

FROM THE PUBLISHER

What is it about motorsports?

This publication started out providing news and information about the auto industry to its readers. As we expanded our coverage, we began to dig up worthy information about black participation in the development of the industry and our passion for automobiles. The last frontier, however, appears to be our love for motorsports. We can't seem to satisfy our readers' thirst for this sport. The phones won't stop ringing and the flow of e-mail on the subject hasn't diminished.

Just what is it about motorsports? History tells us that blacks have been racing since the sport first began. But why is it still considered a rich, white sport? Are sponsors willing to support us? Why aren't there any black corporate sponsors?

This interest sparked us to start a regular section on black involvement in motorsports. And annually, we devote our cover story to this subject. This time we go "behind the scenes" to learn what blacks are doing in supporting roles. You will be surprised by what we have found. As the cover of this issue shows, blacks who aren't drivers or owners are making strides in supporting roles as pit crew members, marketers, organizers, T.V. producers and transporters.

Other hot topics inside this issue include an analysis by Senior Editor Warren Brown on whether crashes between sport-utility vehicles and passenger cars are pre-



Photo by Kim Johnson
Parked in front of a black church is where you will most likely see the all-new 1998 Lincoln Town car. Pictured in the background is the Metropolitan A.M.E., the oldest black church in Washington, D.C. The sporty performing Town Car is powered by a 4.6 liter V8 that produces 220 horsepower. Base price ranges from \$37,830 to \$41,830.

sending a crisis. And we won't let our readers off the hook regarding seatbelt safety, especially when it involves children. Our contributing writer Reg McGee reveals some startling statistics on the subject.

We should all be concerned about the environment. In this issue, Senior Editor Paul Eisenstein provides the latest developments of the electric vehicle and the movement toward a cleaner car.

Finally, a word about the cover illustration of our Spring 1998 black history edition. We can't help but mention the amount of positive feedback we received. Nationally renowned artist Barbara Higgins Bond colorfully conveyed the historical interest and passion we have for our automobiles.

The cover embodied the spirit of what we attempt to do each and every issue: illustrate the deeply rooted and everlasting love affair between us and our cars.

Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Randi Payton

Executive Editor

Jacqueline Mitchell

Art Director

Ed Towles

Senior Editors

Warren Brown

Winfred Cross

Paul Eisenstein

Rosville Embry

Blair Walker

Editorial Director

Vivienne Samms

Reporters

Frank Aukofer

Adam J. Dixon

Joe Elia

Reg McGhee

Azure Buni Rae Thompson

Copy Editor

Andrea Puchalsky

Photo Editor

Cassandra Bryant

Cover Photo

Delane Rouse

Photographers

Calvin Ferguson

Kim Johnson

Sue Mead

Dot Ward

Web Site Development

Web Visions

CONTENTS

Summer 1998
Volume 4, Issue 2

14	Lexus GS Series Review by Winfred Cross
20	Jeep Jamboree Is Family Fun by Frank Aukofer
22	Motorsports Report: Gaining Ground In Elite Industry by Reg McGhee and Jacqueline Mitchell
28	Where's The Crisis? by Warren Brown
32	Urban Pick; Full-Size SUVs
6	Departments
10	Auto Briefs
10	411: Car Care & Letters
12	First Impressions
30	Diamante Four Season Review
36	Sebring Four Seasons Review

Publisher

Randi Payton

Business Manager

Mike Epps

Communications

Kimatni D. Rawlins

Operations

Gary V. Joseph

Advertising Representative

Christine Anderson

Motor City Media

22 Cambridge

Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069

(248) 544-8762

African Americans On Wheels

2034 National Press Building

Washington, DC 20045

Tel. (202) 588-9459

Fax (202) 588-5136

Member of

International Motor Press Association

Washington Automotive Press Association

National Association of Black Journalists

Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce

National Press Club



Audit Bureau of Circulations
Member

African Americans On Wheels, © 1998 is published quarterly as a supplement to newspapers by On Wheels, Inc. AAOW is on the Internet at <http://www.automag.com>. Our e-mail address is AAOW@AOL.com

URBAN PICKS CHART

'Full-Size,' 4-Door Sport-Utility Vehicles

Make/Model	Avg. Transact. Price	0-60	base engine (liter/cyl)	base trans.	horse-power	MPG (City)	wheel-base (inches)	length/width (inches)	Cargo Capacity‡ (cu. feet)	Maximum Number of passgrs.
*AMG Hummer	\$61358	19.5	6.5D†/8	4A	170	13††	130	185/87	varies	4
Chevrolet Suburban C1500	\$22239	9.4	5.7/8	4A	255	14	132	220/77	97	9
Chevrolet Tahoe	\$26072	8.8	5.7/8	4A	255	14	118	200/77	67	6
Ford Expedition XLT	\$24878	N/A	4.6/8	4A	215	14	119	205/79	63	9
GMC Suburban C1500	\$22296	9.4	5.7/8	4A	255	14	132	220/77	67	9
GMC Yukon SLE	\$26267	8.8	5.7/8	4A	255	14	118	200/77	67	6
*1999 GMC Yukon Denali	\$38192	N/A	5.7/8	4A	255	13	118	200/77	67	6
*Lexus LX470	\$49534	9.9	4.7/8	4A	230	13	112	193/76	54	8
Lincoln Navigator	\$34780	9.9	5.4/8	4A	230	12	119	205/80	63	8
*Range Rover 4.0SE AWD	\$52028	11.7	4.0/8	4A	190	13	108	186/74	31	5
*Toyota Land Cruiser	\$40664	9.9	4.7/8	4A	230	14	112	193/76	61	8

* Model has standard Four- or All-Wheel Drive

† Diesel

†† With optional 195 horsepower turbodiesel.

‡ With third seat folded into floor or removed, where available

The average transaction price is determined using a formula which better reflects what a buyer actually pays, excluding options, destination charge, or applicable rebates.

Data provided by Edmunds, Road & Track, Kiplingers, AutoSite, and Car & Driver

Compiled by Adam J. Dixon

PROAIR



The Smartest Distance Between Two Points

Flying from Detroit City Airport (DET)

Baltimore International Airport (BWI)

For more information and reservations call your travel agent

or **PROAIR** at 1.800.939.9551

www.proair.com