

FEATURES

# Automobile owners should go by the book for vehicle maintenance

By Matthew Hoyt  
Staff Writer

To most automobile owners, car care is nothing more than gas in the tank and an occasional car wash.

According to the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA), 60 percent of private automobiles in the United States run ineffectively, and one out of every eight accidents occurs because a vehicle is working improperly.

But how should a car owner go about finding out what sort of care the car requires? According to Doug Perry, manager of the Eastgate AMOCO service station, owners should go by the book when it comes to auto maintenance. "The owner's manual tells us when things need to be checked," Perry said. He also said that owners should be familiar with the manual so they would know what repairs to ask for.

Preventive maintenance is a term automotive technicians use to refer to the regular checkups and tests necessary to keep an automobile working safely and effectively.

Most car mechanics feel that an oil and oil filter change are the most important tasks that car owners face, but many mechanics have different opin-

ions on when oil should be changed.

Popular Mechanics' self-help manual titled "Basic Car Care Illustrated," says that cars' oil and filters need to be changed every four to six thousand miles, or the oil loses its ability to properly lubricate the engine and becomes contaminated with outside air, metal fragments from the engine and by-products of combustion.

Steve Bair, an auto technician at Talbert's Auto Repair Service, said that the oil filter needed to be checked even more often — every three thousand miles to be exact.

Perry agrees that oil should be checked frequently, somewhere around three to four thousand miles, along with the car's fluids, such as power steering, brake and transmission fluids.

Perry said that tires should be checked along with the oil to ensure there is no air wear, a term that means strain on the outer edges of the tread that makes tires more susceptible to slipping.

Many servicemen say that tire service depends on a person's driving habits and even the type of car he or she drives.

"An average driver needs to rotate his tires every ten thousand miles or six months," says Ronnie Ragan, owner of East Franklin Car Care, "but if he is in a front wheel or four wheel drive ve-

hicle, they should change them every six thousand, since eighty percent of the weight is in the front."

Ragan also said brakes should be checked just as frequently, since they too are affected by the weight displacement of the car.

Finally, autos need to have a major tune up yearly, Ragan said. At that time, all the plugs, hoses and belts are checked, the entire engine is lubricated and the wheel system gets a full alignment.

The amount of tuneup needed also depends on the age of the car and the size of the engine. According to Perry, the newest cars' engines are so efficient that a tuneup really isn't necessary every year.

So what does all this cost? Most bimonthly check-ups and oil changes run from \$20 to \$35, while yearly tuneups can run in the hundreds. While a lot of services can be done much more cheaply if the owners do them at home, Tilley said the car owner "would be hustling backwards" to service his vehicle at home, because most car owners lack the experience or equipment necessary for proper care.

And despite all of the old myths, mechanics are not out to swindle unsuspecting customers. "We do have consciences," said Bair.



Changing oil and filters is an important part of car care

DTH/Keith Nelson

# Programs help minority students with transition from high school to college

By Karen Crutchfield  
Staff Writer

Choosing a college and entering UNC as a freshman can be a difficult experience for many students — for minorities it can be even tougher.

UNC offers two programs for minorities that make the college experience a little easier. Project Uplift targets high school students before they make their decision about which college to attend, and Pre-Orientation helps them adjust once they are at UNC.

Project Uplift is directed at minority high school juniors who have been nominated for the program because of their impressive academic profile.

The chosen students are invited to attend the University for one of four weekends during the summer to learn of the opportunities available to them, said Archie Ervin, the assistant to the vice chancellor of University affairs. They are given the chance to learn about the University, college life and, most importantly, themselves.

Ervin explained that the program is not solely to promote UNC — it also gives information that is valuable regardless of where the students choose to attend school. In addition to learning about UNC, it is also vital for them to recognize their personal needs and what they will be happy with, Ervin said.

Christy Sellars, a junior from Elon College, was a counselor for Project Uplift last summer. She said she was interested in the position because she

thought it was good for high school students to visit the campus before making a decision.

This program has been part of the University for twenty years and has proven to be very successful, Ervin said. The attendance is usually about 800 students for the four program weekends.

Seventy-five percent of incoming minority students take advantage of Pre-Orientation. This program provides the opportunity for minority students to arrive on campus one and a half days before the University's fall orientation begins. Freshmen are assigned counselors who have been trained to provide assistance throughout the critical first week on campus.

It's a luxury for the minority students which enables them to arrive at the University earlier than the other freshmen, said Jamee Alston, the administrative assistant to the assistant to the vice chancellor of University affairs.

"It is mainly to reduce anxieties and help them adjust," Alston said. They can tour, meet with faculty and have their questions answered. She explained that helping the new students take care of minor errands, such as opening bank accounts and obtaining meal cards, makes the transition a little easier.

Although the Pre-Orientation program has been successful, its members are constantly thinking of ways to improve it. One idea is to involve parents, Alston said. They want to acquaint them with UNC's policies for applying to different schools within the University

and explain the grading system and billing process to them.

"Parents are often a little uncomfortable leaving (their children) on the first day of college," Alston said. "By having the parents involved in the program, perhaps we can make them feel a little more comfortable."

Many minority students are first generation college students, so not only do they have a lot of questions about college that their parents are unable to answer, but their parents are apprehensive about leaving their children in an unfamiliar environment, Alston said.

Christopher Ingram, a senior from Greensboro, was a Pre-Orientation counselor last fall. He said he wanted to be a counselor so he could be an upper-classmen students can come to for help, but more importantly because of the positive impact the Pre-Orientation counselors had on him when he was a freshman.

"I felt as though I should do the same thing for someone else," Ingram said.

Applications are available in the Black Cultural Center. All applications must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, 1991. For further information, contact Alston at 962-6962.

## Sheldon

"We're convinced it's a political murder, a hate crime," Gangi said. "The more I've gone over the evidence, the more I'm convinced it was planned out."

Gangi said he did not believe the incident was related to an attempted robbery, as some people have suggested.

"He wouldn't have been killed in a robbery," he said. "Even if it were just someone coming off the street to sell something, or whatever, he could have handled it. He was a very street-smart person."

Sheldon was recently interviewed on a television program about conscientious objection to the Persian Gulf War, and his beliefs could have angered many people across the state, Gangi said.

"If you could point to one individual who was the most important person on the alternative political scene in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area, it was Bob Sheldon," he said. "If someone wanted to strike a blow against the peace movement in this state, he would be the person one would choose to go after."

John Cotterman, owner of Lunar Graphics, next to Internationalist Books, said the shooting could have been related to Sheldon's progressive political views. "We're concerned as to whether there was some sort of political crazy going after him for his politics," Cotterman said.

Michael Heinrichs and Barbara Maren Winkler, friends of Sheldon's,

were with him in his store shortly before the shooting, Sheldon probably did not expect any unusual occurrences that night, they said.

"We visited him two hours before," Heinrichs said. "He was very happy."

Kaye said Sheldon's death was a significant loss to the community because of his ability to relate to anyone. "He liked everybody and everything," he said. "We'd go out to eat, and he could never decide what to get because he just liked everything on the menu. That's why this is so frightening. There's no one else in the town who related to everybody."

Cotterman said that Sheldon and his store have been assets to the community.

"Bob was a very generous person and was very involved progressively," he said. "He reminded me of Thomas Jefferson because of his red pony tail."

Dennis Gavin, owner of Skylight Exchange and a long-time friend of Sheldon's, said he was unaware of any motives that could have prompted the

shooting.

"I don't think he's ever had a personal enemy," Gavin said. "His main thing has always been peace and nonviolence."

People in the community want to work together to keep Internationalist Books open despite Sheldon's death, Gavin said.

"I think the strongest thing is that people want the store to continue no matter what," Gavin said. "It's been an important part of the community. It's also part of his legacy. Bob was the store, but sometimes things are bigger than yourself, and in this case the store has become an important part of the community."

Thompson said the police are seeking the public's help in conducting the investigation.

"We are asking anyone that was in the area between 7 and 9 p.m. and might have seen anything unusual or heard anything unusual to please call the detectives at 968-2767," Thompson said.

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