

Autos not only key to pedestrian safety

Hope of lowering the nation's annual pedestrian fatality and injury toll lies in improving traffic patterns, lighting, education, law enforcement, driver training and licensing.

This is the joint conclusion of Trevor O. Jones, director, advance product engineering, General Motors engineering staff, Dr. Brian S. Repa, senior research engineer,

GM research laboratories' engineering mechanics department, and Jayne Potgiesser, formerly of the GM engineering staff.

The GM engineers collected and analyzed data from a variety of sources relating to pedestrian-vehicle impacts which during 1973 caused 10,600 deaths and 120,000 disabling injuries in the United States.

"THIS IS NOT to say that modified design of vehicles cannot reduce pedestrian trauma," they reported. "All indications, however, point to the realization that the reduction of pedestrian injuries through vehicle design may be minimal."

"Furthermore, because the pedestrian accident is a multiple impact event, vehicle design

changes which may appear intuitively sound must nevertheless be very carefully explored before any judgments of their effectiveness can be rendered. A design change which may reduce impact forces to lower body extremities, for example, may very well result in an increase in trauma to the more vulnerable upper body and head regions."

After reviewing accident data, they discuss several alternative countermeasures, most of which were based on case histories in the United States and abroad.

• Traffic control—pedestrian injuries and death dominate in urban areas.

• Lighting—a significant portion of pedestrian accidents occur in dusk-to-dawn hours, and as much as a 33 percent reduction in all nighttime accidents has been reported as a result of improved lighting. Lighting studies at urban sites in the United Kingdom showed that savings resulting from accident reductions were sufficient to cover both improvement and operating costs.

• Pedestrian/vehicle isolation—bridges, underpasses, fences and sidewalks designed to reduce potential vehicle-pedestrian encounters may prove cost-effective in reducing fatalities in troublesome areas. In central business districts the "mall concept" can effectively isolate the vehicle from the pedestrian. A Virginia traffic report showed that the highest number of injuries and fatalities occurred in urban areas where sidewalks were unavailable.

• Traffic flow planning—spot studies indicate pedestrian accident totals decrease with conversion to one-way street systems.

• Public information programs—"As far back as 1935, when the pedestrian death toll was about 45 percent of the total highway death toll, AAA began a nationwide pedestrian protection program," the GM researchers reported. "Since the program was initiated in 1937, the number of pedestrian deaths has been cut in half while all other traffic fatalities have risen 35 percent. The results, of course, were not achieved overnight but resulted from community effort and well-balanced safety programs."

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of these national organizations, community efforts have slackened and in the last 10 years pedestrian accidents have increased 28 percent from their all-time low.

• Engineering-enforcement-education—they advocated continu-

ing child and adult pedestrian education programs; strong secondary school driver education programs; driver licensing programs including adequate examinations and follow-up to correct or remove troublemakers; enactment of sound traffic laws and vigorous, impartial enforcement.

They said it was doubtful that any sizeable fatality reduction could be expected from changes in vehicle frontal design.

Adding to the problem is the fact that the consequences of pedestrian accidents are very dependent on many major factors in addition to vehicle design, such as vehicle speed, pedestrian height and age, and posture at impact.

Court orders Clarkson to reconsider case

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY — Southfield 46th District Court Judge S. James Clarkson has been ordered to reopen one of the five drug cases he recently dismissed and to bind the defendant over for trial in circuit court.

Circuit Court Judge James S. Thorburn ruled Tuesday Clarkson was wrong in dismissing charges against Leo G. Donigan Jr., who faced charges of selling drugs. The Donigan case was one of five dismissed by Clarkson that formed the basis of a lawsuit against the judge by Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson.

Patterson charged Clarkson with violating his oath of office in dismissing the five suspected drug dealers. Besides asking that each case be reopened, Patterson's suit asked that Clarkson be barred from hearing criminal cases in the future.

JUDGE THORBURN will rule on the other four cases Tuesday morning. These cases involve Edythe Franklin, John Romine, Grant West and Linda Keefe—all accused of the unlawful delivery of either heroin or phenylephrine.

There was no word this week if or when Judge Thorburn would consider Patterson's request to bar Judge Clarkson from future criminal cases.

When he dismissed the cases, Clarkson ruled the suspects had been illegally entrapped by police officers. Calling the practice "repugnant to fair play and justice," Clarkson suggested that courts refuse to allow convictions based on entrapment.

Each drug arrest was based on purchases by undercover Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) officers. This federally-funded unit is supervised by the Michigan State Police and composed of officers from various police departments in the county.

THE ARRESTS, made on four separate occasions, occurred between Feb. 5 and April 16.

Ruling on just the Donigan case, Thorburn contended this week that Clarkson's assertion of entrapment wasn't sufficiently established.

Community band meets at Harrison

FARMINGTON — Musicians interested in joining the Farmington Community Concert band are invited to attend a meeting and rehearsal of the band, Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 7:30 p.m., in the Harrison High School band room.

Paul Barber, the director of the band will answer questions about requirements, uniforms, practice times, and offer other information dealing with the band.

The community band is going into its eighth season this year.

The meeting at Harrison is open to students and adults.

Harrison High is located on 29955 W. 12 Mile, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Rd.



MRS. PHILIP PETACHENKO

China egg wins prize

FARMINGTON — Mrs. Philip Petachenko, 33838 Hillcrest, won a first place ribbon at the Michigan State Fair for her porcelain basque eggs, which were entered in the artificial egg category.

Mrs. Petachenko became interested in painting china about 20 years ago when she saw a demonstration of the art. Although she began taking lessons at that time,

she said she did not become seriously involved with it until three or four years ago.

Painting the porcelain eggs is a time-consuming process which involves several separate steps, including four firings.

Mrs. Petachenko also entered two other china painting divisions at the fair. In those divisions she won a third and a fourth place ribbon.

Quiet, please; it's the law

FARMINGTON HILLS — The Farmington Hills council may make the city a quieter place.

A change in the disorderly conduct ordinance introduced by the Hills council Monday would make it a misdemeanor to disturb the neighborhood with a variety of noise.

Mainly aimed at curbing some commercial disturbances, such as unloading trucks, etc., the ordinance has been revised several times.

Monday, it was altered again, when it was pointed out the text was so restrictive it would have prohibited high school football games, according to the city attorney.

A proposal by Mayor Frederick Lichtman that noise permits be issued by city hall was also rejected.

"The main problem," Councilman Joan Dudley, who originally asked for the ordinance, said, "is that under our current statutes someone can complain and nothing can be done — this gives the police something to charge them with."

Jaycees seek new members

FARMINGTON — Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen will be the guest speaker at the Farmington Jaycees membership night.

Membership night will be held on Friday, Sept. 20 at 8 p.m. at the Farmington Community Center on Farmington Rd. north of 10 Mile.

Men between the ages of 18-35 are invited to attend, and bring their wives.

Members of the Jaycees Club will present to answer questions about the organization. Refreshments will be served.

Earns assistantship

FARMINGTON — Sue Ann Johnson, Farmington, received a graduate teaching assistantship in the Department of English at Idaho State University.

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