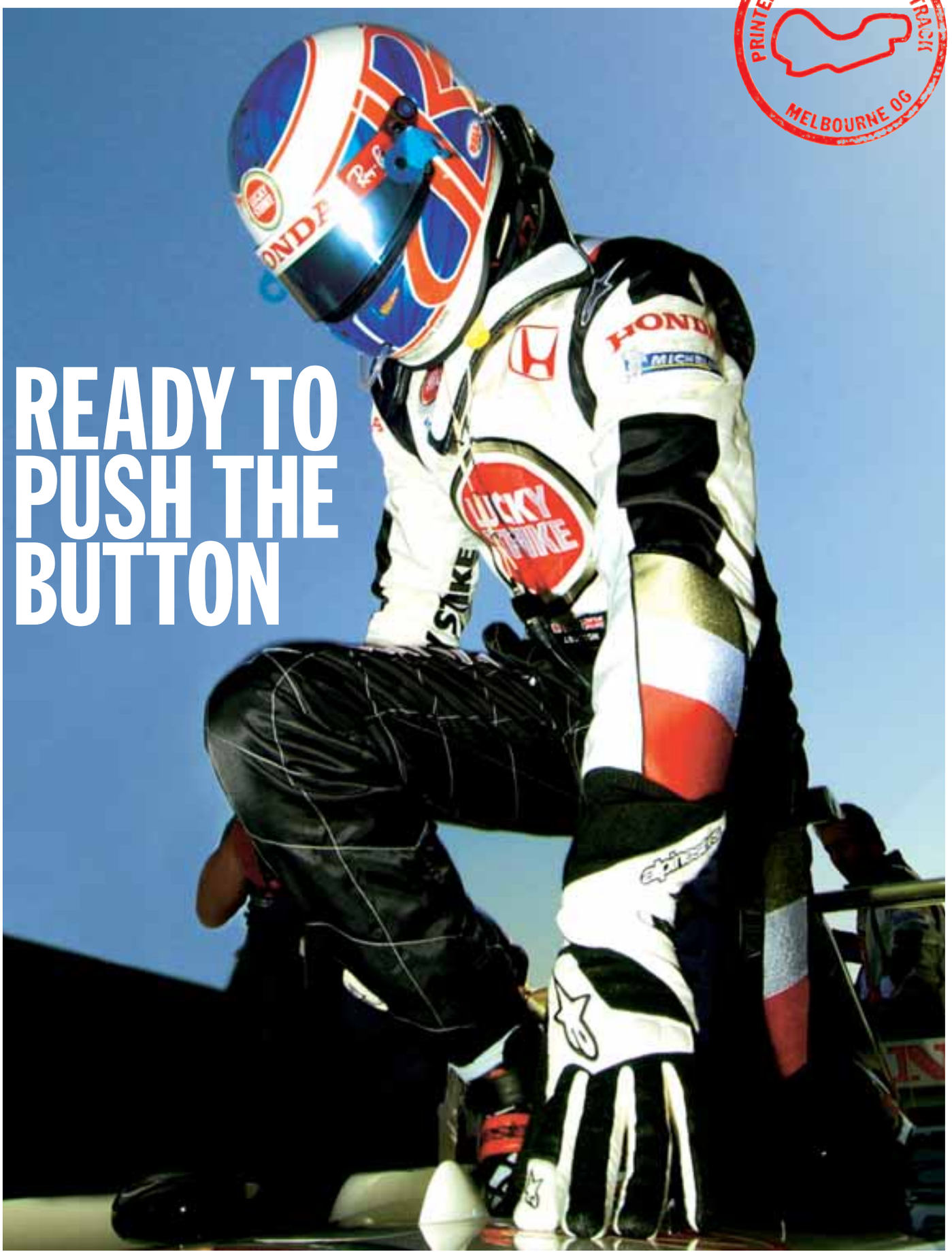
THE RED BULLETIN

ISSUE 65, GP AUSTRALIA, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2006

AN ALMOST INDEPENDENT F1 NEWSPAPER

PRINTED HERE AT THE RACETRACK
MELBOURNE 06

READY TO PUSH THE BUTTON



ROLLING STONES



ROLLING STONES FEVER is already beginning to rage in Melbourne despite the arrival of the Bigger Bang tour still being 12 days away. We've nominated our own Stones favourites in our flannel panel, but to get a casting vote we had a chat with Keef's daughter Theodora Richards, who is roaming the paddock today. She gave us her top five:

1 19th Nervous Breakdown
2 Under My Thumb
3 She's A Rainbow
4 Play With Fire
5 Spider And The Fly

THE RED BULLETIN
AN ALMOST INDEPENDENT F1 NEWSPAPER

Your 'roos in the Paddock...
and our favourite Rolling Stones numbers
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SUPER AGURI



RESPECT IS DUE TO SUPER AGURI. Bearing in mind the team's late arrival and their chassis from yesteryear, their performance has been worthy. We love supporting underdogs and were thrilled to hear of the history of one of Aguri's ex-Arrows cars, which is racing today. Back in January it was in Melbourne working as a show car parked outside an airport burger joint and bore the sticky paw prints of many bun-wielding children. Today, it's back where it belongs… on the grid.

BMW

ALBERT PARK PLAYED HOST to an experiment on Friday afternoon intended to demonstrate the awesome speed of a Formula One car relative to a road car. But it didn't quite go according to plan… or did it? Despite a 69-second handicap over the BMW 120i, it was expected that the BMW-Sauber F1 car would beat the 1-series, driven by David Brabham, to the flag. But it failed. In a PR coup for the manufacturer, the family hatchback managed to exceed expectations.



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, SUTTON IMAGES, BMW AG

RENAULT



MANY PEOPLE RETURN from exotic holidays with painted coconuts, but Renault have gone a step further by inviting an Aboriginal artist to decorate some helmets for them. Gary Donnelly has been working in the paddock all weekend to provide Fisi and Fernando with an eye-catching souvenir of their trip down under. On current form, no doubt the duo each leave a trophy-sized space in their Lancel luggage but if they do get on the podium today how on earth will they have room to take their Aussie art home?

CLUB 500
ALAN HENRY

I suppose I should apologise that my three Australian GP vignettes this weekend have all centred around the consumption of copious snifters, as the late Denis Thatcher would have put it, but I put that down largely to the bad influence of my longtime pal, the compact, if not exactly dapper, Eric Silbermann. Eric – the paddock's equivalent of the late Jewish actor Zero Mostel – has in his time been a man of many talents, most notably as an informal maitre d' for our friends at Honda back in the days when their engines were shoehorned into a variety of McLarens driven by Ayrton Senna. Eric's well-polished response to any technical inquiry was usually the welcoming "lunch, old boy?" to the point where at the 1992 Australian GP, the Honda pavilion behind the pits carried the sign 'Eric's Diner' rather than the more formal Honda Marlboro McLaren title.

This is Alan Henry's 519th grand prix since covering his first race, the 1973 British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

PACESETTER



AUSTRALIANS ARE VIEWED by the rest of the world as no-nonsense types, and the same goes for their cuisine. So we were a little confused when we went out for dinner the other night. Looking for some shrimps or a wallaby burger, we visited Circa, a restaurant in St Kilda. The waitress asked if we'd like a translator with the menu, and boy did we need one. What are yabbies, Gewürztraminer jelly and pistachio clafoutis? But the best was the dessert we had: Circa Snickers.

FOUR COMMENTARIES

A SHOT IN THE PARK

1 GUNNING FOR THE GP
BY NORMAN HOWELL

Yesterday's The Age newspaper ran an article in its sports pages titled 'Take the grand prix Mr Ecclestone, please'. The writer took his sawn-off and fired a shot at various targets: Formula One's supreme impresario, rules changes, processional racing and the sport's dependence on the devil's own weed. He also wanted: "Our park back, and our peace of mind."

Fair dinkum, Bernie can be a little scattergun himself, the rules and regulations are a little cerebral, yes one car is usually in front of another, and, yes again, tobacco money does fuel some of the teams.

What he is wrong is about the park. The tens of thousands who walk, sit, cheer, strut, pose, buy, sell, eat, drink, hunt autographs and work over the four day grand prix weekend very much have their park. Melburnians enjoy days out in Albert Park, as they always do, whether it's kicking a ball, chilling out or watching motor racing.

Peace of mind? Well that's obviously something between them and their own Dalai Lama.

The scribe from The Age has an easy style and a way with laconic vernacular. It's a good read but, behind the carefully-crafted 'Strine' he falls, like so many others before him, into the usual trap of criticising Formula One for its superficial image – which we agree can be a tad off-putting – and fails to see what the circus brings to town.

'The writer criticises Formula One but fails to see what the circus brings to town: money'

In a word: money. It seems that the Commonwealth Games did not overly impress my taxi driver in from the airport: naughty Toyota had provided zillions of vehicles and cabs stood idle: "But the F1 is back and it'll be a good weekend for us." In another article, The Age also reports lap-dancing clubs hanging 'Welcome F1' banners outside their establishments, and I know for a fact that the F1 community likes a tipple and a good meal and are quite happy to pay top dollar for the experience.

The corporate guests are also well looked after, which means that the local catering, transport and security companies do a good trade. At Friday's Grand Prix bash at the Casino, where Melbourne's good and great were gathered to quaff, preen and network, we were treated to a charming fashion show by the students from the prestigious RMIT university, and then lots more dosh was raised for a breast cancer charity.

All this, subject to national variations, is repeated wherever F1 takes over your eardrums, in 17 different places: everyone benefits as it galvanises the local business community, fires up the media, and generally gives a shot of energy to the host venue.

If you're lucky, you also get to see a little racing, and if you're really lucky, and you Melburnians at the F1 bash were so lucky, you even get to show off your '70s disco moves while being sung to by Leo Sayer.

Now is that good, or what?

2 PIT BITCH
BY HELEN PARADYCE

Jules et Jim, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Les Bicyclettes de Belsize; call me an old romantic, but there's something about getting my leg over a crossbar and sitting on my skirt so it doesn't get caught up in the back wheel which makes the idea of an early morning bike ride through the seven-in-the-morning, deserted streets of St Kilda seem almost idyllic. I set off yesterday morning in a swirl of silk and ankles.

But they say that God is in the detail and the little detail that God had in mind for me was to bring on a humungous storm when I was five minutes out from the hotel and therefore too far down the road to turn around. I sheltered in an underground car park for the few minutes it took the storm to pass, but by then the damage was done and I looked like Gene Simmons. Not the sophisticated '50s actress, you understand, but the bass guitarist from the heavy metal band Kiss.

My panda eyes were so convincing I could have got a bed in the Peking Zoo, plus I also had a perfect black skunk tail running up my skirt and top thanks to the lack of a mudguard on my mountain bike. This was not going to be my day for chatting up a hunky F1 driver. A generous Foster's girl did offer to lend me her spare uniform, but gone are the days when I could fit into a size eight stretch Lycra mini-dress without looking like a badly-stuffed white sausage.

Someone who probably would look all right in a Lycra mini-dress is Ferrari press lady Stefania. Always smiling, always helpful, on Friday I caught a rare glimpse of her losing her cool. Those two very strange men wearing flying helmets and kangaroo costumes (featured on page 8) bounced up outside the Ferrari garage. On hearing Stefania, one of them – obviously Australia's minister for culture and education in his spare time – said: "What's that you're speaking? Dutch?" Dressed from head to toe in Ferrari red, you can imagine that the lady was not best pleased as she pointed out her Italian nationality. But I, in turn, had to point out to her maybe it was time to quit F1, if after over a decade in the sport you find yourself trading insults with giant kangaroos.

I apologise if today's missive is slightly lighter than usual, but apart from typing this soaked through to the skin, I did not have a particularly successful dinner last night. I ended up eating in an overpriced restaurant in town which was evidently still living on its old reputation. I had a saddle of lamb which was all saddle and no lamb, a bread and butter pudding which tasted like a poultice for a yak and when my dinner partner said the wine was disgusting, I could only add: "My sediments exactly."

So we did the only thing one can do in this situation and headed for the sleazy bar across the road for several vodka tonics. But it's not just the hangover that's giving me trouble with today's word count, it's the fact that I can barely type as some clumsy idiot trod on my hand as I was leaving the bar.

F1 FUNNIES



ILLUSTRATIONS: KANNRATH, FEGGO



3 A red rag to Raikkonen

WE'RE IN, AND WE WANT TO STAY IN
BY GLENN McFARLANE

The promotional hook for this year's Australian Grand Prix makes an almost Kitchener-esque demand of sports-obsessed Melburnians: "It's on again. Are you in?" Despite a veritable smorgasbord of sport which has consumed this city over the past month, we're most definitely back in this year, and can't wait for the chequered flag to drop again.

Whether that will be the case again next year is a little less certain. If you listen to the words coming from Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone, you have to wonder whether the cacophony of cars will again make sweet music around Albert Park in 2007.

Ecclestone is edgy about the scheduled removal of the exemption from tobacco advertising law. Come October, federal health minister Tony Abbott will lose his power to exempt international sporting events from the Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act.

The most powerful man in Formula One says this could threaten the future of the Australian Grand Prix, despite the fact the Victorian state government believes it has a watertight agreement to stage the race until 2010.

Ecclestone has also suggested Melbourne could lose its advantage of being the first GP each season – sacrificed this year to allow the XVIIIth Commonwealth Games to go ahead in its usual time slot.

All this comes less than a week after this city's links with Formula One were showcased – albeit briefly alongside other international sporting events such as the Melbourne Cup and the Australian Open – in the unashamedly parochial closing ceremony of the Games.

It's hard to believe all this could all go up in a puff of smoke after 10 years.

Ron Walker, one of the men responsible for the success of the Commonwealth Games and for also luring the GP to Melbourne from Adelaide for 1996, is yet to discuss the issue with Ecclestone but said this week he was certain the race would stay at Albert Park. Walker is even more emphatic, saying the city has a five-year option beyond its current 2010 deal.

'It's hard to believe that the Melbourne Grand Prix could go up in a puff of smoke after 10 years'

Victorian premier Steve Bracks, too, has rejected speculation that we could lose our GP because of the looming tobacco sponsorship ban. Bracks says Australia is simply following the lead of a number of grand prix-hosting countries which have successfully banned tobacco companies from their events.

Ecclestone, Walker and Bracks surely know what is inked into the current contract.

Sadly, the punters who flock to Albert Park each year don't. What is certain is that they still want the race here, and they all want the uncertainty lifted.

Even Michael Schumacher, a four-time winner around the picturesque circuit, said this week he wanted to see this city remain a part of the GP fixture list. So why can't Bernie, Big Ron and Bracksy sit down for a chat and smoke the peace pipe?

Unlike certain parts of Europe, Melbourne has a very strong stance on smoking in public places and advertising. So, if we can't change the exemption, as seems to be the case, then we need to find some common ground and a way to keep the race as one of Melbourne's many major events.

Adelaide has never forgiven Melbourne for 'stealing' its Grand Prix a decade ago. The Croweaters, as Victorians not so affectionately call them, still harbour a gigantic grudge. Not even three AFL premierships won in the past nine years can sate their hard feelings.

One suspects there are many Melburnians who won't forgive either if we are forced to say goodbye to our GP.

Please say it ain't so, Bernie!

● Glenn McFarlane is sports editor of the Sunday Herald Sun newspaper based in Melbourne.

RACING LINES

If you needed proof that qualifying is much more of a spectacle this season, you only had to be here yesterday. With tyre changes, spin-offs and blocking it shook up the grid and Button rose to the top. Here are how the teams line up, together with a potential success rating for each team this afternoon.

SUPER AGURI



As expected, the Aguris are bringing up the rear. Made the headlines for the wrong reasons, with Ide spinning all over the circuit and clearly baulking Barrichello's Honda. Sato is four seconds off the pace, Ide a further four seconds back.

TORO ROSSO



Liuzzi is 13th in qualifying splitting the Red Bull seniors. With much of this circuit taken on full throttle, the sturdy Cosworth V10 may benefit. Toro Rosso might squeak into the top 10.

MIDLAND



Their cars haven't looked sprightly this weekend, and without something dramatic happening, don't look like causing much of a ripple in the race. Rain might change that, remember Monteiro's excellent point scored at a damp Spa last year?

BMW-SAUBER



Excellent form for the BMW-Saubers with the cars qualifying eighth and ninth, though Villeneuve's demotion for an engine change will hurt. Race reliability will be a factor, with two failures from four starts behind them.

RED BULL



Twelth and 14th in qualifying is neither here nor there. DC was phlegmatic, "At least we have more choice over strategy. You never quite know what to expect here with the changing weather."

HONDA



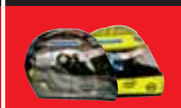
The Honda looked imperious in Button's hands, but without a competitive lap from Rubens it's difficult to judge where they are in terms of fuel vis-à-vis the other front runners. Barrichello starts 17 on a second-race engine. Not promising.

WILLIAMS



In front of a partisan crowd, Webber gave it everything in qualifying, but a good start from seventh will give him a chance of a podium finish. Rosberg who struggled to learn the circuit will need something a little more heroic.

TOYOTA



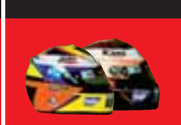
Early season horrors behind them, Toyota have regained their place at the front of the midfield. Sixth and 9th leaves them as the top Bridgestone runners and looking good for some points if they're not running on fumes.

FERRARI



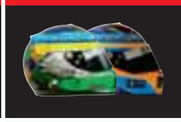
Massa's spin and Michael's self-inflicted rear wing damage leave them in the midfield. Oddly enough they're in better shape on the grid than they were in Malaysia where they managed to get both cars home in the points.

MCLAREN



On the one hand they've got Button and the Renaults in front, on the other there isn't much in it and the McLarens have been running longer than everyone else this season and so far they have been quicker than everyone on those long runs.

RENAULT



If anybody has a chance of scoring maximum points today, it's the blue and yellow Renaults. The Renaults have blitzed everybody off the line consistently and with only Button ahead, another one-two looks a possibility.

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



BENOIT BET



Having missed out on the final qualifying session by 0.004 of a second and facing the prospect of starting from 11th this afternoon, Michael could be forgiven for feeling he's been left out in the cold at a wet and windy Albert Park.

According to our tipsters panel, Michael won't have much to smile about today, either. Flavio Briatore says Schumi will finish in 9th and Niki Lauda reckons he'll bow out on the last lap. Dr Mario Theissen is the most optimistic so far, predicting a second sixth place on the trot for his countryman.

Michael will want to prove them all wrong and reach the podium for the 144th time, but history is not on his side. He's failed to finish six times Down Under, one of the worst blemishes on an otherwise unrivalled record.

Schumi, of course, may have had to settle for sixth place in Malaysia but two people who were laughing all the way to the bank were journalists Peter Lattmann from Switzerland and Luis Vasconcelos from Portugal. Both men start the week US $500 richer.

This week, the bet costs A$50. If you want to take part, see Roger in the media centre or the paddock up until 15 minutes before the race.

SEASON BET

Back in Bahrain we asked seven members of the paddock's elite for their predictions for the season. Two races in and here's how they stand. Remember the winner come the final round in Brazil gets to nominate the charity which will receive 1,000 euros courtesy of The Red Bulletin. As of this morning the league table went like this:

1 Pat Symonds
2 Robert Doornbos
3 Franck Montagny
4 Silvia Hoffer
5 Mike Gascoyne
6 Susie Forman
7 Hermann Tilke

COVER PICTURE: CRISPIN THRUSTON

PARK LIFE

They're mad for bizarre F1 promotions here in the Land Down Under. Which means strange looks from the drivers and easier lives for our caption writers.



Oh look, a cuddly Australian animal... with two kangaroos.



Alan had been waiting two weeks to speak to Sir Jackie but hadn't dared interrupt the great man.



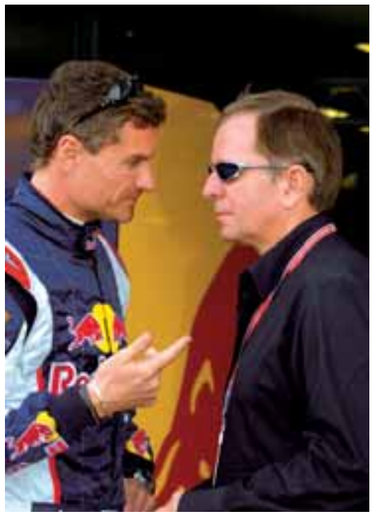
Tiago was the absolute master of the one-handed bra unhooking manoeuvre.



"I've been away from the paddock for 15 years and I can't believe you've still got the same haircut **Bernie.** Oh, err, hang on, wait a minute..."



"How the hell did THAT get in there?"



"It's all right Martin, I put your runny nose mess in **Albers'** handkerchief."

PHOTOS: CRISPIN THRUSTON, SUTTON IMAGES, MSPB/MELZER



The girls were really looking forward to finding out if this particular Scotsman was sticking to the tradition of wearing nothing under his kilt.



He might be world champion but patting his head and rubbing his stomach at the same time was just way too hard for Fernando.

QUICK CHANGE

Formula One can be cruel but it's got nothing on the fashion world. **Alex Bilmes**, features editor of GQ London, casts his critical eye over what's in style and what's the pits.



RED BULL
Seriously – where to start? With the slogan belts? The logo shorts? My goodness – this really is hard on the eyes. Navy blue, of course, is usually a safe bet, but this summer – as surely everyone must know by now – is all about vibrant colours, impressionist pastels and Miami Vice-style shading. Either that, or crisp white. Now, Red Bull might give you wings, but it sure doesn't give you style. Did I mention the slogan belts already?



RENAULT
Sacre bleu! How brave, how French, how Renault. Another season for turquoise then, and still with the canary yellow stripes. And what about those cute little '70s-style badges stitched to your chests? Seriously, what year is this? 1978? And there we were thinking that Benetton was a trendy clothing company.



MIDLAND
What do we call this colour? Blue-grey, grey-blue, bley, grue? Well, whatever you call it, it spells fashion disaster to me. What do you want from a Formula One team – speed, panache, daring, excitement? Do you honestly think that grue is a good colour to express that?

ILLUSTRATIONS: LUKE WILSON



FERRARI
What's so great about red that you have to wear it every season? Red's really not a colour for grown men to wear. Grown men wear navy, and white, and brown, maybe. Pink sometimes. Grey occasionally. Now and then black. But never red. You're Italian. You should know this. Anyway, what does red stand for? Stop. Not go. Stop. Hardly the impression a world-famous sports car brand wants to create, is it?

TOYOTA
This one is at the very cutting edge of fashion – if you're a third division Polish football team. I really hate this costume: it's pale grey, it's hospital white, it has that painfully self-conscious splash of red paint across the back. And don't even get me started on those horrible shoes. Whatever Toyota is paying its crew isn't nearly enough.





THE RED BULLETIN
This is a vast improvement on Red Bull – the single colour is much more grown-up and masculine – but this is still fairly uninspiring: is no-one in Formula One aware of the fact that this spring's colour is white? OK, so it might not work well with engine grease, but that's fashion, baby. Deal with it. Oh, and lose the baseball caps, will you? We're not in Florida any more.

BREAKFAST WITH...

MARK WEBBER



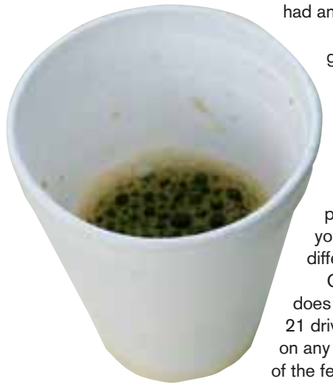
A natural athlete and a deep thinker, Webber's determination on the circuit is matched only by his drive to raise money for his charitable foundation in Australia. **Norman Howell** shared breakfast with him.

Mark Webber is thin. Well, not just thin, more elastic band thin. Springy, powerful, he sits in the Williams' team area at the Sepang circuit, staring down at a bowl of muesli, a glass of freshly-pressed orange juice and a small fruit salad. Ann, his companion, and his father Alan are also there, as are a couple of family friends. It's early in the morning and the air-con is blowing hard to ward off the sticky, damp heat which hangs heavily over the paddock. Ann tells me he prefers porridge which she cooks for him, but it's really too hot for the Highlander's magic food – Sir Jackie is also a devotee – and so it's the wimp's version: muesli. It seems Mark is also partial to a proper Anglo-Saxon breakfast, but not during the racing season. And I'm not supposed to tell.

Mark is an all-round action man, a sports nut and the only driver in the paddock, alongside Michael Schumacher, who looks as if he could have succeeded in a number of sports. "It's in the culture," he says, "when you're growing up, you're brought up to it. There are a lot of small country towns in Australia. There are many phenomenal sports people from small Australian country towns; like Don Bradman, who played cricket with a stump and a tennis ball."

He shakes his head at the absurdity of the image: a stump for a bat and a tennis ball. "It's what people did, a bit like the street kids playing football in Brazil. There wasn't all the rubbish there is around now, like PlayStation, which I enjoy playing by the way," he says, smiling. "Things like the internet are naturally distracting for kids these days. But when we were young, we just used to get home and the homework wouldn't get done. Instead, I did the things which were important to me, like riding my BMX and doing as much sport as I could manage. And your mates would do the same. We'd play Aussie Rules and rugby league. That was what it was like.

"Where I was from, over the border from Canberra, we were always the underdogs. That was phenomenal, it was what we liked. We went out to play the Canberra sides, the posh sides you might say, and we were out to flatten them. Which was quite hard at times as they had more depth of players than we had and they were tough, too."



He talks like this, machine gun-like, words firing out of him: honest, thoughtful answers, a bit unusual in professional sport but so refreshing. A small pause for a bite of mango, then: "So it's in the Australian sporting psyche to compete and it's in your make-up to try to make a difference."

Competing is something Mark does for a living, like the other 21 drivers who line up on the grid on any given Sunday, but he is one of the few who also does make a difference: with the Mark Webber Foundation

"It all started when I went to some hospitals at home in Australia, kids' hospitals. It was a mistake in a way to see some of the wards I went to. I didn't handle it that well. Talking to the parents was tougher than talking to the kids, because they know that the kids have big problems, while the kids are brave, even if they terminal."

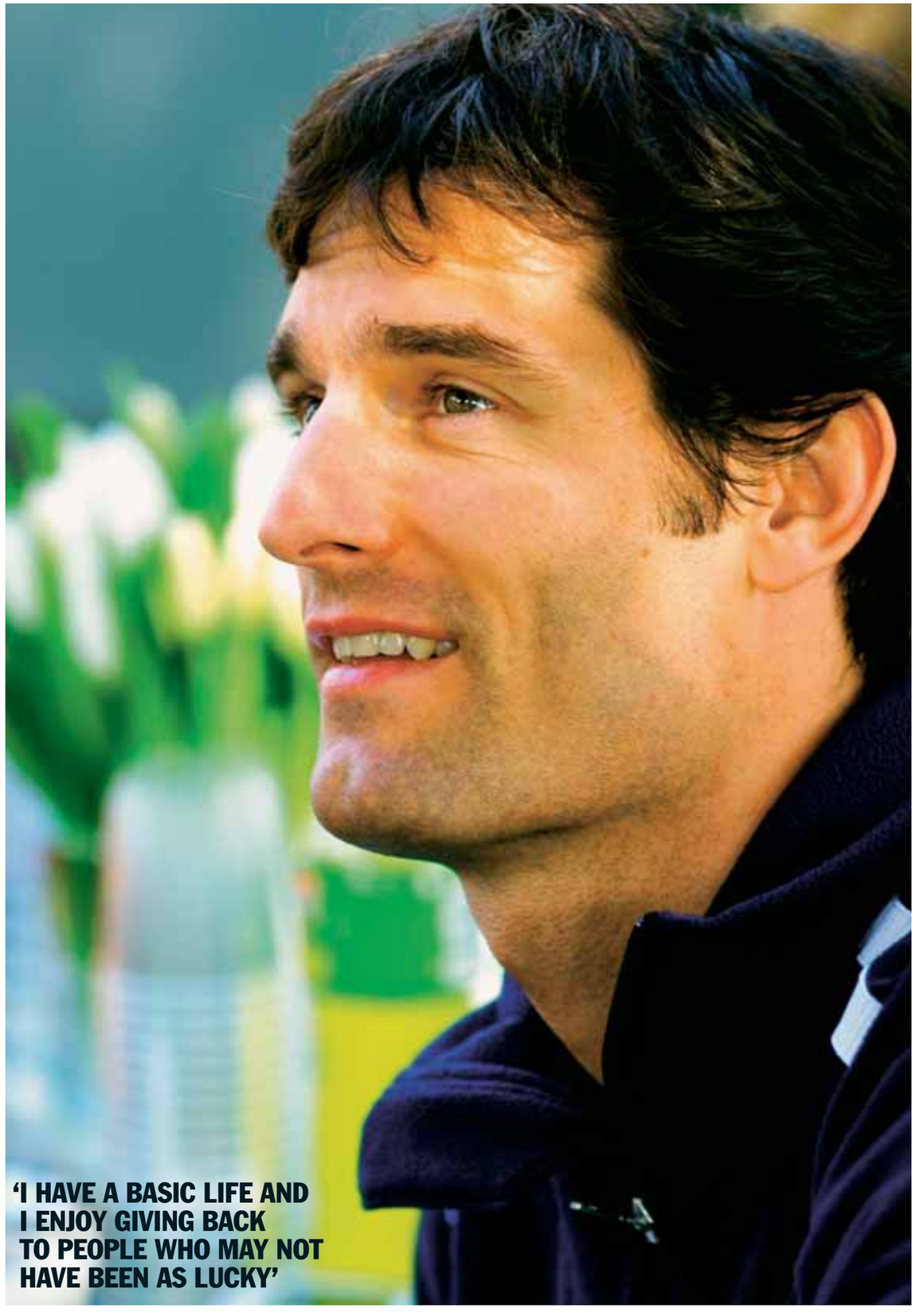
He stops, looks at his father, a 'solid-looking citizen' is how Damon Runyon would describe him, who stares back evenly, quietly supporting his son who is showing emotion, not something readily associated with sports heroes from small-town Australia.

"It's tough and also I saw dad's dad with cancer, battling the disease. It was very tough when you see it with people who are close to you. You feel it should be different. So when you see kids going through that…" he stops again, stares into the muesli. He has stopped eating now, has brought his leg up and is resting his chin on his knee. "Dad's dad had a reasonable knock but if you don't have that chance, and if I can put something back in…

"You know, I probably won't be able to spend the money that I have earned. I have a very simple life. I'm here because I want to test myself and love competing, but I have a bloody basic life and I enjoy giving back to people who might not have been as lucky as I have. So if I can help people doing something, on the health side, whether it's funding a ward or getting the right equipment…

"I'm not against doing it in other countries, but Australia is where I'm from and I'm going to help my own people."

It seems as if the table shrinks a bit, dad and Ann are close to him as he talks ➜



'I HAVE A BASIC LIFE AND I ENJOY GIVING BACK TO PEOPLE WHO MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AS LUCKY'

PHOTOS: SUTTON IMAGES, THOMAS BUTLER



about coping with suffering. They, and he, have shared some tough times, some big accidents, some lean times, too. Waves of support surround him, I feel as if I'm intruding, but only a little. Where there is strength to cope with adversity, it's shared out. It's what families are about.

Mark likes footie. But not just the Aussie version. I know because I had one of those easy, airport impromptu chats with him on our way to Bahrain. He's not too keen on planes, so is wont to delay boarding until the very last. So Mark, British television commentator James Allen (a Liverpool fan) and myself chatted about this and that and things football, and to my surprise, he easily kept up with the chatter. He's a Chelsea FC fan – and from before the Russian Revolution.

"When I first came to England, Gianfranco Zola was playing for Chelsea and I discovered what a delight it was to watch him play. Growing up in Australia I wasn't interested in football at all. It was only when I first came to England that I started watching it, in about '96 or '97. Then, when I came back from working with Mercedes in Germany, I got more and more into it. I liked going to Stamford Bridge every now and then and I liked the blue kit."

I tell him Zola was one of the reasons I also enjoyed Chelsea, I and so many others who love the beautiful game and love a great sportsman. "Yes, he was a real pro, never had a bad word to say about anyone. Just played the game and got on with it. That was my main reason for getting close to Chelsea. His attitude was first class."



'A LOT OF SPORT IS IN THE HEAD. IN F1 WE HAVE PHENOMENAL EXAMPLES OF MENTAL STRENGTH'

The little Sardinian showed true Aussie fighting spirit: tough, fair and uncomplaining. And he was mentally very strong – something Mark relates to readily: "I'm a firm believer that a lot of sport is in the head. I keep myself in pretty good shape and if you tick all the boxes, I believe the top two inches will get you home. In this game we have phenomenal examples of mental strength, which makes it a pretty good sport, and that is what I like about it, that is what gives me the buzz.

"Mental toughness also comes out in all the things the drivers don't enjoy doing, like the everyday PR and media stuff. I know it's part of what keeps people interested in this game, but it's not that stimulating for us compared to what we normally do."

Conscious that I'm smack in the middle of an 'everyday media stuff moment', I wonder if he ever gets bored with F1, or at least the media element.

"What really makes it frustrating for me is the kind of questions I get asked. That's the worse thing about our sport: the people who just can't relate to it, they don't really know what we are going through, even people who are really close to it…

"Look, skiing is pretty straightforward, so is golf, whatever. They are all sports which people have tried. That's why they love Lance Armstrong, because they know that riding a bike up a hill hurts. They can relate to it.

"Whereas watching the Malaysian GP on the telly for an hour and a half does not mean much at all. People have no idea what we do, and I would like to see them going for an hour's run around the circuit. A lot of people are incredibly naïve about what we do, about what the teams go through and the kind of preparation the drivers go through."

The muesli and the fruit are finished, so are the juices and team staff are beginning to hover, wanting a bit of his time, his driver's time. I try to hang on to a little more media time by asking how he can adapt from all-round outdoor action man to sitting still in a cramped and hot seat for hours on end.

"I enjoy the endurance side of the sport, actually, but sometimes the racing gets to be a bit boring, there's just not enough going on, but inevitably there is always something going on to catch you out. I have always been one to make things hard for myself, in terms of doing things which really stretch me.

"Being in such a close environment, the testing part of being in grand prix is to knock out lap times consistently, operate smoothly with the crew and to know what we are all trying to do. That's the difference to being on a mountain bike, doing a hard climb, being a bit freer and being out in the open."

So any thoughts on life after F1? For the first time over breakfast, he seems a little taken aback. He looks to his dad who stares back poker-faced and then smiles.

Mark smiles, too: "Not really. I think I would be all over the place if I stopped. Yeah, too far way…" Now he lets the engineers catch his eye, now he can get back to the intricate business of driving for a top team, giving his very best in an environment which only accepts the very best. Mark uncoils himself from his chair and table and strides away. He reminds me of the rangy heroes in all those Louis L'Amour westerns.

I talk to Ann, who also handles Mark's media, and she tells me of a new fundraising, indeed hair-raising endurance feat Mark will take part in during the off-season.*

I also talk to his father. The solid citizen is gruff, but friendly. I ask him about playing rugby with Aussie hero David Campese, which he did, and about his son: "I'm a dad, are you?" I nod. "So you'll know what I mean when I tell you that I'm bloody proud of him. Bloody proud."

** The Mark Webber Pure Tasmania Challenge takes place from November 5-10. The multi-disciplinary adventure challenge includes kayaking, mountain and road bike races, navigation and camping for teams of four. Entry is A$25,000. For full details, visit www.markwebberchallenge.com*



RALF SCHUMACHER

THE FAMILY MAN

He used to want to be Superman, but these days Ralf's wife buys his clothes and his dream holiday destination is great for kids...











What did you have for dinner last night?
A salad

The last film you saw?
Narnia, with my son. We really enjoyed it

The first car you ever owned?
An Opel Astra

What cars do you own now?
A whole fleet of Toyotas – Land Cruiser, Yaris, Lexus, loads…

Favourite Beatle: John, Paul, George or Ringo?
I really know very little about music, and The Beatles were a bit before my time

Childhood hero?
Superman

Who is your present sporting hero?
I don't really have one. Anyone who loves their sport and is committed and passionate

Did you win any prizes at school? If so, what?
Not really, no…

Favourite film of all time?
I have no idea, sorry

Favourite actor?
Sean Connery

What things do you enjoy most away from the track?
Spending time with my family

What was your first ever job?
Racing driver

Coolest celebrity you've ever met?
I really can't remember. I've met so many. Sorry, my mind's gone blank!

Where are your trophies kept?
At my home in Austria

Do you have any pets?
Four dogs: Scooby, Cayenne (like the Porsche), Bella and Sissi

If you had a time-travelling DeLorean, when and where would you want to go?
Ooh, good question. But I'm quite happy in the present, thanks!

How many bedrooms does your home have?
Enough!

Favourite drink?
Sparkling mineral water and apple

Your most treasured possession?
My family

Your favourite article of clothing?
I'm not interested in clothes. You should ask my wife!

The most extravagant thing you've ever done?
I bought an aeroplane

Favourite toy when you were a child?
Scalextric

Have you ever purchased or sold anything on eBay?
I wouldn't even know how to…

First album you ever bought?
Phil Collins or OMD

The coolest hotel you've ever stayed in?
The Hard Rock Hotel in Bali. The one in Las Vegas is cool too

Your dream holiday destination?
Dubai – it's got the lot, and it's great for families

Is there anywhere you haven't been that you'd like to visit?
Alaska and Africa. Maybe after F1 I'll have the time to go

When was the last time you flew economy?
Last year, to Japan. There were no other seats left

Who would play you in the film of your life?
Hmm… How about Matt Damon?

Who would you least like to be trapped in a lift with?
Ha! Ha!… I shouldn't say!

Your dream dinner party guest?
My wife

Winter or summer?
Summer

Pubs or bars?
Restaurants

Blondes or brunettes?
Blondes

Jennifer Aniston or Angelina Jolie?
My wife!

Where did you meet your wife?
At my father's kart track near Kerpen

What's your worst habit?
Being on the phone constantly

What are you scared of?
Illness (and phone bills – Ed)

What's the most surprising story you've ever read about yourself?
There's so much bullshit out there, I don't pay attention to it any more

The best piece of advice anyone has ever given you?
"Don't push your luck"

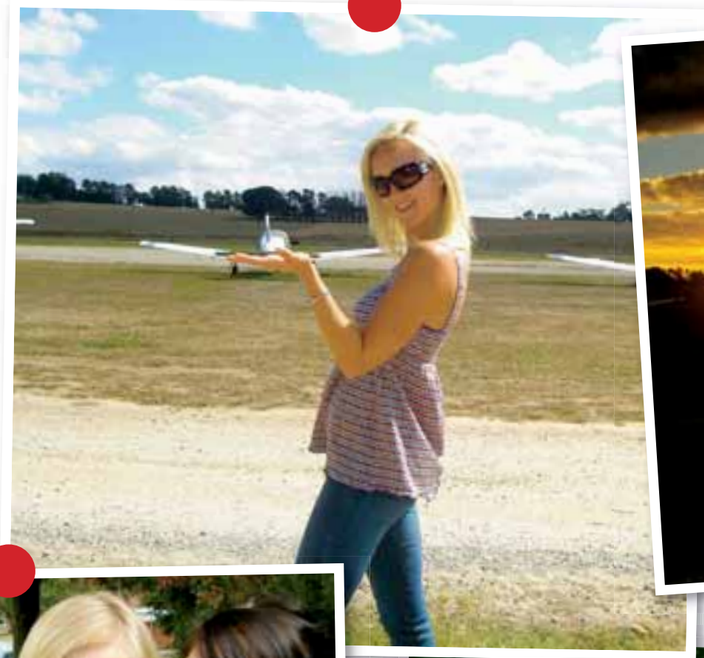
What's the best freebie you've ever been given?
Laptops, MP3s, mobile phones, all sorts…

What's your mobile phone ringtone?
I really hate ringtones, so I have a very quiet and simple one

PHOTO: SUTTON IMAGES; GETTY IMAGES; REX FEATURES

















LIVE FOR THE WEEKEND

What have we learned since we arrived in Melbourne? That Aussies know how to have a good time. Particularly the ladies. And as for the Formula Unas, we've come to the right place. Here are some snaps they shot themselves.







ON THE DRIVE

Australia is sports-mad, and one of the sports it is passionate about is cricket. Coincidentally, the sport's greatest contemporary batsman is a passionate Formula One fan. Vic Marks recounts the driving passion of the Little Master, Sachin Tendulkar.

An obsession for fast cars must pose a few problems for Sachin Tendulkar, arguably the greatest batsman the game of cricket has seen since Sir Donald Bradman retired. For a start, Tendulkar's home city of Mumbai is not quite so conveniently laid out as Bradman's adopted home in genteel Adelaide. It is not a place that encourages speed behind the wheel. In Mumbai congested roads snake left, snake right and even when they snake straight ahead there's no way through; the traffic jams just get longer and longer.

And, of course, Tendulkar has always been a demi-god in India. Whenever he ventures out he is instantly recognised, instantly pursued. Even if it were possible to find an open road he would somehow be swamped by adoring fans by the time he slipped into second gear. He has tried to overcome the problem. He has been known to take his car out in the middle of the night just to drive and, at last, to escape the attention of the eyes of India.

He is also known to have a passion for Formula One. A keen go-kart racer, initially Tendulkar was a fan and, subsequently, became a friend of Michael Schumacher. When Tendulkar equalled The Don's 29 Test centuries, Fiat gave him a Ferrari 360 Modena as a commemorative present, Schumacher, naturally, being the one to hand over the keys at Silverstone before the pair disappeared off to have dinner. Tendulkar's assessment of the seven-times world champion? "He's a very nice guy – though apparently he knows nothing about cricket."

But now there is a driver closer to his roots, Narain Karthikeyan. Last season Tendulkar's tennis elbow injury allowed him to keep an eye on India's first F1 driver. He popped over to the grands prix at the Nürburgring and in Barcelona, where he watched his fellow countryman finish 13th.



Tendulkar with fellow Indian Karthikeyan last year

Such is the supremacy of cricket in India, few other sports get a look-in, but Karthikeyan's exploits last season have seen interest in F1 skyrocket. There is even rumour of the world's largest democracy bidding to host a race. In Tendulkar that rumour has an enormously influential supporter. "I really don't know where it's going to happen but I hope that it does, because there are plenty of F1 fans in India. It's a new sport and has a new generation hooked," he told the BBC earlier this year.

Tendulkar is, of course, a loyal supporter of Karthikeyan. "I know Narain has finished no better than 11th so far (not counting his fourth place in the controversial US GP) but no-one could have won in that Jordan car," he says. "He deserves much credit for merely joining the ranks of F1 drivers. Narain is gutsy and aggressive... and he has obviously gained from one full F1 season. Only the toughest in the mind survive and Narain, believe me, is very tough."

Tendulkar should know. He has survived at the top of his profession for more than 17 years now. Actually, to talk about survival in relation to Tendulkar is something of a heresy. His career has been a triumph. Now, at 32, he feels like a veteran.

Tendulkar has hit more Test centuries than any other cricketer; he has played more Tests for India than anyone and has the utter respect of team-mates and opponents, including those in Australia, where he has often been the lone obstacle to the home side.

We know that Bradman himself confided that Tendulkar is the one modern player who "reminded me of myself as a youngster".

It didn't take long to realise that the little 16-year-old, wearing the pads that another diminutive great from Mumbai, Sunil Gavaskar, had given him, was a genius.

Technically he was always classically correct, but temperamentally he wanted to attack. His first century – in his ninth Test – was against England at Manchester way back in 1990; his first against Australia was in Sydney in January 1992 in the match in which Shane Warne made his debut for Australia. Since then the duels of Tendulkar and Warne have enchanted any fan worthy of the name.

So, by the age of 18 Tendulkar was a superstar and he has been one ever since. This is what is so astonishing about him, not his ability to clip the ball so smoothly through mid-wicket, but the way in which he seems to have coped so effortlessly with his superstardom for so long. There is the endless pressure to perform, the pressure to behave on and off the field when your every move is monitored, the necessity to cope with the frailties of lesser mortals around you, to be a national icon and a team player simultaneously.

Somehow he has managed all these with complete dignity. No-one, not even the Aussies, criticises Tendulkar on the field. Somehow that would be a blasphemous act, like maligning Mandela. However, for the very first time, Tendulkar was subjected to abuse from his home crowd during the final Test against England this March. And of all the places in the world this happened in Mumbai. For once Tendulkar had revealed his mortality. Bedevilled by injury over the last 12 months his highest score in a three-match series against England had been a mere 34.

At Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium he was booed after another failure in the first innings, which stunned and appalled all seasoned onlookers as well as Tendulkar himself. This reaction said more about the changing mores of the Indian sports fan than about Tendulkar's batting. At 32 he has time to reassert his place at the very pinnacle of the game: Tendulkar and Michael Schumacher have plenty of subject matter here for their next conversation.

In that very same match in Mumbai Tendulkar damaged his shoulder, which means that he is condemned to another couple months out of the game. This will be a frustration to him since cricket is his profession and his life. But it does mean that there will be more scope for him to take to the wheel – albeit in the middle of the night – and to pursue his passion. Expect to see him wandering around the paddock at more grands prix soon.

● A former England, Somerset and Western Australia all-rounder, Vic Marks is the London Observer's cricket correspondent and BBC Radio Test Match Special analyst.



PHOTOS: SUTTON IMAGES, RICHARD SAKER

GRIDDLE

THE ULTIMATE F1 QUIZ

1 PROMISING YOUNGSTER

Which famous F1 star did this junior speed demon turn out to be?



2 WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?



5 IN THE DETAIL

At which race, and in which year, did Ferrari use these unusual front and rear wings? And what was the car called?

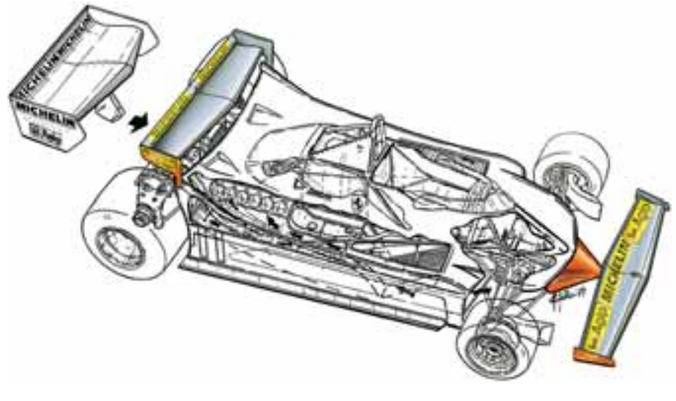
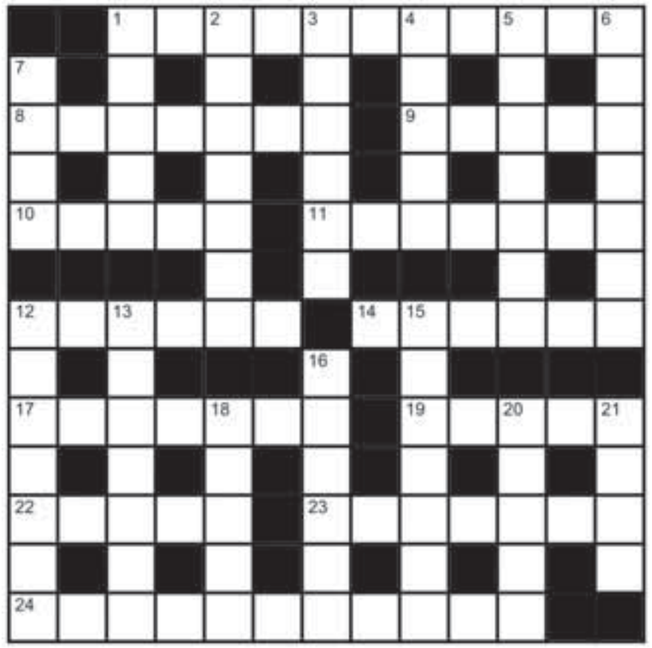


PHOTO: RAINER SCHLEGELMILCH; SUTTON IMAGES. ILLUSTRATION: GIORGIO PIOLA

3 CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 15 down won the last Grand Prix held here (6,5)
8 Belgian driver with 164 race starts (7)
9 Passenger ship (5)
10 Rice/Lloyd Webber musical (5)
11 Superintend (7)
12 Roberto, childhood friend of Nelson Piquet (6)
14 Collision (6)
17 Beer mug (7)
19 Comes closer (5)
22 Constructor, Leyton ----- Racing (5)
23 Scottish driver whose only Grand Prix win was at 24 across in 1961 (7)
24 Race circuit (7,4)

DOWN

1 Gianmaria, a driver for Minardi in 2004 (5)
2 Choose not to vote (7)
3 Tyre manufacturer with eight World Championships (6)
4 1967 World Champion (5)
5 North African republic (7)
6 His last F1 win was at Nürburgring in 1999 (7)
7 Woodwind instrument (4)
12 Boy's name (7)
13 2005 Constructors' Champion (7)
15 He retired from F1 racing in 1992 after winning the World Championship (7)
16 Lets in, confesses (6)
18 He had his first F1 win in the 1995 Canadian Grand Prix (5)
20 ----- Prost (5)
21 Team (4)

4 WHO SAID THIS?

"LONG BLOND HAIR, GUCCI BRIEFCASE, ROLEX GOLD IDENTITY BRACELET... FRANK, I THINK HE'S VERY QUICK."

6 ONE-HIT WONDER



F1 is full of singular events, like... Niki Lauda being circumspect. But there are more obscure one-offs, as we found when we searched Rainer Schlegelmilch's photo library. So, what's special about this picture?

7 QUESTION TIME

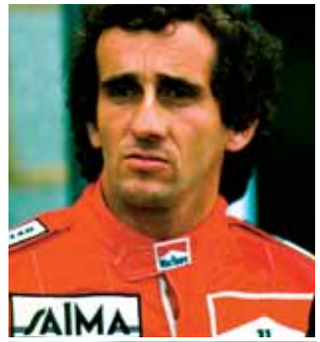
01 1950s Belgian racer Paul Frere did what job in the real world?

02 Frere scored all his championship points at his home race. What was his best finish at Spa, in what year did he achieve it and what car was he driving?

03 Who won that Belgian GP?

04 Who drove from last to second in the Austrian GP of 1998?

05 Why was Alain Prost (below) disqualified from the 1985 San Marino GP after taking the chequered flag?





06 Who replaced Niki Lauda (above) at Brabham after the Austrian retired midway through practice at the 1979 Canadian GP?

07 Which tyre manufacturer pulled out of Formula One at the end of 1985?

08 Which Vietnam veteran made his grand prix debut in 1975?

09 At which race and in what car?

10 How many French drivers took part in the 1992 French GP?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 23

SOCCER

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Quarter Finals, First leg

Arsenal 2 - 0 **Juventus**
40 Fabregas
69 Henry
Red cards 87 Camoranesi 89 Zebina
Highbury (Tuesday, March 28)

Benfica 0 - 0 **Barcelona**
Estadio da Luz (Tuesday, March 28)

Inter Milan 2 - 1 **Villarreal**
1 Forlan 7 Adriano 54 Martins
Stadio Giuseppe Meazza,
(Wednesday, March 29)

Lyon 0 - 0 **AC Milan**
Stade de Gerland (Wednesday, March 29)

UEFA CUP
Quarter Finals, First Leg

Levski Sofia 1 - 3 **Schalke 04**
6 Borimirov 79 Asamoah
48 Varela
69 Lincoln
Red card 35 Bardon
Georgi Asparuchov Stadium (Thursday, March 30

Rapid Bucuresti 1 - 1 **S Bucuresti**
5 Nicolita 50 Moldovan
Giulesti Stadium (Thursday, March 30)

Basle 2 - 0 **Middlesbrough**
43 Delgado
45 Degen
St Jakob Park (Thursday, March 30)

FC Sevilla 4 - 1 **Zenit St Petersburg**
15 Saviola 90 Adriano
45 Kerzhakov
56 Marti (pen)
80 Saviola
Red cards 53 Hagen 90 Arshavin Estadio Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan (Thursday, March 30

ENGLAND PREMIERE LEAGUE

Man Utd 1 - 0 **West Ham**
45' R van Nistelrooy
Old Trafford (Wednesday, March 29)

Premiership Table

	GP	W	D	L	Pts
Chelsea	31	25	3	3	78
Man Utd	31	21	6	4	69
Liverpool	32	19	7	6	64
Tottenham	31	15	10	6	55
Blackburn	31	16	4	11	52
Arsenal	30	15	5	10	50
Bolton	29	13	9	7	48
Wigan	31	14	4	13	46
West Ham	31	13	6	12	45
Everton	31	13	4	14	43
Charlton	31	12	6	13	42
Man City	31	12	4	15	40
Newcastle	31	11	6	14	39
M'brough	30	10	7	13	37
Fulham	32	10	6	16	36
Aston Villa	31	8	11	12	35
WBA	31	7	6	18	27
Birmingham	30	6	6	18	24
Portsmouth	30	6	6	18	24
Sunderland	31	2	4	25	10

SPAIN LA LIGA
Primera División

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Barcelona	30	21	5	4	68
Real Madrid	30	17	6	7	57
Osasuna	30	17	4	9	55
Valencia	30	14	11	5	53
FC Sevilla	30	15	6	9	51
Celta Vigo	30	15	3	2	48
Deportivo	30	13	7	10	46
Villarreal	30	11	12	45	
Atlético Madrid	30	11	10	9	43
Real Zaragoza	30	9	14	7	41
Getafe	30	11	7	12	40
Athletic Bilbao	30	8	9	13	33
R Santander	30	7	12	11	33
Real Betis	30	8	9	13	33
Espanyol	30	8	8	14	32
Alavés	30	7	10	13	31
Mallorca	30	7	10	13	31
Real Sociedad	30	8	4	18	28
Cádiz	30	6	9	15	27
Málaga	30	5	8	17	23

ITALY SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Juventus	31	24	6	1	78
AC Milan	31	22	4	5	70
Inter Milan	31	20	5	6	65
Fiorentina	31	18	6	7	60
Roma	31	17	8	6	59
Chievo	31	11	12	8	45
Lazio	31	11	12	8	45
Livorno	31	11	11	9	44
Palermo	31	11	10	10	43
Parma	31	10	8	13	38
Ascoli	31	8	13	10	37
Sampdoria	31	10	7	14	37
Siena	31	9	8	14	35
Reggina	31	9	7	15	34
Empoli	31	9	5	17	32
Cagliari	31	7	10	14	31
Udinese	31	7	8	16	29
Messina	31	5	13	13	28
Lecce	31	5	6	20	2
Treviso	31	2	9	20	15

GERMANY BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bayern Mn	27	20	5	2	65
Hamburg SV	27	17	5	5	56
Werder Bremen	27	16	5	6	53
Schalke 04	27	14	10	3	52
Hertha Berlin	27	9	10	8	37
Borussia Dortmund	27	9	10	8	37
VfB Stuttgart	27	7	15	5	36
Bayer Leverkusen	27	9	8	10	35
Hannover '96	27	7	13	7	34
B M'gladbach	27	8	10	9	34
Nurnberg	27	8	7	12	31
A Bielefeld	27	8	7	12	31
E Frankfurt	27	8	6	13	30
Mainz	27	7	7	13	28
VfL Wolfsburg	27	6	10	11	28
Kaiserslautern	27	7	6	14	27
MSV Duisburg	27	4	9	14	21
Cologne	27	4	7	16	19



MOTOR SPORTS

SUPPORT RACES FROM ALBERT PARK, MELBOURNE

Thursday
Michelin Carerra Cup Race 1
WINNER: **Alex Davidson**

Dodo Formula 3 Race 1
WINNER: **James Winslow/ Piccola Scuderia**

Ceanevent V8 Utes Race 1
WINNER: **Kerry Wade**

Friday
Panasonic V8 Supercars Race 1
WINNER: **Todd Kelly/ Holden Racing Team**

Ceanevent V8 Utes Race 2
WINNER: **Grant Johnson**

Dodo Formula 3 Race 2
WINNER: **Bruno Senna (below right)**

Michelin Carerra Cup Race 2
WINNER: **Craig Baird**

Saturday
GP Kart Challenge
WINNER: **Justin Kirwan**

Panasonic V8 Supercars GP100
WINNER: **Steven Richards/Jack Daniels Racing**

Michelin Carrera Cup Race 3
WINNER: **Craig Baird**

Dodo Formula 3 Race 3
WINNER: **Bruno Senna**

Cleanevent V8 Utes Race 3
WINNER: **Kerry Wade**

TENNIS

ATP & WTA MIAMI SEMI FINALS

Roger Federer 6-1, 6-4 **David Ferrer**

Ivan Ljubicic 6-1, 6-2 **David Nalbandian**

CRICKET

THIRD TEST: SOUTH AFRICA V AUSTRALIA

Ashwell Prince led a South African fightback as they reached 238-6.

South Africa 1st Innings

A B de Villiers c D R Martyn b S R Clark
RUNS **12** BALLS **45** 4's **1** 6's **0**

H H Gibbs b M S Kasprowicz
RUNS **16** BALLS **44** 4's **2** 6's **0**

H H Dippenaar c A C Gilchrist b S R Clark
RUNS **32** BALLS **69** 4's **7** 6's **0**

J H Kallis b B Lee
RUNS **37** BALLS **92 6 0**

A G Prince not out
RUNS **79** BALLS **128** 4's**10** 6's**0**

J A Rudolph c M L Hayden b S K Warne
RUNS **25** BALLS **44** 4's **4** 6's**0**

M V Boucher lbw b A Symonds
RUNS **24** BALLS **53** 4's **2** 6's **0**

S M Pollock not out
RUNS **4** BALLS **8** 4's **1** 6's**0**

Extras 9nb 9

Total 238 for 6 238

ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL SERIES: INDIA V ENGLAND

Youngster Suresh Raina hit a career-best unbeaten 81 to take India to a four-wicket win over England.

31-03-2006 at Faridabad

India beat England by 4 wickets



David Pusey of the Force wins a line-out against the Stormers in the Super 14 match at Subiaco Oval in Perth on Friday

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, SUTTON IMAGES

England won the toss and decided to bat

England Innings
226 all out (49.5 overs)

India Innings
230 for 6 (49.0 overs)

England Innings

A J Strauss b R R Powar
RUNS**61** BALLS**85** 4's**6** 6's**0**

M J Prior lbw b Harbhajan Singh
RUNS**33** BALLS**49** 4's**5** 6's**0**

O A Shah c M S Dhoni b R R Powar
RUNS**0** BALLS**5** 4's**0** 6's**0**

K P Pietersen c R Dravid b Yuvraj Singh
RUNS**71** BALLS**87** 4's**4** 6's**2**

A Flintoff st M S Dhoni b R R Powar
RUNS**5** BALLS**14** 4's**0** 6's**0**

P D Collingwood run out
RUNS**5** BALLS**13** 4's**0** 6's**0**

G O Jones c G Gambhir b S Sreesanth
RUNS**22** BALLS**29** 4's**1** 6's**0**

I D Blackwell b S Sreesanth
RUNS**9** BALLS**12** 4's**0** 6's**0**

L E Plunkett b I K Pathan
RUNS**4** BALLS**6** 4's**0** 6's**0**

Kabir Ali not out
RUNS**1** BALLS**1** 4's**0** 6's**0**

J M Anderson b S Sreesanth
RUNS**2** BALLS**2** 4's**0** 6's**0**

Extras 4nb 2w 4b 3lb 13

Total all out 226

India Innings

V Sehwag b I D Blackwell
RUNS**26** BALLS**45** 4's**4** 6's**0**

G Gambhir c and b J M Anderson
RUNS**29** BALLS**45** 4's**4** 6's**0**

R Dravid run out
RUNS**5** BALLS**23** 4's**0** 6's**0**

Yuvraj Singh b I D Blackwell
RUNS**18** BALLS**20** 4's**4** 6's**0**

M Kaif lbw b L E Plunkett
RUNS**0** BALLS**6** 4's**0** 6's**0**

S K Raina not out
RUNS**81** BALLS**89** 4's**8** 6's**1**

M S Dhoni b A Flintoff
RUNS**38** BALLS**55** 4's**2** 6's**0**

I K Pathan not out
RUNS**12** BALLS**11** 4's**1** 6's**0**

Extras 1nb 16w 4lb 21

Total for 6 230

AFL

West Coast Eagles 11.18.(84)
St Kilda 9.12.(66)
Subiaco Oval (Thursday, March 30)

Western Bulldogs 25.17.(167)
Richmond 7.10.(52)
Telstra Dome (Friday, March 31)

Geelong v Brisbane
Skilled Stadium, (Yesterday)

AUSTRALIAN NRL

Parramatta 18
Tries: Eric Grothe Wade McKinnon (2) Goals: Mark Riddell (3 from 4)
North Queensland 26
Tries: Matt Sing 2, Matthew Scott, David Faiumu
Goals: Johnathan Thurston (5 from 6)
Parramatta Stadium (Friday, March 31)

Round 4

	P	W	D	L	B	Pts
North Qld	4	0	0	0	76	8
Newcastle	3	0	0	0	81	6
Penrith	2	0	0	1	3	6
Sydney Roosters	2	0	1	0	50	4
Bulldogs	1	0	2	1	9	4
Brisbane	2	0	1	0	-8	4
Melbourne	2	0	1	0	-22	4
St George Ill	1	0	2	0	20	2
Cronulla	0	0	2	1	-6	2
Manly	1	0	2	0	-15	2
Parramatta	1	0	3	0	-39	2
Wests Tigers	1	0	2	0	-42	2
Souths	0	0	2	1	-48	2
Canberra	1	0	2	0	-61	2
NZ Warriors*	1	0	2	0	2	-2

* NZ Warriors: 4 points deducted for salary cap breaches

SUPER 14

Blues (NZ) 30 – 17 **Pretoria Bulls (RSA)**
Auckland (Friday, March 31)
Blues Tries: Senio, Williams, Waqaseduadua
Conversions: Nacewa (2)
Penalties: Nacewa (2)
Bulls Tries: Bakkies Botha, Gary Botha
Conversions: Hougaard, Steyn
Penalties: Hougaard

Waratahs (AU) 26 – 3 **Cheetahs (RSA)**
Sydney (Friday, March 31)
Waratahs Tries: Sailor, Hewat
Conversions: Hewat (2)
Penalties: Hewat (4)
Cheetahs Penalties: de Waal

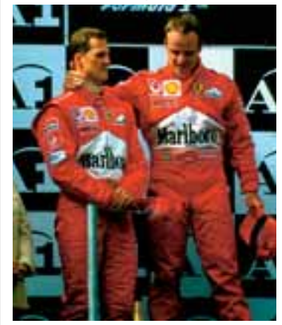
Force (AU) 25 – 26 **Stormers (RSA)**
Perth (Friday, March 31)
Force Tries: Shepherd, Staniforth, DeBartolo
Conversions: Shepherd (2)
Penalties: Shepherd
Stormers Tries: Watson (2), Olivier, Conradie
Conversions: Olivier (4)



GRIDDLE ANSWERS

1 PROMISING YOUNGSTER
Giancarlo Fisichella

2 WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
Rubens Barrichello and Jean Todt were jubilant, but they were the only ones. Rubens had dominated the 2002 Austrian GP but, within metres of the chequered flag, he gave the victory to team-mate Michael Schumacher. The crowd went wild, but not with enthusiasm. The result? An uncomfortable Michael pushed second-placed Rubens to the top step.



3 CROSSWORD SOLUTION

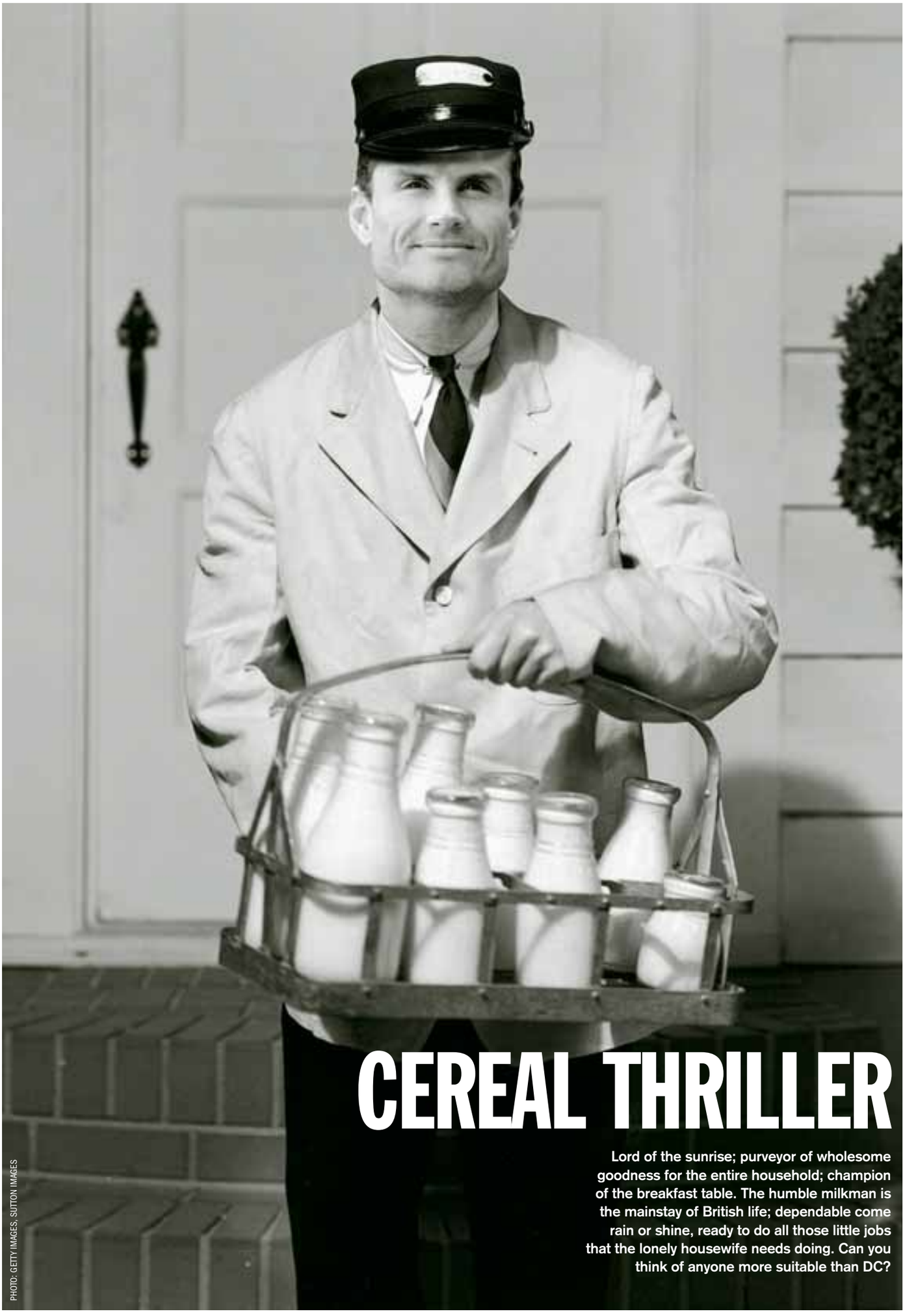
Across	Down
1 Brands Hatch	1 Bruni
8 Boutsen	2 Abstain
9 Liner	3 Dunlop
10 Evita	4 Hulme
11 Oversee	5 Tunisia
12 Moreno	6 Herbert
14 Impact	7 Oboe
17 Tankard	12 Matthew
19 Nears	13 Renault
22 House	15 Mansell
23 Ireland	16 Admits
24 Watkins Glen	18 Alesi
	20 Alain
	21 Side

4 WHO SAID THIS?
Carlos Reutemann (he was talking to Frank Williams about Keke Rosberg)

5 IN THE DETAIL
Answer t/c

6 ONE-HIT WONDER
This is the only instance in F1 of a car racing in an event whose name it shared. Here's a Pacific in the 1994 Pacific Grand Prix.

7 QUESTION TIME
01 Journalist
02 Second, 1956, Ferrari
03 Peter Collins
04 David Coulthard
05 His car was underweight
06 Ricardo Zunino
07 Michelin
08 Brett Lunger
09 Austrian GP in a Hesketh
10 Five – Erik Comas, Olivier Grouillard, Jean Alesi, Bertrand Gachot and Paul Belmondo



CEREAL THRILLER

Lord of the sunrise; purveyor of wholesome goodness for the entire household; champion of the breakfast table. The humble milkman is the mainstay of British life; dependable come rain or shine, ready to do all those little jobs that the lonely housewife needs doing. Can you think of anyone more suitable than DC?

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES, SUTTON IMAGES