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Check your car care knowledge

Take this true/false quiz from the Car Care Council. Six correct is passing, eight is great and 10 classifies you as an expert.

1. You've always used regular (87 octane) gas in your 3-year-old car, but now you hear it "ping" occasionally. It's time to switch to high test gas.
2. Tires should be inflated to the maximum pressure indicated on the sidewall.
3. Your air conditioner keeps blowing fuses. Until a mechanic can check it out, you can install one of a higher rating so long as it does not exceed 35 amps.
4. Your engine overheated due to a radiator leak. This condition also could damage the transmission.

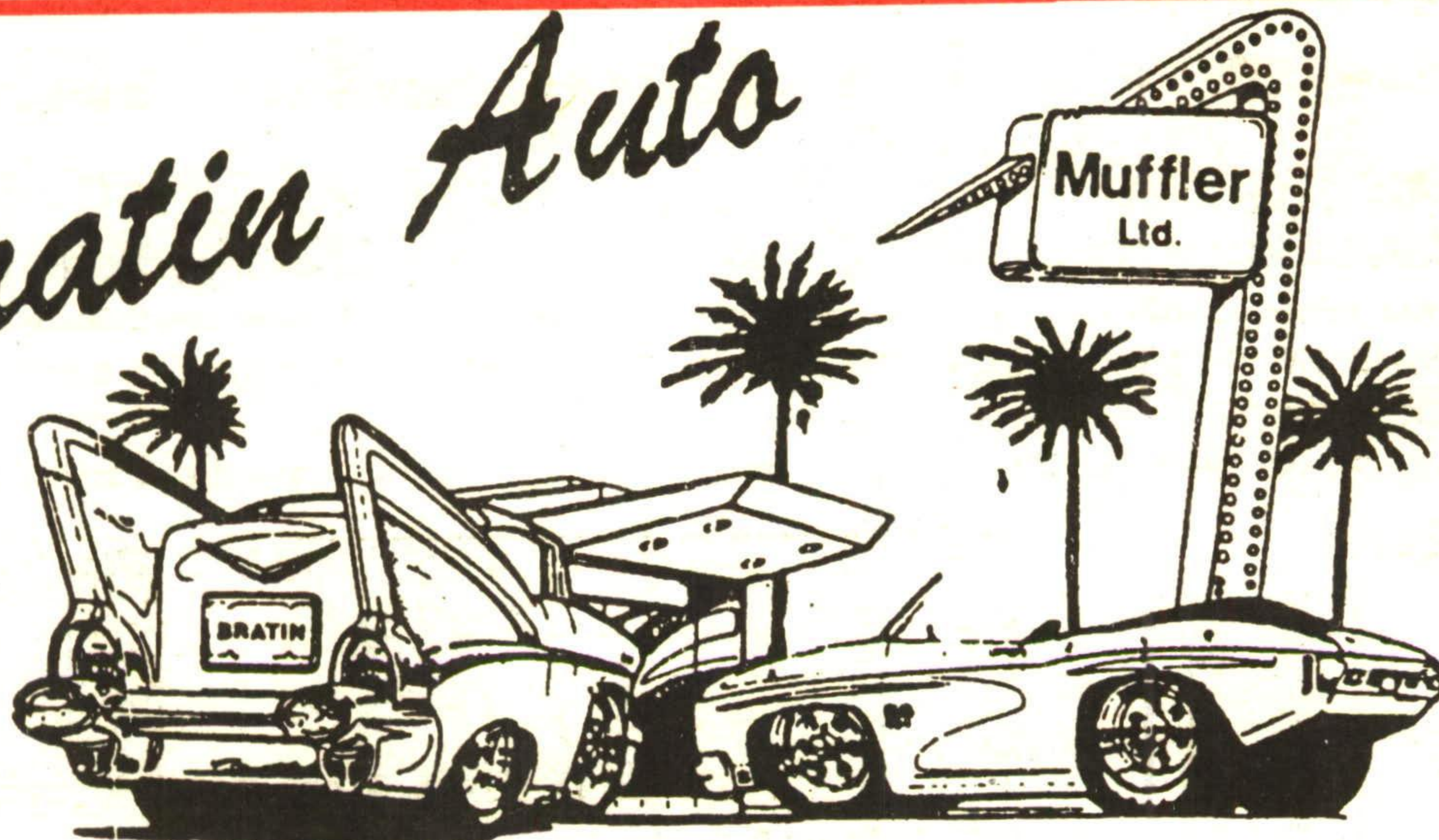
5. A tire's life may be cut in half when it's out of balance. At 60 mph, one ounce out of balance has the effect of a six-pound weight on the rim of the wheel.
6. Oil is leaking from one shock absorber. This fluid can be "topped off" by a service station.
7. For safe driving on a rainy night, clear vision depends upon just three factors: all lights working, a clean windshield and good windshield wipers.
8. The oxygen sensor is part of your car's air conditioning system.
9. Blue smoke from your car's tail pipe is a sign you may have worn piston rings or valves.
10. Red fluid leaking under your car is probably from your transmission.

The correct answer is...

1. False. Upgrading fuel generally is an expensive and unsatisfactory remedy for a "pinging" engine. A better investment would be a diagnostic check up by an experienced technician.
2. True. For long tire life and best gas mileage, keep tires inflated to the maximum recommended pressure.
3. False. The purpose of a fuse or circuit breaker is to prevent circuit overload which could lead to a fire. Correct the cause of the problem before installing a fuse. Use a fuse only of the specified amperage rating.
4. True. The automatic transmission is cooled by the engine cooling system. When it overheats, so does the transmission.
5. False. Centrifugal force causes one ounce of weight to become twelve pounds at 60 mph. That not only

- damages the tire tread, it also accelerates wear of steering and suspension parts.
6. False. A shock absorber or strut cannot be refilled. It must be replaced. For best ride control, replace in pairs.
7. False. Good eyesight is your first requirement for safe driving under any conditions.
8. False. The oxygen sensor is part of the emissions control system.
9. True. The blue exhaust smoke comes from burning oil that works past worn piston rings and /or valve guides into the engine combustion chamber. Black smoke is a sign of poor combustion, usually due to a fuel or ignition system malfunction.
10. True. A defective seal is the most common cause of transmission fluid leakage.

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