



Check Out This Number

The Ford Five Hundred

Maybe it's time to consider a Ford. What?

For one thing we can't be all that confident about the current economic recovery. The economy just might go to Iraq and ruin. So before you apply 80 percent of your recent raise to purchase a Beemer or a Benz or a Lex or a Jag, the better part of valor just might be purchasing a moderately priced luxury sedan from the Blue Oval gang. One that incorporates many, if not most, of the luxury and performance features and options of the big boys, at a price tag that will let you continue to lunch at Bone's, dine at Pano's and have breakfast at Tiffany's.

Admittedly, Ford is the company that cranked out a bejillion goshawful-tacky

velour-lined cars during the nineties to fill the rent-a-car fleets at all the major airports. But that was then. And now there is the Ford Five Hundred sedan, which maed its debut last September. Visually, it is arresting. It is a big car.

Roooooomy.

But not roomy in the take-up-three-parking-spaces roomy way that the old Crown Victoria did. It has compact dimensions — yet seems positively cavernous. It looks like a Toyota Avalon on steroids. Or maybe a Mercedes E320 that has been working out a lot. Parked in the Hennessy Jaguar parking lot in Buckhead, the Five Hundred loomed over the S-Types and XJ8s like a 747 in a lot full of DC9s.

Text > Ralph McGill Jr.