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Gas bible gives money-saving commandments

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By Whitney Zorn

Ask any college student who commutes, or lives out of town, or drives anywhere...ever, and you'll get the same general concern: rising gas prices.

"For a college student making minimum wage, two gallons of gas cost more than we make in an hour," said junior Erin Horan.

Gas prices are especially painful for students who commute.

"It is ridiculous how much gas is going up," said senior Nichole Long. "It really impacts my budget because I live a ways off campus, so I need to drive to class and work every day."

Fortunately for college students and people everywhere, two men from Austin, Texas have offered a solution – 40 actually.

In their book, "The Gas Mileage Bible," Ron Hollenbeck and Kenny Joines have listed over 40 ways that drivers can improve the gas mileage on their cars.

"My partner and I have always been car freaks," said Hollenbeck. "We would tweak our cars, not by adding things to them, but by using what the cars already had, to optimize their use. We noticed we could get better gas mileage and better performance."

Among the many oh-so-simple-to-carry-out tips in their book are keeping tires filled properly, making sure coolant and power steering fluids are full, and replacing fuel and air filters.

So what made Hollenbeck and Joines share their invaluable wisdom with the public?

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"Last fall when hurricane Katrina hit and gas prices started going up, we realized that we knew how to get better gas mileage out of your car, so we needed to find a way to get it down on paper," Hollenbeck said.

The book is due out this spring, and Joines and Hollenbeck are already making sales on their website (www.gasmileagebible.com).

"People just need to change their driving routines," Hollenbeck adds. "Leave a little earlier for work to avoid traffic, don't put the pedal to the floor every time a light turns green. You're just chewing up your gas."

Gas Bible Tips

Thou shalt easily...

1. Buy the lowest octane grade of fuel recommended for your vehicle.
2. Don't drive with the windows down – reduce car friction.
3. Keep your air conditioning turned off when it is not hot.
4. Make your vehicle more aerodynamic – take off anything that increases wind resistance like luggage racks or car top carriers. If you have a pick up truck, drive with the tailgate up (in a closed position).
5. Lighten your vehicle weight - Remove all unnecessary baggage and payload from your vehicle.
6. Check your gas cap and make sure it doesn't leak air.
7. Replace your factory paper air filter with a High Flow Replacement Air Filter.

Thou shalt not so easily...

1. Keep your engine tuned and well maintained. Get a tuneup and exhaust gas analysis.
2. Check your spark plugs and replace them with high quality spark plugs and ignition cables.
3. Make sure your wheels are aligned to reduce rolling resistance.
4. Use high quality synthetic oil in your engine.
5. Keep your fuel filter clean and replace it regularly.
6. Ensure your power steering fluid and belts are properly maintained.
7. Make sure you are using the proper coolant in your vehicle.

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