glance, we are reminded of the angular '83 Maserati Quattroporte

V-8 sedan, which is not a bad thing. It's just that the appearance is now, well, more sedate. Engine displacement drops from 4.5L to 4.1L and horsepower is reduced from 278 to 266. Performance is not compromised, however, thanks to a 204 lb. weight reduction.....A word or two about Infiniti's entry-level luxury car I30; it has the same butter-smooth 3.0L V-6 and crisp shifting 5-spd as Maxima, on which it is based. But interior noise levels have been further reduced and seat structure has been enhanced. A cocoon-like feel is the result.

HONDA

Changes are few at Honda for '97, just a refinement of already great products. Top seller ACCORD still wants to take out arch-rival Taurus in the race to become

America's best-selling sedan. One of the best buys in its class, ACCORD is one of the few cars that we recommend without reservation or qualification. Power is still produced by a standard 130hp 2.2L four for DX and LX; a 145hp VTEC 2.2L for Special Edition and EX models. If you need more underhood urge, order the 170hp 2.7L V-6 — available in all models except DX.

HYUNDAI

This South Korean manufacturer's star is sure to rise in '97 with its straight-from-a-sci-fi-movie TIBURON sports coupe. The swoopy TIBURON borrows from Hyundai's wild HCD-II concept car, is aimed squarely at Probe and Celica and will beat them in price. Add to this the fact that the suspension is especially tuned by Porsche. Better get in line now.

**'97 Prices
Hold Steady**

Shoppers for 1997 models should be happy to know, they will benefit from growing competition in the sedan and luxury car market. Many automakers have priced selected new 1997 models at or below 1996 cars. Several models even include more content at no extra cost.



Lexus ES 300

Toyota has reduced costs substantially on the newly redesigned 1997 Camry.

The new sedan is lighter, has more interior room and includes standard features like anti-lock brakes. There will be no coupe or station wagon Camrys for '97, but a four and six-cylinder engine are available. The four-cylinder version sells for \$16,148, compared to \$16,758 for last year's base model.

The new Lexus ES300 is superb. Its more powerful V-6 engine and im-

proved suspension provides more road feel without annoying road noise. The ES300 is the first recipient of Lexus' new emphasis on safety and sports-car-like performance.

The eye of Hurricane Fran had just passed through Charlottesville, VA, when we took our first drive in the new ES. The wonderful way it handled under intensely windy and rainy conditions gave us a fine impression of its improved handling and traction control. At \$2,400 less than the sticker on the '96 model, it will start at \$29,900.

After driving Jaguar's all-new 1997 XK8 through the mountainous regions surrounding Santa Barbara, CA, there's only one thing we can say, "move over Mercedes SL." Jaguar's replacement for XJS is the new class leader. Powered by its new 4.0-liter, AJ-V8 engine, and new five-speed automatic transmission, the XK8 is aimed at younger luxury sports car buyers. Priced at \$69,900 for the convertible and \$64,900 for the coupe, it is well below the SL500's price tag (\$90,900).

Ford is posting the smallest price increase among the Big Three for its 1997 models. The new Escort has 25 percent more power than the old model and prices range between \$11,015-\$12,065. It gets a new 110 horsepower, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, and is more comfortable and quieter than its predecessor.

Chrysler announced an average price hike of only \$425 for its 1997 models.

The Dodge Dakota is completely redesigned for '97, borrowing cues from its big brother, the T300 Ram. The new Dakota comes in 4x4 and 4x2 versions with four engines to choose from: a 2.5-liter four-cylinder, a 3.9-liter V-6; or a 230 horsepower, 5.2-liter V-8. Any powertrain selection can be mated to either a four-speed or five-speed automatic transmission. Prices range from \$11,500 to \$20,500.

GM is raising its prices an average \$424, including higher destination charges. GM's new Cadillac Catera is aimed at women luxury car buyers. It includes features that meet their needs, including the OnStar navigation system that can assist in emergency situations, help locate the nearest ATM machine and order flowers. Based on the Omega MV6, built by Opel, a GM European subsidiary, the Catera is powered by a 200 horsepower, 24-valve V-6 engine and is competitively priced at \$29,995.



Ford Escort