



Wheelin' around



by Charlie Moore

This being my first column of 1973, I'd like to mention several items of note which came to light over the holiday season.

Most people think of Honda Motor Company as a manufacturer of motorcycles, but they also build automobiles in quite large numbers for the domestic and European markets. This Japanese company recently announced that they have developed an engine capable of meeting the stiff 1975-76 United States smog-control regulations, making them the first automaker in the world to do so.

Most important thing, they have managed to get under the wire without using catalytic converters or other external "hang-ons." They call their new engine the "compound vortex controlled combustion engine." This is, apparently, a revolutionary new innovation which Honda engineers cooked up themselves without outside consultation. If the new engine lives up to expectations, the big automakers could wind up paying Honda large amounts of money for licences to use the patented design.

One interesting point is that Honda's "Civic" model, which the new engine has been designed to power, is rather small (about the size of the Austin Mini) for the American market, and there is some doubt

as to whether it will pass the 1975 United States safety regulations.

Up to now, the ecology people and the safety freaks have worked pretty much hand in hand, but a parting of the ways seems to be in the offing. Small cars are definitely less of a threat to the ecology but the safety critics contend that bigger cars are safer. It will be interesting to see which side comes out on top. My money will be with the eco-freaks as small cars seem to be the most sane solution to several problems besides smog.

Ford and General Motors of Canada announced year-end price increases over the holiday. Ford's increase averages about \$61.00 per car and GM's should be about the same. The government asked them to reconsider but both refused.

I feel the government is being somewhat unrealistic on this matter as they keep insisting that more and more (and increasingly expensive) smog and safety equipment be installed on new cars and then expect prices to remain stagnant while the manufacturer absorbs the extra cost. They are eventually going to have to face the fact that this new increase is merely a drop in the bucket compared to what is to come. If the smog safety laws now on the books are

implemented as planned, you can expect car prices to increase 50 percent to 100 percent by 1980. With servicing requirements and the price of fuel also increasing drastically, the automobile may yet revert

to being a plaything of the rich.

On the brighter side of things, Representative Louis Wyman (Republican, New Hampshire) has introduced a bill in the United States Congress to lower emissions standards for 1975-76.

He wants more investigation done into the aspect of what the regulations will cost the consumer. If the bill goes through, it could mean a more rational approach to the smog problem. Till next week, keep wheelin'.

Horror weekend in Rebecca Cohn

by Stephen R. Mills

On the weekend of January 19, 20, a "Transylvanian Weekend" will be held in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Dalhousie Arts Centre.

The weekend consists of two evenings of lectures, films, and discussions on the supernatural.

Friday evening's program features Ed and Lorraine Warren from Connecticut talking about the supernatural in general — haunted houses, witchcraft, ghosts, etc. The Warrens, both professional artists, began their investigations into paranormal activities twenty-seven years ago. Their interest in painting haunted houses brought them into contact with many varieties of "apparitions" and "spirits". However, both have been interested in the supernatural since childhood.

As well as the Warrens' presentation, Friday's program includes "The Haunting", one of the better movie treatments of the supernatural.

Saturday night will be devoted to Dracula, in fact and fiction. Dalhousie's own Gothic expert, Dr. D.P. Varma, will introduce Prof. Raymond

McNally and Prof. Radu Florescu, co-authors of the book "In Search of Dracula". McNally and Florescu believed, and have proven, that Dracula really existed. He was a 15th century Rumanian prince and, while not a vampire, gained a reputation for cruelty and sadism which matches, if not surpasses, the Dracula vampire myths.

The Boston College professors will lecture and demonstrate with footage of Transylvania, the Dracula castle, scenes from Dracula films, and genuine documents and artifacts relating to their search.

As well, the definitive screen treatment of Dracula, the 1931 Bela Lugosi classic — will be shown.

Friday's show begins at 8, tickets \$1.00 for students, \$1.50 non-students. Saturday's events begin at 7:30 and tickets are \$1.50 student, \$2.00 non-student.

Following the Dracula presentation, a reception will be held in the Green Room.

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