

Kaiser Konsumer's Korner

By Inez Kaiser



Many of you vacationers and business persons will be driving to your destinations and some of you will be taking advantage of reduced rates by air. To those of you who are driving, your car will be a definite asset when visiting or sight-seeing plans are made. To those of you who are not driving or do not have relatives or friends to show you the sights or get you to the business meetings, transportation may pose a problem to you.

You do have alternatives to sitting in that hotel room or limiting your adventures to a few blocks in either direction. Most hotels are more than happy to secure front door taxi service for you. However, taxi drivers can spot out-of-towners from miles away and they tend to take advantage of your unfamiliarity with the city. The longest route to your destination is usually taken. There always seems to be a few more corners turned than necessary and a certain "round-aboutness" used in reaching your destination that isn't fully realized until you get a return trip from a friend. Looking at your transportation problem from another angle brings us to the alternative of renting a car. Just like most convenience services, in renting a car you must take time to investigate the terms and use comparative shopping to be sure that you are not getting "taken for a ride."

Whether to rent a car or not should be decided and planned far before the trip. Advance car reservations can assure you of a car and aid in alleviating some of the hectic problems associated with travel. A phone call is all it takes to reserve a car. This step is free to you since most car rental agencies have toll-free numbers which can be called from anywhere in the United States. In making your reservation you will need to give the approximate time and date that you want the car and your preference of model and make -- you will probably be asked the method of payment for the car. Some of the larger rental companies have their own credit cards. They will usually accept most major charge cards as the smaller companies do. A cash deposit may be required if an acceptable credit card is not presented. The amount of the deposit will probably be determined from the estimated rental cost. It is wise to reconfirm your reservation as close to the rental date as possible. If you change your plans and will not need the car, it would be businesslike and courteous to cancel your reservations.

The similarities of rental car rates are results of the variable factors that usually determine the cost. Some of the factors involved are the type and size of car, the length of usage time, whether gasoline is or is not included, mileage charges, insurance coverage, drop-off privileges, the time of week and season of the year. Most companies offer a minimum of tow plans. In order to secure the plan that best fits your needs, it would be wise to compare the rates within a company and among its competitors. Each type of plan will offer certain advantages depending on the length of your stay and the approximate number of miles that you plan to drive. The most common plan offers cars for so much per day and so much per mile or a set price is given per day with number of so-called "free" miles. Although mileage for a trip is hard to calculate, an approximate estimate will allow you to determine the most economical plan. You must keep in mind the smaller cars generally rent at lower rates than larger or special vehicles such as station wagons and convertibles. If your trip will extend over several days or a week, a worthwhile tip to remember is that rentals by the week offer a reduction in per day cost and monthly rates offer further reductions. Do not be an oblivious consumer by allowing advertised cut-rate claims to confuse you about real cost.

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NEW DAY BEGUN

by

Benjamin L. Hooks



It is a cruel fact of American history that society has consistently sought to maintain psychological and social control over its black citizens not only through a system of miseducation but by a deliberate indoctrination of inferiority. The Constitutional language making blacks no more than "three-fifths of all other persons" has been enshrined in words and in deeds.

From the 1857 Dred Scott decision in which the Supreme Court held that blacks had no rights that whites were bound to respect to the scholarly treatises of the Shockleys and Jenses, our society has labored hard to perpetuate the myth that the children of Africa are genetically inferior.

One of the immediate concerns of the NAACP immediately upon being founded in 1909 was to attack the common notion that blacks have smaller brains than whites, so they were indeed inferior.

Progress is relative. So, to the extent that the size of black and white craniums are no longer compared to measure intellectual ability, society ought to be thankful.

Nevertheless, despite the great abundance of natural and economic wealth of our nation, there still seems to be the felt need among those who control our institutions to perpetuate the notion of black inferiority. The extensive attacks on affirmative action programs, especially those in colleges, is but one example.

Other more subtle and infinitely more dangerous myths are fostered by some of our own spokesmen. Some not only attack affirmative action as a program for admitting unqualified black students through the back door, but they also self-servingly play upon the weaknesses of our urban school systems to show that blacks are to be blamed for their own plight.

They do not accentuate the positive of academic achievement, but rather they uphold the easily recognizable destructive qualities of predominantly black schools, which are underfunded, under-staffed, and outrightly abused to demonstrate that black children could learn if only they themselves had a will to do so.

What black people must never forget, however, is that if it had not been for the initially few among us who slipped through the massive screening processes to become noteworthy intellectual achievers, those blacks who are most prone to blame their race for its current educational problems would certainly not have been provided role models to spur them on to their own limited successes.

It was for these reasons that I launched the NAACP ACT-SO (acronym for Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics) program shortly after becoming Executive Director last year. Black children have had so many role models, except intellectual achievers.

Our athletes are among mankind's finest physical specimens and performers. Their acumen on the football and baseball fields, on the track and on basketball and tennis courts rightly are celebrated. We certainly should strive for no lessening of these examples of brain and brawn.

On the other hand, we must knowingly strive also to develop so many intellectual role models that we will be able to saturate every community, every school, the air waves and every newspaper and publication with examples of black achievers. A good many of these achievers are presently within our midst, as so many NAACP delegates discovered at the recent convention in Portland.

Based on a pilot program involving 13 cities, our branches, and private individuals were able to select 57 winners, grades 9 through 12, for sponsorship to the national competition at the convention. These youngsters were high achievers in the visual, performing and literary arts; the natural and social sciences.

Thirty-four winners were chosen, and they received prizes totaling \$15,000 in cash and value. This was a humble beginning, but it was a start that the NAACP will be building into a monument of black academic achievement.

Happiness

by

Otto McClarrin

Through

Health

The news reports start at the beginning of every summer. There's a horrifying sameness about them throughout the season: "Mother of Boy 3, Spots Body in Pool from Kitchen Window," or "Guest Finds 2 Toddlers Face Down in Motel Pool; Parents Sleeping," or "Child Drowns When Life Preserver Slips," or "Mother Leaves Pool 'Minutes,' Finds Tot Drowned on Return."

Nearly half of all pool drownings are in private home pools and another fifth in other residential pools -- hotels, motels, apartments. The victims? Children under four are in the over-whelming majority.

If you have a pool, if your youngsters swim in a neighbor's pool, or if you stay in a motel with a pool, make sure there is constant adult supervision when the pool is in use and that adequate barricades around the pool prevent its unsupervised use.

These two reasons -- lack of supervision and inadequate barriers -- are major factors in pool drownings, according to various health experts.

Community standards, laws and inspection affecting pool safety have not kept pace with the rapid growth of residential pools in recent years. Health departments tend to concern themselves only with water purity. Does your community have enforced laws about pool safety?

"KIDPROOFING" A POOL

Here are the ways government public health authorities recommend for "kidproofing" a pool: (1) FENCING, at least six feet high, should be an integral part of pool construction, from the time of excavation. The secret of a pool fence is to outwit agile youngsters by making it difficult to climb, over or under. Chain link fencing should angle outward at the top. Ornamental fencing should be made of vertical boards with pointed tops. Framing should be on the inside to eliminate handholds and footholds. Digging under can be thwarted by continuous footings or imbedding fence six inches into the ground. Trim overhanging tree limbs that could give access.

(2) House should not open directly onto pool area, but the pool should be visible from the house.

(4) The pool bottom should slope gradually, with a float line to separate the shallow and deep ends. Ladders or recessed stop holes should be at each end.

(5) For emergencies, keep a floatable "shepherd's crook" at hand so even non-swimmers could pull a distressed swimmer to safety. Post emergency telephone numbers by the gate.

(6) Small portable pools should be dumped after each use or effectively barricaded.

(7) When staying at a motel, see that the pool is enclosed with a protective fence that discourages climbing and a gate that is locked at night and at times not designated for use.

WHENEVER YOU SWIM

Teach your children to swim early and to follow good pool conduct: Always walk, never run on the deck. Refrain from horseplay, pushing, ducking and false cries of alarm. Stay in shallow water if not a competent swimmer. Never swim alone. Avoid displays of strength or endurance.

By making sure the pools your kids use are "kidproof" and doing your best to see that the kids who use them are supervised and safety conscious, you may help to stop the annual procession of one-way trips into the water. Pools are meant, after all, for fun and good health.