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Street Rods and Hot Rods

Kids get class credit for building street rods

So let me get this straight, these college kids in Michigan have the opportunity to build a street rod, get class credit for it, and if the rod sells for big bucks, have that class paid for by the proceeds?

And I spent all my time in college studying Chaucer.

That's at least the plan for the Street Rod Foundation, a relatively new organization that aims to help students in southeast Michigan. Bob DiBlase, the president of the Street Rod Foundation, said he started the foundation a couple years ago because he and the other members of the foundation felt that today's youth need leadership, and a project like this can provide a way to keep the participants on the straight and narrow.

Currently, 12 students at Jackson Community College in Jackson, Michigan, are assembling a Dearborn Deuce 1932 Ford roadster using about \$70,000 in donated parts, including the body, a chassis that the Street Rod Garage in Grant, Alabama, built from American Stamping Deuce rails, a complete four-link rear suspension donated by Chassis Engineering, a drilled front axle donated by Super Bell and a 345hp 302-cu.in. V-8 donated by Ford Racing.

DiBlase said the Foundation plans to have the car ready for the 2008 Detroit Autorama, and then plans to show the car throughout the following year, after which they hope to sell it at one of the Arizona auctions. Some of the proceeds of that sale will then go into the Foundation's next street rod project.

"We're talking with Ohio State University about building the next car," DiBlase said. "The intention down the road is to turn this into a standalone school." For more information, visit www.streetrodfoundation.org.

- By Daniel Strohl