

Your Sunday

HAVE YOUR SAY

LETTERS THIS WEEK PAGE 40

CUT COST OF THOSE FUEL BILLS

PERSONAL FINANCE PAGES 42&43

YOUR SEX DOC

MY WIFE WON'T MAKE LOVE TO ME PAGE 50

PAGE 44 YOUR MOVIES

CLIVE'S RIGHT ON TARGET..



FILM OF THE WEEK

ALSO DVDS OF THE WEEK



WACKOMOBILE

ALONG with the ghoulish contents of his Neverland ranch, Michael Jackson's dark blue stretch Rolls-Royce Seraph is up for sale in April. Designed by Jackson himself, the interior looks like a ballroom from the Palace of Versailles - with added gold cherubs and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs sculpture. The larger-than-life limo is expected to make £100k, which, given its enormous original cost, is actually on the cheap side. Details at www.juliensauctions.com.



Quentin



DON Kane is moving to Africa to work for a charity. He wants to take a 4x4 with him, use it for a few years and then leave it as a gift to the charity when he comes back to the UK. Don's budget is £10k to £15k, and he's been looking at a low-mileage 03-plate Toyota Landcruiser. Is this a good choice?

QUENTIN SAYS: How wonderfully philanthropic. The Landcruiser's going to be your most reliable option, and there are plenty

of them over there. But they are a bit complicated to fix, so I would say that the simplest, most village-friendly technology comes in the shape of a Land Rover. And £10k should buy you a low-mileage 03-plate 110 Station Wagon.

Remember that some of them have 12 seats, can accommodate massive roof racks and they'll always be able to venture where Landcruisers can't.



No rhd Camaro ...shame

GM ARE HEADING FAST INTO MONSTER TROUBLE

MORE bad news for GM. They've binned their Pontiac and Saturn brands and cancelled all high-performance vehicles (including the right-hand drive Camaro).

They can't sell Hummer, Saab have

just filed for bankruptcy protection in Sweden and are looking to cull 47,000 jobs globally. Now they want the US government's bailout bill to mushroom to an incredible \$30billion. Maybe it's time to call it a day.



Great value... 61mpg Scout

Skoda absolutely Fab-ia for slump

SKODA'S new Fabia Scout looks like a recession-shaped motor. And its virtues are compelling - £12k entry price, VW solidity,

charming dealers, top warranty and 61mpg from the game little 1.4 oil-burner - just what's needed in the gloom. You even get a six-speed

box as standard. And if other Skodas are anything to go by, it'll be worth at least six grand in three years, which isn't bad by any standards.

IS IT BRIT BRAVADO?

SOMEBODY obviously thinks there's still a market for hand-built British supercars. Vision Sports Cars of Sussex have just unveiled their Mk II Minotaur, a wildly-styled affair with mid-mounted 5.7-litre Chevy V8 pushing out 350bhp.

Despite the £65k price tag, Vision say servicing and parts should cost no more than a standard family car's as much is borrowed from mainstream motors.

It even uses a transaxle out of the humble old Renault 21 Turbo. That should help, then.



CRRRU

WHO'D DRIVE IT Bankers missing a bonus

ROLLS-Royce, touch burr walnut, aren't suffering from a serious slump in sales. The Crewe company are, however, doing their bit when it comes to downsizing.

Although still a concept, their new baby 200EX will cost £170k when it goes on sale at the end of the year. Insiders say the finished car will look very much like these pictures, and will be as exquisitely fashioned as the head of the RR family, the £250k Phantom.

Rolls don't like the term "baby" or, heaven forbid, "cheap", although the 200EX does use a steel body and some underpinnings from the BMW 7-Series, rather than the Phantom's specially-made aluminium architecture. Half a metre shorter than its bigger



The baby RR has got Beemer borrowings

brother, with air suspension, adjustable damping, V12 engine, six-speed ZF auto gearbox, suicide doors and 20-inch rubber, the 200EX promises the same elegance and refinement, but better handling and poise at the limit thanks to a 200kg weight-saving.

Cashmere headlining and palisander veneer aside, £170k is big money in this climate. Sales to oligarchs around the world may still be strong, but RR's traditionally glacial depreciation isn't what it was.

This week a year-old Phantom was knocked down at British Car Auctions for £148k - that's a thumping £109k loss in a little over a year.

Hopefully the pint-sized EX will fare better. Mind you, if you're worried about trifles like depreciation, this probably isn't the ride for you.

Willson

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Q I'M looking for a small five-door automatic hatchback with good mpg. I will be trading in my 2006 Nissan Micra Urbis 1.2. I have been to a couple of unhelpful dealers, who don't seem to be interested in my car because it's automatic.

I've been looking at the VW Polo BlueMotion, Skoda Fabia, Seat Ibiza and Fiesta ECONetic, but auto versions are hard to find. What can I do? - *Jan Robertson, by email*

A DON'T be told your Micra isn't desirable, because it is. Small and thrifty autos are hot property. My

money would be on a 2008 Toyota Yaris 1.4D-D TR auto at around eight grand. Try Sims Toyota on 0845 124 0549.

Q IN the Ford Mondeo, Toyota Avensis and Mazda 6 class, which is the best buy? I want to trade up from a Ford Focus. - *Roland Brooks, by email*

A FOR me, it has to be the Ford every time. The Avensis isn't that exciting, the Mazda will depreciate more, while the Mondeo drives, handles and looks much better than either.

Go for the 1.8 TDCi and treat yourself to the Ghia spec. It will hold its value longest and is pleasantly plush.



Second-hand prices get new head of steam

BRITISH Car Auctions report that used prices are up, with a shortage of supply and lots of motivated punters out hunting for cheap wheels. But nearly-new motors have slipped, pushed back by big discounts on new metal. Here are 10 motors that recently went under BCA's hammer...

- 52-plate Renault Scenic 112k £1,075
- 53-plate Ford Mondeo TDCi 106k £1,400
- 52-plate Renault Clio Expression 61k £1,575
- 02-plate VW Passat T 109k £1,350
- 03-plate Vauxhall Corsa Active 78k £1,200
- 55-plate BMW X3 D SE 69k £8,600

INCH RIDER

LATEST ROLLER'S BEEN DOWNSIZED



- 53-plate Mercedes E320 CDI Elegance 58k £7,750
- 55-plate Peugeot 407 HDi SE 101k £2,900
- 55-plate Vauxhall Astra CDTi Life 76k £3,000
- 02-plate Toyota Yaris GS 36k £2,025

Cole Ferrari in premier league loss

THIS week England and Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole's Ferrari 612 Scaglietti went through British Car Auctions and was bid to 60 grand.

Cole paid £212,000 for the black V12 at the end of 2004, and has only covered 27,000 miles.

Which means that in depreciation alone it's cost him £5.63 a mile. Throw in petrol and insurance (which will have been pricey) and three main agent services, and he's looking at nearer seven quid for every mile. At that money you'd have to think twice about slipping down to the shops for a paper.



Expect scalpel-sharp handling from slim and trim EX

Cabin is as gentlemanly as Rollers of yore

But will they call it a Silver something?

