

## Pinto sales make a comeback, dealers say

By PAUL SUNYAK  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Sales of new Ford Pintos are on the upswing and the company has begun recalling older models to repair a potentially dangerous gasoline tank design, according to Ford dealers across the state.

Sales had slackened earlier this year after it was reported that the gas tanks on several Pintos ruptured and exploded on impact when the car was struck from the rear. Testing led to safety changes that could be made on 1971 to 1976 models.

Although Ford has issued recall notices for 1971 and 1972 models and plans to recall the other models, owners of 1973 through 1976 Pintos need not wait until they receive a notice, according to Bruce Weaver, sales representative for Miller-McVeigh Ford in State College.

"Under a directive sent down from Ford headquarters, anybody who's got a 1971 thru 1976 Pinto

that has this problem, whether they have been notified or not, can bring it in and we'll fix it free of charge," he said, adding that the change had been made at the factory on 1977 and newer models.

All dealers contacted said customers expressed satisfaction with the repairs. Some dealers said they have set up displays, complete with parts, that show exactly what is being fixed.

Surprisingly, Pinto owners are not rushing to trade in their cars for other models, as was the case at the height of the Pinto panic.

A spokesman for Foss Motor Co. in Pittsburgh said there had been an increase in trade-ins when the Pinto was in the headlines, but the number has started to drop.

Bob Twining, general sales manager of Sheehy Ford in Philadelphia, said most former Pinto owners normally trade in for new ones. Twining said sales of new Pintos are running 1.5 percent above last year's.

"People are more concerned about handling, ride and mileage than anything else," Walt Rayca, assistant sales manager for Swenson Ford in Philadelphia said. "There was a lull for a couple of weeks but business is better than we anticipated due to the adverse publicity. We have had very, very few derogatory remarks about them," he said.

Elmer Doerbel, assistant sales manager for Bob Smith Ford in Pittsburgh, was not quite as optimistic. He said sales are not as good as last year and that "we've softened our orders somewhat until we get it turned around."

One side effect of the negative exposure the Pinto has received is in its trade-in value. Pintos are worth less.

"The value of a 1974 low-mileage Pinto in excellent, clean shape dropped \$500," Weaver said, "and as a result owners are keeping them because we can't give them the value they expect."

## Christian, Syrian troops move battle inland

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Fighting between Syrian troops and Christian militiamen spread from Beirut to inland resort towns yesterday. Syrian reinforcements poured into Beirut and Christian commanders threatened to turn their guns on Syria itself.

Israeli reconnaissance jets roared over Palestinian-dominated border areas and the Israeli-armed Christians in the area shelled a guerrilla-held town, killing five persons.

The renewed fighting near the Israeli frontier underscored what a senior

diplomat termed a possible Syrian-Israeli confrontation over Lebanon in view of Syrian President Hafez Assad's rejection of international peace efforts.

Israeli parliamentarian Moshe Arens said, "I would not want to believe we'll allow the Syrians to destroy the

Christians."

Fighting engulfed most of Christian Beirut and spread to the southeast Christian suburbs and the lush resort areas of Bickfaya and Kesrouane and the ski town of Faraya in the hills outside the city.

## PLCB: No stayin' alive for area youth discos

By CURTIS DALPRA  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Disco dances held for area youths have caused the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to take another look at part of the commonwealth's liquor code.

The Sunday night dances were held at Alexander's at the Holiday Inn on S. Atherton Street for about five weeks. Early in September, a PLCB enforcement officer advised Alexander's to stop holding the dances. The dances were stopped and no citation was given.

The Pennsylvania liquor code prevents minors from entering a licensed establishment unless accompanied by "a parent, legal guardian or otherwise properly supervised."

The bar was locked at Alexander's and no liquor was served, "so we thought we were within the law," innkeeper Dick Smallenberger said. He said he offered to hire policemen for the dances, but was

told by a PLCB official that people hired to chaperone the dances would not fulfill the legal requirement of proper supervision.

Some parents, unhappy with the closing of what seemed a good activity for their children, offered to chaperone the dances, but the PLCB "suggested that we hold off until the meaning of the code could be clarified," Smallenberger said.

"Anybody who operates this kind of activity and thinks he has 'proper supervision' is taking the risk of a citation," Ken Makowski, a member of the PLCB legal bureau in Harrisburg said.

"There are certain things that are clear," he said. "The code does not allow the use of police as chaperones."

"That part of the code hasn't been a real big problem in the past because most cases involved only one or two minors," he said, "but now, with the disco craze, the problem has assumed larger proportions."

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5:45 Pizza Supper  
6:30 "Spiritual Life" by Rev. Michael McDevitt (St. Francis Seminary, Loretto, PA)

**Saturday, Oct. 7**

8:30 Mass  
9:15 Breakfast  
10:00 Overview of "Genesis II" by Sister Gloria Frank, I.H.M. (Marywood College)  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 PNP Delegate Meeting

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