

The Outlaws are coming

By Kevin Cowan
Diversions

Chrome-plated gargantuans will burst the hallowed ceilings of Pershing Auditorium this weekend. The outlaw trucks will pull for all they are worth.

You yuppies shouldn't scoff — truck pulls aren't just for farmers anymore.

"They're for anyone interested in motors," promoter Neal Darnell said. Aside from the noise, he said, "it's good, wholesome family entertainment."

"Most of the people who compete in the pull are businessmen who do this as a hobby," Darnell said.

And oh, what an expensive little hobby. These blown beasts can cost anywhere from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The engine alone costs \$30,000. But when pistons fire and tires grab

— the weighted sled begins to move — I imagine it feels good to have all that power at your disposal.

Power, though, seems an understatement. These titans put out loads of horsepower. Loads. Anywhere from 1,000 to 4,000 horsepower. But don't expect to see any livestock; this is pure heavy metal. Hardcores blowing their engines for the winning purse. Blown engines are common, Darnell said, but the competition and recognition make it all worthwhile.

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—Darnell

Darnell said that most of the trucks competing will not be from Nebraska. Most of the super-charged hulks will come from surrounding states.

The truck pull is the main event. The four monster trucks in attendance will keep eardrums clanging with three all-out exhibitions of boggling power. The "Crimson Giant," the "Michigan Ice Monster," the "Stomper Bully" (in place of "the Barbarian," which flipped over in Oklahoma last week and undergoing

repairs) and "First Blood" will grapple, crush, scrunch and wheelie for the delight of the audience.

With all this demolition and power, you'd think the drivers would be getting blown up, rammed into walls and the like. Not so.

"We've been doing this for six years and have never had a claim on our insurance," Darnell said.

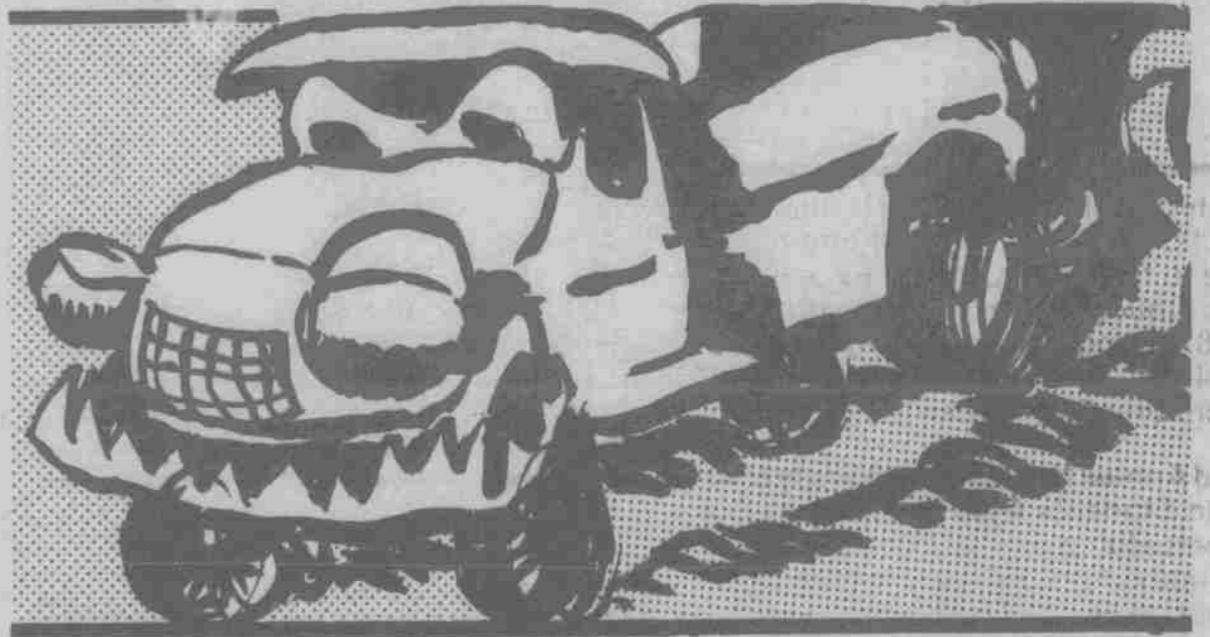
You can expect to see some hopped-up, full-blown beauties alongside the four monster trucks, he said. The outlaw show will have a souped-up 1939 Chevrolet and a 1957 Ford Ranchero competing. In one exhibition pull,

Darnell himself will drive a 1986 Corvette with two full-blown, 526 cubic-inch engines.

The bars will still be there when you get out, and the tickets prices are less than the price of any major concert; \$10 in advance, \$11 at the door, \$6 and \$7 for the kids. And you noise addicts won't be disappointed. Bring earplugs.

This is a new thing which, granted, is not considered cultural, but maybe it's time to break the mold.

The outlaw truck pull will be at Pershing Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.



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