

In This Issue: The Team-Up You've Been Waiting for!!

"Hey, Doc, what's shakin'?"

"Snakes? I hate snakes."



Shaft and Indy Take It to the Streets ...



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YOWZA! YOWZA! YOWZA!

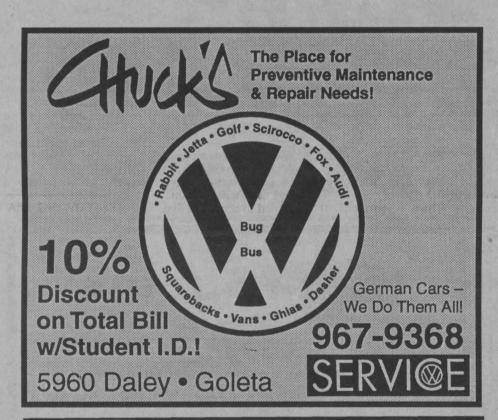
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Shaft and Indy Seek a Tow Truck

There we were, on our way back from a reconnaissance mission down in Los Angeles. Mission accomplished.

All we had to do was get back to Santa Barbara in one piece. Unfortunately, my 1985 Ford Mustang 5.0 had different plans for us.

Picture this: rush hour traffic on the 405. Friday afternoon. 5 p.m.

It was weird: cruising along at average speed, my



gas gauge started dropping fast. I thought that something must have hit my tank and lodged a hole in it. Shrapnel. Suddenly I realized that the car was losing all sorts of power. First, the radio stopped working properly and then the gas tank gauge started moving faster to empty than you can possibly imagine. Next thing I know, the car started coughing and stuttering like a speech-impeded cancerous smoker.

The car died out on us. ... Damn!

The second lane from the right on the 405 in Friday afternoon L.A. rush hour. The car stops. It's mad at me or something, 'cause it ain't going anywhere.

Cars start honking at me. Cars whiz by on both sides. My two buddies get out and look for one of those call-box thingamajigs. Me, like a stoic captain at sea, decide to stay with the ship. "If she's go-ing down," I yell, "so am

My friends look at me like I'm crazy, but I didn't know what else to do. After about 10 minutes of watching crazed L.A. drivers who are also pissed off at my inconvenient resting spot in the middle of the freeway, a California Highway Patrol motorcy-

cle pig shows up.
"Thank gosh," I say to
myself, expecting the best.

"What happened?" he shouts to me over the din of the honking, moving

"I don't know," I answer, because I didn't. "My gas gauge tells me I'm empty," I told him.

You mean to tell me that you've caused a 20-minute delay on the 405 because you ran out of gas?" he scolds me sarcastically.

"I don't think I ran out of gas, but I don't really know. The gauge tells me I'm empty," I said. "All right," he barked,

"Get in the car, throw it in neutral and steer it over to the shoulder. ... I'll stop



DAILY NEXUS FILE PHOTO

the traffic."

With that, he walked into the right-most lane, put his hand up in an authoritative gesture and stopped the traffic, which incidentally stopped honking.

I threw her in neutral and turned the wheel to the right. I coasted to the shoulder easily. Good

thing I was on a hill.
"Damn," I said to myself. "Why couldn't I have thought of that?" It was so

simple, really.

By some miraculous stroke of luck, a tow truck showed up at just that moment and the guy inside told me that he would tow me for free to the nearest gas station.

"You mean, you won't charge me any money?" I asked incredulously.

"Nope," he said. "L.A. taxpayers pay for this."
"Wow," was all I could

what a convenient

breakdown.

The cop took my name and license number. He

My two cronies returned just as the car was being hauled onto the bed of the tow truck.

"This is all free," I told them as they both lit up

We crammed into the cab of the truck and this nameless tow truck driver drove us to a gas station.

I tried to slip him a five,

but he wouldn't take it. "Thanks anyway," he

My friends and I — we all know a little bit about cars - agreed that it was probably a faulty alternator or possibly a lame regulator that caused us this delay in getting back to Santa Barbara. But since we found ourselves at a gas station, I bought a new battery and had them

See TOWING p.6A



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Indy: "Old Cars? I Like Old Cars."

The rays of the sun fanned out over the serene beauty of the awakening vista as birds engaged each other in friendly discourse. The sun's caressing touch slowly enveloped my car in a serpentine manner, instantly igniting the chrome. Yeah!

In a cool, calculated manner, I emerged from my vehicle triumphantly, awaiting the oohs and ahhs from all those who would feast upon the chassis of my pride and joy - a 1974 BMW 2002. This car was the first sports car model introduced into the vocabulary of BMW. This car's legacy spans over 23 years, earning BMW a role in the sports car world.

To my displeasure, the sound of awe took the form of, "Hey, look at that piece! Where's the horse, or do you still use a hamster on a treadwheel to power that thing?"

Heathens, I thought. Long will be the day that I scorn your ignorance! The fact is undeniable and illdisputed — old cars have

My father bought my car when it first came out. Yep, brand-spankin' new! Yeah, check the scene: pumpin' Simon and Garfunkle and thinking on

tually the sucker made it to me. Friends implored me to "dump the sucker," and enter the age of cars with reclining seats and portable frappaccino makers.

I'll admit it was damn tempting to join the team, but something sparked inside me. It wasn't as groovy as a Kevin Costner Field of Dreams moment when destiny actually rode on the wind into the corn fields of Ohio. No, it was more of a slap on the side of the head from my dad, saying, "No, you can't get a new car right now." Damned if that wasn't existential!

In high school, budding yuppies paraded their brand-new \$40,000 cars in and out of the parking lots, honking their horns in un-ison to "Inna-Gadda-Da-Vida." After the ceremonial procession had done its standard three laps around the lot, the preyuppies exited their vehicles in a choreographed Paula Abdul manner, hips thrusting in elation and winking wildly. "Ha!" I laughed wildly

in their general direction, and again, "HA!"

Your brand-new car may have air conditioning, bucket seats, and adjustable side-view mirrors. It may have an alarm that greater things. As the years curses at you in five differolled by, the car remained rent languages while makin the ownership of my ing you a cappuccino. It family, getting acquainted may even have a colorful with several owners with dashboard that lights up the same last name. Even-every time you break the



DAILY NEXUS FILE PHOTO

speed barrier. But, baby, what it doesn't have is a history that makes the car last beyond its years.

Being 16 and in possession of said vehicle, what could one do but make the best of the situation? As the years and ridicule passed on, I developed a greater appreciation of the car. It was one glorious morn' when the socially unthinkable took place. I announced in one bold voice to the world (actually the vicinity of Wilshire Boulevard and Highland) that I would take hold of the torch, lighting it anew, and carry it into the next century.

"You friggin' moron!" came the cries through the sighs of dismay from my friends.

"Are you stupid or sumpthin'?"

"Artists do as artists does," came the reply.

What did I do then, you ask? I did what any person

with an account at Sizzler would do - bought the sucker off my dad! Sure I got crap from the yupps, but in the end, they all loved my car, they even told me so. I was looking long-term. My car is a great college car. It has a sense of history, being the groundbreaker in BMW technology, and it hap-

pens to be a cool little car. Throughout my 71/2 years of owning this car, I have systematically re-

placed most of the inner workings of the car with original parts in order to maintain its vicious flavor. Of course my friends barked with joy every time the car decided to sponta-neously flatulate black smoke from its rear, peppering unlucky tailgaters with 23-year-old crud.

Now my car goes zero to 60 in five seconds (thanks to a rebuilt engine), goes

See OLD p.6A

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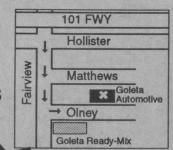
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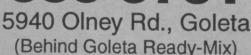
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Shaft: "New Cars Are Happening."

I understand the plight of those who feel that the only real cars were made about 30 years ago, but I think that today's new cars have a certain elegance all their own. Much of this elegance is lost on the California freeways, where the mass production of modern cars is readily

apparent.

The elegance I am speaking of is the new-car smell, the pride of owning a new car, and the satisfaction of modern convenience. Maybe I should qualify all of this by saying that I am not the type of person who enjoys spending a Saturday under the hood of my car, changing the oil, retooling the suspension, or tweaking the woofer—those are things better left to my brother.

I enjoy having a new car with a V6, electric windows, and that mother of all modern inventions: power steering. When I get into my car, I want to know that it is going to run, it will get good gas mileage, and it is going to be sporty yet elegant.

I will be the first to admit that probably the worst part of buying a new car is dealing with the salespeople. While buying my car, I had some rather ugly experiences with the sales folk at one local dealership. My experience was bad enough that I drove all the way to Thousand Oaks to buy the car, but at least it

wasn't enough to completely turn me off from buying a car at all. Besides, it should now be a good long time before I have to face a car salesperson again.

Another issue that always seems to arise when discussing new cars is where it was made. I am proud to say that my car, though it bears a Japanese name, was made in the lovely city of Marysville, Ohio. Marysville is probably no Detroit — I personally have never been there — but most U.S.



automakers don't make their cars in Detroit, let alone the U.S.

Anyway, I think my point is very clear: For some people there is no better feeling than restoring an old car from a pile of rusted metal to a shiny new work of art. For many more of us, we are more excited by the sleek look of our new cars, not because we lack that certain connection with our cars, but because we like the look, the conveniences, or just the smell of a new car.





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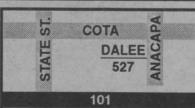
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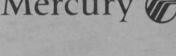
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throw it in.

Continued from p.3A

Since SB was probably about 90 miles away, I figured I'd just drive really fast, so that if the alternator was working at all, it would still give some juice

Flying north on the 101 at over 100 mph, approaching 217 (Ward Memorial Boulevard), the car started showing its problematic signs again.

back to the battery.

I said "Fuck it," but my friends were both sleeping.

I pulled into the oncampus lot. Just then the car died. I didn't care - we were home.

We walked home to our dorm room and I went to bed thinking that my 1985 Ford Mustang GT needed a new alternator. I knew I'd fix it the next day. For the time being, we were home. And home is where the heart is.

Turns out it was a lousy regulator, but who really cares, anyway?

Continued from p.4A 120 mph, and makes a sweet purring noise. I have the ability to do more than a lot of new car owners can do because it's an old car.

Field trips? No problem. Excursions to the greater unknown? Nothing an optimistic bunch and an arsenal of AAA cards can't handle! In the end, my car has provided me with the one thing the new cars could never offer - a fistful of memories!

Chitty-chitty-bangbang, my arse!

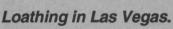




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1.) In the chapter of John Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath featuring the used-car lot, what is the total number of car parts named?

2.) Give descriptions and the nicknames of the two cars featured in Hunter S. Thompson's Fear and features one of the most famous car





ark from the Nazis?

4.) What kind of car forms part of the title for track five of the soundtrack from the movie Shaft?

5.) In the book On the Road, in which the main characters spend a lot of time in cars, who among the Beats is the character Old Bull Lee based on?

6.) Bullit, starring Steve McQueen, chase sequences ever captured on film. How many hubcaps does McQueen's car lose in this chase?

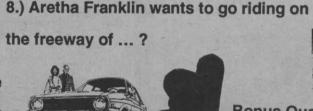


3.) In Raiders of the Lost Ark, what kind 7.) Harvey Keitel and Bill Cosby drive Louise plummet to the bottom of the of truck does Indy hijack to recover the what kind of automobile in Mother, Jugs Grand Canyon in what kind of car? and Speed?



9.) In The Muppet Movie, in what vehicle do Kermit the Frog and friends drive to Hollywood?

10.) Harvey Keitel watches Thelma and



Bonus Question: Fill in the blank: Herbie the Love

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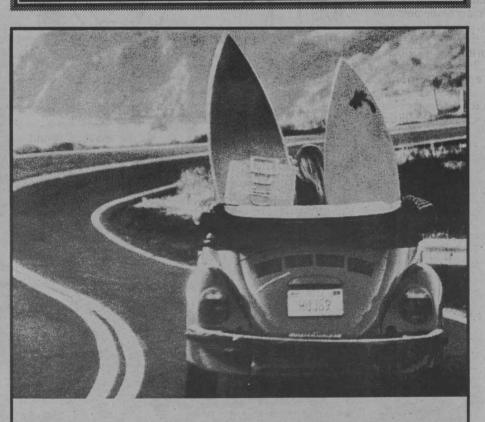


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