

FEATURES

Beware of Car Repair Rip-Offs

By Anita Allen
Staff Writer

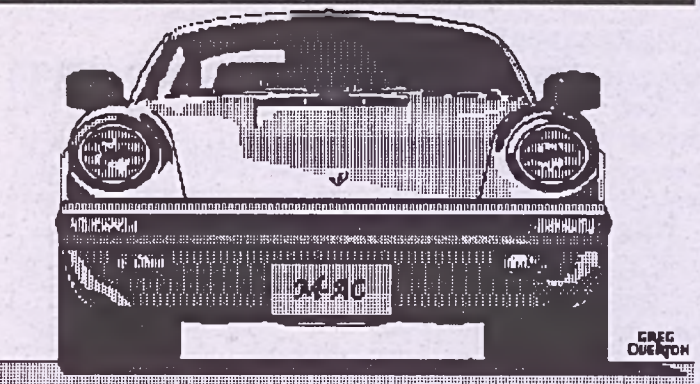
I was attending a university hundreds of miles from home. My car was constantly overheating, so I haphazardly found a foreign car repair service. They fixed my thermostat. Gradually, I noticed the gears becoming increasingly difficult to change, and I called this same place to inquire what could be wrong. The secretary looked up the service records and diagnosed over the phone; that without a doubt, I needed a \$300.00 clutch repair. Because I was suspicious and broke, I didn't drive my car until I returned home. Upon my arrival, my cousin discovered a pair of vice grips locked onto my clutch cable. After he removed my "\$300.00" problem, my car was fine.

This is my story about car repair rip-off. Yes, it can and does happen frequently. Especially vulnerable are females and young people in general; but anyone naive in auto mechanics is "free game" to a dishonest mechanic.

Robert Sikorsky made a trip across America to get an idea of just how many dishonest and/or inept garages there are. His disheartening results were published in The Reader's Digest. Mr. Sikorsky would loosen a spark plug wire and drive into the garages to ask for assistance. Only

28% of the time were the diagnoses correct. Three out of four times he was denied service, delayed for hours or days and/or was charged for unnecessary or incompetent repairs. Most people, he states, spend thirty-two cents of each dollar spent on car repair for inessential work.

Unfortunately, most motorists lack the knowledge to diagnose and repair their cars, or to prevent auto repair deception. Mr. Sikorsky gives some helpful advice. He got better service at local small town garages than at ur-



ban chain service centers. Beware of technologically advanced tools and free coffee. Always get two estimates and be courteous - your attitude makes a difference.

I have interviewed several students about local care repair garages. Shane Marsh said, "Mobile Medichas done repair work for me. They did quality work for reasonable prices, and the service was friendly." "I currently have my car at the Exxon garage

here in Black Mountain. They are courteous and their prices are fair," states Krista Nielsen. Several students who wish to remain anonymous recommended not to go to Black Mountain Tire and Service.

By the way, don't despair if you do drive an older American-made car. It may break down more, but the cost for parts and service is considerably less than for newer and/or foreign

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New Band With A Twist

By Scott Ward
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In today's world of poppy dance, weird alternative, and headbanging speed metal, sometimes you just need a break from the monotony. Sometimes, for instance, even the biggest headbanger on campus (me) has to have a break. Up until recently, I had to get the Led out, or get my "Piece of Mind" in order to escape the constant dredge of things. Until recently that is.

Rachel Rachel is a new band with a twist. This hard rockin', tune pumpin' band is composed of five young ladies who, frankly, could give Petra a run for

its money. Combining the sounds of Kansas, Boston, and yes, even a little Petra a la 1983, Rachel Rachel puts out a sound that sends an old rocker, like myself, back a decade or two.

The highlight of the album is a cover of "Carry On Wayward Son," originally done by Kansas. Even Kansas' original guitarist, Kerry Livgren, makes an appearance in the video, complete with the Radiocaster that fans of Livgren have recognized for years.

The only disappointment about this album is that it's mostly ballads. There's a few hard tunes on

it, but in all it's mostly a slow-going record.

Even with its downfalls, Way to My Heart stands out among Christian music as a good album done by some extremely talented musicians.

