

Grode Car source of inspiration for former Fowler Crew

BY BRANDI BALLARD
Staff writer

Some say it is the greatest sacrifice given to Bonfire. Others say it is motivation in its rarest form. To one student it is his beloved means of transportation.

It all began three years ago when Jose Bouche, a senior mechanical engineering technology major, became the crew chief for Fowler Hall. The summer of his freshman year, he went home to El Paso and got his father's orange 1976 Chevrolet Nova. He got the idea to paint his car to match his Bonfire pot. Fourteen cans of spray paint later, his car was green with a yellow stripe and had Fowler Crew Chief written on the hood and '98 on the back.

"When I came back to school, it sure caught people's eye," Bouche said. "I later learned that spray paint does not stick very well to a car."

Bouche first intended to wait and wash his car after Bonfire burned. He soon found out that when he washed it, the paint would run off and turn him green, too.

"The rain pretty much cleans it for me," Bouche said.

Not only is the paint wearing off — orange is starting to show underneath the green — but additional graffiti has been painted on it.

A friend of Bouche ran for yell leader last spring and Bouche campaigned for him by painting an advertisement on his car.

The car has been to Bonfire cut for the past three years. Some days, the Nova emits a stench, especially after it spends the day at the cut site.

The car, bought brand-new in 1976 for \$3,000, now has 280,000 miles on it.

"We originally called it the Fowler Mobile," Horn said.

It has only broken down twice and makes a biannual trip to El Paso.

Kevin Horn, a senior mechanical engineering major, remembers the car breaking down one time on the

way home from cut. The problem with a Coke band, a knife, a pair of duct tape.

The parts have never placed and the car is on the makeshift mechanic.

Mike Wallace, a senior engineering major, was the car broke down, too, was difficult to believe the broken down.

"It was like a sabotage," said. "We were all jumping trying to push it up the hill."

Wallace said he recalled when a friend was jumping hood and someone drove and pressed the accelerator.

"The car took off and right on the windshield, it to pieces," he said.

Bouche lives off campus and sometimes goes to before cut to give students a ride.

Horn said there are times when nine people the car, but the car cannot the load anymore.

The shocks are worn much the car cannot do coke can in the rode.

Wallace said the car naturally sound, but when the car leaks and stuff from the cushions.

One feature the car has a player with a speaker. The also functions as a PA.

Bouche's friends use this to age other cars to move to the road.

"They love to holler coming through," Bouche said. "I like to drive."

Wallace said he likes to see people walking down the road and tell them jokes.

The car is a sort of mobile go to Bonfire. If the car breaks out there, so can students.

"This is my sacrifice to the team," Bouche said. "I'm just taking the team."



Jose Bouche, a senior mechanical engineering technology major, is the owner of the 1976 Chevrolet Nova that he decorated for Fowler Crew.

PIXIES

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Death to the Pixies would have been better if the live disc, which is nonetheless excellent, had been forsaken in favor of a disc of out takes, b-sides and demos.

It's also unfortunate that the "greatest hits" are drawn heavily from the *Doolittle* album, which was perhaps their greatest commercial success and only lightly

touches the furious early years. The quips, however, are always pointing out the cracks in the paint of the Mona Lisa.

The Pixies were like nothing before and everything since. They are perfectly crafted, perfectly cut and perfectly presented. It's the genius of four kids up in town.

Long live Frank Black. Death to the Pixies.

People in the News

VH1 Award statues lose some weight

NEW YORK (AP) — The VH1 Fashion Awards won't be much of a waif winners and celebrity presenters now that hefty, solid-brass statues have been replaced with a bogus, lighter version.

The last thing the music channel wants to do is give Mariah Carey or Linda Evangelista back trouble when they hand out awards the next day, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

"It's heavier than a fashion model," complained Gabe Doppelt, director for the show. "We were afraid the first thing out of everyone's mouth would be how heavy the award was, rather than something witty."

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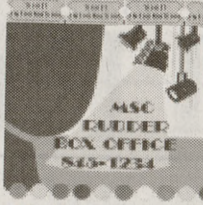
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