

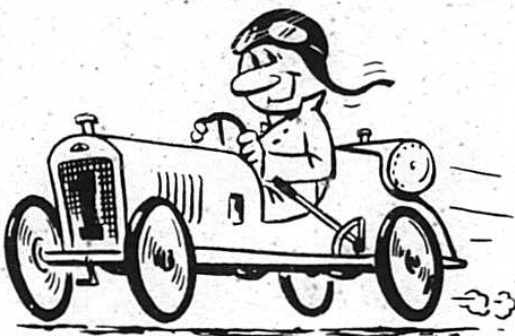
Common sense can keep you on the road, out of the ditch this winter

BY TARA THOMPSON

You've been locked up in your house all weekend. The snow just won't stop falling. Some of your buddies call and you're all going out. You start your car up, and wait for the heater to get warm, and then you're off, driving innocently down the road at the speed limit of course. Oops, you forgot to scrap the ice off your mirrors. You try to look behind you, but the ice blocks your view.

Suddenly, a deer careens out in front of you. You slam on your brakes. Your car does a complete 360 turnabout, and your car smashes into a tree. The sound of broken glass, and metal crunching together as your driver's side door caves in on you can be heard all around. Unfortunately, no one's there. Your head's bleeding. It hit the steering wheel because you weren't wearing your seat belt. You're trapped in your car. Now what?

As this scenario runs rapidly throughout your head, you must ask yourself, "What could someone do to prevent this horrific accident from happening to them?" Summer as we see it is beginning to drift



farther and farther away. Inevitably, winter is here. This is the time of year when the number of automobile accidents sky rocket.

"People simply can't get used to driving when the weather is more hazardous outside compared to the carefree climate of summer," states local tow truck driver Josh Thompson, of David's Tire Center.

People tend to think teenagers drive bad enough when it's 80 degrees outside and sunny. Imagine

what people are going to be thinking when it 29 degrees outside, and snowing, and they see one of us drive by. **PANIC AND CHAOS!** "All teenagers stay off the road!" But we all know that is impossible. We have places to go and people to see.

As you read on, you will find tips that will help you to "winter-

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Beware of winter weather

BY JACOB HELTON

It's a cold January day, and you're running late. You jump in the shower and rush to finish getting ready. Then you run outside, bust the ice off your windows, jump in the car, stick the key in the ignition, turn it over, and what do you hear?

Click.

Winter elements such as ice and snow can take a toll on vehicles, and unless you live in the Bahamas you need to know these helpful tips on how to keep your vehicle in shape for old man winter.

"If you do only one thing to winterize your vehicle, check your antifreeze," said James Renner, who previously worked at Town and Country then moved on to open his own garage.

Antifreeze is used to keep all your hoses and pipes on your car from freezing up. It should be checked every spring and fall and changed every 2 years or 30,000 miles. Make certain your mechanic also checks for leaks around all the ends of the hoses and inspects the belts to make sure they are not cracked or damaged.

While your mechanic is under the hood you should have him (or her)

go ahead and check the oil and battery.

According to <www.vmrntl.com> 40% of cars that do not start in the mornings fail to do so because of the battery.

Most new batteries are designed to be maintenance free, but it is still a good idea to check the water level occasionally and to have a portable charger in your car just in case it does happen. If your battery is more than three years old then you should have a load test performed. This just checks to see how much power you have left on your battery.

Another problem you may face this winter is sliding tires.

If your car is front-wheel drive, Bobby Bishop of Bishop's Tires, suggests having your tires rotated, this way your good tires are up front, or you could purchase a pair of new tires for the front.

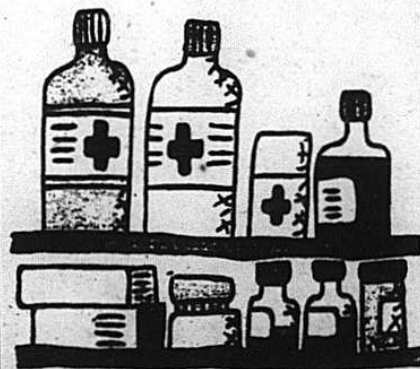
If it is rear wheel drive, then you should have good tires all around. If you live around town you may want to look into all-season tires.

Now that you know these tips, it's time to get your car in shape and to be safe before that horrible sound---click--- gets you.

Young's Pharmacy

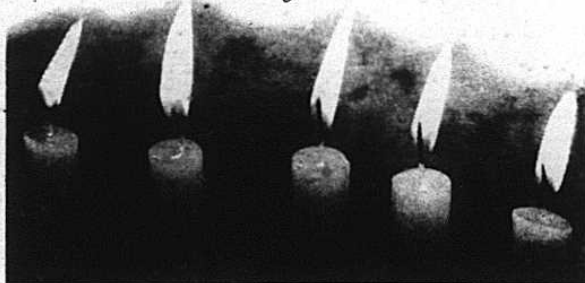
Happy Holidays

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