

# News:

Volume 10  
Number 4  
April 1984

Published by the  
Office of Public  
and Consumer  
Affairs



Editor: A. Martin



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

## NHTSA Adopts Hines Junior High . . . Conducts Activities!

By Herman L. Sims



In February, NHTSA conducted the following activities with Hines Junior High School:

1) February 16 - Administrator Steed made a presentation to the school assembly on safety belt usage and outlined the basic functions of NHTSA.

Vincent Quarles and Rick Smith demonstrated what happens when a safety belt is used and when it isn't.

Mr. Quarles narrated a film showing the results of use/non-use of the safety belt and Rick Smith demonstrated (by the use of eggs) what happens when no safety belt is used, showing how individuals are thrown from the automobile and may be injured by oncoming vehicles.

Another film, "Room to Live," was shown and elaborated on by Dr. William Tarrants. The film discussed the effect of non-use of safety belts.

A Maritime Administration employee gave a personal testimony of an accident in which she was involved, and how she escaped serious injury and possibly death by using safety belts. She encouraged students to wear safety belts whenever they are in an automobile.

2) February 17, 23 students and two advisors from Hines' Microcomputer Class were taken on a tour of NHTSA's Research and Development Computer facility.

At the facility, they were shown a film of cars being crash-tested and how computers are used for assimilation of crash testing data analysis.

3) February 23, at a school assembly, guest (See Hines on page 3)

## Savings Bonds Campaign May 1 - June 1, 1984

Did you know that Savings Bonds offer:

- 9.38 percent variable interest rate
- 7.5 percent minimum guaranteed rate
- tax advantages
- easy payroll savings plan

For further information, contact your canvasser.

## Thank You

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind expressions of concern during my recent illness.

The cards, flowers, telephone calls, and prayers were most appreciated and I thank you.

--Almentha Martin  
Editor, NHTSA News



Thinking of Purchasing Non-Library Publications? Stop!!!

NHTSA Order 170-1A, issued on March 5, advises NHTSA employees of procedures to be followed in ordering non-library publications.

It's NHTSA's policy to control the purchase of non-library publications through a central ordering point - The Technical Reference Division, NAD-52.

This policy ensures economies in acquisition and maximizes their use. Non-library publications involving the expenditure of funds should not be ordered or purchased directly from the publisher or other sources without prior approval from NAD-52.

If you do purchase non-library publications without prior approval, you, the individual responsible for making the purchase, do so at your own risk and may be required to absorb the cost.

Non-library publications include books, journals, periodicals and subscription publications which are ordered, received and retained for use by NHTSA personnel.

These publications are NHTSA property, for use by NHTSA personnel, and are not the personal property of the requester.

Requests for the purchase of non-library publications should be submitted on Form DOT 4200.1, "Procurement Request," and signed by the Office Director or Regional Administrator.

The completed form should be forwarded for appropriate concurrences through the Administrative Officer or designated control point in the Associate Administrator's or SOD's office to NAD-52.

Justification for the purchase or the material, explaining the need for it for the accomplishment of NHTSA's mission and its exclusive use by NHTSA personnel must accompany Form DOT 4200.1.

NAD-52 will determine the best method for filling the request and forwarding the materials to the requester.

If a non-library publication is required for regular use, NAD-52 will arrange for its receipt and distribution.

Occupant Protection Legislative Summary

CHILD SAFETY SEAT LAWS

The recently enacted laws in Idaho and Utah now bring the total to 45 States plus the District of Columbia which have laws requiring child passenger protection. They are:

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois

- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

States without child safety seat laws - 1984 legislative action:

- Alaska -Passed Senate
- Louisiana-Session opens 4/16
- Texas -No regular session
- Wyoming -Introduced, then failed

Thought Provoker

One wonderful thing about a vacation is that it makes you feel good enough to go back to work and poor enough so that you have to.

--James A. Nix

(Hines from page 1)

speakers Wes Unseld, Washington Bullets Organization, a state trooper from Iowa, and two D.C. Policemen from the Traffic Division gave presentations on Alcohol/Drunk Driving.

In addition to providing information on fatalities as a result of drunk driving, the students were urged not to become a part of those statistics. Some of the students received a demonstration of how testing is done on a person for alcohol by use of a breath analysis.

Also, a safety belt demonstration using a demonstration vehicle was done and further, a demonstration of how the D.C. Police use radar to stop suspected drunken drivers.

4) February 24, 22 8th grade students and two advisors were taken on a tour of the GM Assembly Plant in Baltimore. GM provided lunch and a tour of the plant in which cars were observed being put together.

Two additional activities have been planned, although dates have not been confirmed. They are a) NHTSA's Public Affairs Office will take 20-25 students of the School's Newspaper Club to tour a local TV Station and arrange for Administrator Steed to be interviewed by the students, and b) an activity with the Debate Club at the school.

We'll keep you informed of upcoming

events at our adopted school. We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hines for being in our family! We hope this will be a most enjoyable learning experience.

Mandatory Safety Belt Use Legislation Pending

The following 12 States have safety belt use legislation pending:

California: 2 bills; all occupants/under 10 by 1988

Arizona: failed  
Hawaii  
Massachusetts  
Michigan  
Minnesota - passed Senate in 1983; failed House 3/26/84

Missouri  
New Jersey - Passed Assembly  
New York: All passengers 5-18 -signed 4/11/84

Pennsylvania  
Rhode Island - failed  
House: Senate bill still pending

Vermont  
West Virginia

Bills introduced in Virginia and Washington have died in committee.

Secretarys' Week April 23-27, 1984 Did You Forget?

Our Apologies to Mr. Scott

In the March issue of the NHTSA News, we listed the names of all of the Length of Service Award recipients. However, we inadvertently omitted Mr. Frederick D. Scott's photograph.

Our congratulations again for 30 years of Federal service and we apologize for the omission.



Listen to Your Dashboard Lights

The best warning lights are those that have only one interpretation. Unfortunately, costs sometimes force manufacturers to design several warning signals in a single dashboard indicator. That makes it harder for drivers to understand the message provided by a warning light and react without panic to unexpected warnings.

The two most common warning signals are the water temperature and oil pressure signal which are frequently combined into a single "engine" light, which could possibly be one or both problems.

(See Lights on page 4)



(Lights from page 3)

If there were separate warning lights or an auxiliary gauge, a driver would be able to distinguish between a minor overheating situation and a more expensive oil pressure loss.

On some of the newer cars, there are "check engine" lights. At the least, that provides a significantly different warning than the "engine" light. "Check engine" identifies a malfunctions in the computerized engine controls under the hood. It doesn't necessarily mean an emergency situation. However, prompt attention can keep the situation from worsening.

Another confusing light is that of the brakes. Usually, it indicates that the parking brake is on. Once again, on various cars, it also can indicate one or more of the following: brake fluid level is low in the reservoir, power assist for the brake system has failed, one of the dual braking systems has failed. Each problem requires a different type precaution in continuing to drive the car to a garage for necessary repairs.

Better beware of the alternator or charging system warning light. Your battery can run down, and the warning indicator may never light up. The warning light checks only for the presence of electrical pressure or voltage, coming from the alternator/generator. A loose drive belt can allow electricity to be present

but not in sufficient amounts to keep the battery charged.

You might not know it, but a malfunctioning trunk light can cause a constant load on the battery even when the car is parked.

What do you do, how do you prepare for the time when one of the warning lights comes on while you're driving?

First, understand what each of your car's warning lights means by reading and rereading the owners manual.

Second, plan in advance for a course of action if a particular light does come on.

Third, compare the owner's manual of each car you own. Understand the differences and similarities in warning lights that appear to be identical.

Four, when shopping for a new car, consider adding the gauge package that will make it easier to interpret the warning light messages.

One of the things that you'd want to avoid while driving, is fumbling through the owner's manual looking for emergency answers. Read and understand it in advance. Then, when the light comes on unexpectedly, you can react appropriately.

## So You Think You're Busy!

Life of a U.S. Representative isn't all glamor and fun. It's hard work. We thought you might like to see some figures to substantiate their claim of being extremely busy.

Below, we've listed what a typical day, week, month and year is like for one area Representative whose name we'll not mention.

### WASHINGTON OFFICE

- o Answers an average of 93 letters a day; 465 a week; 24,180 a year.

- o Letters received per week when an issue is "hot" is 540 per issue.

- o Number of requests for flags is 2 per week; 100 per year.

- o Number of requests for group tours average 3 per week; 156 per year.

- o Number of telephone calls received weekly is 1,080.

- o Number of requests for bills is 5 a day; 25 per week, 1,300 per year.

- o Receives an average of 225 pieces of mail per day (delivery 4 times daily); 1125 per week; 58,500 per year.

- o Number of job applications received is 5 per week; 260 per year.

- o Scheduling requests are received at a rate of approximately 80 - 100 per week.

And you thought you were busy. Cheer up, it could be as hectic as that in the life of our representatives.

**Happy  
Mothers' Day  
Sunday  
May 13, 1984**