



MOTORIST'S NIGHTMARE

A rear-end collision involving two tractor-trailers resulted in this mess along 175 near Flint, Mich. One of the trucks spilled part of its cargo of nails on the highway and traffic was held up until peril to tires was cleared away. There were no serious injuries. (AP Wirephoto)

Pre-Med Junior To Attend Air Force Medical Program

A Texas Aggie plans to take on a tough job along with medical school studies.

Richard K. Newman of San Antonio, an A&M pre-med student who marches in the Aggie Band, says he will sell A&M at the University of Texas.

Newman, a junior Air Force ROTC cadet at A&M, is one of 50 students across the U. S. selected to participate in the Air Force Medical Education Program of Reserve Officers.

The 20-year-old Distinguished Student was accepted by UT's San Antonio Medical School. He learned of the Air Force medical training program, applied and was selected by a board of officers.

To take advantage of pre-training commissioning, Newman will forego his senior year in the Aggie Band.

He enters med school next September.

"I get my Aggie ring this summer and may buy senior boots just to say I had some," the cadet remarked.

The 2.32-grade average pre-med student said he is interested in surgery and flying and may make a career of the Air Force.

"Newman is a very good student," commented Dr. Howard L. Gravett, A&M faculty advisor of pre-medical and pre-dental students. "Being in his course of study and the Aggie Band requires ability to plan ahead." Richard has never posted below a 2.0 grade average. In the A&M scoring system, 3.0 is straight A's.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Newman, 262 Nash, San Antonio, has attended A&M on three scholarships, from the San Antonio Optimist Club, Air Force and medical program. He plays the bass clarinet and was the Maroon Band's best drilled sophomore last year.

A 1965 Highlands High graduate, he was class president three years and member of the scholastic honor society.

"The Air Force medical program is a fine thing for a guy interested in the service and medical studies," Newman added. "It is going to be a long but profitable obligation."

The Aggie said several buddies have joked about whether he will buy the A&M or UT ring.

"Those are fighting words," he declared. "Should anybody ever need nelling on A&M, I'll be available if a graduate isn't."

Blue Convertible Provides Answers

Fifty thousand dollars will get you a baby-blue convertible with a gold steering wheel and an array of electronic gear.

The gadgety car is not the answer for the man who has everything, but it is providing answers for highway researchers who want to know everything about driver reactions.

Engineers at Texas A&M's Texas Transportation Institute are currently using the Ford Motor Co. test vehicle to study driver behavior in freeway ramp merging studies.

From the outside, the car looks like any other Mercury convertible. Inside, however, it's loaded with electronic pulsers, counters and other devices capable of recording 450 bits of information per second regarding body reaction to stresses.

All the equipment, explained TTI Engineering Research Associate Milton Radke, is connected to a 20-channel magnetic tape recorder in the car's trunk. The recorder is programmed so the tape can be fed directly into a computer.

The equipment, Radke continued, measures, records and stores for computer analysis important characteristics of the driver controlling the car and the motions of the car on the road.

"It can measure both physiological and mechanical characteristics of drivers during various stresses of traffic, road and weather conditions," he observed.

By merely holding the gold steering wheel, the driver's heart-beat and breathing rate are continuously monitored, Radke noted.

A gold-plated steering wheel is used in the vehicle because the precious metal is the best conductor for test purposes, the TTI researcher pointed out.

The slightest movement in the steering mechanism or touch of the brake or accelerator also is noted by the monitoring device.

The gear could even be rigged to determine differences in a driver when he is smoking a cigarette.

Radke said the Ford prototype

will be used at TTI's Safety Proving Grounds for a phase of the extensive freeway merging research project being conducted for the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Public Roads.

Specifically, TTI is investigating the feasibility of a moving vehicle merging control system which will aid freeway drivers in the ramp-merging maneuver without requiring them to stop.

The Ford test vehicle will be used extensively in various private, governmental and institutional research throughout the nation.



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