

What will passive restraints do for vehicle safety?

I can remember times not so very long ago when simple lap and shoulder belts had been identified as an important and life-saving safety device to protect all occupants in motor vehicles - as long

as they are buckled up.

To start with, very few people actually used the seat belts. A great debate ensued to ponder how to provide the necessary incentive to the drivers of motor vehicles and their passengers to use these life-saving devices. Gradually a number of provinces passed laws making the use of safety belts mandatory.

A small but vocal minority remained opposed to any such legislation on the grounds that it restricted individual rights and freedoms. Fortunately, common sense and the new laws prevailed. There was a considerable justification to the premise used by the legislators - namely, that the safety of a large majority should be able to override opposition of a few. It was also considered that an increased rate of fatalities and personal injuries during vehicle accidents experienced by those who did not use their seat belts was costing everyone more tax dollars in increased health care costs, not to

Charles Phak



mention steadily rising car insurance premiums.

Eventually more drivers and passengers began using their seat belts. It seemed that each time they buckled up a ghost of awareness moved through their minds - an awareness of an ever-present danger out there - and a strong resolve never to allow their alertness to waver while behind the wheel.

These partly successful attempts at improving vehicle safety never dampened the enthusiasm of those who wanted the vehicles to offer additional safety margins - be it in form of air bags or passive safety belts that sling around you to buckle up on their own.

The problem with airbags seems to be that the extra safety factor is only available if and when the seat and shoulder belts are used at the same time. The airbags will give the extra protection only in head-on collisions - which are relatively rare. In all other types of collisions the lap and shoulder belt will prove superior.

When it comes to self-buckling safety belts, most present designs seem bulky, complex and in my view, could be prone to failures.

I think that the very act of buckling up is important to create a certain frame of mind for the drivers. I wonder what will happen to this frame of mind when the airbags become standard on all vehicles. Will it give the drivers a sense of false security that will cause them to stop using seat belts? Will this situation prompt some drivers to become reckless?

Whatever new safety equipment is added to our vehicles, we will hopefully continue to realize that we - as drivers - are the ultimate safety factors in our vehicles.

LEN TUITMAN AND STAFF PRESENT

First Flowering Shrub FORSYTHIAS

Forsythias are one of the first flowering shrubs to bloom in the spring.

They faithfully offer a spectacular display of brilliant yellow blossoms before their lush green leaves develop. These strong, fast-growing shrubs make excellent spring accent plants and informal hedges. Their softly arching branches create a graceful appearance in both situations.

Forsythias are best planted in full sun, in a good garden soil, and should be pruned after they have flowered in the spring. The old, large branches should be pruned to encourage young, vigorous shoots to develop.

There are many forsythia varieties available, but the 'Northern Gold' and 'Ottawa Early' varieties, which may reach a height of five feet, are very hardy in this region. As a result, they should flower freely to the branch tips, whereas less hardy varieties rarely flower above the snow line. The 'Arnold Dwarf' forsythia is a dwarf variety that makes a great ground cover. It reaches a height of three feet at maturity and has pale yellow flowers in the spring.

If your garden is in need of an outstanding effect in the spring, a forsythia will provide great color when few shrubs are in bloom.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace!

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Your Week Ahead Horoscope

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Financial affairs are emphasized in this Taurean new moon cycle, indicating a greater need for assurance of material security.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May 20

Impulsive actions tend to annoy those around you. Concern for the well being of family members surfaces in confrontation.

GEMINI
May 21-June 20

The emotional self takes control and you are stressed by the suffering and hardship of others.

CANCER
June 21-July 22

Business affairs and financial expenditures related to organizational activities characterize this new moon cycle. Friends are supportive.

LEO
July 23-Aug. 22

Public recognition for achievement is likely, perhaps along the lines of outstanding service in job related activities.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Incorporation of the values of a culture completely foreign to your own background gives you a wide perspective.

LIBRA
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Avoid any new ventures where joint finances are involved. Flashes of intuition can be deceptive and throw you off course.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Interaction with the public calls for mental dexterity. Stay informed about progressive trends where tools of the trade are concerned.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

A warm atmosphere on the work front eases tensions and discourages a tendency to emotional flare-ups. Lighten up.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

There should be no problem in finding a partner to play the game. Don't be too aggressive and break a tie.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Housecleaning impulses get the better of you. You manage to touch into every nook and cranny in your zeal.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Communication with family, friends, and neighbors is characteristic of present planetary aspects. Let the sun spread its warmth.

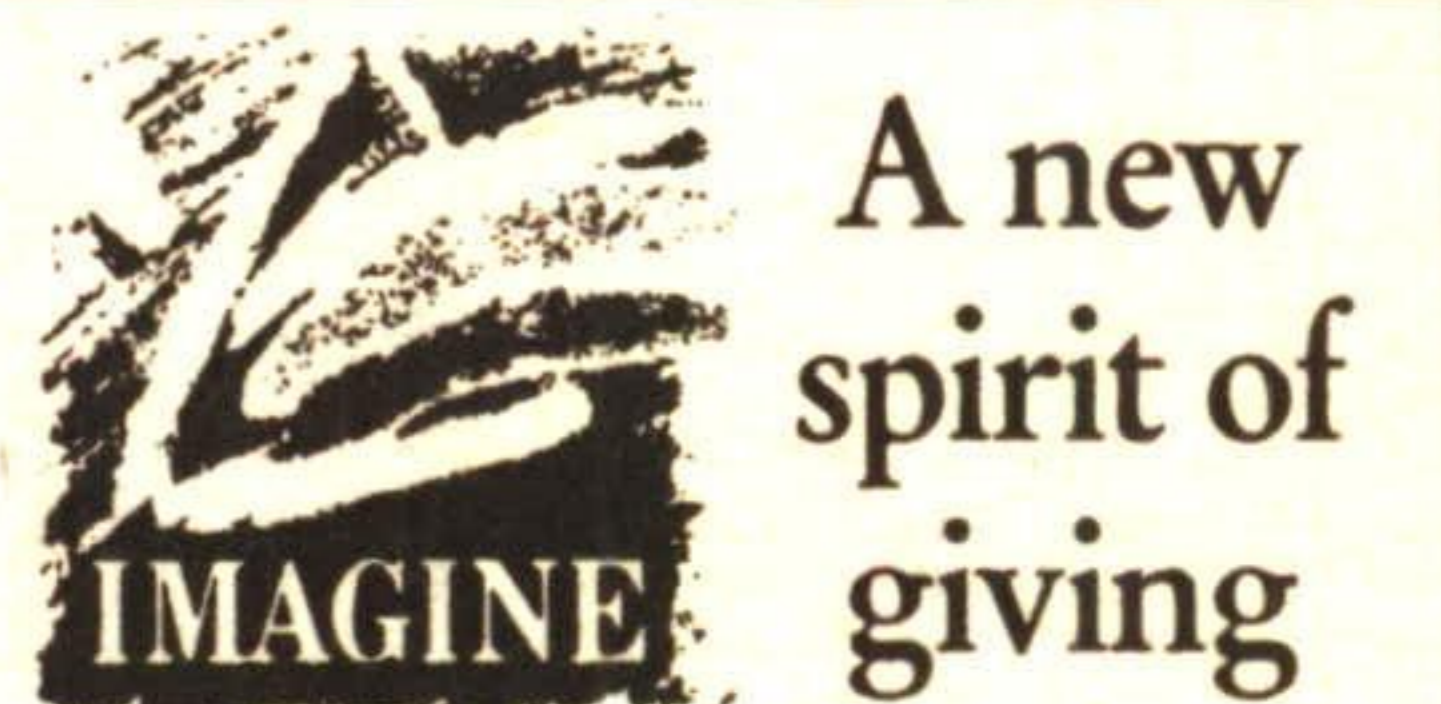


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CORRECTION

We regret that due to limited supply, the following items may not be available at all store locations during the "Thanks Mom Sale" flyer.

| Catalogue No. | Description |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 363-606 | Musical Jewel Box |
| 779-140 | Rose Mini Blind 48" x 64" |
| 779-157 | Ivory Mini Blind 48" x 64" |
| 884-189 | Hardwood Rocking Chair |

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