

Still, Small Voice

A man in North Carolina bought a new car with a voice-warning system. At first, he was amused to hear the soft, female voice gently reminding him that his seat belt was not fastened. He affectionately called this voice "the little woman."

He soon discovered that his little woman was programmed to warn him about other events and circumstances, including gasoline. "Your fuel level is low," she said one time in her sweet voice. The car owner nodded his head and thanked her. He figured he still had enough to go another 50 miles, so he kept on driving.

But a few minutes later, her voice interrupted him again with the same warning. And so it went, over and over. Although he knew it was the same recording, the driver thought her voice sounded harsher each time.

Finally, he stopped his car and crawled under the dashboard. After a quick search, he found the appropriate wires and gave them a good yank. So much for the little woman, he reasoned.

He was still smiling to himself a few miles later when his car began sputtering and coughing. He ran out of gas! Somewhere inside the dashboard, the car owner was sure he could hear the little woman laughing.

People like this car owner learn before long that the little voice inside, although ignored or even disconnected, often tells them exactly what they need to know. Paying more attention to that still, small voice is highly recommended in 2004 and beyond.

--Beecher Hunter