



Wheelin' around



by Charlie Moore

Well, this is the last issue of the GAZETTE for this year and, therefore, the last Wheelin' column. I hope you have enjoyed the column this year. Although I doubt that I will be around Dal next year I hope that someone will be found to write it in my place. To my knowledge, the GAZETTE is the only university newspaper that carries a motoring column and I hope we may have started a trend. I feel that going on in the car world affect us all to a large enough extent economically, socially, and culturally to make information on the subject worthwhile to everyone.

One thing that seems to have come too late in the year to get

off the ground is the proposed motoring association on the campus. I mentioned this in Wheelin' two or three weeks ago but have received very little response. I hope that some sort of organization for car freaks on campus will materialize next year. Those interested should contact Ray Whitley, Carrell 5823, Killam Library.

I had hoped to do one whole column on seatbelts and their role in the prevention of injuries. I never got around to it but I will say a few words on the subject now. It is estimated that the death rate due to car accidents could be lowered by 80% and injury drastically reduced if everyone used seatbelts. "Buckling up" may take a few extra seconds of your time, but

it could save your life. If your car has seatbelts USE THEM and if not get some installed.

I can't really close off the wheelin' column without giving out some spring motoring tips, so here they are:

Tip 1. As soon as the snow and ice are gone, give your car a good cleaning. Underneath is especially important as this is where rust and corrosion get their start. Take a hose and wash down under the fenders and floor until clear water runs out. Make sure to get all the accumulated dirt and salt out of crevices and channels. Next, give the painted surfaces a good wash and wax job. Clean the brightwork with chrome cleaner to remove any rust

which may have gotten its start during the winter months. Moving inside, remove the floor mats and/or carpets and let them dry out thoroughly. Check the floor area for signs of rusting. If there are any, scrape away the rust and paint the floor with rustproof paint before replacing the mats. Finally, give the windows, seats, and truck area a good scrubbing.

Tip 2. Winter is the hardest season on oil so give your car a break and change the oil. This step is imperative if you have been using a single grade winter weight oil (SAE 5W or 10W). These oils do not give sufficient protection at the high temperatures encountered in the summer.

Tip 3. It is a good idea to replace a winter thermostat at this time of year with a lower temperature one. Failure to do this will result in overheating and possibly burnt valves.

Tip 4. This is a good time of year to have the brakes, shocks, and front end checked as all these components take a terrible beating in winter.

That's Wheelin' for this year. It's been fun writing it and I hope it has been entertaining and informative. I would especially like to thank the GAZETTE staff for their help, encouragement and all those sleepless Sunday nights laying out the paper. Happy motoring this summer and remember, keep a wheelin'!

CINEMATTERS

by Stephen R. Mills

The advance publicity given "The Godfather", Paramount's screen treatment of Mario Puzo's bestseller, was nothing less than phenomenal. Time, Life, and Newsweek all did huge spreads on the film, centering mostly around Marlon Brando's portrayal of Mafia patriarch Vito Corleone.

"The Godfather" opened in Halifax last week at the Paramount and for once the picture lives up to, and perhaps surpasses, the publicity. Though his role is actually minimal, Brando is superb as Corleone. The other actors, both starring and supporting are also excellent. Particularly impressive are Al Pacino, James Caan, and Robert Duvall as the sons.

The plot is complex but, despite the three-hour length of the picture, is not difficult to follow.

Vito Corleone is the head of one of the five Mafia families controlling all organized crime in America. He is completely

ruthless but also devoted to his family and friends. Brando handles the role perfectly, playing the old patriarch in such a way that the audience can feel empathy, and sometimes even pity, without being sympathetic. The cool way he orders acts of terror and violence throughout prevents any glossing over of the Godfather's truly demonic nature.

The Corleone family is struggling for survival and power against the other families and against the times. Gambling, liquor, and women have been their prime concerns but drugs are the up and coming thing. The Corleone's are approached with a plan to finance dope peddling. The younger members of the family — the sons and advisors — approve. Don Vito refuses; he knows narcotics will mean the end of the Mafia as such. Naturally, his is the final say.

For this decision, the Don is shot down but survives. His eldest son takes over but is machine-gunned on a

causeway. Don Vito makes peace with the families — dope dealing is allowed but trafficking is controlled. The Godfather dies of natural causes and the youngest son takes over, literally, in a surprising and shocking finale.

Al Pacino, as Michael, mirrors Brando's excellence. His change, from war hero to ruthless hood, is fascinating to watch, one of the neatest aspects of the film. Photography, score, and screenplay (by Puzo and director Frances Ford Coppola) are all intelligent and concise, complimenting, instead of carrying, the acting. Coppola's direction is restrained, right

and satisfying.

"The Godfather" has been called everything from this year's "Love Story" (because of the money it will make — otherwise no comparison) to

the new "Gone With The Wind" (a comparison is possible). Actually, the picture speaks for itself. See it, I can guarantee you'll be favourably impressed.

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