

THE RED

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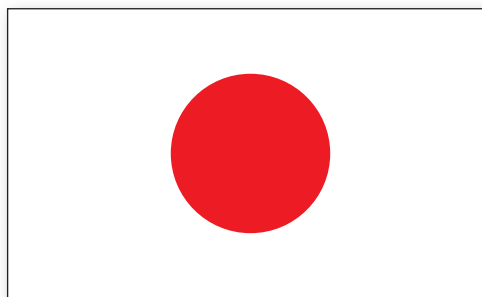
BULLETIN

AN ALMOST INDEPENDENT F1 NEWSPAPER

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**UNDER
PRESSURE?**
IT'S ADVANTAGE ALONSO



08/10/06

STARTING LINE After the balance shifted in Shanghai, with both contenders on 116 points, and with seven wins to Alonso's six, Michael Schumacher came to Japan knowing he had an outside chance of sealing an eighth and final title on the same tarmac he achieved his first championship win for Ferrari. Like

Michael, Suzuka is facing retirement. It would be a fitting full-circle, but it could only happen if Alonso did not score today. For the Spaniard, failure was not an option. He'd beaten Michael here before and was determined to do so again. With only one point separating Ferrari from Renault in the other title chase, those on the pitwall were as tense as their drivers.

THE FIGURES

130R = 5G AT 290KPH

10 DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN SETTLED HERE:
'87 (PIQUET), '88 (SENNA), '89 (PROST), '90 (SENNA), '91 (SENNA), '96 (HILL), '98 (HAKKINEN), '99 (HAKKINEN), 2000 (SCHUMACHER), 2003 (SCHUMACHER)

5

JAPANESE F1 DRIVERS SCORED CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS HERE:
UKYO KATAYAMA, SATORU NAKAJIMA, SHINJI NAKANO, TAKUMA SATO & AGURI SUZUKI

190KPH-02SECS

156,000 ATTENDED RACE DAY LAST YEAR — A RECORD

3 FORMULA NIPPON GRADUATES: PEDRO, RALF & SAKON
800 METRE MAIN STRAIGHT
1962 THE YEAR SUZUKA CIRCUIT WAS CREATED

LAPS 53

TRACK LENGTH 5.807KM

20 CURVES

5 WET RACES AT THIS TRACK

20 YEARS AT SUZUKA

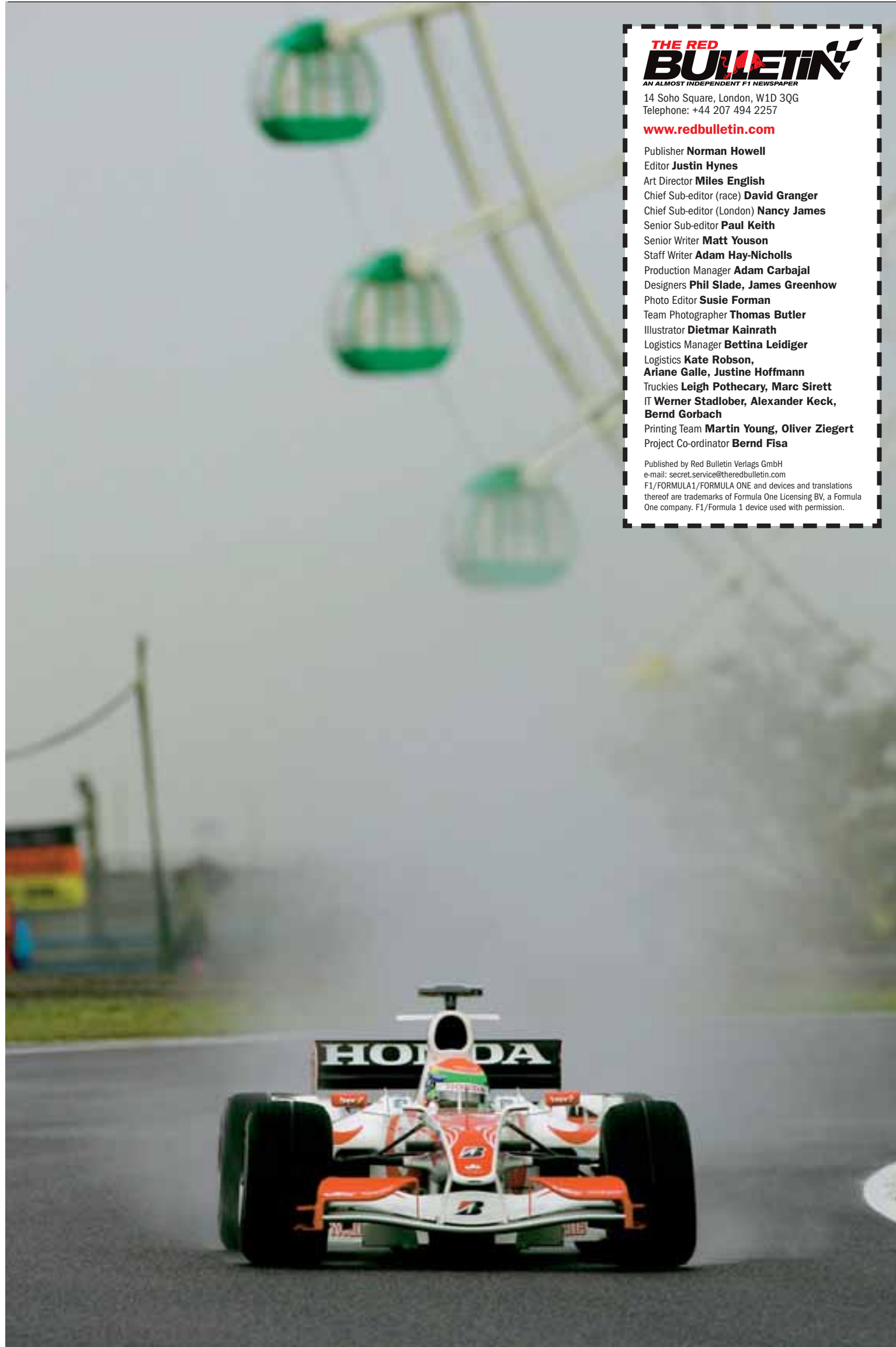


PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

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TEAM ORDERS

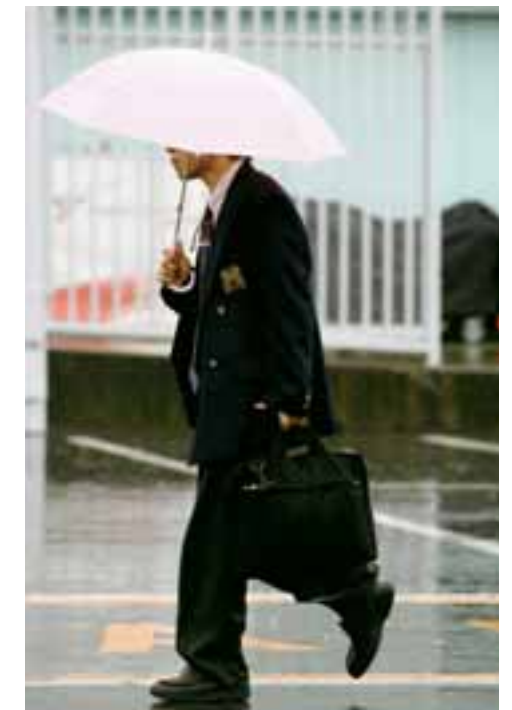
The drivers may be in the spotlight, but let's not forget it's the back room staff who put them there. Here's how the boys at Ferrari and Renault are gearing up for a final push on the Driver's and Constructors' Championships.





A NOSE FOR VICTORY... Despite the torrential rain on Thursday and Friday, Renault were working hard to try to get back the edge on Ferrari and bring the title races down to the wire, while others were just trying to get to work.

PHOTOS: CRISPIN THRUXTON, MURIEL BROUSSEAU





LEAVING NOTHING TO CHANCE... At Renault, the team were busy fine-tuning, checking and rechecking their cars to reduce the odds of a costly mistake here at Suzuka.



MARLBORO MEN... Over at Ferrari, Nigel Stepney (above) and the rest of the team were pulling together to give Michael Schumacher the best chance of bowing out at the top.



PHOTOS: MURIEL BROUSSEAU, CRISPIN THURSTON, CRASHFPA.NET



TESTING TIMES... With Renault back to the third row of the grid, chasing the Prancing Horses meant extra pressure for both garages. Racing at its most tense.

PHOTOS: THOMAS BUTLER, CRISPIN THURSTON



Japan's Una is Asami Saito. The 23-year-old says that her favourite musical genre is anything that she can dance to. No doubt Brazil will provide something to meet her needs in a couple of weeks when she joins all of the other representative Unas at the final race of the season in Sao Paulo.



LA UNA JAPAN ASAMI SAITO

PHOTO: MIREL BROUSSEAU



BEST OF BULL'S EYE



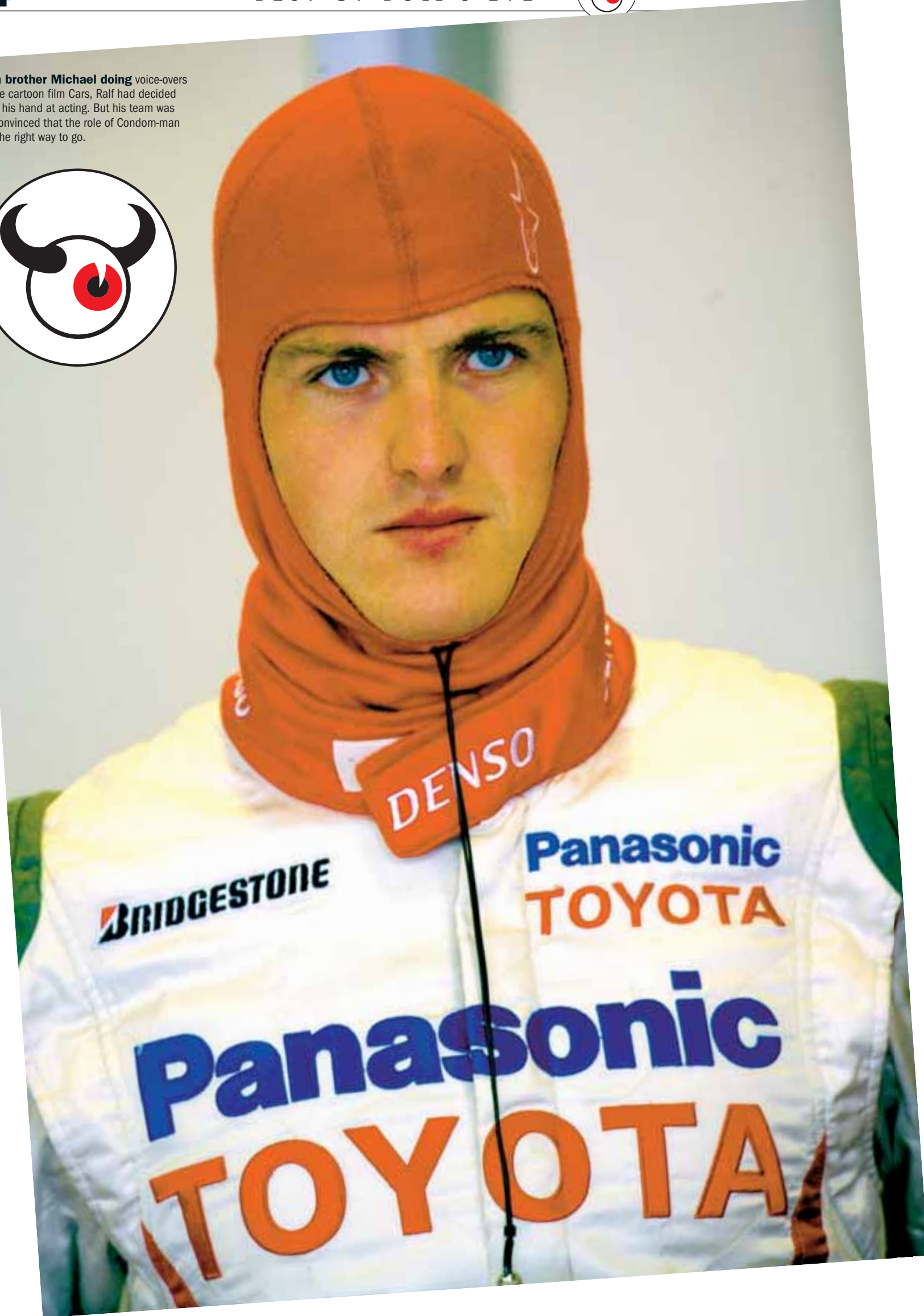
We've been around the world and back, we've hit 16 countries and eaten some of the weirdest dishes known to humankind. No wonder then that all season the people of the paddock went slightly mad. And throughout, The Bulletin's merciless eye was on them, catching every move, from the slightly clumsy to the seriously crazed. Here then is the season in some rather silly pictures...

PHOTOS: CRASHPA.NET, SUTTON IMAGES, CRISPIN THURSTON, JIRI KRENEK, MSPB/GORYS



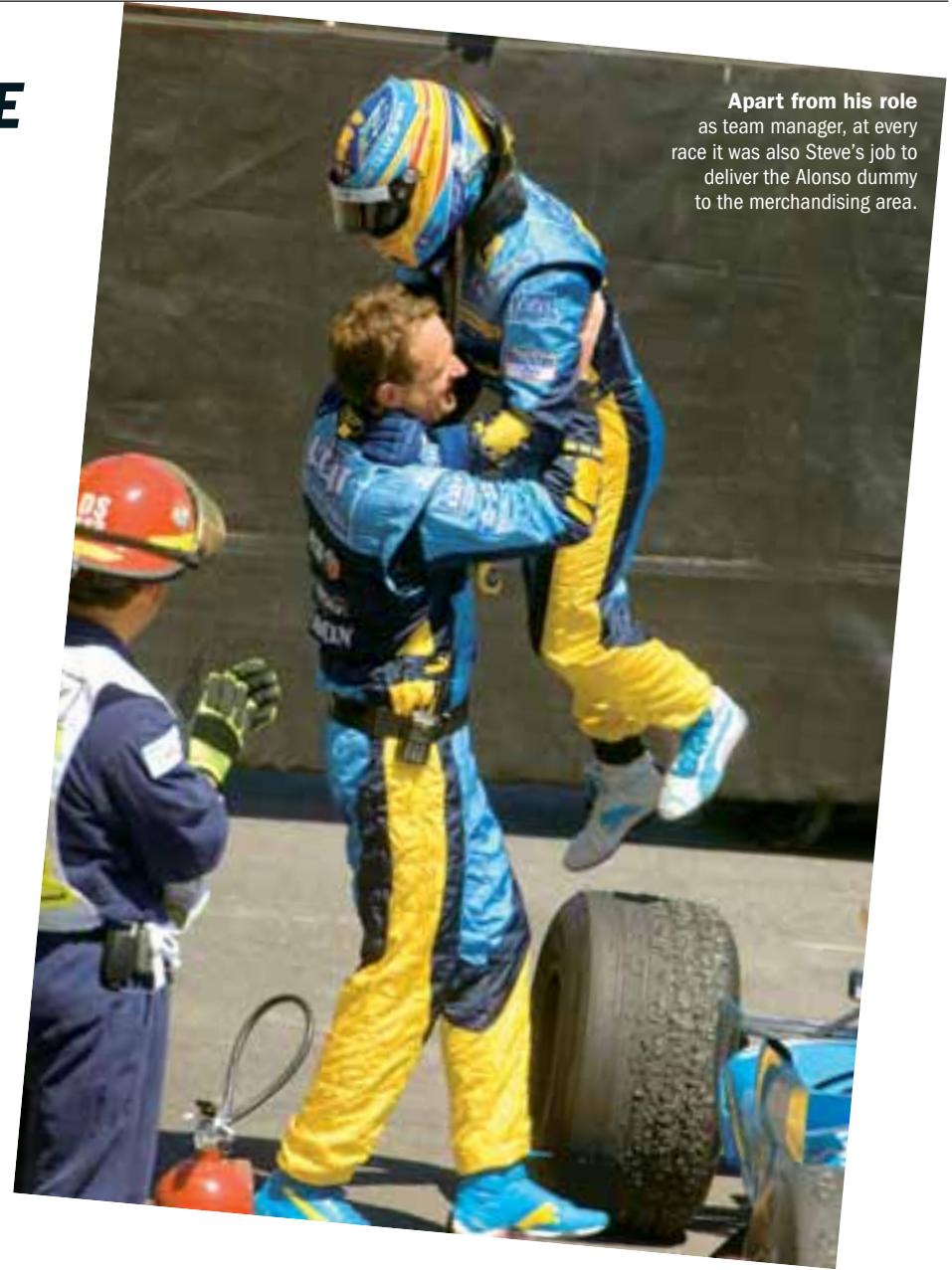


With brother Michael doing voice-overs for the cartoon film Cars, Ralf had decided to try his hand at acting. But his team was not convinced that the role of Condom-man was the right way to go.



'IT'S THE WORST WE'VE BEEN SINCE PATRICK AND I STARTED IN 1977. EIGHTH IS JUST UNBLINKINGLY, HUMILIATINGLY SHOCKING'

FRANK WILLIAMS, SEPTEMBER 2006



Apart from his role as team manager, at every race it was also Steve's job to deliver the Alonso dummy to the merchandising area.



After a painful boating-cum-clubbing accident around a year ago, Kimi's insurers now insist he always wears a helmet when attending nautical cocktail parties.

PHOTOS: CRASHPLANET, CRISPIN THURSTON, GETTY IMAGES



'THINGS CAN CHANGE AT THE DROP OF A HAT IN F1. A COMFORTABLE LEAD CAN MELT AWAY AND DISAPPEAR JUST LIKE THAT'

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER, HOCKENHEIM

Degree of difficulty 8. Artistic impression 9... After 16 seasons of F1, Michael kept pushing himself to find new ways to spice up race day. Here we see him about to attempt the amazing Double Back Flip Off Pit Wall Into Cockpit trick.



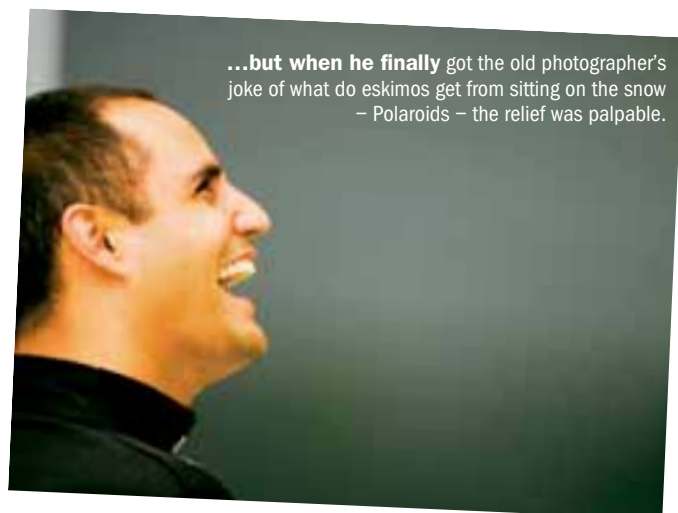
'I LEFT OUT OF BOREDOM'

JUAN PABLO MONTOYA, AFTER QUITTING F1

Encountering the tallest photographer in the paddock was always a tricky moment for Juan Pablo...



...he knew of the lensman's legendary joke-telling prowess but struggled to hear...



...but when he finally got the old photographer's joke of what do eskimos get from sitting on the snow - Polaroids - the relief was palpable.

PHOTOS: CRASHPA.NET, CRISPIN THURSTON, SUTTON IMAGES, MURIEL BROUSSEAU, REUTERS



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



The long, blonde hair was perfect, her figure ideal, but somehow she always knew her lack of height would hold her back in her attempts to become a professional model like her friend.



Hours after the podium ceremony, Fernando was drunk, had collapsed in the flower bed and was throwing bottles at the security men down below.

'I DON'T PERCEIVE FORMULA ONE AS A SPORT ANYMORE'

FERNANDO ALONSO, MONZA



It was beginning to dawn on Michael that running a learner-driver school in Bahrain was going to prove costly in terms of body panels.



'I DO NOT HAVE COLLEAGUES. INSTEAD I HAVE FRIENDS. AFTER MORE THAN 10 YEARS, I AM NEARLY ITALIAN AND THE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN BEAUTIFUL'

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER, PRIOR TO THE ITALIAN GRAND PRIX



Desperate to break out of the third driver role, de la Rosa and daughter practised their synchronised kissing with the Montoyas.

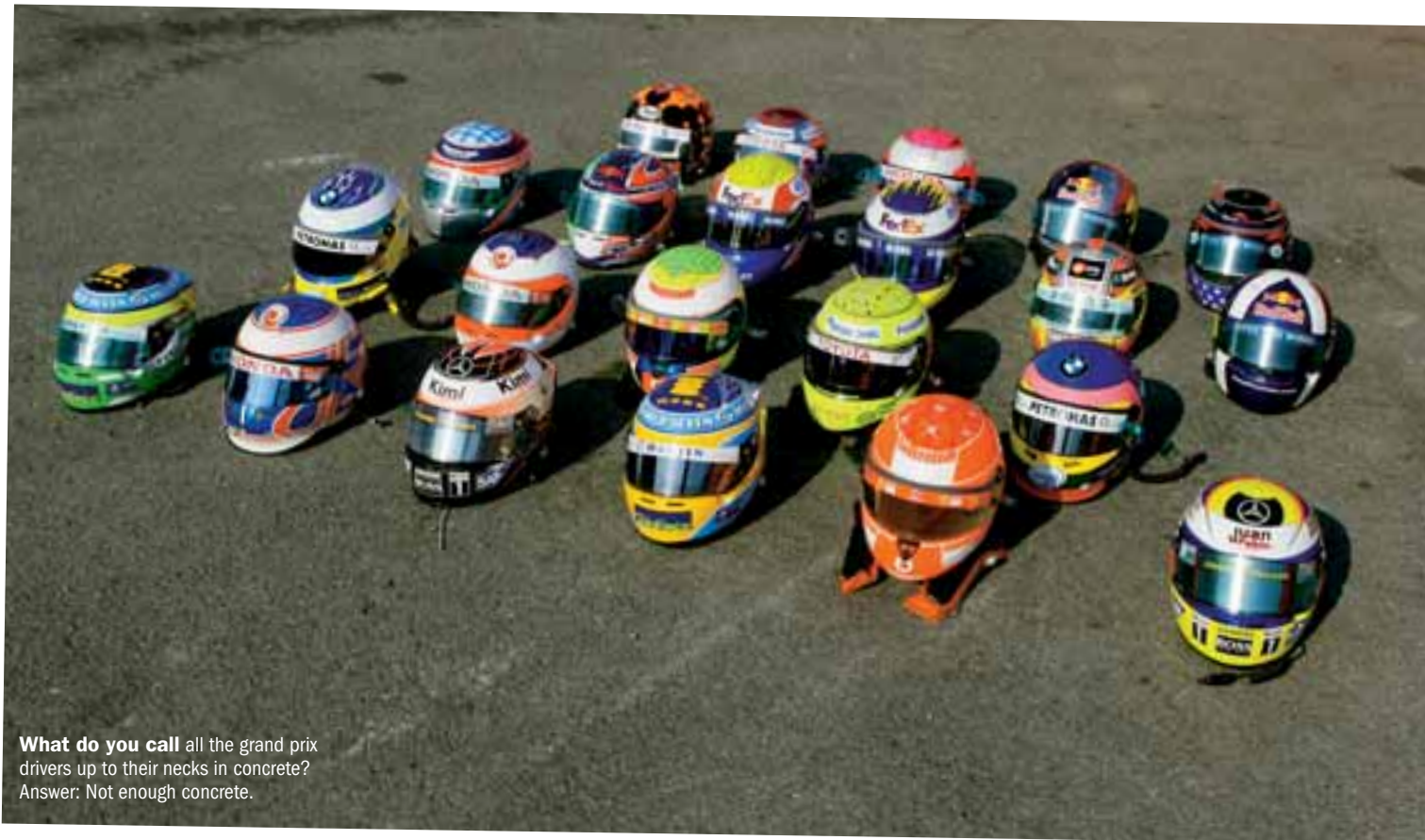
Trulli was only telling Flav how many times he'd won the Monaco Grand Prix...



...but the fiery Italian team boss thought he was being given an obscene finger gesture and instantly tried to throttle Jarno.



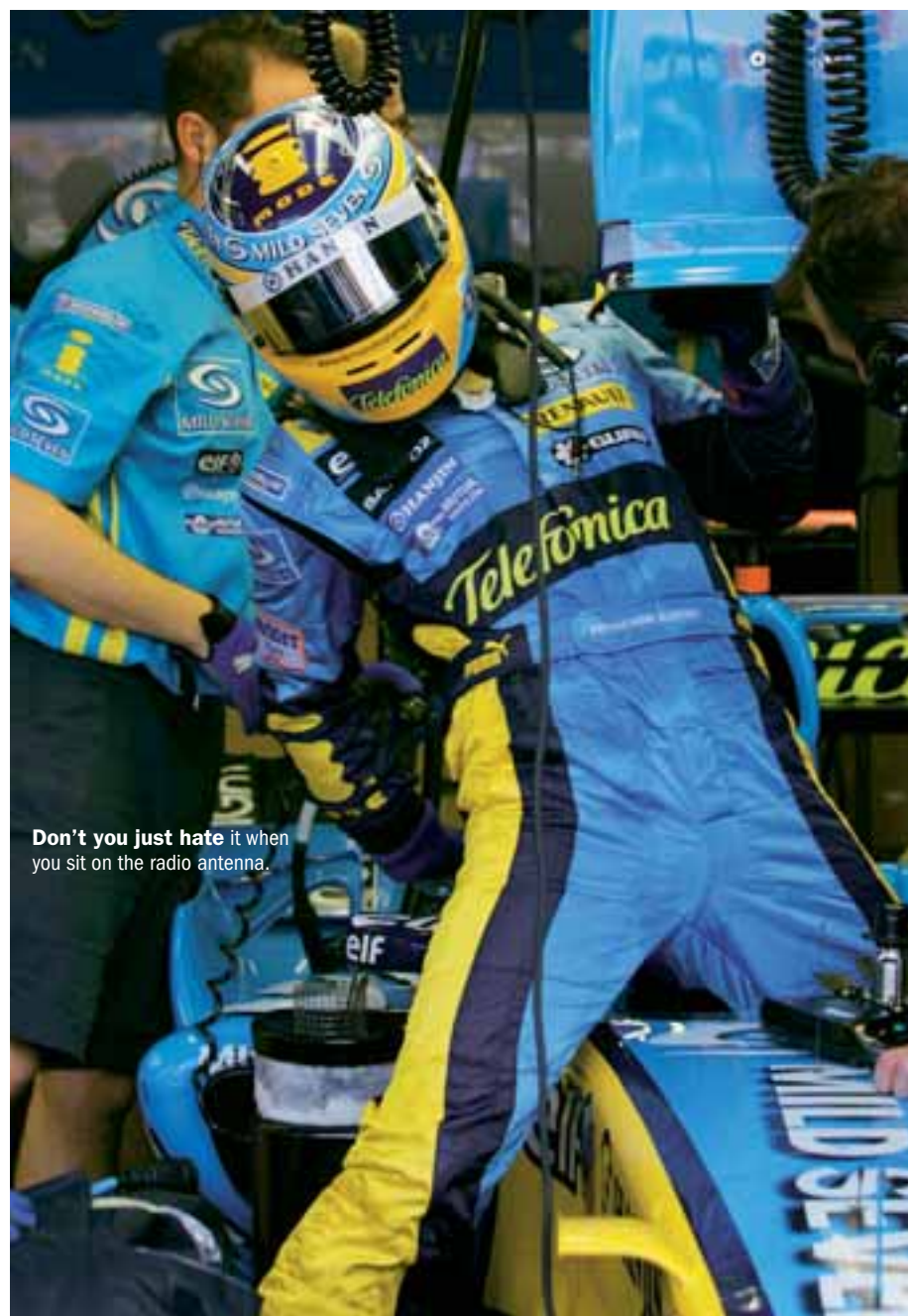
PHOTOS: CRASHPA.NET, JIRI KRENECK



What do you call all the grand prix drivers up to their necks in concrete? Answer: Not enough concrete.



Don't you just love Monaco!



Don't you just hate it when you sit on the radio antenna.

'I THINK NEXT YEAR THE BEST CAR WILL BE PAINTED IN GREY'

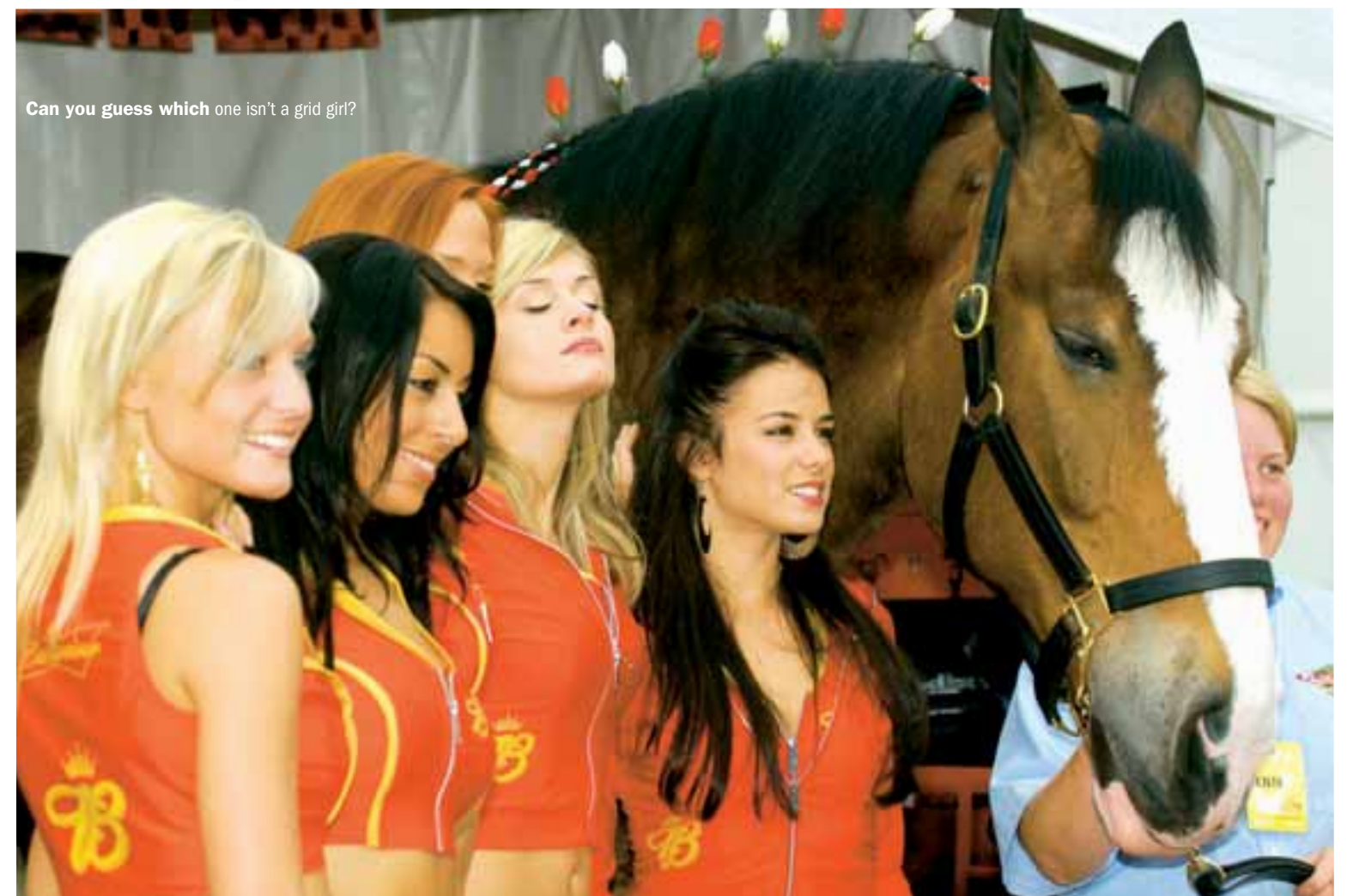
FERNANDO ALONSO, INDIANAPOLIS

'WHAT DO I GET FROM MY HUSBAND? HE COMES HOME AFTER EIGHT. THEN HE EATS. LATER, HE GOES TO SLEEP. APART FROM HIS JOB, NOTHING INTERESTS HIM. MOST HUMANS BORE HIM'

SLAVICA ECCLESTONE

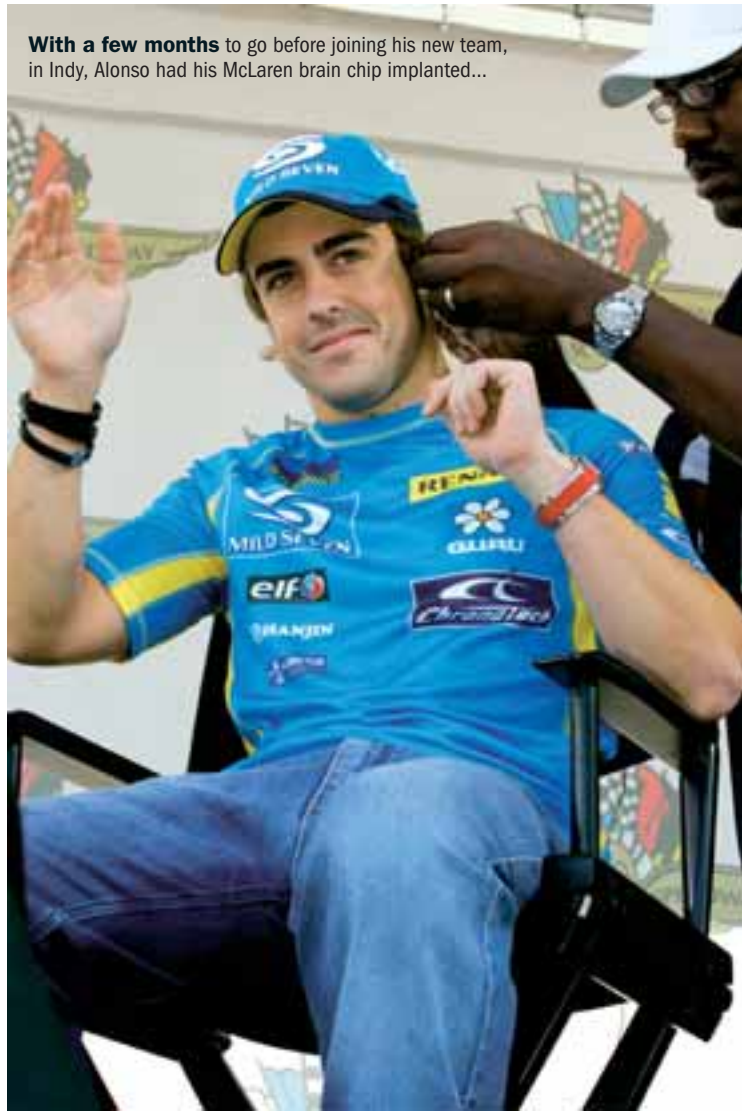


"King of the world!" But which one is Leonardo DiCaprio?



Can you guess which one isn't a grid girl?

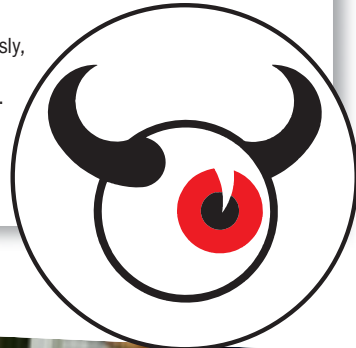
PHOTOS: CRASHPA.NET, CRISPIN THURSTON, SUTTON IMAGES, MSPB/GORIS



With a few months to go before joining his new team, in Indy, Alonso had his McLaren brain chip implanted...



...Click, buzz, tick, boing... "Obviously, optimisation of the optimal package is our absolute optimum aim this weekend... parameters, noodle, hatstand, blah, blah, Real Madrid, olé..." It seemed there were still a few teething troubles with the programming.



'WHY ALWAYS 2PM? IT'S A STUPID TIME – BECAUSE, IN ORDER TO WATCH A GRAND PRIX, YOU HAVE TO FUCK UP YOUR WHOLE SUNDAY'

FLAVIO BRIATORE

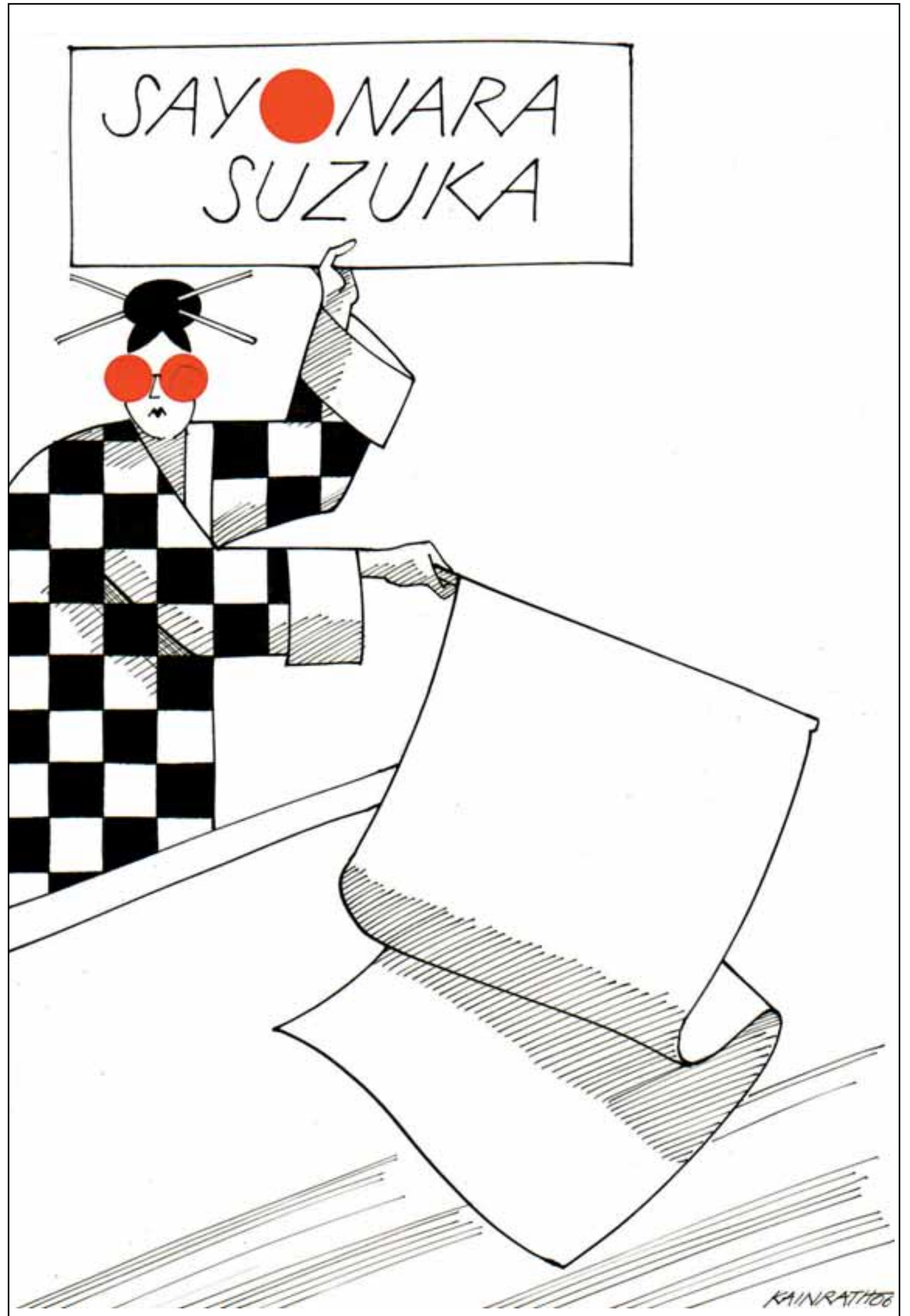


When Aguri explained he'd had to grease some palms to get into F1, Bernie hadn't expected the team owner to show him the actual palms.



*My darling wife,
As usual life is tough for us photographers here in North America.
The local people are so poor they cannot afford proper clothing, the shuttle buses are very basic and offer little protection and we are crammed in almost on top of the drivers.
Can't wait to come home.
Love,
Nick On*

PHOTOS: CRISPIN THURSTON, MURIEL BROUSSEAU, MSPB/GORYS



KAINRATH06

THE RACE RESULTS



RESULTS IN FULL

	DRIVER	TEAM	LAPS	TIME	POINTS
1	Fernando Alonso	Renault	53	1hr 23:53.413	10
2	Felipe Massa	Ferrari	53	+16.1 secs	8
3	Giancarlo Fisichella	Renault	53	+23.9 secs	6
4	Jenson Button	Honda	53	+34.1 secs	5
5	Kimi Raikkonen	McLaren-Mercedes	53	+43.5 secs	4
6	Jarno Trulli	Toyota	53	+46.7 secs	3
7	Ralf Schumacher	Toyota	53	+48.8 secs	2
8	Nick Heidfeld	BMW-Sauber	53	+76.0 secs	1
9	Robert Kubica	BMW-Sauber	53	+76.9 secs	
10	Nico Rosberg	Williams-Cosworth	52	+1 lap	
11	Pedro de la Rosa	McLaren-Mercedes	52	+1 lap	
12	Rubens Barrichello	Honda	52	+1 lap	
13	Robert Doornbos	RBR-Ferrari	52	+1 lap	
14	Vitantonio Liuzzi	STR-Cosworth	52	+1 lap	
15	Takuma Sato	Super Aguri-Honda	52	+1 lap	
16	Tiago Monteiro	Spyker MF1-Toyota	51	+2 laps	
17	Sakon Yamamoto	Super Aguri-Honda	50	+3 laps	
Ret	Scott Speed	STR-Cosworth	48	+5 laps	
Ret	Mark Webber	Williams-Cosworth	44	+14 laps	
Ret	Michael Schumacher	Ferrari	38	+17 laps	
Ret	David Coulthard	RBR-Ferrari	17	+18 laps	
Ret	Christijan Albers	Spyker MF1-Toyota	18	+33 laps	

Fastest Lap: Fernando Alonso 1:32.676

DRIVER'S CHAMPIONSHIP

	DRIVER	PTS
1	F Alonso	126
2	M Schumacher	116
3	F Massa	70
4	G Fisichella	69
5	K Raikkonen	61
6	J Button	50
7	R Barrichello	28
8	JP Montoya	26
9	N Heidfeld	23
10	R Schumacher	20

CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	TEAM	PTS
1	Renault	195
2	Ferrari	186
3	McLaren-Mercedes	105
4	Honda	78
5	BMW-Sauber	36
6	Toyota	34
7	RBR-Ferrari	16
8	Williams-Cosworth	11
9	STR-Cosworth	1

PIOLA ANSWERS

Here are the correct answers to this week's Piola Challenge:

- 1 A Williams didn't race with the extra fin. They experimented with it in practice in Hungary.
- 2 C David Coulthard used a transparent end plate.
- 3 B The gearbox was from a BAR-Honda 2004.
- 4 A Ferrari added a plastic, inflatable support to Schumacher's car in 2001.
- 5 C Renault used these redoubled fins in Canada.