

# Females were not 'smooth'

## Male drivers came out ahead in UNC test

**UNC News Bureau**  
No one really knows whether men or women are the best drivers, but a recent study seems to prove women do handle a car somewhat differently than men.

Using 40 test drivers on a 20.1 mile interstate course and an 8.7 mile heavy traffic course, a UNC Highway Safety Research study determined that women, in "everyday" driving situations, made more speed changes as well as lane changes and fine steering corrections than their male counterparts.

Therefore, in terms of "smoothness" — speed changes and steering adjustments — men performed better.

The study, "Age and Sex Factors in the Control of Automobiles," was done by Stanley M. Soliday of N.C. State University and John A. Allen Jr. of the Highway Safety Research Center in Chapel Hill.

Forty volunteer employees from the N.C.

Department of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh participated. They were divided into four groups, men and women over 30 and men and women under 30.

All drove an instrumented car which measured and recorded the following variables on digital counters: total trip time; time car was actually moving; miles traveled; speed changes; lane changes or coarse steering wheel reversals (each steering wheel movement of 12 degrees or more followed by a reversal of the movement); fine steering wheel reversals (two degree movement or more and reversal); accelerator reversals; and brake applications.

In addition to the recorded male-female differences, it was determined that young females made substantially more fine steering reversals than did young males, but only slightly more in comparison to the older men and women.

Investigators Soliday and Allen found few other differences due to the age variable.

They also noted that the sexual differences observed may have, at least in part, reflected the differential driving experiences of the male and females used in the study. Overall, the males had more years of driving experience than the females.

An earlier study by Soliday and Allen supported the notion that the type of highway a person drives is an important variable in determining how he controls his automobile.

The later age and sex factors study, an effort to extend the earlier findings and to gather baseline data for a driver license road-testing program, was conducted as part of a project titled Driver License Road Testing, contracted with the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles and sponsored by the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Office.



Barefoot in the rain

(Staff Photo by Johnny Lindahl)

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- For Sale: Two female sealpoint Siamese Kittens (pedigreed) 6 months old, with papers and shots. \$25. Call Val at 942-7843.
- Not a football freak? I am, but lost athletic pass. Sell me yours. 967-7223 after 5:00.
- '71 Kawasaki 90cc for sale, \$200.00. Great for getting around town & campus. Call 929-6429.
- Flight Instruction: Learn to fly this year with UNC student Gus Gray. Individual instruction from beginning through private through commercial licenses. For information on types of aircraft, programs, costs, requirements, and scheduling, call 929-3601 after 6 p.m. or 967-6304 during day.
- Motorcyclists. Do you want to help your sport and earn money too? If you are a male 18 or older and have a motorcycle call the Highway Safety REsearch Center at 933-2202. Please mention you are calling for the motorcycle study.
- '63 RAMBLER AMERICAN. Accept no substitutes. Dependable, manual with overdrive, new inspection. First \$165. 942-8266.
- 1953 Packard Hearse. Blue, double bed, new tires and battery. Needs minor work. \$325.00. Call 929-8002 between 5-7.
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- Roommate Wanted to share 2 bedroom apt. at Royal Park. Air cond., carpet, and pool. Rent \$70 plus utilities. If interested call Steve at 942-7366.
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