GP CHINA
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007. ISSUE 184
WWW.REDBULLETIN.COM

THE RED BULLETIN

AN ALMOST INDEPENDENT F1 NEWSPAPER



ENTER THE DRAGON

GP CHINA

5.10.07 CHINA FRIDAY

Things move pretty fast in Formula One. A couple of days ago Japan, now it's Shanghai. We were also looking at the prospect of possibly crowning a new champion this Sunday afternoon but last night there were rumblings in the paddock that Lewis' triumph at Fuji might come with a sting in the tail as the stewards decided to once again look at race incidents at the Japanese track. Elsewhere, F1 moves on at a pace so turn over to find out how much Williams will pay for fresh watermelon and who's been playing with helicopters.

MARSHAL ARTS
Children from Shanghai in martial arts robes rehearse for the opening ceremonies for the Chinese Grand Prix on Sunday.
Photography: Reuters

UP

ADRIAN SUTIL/MIKE GASCOYNE
A first point for Spyker after Adrian Sutil drove an impeccable race in tricky conditions. And it would never have happened without Gazza's B-Spec car.

TIMO GLOCK
The German becomes the GP2 champion in the same week that a seat becomes available at Toyota.

KAZUKI NAKAJIMA
Also keen on that Toyota seat, but with the advantage of a Friday drive this weekend for Williams – where he is also in the running for a 2008 race drive.

DARIO FRANCHITTI
Finally out of that Indy 500/IRL Championship rut, Dario signs for Chip Ganassi Racing in NASCAR.

RALF SCHUMACHER
Jumped before being pushed. At least he no longer needs to answer those damn silly questions every five minutes.

BAROMETER

DOWN

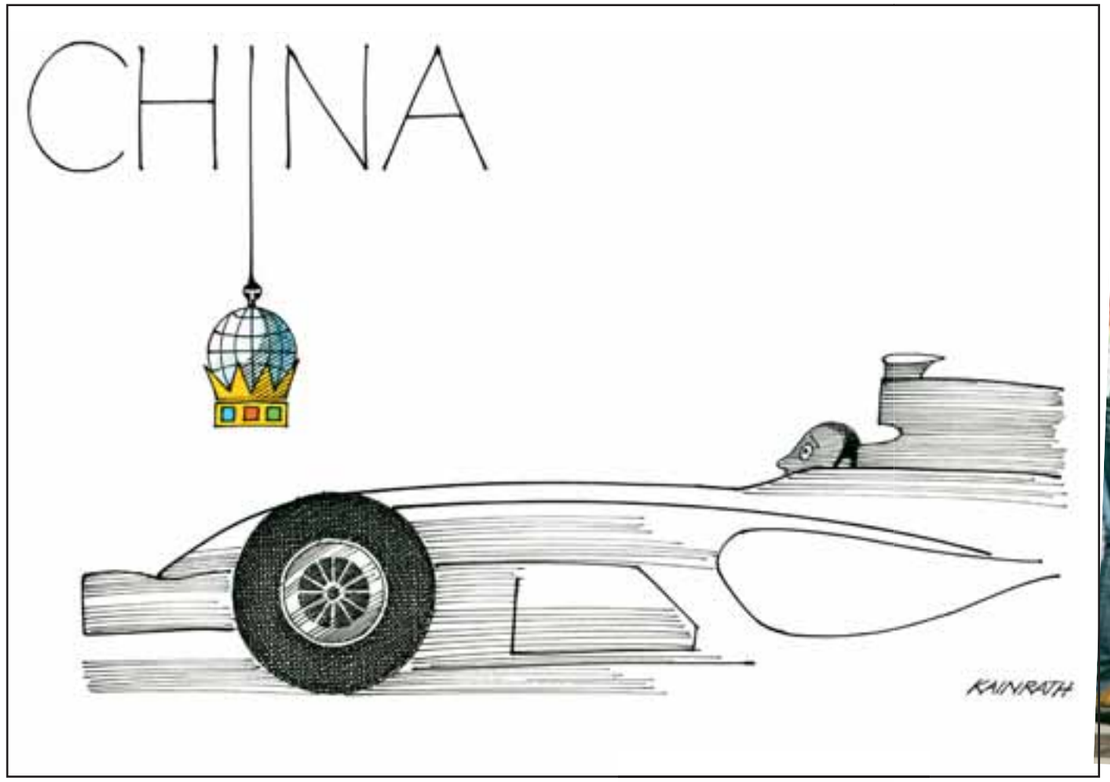
LUCA DI MONTEZEMOLO
The Ferrari chairman refuses to lose gracefully, continuing to insist that should Lewis Hamilton win the world championship, the title will be tainted.

PRODRIVE
The debate on whether customer teams can score constructors' championship points refuses to go away, leaving F1's newest team in limbo.

SEBASTIAN VETTEL
As if he hadn't been punished enough, the Toro Rosso driver starts in Shanghai with a 10-place penalty. Maybe!

GIANCARLO FISICHELLA
With Ralf announcing the inevitable, Fisi inevitably becomes the next target of speculation.

SUPER AGURI
Honda's Nick Fry says it won't be possible to have two teams' worth of cars ready for the racing in Australia – meaning Super Aguri will have to compete with old equipment.



NEW AGE JENSON

It has come to our attention that a racing driver is reading a book! Jenson Button took British reporters for a civilised dinner at M on the Bund on Wednesday night, and the conversation soon came round to books. Expecting Jenson to say that he rarely reads anything more challenging than Heat magazine, it turns out that he's halfway through Gregory David Roberts' semi-autobiographical novel, Shantaram. "It's the story of a guy who escapes from prison in Australia and becomes a fugitive in Bombay," he explains. "He sets up a free clinic at the same time as he's working for an underworld gang." Books about India and eco-friendly camping holidays? Clearly the Earth Team are having an effect. The next stop for Jenson is Byron Bay on the Australian coast, known for its hippie surf community. And after that? Perhaps a longer beard and sanghati robes.

MELON MADNESS

The price of food in Shanghai has been welcomed by the F1 paddock, not least at Williams. Their catering team are still reeling from the price of a watermelon purchased for Sir Frank's breakfast at Fuji Speedway last weekend: nearly €150 from the local market. Almost as bad was the cost of a two-course meal in Williams' hospitality area. The ingredients alone cost €35 per head, which might explain Sir Frank's scowl when free-loading journalists were spotted enjoying the food. It's almost as bad as the tin of Heinz Baked Beans that cost Honda €300 to fly out for their mechanics' breakfasts in 2006.

MECHANICS ON A FLY-AWAY

Even though their cars were in pristine condition, Honda's mechanics were kept busy with repairs on Thursday morning. Instead of working on the cars, the soldering irons were out to fix a radio-controlled Apache helicop ter, which mechanic Adam Cobley bought from a market earlier in the week. But after tyre technician Paul Harris took the controls, there was very little of the chopper left. It soared above the paddock before plummeting into the Paddock Club, destroying their flower baskets. Loosing the battery, windscreen and wheels in the crash, the poor crew almost lost a few fingers when the rotor started in their hands. As we went to print, race engineer Jock Clear was overseeing a full rebuild.


CHOPPER!

CLEAN SWEEP AT QPR

The ink may still be wet on Bernie and Flavio's QPR cheques, but the new bosses are already sweeping through the west London football club with the announcement that manager John Gregory has been sacked. The decision follows QPR's 5-1 away defeat by West Bromwich Albion on Sunday, which leaves the club bottom of their league. Despite celebrating Renault's first podium of the year in Fuji, Flav's good mood turned sour, and he gave QPR chairman Gianni Paladini permission to fire Gregory. The rumours are that Flav is trying to entice former Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli to manage the side.


NICE MELON!


CAKE!


FIRED!

CLEAR DECISION

The Fuji Speedway has announced that it will refund 350 million Yen (US$3 million) to spectators whose seats offered poor views of the circuit. "These temporary seats were set up just before the race, and we were unable to thoroughly check the conditions," circuit president Tsutomu Tomita was quoted as saying in Japan's Mainichi Newspaper. Organisers were inundated with complaints after thousands of spectators struggled to see the track. But then again, with all the spray, most of the drivers could probably claim the same.

BOOKING CANCELLED

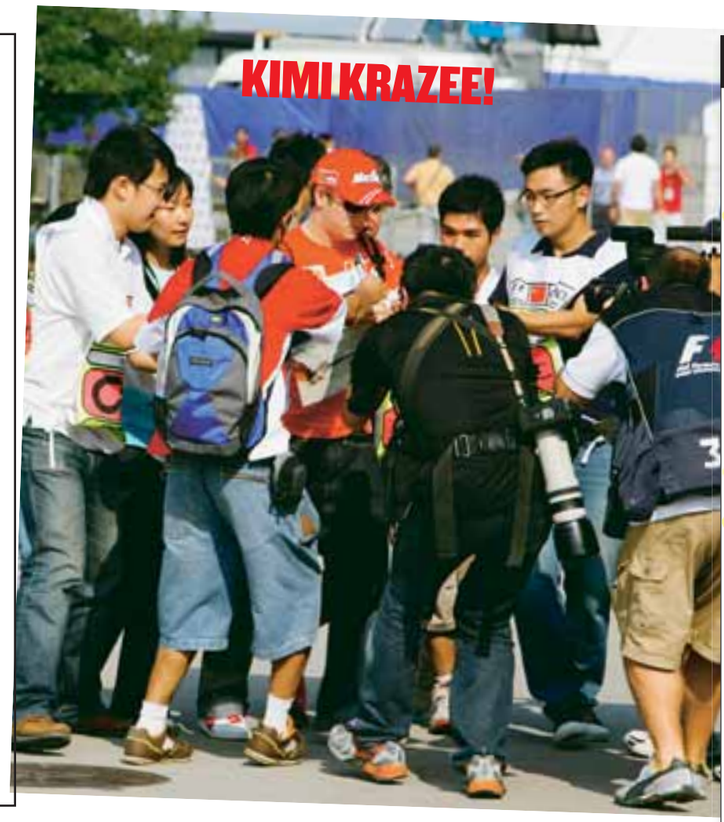
Just days after its announcement, British publisher Red Mist Books has said it will not release Nigel Stepney's memoirs. Ferrari have denied they were involved in the decision to withdraw it, and publisher Lorie Coffey, who refuses to comment on the incident, said: "I understand from Mr Stepney that he still intends to produce the book." So, has a larger publisher made Nigel a better offer?

NEW ARRIVAL

Alex Wurz's Japanese Grand Prix may have lasted only a few metres, but he was still celebrating on Sunday when news arrived from Monaco that his wife Julia had given birth. Oscar is the couple's third son, and Alex hopped home on a plane immediately after the race to be with mother and child. Congratulations!

BIRTHDAY BEATS

Every night's a celebration at Tokyo's Cavern Club, an exact replica of Liverpool's famous live music venue but with an oriental twist. Yes, the Beatles tribute band is Japanese, but then again the fifth Beatle was Yoko wasn't she? Earlier this week, the club was packed on consecutive nights with nostalgia-hungry F1 personnel, including Lennon-lookalike Mark Hughes, of Autosport, and Fab Four fanatic Scouser James Allen, of British broadcaster ITV. And Tuesday saw more cause for celebration when F1 Racing's Steve Cooper blew out the candles on his 34th birthday cake. The band played Paul McCartney's Birthday from the White Album while the legion of British press went for the sangria.


KIMI KRAZEE!

ON THIS DAY...

OCTOBER 5

1980 A Williams one-two with Alan Jones and Carlos Reutemann at the US Grand Prix. It's the last F1 race at Watkins Glen.



Watch race highlights:
YouTube search: 1980 + Round14 + USA

1962 The first James bond film, Dr No, hits cinemas in Britain.



Enjoy the surprisingly camp trailer:
YouTube search: Dr + No + Trailer

1965 Johnny Cash is arrested at the US/Mexico border with 100s of pills in his pockets.



Johnny Cash at San Quentin prison:
Cash + Boy + Sue

BIRTHS

1962 Michael Andretti, former F1 driver is born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA.
A good example of the Andretti curse:
YouTube search: Andretti + crash + safety

1975 Actress Kate Winslet is born in Reading.
Kate talks dirty:
YouTube search: Kate + Winslet + Extras

DEATHS

2005 Rodney Dangerfield, US comedian.
Super Rod in action:
YouTube search: Rodney + Dangerfield + Bill

ON THIS RACE DAY...



2004 Rubens Barrichello takes his ninth GP win at Shanghai.

A tribute to Rubens:
YouTube search: Rubens + Barrichello + tribut

PHOTOGRAPHY: JASON SWALES, GETTY IMAGES, SUTTON IMAGES, THE KOBAL COLLECTION, LAT. ILLUSTRATION: DIETMAR KAINRATH



Toyota were trying out a new Hans System.



The Japanese have always shown respect for their past. So in Fuji race fans were able to see this touching and realistic tribute to the facilities at the Suzuka circuit.



Boy was he in trouble! If he'd read the label when Fisi asked him to clean his helmet, he would not have shrunk it by putting it on a hot wash.

FUJI IN FOCUS

The Bull's Eye could hardly see what actually happened at Mount Fuji last Sunday, not because of the rain and fog but because he'd been up all night drinking hot sake. One week on, this is what he thinks happened, but surely there must be a more logical explanation...



As the rivalry between the two McLaren drivers got more fierce, Lewis asked his team for advice. "So Lewis, start with this gesture, while saying, 'Come on then Nando, if you think you're hard enough."...



As an Italian, Tonio had been expected to win the pizza-tossing competition easily but it had been two hours now and the dough still hadn't come down.



...but after considering the suggestions from his team ...



...Fernando went for the old 'Asturian gypsy mind curse'.



Proving he really does have psychic powers, before the race, Mike Gascoyne showed our photographer how many points Spyker would score in the Japanese GP.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ACTION IMAGES, GRAND PRIX PHOTO, GETTY IMAGES, BERNARD ASSETT, SUTTON IMAGES, CRASHPANET

RIGHT STUFF

Once in a generation comes a new star who puts all his rivals in the shade. This year has been a great year for Formula One's rookies, but one talent has eclipsed all others. Now, after a roller-coaster season, Lewis Hamilton stands on the brink of winning the title having taken F1 by storm. It's unprecedented in motorsport history, so The Red Bulletin takes a look at other great debuts.

QUENTIN TARANTINO

Occupation: Filmmaker
Debut: Reservoir Dogs (1992)

Reservoir Dogs turned 29-year-old über-geek Quentin Tarantino into Hollywood's hottest director. With his first attempt, the former video shop worker had created a film that was, by turns, brilliantly funny and shockingly violent, with all the action held together by superb dialogue. It also boosted the careers of several of its stars, including Harvey Keitel, who helped provide much of the money to make the film, Michael Madsen, Steve Buscemi and Tim Roth. Tarantino followed it with the Palme d'Or-winning Pulp Fiction, although it's probably best not to mention his latest effort, Deathproof.

FRANÇOIS TRUFFAUT

Occupation: Filmmaker
Debut: Les Quatre-Cent Coups (1959)

Formerly a controversial film critic with Les Cahiers du Cinéma, Truffaut based his first full-length feature on his troubled childhood telling his tale via its central character, Antoine Doinel (Jean-Pierre Léaud), a young misfit. While the ending is downbeat and the subject matter bleak, the impact was felt around the world. Truffaut was named Best Director at the 1959 Cannes Film Festival, and was nominated for best screenplay Oscar. It also opened the doors to a generation of young French filmmakers, such as Jean-Luc Godard, Louis Malle and Claude Chabrol, who brought international cinema to world attention.

ARCTIC MONKEYS

Occupation: Rock band
Debut: Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not (2006)

Last year, four lads from Sheffield in the UK came from nowhere to produce one of the biggest albums of the decade, and shook the music industry to its foundations in the process. The band – lead singer/guitarist Alex Turner, Jamie Cook on guitar, Matt Helders on drums, and bass guitarist Andy Nicholson – had built a cult following in the north of England. But they made their name on the internet as legions of new fans discovered their music online and then downloaded their singles. The album became the fastest-selling debut in British music history and won critical acclaim, winning the 2006 Mercury Prize and the 2007 Brit Award for Best British Album – and all without backing from a major record label.

EMILY BRONTË

Occupation: Novelist
Debut: Wuthering Heights (1847)

Wuthering Heights is a story of oppression, love, death, vendettas and even the supernatural all conjured from the mind of Emily Brontë, a 28-year-old parson's daughter, who wrote from a remote farmhouse on Yorkshire's inhospitable moors. It is still considered to be one of Britain's greatest literary works, and combined elements of the Romanticism of William Blake, the rich characterisation of Jane Austen, as well as anticipating the squalor of Dickens' London. Sadly, Emily never lived to see the success of her novel – she died in 1848 of tuberculosis.

BORIS BECKER

Occupation: Tennis player
Debut: Wimbledon (1985)

In 1985, tennis fans at the genteel All-England Lawn Tennis club in London were ready for a new star. Björn Borg, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe were all spent forces while Czech star Ivan Lendl had never mastered the game on grass. From out of nowhere came an unseeded young redhead from Leimen in Germany. Boris Becker was amazingly athletic, had a powerful forehand, and threw himself all over the court as he battled for every point. But the biggest weapon in his arsenal was his service, which earned him the nickname "Boom! Boom!" And he was still only 17. Becker saw off the South African Kevin Curren in the Wimbledon final to become the youngest player ever to win a grand slam, the first unseeded player to become champion, and the first player to win from Germany, where he became a superstar.

JOSEPH HELLER

Occupation: Novelist
Debut: Catch-22 (1961)

One morning in 1953, Joseph Heller was sitting at home when he came up with Catch-22, a no-win situation based on self-contradictory circular logic. So, he wrote a short story about a bureaucracy based on such absurd principles, and publishers Simon & Schuster encouraged him to turn it into a novel. Eight years later, he finally finished writing the story of Yossarian, an American airman fighting in a USAAF force that is run according to the ludicrous Catch-22 principle. Heller's book is arguably the greatest satirical novel of the latter half of the 20th century. Unfortunately, he was stuck in his own Catch-22 – he had started his writing career with the best novel of his life.

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND

Occupation: Rock band
Debut: The Velvet Underground and Nico (1967)

Few people paid attention when Andy Warhol became the manager of an experimental New York band. As well as concerts, the Velvet Underground also performed at the artist's exhibitions. Fronted by androgynous American Lou Reed, Welshman John Cale and elegant German model Nico, their debut didn't make much of a splash on its release. But slowly, it was discovered by fans and critics, who recognised it as a masterpiece. The album paints an alternative picture of New York, of sex, Venus in Furs, drugs, Waiting for my Man, and rock and roll, all in a canvas of weird sonic distortion and wrapped in Warhol's famous banana album cover.

JOHAN CRUIJFF

Occupation: Football player
Debut: Ajax v GVA (1964)

Aged 17, Cruijff played his first game for Ajax and although he scored, the Amsterdamers slipped to a 4-1 defeat. In his first full season, however, the skinny teenager helped to transform Ajax's style of play and they won the league. His international debut was hardly earth-shattering, either, and he was sent off in his second game. But when he moved to Barçelona, such was his legend as one of the world's greatest players that the fans dubbed him El Salvador. He made his debut in El Clasico as he helped the Catalans beat Real Madrid 5-0 at the Bernabeu. It was an astonishing performance and he steered the Spanish side to the league title.

TERRY GRIFFITHS

Occupation: Snooker player
Debut: 1979 World Championship

In 1979, a former postman from Wales blew through the smoke-filled bars and backrooms of professional snooker like a breath of fresh air. Although he had won a few tournaments as an amateur, he was an unknown. But when he entered the world championships for the first time, he steadily made his way through to the finals. After a prolonged semi-final battle for victory over Eddie Charlton, a stunned Griffiths told Britain's BBC "I'm in the final, you know!" In that final, he beat Irishman Dennis Taylor to become world champion. Unfortunately, it was the high point of his career but he remained a fixture on the world snooker circuit until 1997.

MAGIC JOHNSON

Occupation: Basketball player
Debut: 1980 NBA Finals

In Game Six of the 1980 NBA Finals, one of basketball's biggest (literally as well as figuratively) stars, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, was injured. The LA Lakers replaced him with the man who would become the sport's greatest star of the decade. Earvin 'Magic' Johnson came on, played in all five positions and scored 42 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists. He became admired for his uncanny passing and dribbling skills, and for his cheerful nature on and off the court. And after a glittering career that included eight NBA finals and a gold medal at the 1992 Olympics, Magic still considers his debut to be one of his greatest games.



PHOTOGRAPHY: REX FEATURES, MOVIESTORE COLLECTION, GETTY IMAGES, EMPICS

CHINA'S OTHER GRAND PRIX

Shanghai isn't the only place in China where F1 stars have gone racing. The twisty streets of Macau have seen as much drama as those of Monte Carlo, as Gabriele Salmone explains.



The narrow streets of Macau

How often do you see a Formula One car spin because water from a fish market stall has just been poured over the racetrack? You wouldn't expect to see such a calamity at the efficiently run, space-age facility that is the Shanghai International Circuit, would you? But back in November 2003 it did occur at China's other great venue – the streets of Macau.

On the other side of the barriers, a normal day's trading was winding up (as it had done every Saturday for centuries) and the fishmongers were oblivious to the blurs of colour and cacophony of sound that had taken over Macau's city streets.

Ralph Firman was demonstrating his Jordan EJ13 for the 50th anniversary of the Macau Grand Prix (which had been held since 1983 to Formula 3 regulations) when he hit a pool of fishy water at 160mph and lost control.

Firman was lucky not to hit the solid barriers at the tight right-hander, Lisboa (named after the hotel-cum-casino that is frequented by the rich and the soon-to-be-not-quite-so-rich) and he continued around the ribbon of tarmac that winds through the streets of the former Portuguese enclave. But when he reached the Melco hairpin (tighter than Loews at Monaco), he needed help. Positioned at the corner were two Jordan mechanics and they helped negotiate the Jordan into a three-point turn.

During the Macau GP weekend a stationary yellow flag is shown constantly at the corner to discourage overtaking. Two cars heading into the corner at the same time would cause chaos. But still, to the joy of F3 manufacturers' chassis spares departments, multiple pile-ups are an essential part of Macau.

A decade or five ago, the track might have made a splendid venue for a Chinese GP, but it's far too narrow to hold a modern F1 race, so the sport has found itself a new home in the futuristic splendour of Shanghai. But the pontoon paddock we know so well here is a far cry from the street-circuit thriller in the southern tip of the People's Republic.

The start/finish straight at Macau is also surrounded by water, but it stands on reclaimed land in the middle of the fast-flowing Pearl River estuary. Access to the pits is usually via hydrofoil, which makes the 40-minute trip from Macau's imperial neighbour Hong Kong. From the ferry terminal, you pass an underground car park, which doubles as the supporting touring car paddock for the race. And, until recently, at one end of the pit building was a delightful, authentic Italian restaurant.

PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES, CORBIS

Although Macau is a Chinese territory, it was only in 1999 that Portugal stopped having a direct influence on its tropical enclave. Now tower blocks have dwarfed the European architecture that was once the domain of colonial merchants and giant, vibrantly iridescent super casinos, which dominate the skyline, have made Macau the Las Vegas of the east.

That fusion of eastern and western culture and the non-stop nightlife have made it a particular favourite with drivers. And the same ones prop up the bar in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel every year.

But what is the appeal of the race track? Just ask Takuma Sato. In 2001, as newly-crowned British F3 champion, he was desperate to tame the streets in his Carlin Motorsport-run Dallara, despite already having a Jordan contract in his back pocket. And, of course, he won.

The challenge of Macau is unique, as cars are set-up with Monza-spec tiny wings for the series of long straights and flat-out kinks which dominate half of the lap. But that makes them notoriously unstable for the dreaded 'mountain section', which takes drivers up the hill on the return leg of the track over a series of twisting switchbacks and blind apexes.

'THE CHALLENGE OF MACAU IS UNIQUE AS CARS ARE SET UP WITH MONZA-SPEC TINY WINGS FOR THE LONG STRAIGHTS BUT THAT MAKES THEM VERY UNSTABLE FOR THE MOUNTAIN SECTION'



A helping hand for Ralph Firman

A run-down of F1 pilots who have only managed to finish runner-up there proves it's one of the toughest, most demanding circuits in the world: they include Damon Hill ('88); Eddie Irvine ('90); Jacques Villeneuve ('92); Jarno Trulli ('95); Jenson Button ('99) and, more recently, Robert Kubica ('04).

Those who have tasted success there include David Coulthard ('91), Ralf Schumacher ('95) and Sato ('01). Outside F1, former sportscar driver Peter Dumbreck clinched victory in 1998 over the aggregate of two races by a mere 0.003 seconds, while Spa GP2 winner Nicolas Lapierre was the youngest driver ever to master Macau, at the age of just 19, in 2003.

The Macau Grand Prix was first conceived in October 1954 for local amateur enthusiasts. Fifteen entrants took to the streets and Eddie Carvalho's Triumph TR2 took the victory. By 1961 the race was held for Formula Libre, then subsequently Formula Pacific. In 1977, a young Italian by the name of Riccardo Patrese took the flag in a Chevron B40. Further international recognition came in its 30th anniversary year when Ayrton Senna won in1983 ahead of Roberto Guerrero and Gerhard Berger.

Possibly its biggest controversy was in 1990. The race was split into two separate legs and Mika Hakkinen was guaranteed overall honours – running behind Michael Schumacher. But in a bid to beat his rival, he slipstreamed the German heading towards Lisboa. Schumacher jinked to block Hakkinen and they made contact. Schumacher continued, despite losing the rear wing of his Reynard, while Hakkinen clattered into the barriers. His chance of an aggregate win was over.

The Finn leapt out of the car in a rage and threw his gloves onto the track. Tears poured out as he leant on the yellow Armco. Just opposite the traders in that bustling market carried on oblivious.

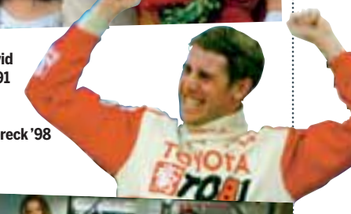
THE MACAU GP HALL OF FAME

Runner-up: Damon Hill '88
Winner: Ralf Schumacher '95





Winner: David Coulthard '91 (above)
Winner: Peter Dumbreck '98







Runner-up: Jenson Button '99 (above)
Winner: Takuma Sato '01
Runner-up: Robert Kubica '04 (below)



FORMULA UNA CHINA

The season's almost over, but we've still got one plane ticket to Brazil for one lucky Una. Here are the 10 fun-loving ladies who are hoping it will be theirs. See what they get up to throughout the weekend...



CATHERINE LUK
19, Student

I'm an outgoing, passionate and cheerful person. In my free time I like dancing, orienteering and playing the saxophone. The best way to get a date with me is to cook me dinner.



CRYSTAL KAM
23, Model

One of my favourite things is food and I love eating out. I love shopping, too, and I've got more than 30 pairs of shoes. The best place I've ever visited is New Zealand – it's so peaceful.



KIMMY KWAN
22, Student

My favourite F1 driver of all time is Ayrton Senna, because he was so handsome, but I like David Coulthard, too – he's evergreen!



SAMANTHA WONG
21, STUDENT

I like watching movies, listening to jazz and jogging with my dog. I have 35 pairs of shoes. My favourites are running shoes – I've worn them in many athletic competitions.



TASHA CHONG
22, Model

The bravest thing I've ever done is learning to drive. My favourite F1 driver is David Coulthard. He must be a tough guy because he competes with a lot of younger drivers.



JACQUELINE CH'NG
27, Model

The bravest thing I've ever done is going parachuting – in fact, it's so crazy I can't believe I did it. The best way to get a date with me is call me – I don't like shy guys.



JOEY CHAN
25, Model

My most treasured possession is my dog – I treat him like my son. I like to spend a lot of my free time with my dog, too, because I love him so much.



JULIE LAM
21, Student

I would describe myself as sporty, talkative and outgoing. The best place I've ever visited is Malaysia. It's a really peaceful, beautiful country.



TRINA LAM
23, Model

My favourite F1 driver of all time is Michael Schumacher because he won seven world championships. I think Hamilton will be world champion this year – 12 podiums for a rookie is so impressive.

TRAMY CHAN
23, Student

The best place I've ever visited is Japan. I like the people and the seafood tastes good. In my free time I like to sleep – it helps me prepare for the next challenge.



THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY

It's been an eventful first season for rookie Robert Kubica. Points, penalties, that Canadian crash and a memorable final lap last week in Fuji. Matt Youson talks to Poland's first man of Formula One.

At a Thursday press conference earlier this season, an unlikely question was posed to the panel of Fernando Alonso, Robert Kubica, Felipe Massa, Nico Rosberg and Adrian Sutil. Did the drivers have an opinion on the war in Iraq? A genuinely uncomfortable silence followed. Sport and politics do not mix well: it upsets the sponsors. While others studiously gazed at the floor or ceiling, it was Kubica who firmly put the matter to rest: "We are in a Formula One conference, so I will not answer this question." He can always be relied upon to say something intelligent.

It isn't that Kubica is outspoken, merely that he carefully considers his comments before making them. Next season, traction control will be outlawed. The wave of bravado-induced driver approval was unconditional; Robert alone publicly mused that traction control allows him to get power down earlier, and to go faster – and something that allows him to do that is not necessarily a bad thing. It was a typically well-organised comment.

"Why should I say what everybody wants to hear? I say what I think. Otherwise, why ask? If I said the same as everybody else, why would anyone talk to me? For the record, on the issue of traction control, I never said it was bad to not have it, I said it had some advantages," he explains. "And I don't think it's the other 21 drivers on one side of the argument and me on the other. They might say they look forward to the traction-control ban – but that's only what they say in public, I know there are a few who would prefer to have it." Sometimes, it is very difficult to reconcile the poise with which he speaks with the fact that Kubica is only 22 years old.

2007 is the year of the rookie, no-one is going to argue with that, especially after a Japanese Grand Prix in which Hamilton and Kovalainen finished first and second, Sutil scored his – and Spyker's – first point, and Sebastian Vettel demonstrated how cruel and fickle the sport can be. The official records have Robert Kubica finishing seventh, but YouTube devotees in years to come will no doubt prefer to remember the epic last lap tussle with Massa. It's already being described as a modern-day equivalent to the holiest of holies: Villeneuve and Arnoux, Dijon 1979.

Kubica was unlucky to come out behind: going into the final corner he had the better line, going wide, pushing Massa wider – only for Massa to find better grip off the circuit than Kubica did on the margin. It did, in many respects, sum up Kubica's season: he hasn't had luck on his side.



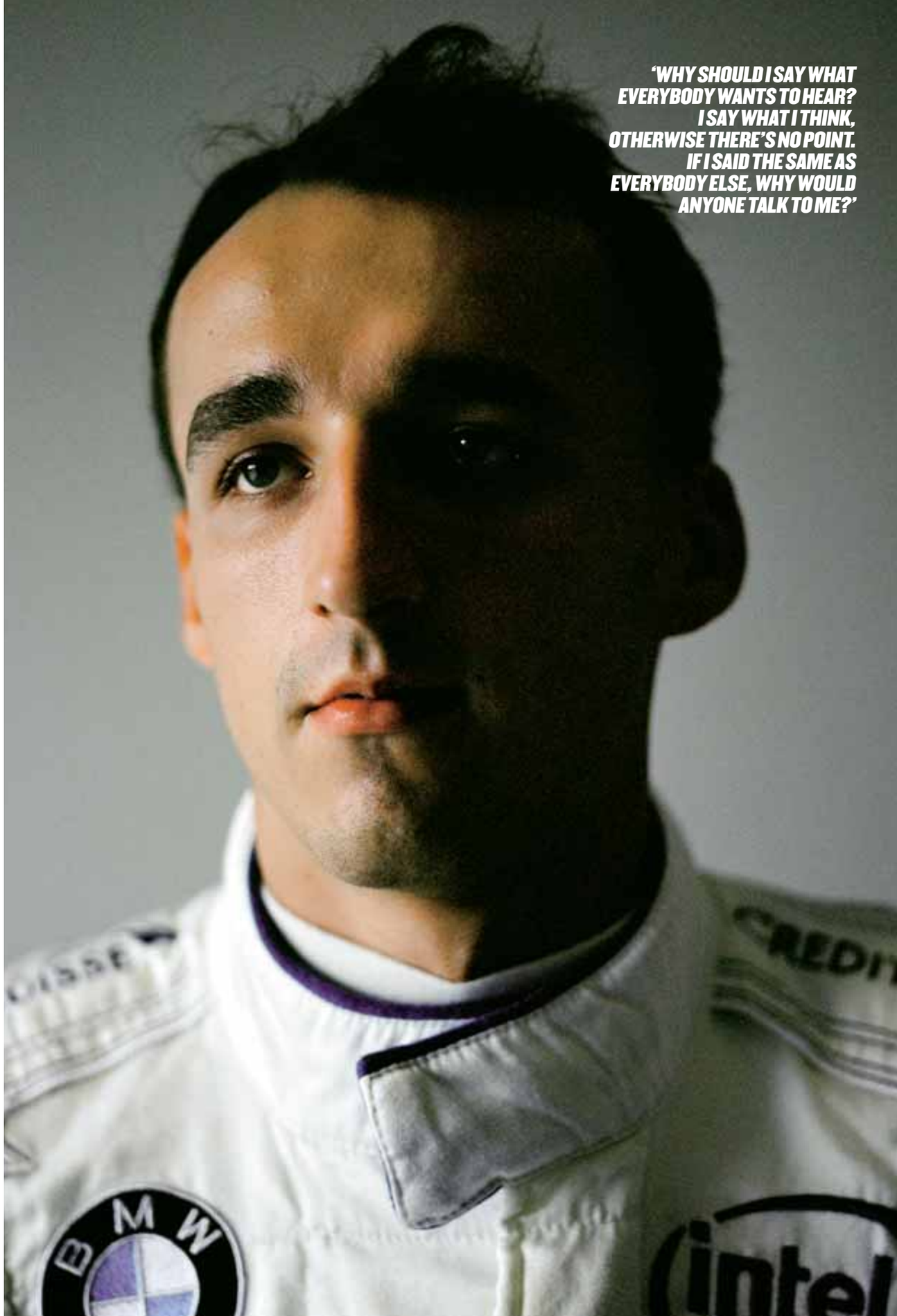
It was particularly apparent in the early races. The BMW-Sauber had the pace to run comfortably ahead of the midfield, but while Nick Heidfeld accumulated, Kubica floundered: any mechanical problems the team had seemed to find his car. "It was disappointing, but that's how racing is," he says. "If you can't cope with times like that, it will be difficult for you to cope at all. Obviously it's disappointing when the car has the performance, and you have the ability, and could score heavily, but don't score anything at all. You have to look at yourself. From a driving point of view I was happy: when the car worked, I was competitive. I had no trouble sleeping."

Of course, worse was to come for Kubica, with the defining crash of a generation in Canada. He reflects on the event and the aftermath with a level of bemusement. "I don't think about it anymore, though it seems that for lots of people, that will be how they remember me. It was broadcast around the world, so people with no interest in the sport, who wouldn't know me in the street if I was a double world champion, suddenly know my name. Is that good or bad PR? I don't know – I'm not interested."

DNF and DNS in Canada and the US, combined with the advantage Heidfeld accrued early in the season, effectively killed off any championship competition between the BMW team-mates. Their day-to-day rivalry, however, has been one of 2007's more compelling battles – occasionally too close for the comfort of the pitwall. "Me and Nick, once or twice we've had... contact. On the one hand it shouldn't happen, on the other, it's all part of racing," he argues. "The first few corners are always tight, as there isn't much space, so it's going to happen if you are lined up next to one another.

"Nürburgring was a classic example. It wasn't the best situation, but I don't have a problem with that. That's what happens in motor-racing. Honestly, I'm not looking at what my team-mate is doing. It's easier to not overcomplicate your thinking. To win you have to beat everybody, and if you do that, then your team-mate is going to be back there with everyone else."

With the season drawing to a close, BMW are already thinking about next year and it will be a season that Kubica will go into older and wiser. "Have I learned lessons this year? You learn something new every day, but that's life, not motor-racing. Here, every lap of a circuit increases your knowledge. All of it is valuable. I've learned about driving, but there's more to it than that, I've learned how to work with the team, and that's invaluable."



PHOTOGRAPHY: SUSIE FORMAN, GETTY IMAGES

THE RED BULLETIN AWARDS 2007

It's your last chance to vote in the run-up to Brazil. These are your awards, so help us to give the world the definitive insider's guide to which stars rose and which ones fell – and also reward all those in the paddock who make the whole F1 circus work.

THE CATEGORIES:

1 DRIVER OF THE SEASON
2 TEAM PRINCIPAL OF THE SEASON
3 TEAM OF THE SEASON
4 BEST RACE
5 WORST RACE
6 ROOKIE OF THE SEASON
7 ONE FOR THE FUTURE
8 MAN OF THE SEASON
9 TOP TRUCKIE
10 TOP CHEF
11 TOP MOTORHOMER
12 BEST JOURNALIST
13 BEST PHOTOGRAPHER
14 TOP MARKETING/ SPONSORSHIP PERSON
15 PR OF THE YEAR
16 PIT CREW OF THE YEAR

HOW TO VOTE:

It couldn't be easier: just make your selections and send your suggestions to *awards@theredbulletin.com* We're going to keep the voting open right up until the Monday before the Brazil race weekend, so start thinking now!





TRACK RECORD

Alex has never been shy about answering The Bulletin's questions. How many can he get through in Michael Schumacher's 2004 Shanghai lap record?



NAME: ALEXANDER WURZ
NATIONALITY: AUSTRIAN
OCCUPATION: WILLIAMS F1 DRIVER

14 ANSWERS IN 1:32.238 FASTEST LAP

PHOTOGRAPHY: LAT

1963

2007

THEN AND NOW

John Surtees is a motor racing legend – the only man to have won world championships on both two and four wheels. Riding for MV Augusta he took seven titles between 1956 and 1960. He then switched to cars and won the F1 championship for Ferrari in 1964. He was equally at home in sportscars, scoring a victory at the 1000km at the Nürburgring in 1963. Surtees has changed his headgear these days, but he still makes regular appearances in the F1 paddock to comment on the stars of today.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RAINER SCHLEGELMILCH



STEREOTYPES MOTORHOME GIRL

Without her you'd all go hungry. But there's much more to Rosy than trays of drinks, roll-up cigarettes and a fondness for the team's mechanics...



Rosy Wing-Wang is extremely pretty as a result of her father, Captain 'Birdie' Wing marrying the beautiful Miss Wang, the woman who ran his office when he was flying planes in Singapore in the 1980s. Her good looks were an advantage when she asked her father if he could arrange a year's travelling for her and, through her father's contacts in the British Racing Drivers' Club, she landed a job as a motorhome girl with V'fon MacMerc (the name used to be longer but they couldn't fit it on the garage at the other end of the pitlane).

Rosy got off to a good start, flashing her smile at tedious guests, as she explained that yes, she could have been a model apart from being too short, while she gradually got to grips with balancing several plates on one arm, running with a tray of drinks above her head and other tricks of the motorhome trade.

Now, it is a paddock truth that experienced motorhomers rarely give the new recruits much advice, as one of the few pleasures you get when working 18-hour days in a kitchen the size of a toilet is to see the new girls make all the mistakes you made a year earlier. So it came to pass that, come mid-season, Wing-Wang wasn't looking quite so rosy. To start with, her long shiny hair was now reduced to a crop, the result of an accident with the motorhome pasta making machine. Her fingers were covered in those little blue sticking plasters that are the badge of honour for anyone in the catering trade who has discovered a missing vegetable knife in the bottom of the washing-up bowl. She now has a sexy yet husky voice from smoking roll-up cigarettes, she has bulging biceps from carrying huge packs of bottled water into the kitchen every evening, while her knees and elbows bear the scars of a scooter crash when coming back from that bar in Phuket with a group of mechanics.

Come the end of the season, she will have developed all sorts of waitressing skills she will never use again, but several years later, after dropping the kids off at school in the Volvo and driving the car to the local garage for a service, the smell of industrial hand cleaner on the mechanic will send a frisson of embarrassing memories rushing up her neck and colouring her face a nice shade of red.

Rosy was never going to spend too long working in the paddock, and when a young and admittedly good-looking F1 driver tried to impress her with his philosophy that racing DNA was in his blood, Rosy scared him away by commenting: "Actually, Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid is a chemical inside the nucleus of every cell, not just blood and it was 17th century philosopher John Locke who tried to establish epistemological foundations for the new science by examining the reliability, scope and limitations of human knowledge in contrast with the pretensions of uncritical belief, borrowed opinion and mere superstition."

Rosy, you see, is not just another dumb blonde. Like most motorhomers, she has a first-class degree from a top university and one day will be earning more than the team test driver, by working on the New York Stock Exchange.

ANN BRADSHAW BMW PRESS OFFICER



LOVE

1. MY DOG She's a 15-year-old rescue Pekingese and I think she's beautiful, although Patrick Head reckons she has crashed into a wall as she has an almost flat face. She's very fussy about who she will sit in a room with and if she doesn't like someone she turns her back on them – and me if I'm nice to them. However, when she went to Suttons to have her photo taken she was perfect – see above.

2. BRITISH AIRWAYS When we go to some of my least favourite parts of the world, the moment I put my foot on the plane at the airport I feel as if I am home.

3. IMPATIENT PEOPLE They are wonderful to work with as they get things done. My F1 boss, Kotti, is one of them and he is perfect to work for. Heike, who I also work with at BMW, is the same – I'm the one who messes around.

4. NORFOLK The most wonderful county in the UK. It is only an hour and a half from my home and there I can walk on the beaches with no-one else around. I am not one of those people who gets lyrical about views, but when artists say this county has big skies, I know just what they mean.

5. CHAMPAGNE There is never a time when it is not right to drink it and I do hate seeing the drivers waste so much of it on the podium.

HATE

1. FOOTBALL It's a game that turns otherwise sane, sensible people into irrational human beings. I'm still getting over last year's World Cup. In Montreal and Indy it was impossible to find a TV showing F1 over the weekends.

2. PEOPLE WHO DO NOT USE A TISSUE WHEN THEY SNEEZE How difficult is it to cover your nose rather than spray everyone. If I notice anyone doing this I avoid shaking hands with them.

3. CHEWING GUM People who use it look like cows on the farm I grew up on chewing their cud. Also, some people are not careful how they dispose of it – either it is spat out on the floor or put into bins where everything else sticks to it – in particular the piece of paper I threw out by mistake and want to retrieve.

4. FOOD IN JAPAN I insist on anything I eat being first dead and second cooked – you can never rely on either in Japan.

5. PEOPLE WHO ARE LATE FOR NO GOOD REASON! Enough said.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CRISPIN THRUSTON, SUTTON IMAGES. ILLUSTRATION: JAMES TAYLOR



BOOKS AT BEDTIME MATT BISHOP

He's about to put away his colourful shirts to take on one of the toughest challenges in motorsport. So how is McLaren's new head of communications and PR preparing himself for the job?

One thing's for certain, when Matt Bishop starts wearing McLaren grey, the media centre is going to be a lot less colourful – Matt may mourn his loss of identity with The Shirt Off His Back by Parry Brown. Of course, haute couture will be the least of Matt's worries. Top of the list will be trying to work out what Ron Dennis is thinking. Ron cites Edward de Bono in the same way other men quote Sun Tzu, so maybe a quick refresher with Six Thinking Hats would be wise. Corporate Communications: Theory and Practice by Joep P Cornelisse might be useful, too.

For some, the delights of the British town of Woking might seem somewhat... limited. However if you've spent most of your professional life in London's grim Teddington area, Woking might seem like the cultural centre of the universe: the A-Z Guildford and Woking Street Atlas will provide a treasure trove of delights. Another culture shock will be going to the McLaren Technology Centre every morning. Compared to the bear pit of a magazine office, the silent austerity of the MTC is just weird and no book can prepare anyone for the team's cleanliness is next to cleanliness mantra, but Roger Hargreaves' Little Miss Tidy is probably the closest approximation of the philosophy.

Finally, The Little Grey Men by BB and Denys Watkins-Pitchford should help get Matt in the mood for what he's about to encounter.

DEAR DAPHNE

We can see clearly now the rain (and fog) has gone...

Dear Daphne, We have a terrible problem and don't know what to do about it. We built a lovely new track in the hills, next to a very pretty mountain and invited all our friends to come and play. And guess what happened? You couldn't see the blessed mountain because the fog was so thick you could eat it with a spoon, it rained all weekend and no-one could see a thing. And then lots of really expensive cars crashed. We've said sorry and really hope everyone comes back next year but we're still worried. What should we do? *Yours, Anxious, Fuji.*

DAPHNE SAYS: Thanks very much for your letter, but I'm having a hard time seeing where you problem lies. You staged a race, it poured with rain and no-one could see a thing. The lead changed hands about 160 times, lots of people crashed, the champion had a terrible race, that young Brazilian and that Polish boy banged wheels all the way round the track and then it rained again. My advice would be that you transport your whole team to every track in F1 (except Spa) and show them all how to run a proper race. *Soggily yours, Daphne.*



FORMULA UNA JAPAN
AKO KOIZUMI

Last week, 24-year-old Ako was crowned Japanese representative for La Formula Una 2007. So you'll be seeing her again in Brazil... and on the television if all goes well.

A year ago, Ako returned to her native Japan after studying broadcasting and acting in Los Angeles. She came back to enter the Miss Universe Japan heats but sadly failed to qualify. So – and this is the sad part – she didn't expect her luck to change. "I didn't think I'd win Formula Una at all. I thought I wouldn't win anything again." And if her fortune has really turned a corner then the Yokohama resident will be on every TV screen in Japan. "I really want to be a VJ," she says. "And in October I have an audition with MTV Japan." Photography: Thomas Butler

GRIDDLE

Quite difficult today, can you spot which famous drivers are behind the wheels of these supercars?



1 This driver has strayed a little too far from the track, but who is it?



2 Which driver is this behind the wheel of the Hummer?



3 Winter testing? I think not, who is driving this BMW out in the snow?



4 Who is taking this BMW 3 series GTR for a spin in Bahrain?



5 Who is driving James Hunt's Hesketh 308B?

PHOTOGRAPHY: SUTTON IMAGES

THE RED BULLETIN

Publisher Norman Howell **Editor** Justin Hynes **Executive Editor** Anthony Rowlinson **Art Director** Miles English **Chief Sub-editor** Nancy James **Senior Sub-editor** Paul Keith **Production Sub-editor** Rebecca Eling **Senior Writer** Matt Youson **Staff Writer** Adam Hay-Nicholls **Production Manager** Adam Carbajal **Pre-press Technician** Lee Laughton **Designers** Phil Slade, James Greenhow **Photo Editor** Susie Forman **Web** David Granger **Web Producer** Will Radford **Team Photographer** Thomas Butler **Logistics Manager** Bettina Leidiger **Project Manager** Justine Hoffmann **Logistics** Kate Robson **Operations Manager** Leigh Pothecary **Truckie** Martin Woodfine **IT** Werner Stadlober, Christoph Raunig **Printer** Oswald Halwax **Printers in China** Shanghai Zhinghua Printing company **Managing Director** Bernd Fisa **Contributors** Eric Silbermann, Gabriele Salmone, James Agnew **Published by** Red Bulletin GmbH. e-mail: secret.service@theredbulletin.com F1/Formula 1/Formula One and devices and translations thereof are trademarks of Formula One Licensing BV, a Formula One company. F1/Formula 1 device used with permission.

CLASSIFIEDS

These are genuine adverts. If you want to submit yours for the Brazilian Grand Prix issue, email classifieds @theredbulletin.com

PHONE HOME: This year's must-have. Used 8gb iPhone in excellent condition. Fully unlocked, works with any SIM card worldwide. Includes working YouTube service. €450. Will ship anywhere in western Europe. Email classifieds @theredbulletin.com

HANDBAG AT DAWN: Brand new Chanel Modern Chain bag in black caviar leather. Purchased in August. No longer available in the UK. Bought for €1950, selling for €1650. Email classifieds @theredbulletin.com

ALL ABOARD: Wanted, a boat in Paris – doesn't have to be a Sunseeker, just a watertight vessel that would be available one afternoon in November. In exchange, will provide beers and ladies. Email classifieds@ theredbulletin.com

PROM PARTY: Bloc Party are on the bill at the BBC Electric Proms concert in London on Saturday October 27. Tickets for this gig are now officially sold out, but there is a pair going for £80. Email classifieds@theredbulletin.com

NFL COMES TO LONDON: Two extra tickets going to see the Miami Dolphins against the New York Giants at the new Wembley Stadium on Sunday, October 28. $250 each. Email classifieds@ theredbulletin.com

TOP SHELVES: IKEA Stolmen shelves, perfect for storing hi-fi equipment. Ten different shelves, five storeys high. In silver and white, for a contemporary look. Dimensions 50cm x 50cm. Free to collect from Kensington, south-west London. Email classifieds@ theredbulletin.com.

SHOOT LIKE A PRO: New Nikon D3, in box with full warranty and accessories. £3000. Email classifieds@theredbulletin.com.

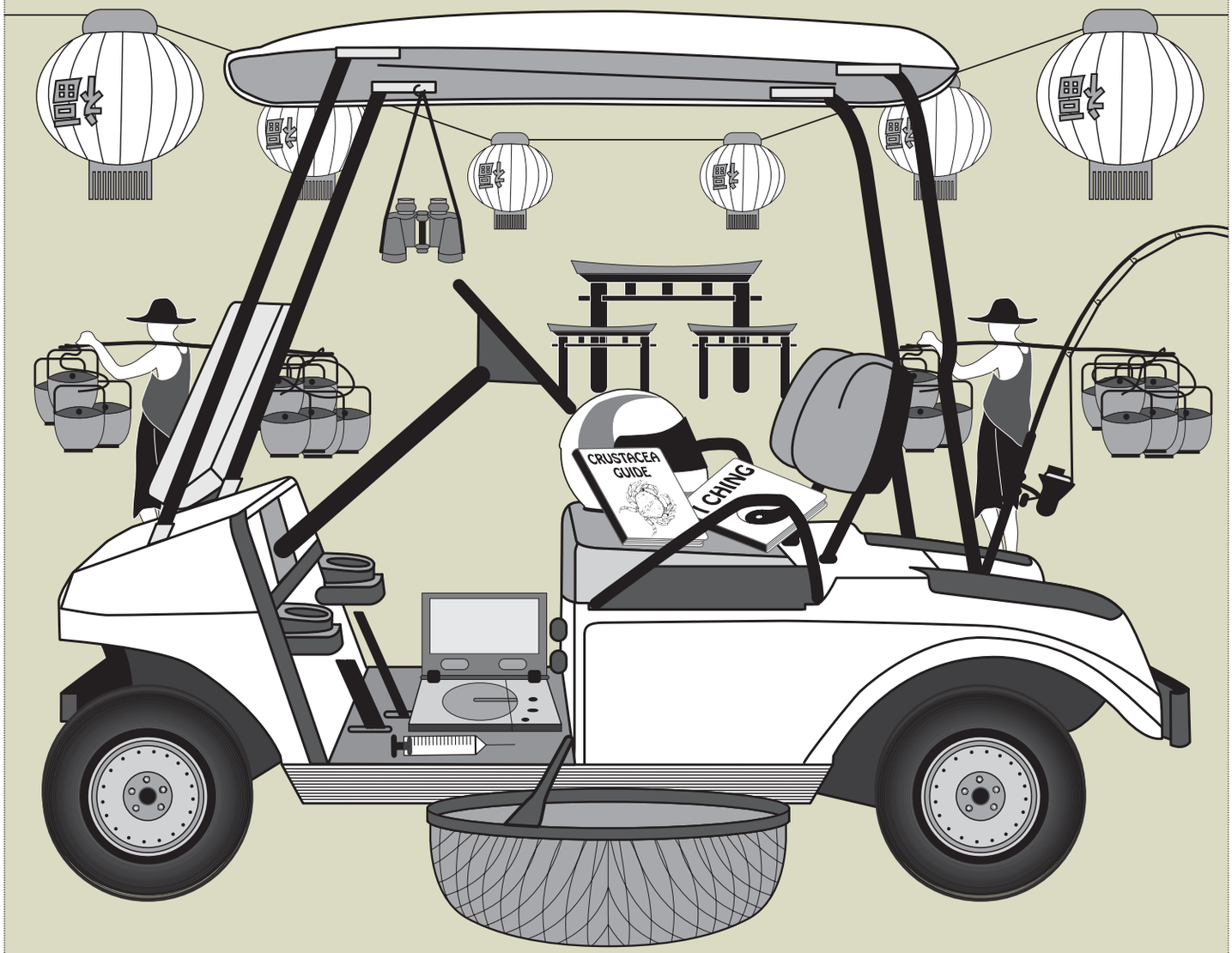
DON'T PANIC! #16 SHANGHAI

Wlecome to China, home of the hairy crab. That makes it 15 races down, two to go. The end is in sight, don't blow it now...

BLINKERS
Nervous about your driver's ability to negotiate the Shanghai rush hour without killing yourself and half the team? Use the system that turns a nervous pony into a champion thoroughbred – because what you can't see, can't hurt you. Until it does.

GOLF CART
It's quite a big paddock isn't it? Hermann Tilke does subtle like Flavio does growing old gracefully. To get around you could go for something as dull as a scooter or go-ped. But here, bold is better. If you want to get round in style then go for the golf cart option. After all, you can stash all your fake Louis Vuitton bags in there as well.

BINOCULARS
A)the pitlane is enormous, B)the grandstands are very high, and C)if you aren't carrying a pair, the circuit's ever-present vendors will pester you all the way to the paddock gate. After all, the paddock is so long here you might need these to see where your garage is.



PORTABLE DVD PLAYER
Can't wait to get home to watch those pirate DVDs? Then get one of these. But don't get it from the fake market – those smart shopkeepers know you live 5,000 miles away.

ANTI-HISTAMINE INJECTION
If you're allergic to nickel, have recently visited the fake market and purchased some jewellery, and now look like the elephant man, then this is for you.

CORACLE
When you've walked to the wrong bungalow for the tenth time, and realised that the bungalow you wanted to get to requires an elaborate and circuitous trek, this Chinese-style boat will seem like a good idea.

JUNIOR ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO CRUSTACEA
Make sure that really is hairy crab on your plate and not a very big woodlouse...

I-CHING
A symbolic system designed to identify order from chaos – useful if you're trying to work out Ferrari's tyre strategy.

FISHING ROD
It's hot, humid and sunny. The kind of weather that induces lethargy. The best past-time for lazy types. Fishing. There's got to be something in that paddock lake. Possibly only shopping trolleys, but still...

ILLUSTRATION: INFOMEN