

pit stop

... And then there's a bathroom problem

By Jim Williams

It is Energy Rallye time again, tra-la, tra-la. That charming Engineering-Week event that got me and many others started is rallying in scheduled for April 2, with a mandatory "rally school" March 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Engineering Center.

Here, prepared without the assistance, consent, or even knowledge of the organizers, is a brief guide to rallies in general and the Energy Rallye in particular.

A rally, simply, is a test of your ability to follow a set of complicated speed and route directions in driving a car. Two can play, the driver and the navigator.

Rallying probably is lots of fun for the driver. He swings along picturesque back roads, enjoying the scenery, watching for landmarks and occasionally adjusting his speed.

Great hobby

I can't say for sure, because I've never driven in a rally. I've just navigated. And when the navigator can briefly emerge from his welter of route instructions, time tables, pencils, calculators, carsickness and double vision to sit back, take a deep breath and gaze at the surrounding countryside—it's probably because he's just gotten the team lost. It's a great hobby for people who like to work crossword puzzles in ink and feel sorry for themselves.

In an ordinary time-speed-distance rally, the navigator

is given a list of directions just before the start. They specify, in language open to a multitude of conflicting interpretations, the route to take and how fast to go.

It works like this: the navigator has just finished Instruction 27, "Turn right at white barn, change average speed to 25.43 mph." He consults a huge chart and finds this is one mile in 2.359 minutes, so he resets his stopwatch to time it. If the odometer shows one mile in 2.359 minutes, he will be on time and his life joyous.

Meanwhile he is looking for Instruction 28, "Acute left after sign reading 'REPENT FOR DOOM IS NEAR.'" Hours pass. Then the navigator realizes that what he thought was a white barn was really a beige chicken coop and he's hopelessly lost.

Rallies are scored by how close the team comes to the correct elapsed time for the route, but the E-Week Energy Rallye adds a conscience-soothing fillip—additional points according to fuel consumption and exhaust emissions. Since nothing exceptional is demanded of car or driver, leave the Maserati at home and drive your Civic.

Dirty pool

Or you can cheat. Adding gas from a hidden can to "reduce" fuel consumption is obvious and gauche.

Adding alcohol bought at bars along the way is classy. So is putting a Morris Minor engine in your T-bird. So is concealing one of your dual exhaust pipes, to "cut emis-

sions in half." So is welding the exhaust valves closed. So is filling your gas tank with Puffed Rice before the fuel check.

But none of this is really worthwhile. There are two changes I'd like to see made, and I address them to the organizers because someday somebody's going to put a Halda Speedpilot rally computer in his CVCC Civic and walk away with their rallye.

First, the emissions/mileage phase should be separate from the rally phase, with separate awards;

Second, the rally should be run S.O.P. (Standard Operating Procedure or Seat of Pants.) In this type of rally, the guy with four Heuer stopwatches has no advantage because only one timepiece is allowed; the team with the electric odometers has no advantage because the odometer is taped over; the people with the SR-50's have no advantage because the only permissible calculating device is pencil and paper.

I'd like to see these changes—but I'll probably run even if they aren't made, barring something like an attack of good sense.

Club picks officers

Food, songs and costumes from around the world entertained a crowd of about 400 persons Sunday night at the UNL International Club's annual banquet in the Nebraska Union.

The banquet honored Rowena Boykin, retiring foreign student adviser.

New International Club officers, elected two weeks ago, are Barb Kim (Korea-United States), president; Mohammed Abdul (Nigeria), vice-president; Glory Liem (Indonesia), secretary and Hassan Rafi (Iran), treasurer.

Prof ballots available

Kevin Cunningham, chairman of Builders' Student-Faculty Relations Committee, which is responsible for the outstanding teacher elections, said nomination blanks for outstanding teacher have been posted around campus. Students wishing to nominate a teacher in their college must write the professor's name and college on the ballot.

Cunningham, a sophomore pre-veterinary major from Laurel, said that the ballots will be picked up Wednesday and tabulated. The three professors in each college with their name appearing most frequently will be placed on the final ballot. Students will vote during the March 17 ASUN elections for the professor in their respective colleges.

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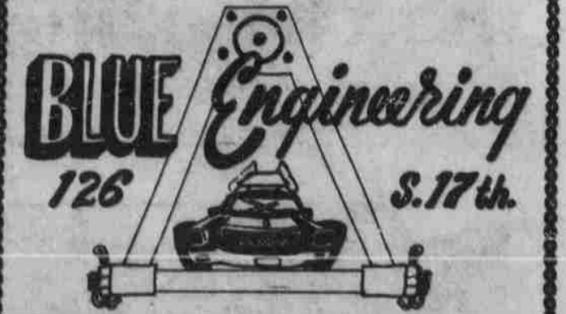
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