

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

Portland Observer Auto Review

2007 Chrysler 300C Heritage Edition

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2007 model 300C marks Chrysler's return to glory. The Chrysler 300 was a proud and prestigious vehicle during the 1950s, introduced to showcase the new "Hemi V8" engine. The 300 pretty much disappeared from the automotive landscape for the next 40 years. Only with the current model has Chrysler revived the accolades and respect that once surrounded this proud nameplate.

As a large five-passenger sedan with rear-wheel drive, it's been designed to appeal to consumers desiring something with a bit more personality and attitude than a regular family sedan, while earning an average 5-star safety rating. Thanks to its distinctive styling, roomy interior and powerful performance capa-

bilities, the latest Chrysler 300 has become a popular choice with the large sedan segment.

The 300C is an impressive vehicle thanks to its powerful 5.7-liter V8 engine with 340-hp and 390 lb-ft of torque delivering terrific straight line performance. The 2007 300C offers up an impressive 0-60 mph in 6.3 seconds. The Hemi V8 truly brings the 300 to life, transforming it into a world-class performer wrapped in uniquely American style.

Some of the 300's underlying mechanicals are derived from Mercedes-Benz technology (an obvious benefit of the DaimlerChrysler merger). The 300C offers a distinctive blend of power and grace, thanks to its sophisticated traction and stability controlled rear-wheel drive.



you expect? The 300C has a distinctive American heritage which has not been lost in translation, but was revamped with new vitality. Changes to Chrysler's V8-powered 300C are minor for 2007. They include a variety of new colors, redesigned 18-inch chrome wheels and adaptive cruise control and SmartBeam headlamps.

In this reviewer's opinion, the 2007 Chrysler 300C warrants a superior rating in the large sedan class. Though supremely quiet most of the time, the Hemi V8 delivers a satisfying note when accelerating hard, but provides a respectable fuel rating with the MDS system.

With its Bentley-like lines and Mercedes-like handling, this big mobster in pinstripes has a boisterous larger-than-life style with ample interior space and real speed, dusting its competitors off the line.

An American Beauty with Hemi Attitude

Specifications: 5.7-Liter Hemi 8-cylinder 16-Valve MDS, 340-hp @ 390 lb.-ft. torque Engine; 5-Speed Automatic w/ manumatic shifting Transmission; RWD Drivetrain; 17-City 25-Highway MPG; \$41,490 MSRP.

The V8's MDS (Multiple Displacement System) improves fuel economy by cutting fuel to four

of the eight cylinders when their output is not required.

The 2007 Chrysler 300C has a

masculine look to it, with a menacing almost bully like attitude. But with a Hemi what else would

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

RELIGION

Save the Family Now Initiative

Black churches urged to set goals

(AP) -- A black Baptist leader is urging black churches across the United States to set goals for reducing by 25 percent the rate of black divorce, teen pregnancy, illiteracy, murder and HIV infection by 2012, and increasing the adoption of black foster children.

The goals are part of the ambitious Save the Family Now initiative that the Rev. R. B. Holmes Jr. presented last week at more than 45,000 delegates of the National Baptist Convention USA attended the group's annual Congress of



Rev. R. B. Holmes Jr.

Christian Education.

Holmes said it was time for black clergy to lead a movement not unlike the fight for civil rights

40 years ago. Ministers must challenge the culture and forces that have hurt the black family and community, including those who "demean, degrade and belittle our mothers and daughters," said Holmes, who is congress president for the several million-member Baptist convention.

Over the last 20 years, the Bethel Missionary Baptist church he pastors in Florida has partnered with others to provide senior citizen housing, charter schools, mental health clinics, opportunities for first-time home-buyers, even a restaurant to train people for work.

He wants to identify 25 cities that could duplicate the model for

their churches.

"That," he said, "is a church ministry."

"We can't give Nelly, 50 Cent and Snoop Dogg a pass," Holmes said. "We'll take it as far as it needs to go to challenge the music, the lyrics and videos that bring about total devastation of the black family."

Stanley Hillard of Houston, who heads the National Baptist Married Couples Conference, said drugs, AIDS, incarceration and military service have taken fathers out of the home.

"No matter how it's lost, it's lost," he said. "We have to address all the areas."

Focus on Christ

Thousands of people from the Portland area came to the Memorial Coliseum for a three-day event last weekend that focused on what Jehovah Witnesses believe is a vital need today: to imitate Jesus Christ in all matters of life.

"Anytime one can spend reflecting on better ways of living, it is of great value," remarked Kent Benson, an elder from a congregation in Vancouver and one of the convention's speakers.

The Witnesses were particularly delighted to welcome 36 people who joined their ranks by getting baptized in an ordination ceremony on Saturday. Witnesses view baptism as a vital step in following Christ's example.

"It has been an outstanding three days," said Benson. "The convention has been encouraging and provided practical information for all in attendance."

Obama Faults Sowing Divisions

(AP) -- Sen. Barack Obama told a church convention Saturday that some right-wing evangelical leaders have exploited and politicized religious beliefs in an effort to sow division.

"Somehow, somewhere along the way, faith stopped being used to bring us together and faith started being used to drive us apart," the Democratic presidential candidate said in a 30-minute speech before the national meeting of the United Church of Christ.

"Faith got hijacked, partly because of the so-called leaders of the Christian Right, all too eager to exploit what divides us," the Illinois



Sen. Barack Obama

senator said.

"At every opportunity, they've told evangelical Christians that Democrats disrespect their values and dislike their church, while suggesting to the rest of the country that religious Americans care only about issues like abortion and gay marriage, school prayer and intelligent design," according to an advance copy of his speech.

"There was even a time when the Christian Coalition determined that its number one legislative priority was tax cuts for the rich," Obama said. "I don't know what Bible they're reading, but it doesn't jibe with my version."

CME Religious Leaders Gather

Leaders and the local faithful are gathering in Portland this week for the 41st session of the Alaska Pacific Region Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

The convention with presiding Elder and Bishop Henry M. Williamson Sr. is at the Red

Lion Hotel, 1021 N.E. Grand Ave., and is hosted by northeast Portland's Allen Temple CME Church and its pastor Rev. Dr. Leroy Haynes Jr.

The conference theme "From Good to Great: The Jesus Challenge - Building Leaders for Today and Tomorrow" will

guide all the week's workshops, services and activities.

A missionary program and lay worship service for the group "100 Men in Black" will take place at Allen Temple.

For questions or conference information, call 503-287-0261.

Evening of Gospel Music Set

The local community is invited to an evening of Gospel music on Saturday, July 7 at 6 p.m. at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 3725 N. Gantenbein.

Featured guests include the Union District Association Mass Choir, G-N-C, Vis-U-Lyze, Genesis, and much more!

For information, call 503-281-5445.

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Obituary

Coach, Mentor and Role Model Remembered

Sevedious "Vedi" Simington
Funeral services for Sevedious "Verdi" Simington, who died June 11, 2007 at the age of 57, were held Thursday, June 21 at 1 p.m. at New Song Community Church, 2611 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

He was born March 20, 1950 in Portland to Birl Govenor and Mamie Lee Simington of Arkansas. He attended Elliott Elementary School, Washington High School, Mt. Hood Community College, Warner Pacific College and Portland State University. He earned an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree in science education.

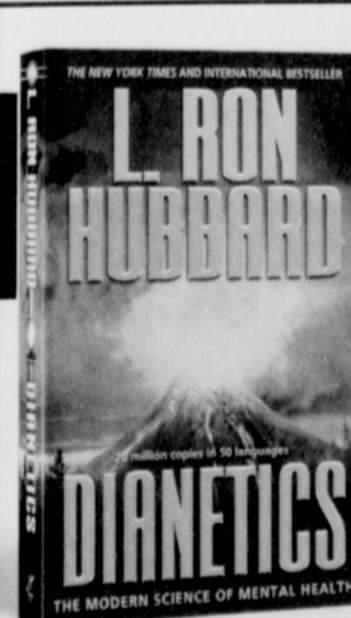
He had a very spiritual heart and believed that God wanted him to

serve his community through basketball. He loved the sport but he loved developing the skills of children who played in the various leagues even more. He was not only a coach but a mentor, role model, advisor, counselor, father figure and friend. His work can be seen in the lives of the hundreds of kids that participated in leagues at Matt Dishman Community Center, Saturday Basketball, "Can Jam" Holiday Food Drive and the AAU Junior Olympic League.

Left to celebrate his life achieve-

ments are three loving children: Ms. Shalonda L. Simington of Las Vegas, Nev. and Anthony T. Simington of Portland and their mother Mrs. Linda D. Fairchild of Las Vegas; and Sheena M. Toops-Simington and her mother Sherri Culp of Columbia City; two grandchildren Ja-Juan Mikel Bennett of Las Vegas and Shakira Smith of Portland; 10 brothers and sisters Rosie Simington-Thompson, Carl, Birl, Lewis, Gene, Janice, Betty, Barbara, Tony, Sylvester and Timothy; brother-in-law Ural Thompson; sister-in-law Linda Simington and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and dedicated friends.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.



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