

TEST DRIVE

By: Winfred B. Cross



1993 Toyota Celica All-Trac Turbo

There's a nasty rumor going around that when Toyota introduces its new Celica in a few months, the fire-breathing turbo model may go the way of the dodo bird.

That would be a pity. I spent a week in a 1993 model earlier this year and found it to be a car I'd like to own.

And why wouldn't anybody want to own one? The all-trac (Toyota's name for all-wheel drive) is an attractive car. It uses a "wide-body" design it shares with the GT-S model. It is very aggressive looking, especially in black, which was the color of my test car.

Inside, the Celica's cabin fits snugly, but it's a nice environment for the driver. A full assortment of gauges are placed properly and are easy to read. Six-foot tall drivers will have to contend with a limited amount of headroom, but leg room should be ample enough. The steering wheel is nice and fat and houses an air bag.

The front seats are very supportive. The driver's seat can be adjusted seven different ways electronically. The back seat is little more than a nice shelf to sit packages or put a child's car seat. The rear seats will fold down to give you more trunk space if needed, however.

Underneath the car's scooped hood is a 200 horsepower 2.0 liter, electrical-

and intercooled engine. Its small displacement is very deceiving because it moves this beauty down the highway with all deliberate speed. Power spools up quickly and smoothly. Press the gas pedal and *woooooosh*, you are on your way. You may run into a bit of a road block when it comes to shifting. The feel is a bit rubbery.

And you don't have to worry a lot about its road-holding capabilities, either. The car's all-wheel drive system works like a champ on wet or dry pavement. The car stays planted. Period. That's due in part to the electronically-controlled center differential with viscous coupling. That system shifts power to the wheels with the greatest amount of traction.

with a lot of standard stuff - power everything, cruise control, sun roof, rear window defogger, automatic air conditioner, tilt wheel with memory, aluminum alloy wheels and a killer 10-speaker CD/FM-AM/cassette stereo, to name some of it. In fact, the only option added to the \$28,298 base price was \$69 for floor mats. Add \$389 for destination and the as-tested price came to \$28,756.

That's a lot considering the Diamond Star triplets (Mitsubishi Eclipse GSX, Eagle Talon TSI and Plymouth Laser AWD) can be had for about \$4,000 less. But none of those cars feel as stable or substantial as the Celica. Nor do they look as good.

Is that worth the high priced admission? If you figure in resale value and reliability, yes.

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Call Malcolm Sanders at 567-8989 for vendor and/or event information.

GRIER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY 16TH ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD REUNION
Monday, September 6th ▪ Grier Heights Community
Parade, Music, Food, Dancing & Fellowshiping
Call James Ross 332-8263 for more information.

FLEA MARKET ▪ ATTIC SALE
Fund Raiser For "Thursday's Child"
Carolians for Child Support Enforcement
Saturday, September 4th ▪ 2340 Beatties Ford Rd.
For more information call: Sylvia Grier 391-7446

! KIDS ! GEAR UP FOR A PRODUCTIVE SCHOOL YEAR
Join The "Study Buddies" Kickoff Celebration
Wednesday, September 8th ▪ Grady Cole Center ▪ 310 N. Kings Drive
"Study Buddies" is an after school homework assistance program.
Parents, call Andra Eaves at 336-3854 for more information.

* IS YOUR CHILD SAFE WITH A BABY SITTER? *
* IS YOUR HOME A TARGET FOR BURGLARS? *
Learn How NOT To Be A Victim Of Crime! ▪ **FREE Family Safety Workshop**
Wednesday, September 8th ▪ 7:30 PM.
Presbyterian Hospital ▪ 200 Hawthorne Lane
Topics: Family Safety, Home Security, Child Protection

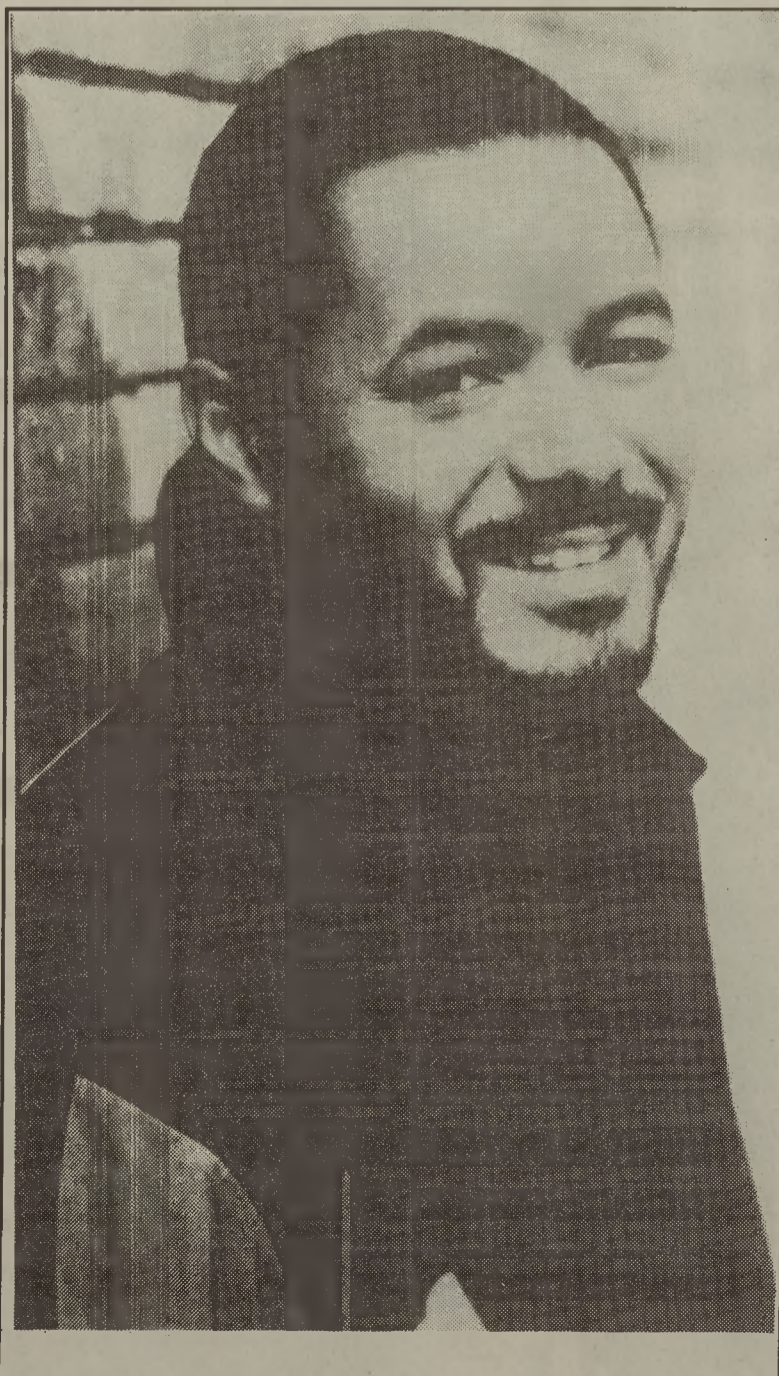
OUTDOOR EXPO FOR TEENS
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Music / Rock Climbing / Canoeing / Wind Surfing / Scuba Diving
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