

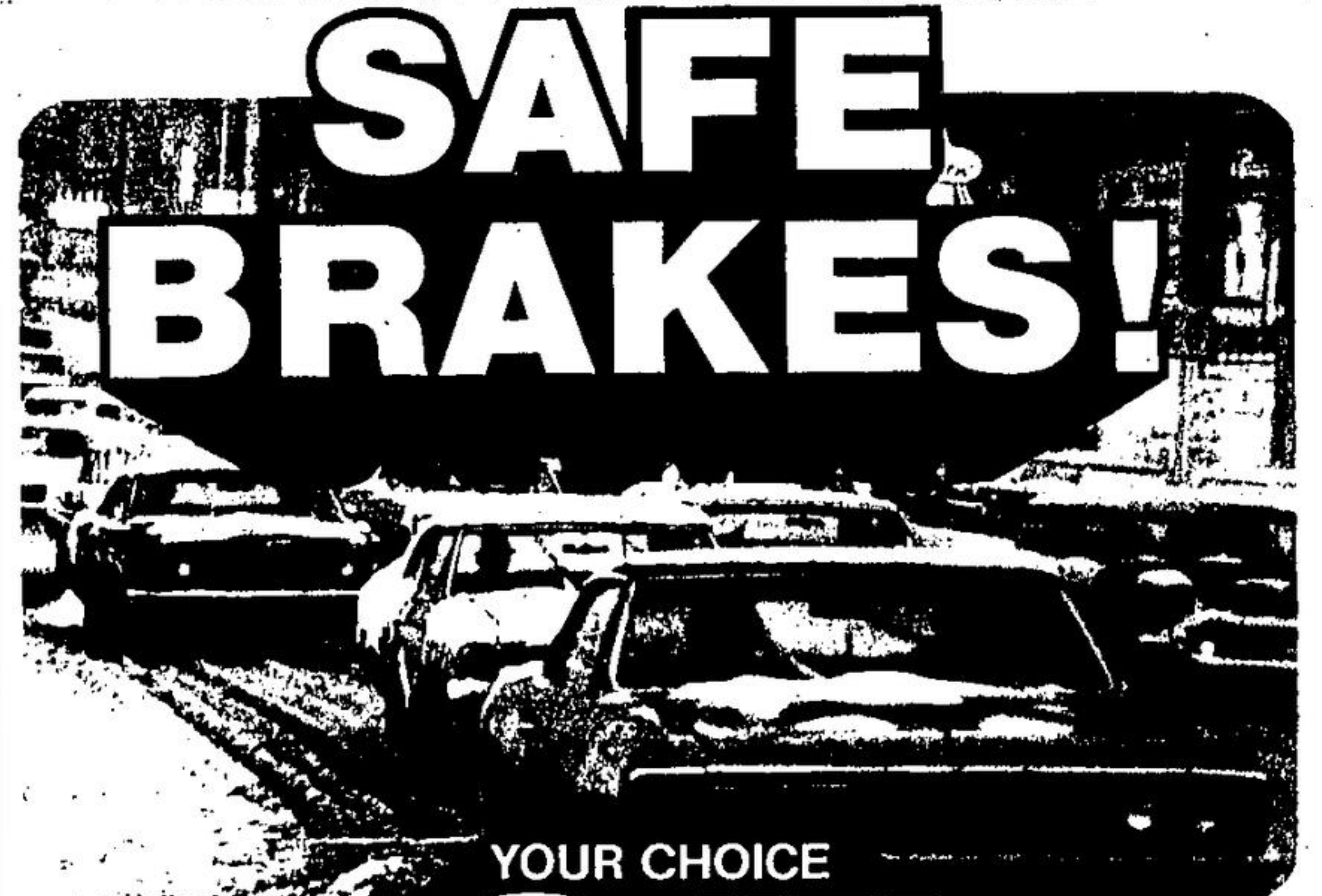
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## Outwit Winter

Now's the time to make sure your car's up to the rough weather ahead. So you'll enjoy safe, trouble-free driving. And reduce harmful engine emissions. All winter long.

### Experts List Three Major Factors Affecting Auto Performance When Temperature Drops

If you've put off having your car serviced for cold weather, let the word ICE serve as a reminder. I, C and E are the initials for the Ignition, Cooling and Electrical systems, the three main factors affecting your car's dependability when temperatures drop.

According to Car Care Council of Canada, these are the points that should get attention.

**IGNITION SYSTEM** — You may be well advised to invest in a tune-up if you're nearing the 10,000 mile mark since the last time that work was done. This usually involves replacement of distributor points, condenser, and rotor plus spark plugs (and sometimes wiring). The service in-

cludes adjustment of ignition timing, idle speed and automatic choke. Your mechanic also will check on the condition of the various filters and pollution control devices so essential to efficient engine operation.

**COOLING SYSTEM**—There's more to cooling system

maintenance than flushing the radiator and replacing the anti-freeze. The system should be pressure tested for potential leaks. Hoses and belts should be examined and replaced as necessary.

The thermostat, which maintains engine temperature within specified limits, should be checked, too. If it's not working properly you could have either an overheating engine or reduced engine efficiency. A faulty thermostat also can cause your car's heater to lose its effectiveness.

**ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**—That sickening "click-click" that signifies a dead battery may be nothing more than a corroded connection creating an abnormal resistance in

your starting circuit. Or it could be a problem in your car's alternator or voltage regulator.

Then again, it could be the battery itself. A battery's average life is from 26 to 36 months. To play it safe, have your car's charging circuit, battery and connections checked while you are in command of the situation.

Ask your mechanic for a safety check, too, including tires, exhaust system, lights, brakes, windshield wipers and washers, shock absorbers and steering mechanism.

### Power Steering Maintenance Is Simpler Than You Think

If your car has power steering, you may be under the impression that this device is extremely complex, and can be serviced only by a highly trained specialist using special tools.

Actually, this is not the case. A power steering system is considerably more complicated than a non-power system. But most power steering maintenance work can be done by the average automotive service technician.

At the heart of your car's power steering system is the hydraulic pump that supplies the pressure to turn your car's wheels when you turn the steering wheel. This pump rarely breaks down, however, provided you make sure its supply of hydraulic fluid does not get too low.

So the most important thing to do to keep your car's power steering system out of trouble is to have the fluid level checked periodically. And when you have the fluid checked, you should also have the serviceman check the hoses that connect the pump to the other elements in the power steering system. Because leakage here is the main cause of fluid loss, which in turn is the main cause of power steering troubles.

One other item that should be checked periodically is the belt that con-

nects the hydraulic pump to your car's engine. If this belt breaks, your whole power steering system will conk out instantly.

How can you tell if your power steering system needs attention? Usually, the first sign is either an unusual noise (squealing, chattering, or knocking sound) or a change in the "feel" of your steering (sluggishness, jerkiness, or a tendency to pull to one side).

If any of these symptoms occur, you should waste no time in getting your system checked; early attention can prevent big problems later. Better still, you should have your fluid, hoses and pump-drive belt checked every month or two even if you don't notice any signs of trouble. The best time to stop trouble is before it starts.

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