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Consumer Reports

- DISHWASHERS
BICYCLE HELMETS
ELECTRIC SKILLETS
CHAIN SAWS
TRAVEL IRONS
ROAD TESTS:
ACURA INTEGRA
GEO PRIZM
MAZDA PROTEGE
HYUNDAI EXCEL

MUTUAL

FUND

RATINGS

PERFORMANCE AND SAFETY OF 290 STOCK FUNDS

Table of stock fund data with columns for fund names, ratings, and performance metrics. Includes various fund categories like Bond, Equity, and International.



advice that prospective residents should always examine the community's audited financial statement and the resident contract, preferably with their attorney or financial adviser. Consumers should go over the marketing representative's head if necessary to request financial information. We also suggest prospective residents spend a few days at the communities that appeal to them most to see which offers the more compatible lifestyle. Many communities make overnight accommodations available for this purpose.

SHELDON L. GOLDBERG, PRESIDENT  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF HOMES FOR THE AGING  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

## Accredited care

Your February report on continuing-care retirement communities said that accreditation by the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission was "not a reliable guide for consumers." I believe CCAC accreditation is the best assurance a consumer could have when choosing a continuing-care retirement community. Communities that receive a "conditional" designation from the CCAC cannot claim to be accredited and they are not included on the list of accredited facilities the Commission offers to consumers. No community goes on the list until the Commission is satisfied that it has complied fully with all accreditation standards. The CCAC also requires accredited communities to provide financial information to residents and applicants.

EUGENE LEHRMANN, MEMBER, CCAC  
VICE CHAIRMAN, AARP  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

*We said accreditation may eventually be worthy, but it isn't reliable now because salespeople at continuing-care communities do not provide accurate information about*

*accreditation. You can obtain a list of accredited communities from the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission, 1129 20th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.*

## Testing the waters

I appreciated your January 1990 reports on water treatment and water testing. The people who called as a result of the reports had obviously read them carefully and want to be well informed. Your report on water-testing labs mentioned that our water-analysis report was relatively difficult to decipher. We never saw it that way before, but we appreciate the comment. We will try to make our report easier to understand without sacrificing its professionalism, accuracy, and scientific validity.

RICHARD C. STUMP  
LABORATORY DIRECTOR  
SUBURBAN WATER TESTING  
LABORATORIES INC.  
TEMPLE, PA.

## Fine filtering

In your January 1990 report on water filters, you downrated the *Bionaire H<sub>2</sub>O BT850* because it clogged faster than others. Pall Corp. makes the 0.1-micrometer cartridge used in that *Bionaire*. In our field tests, we have found that this cartridge will experience premature reduced flow in some areas. That's because the incoming water contains very small filterable particles. The 0.1-micrometer cartridge is doing its job when it removes those particles. Pall Corp. and Bionaire also offer a more open 0.45-micrometer filter cartridge that provides 700 gallons of service or more at nearly all our test locations in the U.S. If reduced flow or short life becomes a concern with the 0.1-micrometer filter (the one with white end caps), Bionaire customers can switch to the 0.45 microme-

ter version, the *UM-003*, which has blue end caps. Both are bacteria-removing.

DANIEL R. UHR JR., Ph.D.  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
RESIDENTIAL WATER PROGRAM  
NEW MARKET DEVELOPMENT  
PALL CORP.  
GLEN COVE, N.Y.

## Optional options

I'm delighted that your March road-test report noted the *Subaru Legacy's* positive features. But I was disappointed to see your complaint about "distributor greed" and a "\$500 pack added by the East Coast distributor." Your report clearly but incorrectly implied that Subaru of New England's distributor-installed accessories constitute mandatory options. Our Protection Package and any other options we install are installed only in response to dealers' orders for such accessories. New England Subaru dealers are under no obligation to purchase distributor-installed accessories. We also believe that the accessories we offer provide significant added value for both our dealers and their retail purchasers.

ERNEST J. BOCH  
PRESIDENT & CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SUBARU OF NEW ENGLAND INC.  
NORWOOD, MASS.

*The New England Protection Package is a collection of high-priced extras that, in our opinion, offer little value. That's a pack, whether ordered by dealers or installed by the distributor unasked.*

## An overlooked option

I was appalled that your March road-test report made no mention of the antilock braking system available on the *Subaru*  
*Continued on page 368*

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