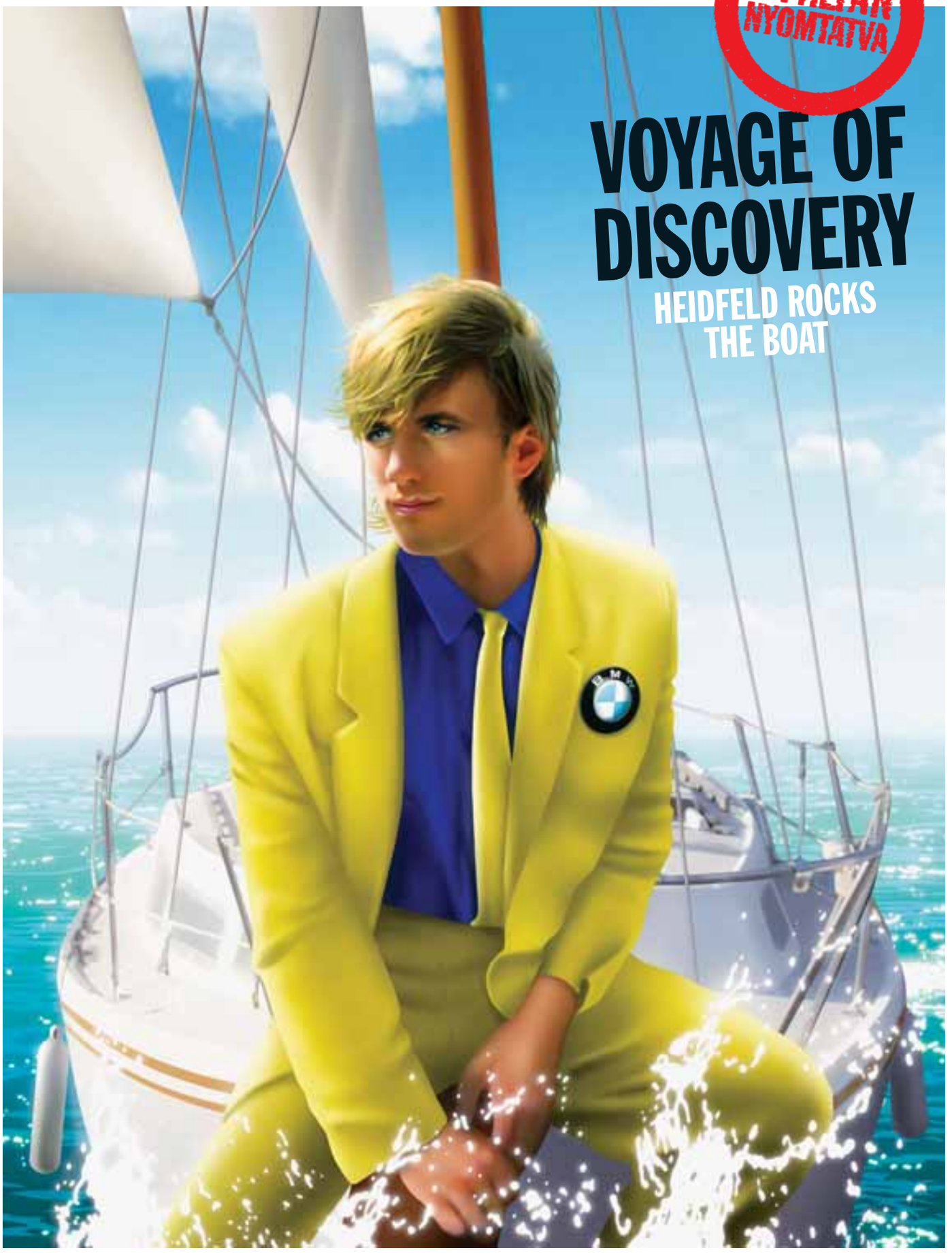
THE RED BULLETIN

ISSUE 104, GP HUNGARY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2006

AN ALMOST INDEPENDENT F1 NEWSPAPER

A PALYAN NYOMTATVA



VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

HEIDFELD ROCKS THE BOAT

GP2



WILL BUXTON, GP2'S PRESS OFFICER, is an artistic sort as his tattoo shows. It's of Hermes, messenger of the gods and patron saint of PR. He designed himself and it was done by a Swiss butcher turned tattoo artist called Virus. Know someone in the paddock with an embarrassing tattoo? Email the evidence to secret.service@theredbulletin.com

FERRARI

VODAFONE HOSTED THE 10TH ANNUAL FOFIF1 (Fans Of Football In Formula One) night on Thursday. Members of the British media were invited, provided they wore their favourite side's shirt and made a speech about the team. ITV F1's Steve Ryder, a football authority, forgot his Charlton shirt and turned up in a Ujpest Dozsa strip – a local team. Despite hurried research, his speech was – as you might expect – perfectly delivered. Ross Brawn and Nigel Stepney were there too, wearing their (contractually compulsory) Manchester United shirts. Part of the evening's activities was to make Premiership predictions. This is what the Ferrari men are betting on:

	ROSS BRAWN	NIGEL STEPNEY
TITLE WINNERS:	Manchester United	Manchester United
PROMOTION:	Birmingham City West Bromwich Albion Southampton	Birmingham City West Bromwich Albion Southampton
RELEGATION:	Wigan Sheffield United Manchester City	Portsmouth West Ham Charlton Athletic
1ST MANAGER TO BE SACKED:	Stuart Pearce	David Moyes



PACESETTER

IF YOU THINK THE fans in Germany were a bit mad, you should check out the ones in Hungary. In the campsite behind the track, a group of Dutch fans have brought along a music system to play the sounds of F1 cars (below) and a bloody great cannon – hence the ground-shaking explosions every 20 minutes. They've been coming to the Hungaroring for six years and this is the second they've brought the cannon, which is run by computers. Last year they used their weapon to fire footballs, but they lost the ball, so this year they're just making as much noise as possible to scare the locals.



PHOTOS: SUTTON IMAGES, GETTY IMAGES, JIM KÄMMERLING. COVER ILLUSTRATION: AMO

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TOYOTA

FORMER F1 DRIVER CRISTIANO DA MATTA has been seriously injured at a Champ Car test session on the Road America course at Elkhart Lake. His car collided with a deer, which had escaped from the woods beside the track. Rescue crews were on the scene immediately and Cristiano was airlifted to the Theda Clark Memorial Hospital in Neenah, Wisconsin, before undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain. Doctors say it's too early to tell if there will be any permanent damage. "A head CT scan showed Cristiano had suffered a subdural hematoma," stated Champ Car medical director Dr Chris Pinderski. "He was urgently taken to the operating room for the surgical removal of the haematoma and is now being observed in the intensive care unit". At the time of going to press, Cristiano remains in an unconscious state. John Howett has personally expressed the Toyota team's deep concern. He told The Red Bulletin: "We are all extremely shocked and sad because everyone really likes Cristiano. We've written a letter of support to his family and we're waiting to hear more news on his condition." If you would like us to pass on messages of support to Cristiano and his family, please feel free to e-mail us.



CLUB 500



HENRIQUE CARDÃO

"The 1986 Hungarian GP is one I'll never forget as it featured one of the best overtaking moves I've ever seen. And, being between Brazilian drivers, I was on the edge of my seat and screaming down the microphone. Pole man Ayrton Senna shared the front row with, Nelson Piquet, but Piquet charged hard and stole the lead through the first corner after the pitstops. The two drivers hated each other, and their venom was triggered by a woman. Piquet told the media Ayrton didn't like girls, so Ayrton responded by saying: "Why don't you ask your wife?" They never patched up their differences, and I think Piquet remains jealous of Senna's reputation."

Henrique Cardão is a commentator for Brazil's Radio Globo. He says this will be his 550th Grand Prix.

MF1



COLIN KOLLES IS PROBABLY F1'S BIGGEST CAR NUT. An aficionado with the means to indulge his passion, he owns more cars than Hertz and many of them are competition GT cars and rally cars. We asked Colin to take us through his top 10 all-time favourites, while in our flannel panel we've nominated the cars we lie awake at night dreaming about. Cars designated with an asterisk are owned by the Kolles family:

1. FERRARI 250 GTO* – One of the rarest Ferraris, and my personal favourite. It was only in production from 1960 until 1962 and there are very few of them left. Some have even fetched as much as $15 million at auction (not that I would consider selling mine).

2. FERRARI 365 GTB/4 COMPETIZIONE* – With only minor modifications from the road-going version, the Daytona in competition trim did very well against some of the crack sports prototypes of its day. Fast and gorgeous, it's still an engaging car to drive.

3. FERRARI 250 SWB COMPETIZIONE – This is the car I'd love to get my hands on, especially one of the Le Mans racers. It's one of the best dual-purpose cars Ferrari ever produced.

4. FERRARI 250 LM* – Another of my favourites, although I've only ever driven it once. One of only 32 built, mine sits in a museum. Built for homologation purposes, the 250 LM secured Ferrari's last overall victory at Le Mans.

5. FERRARI 250 CALIFORNIA SPYDER – Yes, this is the car from the movie Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Essentially a competition car with an exquisite, hand-sculpted body, it's probably the prettiest Ferrari of all time.

6. FERRARI 275 GTB COMPETIZIONE* – Can you tell I like front-engined Ferrari GT cars? Rare, fast and beautiful, this car is extremely satisfying to drive.

7. LAMBORGHINI MIURA SV* – OK, it's not a Ferrari... But the Miura is just too sexy to ignore. It's pretty quick, too.

8. MERCEDES 300 SL GULLWING – This car should make every enthusiast's top 10 list. It has all the requisite qualities of a supercar: looks, performance and historical significance.

9. LANCIA STRATOS GROUP 4 – Well ahead of its time, the Stratos was the most beautiful and dominant rally car of its time. Even today, it remains impressive in every sense.

10. AUDI QUATTRO GROUP B – This is the weapon Audi used to thrash its rallying competitors into submission. Brilliantly engineered with all-wheel drive and ferocious amounts of power, it was simply unbeatable.

FOUR COMMENTARIES

SECRETS AND LIES

WHO GOES WHERE IN 2007?
BY NORMAN HOWELL

1 Roll up, roll up! The Silly Season Is Open! Get your exclusive fill of rumour, disinformation, obfuscation, half-truth and that special gold nugget – the Bernie quote – which means all bets are off and we need to start all over again.

Well, it is a lot of fun. When I was employed by a reputable newspaper it was all about the chase, the spotting of unlikely bedfellows in odd parts of 'neutral' motorhomes, the cornering of B-list paddock shakers and movers who might just, if they had any idea, release just enough info for me, and the rest of the press pack, to piece together a picture which looked very much like those joke identikit police images of the 1960s. In other words, we did not have a clue, but if my sports editor wanted a Mansell to Ferrari story, British reader figures you see, then I had to, at the very least, find out if there was a grain of truth about it.

So now that I don't have to write for a British or otherwise audience, and can spout loosely from my almost independent pulpit, it's even more fun to speculate. So, what do we have? Well, it has been a week full of news, what with Flavio's operation – and we wish him all the very best – Mark Webber's swift exit from Williams and Ross Brawn's sabbatical, and news breeds speculation, at least here it does, so the media machine has gone into overdrive.

Those in the know say Mark has signed for a leading team. OK, so that means he's either going to be dressed in blue or in grey. If that is true, it would seem to indicate that the seven-times world champion might be about to call it a day, as Kimi moves to the red team and Heikki Kovalainen to the blue team. So Massa stays on at the red team and Lewis Hamilton misses out on the grey team, though he might end up on the bench. My money is on Mark going to the grey team, as he goes back a long way with Norbert Haug – not the deciding factor, maybe – but a strong one nonetheless.

'My money is on Mark going to the grey team, as he goes back a long way with Norbert Haug'

But if the driver market is interesting, Brawn's sabbatical announcement is also intriguing as it was felt, wrongly maybe, that he was umbilically linked to Michael. It seems the Englishman had a tough time in the early days in the difficult world of Maranello and the German driver made sure his support for the engineer was loud and consistent. Could they operate without each other? For sure. Would they want to? That might lead to a very different reply. There is not much left to win and if they pull-off another title this season, which looks quite likely, they will be quitting at the very, very top.

So Ferrari, without Michael and Ross, but with Kimi and Felipe. Renault with Kovalainen and Fisichella, McLaren with Alonso and Webber. Interesting line-ups and a very open playing field. Good for the viewers and good for the sport.

But I don't think it's all over. Michael is so much his own man and though the market is not revolving around him as much as we all thought earlier in the season, he can still upset all of our best thought-out speculation.

More fun to come, ladies and gentlemen. Roll up, Roll up for the Magical Mystery Tour.

PIT BITCH
BY HELEN PARADYCE

2 It's official, I'm no longer hot in bed. What bliss to travel to Hungary for a cool weekend. Twenty years we've been coming here and for 19 of them I've been wet and glowing every night, so having to avoid the rain drops in the paddock here is a novel and wonderful experience.

One of the other great traditions in Budapest, even if it hasn't been going for the full 20 years is the FOFIF1 football evening. Don't ask me what the initials stand for, probably something to do with a girl called Fifi, but basically, a load of British journalists get together, along with Manchester United fan Ross Brawn, and make predictions as to the outcome of the forthcoming English Premier League football season.

The dinner was generously hosted by the very good people from Vodafone in their motorhome and, as the bread rolls began to fly, the burning question of the night was, would this rowdy laddish behaviour be tolerated next year when the mobile phone mob throw in their lot with McLaren. Foodstuffs being tossed round the Communication Centre atrium is unlikely to be tolerated.

It may not yet be a tradition as it is only in its second year, but the Honda boys staged their annual fancy dress on Thursday night. This year, the theme was '80s rock stars, but much as I was tempted to go as a bad case of late-stage Annie Lennox, I decided not to.

Last year, the boys went in drag, but I didn't win any prizes as they reckoned I was very unconvincing as a woman. Bloody nerve! Which all reminds me of the great Woody Allen tale about him hitting a moose on the freeway, knocking it out and taking it to a fancy dress competition in New York: the moose was beaten into second place by a man who had come dressed as… a moose.

Another matter that has caused a near riot in the media centre is the fact that the very expensive wireless network required for us to file our stories has crashed, as the organisers only had a capacity for about 15 people to go on-line at the same time.

So here we are in the 21st century, with at least 200 hacks desperate to convey the excitement of a weekend in Hungary to their reader and the organisers feel that 15 is a good target to deal with on-line.

However, what our hosts have generously provided for us in an ISDN line for use in their Phone Room. But the only problem is the cost. If you equate the cost of using this to a monthly rate, it comes out at a mere 22,320 euros per month!

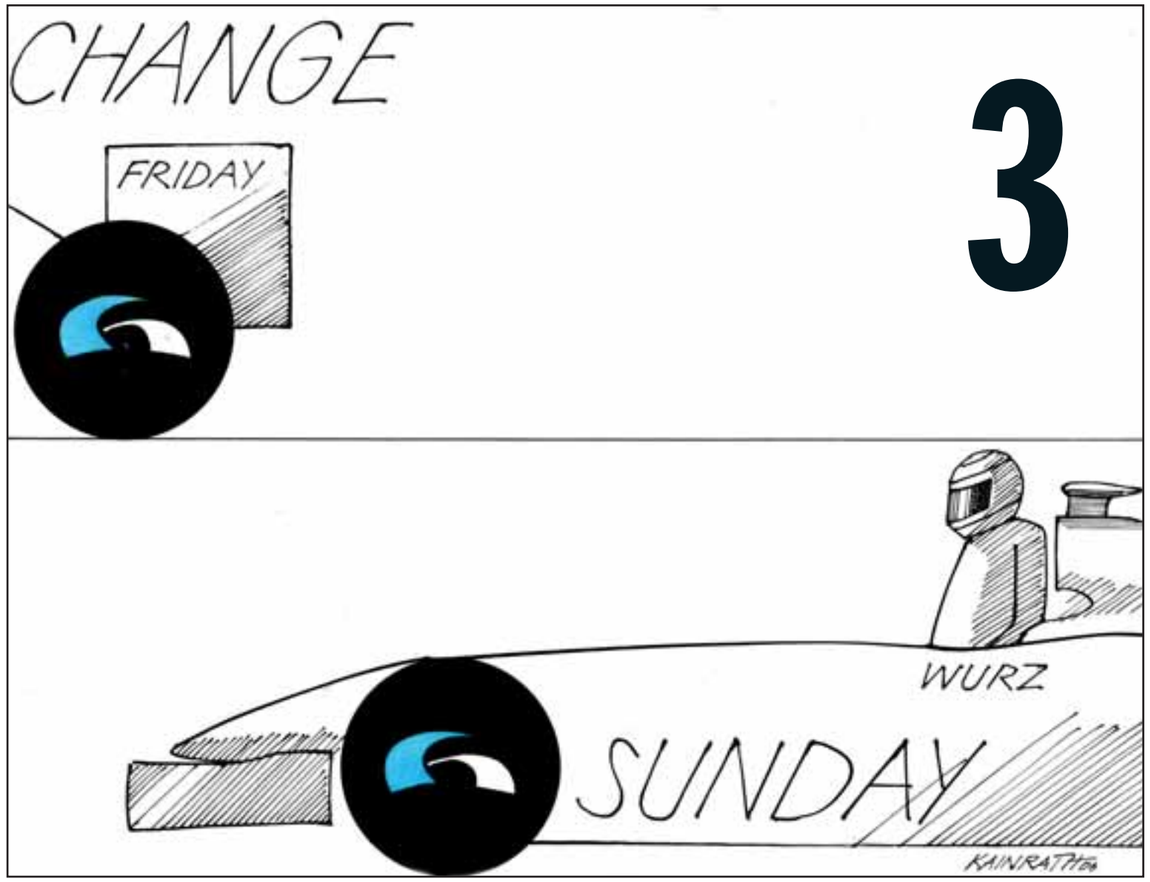
The lack of a telephone meant I had considered cycling this copy over to The Red Bulletin towers. However, the bike I was planning to borrow off Autosport's Anthony Rowlinson has died and gone to cycle heaven. Ant had chained it to the paddock railings in Hockenheim where it was promptly crushed to death by a forklift truck. Which would make it a very sad case of fin de siecle I suppose.

(*This is now the third time you have used this joke. It really is about time you found stop new material. – Ed.*)

F1 FUNNIES



A Formula One wedding



A LONG AND WINDING ROAD
BY GERHARD KUNTSCHIK

4 When Williams announced their driver line-up for 2007 this week the Grove-based team caused a few surprises. Confirming Alex Wurz as race driver along with Nico Rosberg in the Toyota-powered cars gives the Austrian some late weekend work after six seasons' absence.

Wurz came into F1 as a Benetton reserve driver in 1997, substituting in three grands prix (with a podium finish at third attempt at Silverstone) in the car of a sick Gerhard Berger, and raced for Enstone from 1998 to 2000. Failing to reach a management agreement with Benetton's Flavio Briatore then was one reason his career there ended. From 2001-05 Wurz worked his way as test and reserve driver for McLaren-Mercedes, racing in the 2005 San Marino GP, replacing an injured Juan Pablo Montoya. The Monaco-based Austrian finished third in the end – making him the only McLaren-Mercedes driver with 100 per cent podium scoring statistics... "And with the best points average of any silver arrow driver," as Alex himself noted with a smile.

While McLaren-Mercedes did not seem to be excited about continuing with Alex for 2006, Frank Williams took the chance as soon as he found out Wurz was available. In seven months of testing for Williams Alex proved his worth to the team through technical feedback and communication with the engineers and by driving skills. Obviously, Wurz' Friday performances in heavy cars, especially in Monaco (Thursday there of course), did not go unnoticed by Sir Frank and his management. Arriving back in the race seat after six years of stand-by work is possibly the most astonishing comeback of recent F1 history. Alex Wurz will be 33 on his return in 2007, three years younger than Damon Hill and six younger than Nigel Mansell in their title-winning seasons.

"It was big news on a quiet day," Alex said. "It means the time will end soon when I have to watch from the outside as the other boys have fun." Or, as many in the paddock realise: seeing other guys taking the honours for work that was at least partially done by Alex.

'Since Wurz left Benetton, he has always admitted he has unfinished F1 business'

Since Wurz left Benetton, he has always said he has unfinished business in F1. He had the chance to return to racing earlier a couple of times but either denied it to himself (for Prost) or was denied by somebody else (Jaguar and McLaren). The contract for 2007 was obviously in place already when Wurz signed for Williams in December 2005, including an option for the team on his services for either race or reserve driver. This time, politics and the driver market went Alex' way.

For Williams, the combination of one of the hottest talents in F1 and one of the most experienced and technically astute drivers seems to be a near-perfect basis for a new era with a new engine partner. "I am extremely hungry to prove I am still a race driver after all those years," Wurz said.

Come 2007, he can prove his capabilities on Saturdays and Sundays again. And there are many in the paddock who look forward to seeing Alex, who was often underrated in recent years, race again in F1.

And Wurz's promotion is a boost for F1 in his native Austria. Contributing at least one, maybe two, drivers and certainly two teams to the field is not a bad number for a small country.

● Gerhard Kuntschik is the F1 correspondent for the Salzburger Nachrichten in Austria.

ILLUSTRATIONS: KAINRATH, FEGGO

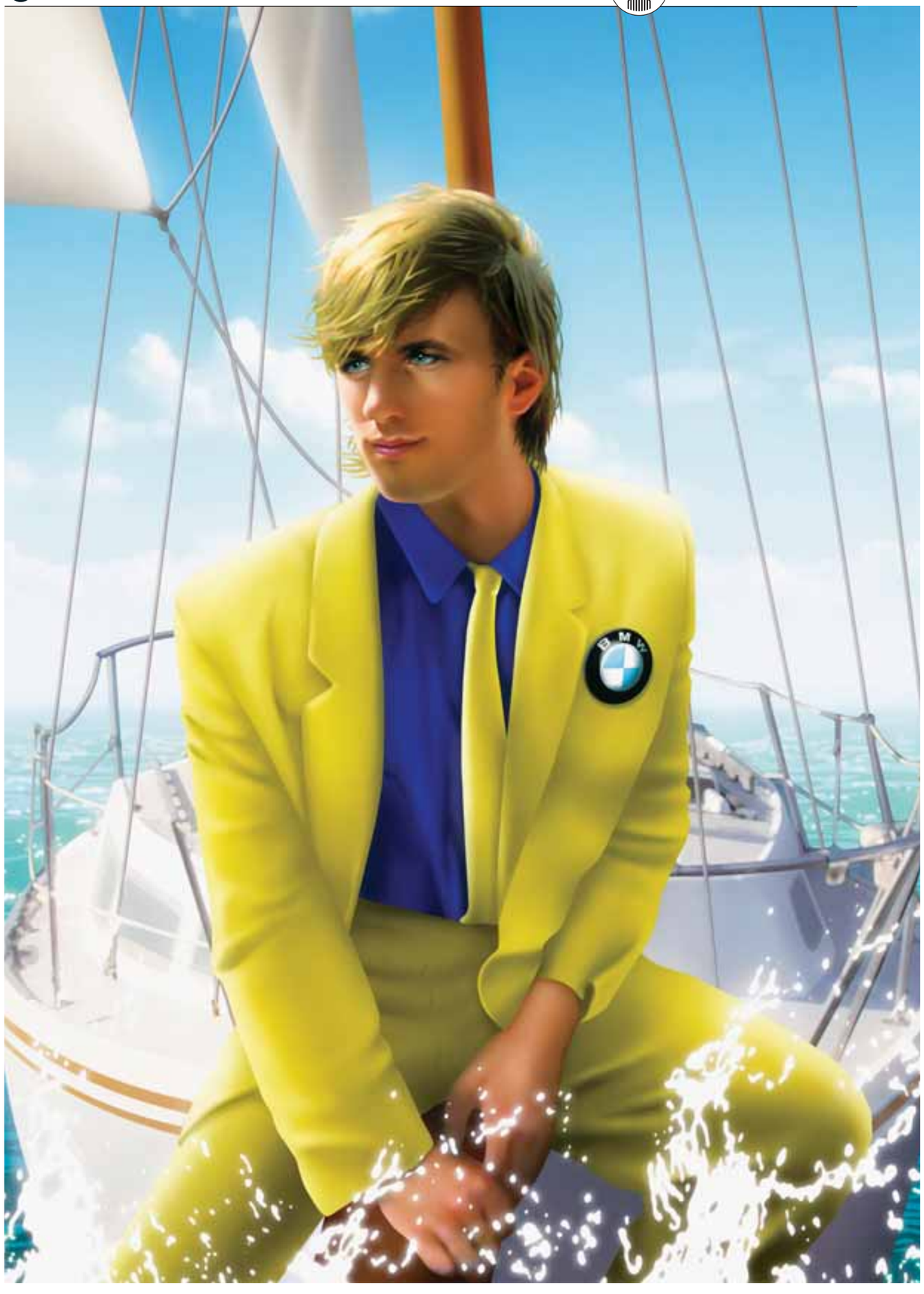


ILLUSTRATION: AMO

CAPTAIN SENSIBLE

Hello, hello my little Magyar chums, Dr Bull here with a dose of Cisleithania, though say that to any of our English colleagues and they tell you to take some mercury for it. Today on my sofa I have Nick Heidfeld, while most patients tend to look nervous or tell jokes, Nick has bounced up and down a couple of times and given me very precise data on the spring rate, recommended that I lower the angle of the backrest 1.5 degrees and suggested I lengthen the legs by 27mm. It's going to be one of those days.

Psychoanalytically speaking, Nick is an enigma. As a gentleman short of stature I expected him to have a fiery, pugnacious temperament, instead he's sitting with his hands folded and an expression of serene calm on his face, although I suppose having raced for Jordan and Prost Grand Prix, Nick's got all his shouting and screaming out of his system already.

Q: Let's start with a simple one, who's your favourite musician?
A: Outkast
Presumably this is from a sense of solidarity formed during time contracted to McLaren? Actually, I think as a loyal team-mate you're supposed to say Jacques Villeneuve – although maybe you are, and you just know something we don't about the line-up for next season? No, that would be silly.

Q: Nick, who would play you in the film of your life?
A: Edward Norton
Hmmm… interesting choice. Critically acclaimed, versatile but not exactly part of the mainstream. Norton, of course, is famous for remaining anonymous and being able to blend in anywhere he goes – and liking it that way. Norton's most famous roles are a muscle-bound tattooed white supremacist and an insomniac, schizophrenic, introvert investigating crash data for a car company. Let's swiftly skip the first and go onto the second. Why would Nick feel an affinity with someone who goes crazy (that's the technical term) and becomes highly delusional after being barraged with endless long flights and ceaseless repeating images of crashed cars? Oh, it turns out that Nick hasn't finished shouting and screaming about Prost and Jordan after all…

Q: OK, Nick, come down off the bookcase, let's get back on to more familiar ground. What's that most interesting thing that people don't know about you?
A: That I've got a sense of humour.
Yep.

Q: Moving swiftly on, because I can't abide liars, F1 is let out of school for the summer holidays next week. No doubt you'll be going somewhere nice. But what would be your dream holiday destination?
A: It's less the destination for me – it's more about having the right people there. It would probably be on a boat though.
Hmmm… interesting. Humanity's endless fascination with messing about in boats is a constant amazement to me, though The Illustrated Junior Encyclopedia of Psychiatry (a much under-rated tome) suggests its some sort of primeval memory of the life aquatic. Actually, modern research suggests that humanity evolved from a tribe of chimps living by the ocean, and it was the fatty acid in seafood – well known for promoting brain power – that caused the expansion of the human mind, and not a big black alien monolith as documentaries had previously led me to believe. But anyway, back to Nick. The advantage of a boat to an F1 driver is that, once you're beyond mobile phone coverage, no-one can contact you, and having the right people onboard is probably about not having the wrong people onboard – you know, the sort who get very uptight when you wear the wrong cap. It's this, rather than the so-called playboy lifestyle, that makes drivers buy boats – at least that's what they all tell me.



DR BULL'S CURRICULUM VITAE:
Born: Vienna, 1928
Educated: Zurich, Berkeley, Mogadishu and Brazzaville
Honours: Professor Emeritus Tahiti University, Visiting Professor Beverly Hills. Inventor of Deep Massage Analysis

Q: OK, so Nick, you're out on the boat, far from the madding crowd, adrift on the ocean deep. Who would you have invited onboard for a meal? I'll save you the tedious necessity of loyalty, by specifying no family or friends – just celebrities.
A: Um… Nobody. There is nobody I see on TV or anywhere else that I think I would really like to meet.
For once I'm lost for words. I'm not sure if that displays an astounding level of maturity or an astounding lack of imagination. Possibly both. I mean, Nick likes the Rolling Stones, last year he went to see their gig at Hockenheim – but if you enjoy a good meal and a quiet night in, would you really want Keith Richards dropping by? Probably not. But surely there's somebody? I don't have any particular infatuation with celebrity, but given a choice of another lonely microwave meal (Mrs Bull dines out a lot with her friends) and a convivial gastronomic experience with, for example, Pope Benedict, Yo-Yo Ma or Paris Hilton, then surely it's got to be worth a couple of hours of your time. Obviously this is a classification of 'lost for words' not previously used in the German language *[No expense is spent in translating Dr Bull: we use Babel Fish – Ed.]*

Q: And just for good measure Nick, when you're sitting on your boat, by yourself, what would be your favourite meal?
A: Liver
Presumably not with fava beans and a nice Chianti? As a psychiatrist, Hannibal Lecter is a role model for me – though the prospect of eating my patients has never had much appeal: after all, I know all their nasty little secrets and junk-food obsessions. Frankly, if I was tempted by cannibalism, I would most likely go for something a little more free-range. That Nick is a big fan of liver doesn't come as a surprise though. It's rich in iron and vitamin A and is the sort of thing that parents insist their children should eat because it's good for them. Nick is one of the few who actually believes this beyond the age of seven. Or maybe he just likes it. Or maybe after having been at the mercy of Jordan's superb catering (motto: anything you want, so long as it's fried), fruit or vegetables might kill him. Ancient peoples thought that liver was the seat of anger in the human body, though they obviously never met anyone like Nick.

‘I LOOKED A COMPLETE IDIOT WHEN I TRIED TO KICK HIM’

HOCKENHEIM, AUGUST 8, 1982. LAP 19.

Defending world champion Nelson Piquet was on course to win the 1982 German Grand Prix, but instead he ended up in a tyre wall thanks to a backmarker. But the crash was just the appetiser. The main course was when Piquet laid into Eliseo Salazar.

1 PIQUET’S BRABHAM-BMW lined up third on the grid with a light fuel load and blasted into the lead. On lap 19 he came up behind the ATS of backmarker Eliseo Salazar, took the right-hand side of the track and prepared to take the racing line through the Ostkurve chicane.

2 SALAZAR FAILED TO YIELD track position, braked too late and cannoned into the side of the Brabham, sending Piquet sideways into the tyre wall and into the gravel. Both men’s races were terminated.

Eliseo Salazar (ATS driver): “I tried to give him the space, but I had no mirror on that side. I really felt bad, because he was the world champion and my friend.”

Clive James (British TV personality): “Salazar was supposed to drop back but apparently hadn’t read the stage directions. Piquet was calm, however. He greeted Salazar affectionately. Piquet and Salazar go to karate class together, and here was a chance to practise their routines.”

3 PIQUET WAS INCANDESCENT. He’d started to unbuckle his harness before the car had skidded to a standstill, thrust himself out of it and strode up to Salazar, shaking his fists in rage. He slammed a double punch into Salazar’s helmet, and then went to kick the Chilean.

Murray Walker (BBC TV commentator): “And out goes Piquet, my goodness! It seems like the Brabhams are fated. He has hit Eliseo Salazar and he’s furious! ‘I couldn’t help it,’ says Eliseo. Take that, and oh my goodness!”

Bob Constanduros (F1 journalist): “It was laughable. The press room couldn’t believe that here was the reigning world champion looking so pathetic and kicking like a girl.”

Nelson Piquet (Brabham driver): “The fight between me and Salazar has bothered me for years. I looked a complete idiot when I tried to kick him and missed.”

SALAZAR BUNDLED INTO a van waiting in a service road to take the drivers back to the paddock. Piquet ordered him out and, in an attempt to break up the confrontation, the van’s driver got out to separate them. At which point Nelson jumped into the driver’s seat and sped off, leaving Eliseo stranded.

Herbie Blash (Brabham team manager): “We were as upset as Nelson. Salazar robbed us of a victory. But by the time he got back to the garage, Nelson had calmed down.”

Freddie Af Petersens (F1 journalist): “It was the South American championship in heavyweight boxing. Ten years after the event, Paul Rosche of BMW admitted to Nelson that the fight was unnecessary as his engine was ready to blow within two laps. Nelson said: ‘You fucking bastard, I made myself look like a prick in front of the whole world!’ Nelson had a hot temper, and it was great fun.”

Eliseo Salazar: “We’re still on good terms and whenever we meet, usually twice a year, we always bang our fists for fun.”

ILLUSTRATION: HERI IRAWAN



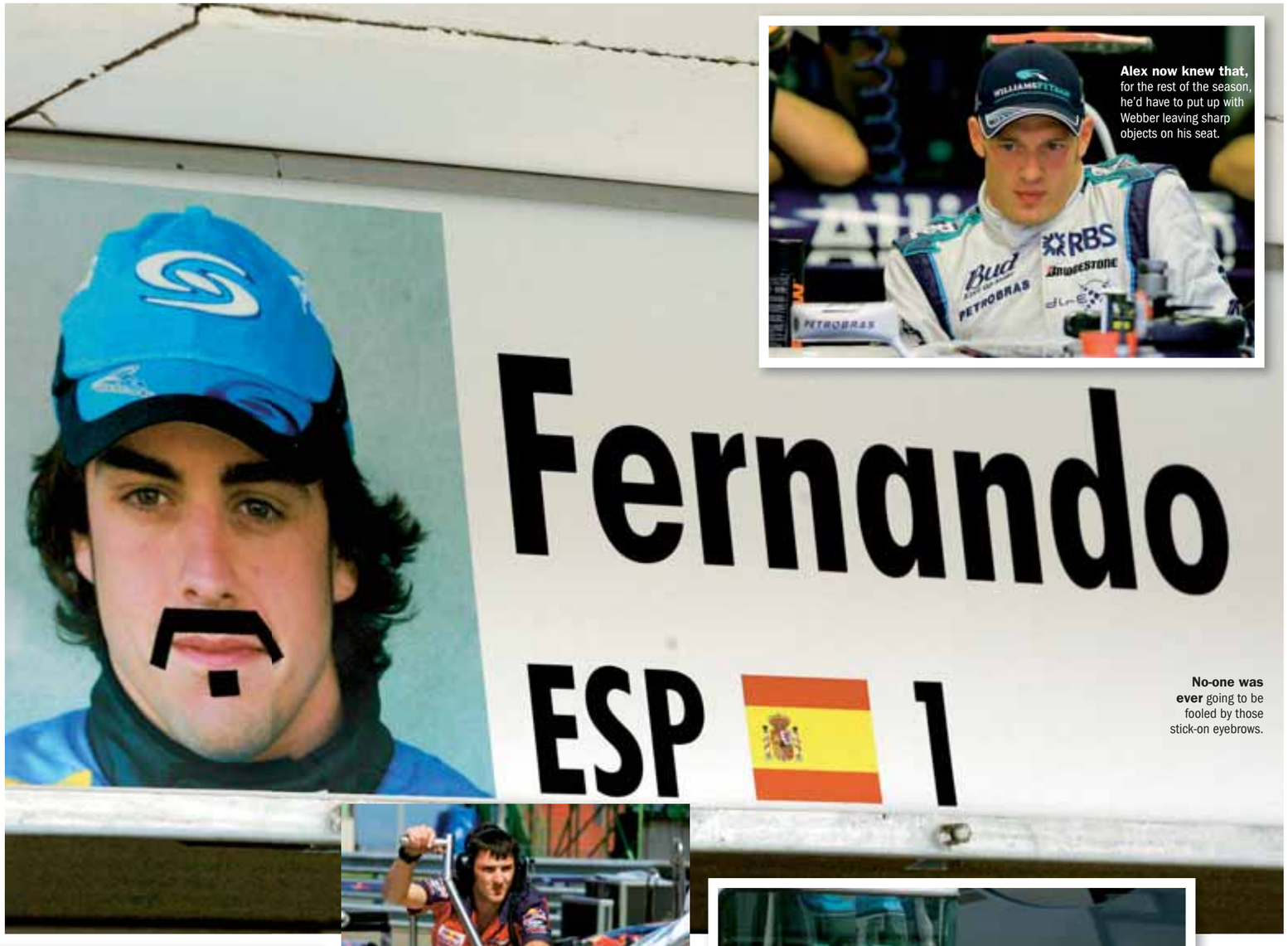
No-one had the heart to tell him that his suitcase had fallen off a kilometre back.



70 laps of the Hungaroring in prospect – no wonder the Budapest suicide rate has risen again.

MAKING 'PESTS OF THEMSELVES

The weather might be grey in Hungary, but a few storm clouds can't keep those cheeky Bull's Eye photgraphers indoors. They've been out and about looking for a piece of the paddock action.



No-one was ever going to be fooled by those stick-on eyebrows.

Alex now knew that, for the rest of the season, he'd have to put up with Webber leaving sharp objects on his seat.



If things didn't improve soon, Barrichello's career would really be in Ru ins.



A seminal moment in every new F1 driver's career is when he gets to autograph a very smelly pair of boxer shorts.



The prizewinner was beginning to see the downside to what the competition leaflet had described as "Getting Close To The Action!"



Kubica had been lying when he claimed to be the only Pole in the paddock.

PHOTOS: CRISPIN THRUSTON, MURIEL BROUSSEAU, SUTTON IMAGES, GETTY IMAGES

MCLAREN
ESTORIL, FEB 1996

McLaren launch their new car and driver line-up, Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard, at Estoril in Portugal at the start of the 1996 season. Just 92 days before, Hakkinen had been badly injured at Adelaide. He had tested the car a few days prior to the launch; this was his first public appearance since his accident.

NAME: MICHAEL SCHMIDT
POSITION, 1996: AUTO MOTOR AND SPORT JOURNALIST

Michael admits that "I don't know when this picture was taken. I know I was working for Auto Motor und Sport, but I don't remember this press conference at all. I never do, I forget these things, instantly." It's nice to know that one of the sport's perennial hard-workers is fallible!



NAME: ADAM COOPER
POSITION, 1996: FREELANCE JOURNALIST

Adam Cooper was and still is a freelance journalist, and has attended every Grand Prix since Suzuka 1994. "Mika had changed from the guy we all knew, and whenever you mentioned the accident, he tried to move the conversation somewhere else. Looking back, his comeback was a phenomenal achievement."



NAME: GREGOR MESSER
POSITION, 1996: TV JOURNALIST WITH WIGE

"Everybody was looking to see if Mika was still capable of driving an F1 car and he was completely successful at that task," says Gregor Messer, who's now with Auto Motor und Sport. "There was a lot of confidence. But he was always wearing sunglasses and he never took them off, so I'm quite astonished to see this picture."



NAME: DIDIER COTON
POSITION, 1996: MIKA HAKKINEN MANAGER

Coton was working with Keke Rosberg at the time, as Mika's manager. As part of this role he was instrumental in giving Mika all the support he needed during his recovery. Didier now runs his own driver management company looking after five drivers and is still helping Mika.

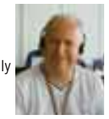


NAME: ANDREW BENSON
POSITION, 1996: AUTOSPORT GRAND PRIX EDITOR

"Mika never changed very much, did he?" remembers Benson. "I think he probably got fed up with questions about how it felt to nearly die. But I remember him being very chatty, because sometimes he could be a bit monosyllabic. I remember it being quite a rewarding little press scrum." This was Benson's debut in F1; he now works on BBC Sport's website, attending two or three grands prix a year.

NAME: TONY DODGINS
POSITION, 1996: F1 RACING JOURNALIST

"There was a lot of doubt as to whether he would a) be taking part and b) whether he would still be the same force as he was before," says Dodgins, now a freelance journalist. "There was a lot of excitement after his first test where he had gone really well. He was getting the message across that he would still be on it."



NAME: MIKA HAKKINEN
POSITION, 1996: MCLAREN DRIVER

Mika spent two years with Lotus prior to becoming test driver for McLaren in 1993. At the end of the year, he had replaced Michael Andretti at Estoril and promptly out-qualified team-mate Ayrton Senna. After finishing two years in the top six in the championship, he won back-to-back titles in 1998 and 1999, before retiring in 2001. He now races for Mercedes in DTM.



NAME: INGA STRAKE
POSITION, 1996: FREELANCE RADIO JOURNALIST

Inga was working then, as now, for her own radio agency, broadcasting to commercial radio stations across Germany. "I remember being really glad Mika was there, that he was back. It was amazing how calm he was. I remember that I had to be there very early to get this position because I'm almost in pole position."



PHOTOS: ACTION IMAGES, CRISPIN THRUSTON, SUTTON IMAGES

FORMULA UNA HUNGARY

Ladies and gentlemen, may we introduce the 10 Hungarian ladies hoping to end the season by representing their country at the Formula Una final at the Brazilian GP in October.

Name: Lili Papp
Age: 20
Occupation: I'm training as a kindergarten teacher at Loránd Eötvös University (I really love looking after children)
What are your hobbies and interests? I enjoy meeting new people and travelling to new and exciting places. I'm interested in languages, too
Do you have any pets? I have a dog called Betti
What sports do you do? I like watersports, especially wakeboarding and I also enjoy racing cars and motorbikes
What's the most extravagant thing you've ever done? I sometimes take part in beauty contests. My biggest success was being runner-up in Miss Hungary
Describe your personality in three words: Hard-working, talkative and happy

Name: Márta Mészáros
Age: 26
Occupation: Conservation programme co-ordinator
What are your hobbies and interests? Dancing, hiking and canoeing. I love hiking because I like to be close to nature. My other passion is wine. I'd like to learn about wine-growing and I think that wine-growing is almost an art form
What's your worst habit? I'm disorganised. Usually I'm in a spin
What's your dream holiday destination? I'm crazy about travelling. I would like to wander around Australia
What sports do you do? I love dangerous things, so I like any extreme sports which involve speed
What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given? Try everything you can, because you only have one life
Describe your character in three words: Talkative, cheerful, compassionate

Name: Eniko Kormos
Age: 21
Occupation: I'm an international communications student at the Budapest Business School. I can speak English and German and I'm also a qualified tourist guide
What are your hobbies and interests? Learning languages and listening to music. I also like going out with my friends, spending time with my boyfriend and travelling.
What sports do you do? Running and kick-boxing
If you could have any job in the world, what would it be? I'd work in marketing or public relations
Describe yourself in three words: Optimistic, ambitious and open



'BEST ADVICE? YOU MUST TRY EVERYTHING BECAUSE YOU ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE'
MÁRTA, 26

PHOTOS: ZOLTÁN MIKLÓSKA

Name: Edina Deák
Age: 19
Occupation: Trade and tourism student at the Xántus János Secondary School for Tourism and Trade
What are your hobbies and interests? I adore sleeping, eating, dancing and listening to music, shopping and the cinema. I'm also learning French
What sports do you do? I've played handball, danced and I also go to the gym twice a week. I also like jet-skiing. My favourite sports to watch are handball, football, ice-skating and motorsports
What's the best place you've ever visited? I love travelling abroad and I am fond of Tenerife.
What's your dream holiday destination? I am interested in other nations and languages. I would like to go to Egypt and see the pyramids
What's the most extravagant thing you've ever done? I like going to Lake Velence and Lake Balaton as much as I can. Then I can go fishing, sunbathe and then go to great parties with my friends

Name: Kata Bleyer
Age: 24
Occupation: I've got a degree in economics and marketing from the College of Foreign Trade in Budapest and I work as a brand manager
What are your hobbies and interests? I like to party a lot in my free time. It's quite important for me to do sports, too. I ride my bike everywhere in summer and I go snowboarding with my friends, in winter. It's awesome
What sports do you do? I go to the gym three times a week
What's the most extravagant thing you've ever done? I went to live near Seattle in the USA for a year. It was a big experience for me. I've also worked a local television company in Soria, Spain

Name: Katalin Radvanyi
Age: 28
Occupation: I work in England as a design consultant for a property developer
What are your hobbies and interests? I love travel, seeing new countries and cultures
Have you been to a big sporting event like this before? I lived in Monaco for two years. That's where I fell in love with Formula One. The grand prix is really exhilarating because you are so close to the action. The engine noise is unique, too
What sports do you do? I like to keep fit, go to the gym, play squash and cycle
Do you have any pets? I'm fond of animals... perhaps that's why my mum called me Kat ➜

FORMULA UNA CONTINUED...

FORMULA UNA



Lili Papp



Márta Mészáros



Eniko Kormos



Edina Deák



Kata Bleyer



Katalin Radvanyi



Livia Kozák



Adrienn Makai



Csilla Balkanyi



Ingrid Illés

➜ Name: Livia Kozák
Age: 20
Occupation: I'm a student at the Apáczai Csere János College of Education
What are your hobbies and interests? Travelling, motorsport and dancing. My other hobbies are meeting my friends, we usually go out dancing or we just have a chat. I am a happy girl!
Have you ever been to a big sporting event like this before? I've been going to the Hungarian GP since I was 11. I love it
What sports do you do? Basketball, athletics and rallying. I've always been good at sports
What's the most extravagant thing you've ever done? Becoming a rally co-driver
What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given? Smile, because things in life go easier if you keep smiling

Name: Adrienn Makai
Age: 19
Occupation: I've just finished my exams in hotel business, tourism, geographical tourism, culture of targeted countries and marketing and I'm doing a tourist guide exam next month. I hope to work as a tourist guide at weekends
What are your hobbies and interests? I adore listening music, dancing, lying on the beach. I'm also learning Spanish
Do you have any pets? I have a really sweet dog called Snoopy
If you could have any job in the world, what would it be? I really like travelling, if I could, I'd be on holiday all the time
What sports do you do? Horse-riding in summer and in winter my friends and I go skiing. Two years ago, I started to learn snowboarding and I really enjoy it
What's your dream holiday destination? I'm very interested in other nation's cultures and origin. I like the Arabian countries because they have preserved so much of their ancient culture

Name: Csilla Balkanyi
Age: 21
Occupation: I'm a student at Szent Istvan University and when I finish my studies I want to work in the health and leisure industry
What are your hobbies and interests? Keeping fit and healthy. I'm a model in my spare time
Have you ever been to a big sporting event like this before? I entered the Miss Balaton contest and won the audience trophy. I enjoy the atmosphere and like being on stage
What sports do you do? I love sport. I go jogging, swimming, riding and cycling. I like extreme sports as well
Describe your character in three words: Happy, extrovert and chatty

Name: Ingrid Illés
Age: 20
Occupation: Sales assistant but I would like to go to university to study economics
What are your hobbies and interests? I love having fun and going out with my friends and travelling
What is your worst habit? I have a huge problem... I'm addicted to shoes
What sports do you enjoy? I like playing handball and watching car racing
What is the best place you have ever visited? I love Italy and Italian people. I'm planning to live there for a few years in the future
Who is your favourite writer? Agatha Christie
If you could have any job in the world, what would it be? I'd like to work as a sales manager because I like to deal with people
Describe your character in three words: I am unique!

REVOLUTION!

WHY F1 WOULD BE BETTER UNDER COMMUNISM

1 When teams disappear from the paddock in the middle of the night, it causes uproar: under a totalitarian regime, everybody would pretend nothing had happened.

2 A common ECU and wiring harness would be developed by stripping army surplus T-80 main battle tanks.

3 A new Concord Agreement would specify that the only engine to be used in the Formula One World Championship would be the 0.6 litre, two-cylinder, two-stroke.

4 Bernie wouldn't have to waste so much of his time trying to keep everyone happy. After the first few team principals were shot, everyone else would fall into line.

5 The press would take an official press release, say thank you and print exactly what was said in the press release…

6 …anyone not obeying would be sent away for re-education.

7 Sponsors would be reviled as decadent capitalist pigs and told to sit down, shut up, and stop bothering the people with work to do.

8 Getting your kit washed and ironed would be easier with everyone wearing the same thing and getting it from a central warehouse.

9 The paddock club would become a workers' collective

10 Pitstop strategy would become more interesting with cars made to queue up for fuel just like everyone else.

11 CAM security's attempts to stop you getting to work would be backed up with AK47s.

12 Speeding in the pitlane would be discouraged by the threat of a year breaking rocks in Siberia.

13 Hermann Tilke would be let off the leash, and told to use as much space and concrete as he damn well pleased. A style of architecture known as 'Albert Speer meets Ludwig the Mad' would develop.

14 NASCAR would be portrayed as the enemy. Anyone defecting to NASCAR would be labelled a traitor, his assets confiscated and his family thrown in a gulag.

15 Enormous statues of winning drivers would be carved from granite. They would all look a bit like David Coulthard.

16 Charlie and Herbie could add a cattle-prod and a set of electrodes to their scrutineering equipment and demand much less ambiguous answers.

17 The rules would ensure that everyone was equal, but the Supreme Soviet would ensure some were more equal than the others.

18 The various kitchens in the paddock would be centralised into one giant refectory, which would serve a choice of porridge or cabbage soup.

19 All of the cities hosting a race would be required to allocate the centre lane of all roads for use exclusively by people with a paddock pass.

20 Max wouldn't have any serious opposition when he seeks re-election (ah, hmm…)

10 THINGS THAT MAKE MARK... AUSTRALIAN

You can take the boy out of Australia and put him in any colour race suit next year, but Mark Webber will always be green and gold underneath.



1 SNAKES AND SPIDERS
Like any Aussie, they don't bother me. When I see some of the fuss people make over here because some teeny-weeny little fly is bothering them, jeez, I mean you'd think a wag-tailed eagle was trying to rip their head off.

2 VEGEMITE... and I don't just mean having it in the cupboard to look at, you've got to really eat the stuff. I grew up with it, I guess. It was always in mum's trolley.



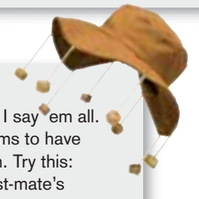
3 THONGS
Never happier than when I'm in my thongs, mate. Thongs and boardies. I mean, why does everyone else call them flip-flops? They're 'thongy' and they look like a G-string around your toe, so of course they're thongs.

4 OPEN HOUSE
Always. To anyone. We're a pretty hospitable bunch and even though I've been in England for a long time now, I like to keep that little tradition going. I was out on my bike a few years ago and I rode past a German couple who were touring on their bikes and had hit some major mechanical trouble. They didn't know where to get the bikes fixed, it was dark and rainy and they couldn't see where to pitch their tent, so I got them to follow me home and they pitched up in the garden. We sorted them out with tea and biccies, no problem.





5 FIG-JAM
Aw, mate, I just hate this. We have a phrase in Oz: "Fuck I'm good, just ask me". There are plenty of those types around – especially in F1! I can't bear all the hype and the bullshit. That gets knocked right out of you in Oz. You know the phrase, "Cut down the tall poppies"? That still applies. I've got a few mates at home who are worth a couple of hundred mill and they're just happy to sit around in their thongs, shades and boardies.



6 TALK TALK
"Strewth, crikey"… yeah I say 'em all. "Driving me ring off" seems to have made a few people laugh. Try this: "Yeah, mate, he's my best-mate's mate, mate." Makes perfect sense.

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES, SUTTON IMAGES, REUTERS, CATHERINE SHAW

7 DRINKING
Where I'm from, being straight, loyal and to the point are important qualities. But it also means things can get pretty direct sometimes. If you go drinking in some of the bars in Queanbeyan, the town I'm from… well, it's not like going for a cosy Sunday lunch in England. They're like working men's drinking clubs and if there are disagreements, they get sorted out the old-fashioned way – outside, fists flying.



8 LONG-HAUL
When you're Australian, six hours is a short flight, mate.



9 BIG SURF
And I'm not scared of it. Anything up to 15 feet is just fine, although, er, I don't actually surf! Queanbeyan, is in the bush, so I didn't get to go to the beach too much when I was little.



10 SPORT
If you're an Aussie you have to be able to play any sport. It doesn't necessarily mean you have to be any good, but you have to be able to take part. Sport's a big thing for any Aussie. There's very little else that goes on telly at home apart from sport. I don't have time for reality TV or soap operas. Not even Neighbours. And I'll support any Australian team in any sport. The women's hockey was on the other day and I really got into it, cheering the girls on.

E-MAIL TO...

Famed internationalists Williams have engaged in another long-distance relationship with filthy-rich Toyota. It could herald a new era of detente. Or not.

Saturday, August 5, 2006

Send Chat Attach Address Fonts Colors Save As Draft

Subject: New Engines
From: sam.michael@vegemiteracing.com
To: john.howett@cashisking.com
Signature: None

Dear John
Thanks for the engines, I must say that me and the boys look forward to a full and open partnership of equals which advances the knowledge of both our teams. Just a couple of minor items on the snag-list to clear up.
The schematics are very useful, thank you, though some of the material specifications seem to be a little... extravagant. For example, is it strictly necessary to have the block milled out of solid platinum? I know it must be difficult finding creative ways to spend all that money you've been given, but could we maybe get away with aluminium and some shiny paint instead? Also, while the procedure for having Lucien Freud paint the Toyota logo on the cylinder head in uranium enriched gold-dust doesn't apply to us, I'm slightly unsure about the benefits of having each unit individually blessed by the Dalai Lama and shipped in a black-rhino ivory packing case (though we think the ceremony of having flower girls preceding the fork-lift scattering rose petal on the floor is a nice touch.)

Regards
Sam

Saturday, August 5, 2006

Send Chat Attach Address Fonts Colors Save As Draft

Subject: Re: New Engines
From: john.howett@cashisking.com
To: sam.michael@vegemiteracing.com
None

Dear Sam
I too hope that an atmosphere of mutually beneficial excellence blossoms between our respective staff. Thank you for your e-mail. I think I can shed some light on your concerns.
Ooh! Mr Can't-build-his-own-engine has got the hump! BMW dumped you because you're all thick and you smell.

Regards
John

Signature: None

Dear John
Thank you for your e-mail, I think it has clarified the position very well, though as we've now received the two demo units, everything makes a lot more sense. Just a couple of quibbles though. Firstly, I know that these are just the test versions, they're a bit, um... heavy. We installed one into the car last night and it dropped through the bottom of the chassis and left an engine-shaped hole in the floor. It's landed in the canteen and we're using it as a table until we can rig up some sort of a super-reinforced block and tackle. Also, when we had it on the dyno, it only managed 550bhp – is this some sort of emergency limp-home mode?
The other one looks a little rough – are you quite sure we've got the right evolution? One end of the block has a highly unusual finish that our time-of-flight mass spectrographic analysis has classified as 'hacksaw and chisel debris'. The head has some unusual markings which look a lot like they say 'Allan & Mika woz 'ere', leading some people in our powertrain department to suspect that what we might have accidentally been sent is four-fifths of an old V10. Also, our engineers have noticed a dark brown viscous liquid seeping out of the cylinders. Gas chromatography has suggested this might be sugar.
Any advice would be most welcome.

Regards
Sam

Signature: None

Dear Sam
Thanks for the note, I'm sure it's just teething trouble. I've checked out the situation and can confidently say... Oh yes, make fun of our stuff Mr Billy-no-points. Why don't you go and talk to Renault or Honda – oh no, you can't, they dumped you before BMW did. Why don't you hang around for Mechachrome, oh no, they dumped you as well. No-one likes you, even Cosworth only pretend to be your friends and are talking to Midland behind your back.

John
PS Best wishes for a successful season.

TyreCoversBy LouisVuitton.com
MoneytoBurn.com
GoldStandard.com

LIFE & TIMES



CATHY FRANCIS
Vodafone chef Cathy comes from Zimbabwe, where she grew up on a tobacco farm. Learning how to fricassee springbok and boil the perfect egg, Cathy studied cuisine in Cape Town and spent a year working on a game reserve before she opted to ditch the great outdoors for the far fiercer wildlife of F1.



DIDIER COTON
Monaco resident Coton runs Aces Management and looks after the careers of Mika Hakkinen, Nicolas Lapierre, James Rossiter, Alex Wurz and Olivier Panis, who he co-manages with his old friend Keke Rosberg. He's originally from Belgium and started out in sales and marketing in the IT sector. His proudest moments were seeing Mika win his first championship, and Lapierre's win in Macau in 2003.



BOR DOBRIN
Slovenian photographer Bor studied architecture before picking up a camera and shooting sports. He also has a job that every snapper would saw their limbs off for: taking pictures for Playboy. "Working for Playboy is a bit like F1. It's fun and there are some unspoken benefits, but it's mostly hard work and not as glamorous as it looks," he says. Yeah right.

PHOTOS: CRISPIN THRUSTON, MARK THOMPSON/GETTY IMAGES



JIM DUFFY:43
HONDA TEST TRUCKIE
COUNCIL DUSTMAN

"I WAS A DUSTMAN for 12 years and was responsible for carting 40 tonnes of rubbish a day around Northampton, England. You're basically dealing with shit all day long, but it was actually an alright job and I was happy doing it.

"I WAS THE DRIVER, so I didn't have to get my hands dirty very often. It's the cleanest part of the job, and I really enjoy driving heavy-goods vehicles and have done for 20 years – carrying everything from worthless waste to million-dollar race cars.

"WORKING IN REFUSE WAS dull most of the time, but sometimes we'd be chased down the road by people in their pyjamas who'd suddenly realised they'd thrown out their wage cheques. One time a young lady came running out of her house in just her nightgown, jumped over her rose bushes and screamed at us to stop the crusher. She'd accidentally thrown out £10,000 cash! But once it goes into the crusher, that's it: gone. And putting that much money in a bin bag is just plain careless.

"THE BEST THING ABOUT working for the council was the security, and having a stable job was of paramount importance to me when I had a wife and family to support. But I separated from my missus, and as a free man I felt the world was my oyster. My brother-in-law is Getty F1 photographer Mark Thompson. He encouraged me to try out for a Formula 1 truckie job, saying it would be fun. So Mark had a chat with Paul Edwards and soon I was looking after the hospitality trucks for Toyota and then Honda, before going in-house.

"I WOULD DRIVE TO THE European races, set the motorhome up and oversee security at the back of the garages. Then I moved across to the test team and am mostly concerned with tyres these days. Because of the EU law that lorry drivers aren't allowed to work more than about 48 hours a week, I have to fly out to the circuits now and agency drivers take over delivery. I quite miss this aspect of the job. And I love the travel, which can be very exciting, but I was away too much to manage my son's under-11 football team, like I used to.

"COMING INTO F1 AND getting given a state-of-the-art truck was a real culture shock, having come from driving bin lorries. Presentation has to be perfect, and that wasn't always a high priority when we were out doing the refuse job. But the get-in and get-out mentality has some parallels and there were many other similarities. Whether you're emptying bins or keeping an F1 team on the road, either way you have to put up with a lot of shit."



Jim drove a dustcart in Northampton for 12 years



AAH-AHA-HA-AHAHAAA!

HUNGARY FOR SUCCESS

Some you'll know, some you may not, but Hungary has produced some truly talented individuals. Who's the greatest? You decide…

HARRY HOUDINI (1874-1926)

Think David Blaine, think David Copperfield, then think of someone good. Harry Houdini was probably the greatest magician of all time. Born Ehrich Weiss in Budapest, he was performing as a trapeze artist aged nine. A keen student of magic, Houdini's flare for the dramatic made him a hit with European and American audiences as he performed apparently impossible escapes, such as being suspended upside-down and bound in chains in the Chinese water-torture chamber. When not performing his daring stunts, he used to expose fake spiritualists and mediums, a pastime he continued even in death – in his will, he promised to contact his wife from the afterlife, if it was possible. He never got in touch.
In his own words: "No performer should attempt to bite off red-hot iron unless he has a good set of teeth."

BELA LUGOSI (1882-1956)

Forget Christopher Lee or Gary Oldman, the definitive portrayal of Dracula was by this former cavalry officer. Lugosi first played Bram Stoker's vampire nobleman on Broadway and then in the 1931 film. Unfortunately, his work was so good – and his accent so strong – that he became typecast and never really escaped the role. Eventually, he became addicted to morphine and his health declined. Late in life, his biggest fan, Edward Wood, cast him in several films, including the cross-dressing melodrama Glen or Glenda and the bizarre Bride of the Monster. Fittingly, Lugosi's last film was made when he was dead, the truly appalling Plan 9 From Outer Space. Lugosi and Wood's relationship will live on forever in the film Ed Wood.
In his own words: "No thank you, I never drink… wine." (Dracula)

FERENC PUSKAS (BORN 1927)

One of the greatest footballers of all time, Puskas was the talisman of the Magnificent Magyars, who became the first overseas team to beat England at home, won Olympic Gold and fell just short of World Cup triumph in 1954. In 1956, he defected to the West but found himself without a home or a club. Depressed, the dumpy player started gaining weight and was written off at age 30. But when Emil Oestreicher, his former coach at Honved, brought him to Real Madrid, he struck up a partnership with Argentine Alfredo Di Stefano, which had its greatest expression in the 7-3 defeat of Eintracht Frankfurt, which brought Real their fifth European Cup as Puskas became the only man to score four times in a European Cup final.
In their own words: "Look at that little fat chap. We'll murder this lot." (unnamed England player shortly before England's 6-3 loss to Hungary)



TIME FOR A QUICK BITE

ZSA ZSA GABOR (BORN 1917)

Before Paris Hilton, before Joan Collins, before Liz Taylor, there was Zsa Zsa. As witty and beguiling as she was beautiful, this blonde bombshell left a trail of men reeling in her ample wake (Paris's great-grandfather, Conrad, was hubbie number two). Another ex-husband, Jack Ryan, invented the Barbie Doll, possibly as a tribute. Zsa Zsa started young, claiming Turkish national hero Kemal Atatürk as her first conquest at age 15. She became Miss Hungary in 1936 and married a wealthy Hungarian civil servant. Nine marriages made her a multi-millionaire. Hardly a great actress, Zsa Zsa lived on her wits, particularly as a guest on chat shows, delighting audiences with her outrageous gossip, one-liners and 'dahlink' catchphrase.
In her own words: "I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back."

TONY CURTIS (BORN 1925)

He was born in the Bronx to Hungarian parents but you can stretch a point when it comes to the one-time Bernie Schwartz. He's the first in our top 10 to feature on the cover of Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. He's also a considerably better actor than most gave him credit for: he had a great touch for comedy seen best in Some Like It Hot, he was chilling and pathetic as The Boston Strangler and then there was Spartacus. Not unlike Zsa Zsa, beyond his physical attraction, a lot of his charm lies in the fact that he doesn't take himself too seriously.
In his own words: "I wouldn't be seen dead with a woman old enough to be my wife." (attributed)

FABULOUS FINNS

As the Finns regard Hungary as the closest thing to a home race, here are 10 famous sons and daughters of Finlandia:

1 **Jean Sibelius** musical genius
2 **Linus Torvalds** computing genius
3 **Jari Litmanen** footballing genius
4 **Alvar Aalto** architectural genius
5 **Aki Kaurismäki** good film-maker
6 **Renny Harlin** not-so-good film-maker
7 **Lordi** monster hits at Eurovision
8 **Marcus Grönholm** rally driver
9 **Jarkko Nieminen** tennis player
10 **Maila Nurmi** AKA Vampira



LÁSZLÓ BÍRÓ (1899-1985)

The inventor of the disposable pen that still bears his name, László Ball-Pointpen was a man of many talents. He was a journalist, magazine publisher, sculptor, and painter before he came up with his great invention. When Bíró was working in publishing he noticed newsprint ink dried much faster than ink from a fountain pen. Working with his brother Georg, a chemist, he came up with a design for a disposable pen. The invention was a hit and with his profits, Bíró bought a Bugatti, which inspired him to come up with the first reliable design for an automatic gearbox. Presumably, the schematic was drawn up with a Bic.
In his own words: ""Why can I never find a bloody pen when I need one?"

JOE ESZTERHAS (BORN 1944)

Who? Only one of Hollywood's most highly-paid screenwriters, that's who. Hard-living, foul-mouthed and controversial Eszterhas wrote such exploitation epics as Basic Instinct, Sliver and Showgirls. Born in Csakanydoroszlo, he moved to the US as a boy and turned his talents to writing, moving to Rolling Stone. The Sylvester Stallone movie F.I.S.T. made his name but his true talent lay in thrillers, from the classy Jagged Edge to the truly crap Basic Instinct 2. After his scripts for Jade and Showgirls were nominated for Worst Screenplay at the Razzie Awards, the category was renamed the Eszterhas Dis-Honorarial Worst Screenplay Award.
In his own words: "My characters smoke… and they look cool and glamorous doing it."

ERNÖ RUBIK (BORN 1944)

Born in Budapest, his mother was a poet, his father an aviation engineer. That mix of arts and science led Rubik to study sculpture, architecture and design. In 1974, 29-year-old Rubik satisfied his life's ambition – to come up with a way to bring the entire world to a standstill. The Rubik's Cube became one of the best-selling toys in history and made Rubik the first self-made millionaire from the communist block. Today, he runs a foundation to help promising inventors in Hungary.
In his own words: "After a while I decided to put the cubes back in order. And it was at that moment that I came face to face with the big challenge."

PETER LORRE (1904-1964)

A student of Sigmund Freud, no less, no-one could play sinister as well as the scene-stealing Lorre and no-one could elicit as much sympathy doing it as the legendary actor. Charlie Chaplin called him the greatest actor alive. His most important role was in Fritz Lang's M, in which he played a child murderer and yet still shows himself to be a victim of society – quite literally – as he is hunted down by a mob.
In his own words: "You despise me, don't you?" (Casablanca)

JOHNNY WEISSMULLER (1904-1984)

Arguably the greatest Olympic swimmer of all time and a Sgt Pepper cover model, Janos Weiszmuller was born near Temesvar in the Banat region of Hungary and emigrated to the USA with his family when he was three. He was a supreme athlete and set 28 world records in the pool at the 1924 and 1928 Olympics. Then Hollywood came calling and Weissmuller landed the role of Tarzan, playing the Lord of the Jungle in 12 films from 1932 to 1948. While golfing in Cuba, he was surrounded by gunmen, so he let out his famous Tarzan cry and the revolutionaries put down their weapons and asked for his autograph.
In his own words: "Aah-aha-ha-ahahaaa!"



MEEOW, DAHLINK

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES, RETINA

HUNGARIAN PHRASES YOU NEED TO KNOW

Confused by the local language? Don't worry, you're not alone. Use our handy guide to get yourself out of trouble.

Yes, I agree that Budapest is a beautiful city, but I would prefer my taxi to take the most direct route to the Hungaroring and this seems like the road to Austria.
Igen, egyetertek - szép város ez a Budapest, és igazán örülnék, ha nem Ausztrián keresztül vinne ki a Hungaroringre.

Can I have a premium bottled beer please? The local stuff is very nice, but makes me ill.
Kérhetek egy min ségi üveges sört ? A helyi s r is jó, csak beteg leszek t le.

Can you help me find my way back to that square with all the really big statues?
Meg tudja mondani, hogy hogy találom azt a teret, ahol azok a nagy szobrok vannak ?

Vastly inflate the prices all you want – I'm from Finland and this is still the cheapest beer I'll have all season.
Mondjon nyugodtan bármilyen magas árat - Finnországból jövök és ez még így is a szezon legolcsóbb söre.

That seems rather a lot of money for a lap dance, can we negotiate?
Ez elég sok egy sztriptízre. Nem beszélhetnénk meg a dolgot ?

No officer, I'm perfectly sober. Weaving down the centre of the road is a traditional folk dance in my country.
Nem, biztos úr ! Teljesen józan vagyok. Ahonnan én jövök, ott az út közepén való integetés egy nemzeti tánc.

Could I have a little less paprika than last night, the swelling hasn't gone down yet.
Kérhetem egy kicsivel kevesebb paprikával, mint tegnap ? Még most is érzem a tegnapi hatását.

Yes, I know there wasn't any overtaking, but I don't think they'll let you have your money back.
Igen, tudom, hogy nem volt el zés, de sajnos nem tudom visszaadni a pénzét.



ONE. BILLION. DOLLARS!

One of the more enjoyable stories during silly-season was the rumour that BMW were offering Michael Schumacher a deal worth, with endorsements, a cool one billion dollars. Commentators assume this was a desperate ploy from BMW to deflect attention away from build-quality issues being experienced by its orbiting Death Star and moonbase projects.

PHOTO: SUTTON IMAGES, GETTY IMAGES