

Portland Observer Auto Review

The Avenger: Muscle Car? Family Car?

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2008 Dodge Avenger builds on the bold and aggressive styling, performance and excitement of the Dodge Charger.

"The all-new Dodge Avenger brings Dodge brand American muscle car heritage into the global mid-size car segment" said Steve Creed, Senior President of Design, Chrysler Group.

There's no mistaking Dodge's muscle car heritage in Avenger's aggressive lines. The signature crosshair grille and large modern headlights housed in black add to Avenger's menacing glare. The 2008 Dodge Avenger has a very serious, almost sinister, appearance.

The Avenger's side profile demonstrates even a stronger family resemblance to the 'Bad-Boy-Charger.' Muscular rear shoulders, large wheels and tires and a sleek rear spoiler are the Dodge brand attributes of bold, powerful and capable.

2008 Dodge Avenger SE



Specifications: 2.4-Liter 4-Cylinder World Engine 173-hp @ 166 lb-ft. torque, 4-Speed Automatic Transmission, 21-City mpg 30-Highway mpg, \$19,125 MSRP

The 2008 Dodge Avenger SE features a standard four-cylinder engine that rivals the best in the mid-size car segment when it comes to fuel economy. The Avenger's

2.4-liter World Engine delivers 173-hp at 166 pd.-ft torques, performing 0-60 in 7.0 seconds. The 2.4-liter World Engine combined with dual variable valve timing deliv-

ers 21-city mpg and an impressive 30-highway mpg. The base model Avenger SE has adequate power for most driving circumstances, although the four-speed automatic transmission could use a few more ratios.

Climate Report:

Poor will suffer most

(AP) -- The world faces increased hunger and water shortages in the poorest countries, massive floods and avalanches in Asia, and species extinction unless nations adapt to climate change and halt its progress, according to a report approved Friday by an international conference on global warming.

The report is the clearest and most comprehensive scientific statement to date on the impact of global warming mainly caused by man-induced carbon dioxide pollution.

"The poorest of the poor in the world -- and this includes poor people in prosperous societies -- are going to be the worst hit," said Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "People who are poor are least able to adapt to climate change."

The report said up to 30 percent of species face an increased risk of vanishing if global temperatures rise 3.6 degrees above the average in the 1980s and 1990s.

Areas in drought will become even more dry, adding to the risks of hunger and disease, it said.

EL OBSERVADOR



El Programa Hispano

Allyssa Keller, (right) El Programa Hispano youth services manager, leads free activities for local kids during spring break. The effort was in partnership with the Police Activities League and the PAL Youth Center. Also pictured (from left) are Elizabeth Luna, 11; Jennifer Cecilio, 11; Dylan Wagner, 9; and Monica Manzo, 11.



A man reads the Granma newspaper as a group of children walk past him in Old Havana. The paper published articles by Fidel Castro about ethanol production charging that the use of food crops to produce biofuels for automobiles could leave the world's poor hungry. (AP photo)

Castro: Crops for Food, Not Fuel

(AP) -- Ailing leader Fidel Castro returned to the public debate -- if not view -- for the second time in less than a week April 4 with a column in the Communist Party newspaper denouncing U.S. promotion of using food crops for biofuels.

Castro chided the Bush administration for its support of ethanol production for automobiles, a move that the 80-year-old leader said would starve the world's poor.

Castro gently chided leftist ally

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva for his country's ambitious plans for ethanol production and his cooperation with Bush in promoting it.

"From where, and who will they supply the more than 500 million tons of corn and other cereals that the United States, Europe and the rich countries are going to need to produce the quantity of gallons of ethanol that the big companies demand in return for their many investments?" he asked in the column.

World War II Film Angers Latino Activists

Documentary includes no interviews with Latino vets

(AP) -- Activists who believe Latinos deserve more recognition for their contributions during World War II have created an agonizing political problem for PBS and filmmaking star Ken Burns.

Several Latino leaders and military veterans, angry that Burns' high-profile documentary series "The War" includes no conversations with Latinos who fought, are demanding changes. PBS and Burns want to satisfy an important constituency, without the precedent of a filmmaker forced to change his vision due to a protest.

PBS chief executive Paula Kerger, after meetings with leaders including Congress' Hispanic caucus, has promised suggested solutions as early as this week.

Burns' 14-hour documentary is



Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns' new film, "The War," is already creating controversy. (AP photo)

scheduled to premiere in September. PBS hopes it becomes as definitive a record of the World War II experience as Burns' "The Civil War" was for that conflict, and as popular. Kerger has already described it as Burns' greatest work.

Even though the film hasn't been seen publicly, its lack of Latino representation was sniffed out by

Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, a former newspaper reporter who runs an oral history project about Latino World War II veterans at the University of Texas.

Rivas-Rodriguez and her staff police projects about World War II all over the country -- books, films, conferences and the like -- to make sure Latinos are represented. Last

November, when Burns previewed his film at a museum, her project manager asked whether Latino veterans were interviewed in the documentary. She was told no, and immediately set about trying to raise awareness.

Anger over "The War" has deep roots.

Rivas-Rodriguez has stories from Latino Medal of Honor winners who came home to Texas only to be denied service at restaurants. She thinks few Americans are aware of the experiences, and the lack of attention it received in Tom Brokaw's best-selling book "The Greatest Generation" didn't help.

"It's a real sore spot to say to someone that your experience wasn't unique in this country," she said. "Our people weren't valued. Not only were they not valued then, they are not being valued today."

The large Latino presence among the armed forces fighting the Iraq War deepens the sensitivity toward this issue, said Marta Garcia, head of the New York chapter of the National Hispanic Media Coalition.

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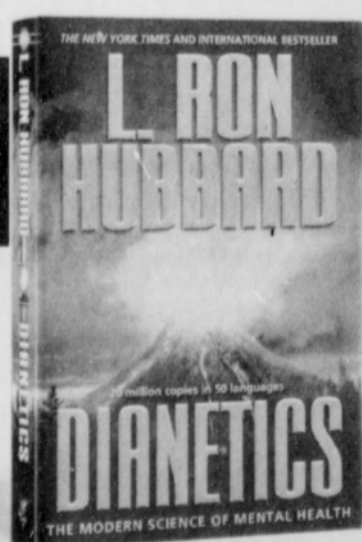
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