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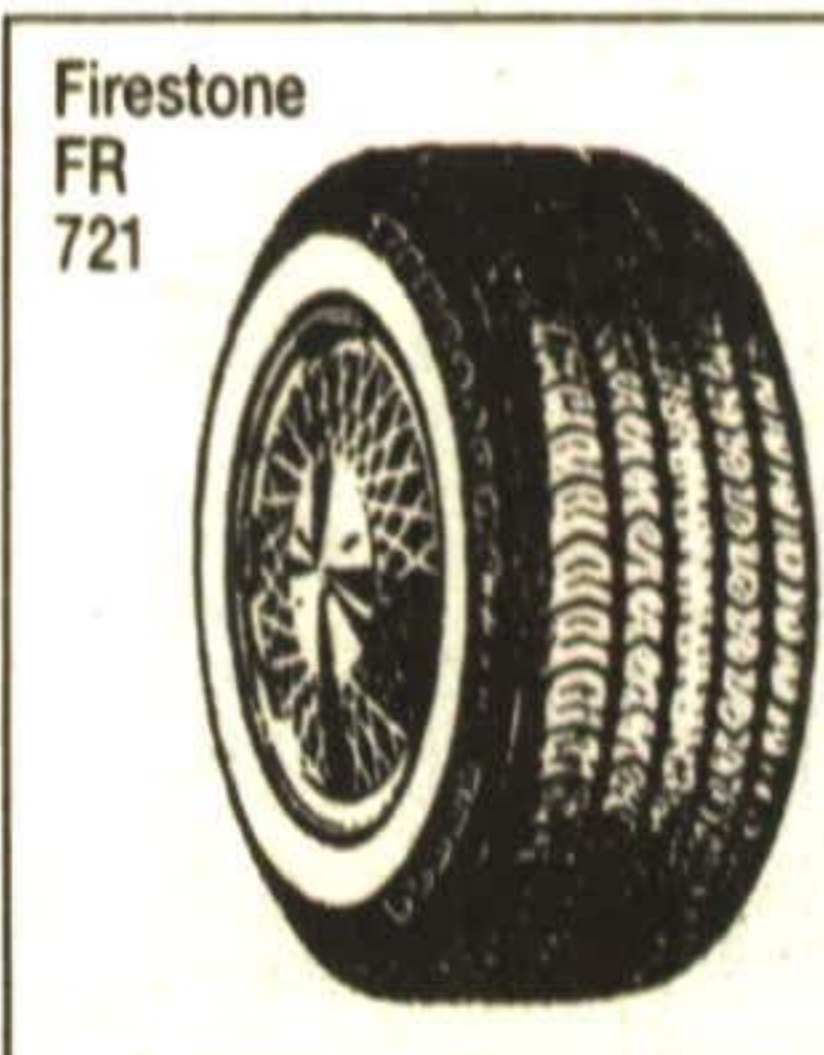
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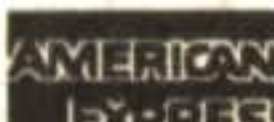
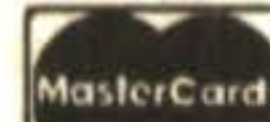
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Spring Car Care

Use some restraint

The 250,000 member, not-for-profit Hamilton Automobile Club (HAC) advises that motorists can increase safety for drivers and passengers by removing or buckling up all Unattached Flying Objects and Occupants.

Typically, motorists are aware that securing a person in a safety belt or child restraint will protect the person from being injured when thrown from the seat in a collision. HAC adds that placing an occupant in a restraint also protects other vehicle occupants from being hit by an Unattached Flying Occupant. HAC advises taking the following precautions:

With Adults: Wear seat belts and shoulder belts at all times. Even in a driveway, in a parking lot or parked by the side of the road, serious injury can still occur if your vehicle is hit by another. Air bags do not replace belts.

With Children: Choose the proper child

restraint for a young child and ensure that it is properly tethered. HAC, with the Canadian Automobile Association runs the national Child Restraint Information Program, so if you have any questions about choosing or using child restraints, call HAC.

With Pets: Most pets can be placed in some form of cage. Use seat belts (preferably more than one) to "buckle up" the cage by securely threading the belts through the bars.

With Objects: The safest place to put briefcases, groceries, luggage and other objects is in the trunk. If a briefcase or a purse is required close by while you drive, strap the belt through the handle and buckle it in.

If another vehicle collides with yours, that may be an accident. If that accident causes you to be hit and injured by an object you placed in the car, that is no accident.

Time to check your tires

The nation is approaching an annual event that rises the soul of even the most hardened motorist - the pothole season. Repeated impacts with potholes can seriously damage your tires especially if they are underinflated.

Your tires have been exposed to wide variations of temperature during winter and could have lost air pressure.

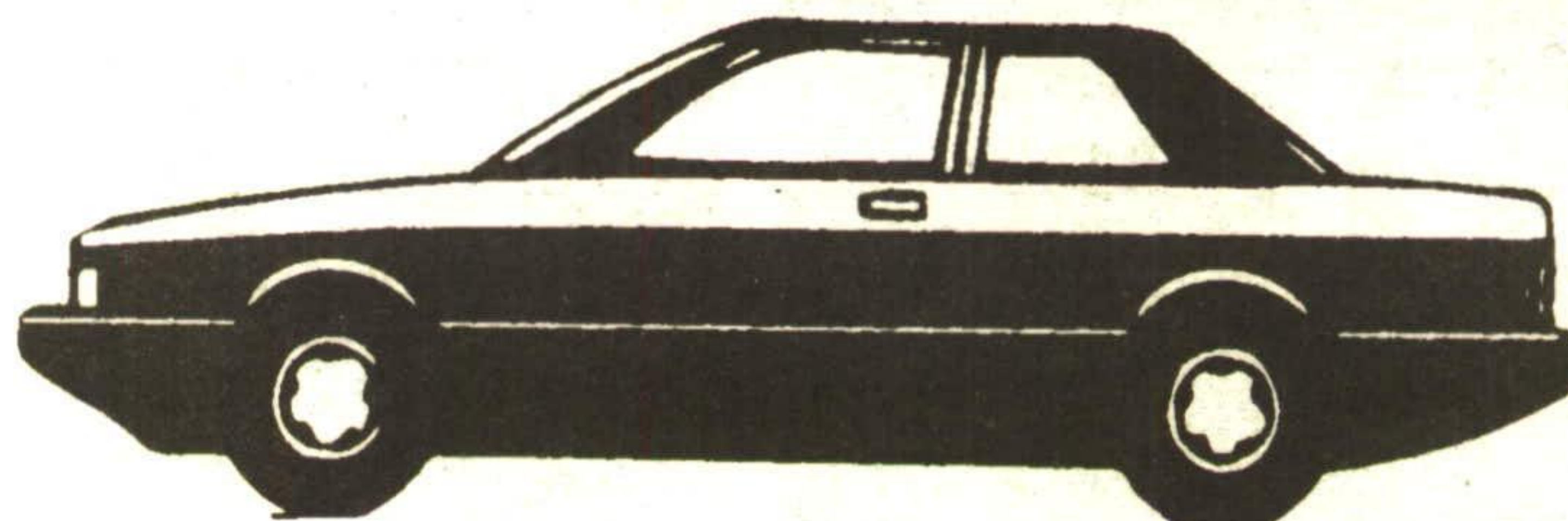
"Tires are most vulnerable when they are underinflated," according to specialists at BF Goodrich Tires. "When you drive over a pothole there is excessive force applied at the point of impact. If your tires are not inflated properly the sidewalls can more easily be pinched between the road and the wheel, resulting in broken cables in the casing. If the damage is too extensive, the tire will fail on the spot. However, most of the time, the

impact does not cause immediate failure but still results in broken cables creating a weak spot that can degenerate to tire failure at a later time.

Since Spring is just around the corner, now is the perfect time to check your tires before the pothole season. Buy the best available pressure gauge and check all tires, including the spare. Adjust the tire inflation to pressures recommended by the vehicle manufacturer for your car. This will give your tires a better chance at survival in the pothole battlefield.

While adjusting the pressures take time to check your tires visually. If you spot suspicious bulges on the sidewall or uneven or irregular wear see your BF Goodrich Tire dealer for professional advice.

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