

The 2001 Trumpet Awards



Carroll



Roundtree

The hosts for the 2001 Trumpet Awards, which airs Feb. 24 on cable's TBS Superstation, are Diahann Carroll, the first black actress in television history to star in her own TV situation comedy, *Julia*, and Richard Roundtree, star of *Shaft*, *Shaft in Africa*, *Shaft's Big Score* and many other films. This year's honorees include: baseball legend Willie Mays, singer/actress Leslie Uggams, performers Geoffrey Holder and Carmen deLavallade, music producer Clive Davis and rocket scientist Jacqueline L. Mims. Automotive sponsors include AC-Delco, GM Goodwrench Service Plus and Pontiac.

Free At Last!



Former car dealer Antoinette Frink.

In one of his last official acts, President Bill Clinton commuted the sentence of Antoinette Frink, 49, former president of McFrink Chevrolet-Cadillac Inc. in Delaware, Ohio, reported *Automotive News*, a Detroit-based automotive trade publication.

After serving 11 years, Frink walked out of a federal prison in Lexington, Ky., a free woman.

What landed Frink in prison was a deal where she sold and/or retitled about 12 vehicles for drug dealers. She denies all charges of wrongdoing, and says she did not know the buyers were drug dealers. The federal government contends she knew the vehicles would be used to transport cocaine.

In 1989 she was convicted on three drug charges and given a mandatory sentence of 15 years in prison, under guidelines that prohibit parole but deduct time for good behavior. She was to be released in 2003.

Others got involved in her fight, including the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers, the Georgia Automobile Dealers Association, Families Against Mandatory Minimums and several government officials. Because of those efforts, Frink, a former teacher, is free again today.

Celebrating 25 Years and Counting



(From left) Charlene M. Mitchell, advertising and public relations director; Mel Farr, Sr., and mother Doretha Farr.

The nation's number one African-American owned company, Mel Farr Automotive Group, recently celebrated 25 years of business as a retail auto dealer. The black-tie affair was attended by 600 employees, spouses and other guests. "Without the help and understanding of my family, and the loyalty of so many talented employees, we wouldn't be celebrating," said founder Mel Farr, Sr. Included in the celebration was Rosetta Moggel, the very first person he hired 25 years ago, who remains with him today.

Outlaw Cell Phones in Cars! But Could You Enforce It?

A recent insurance industry survey revealed that Americans believe using cellular phones while driving can be distracting and lead to accidents - but laws against the practice would likely be ignored.

The survey, conducted by Roper Starch Worldwide for the Insurance Research Council, found that of the 1,000 adults surveyed, 91 percent believed driving and talking on a cell phone distracts drivers and increases the chance of accidents. Sixty-nine percent said they favored bans on driving and talking on a cell phone.

But only 35 percent said they thought it unlikely that such laws would be obeyed. Driver distraction has become a growing concern in the auto industry as companies offer more cellular and computer services in vehicles. Several states have considered banning cell phone use while driving.

The survey found fewer people saying they used their phone while driving, with 42 percent saying they do, down from 61 percent in a similar survey three years ago.

Take The Tires, But Don't Pay Us Just Yet.

Nashville-based Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. began in January a "No Payment for Six Months" program for people who may have overspent in December, but need new tires now. Through March 31, participating Bridgestone/Firestone dealers and company-owned stores will allow customers to

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