

Winter Wonderland weather wages wicked war on cars

By Lori Merryman

With the oncoming of cold winter weather don't be caught in an icy cold, lifeless automobile in sub-zero weather.

Now is the time to prevent this from happening by making a relatively small investment to check cars for a winter breakdown.

Cars which have not been winterized for the months to come are overdue because Lincoln residents have already experienced their first traces of cold weather, said Mike Cacak, UNL Auto Rental Pool manager.

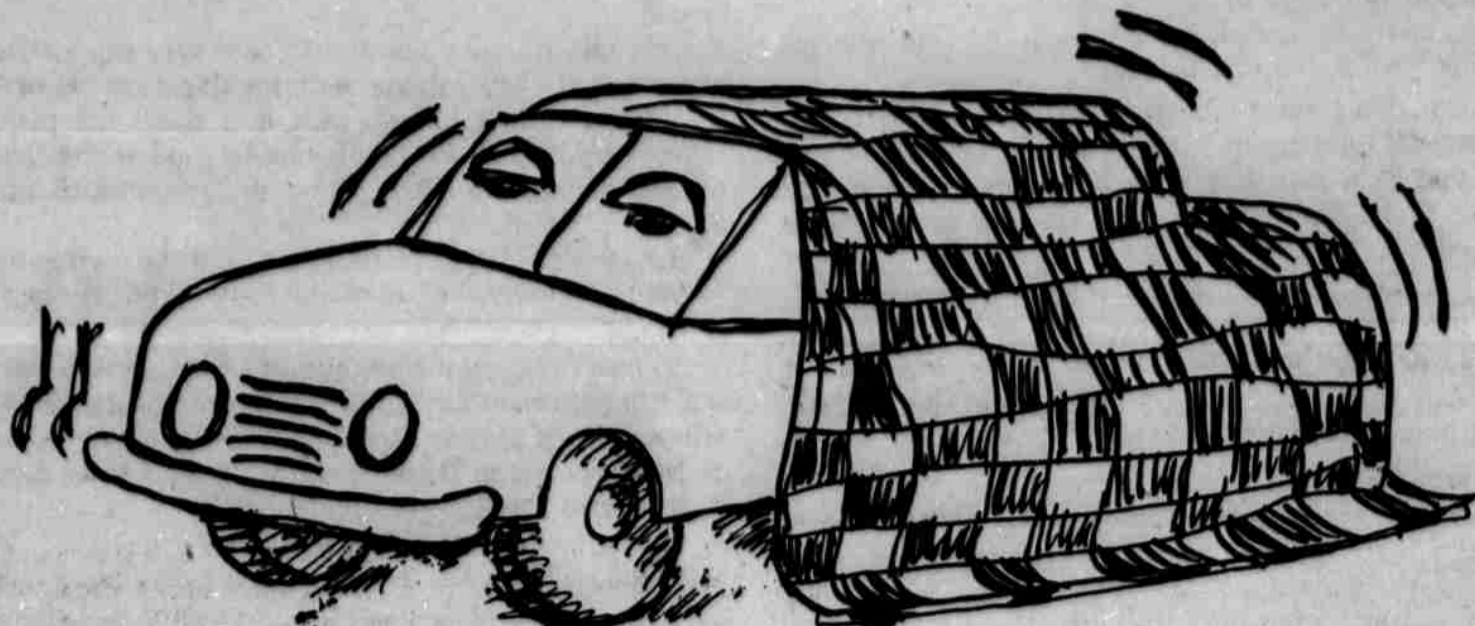
A performance test, which includes checking the entire electrical and ignition systems of an automobile, is an important feature of winterizing a car. Most local service stations said the cost of a performance test is \$20.

Cacak said drivers should check the mileage on their cars to see if it needs a tune-up. Most cars need a tune-up every 15,000 to 20,000 miles, he said.

After a tune-up, the car will be prepared for winter. When winterizing a car, things to check are: cooling-system service, oil change, automatic transmission, tire pressure and battery charge, Cacak said.

Checking the cooling-system service should include checking the heater hoses, radiator hoses and belts for cracks and leakage. Fan belts should be checked for tightness and pliability. The anti-freeze should be checked for cleanliness and proper strength to insure proper functioning of the car in cold weather, Cacak said.

The car should have a winter grade of oil such as 10-40 oil, Cacak said, because winter grade is a lighter grade of oil. Also, oils should be changed about every 3,000 miles of highway driving or every 2,000 miles in city driving.



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Snow tires should be put on before the first snow so the driver will be prepared when that time comes, Cacak said.

"Contrary to some people's beliefs, letting air out of the tire does not give better traction," Cacak said. It is important to make sure the tire has the proper air pressure, he said.

A service station can also check the charge rate of the car's battery. A well-charged battery will be a comfort in the dead of winter, Cacak said.

A car owner also should be sure that the windshield

washing solvent is filled with a non-freezing agent and, that the wiper blades work sufficiently, Cacak said.

"It's a good practice to keep the gas tank full," Cacak said, "because of condensation."

A fuel-line anti-freeze can be put in the gas tank if there is any indication of moisture, Cacak said.

He added that a good brush and window scraper are necessities when the snow and ice hits.

In case something does happen, and the driver is trapped in a storm in a lifeless automobile, it is helpful to have a blanket and a snow shovel in the car, Cacak said.

Court hears grade appeals case

By Gordon Johnson

Omaha—Arguments were heard in Douglas County District Court Tuesday morning concerning the legality of NU grievance procedures.

Gregory A. Mercurio petitioned the court to direct a university grievance committee to use different procedures.

Mercurio, a graduate student at the NU Medical Center, claims that he should have received a higher grade than F for Biochemistry 810, a prerequisite to medical school.

The NU Graduate School Grade Appeals Committee was appointed by the NU Board of Regents to look into the matter.

Mercurio went to court because the grievance committee refused his request to call witnesses on his behalf in the proceedings. He also complained that the committee would not allow him to cross-examine the instructor who gave him an F.

Mercurio also requested that a court reporter be present at the proceedings, saying he would pay the reporter's salary, but this also was denied, according to the petition.

Committee chairwoman Patricia Miller said that university regulations say the committee has discretion concerning procedures to be used.

Miller said the committee informed Mercurio that he could present any testimony relevant to the case in writ-

ing, but at the first meeting neither he nor the professor would be allowed witnesses on their behalf.

After reading all the testimony submitted to the committee, Miller said the committee would then decide whether to question the witnesses in person.

Mercurio asked that the court deal with the matter rapidly because his ability to go to medical school could depend on the outcome of the grievance committee's investigation.

Paul J. LaPuzza, Mercurio's attorney argued that Mercurio has these rights because the grievance committee falls under the jurisdiction of the 14th Amendment.

The courts normally don't interfere with academic matters, LaPuzza said.

However in this case "we are not asking the court to decide what grade is correct, but what procedure is correct," he said.

David Buel, an attorney for the university, said that Mercurio would be guaranteed certain rights had he been dismissed from the university, but not for a grade appeal.

The university has done enough for Mercurio since he was not dismissed, Buel said.

Buel also questioned whether or not a writ of mandamus could be issued to the grievance committee. A writ of mandamus is a directive from a higher court to a lower court commanding the performance of a certain act.

"We are not dealing with a court of law at the university, but an educational institution," Buel said.

Judge Theodore Richling said he would consider the case and that it would be decided soon.

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