

To the Editors of that illustrious publication, the Knock Off:

Enclosed is my latest monograph on those mental disorders peculiar to that segment of the population known as "sports car owners". These people I have found to be most subject to various disturbances, and research is currently being conducted to determine the most practicable treatments for these deluded ~~MMMMK~~ mentalities. In the course of study, I have also discovered a quantity of heretofore unsuspected mental diseases closely resembling those of the "sports car owner" but caused by setof circumstances parallel to, although not entirely the same as, those creating the unbalances of the aforementioned owners of ridiculous little machines.

Herewith please find the tabulated results of my exhaustive studies put into a form understandable to the layman; although this particular form of expression obviously does not lend itself to complete recapitulation of the study and causes a substantial reduction in the accuracy of the statistical analysis, most people are too stupid to understand our highly esoteric technical language.

RESULTS OF STUDY CONCERNING THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE "SPORTS CAR OWNER" AND MENTION OF SIMILAR RECENTLY DISCOVERED ANALOGOUS DISORDERS PECULIAR TO A CERTAIN SEGMENT OF THE MORE SENSIBLE MAJORITY OF PERSONS WHO OWN AND OPERATE DOMESTIC AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS.

Subtitle: Car Nuts

The following symptoms, ~~st~~ disorders, unbalances, and mental dislocations are commonly found among owners and operators of foreign automobiles. These vehicles are classed as "economy cars" and as "sports cars". There is, of course, a widely held misapprehension that these automobiles are superior to domestic products. This belief is patently false and is found in all owners of foreign cars. One must bear in mind that this idea lies underneath all of the following diseases and is largely responsible for their occurrence.

#### DISEASES:

1. Pathological Porscherism: Symptoms occur in owner soon after purchase of first Porsche; rapidity of occurrence is actively enhanced by membership in Porsche Club of America. Symptoms include belief that Porsche is world's best automobile (Author's note: This is entirely without foundation because the engine is in the wrong place), belief that Porsche owners are better than other people, and disgust that maintenance and repairs become necessary. Third symptom caused by dismay at initial purchase price and/or belief of utterances of superiority heard from other sufferers. Disorder recedes automatically in infinitesimal increments unless augmented by MG owner's punch in jaw or other vulnerable portion of anatomy.

2. **The MG Malfunction:** Sufferer believes wholeheartedly that his personal machine is vastly superior to each of the other 10,000 automobiles of the same make annually imported. Is positive that John Cooper personally modified the engine before shipment from the factory; refuses to believe that the MG Car Co. is owned by British Motors Corp.
3. **Midget Mania:** An extreme form of snobbery found among owners of late model MG Midgets. Patient consistently scorns Sprites and their owners on the basis (admitted only subconsciously) of the slightly higher cost of the Midget. Shock treatment in the form of exposure to Sprinzel ~~XKK~~ Sebring Sprite ~~XKXKX~~ shows promise, but some weak mentalities collapse completely under the strain of the sudden realization.
4. **Healey Tropism:** Occurs invariably when owner discovers that ignition lock is locked with trunk full of groceries, luggage, or spare parts and lubricants. Sufferer vows never again to lock the ignition, has total breakdown when car is stolen the next day.
5. **Daimler Tremens:** Patient adamantly refuses to admit the existence of the proverb, "Give an Englishman a piece of sheet metal and he'll do something foolish with it." Proudly contradicts himself in pointing out that this supposedly nonexistent adage omits reference to fiberglass. Crouches in dark corners or hides behind rubbish cans in deserted alleys when examples of bodywork by Pininfarina, Boano, Ghia, Zagato, Touring, or Martini & Rossi appear. Trade-in on Alfa offers promise as treatment.
6. **The Jaguar Jangled Nerves:** Refusal to accredit anything subsequent to the XK-120 with "True Jaguarism". Loathes bodywork of XKE on basis that classicism is disrupted. Longs for return of Mxak V Drophead. Incurable.
7. **Simca Symptom:** Owner loses reason when confronted by the fact that he is actually driving a French-made DI.
8. **Ferrari Fretfulness:** Undoubtedly the most deep-rooted of all disorders of this general type. Owners purchases spark plugs in vast quantities due to belief that all speeds under 287 mph cause fouling. Surrounds parked car with following devices and architecture for protection:  
 High 10,000 volt electric fence to discourage children with dirty fingers and adults who press noses against glass to see inside.  
~~XXXXXXXX~~ Portable tank traps of polyurethane foam-reinforced concrete. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ This is thought to offer protection against bumpers of American automobiles.  
 Amber-colored ~~winky~~ vinyl enclosure to keep out dust and filter sunlight to prevent fading of finish.  
 Radar-controlled automatic sulphuric acid sprays as final protection in case of failure of one or all of preceding devices.  
 Feelings of persecution result from poor workmanship and high prices of false "factory trained" mechanics and from even higher prices of real factory trained mechanics. Patient believes his only true friend is Luigi Chinetti.
9. **Maserati sickness:** Similar to Ferrari Fretfulness.

10. Related diseases: Owners of Fiat Abafth Zagatos, Alfa Disco Volantes, and Fiat 500's suffer lesser concentrations of the Ferrari and Maserati unbalances.
- 11: Lancia Loneliness: Consists mainly of extreme depression, often followed by delirium and abject melancholia (possible catatonia), caused by well-meaning friends admiring the "Peugeot 404".
12. Mini-Minor Madness: Owner resents small size and ridiculous appearance of car, compensates by referring to "functional shape" and "convenient size". Proudly points to rubber band suspension, vulnerability of front end with all mechanical components therein (obviously a stupid configuration), superior handling. Sublimates by installing Climax engine, adding supercharger, or winning gymkhanas.
13. Rolls Reaction: Most frequently found in millionaires. Complete mental divorce from reality occurs when Cadillac owner ~~XXXXXX~~ sneers.
14. Elva Elation: Courier owner believes himself superior to MGA operators especially if he is a competition driver. Secretly harbors fear that Lola or Cooper may make a similar car.
15. Corvette Craziness: Involves absolute hatred of Porsche Carreras. Competition Corvette driver lapses into coma or suffers stroke from rage when name of Bruce Jennings is mentioned. Sufferer may partially relieve symptoms by nerfing Jaguars.
16. Frazer-Nash Fantasy: All but the most individualistic owners are subject in varying ~~ng~~ degrees. Starts when owner realizes that he may spend a lifetime without seeing a similar car. Final stage (always followed by complete mental collapse) occurs when owner discovers that the only replacement parts for final drive unit are bicycle chains found in Western Auto stores.

The foregoing section has dealt exclusively, although of necessity in limited depth, with those maladies peculiar to the type of personality known as the "sports car owner".

SECTION II -- AN INQUIRY INTO THOSE RELATED MENTAL MALFUNCTIONS INDUCED IN OTHERWISE NORMAL OPERATORS OF AMERICAN AUTOMOBILES DUE TO THE CONTINUING SADISTIC CAMPAIGN OF AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS TO PROMOTE CERTAIN OF THEIR OTHERWISE NORMAL PRODUCTS AS SPORTS CARS AND THE RELATIONSHIPS OF SAID MALADIES TO THOSE OF THE "SPORTS CAR" PERSONALITY AND ITS DISORDERS AS HERETOFORE DISCUSSED.

1. Cutlass Conflict: Occurs in owners who are intimidated by the advertisements for the large (Author's note: normal-sized) Oldsmobile 98 Starfire Convertible with floor-mounted stick-shift Hydramatic control lever. Also confused by car's failure to include trans-axle, rear engine, or V-6 engine. Best treatment involves addition of turbocharger to engine.

2. Monza Malady: Owner deprecates all foreign cars whenever possible, especially those with four-cylinder, rear-mounted, air-cooled engines. Secretly desires a Porsche and subconsciously condemns family that forced purchase of larger car.

3. Studebaker Syndrome: The first form, Hawk Hostility, is evidenced by patient's utter hostility toward all sports cars (Author's note: some hostility is expected and is normal and rational. Only the Hawk owner's extreme hostility is undesirable). Owners of 1962 models have been seen removing roofs from Thunderbirds with can openers. The second form is the Lark Lapse. Patient believes himself possessor of a Mercedes-Benz, seeks self-esteem by out-accelerating 190SL. Owners of 6-cylinder Larks drag old Rambler Americans. Sight of 300SE usually produces breakdown.

4. Thunderbird Tantrum: Patient believes himself the owner of a sports car. Proves this to himself by out-dragging Sprites, MG Midgets, Porsches, Alfas, Triumphs. Sight of 327 injected Corvette produces temporary mental rejection of images from optic center and may cause permanent blindness. May try to remove top from 1962 Hawk GT with can opener.

5. Delusions of Grandeur: Occurs in vast majority of owners of Lark Daytona, Buick Skylark, Olds F-85 Cutlass, Lancer GT, Tempest Luh Manzz, Pontiac Grand Prix, Studebaker Hawk, Chrysler 300, Plymouth Fury, Dodge Dart 440 (lean breed only), Thunderbird (especially if equipped with tonneau cover having integral headrests), Impala SS, Falcon Futura, Comet S:22, Oldsmobile Starfire Convertible. Patient believes car is genuine sports car and ignores fact that he should be glad it is not. May feel himself the reincarnation of Barney Oldfield, Tazio Nuvolari, Wilbur Shaw, or Alberto Ascari. Extreme cases attend sports car races and wear ascot ties with tweed jackets. May check with Department of Population Statistics in Argentina to determine relationship to Fangio. Takes fiendish delight in out-dragging Jaguars (Applies to cars with over 400 hp only), Austin-Healeys (350 hp limit), Triumphs (300 hp limit), Mini-Minors (200 hp limit). Rallies consistently to prove manhood and equality with sports cars; never attends gymkhanas.

Thus ends my erudite dissertation on this subject of unusual mental disturbances. The reader must realize that the original monograph delves into the problems here presented in greater detail, citing case histories gathered in private practice and through extensive research conducted under the auspices of the Automobile Manufacturers' Association, the AAA, and the President's Commission on Mental Health. General prognosis of these diseases is unfavorable, inasmuch as those who are already afflicted are a generally garrulous, extroverted, and thoroughly daft group. Their misguided enthusiasm is extremely contagious, and there are not sufficient analysts to cure all of the rapidly growing group of mental deficient.

Respectfully submitted,

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