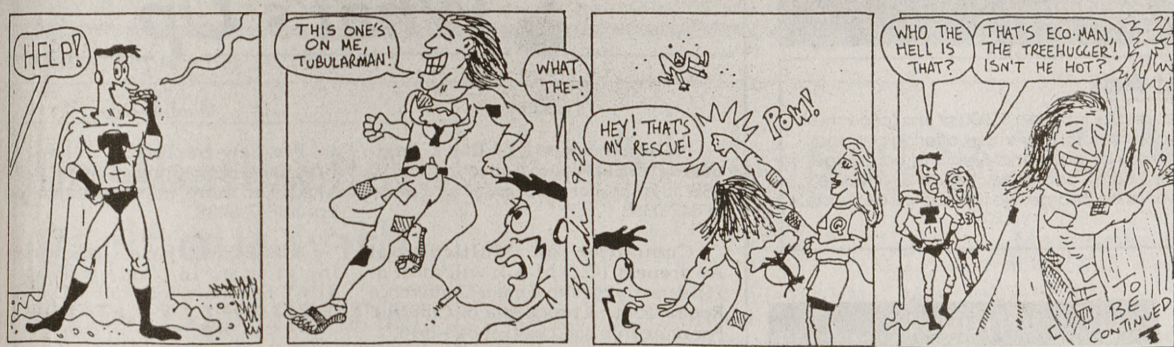


Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



Fritch

By Critch



Do your tires sing to you?

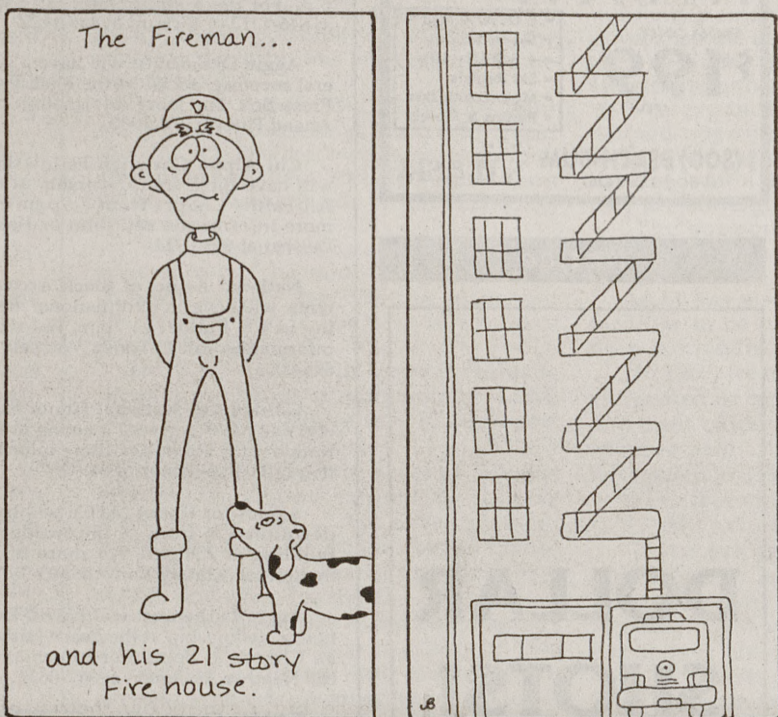
JUST THE BEGINNING

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — The thumpity-bumpity of a flat tire or the corner squeal from under-inflation may be the only music you hear from the tires on your car. But engineers at Goodyear say car tires are always emitting musical sounds as they roll. The musical tunes reverberate in the lug grooves to produce a wide scale of frequencies.

Varying the frequencies reduces the chances that an annoying recurring tone will be produced, said Jim Thompson, chief of tire vehicle engineering at Goodyear.

"Tire design and engineering really are similar conducting an orchestra," Thompson said. "To make beautiful music, all of the musical instruments have to be in place — all tread elements have to be tuned to the proper pitches." The key is to engineer a tire that makes no distinct sound without sacrificing other performance characteristics, such as ride, handling and traction.

"One person's noise is another person's music," Thompson said.



By Jason Brown

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