

## BRIEFS

### NISSAN CANCELS FRANCHISE AFTER RACIAL SLUR

Nissan Motor Corp. USA has canceled a franchise agreement with a Virginia car dealer after he was secretly videotaped making racial slurs about a black employee.

Nissan terminated its relationship with Bob Crumpler, owner of Nissan dealerships in Newport News and Portsmouth, VA, days after a local TV station aired the video tape. In the tape, made by another employee, Crumpler referred to an African-American maintenance worker as a "nigger."

### GM SPONSORS PARADE OF STARS

General Motors Corporation was one of several sponsors of this year's "Parade of Stars."

The annual television special, which is hosted by singer Lou Rawls, benefits The United Negro College Fund. The star-studded lineup in Hollywood and at the Apollo Theater in New York, included: The Isley Brothers, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Take 6, Tevin Campbell, Maxi Priest, CeCe Peniston and Blackstreet. Since its inception in 1979, the "Parade of Stars" has raised millions for college tuition at UNCF-assisted colleges and universities.

## LETTERS E-MAIL

I just wanted to thank you for your wonderful advice. At your prompting, I sought to find out about the affordability and practicality of getting a Saturn.

As I walked into the showroom, I was immediately impressed with its friendly, family-like atmosphere. My salesman was honest without being pushy. The simple courtesy I experienced was, I'm sad to say, unreal.

As you have probably guessed, I walked (well, drove) away extremely happy with my newly certified, used Saturn SC2 coupe. The price was right and the features were exactly what I wanted and needed.

Before you mentioned Saturn, I had never heard of the company. Now, it is a life-long friend.

Hats off to you. Advice like yours is hard to beat.

*Jennifer Smith,  
Mitchellville, MD*

Thanks for the article you published about blacks in motorsports. The information in it was true.

I have been following (NASCAR) Winston Cup Racing and the National Hot Rod Association for about 10 years and in that time, I have only seen a couple black drivers in Drag Racing. They were in the "Funny Car Class" back in 1989. Their names were Eric Reed and Tony McCallum. Neither had the financial backing they needed to step into the "Upper Class" tier of the sport.

Maurice Dupont drove a few events in the Hammer Time car back in the early 90s (Top Fuel). Currently, two NBA greats, Tom Hammonds and Larry Nance are trying to break into the roughest class in the motorsports, Pro Stock.

Just as the article said, there are no blacks in NASCAR, not even in the Busch Series. I haven't seen any in ARCA either.

I don't know what it will take for blacks to get into motorsports. You would have figured that there would be some blacks in NASCAR by now. Wendell Scott drove in the 50s and 60s, but since then no one else has come along.

When you watch basketball, baseball and football, you see blacks. And we've finally gotten into the "Upper Class" sport of golf, thanks to people like Tiger Woods.

I truly believe that we have the talent in the black community to get to the top in racing. We have the drivers, the technicians and

the mechanics to do so. The only ingredient missing is the money.

However, that shouldn't be a big problem. If, for example, half of our black athletes invested a little of their earnings into motorsports, we could do it. And the likelihood of getting a major sponsor would be greater in a group effort.

Racing isn't like most sports. You have to have money to compete and even more to win. You said that many CEOs don't think we support racing - well, they're wrong.

I hope that we will one day put an African American behind the wheel in NASCAR, NHRA and the IRL or INDY.

*Joshua Carroll*

*African Americans On Wheels* continues to be of high interest. Congratulations on bringing an exciting idea to life.

*Jesse DeVore  
Hale House Center, Inc.  
New York, NY*

Just saw your magazine for the first time. Found it very informative and exciting.

*Note: Since you informed me that Chrysler is spending more on black advertising, I will buy a Chrysler product when I purchase a new car soon.*

*Carol T. Allen  
Washington, D.C.*

I would like to compliment you on your wonderful publication and encourage you to arrange for me to distribute it on our newsstand.

My company Groovin' GeMs Performance, is both a club for General Motors owners and a retailer of its parts and accessories etc.

*Jesse Fisher-Freeman III  
Groovin' GeMs Performance  
S. Hackensack, NJ  
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### INTERNET

Your website came as a complete surprise to me and I must say I'm really impressed with what I've seen.

Over the years, I've seen and heard about how much we African Americans support the auto industry and your site is an invaluable resource.

As a veteran television photojournalist, I can't help but see some good stories for TV here too.

*drenwick@ix.netcom.com*