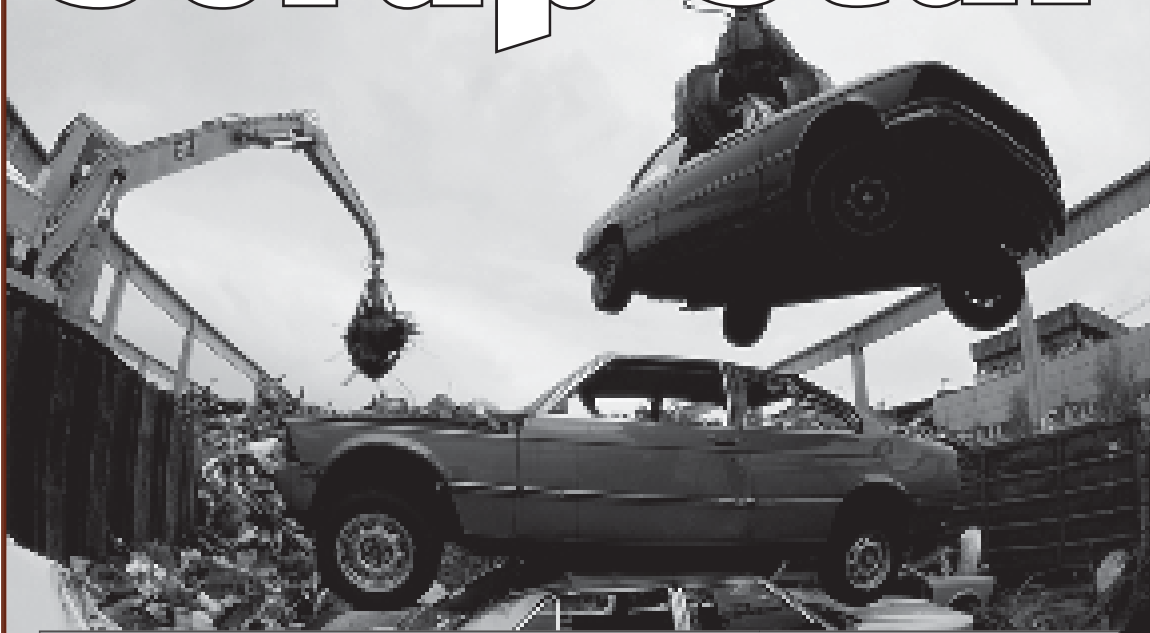


Scrap star



IF you are stupid enough to drive without insurance you now run a serious risk of having your car crushed.

This week police revealed they are currently seizing as many as 460 uninsured vehicles every day and the figure is growing.

An incredible 40% of all the cars that are taken off the road are reduced to scrap.

In 2008 police seized more than 170,000 uninsured vehicles.

That is more than twice the 78,000 uninsured vehicles they removed in 2006, the first full year of the current crackdown.

New legislation in 2005 gave police the powers to grab vehi-

by **GEORGE FOWLER**
Motoring Editor

cles being driven uninsured. Forces were given improved access to the Motor Insurance Database, along with Automatic Number Plate Recognition equipment.

Crime

The Hertfordshire force, on behalf of the police service, has been working closely with the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) and the National Policing Improvement Agency to improve the speed and accuracy of data on the hotlist.

The latest figures were released by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the MIB.

Frank Whiteley, Herts Chief

Constable, explained: "Driving without insurance is not a victimless crime.

"It is estimated that uninsured and untraced drivers kill 160 people and injure 23,000 every year.

"Uninsured drivers are more likely to be involved in accidents, more likely to be non-compliant with other traffic requirements and are often involved in other criminal activity."

Ashton West, chief executive from the MIB, added: "Motorists who are insured are paying nearly £30 each extra to compensate people who are injured by uninsured drivers.

"Uninsured drivers have no right to use their vehicles on our roads and when they do, they are being caught."