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Car Pool Survey

CHICAGO – May 26, 2006 – Gas prices may be soaring, but Mom and Dad are still willing to take a hit in the wallet when it comes to chauffeuring their children around town. Parents of kids age 16 and under drive a car pool an average of seven times a month with three kids in the car, according to a recent survey conducted by the International Carwash Association. *

And, to make matters worse, the majority of these drivers allow the children to eat and drink in the car – which might account for the fact that once the kids exit the vehicle, food is reported as the number one leave-behind odor, followed by sweat and old shoes. One respondent described the car as a “crumb-covered mess,” while others reported shoe prints, trash and discarded snacks all over the interior.

Juvenile travelers have left behind such souvenirs as a dead frog pinned to a board, nestled next to a P&J sandwich in a brown paper sack, an iguana named Joe Bob and a kitten. Other forgotten items include Oreo cookies licked clean of their centers and shoved into the car door pocket, Hustler magazine and underwear.

About one in three parents has shouted, “Don’t make me stop this car!” into the back seat, or spilled a drink or food. Not surprisingly, the potential for encountering aggravating circumstances increases with the number of kids in the car, including:

- Four teenage boys trying to determine who had the smelliest gas after eating chili
- One child throwing up on the other two kids in the car
- The discovery of head lice on a girl
- Kids singing raunchy songs
- Kids hitting, fighting, kicking and screaming all the way home

It’s no wonder that 90 percent of all respondents reported washing their cars at a professional car wash during the past year!

About the International Carwash Association

The International Carwash Association serves its members and the global car wash community by providing products and services that ensure the success of operators, manufacturers and suppliers. The Association’s annual tradeshow, Car Care World Expo, provides two and a half days of educational programs, along with networking opportunities, members’ only events and more than 150,000 square feet of exhibit space. At the most recent Car Care World Expo, 125 new products were introduced and nearly

400 leading industry vendors were in attendance – including 70 first-time exhibitors. To learn more about The International Carwash Association, membership benefits or Car Care World Expo, visit www.CarCareCentral.com.

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