

Auto expenses up 7%

Hertz Corp. survey taken

By FRED ROSSANO
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The average cost of owning and operating a new car in 1977 increased by 7 percent over the 1976 model year, according to a survey done by the Hertz Corp. Car Leasing Division.

The survey concluded that cars in the 1977 model year cost 30.1 cents a mile or \$3,007 a year to own and operate, while the 1976 cost was 28.1 cents a mile or \$2,810 per year.

The cars selected for the annual Hertz estimate were mid-sized, normally equipped, two-door sedans, which are owned for three years and driven approximately 10,000 miles a year.

Those expenses included in the 30.1 figure were oil, gas, parts, servicing, licensing fees, insurance, interest and depreciation of the car.

Automobile dealers in State College have said consumers can expect similar but smaller increases during the next few years.

"The overall cost of owning and operating a new car, right now, is exorbitant," said John McVeigh, co-owner of Miller-McVeigh Ford Inc. "Within the next year or two, however, prices should stabilize."

The degree of increase will depend on the demands the government puts on the auto industry regarding emission

control devices and gas mileage requirements, McVeigh said.

"Costs will continue to rise if Congress continues to put the pressure on car manufacturers," Charles Rider, associate owner of Rider Oldsmobile-Mazda Inc., said.

McVeigh said required items such as the catalytic converter have increased the cost of owning a car by some \$400, although "it has not been fully proven to be effective."

New cars also must use only unleaded fuel, which costs more than regular, again increasing the overall cost of the car, he said. According to the Hertz survey, gas prices increased by almost five cents in 1977.

Large gas-guzzling cars can increase the overall cost by up to \$340 a year, Hertz said, while subcompact and smaller cars, using less fuel, can decrease the cost by up to \$700 a year.

The per-mile cost will be lowered if the consumer drives more than 10,000 miles a year because expenses will be spread over more miles.

"But, of course, in these cases the overall annual dollar expenses rise," according to J.E. Menendez, vice president of the Hertz Corp.

The owner of a car kept three years who drives 15,000 miles per year will pay

22.6 cents a mile, but will spend approximately \$380 in additional expenses each year, Menendez said.

"One of the biggest factors people fail to consider," when discussing operational costs, "is the amount of mileage driven per year," Rider said.

"People used to drive an average of 10,000 to 12,000 miles a year. Now, that number has risen to about 15,000," he said. "It's not surprising to see cars with 50,000 miles on them after being only two years old."

Rider said a direct result of increased mileage is an increase in the depreciation of the car or, in other words, lower resale value.

Average fuel efficiency in 1977 improved to about 15.5 miles per gallon, Hertz said, compared to 14.5 miles per gallon the year before.

Gas mileage is very difficult to calculate accurately, McVeigh said. "The machines," which are connected to the test cars and compute the gas mileage, "do not take into account the driver's speed, his acceleration and deceleration and the type of terrain."

He said overall gas mileage should increase during the next few years because auto manufacturers are beginning to reduce the size of big cars more and more each year.

National security meeting topic

Richard Mansfield will speak on national security and "The Unbreakable Code" at 7 tonight in 103 McAllister. There will be a Math Club meeting afterward.

FSHA 410 will present a Hungarian dinner tomorrow night in the Maple Room, Human Development Building. For reservations, call 865-7441. Seatings at 5:30, 5:45, 6, 6:15 and 6:30.

Collegian notes

FSHA 410 will present a New Orleans Creole dinner tonight in the Maple Room. Call 865-7441 for reservations. Seating is at 5:30, 5:50 and 6.

Steve Fenwick will talk about his films at a special program of the Student Film Organization at 7:30 tonight in 17 Arts Building.

Narcotics Anonymous is available for

help or information about drugs anytime at 237-8353. The organization is at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Foster Ave. and Fraser Street.

The Wildlife Society will meet at 7:30 tonight in 105 Ferguson. Dave Putnam of the Pa. Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, will discuss "Movements and Habitat Use of Wild Turkey."

The Student Dietetic Association will meet at 7 tonight in 108 Human Development Building.

The Marketing Club will have a party from 9 to midnight tonight at Sigma Pi fraternity, 1303 Fraternity Row.

HOPS will hold a coffeehouse from 9 to midnight tonight at 415 E. Foster Ave.

The Third World Coalition will meet 7:30 tonight in 111 Kern. All are invited.

The Penn State Association for the Handicapped will meet at 7 tonight in 324 HUB.

The State College chapter of the NAACP will meet at 7 tonight in the University Baptist Church, 411 S. Burrowes St.

The sailing division of the Penn State Outing Club will meet at 7:30 tonight in 214 Boucke.

Shaver's Creek Nature Center will hold a winter tree and evergreen walk at 2 p.m. Sunday in Stone Valley.

An ice skating exhibition will be held 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Ice Pavilion. Admission is free.

FSHA 330 will hold a movie star's luncheon from 11:40 to 12:45 tomorrow in the Maple Room of Human Development Building. All menu prices will be under \$.95.

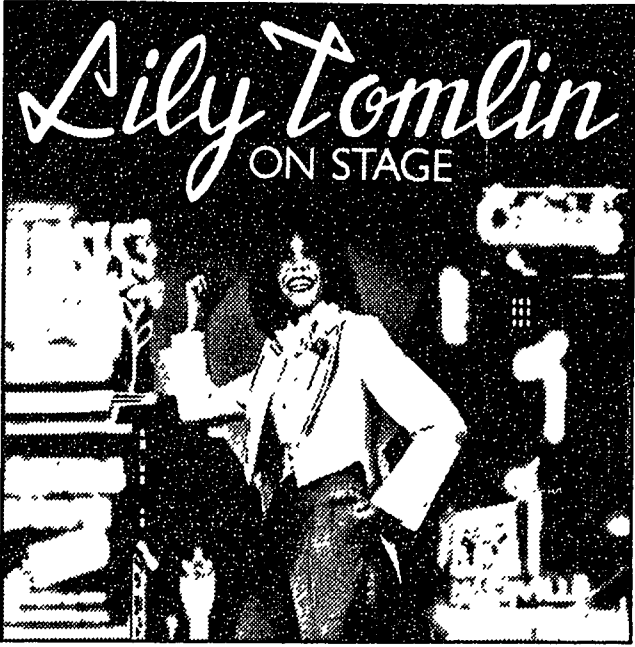
Registration for the College Bowl has been extended until Nov. 16. Registration forms are available in 203-A HUB.

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