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# Plastic gas tanks safe, save fuel

United Press International
DETROIT — United States automakers are looking at pliable plastic fuel tanks as a way of reducing the fuel tanks as a way of tank the danger of fires and explosions in rear-end collisions.

Because they weigh less, they offer a potential fuel saving bonus.

Matt Dillon

**Downtown Bryan** 

**Across From** 

Wehrmans Cafe

tainers may not be popular with the public or with federal safety offi-The Chrysler Corp. and Ford Motor Co. have equipped some light-duty trucks, vans and recreational vehicles with plastic fuel tanks. After the 1974 Arab oil embargo, Ford offered a small, plastic auxiliary tank on some full-size and luxury cars. Few buyers picked up the option.
Ford scrapped plans to put a
molded, polyethylene tank in its

However, U.S. car makers are

concerned that plastic gasoline con-

We didn't have the guts to take the risk," Chairman Henry Ford II

"In every way we thought it was much better," Ford said. "But we didn't have the courage to put it on. our product because we didn't know what the liabilities would be and what the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration would say

Present NHTSA standards, which apply to all cars, trucks and buses under 10,000 pounds, say fuel tanks may not spill more than an ounce of gasoline per minute when rolled over after a rear-end impact of 30

The standards do not specify what material manufacturers must use for fuel tanks

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"You can use paper mache if you want to, as long as it meets the performance standard," one company spokesman said.

A recent report on high density polyethylene gas tanks by Phillips Chemical Co. said tests conducted in the 1960s indicated "plastic tanks were not only as safe as metal tanks but possibly even safer."

It said both metal and plastic

tanks, when engulfed in flames, failed in about two minutes. But the metal ones often exploded, scattering their flaming contents, while the plastic tanks melted down and fueled the fire.

In impact tests, water-filled metal tanks ruptured when dropped from a height of 10 feet while plastic tanks withstood drops of 30 feet, the report said.

One auto company spokesman noted that, unlike metal tanks, plastic ones will not generate sparks in a collision or if scraped along a road

surface in an accident.

The Phillips report also noted polyethylene tanks weigh 30 to 50 percent less than template steel, adding to the fuel-saving potential.

Spokesmen for the plastics indus-

try say they have high hopes for plastic fuel tanks and other plastic utomotive components as the auto companies continue downsizing cars to meet the 1985 fuel economy standard of 27.5 mph.

1803 Texas Ave.

### Lonely bike to find owner this weeken

By PHYLLIS POND The Wheelman's Clu A&M University will sp ction of abandoned and bicycles Saturday in the G

ginning at 1:30 p.m.
The bicycles will inc speeds, 2 five-speeds, speeds, and 14 one-speed brands include Scho

Western Flyer and Rale The auction is held sell unclaimed bicycles sity Police have picked pus. Most of these b picked up in May after th of the students have left to said Thomas Parsons, dir curity and traffic for U Police. He said only those left unlocked on campus are cated

Every bicycle in the au been advertised in the Ba the Eagle by the Univerto try and find its origina nobody responds to the at ment in seven months, th becomes eligible for pu

If the bicycle was registere the University Police, the send out registered letter last owner and wait six mont reply to the letters. If ther reply the bicycle is advertis becomes property of the an if no owner claims it.

### Young says Ira similar to civi rights movement

United Press Internatio
WACO — United Nat bassador Andrew Young there is a similiarity bet conditions in America di peak of the civil rights mov the 1960s and the current in Iran.

Young, in Waco for a cition, said Wednesday the Iran are organizing arou gious forum just as the b ment leaders came from the

"Blacks in America ess those locked out of the poli cess by denial of the right began to go to their chur search of leadership as a m political organization and so ligious institutions and the community became the mo and organizing force for a civi political process," Young to The Un porters.

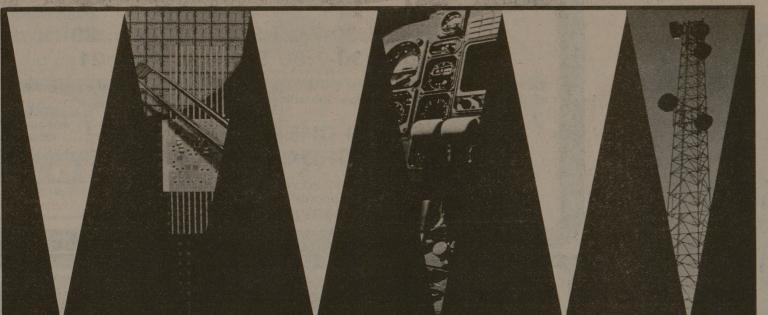
On another matter, You the relationship between the States and Mexico was good, some differences in the ps said Mexico must be gi nomic development aid so its would not find it economical ficial to cross the U.S. horder to find work.



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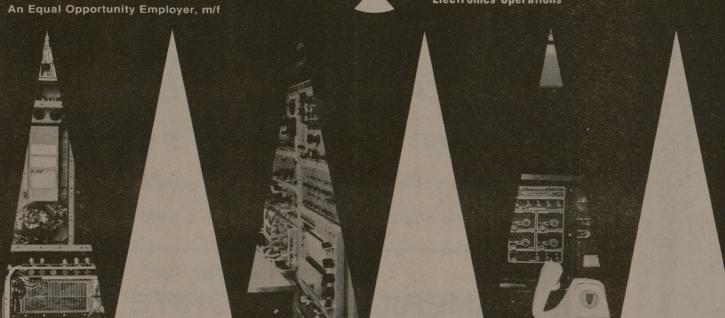


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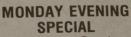
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& Miranda's

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**NOON-SEVEN** 

75c bar drinks

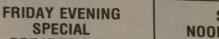
NORTHGATE (Next to the Dixie Chicken)

Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter



#### THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL

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Tea or Coffee

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