

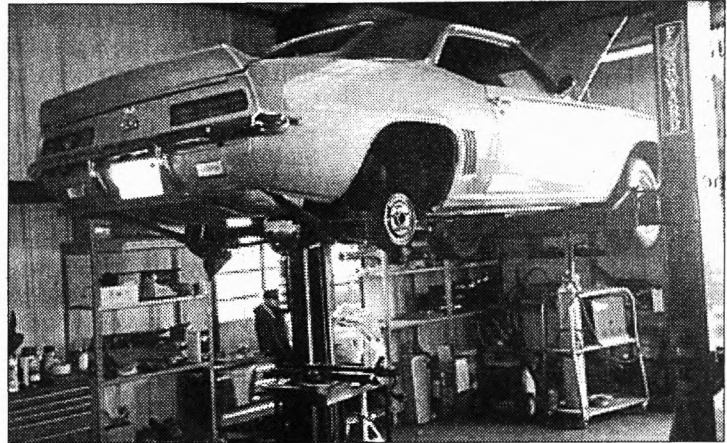
Automobile servicing and polluting environment

Being a civic conscious and responsible citizen who is very concerned about the protection and preservation of our beautiful natural environment as it is, I decided to send this letter to the local newspapers in order to educate the authorities concerned and the general public on the environmental impact of 'Motor Vehicle Service Stations'. It is well known that most, if not all, Service Stations do use Kerosene Oil, Penetrating Oil, Burnt Oil and other Petroleum Oils for washing, cleaning and servicing of Motor Vehicles. These oils are hazardous to environment as they emanate a strong smell, the organic vapour content being rather high and they may even be detrimental to human health.

A letter written by a reader in several local newspapers in January caught my eye.

Having read this article by one Mr. Nihal Aluvihare, I phoned up the newspaper offices concerned to get the address or any contact detail of the writer, but in vain.

However, later I met a friend who knew the person



who had written that letter. I contacted him and got the required details.

On March 20, being a public holiday, I went all the way to Pelawatte to get my Town Ace Van serviced.

The Service Station has two electric-noiseless jacks to lift the vehicles for undercarriage washing. They spray a foam on the undercarriage with a novel spraying machine and the whole thing is hand brushed and then washed with high-pressure water. Engines are washed and immediately dried up. The body is washed with high pressure and again a foam is sprayed all over it

before wiping the dirt and washed cleaned.

I neither had any stench not heard any unbearable noise. Even the vacuum sound is not continuous and embarrassing, but only intermittent.

It is my frank opinion, having being predominantly in the transport sector, that all motor vehicle service stations in the country should adopt this procedure and it will be good if the authorities lay down 'Criteria' when issuing the licences to service centres.

**P. J. Gamalathge,
Moratuwa.**

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