

Robertson Honda showers its customers with quality service

WITH the Easter holiday often falling on this particular month, April is often associated with the time for renewed hope. An old poem even goes "Sweet April showers do spring May flowers," which means, figuratively speaking, that life's challenges, no matter how tough and grueling they may seem to be, will eventually bring you great rewards.

That is a good thought to go by as even with these trying times, we still can look forward to the rewards within our grasp. One of which is the quality service that Robertson Honda provides.

At Robertson Honda, customers are always valued and provided with the best service all the time. Receiving the 2007 and 2008 Council of Excellence (COE) Award for their strong commitment to a rewarding relationship with Honda Financial Services (HFS) and as the No. 1 Filipino Honda Dealership in the San Fernando Valley are further proof of their commitment to serve their customers with unparalleled excellence.

The Robertson Honda team—composed of Danny Reyes, General Sales Manager; Mike Reyes, Desk Manager; and a Filipino Fleet Department—are always committed to give the highest quality of financial services to their customers.

Danny Reyes, the person behind the 10-people-strong Filipino Department, is faithful in giving the lowest possible monthly payments while making sure that the buyers get the Honda that they want and need. He also helped in establishing a strong foundation of Filipinos from various islands of the Philippines who are willing to serve every person that comes in. So whether you are Visayan, Bicolano, Kapampangan and so on—chances are, they speak your native tongue.



Mike Reyes, Filipino Desk Manager



waiting area where coffee is complimentary, snacks and reading materials are within reach and a state-of-the-art plasma TV with hundreds of channels to choose from can kill your boredom before it even starts.

So this April, let Robertson Honda shower you with its quality service and make the "Number One Filipino Honda Store" for 40 years your choice. Visit Robertson Honda at 5841 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood, and experience quality service that will exceed your expectations. For inquiries, please call 1-800-813-7257 or log on to www.robertsonhonda.com.

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MANAGER'S SPECIAL

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UA team preps solar-powered car for eco-marathon

TUCSON, ARIZ. - University of Arizona students have been developing solar cars for a decade, but the one they're racing to finish right now is a little different.

It will have a solar panel that can track the sun - to increase efficiency by as much as 50 percent - and it will look more like a normal car, rather than a spaceship.

The car, dubbed the SolarCat, also has a back-up diesel engine that will use biodiesel.

The Arizona Solar Racing Team, a group of 21 UA students, is developing the car to take to this month's Shell Eco-marathon Americas.

Organizers of the competition are hoping participating teams will break last year's record of nearly 3,000 miles per gallon.

Bringing awareness about alternative energy and showing it's viable is the project's ultimate goal, said UA senior Collin Mechler, the team's lead

design engineer. "If we can prove it's possible, then it gets people thinking about solar power," he said. "The more research we do on it, the faster it will get into common use."

It's also an opportunity for students to put skills they learned in the classroom into practical use.

"We can use our engineering skills to bring all this crazy technology to reality," said senior Oliver Stickroth, the team's chief engineer.

The students are working around the clock at their small university-owned workshop to get the car ready in time. Design began in September, and now the students are at the stage where they can see it all come together.

SolarCat is being built independently of the UA, but receives funding mostly from the Arizona Research Institute

for Solar Energy. The team also received support from Raytheon and Boeing to complete the \$75,000 project.

During the competition, April 16-18 in Fontana, Calif., the UA team will join 52 student teams from across the Americas, including nine high schools and 32 universities.

The UA team has entered under the Urban Concept category, for four-wheel road-worthy cars. Participants can also enter the Prototype category for futuristic-type cars.

Each team will have to make eight laps around a speedway and maintain an average of 15 mph. Urban Concept cars will have to make three 10-second stops.

Marshals will inspect the cars and determine which went the farthest distance on the least amount of energy.

One winner will be selected from each category, with the top prize of \$5,000 each payable to the team's home school. There are also other awards, including the Eco Design Award, Safety Award and Technical Innovation Award.

"Most of the teams aren't in it for the money, they want to win for the bragging rights," said Michael Clingan, a Shell Eco-marathon spokesman.

After the competition, the Arizona Solar Racing Team is planning to make its car street-legal and drive it across country to the Solar Decathlon at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in October, where other UA students will be displaying a solar house.

"Tucson and the university are in the vanguard of solar energy, and this is our way of showing it," Stickroth said. (AP)

Exec says Toyota...

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a failure would disrupt their ability to produce cars.

Lentz said in an interview at the New York International Auto Show that Toyota is communicating with its parts suppliers and has arrangements to allow it to continue operating in the event of a failure. Japanese and US automakers share such parts suppliers such as Delphi Corp., Bosch Auto Parts and TRW Automotive.

"We have workarounds with all our suppliers," he said, which could include stocking up on extra parts so that factories can continue production if the supply base is disrupted.

Lentz also said the \$5 billion auto parts supplier bailout enacted by the Obama administration will help preserve the auto supply base.

Tokyo-based Toyota, the world's No. 1 automaker and maker of the Camry sedan and Prius hybrid, has factories across the US, including in Texas, Kentucky, Indiana and a plant jointly operated with GM in Fremont, Calif.