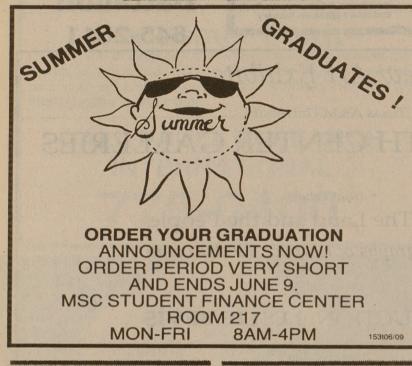


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and watch his eyes pop out," he said,

Page 6 **The Battalion** 

# **Shake, rattle and BOOM-BOOM!**

# High-watt, high cost, 100-plus decibels car stereos latest rage

AMARILLO (AP) — Mike Raef, Matt Harding, and Kent Massie make sure their vehicles shake and rattle long before they roll.

The three young men are part of a small but growing core of audio enthusiasts whose high-power, highdollar sound systems will spark an impromptu concert anywhere they

Their vehicles are casually re-ferred to as "boom-boom cars." The people who own them are sometimes called "installers.'

Garry Erdman, owner of Dyer Electronics, which carries much of the equipment the installers use, said the boom-boom car trend is a natural progression from other fads. 'Back in the '70s, the big thing

've sat in cars where

The music is so loud it

and your vision blurs."

you literally can't breathe.

caves your chest in. Your

heart doesn't want to beat

was how fast your car could go," Erdman said. "The high horsepower

isn't in cars so much anymore. So

now, it's not how fast; it's how loud

you can go. . . . Instead of how many

lives you can put in jeopardy, it's how many ears you can blow."

boom-boom car is the attention it de-

mands, Erdman explained.

Part of the attraction of owning a

'In the last crank-it-up contest, it

Alan Nuzum, owner of Ranco

Because when I pull up along

some young kind, I can crank it up

- Mike Raef,

car stereo installer

sound systems. Raef, one of Nu-zum's employees, said he's seeing more interest from older consumers - the ones with money. Raef, 19, who has been in the

that's pouring money into fancy auto

business for about five years, specializes in custom building speaker enclosures.

His philosophy is simple: "If it's too loud, then you're too old.

"I've sat in cars where you literally can't breathe. The music is so loud it caves your chest in. Your heart doesn't want to beat and your vision blurs.

Raef said the trend's roots are in the East Coast, which is where he developed the interest. In California, he was sponsored by several manufacturers who paid for his equipment and his entrance fee for crankit-up contests in return for the advertising he gave them. His van con-tained \$15,000 worth of sound equipment, he said.

Nowadays, he's building up a system in his Chevy pickup.

He said he likes having a boomboom car because of the attention it grabs, plus, he enjoys have a "oneof-a-kind ride.

"I've got other friends with the same kind of systems and when we go to Lake Meredith, we open the doors and turn to the same station," Raef said. "We can still hear it when we're out on a boat. Other people will hear it, and they'll dock. We'll just have a good party all weekend long.

So far, he said, he's invested about \$3,000 in his car system. "The way I look at it is, I don't

have house payments or a lot of bills, so I can afford to go ahead and put my money into my car," he said.

His reasoning is shared by his friend Matt Harding. "People always ask you, 'Why would you spend so much money on this?'." Harding said. "We're 10

this?,' " Harding said. "We're 19. What else should we spend it on?

His equipment is worth about \$7,000. When he's finished adding on, he said, it will contain 20 speakers and be worth about \$10,000. He has installed most of the components himself, with the help of Raef. Har-ding said he has dabbled in installing

"My parents thought it was just a

beleaguered parents.

The trend does have disadvantages. Because an expensive system is a lure for thieves, Massie recommends that anyone wanting to join the trend make an additional investment in a good car alarm. Aside from the overwhelming ini-

tial expense, maintenance can have a hefty price tag. "Things break," Raef said. "Speakers and amplifiers can blow

up. When that happens, you usually just eat it. If you try to send them back for warranty repair, the companies won't cover it if you put too much wattage though them." He added that when many mod-

ifications are made in the stock component of a vehicle, its warranty might be voided, or mechanics might be reluctant to work on the car.

Also, not everybody has the s admiration for loud music. Raef received a warning ticket in Ama and has had to pay fines for dist ing the peace or exhibition in G fornia.

Tuesday, June 6, 198

But the most serious drawback health risk. Raef lost the hearin his right ear in 1984. Harding, also aware of the heat

risks, is philosophical. "It's like any other bad thing

enjoy. Some people smoke althout they know the dangers." For installers, it seems, all is minuses don't tip the scale as head

as the pluses do. The money I spent bothered a little, but I was so impressed the sound," Massie said. "All friends love to ride in my car. In nice feeling when somebody says love the sound of your stereo.' "

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# Nurses' salaries rise in response to shortage

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nurses' salaries are beginning to improve in response to the crit-

ical nursing shortage. Salary increases during 1988 averaged 6.9 percent for entry-level nurses and 10.6 percent for more experienced nursing staff, Richard McKibbin, who handles research for the American Nurses Association in Kansas City, reported.

Advancement opportunities, flexible scheduling, tuition assistance and other enticements also are being brought into play to help hospitals replenish their nursing staffs. About 165,000 jobs were open

for registered nurses at the beginning of 1989, according to the Secretary's Commission on Nursing of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The recent wage settlement for nurses at New York's Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital may be a sign of things to come. The hospital agreed to raise starting salaries for nurses to \$31,500, and nurses with more than 20 years experience will receive \$47,000. pact, negotiated with the New York State Nurses Association, eliminates both mandatory overtime and assignment of nurses outside their specialties. Some of the money to pay for the settlement will come from New York state, which recently set aside \$193 million to increase nursing

salaries statewide for the year. The settlement for the first time "addresses nurses as professionals," Sheila O'Rourke, a Co-

'By and large, today's nurses lumbia-Presbyterian nurse, said as the agreement was made. The figures are well above the \$22,416 entry-level and \$32,160

senior nurse averages for 1988 reported by the ANA. Spokesman Carol Grimaldi says these figures are still more realistic for most of the country, which doesn't share the high cost of living with metro politan centers on both coasts. Specialist nurses like anesthe tists can expect salaries averaging slightly more than \$45,000 per

year, says Mary Jeannette Man-nino, president of the American Association of Nurse Anethetist in Park Ridge, Ill. Starting salaries for anesthetist nurses is esti-mated at between \$31,000 and

ing career choices.

have this career. You don't want to pick a profession because the pay is good, but it doesn't hurt, et-

The University Hospital Consortium, Inc., a network of 48 not-for-profit teaching hospitals and clinics, has launched a recruitment campaign that emphasizes improved pay, advancement and working conditions.

look for more than a steady in-come," says Kristi Kelsey, a nusing personnel specialist and RN who directs UHC's Recruitment Network, based in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.

"It's like revving an engine," said Erdman. "Everybody turns and looks." Erdman sponsored a crank-it-up contest on a recent Sunday, where enthusiasts competed for the honor of having the loudest stereo. Kent Massie, like most serious instal-Drugs? "These are my big guns," he said, lers, puts an emphasis on sound quality as well as volume. His system includes a Sony CD

> "All my friends love to ride in my car. It's a nice feeling when somebody says, 'I love the sound of your stereo.'

- Kent Massie, car stereo enthusiast

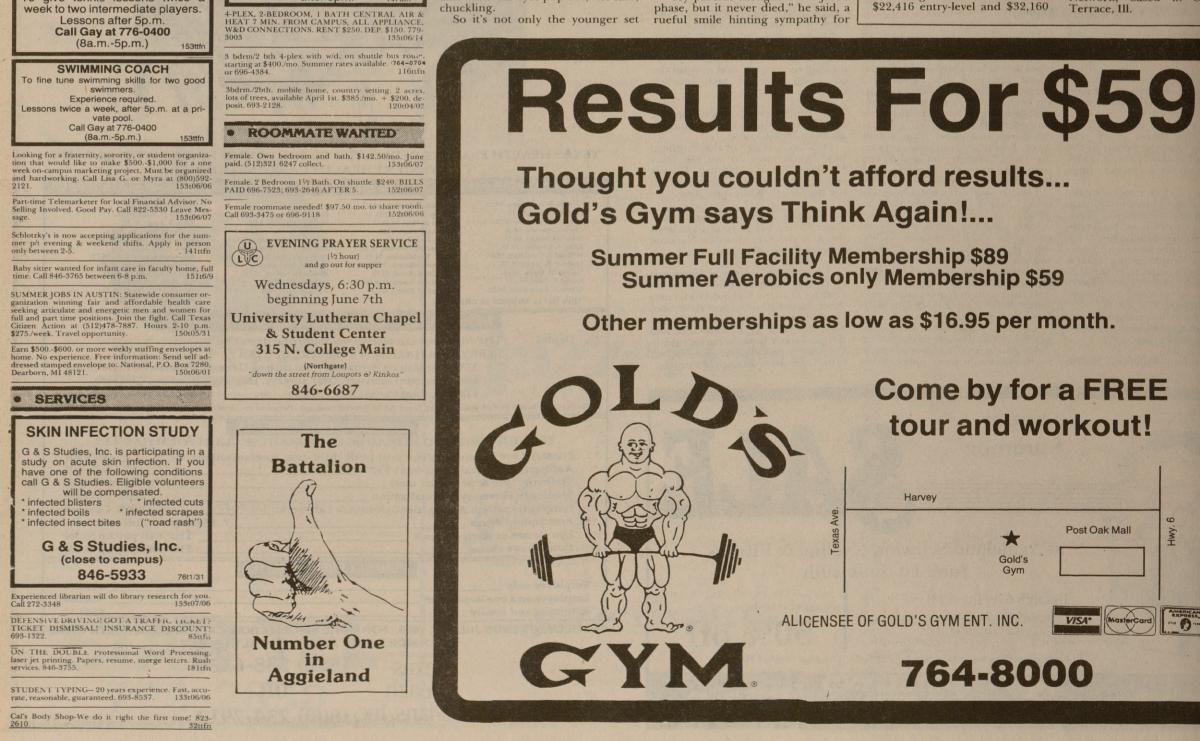
flipping the bucket seat of his Toyota Celica forward to show the round black faces of his 18-inch woofers.

since he was 16.

\$40,000. "The money didn't make any

difference at the time I chose nurse anesthesia, but it doe make a difference now, and I think it should make a difference," says Margaret Faut, associate chairman of surgical nursing at Rush Presbyterian St Luke's Medical Center in Chi-cago. "Personally, I think salary should be a consideration in mak-

"I'm a single parent with two children, and I'm thankful that l



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