

411

Ask Monique

Battery Care

I have a '92 Chrysler LaBaron. I take it to the dealer for regular maintenance and check ups. In July, my battery blew up when I turned my car on. No one can satisfactorily explain to me why this happened; not even the dealer. It is the original battery that came with the car?
Pat Wheeler, Washington, D.C.

First of all, exploding batteries are not common occurrences, according to Monique McGill, a certified technician who gave us the info on what might of happened to Wheeler's Chrysler LaBaron. Battery explosions occur in extreme situations, largely re-

sulting from neglect and not age. McGill says the battery's sole purpose is to start the car, and that we tend to forget about the battery because it isn't needed to keep the car running.

Batteries are normally checked during routine maintenance and service visits. Me-



chanics, when changing the oil and replacing the filter, should also check the battery. It is absolutely necessary to have the right balance of water and acid for a healthy battery. Too little water will cause the acid to build up and eat away the battery. Too much

water will cause spillage and corrosion. Both instances allow acid fumes to escape from the battery. The mix with other engine fumes could spark an explosion.

McGill also warned about faulty wires, which could cause sparks, that could ignite the battery because of the acid. A loose connecting wire could also be the culprit, again setting off sparks that could set off an explosion.

You can tell if your battery needs attention, says McGill, if the vehicle runs sluggish, idles rough, starts rough or if any of the cylinders aren't firing.

Damage from exploding batteries is generally confined to the battery, which will need replacement, as will the adjoining wires, McGill explains. But that can be avoided. When you change the oil, take a look at the battery. If something looks wrong, deal with it as soon as possible.

McGill is a certified technician at Antwerp Toyota in Clarksville, Md. Questions may be e-mailed to her at AAOW2@aol.com or faxed to (313)255-1321.

LETTERS AND E-MAIL

Reader Peter Hauer's conclusion that black couples' car buying preferences (Spring '97) reflect an emasculation of the black male by his own community is self-centered and overgeneralized. Any healthy relationship involves give and take.

Car buying represents only one of the myriad of realms in which couples have to render decisions affecting their lives.

Black males having the only say in car purchases and other areas will not solve relationship problems in 'our' community or the many crises plaguing black men and women.

Binta Robinson
e-mail:

Del_Robinson_CPA@compuserve.com

My father used to take our family for rides on Sundays and we would sit outside the gates of Milan Dragway, just looking and listening. I loved the sound of the cars and watching when their tires smoked. I was never quite sure why we never went in.

In 1980, I met my husband and we went there on one of our first dates. Looking around, I noticed that we were the only African Americans there.

My husband's interest in drag racing be-

gan with his Uncle Willy Strickland of Inkster, Mich., who raced a GTO at Milan.

We have been going to the track now 17 years, taking family and friends and everyone has returned. There is nothing like the excitement you feel when the cars leap off the line. Over the years, it has been good to see a lot more of our people racing and coming to the races.

I was very happy to see your magazine and the story on Athina Corbett (Summer '97) and her family. I wish them the best of luck and will be watching for her at the track.

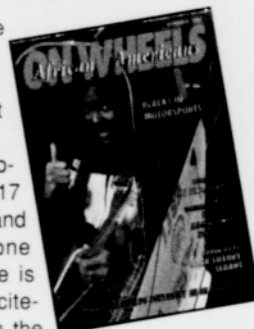
K. Strickland
e-mail: Kstrick181

We appreciate the realistic article by Derrick Malachi and Jacqueline Mitchell about the current status of African Americans in motorsports (Summer '97).

General Motors is the first American auto manufacturer since 1908 to seriously recognize the added marketing value African-American motor racing teams can offer.

We will keep you posted on our team's progress.

Lenny Miller, team manager,
Miller Racing Group, Inc.
Charlottesville, Va.



As a young African American in the car buying market, I want to say that AAOW is the best, most helpful automotive magazine out. I use it as a guide to help me in researching cars, as well as an educational tool to keep me abreast of what is happening with us in the auto industry.

Keep doing what you are doing Mr. Payton. Leaders like you attract those who want to learn, who, in turn, educate others.

I look forward to your next issue.

Damon Remond
Voorhees, N.J.

I saw a story about your magazine on BET not long ago. I said to myself, "that's great, an African-American auto magazine."

As an African American involved in motorsports, I know that racers need a forum to get our issues out.

In California we are trying to secure sponsorship for African-American racing teams, but without much success.

Lack of sponsorship is a sore point in the black racing community. Many people give up and don't bother to try to get into the professional ranks of the sport.

These problems need to be addressed.

Ron Murray
Los Angeles, Calif.

Editors' note: Letters are subject to editing for style and content.

GRANT HILL HAS REALLY GOT THE DRIVE FOR 98.

On the court, his drive is unsurpassed. On the road he drives the unsurpassable Jimmy from GMC. Just like Grant, the Jimmy is heavy on performance and rich in style with a spacious interior that gives him room to maneuver. And the Jimmy is built to make the moves, with a powerful Vortec™ 190 HP engine, available shift-on-the-fly four wheel drive and trip computer that lets Grant navigate with the same precision on the streets as he shows on the court.

Plus, the Jimmy is smooth, with all the touches of luxury a superstar could ask for, including available power sun roof, leather seating surfaces, heated outside mirrors and six speaker CD Sound System to keep him jamming off the court as well as on. The 1998 Jimmy from GMC. If you've got the drive, Jimmy's got the ride.



JIMMY

COMFORTABLY
IN COMMAND

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL TOLL FREE 1-888-98-JIMMY OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.gmc.com/jimmy

© 1997 GM Corp. All rights reserved. GM, GMC, Jimmy and the GMC logo are registered trademarks of General Motors Corporation. Buckle up, America!