

Small cars

Drivers safer

Recent figures that show small cars are involved in fewer accidents need qualifying, said a University researcher Friday.

Dr. Don Ivey, head of the Texas Transportation Institute Safety Division, said, "The implication is that smaller cars are safer — the opposite is true. What it means is that small car drivers are safer drivers than those in big cars."

"In many two and three car families a big car is used on highway trips because they know the big car is inherently safer and more comfortable on longer drives," Dr. Ivey explained.

"Since there is a high correlation between high speed and accidents with fatalities and serious injuries, these usually occur on rural highways rather than in urban driving," he went on. "As a result, it's more likely to be a big car."

"Also there is probably a relationship between the vehicle size and how fast a person will choose to go," Ivey pointed out. "In a larger car, you don't feel you're driving so fast."

And larger cars are capable of higher speeds than smaller cars which are comparatively underpowered.

"It was revealed at the Third International Congress on Automotive Safety that in accidents it is more often the driver of the larger vehicle that is at fault," he said.

"This would indicate one of two things," Ivey continued. "One, drivers of large cars feel more secure and take less care to avoid accidents, or two, the average age is greater and the value less for the larger cars."

"The smaller car is a product of a comparatively recent manifestation of buyer demand," he declared. "As a result, the owner of the newer, more valuable small car would be more careful to avoid accidents."

"Another factor is that the average age of the small-vehicle owner is about 26, while the average is higher for the big car driver," Ivey said.

"Younger drivers are probably physically more capable of appropriate evasive maneuvers even though there is a high incidence of accidents among young males," he noted. "But it may be that the young group buying compacts and sub-compacts is of a different personality from the young driver that traditionally pushes up insurance rates for this young group."

"Yet another reason for fewer fatal and serious injuries in small-car accidents is the higher incidence of seat belt use in the smaller cars," Ivey went on. "This again, I think, is a product of the age groups involved."

"The younger members of society have been subjected to high levels of seat belt use propaganda at an early age," he said. "The older group is more content staying with driving patterns they've been used to."

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Ross guard named

Seventy-two juniors were inducted Oct. 23 into the Ross Volunteers.

"Gen. Ross was a statesman, a fine soldier and a great gentleman," commented Frank Litterer. "You are dedicated to his memory, and don't you forget it."

Installation of junior class representatives in the elite military company of the Corps of Cadets was witnessed by Texas A&M President and Mrs. Jack Williams, Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, Mrs. James Earl Rudder, and other university officials.

New RVs are Larry Adian of Coleman; Kevin Bark, San Angelo; Dave Borsack, Jeff Brown, Glenn Francis, Terrell Guice, John Hampton, Robert Harvey, Jerry Krenek, Paul Lonquist, Dennis O'Driscoll, Glenn Salamachia and Arthur Yendrey, Houston.

Also, Todd Bradley, Garland; Kyle Braswell, Angleton; Arthur Braun, Georgetown; Steve Burch and Greg McCray, Euless; Chris Burkard, Annandale, Va.; Floyd Carpenter, Spring; Cary Vanderberry, Del Valle; Mark Conway, Tyler; James Curley, Hawthorne, N. Y.; Alan Day, Brownwood; Larry Feder, LaMarque.

Plus, Rick Floeck and Phillip Hitch, Abilene; Gordon Fort, Rhodesia, Africa; Henry Franke, Copperton Cove; Steve Goddard, Kingsville; Rob Gottlich, Dunwoody, Ga.; Chuck Harman, Richmond; Pat Harrigan, Corpus Christi; Jimmy Heck, Midland; Leonard Hruzek, El Campo; Bill Ibbotson, Mission.

In addition, Rick Ingenloff, Steve Jimmerson, Pat Love, Steve Lundgren, Buddy Olivari and Dean Williams, San Antonio; Eric Johnson, Beaumont; Dan Kaspar, Shiner; Harold Knoll, Blanco; Morris Libson, Piedras Negras, Mexico; Paul Lombardino, Liberty; James Lowe, Hubbard; Paul Michalka and Hendrik Sigtenhorst, Waco.

Also, Jody Mickler, Haskell; Pat Miller, Alvin; Terry Moran, Biloxi, Miss.; Larry Norris, Dublin; Mike Outlaw, Moore; Don Perkins, Dallas; David Pollock, Sweeney; Albert Purnell, Marshall; John Riddles, Fearland; Tom Sanders, Nacogdoches; Steve Schroder, Columbus AFB, Miss.

And, Rob Spiller, Eden; Rochie Tschirhart, Doraville, Ga.; Mike Tucker, Universal City; Robbie Tucker, Clyde; Scott Turner, Arlington; Rick Wall, Carthage; Kenny Weynand, Hondo; Willy Wilson, El Paso; Billy Wimberly, Muleshoe, and Ronald Yeasley, Irving.

THE PANTRY

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Texan considers Ombudsman

AUSTIN (AP) — Ten University of Texas students have organized an informal committee to try to devise a means of complaining in student newspaper about the paper's policies.

Committee for an Ombudsman on the Daily Texan.

Malone said the Ombudsman would have space on a regular basis in the Texan to provide readers with "constructive criticism of Texan editorial policy and news treatment."

He said the group will present its proposal to the next meeting of the Texas Student Publications board.

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