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## Driving With A Trailer

(IBC)-To make sure that your towing job doesn't become a real "drag," follow a few simple safety precautions.

- If you've never towed, it's a good idea to rent a trailer before buying one. A rental company won't give you anything that's too big for your vehicle to haul. The trailer will come with appropriate hitches, and the renter will teach you how to hitch up properly.
- · Before you head off, make sure the trailer is in top condition (e.g., tires, hitches, taillights, wheel bearings and frame).
- · Detached trailers can cause serious accidents; they not only might hit another vehicle or a pedestrian, but they could cause you to lose control of your own vehicle. Always check that the trailer is hitched securely to your vehicle. Repair or replace any hitches that are no longer effective.

Mismatched, worn out or poorly adjusted equipment won't survive the stress of highway speeds, poor road conditions and heavy loads.

- Never load your trailer with more weight than it is designed to carry. Overloading will cause premature wear on your trailer and towing vehicle, create handling problems, and seriously impair your ability to brake.
- · When towing heavier loads, you can get a sway-control device to keep your trailer from weaving or wobbling. For heavier trailers, a load equalizer hitch can keep the trailer and tow vehicle level.
- Adjust your mirrors for clear rear vision. You want to make sure that your view of the traffic behind you isn't obscured. Keep the load in your trailer as low as possible.
  - · Cover the load with a tarp or tie it

down so that nothing will bounce or fly off the trailer.

- Before heading out into traffic, practice turning, backing and parking in an area free from other vehicles. When you're backing up, have someone outside of the car guide you. Sound your horn as a warning to nearby vehicles or pedestrians.
- Drive more slowly than normal and keep a greater distance than usual between you and the vehicle ahead; the weight of the trailer and load will increase the time you need to brake safely.
- Keep in mind that since the trailer may be wider than your vehicle, you may endanger someone when you are passing them.

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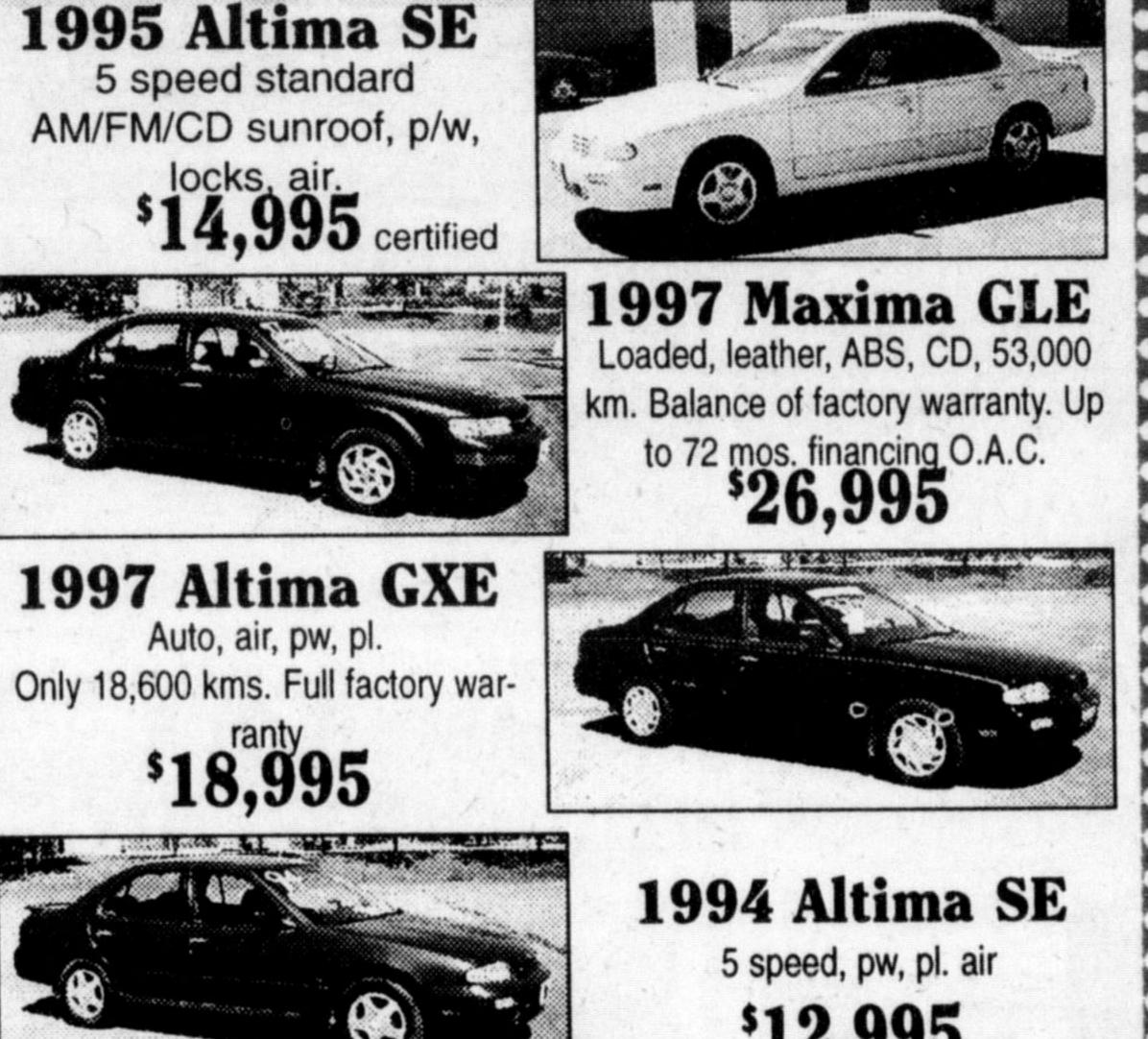


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