

Your Sunday

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HAVE YOUR SAY

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PAGE 46 YOUR MOVIES

KATE AND LEO HIT THE REVOLUTIONARY ROAD



FILM OF THE WEEK

ALSO DVDS OF THE WEEK



Meters running out for Checkers

IT'S SO UNFARE

HERE'S a tragic automotive casualty of the times. After 87 years, New York's Checker taxis has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Even more familiar than London black cabs, Checkers were immortalised in the 1976 film Taxi Driver and the TV show Taxi. With \$21.8million worth of debt and an ageing, non-green profile, the future of the bright yellow US cab doesn't look that bright. Shame.

Quentin



JERRY McGahan is considering buying a BMW 750iL for weekend driving. He's been looking at a 2000W for £7,000. Is he doing the right thing?

QUENTIN SAYS: Are you sure you don't need some medication?

The long wheelbase 5.0-litre V12 Seven does around 15 to the gallon and also costs bundles in tyres and servicing. Your chos-

en car also sounds dear. Even the most opportunistic dealer wouldn't dare to charge more than five grand at the moment, so a realistic retail of £4k sounds nearer the mark.

I'd shop about a bit more, sure in the knowledge that you're probably the only man in the UK looking to buy BM's biggest behemoth.



47mph for 200 grand

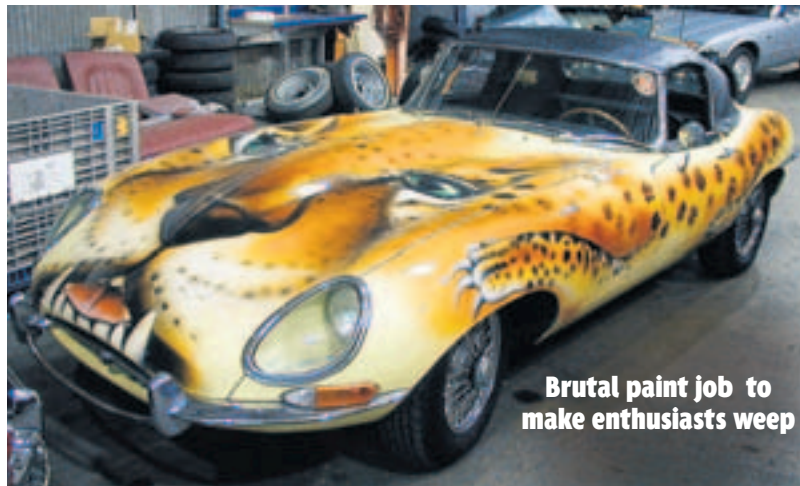
PURRFECT MOTOR FOR COOL CAT IN LOVE WITH THE MOVIES

ONE of the maddest cars to appear on eBay is the actual S.L.O.W. (or Super Luxurious Omnidirectional Whatchamacajigger) from Mike Myer's 2003 movie The Cat In The Hat.

While you may not care, the Zeppelin-like 23ft long cinematic folly cost Universal Studios \$1.2m and

was a central part of the film. The Buy It Now price is a hefty £217,000, and there's just one problem. Top speed is only 47mph.

Also on eBay (and for rather less) is dear old Harry Secombe's 1991 Mercedes S500. Sadly, the timing chain's gone, so the top bid is just £840.



Brutal paint job to make enthusiasts weep

Classic case of a hideous paint job

HERE'S how to ruin a hugely valuable classic. The hideous paint job you see before you was inflicted on the third E-

Type to be imported into the US back in 1961 by an overexcited Jaguar dealer.

The flat-floor roadster

with outside bonnet locks would now be worth over £100,000, and is the holy grail of all E-Types. Time to get the T-Cut out.

Widebody wideboy BMW X6



170MPH 'TYCOON' BEAMER IS ULTIMATE MUST-CHAV

IF you really do want to raise two fingers to the anti-4x4 brigade, here's the SUV for you.

German tuners Hamann have come up with a widebody version of the BMW X6 called the Tycoon. As well

as the rippling bodykit and 23in alloys, there's a tuned 360-horse twin-turbo six-pot giving a top speed of over 170mph, not to mention a boot-mat with chequered stitching and embroidered logo. Chavvy or what?

WAT

WHO'D DRIVE IT
Ferrari
fanciers of
the future

THIS week's most audacious auto takes some believing.

Washington-based Shelby Supercars, makers of the fastest production car in the world, reckon they've now come up with the ultimate electric supercar.

Not content with their 254mph Ultimate Aero, they now claim the Aero EV, set to be launched this spring, will have a 150-200mile range on a 10-minute charge from a domestic mains outlet, or the same time it takes to fill a normal car with petrol.

And the Aero EV's performance numbers will make the G-Wiz look like it's going backwards. 0-60 comes up in a shocking 2.5 seconds, and top whack is an electrifying 208.

Two monster 500hp electric motors, with internal cooling systems and weighing less than 200lb, will power the rear wheels, giving 100 per cent torque at zero rpm, which means you'll be able to light up the rear rubber in absolute silence.

A nanotechnology lithium battery pack can be tweaked to deliver anything from 200-1200 scaleable horsepower. These are indeed bold claims. If

Shelby can pull off the range and charge time, never mind the performance, they'll utterly transform the usability, practicality and desirability of the electric car genre.

With incredible confidence, SSC add cheekily that they'll be trying for a place in the Guinness Book of Records later this year.

Mr Obama will be pleased.



Willson

**BRITAIN'S
NO.1 MOTORING
WRITER**



Got a problem?
Email me at
willson@sunday
mirror.co.uk

**HELP!
You ask
me**



Q COULD you please give me details of the tuning kit for diesel cars you recommended a while back? – *Jeff Weed, email*

A IF you've got a diesel motor, this will save you money. Last year I put a plug-in diesel performance unit into my Jag XJ oil-burner, and saw a significant increase in torque and flexibility, as well as adding another five miles to every gallon.

Fitting the module (left), which plugs into the wiring loom, took just ten minutes. At around

£300 it may look expensive, but if you do a big mileage it wouldn't be long before your investment was handsomely repaid. Find out more at www.dieselpowertuning.co.uk

Q IS an ex-demonstrator Jag worth the same money as one that isn't? I was sold a car by a Jag dealer and told it had just one owner. But when the document came back from DVLA it showed them as the first owner. The dealer says it wouldn't make any difference to

the car's value. What do you think? – *Alan Davies, email*

A ONLY the most anal and neurotic buyer would claim this makes your Jag worth less than a straight one-owner car.

Having a Jag dealer's name on the V5 isn't terrible, and would reduce its value by £500 at the very worst. If you're still unhappy, get a letter from the dealership to put in the history, confirming it was a demonstrator and maintained to factory standards.



T A M O V E R

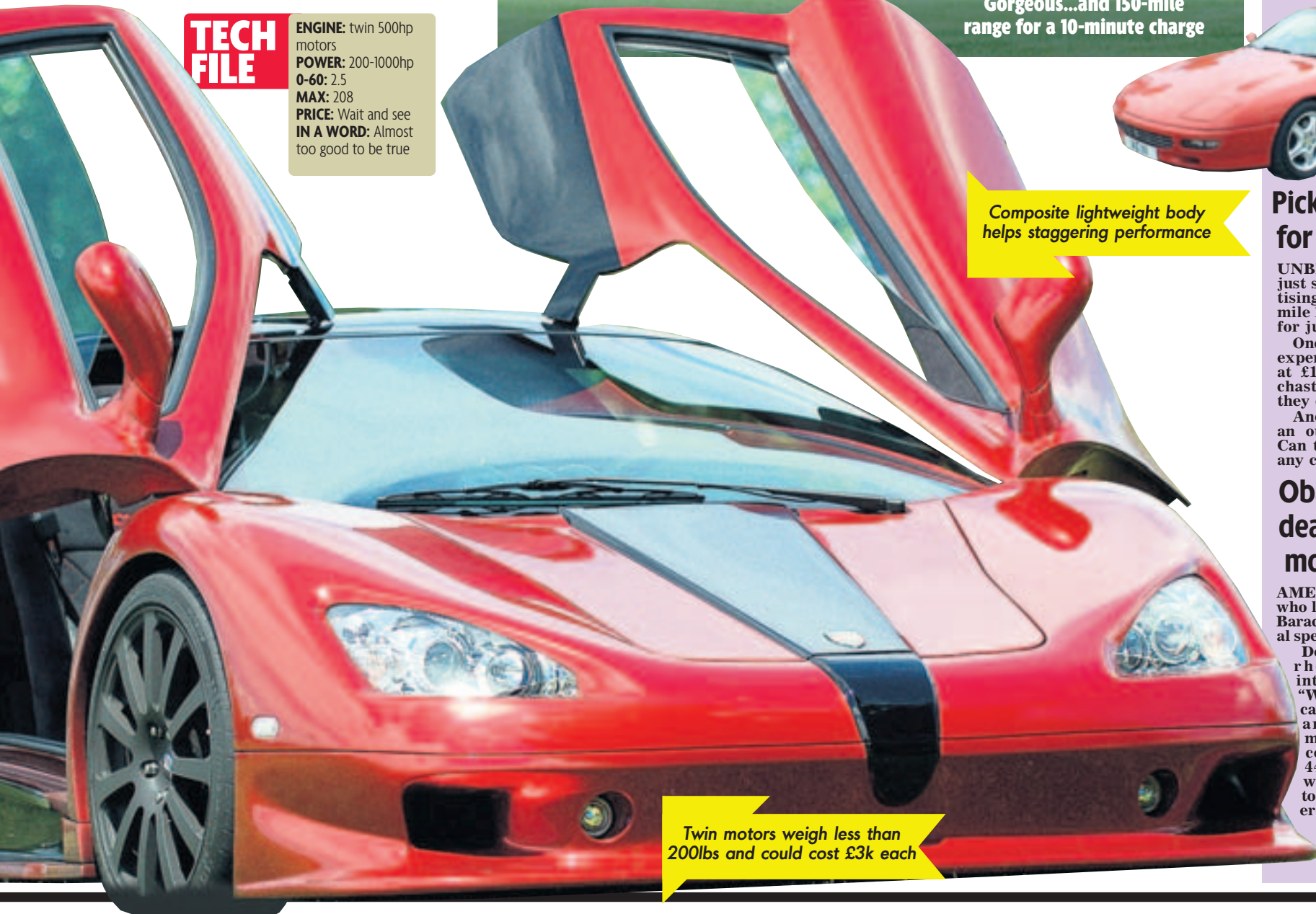
**EV'S SUPERCAR
COULD CHANGE
THE WORLD..**



Gorgeous...and 150-mile range for a 10-minute charge

**TECH
FILE**

ENGINE: twin 500hp motors
POWER: 200-1000hp
0-60: 2.5
MAX: 208
PRICE: Wait and see
IN A WORD: Almost too good to be true



Composite lightweight body helps staggering performance

Twin motors weigh less than 200lbs and could cost £3k each

**Best to hang on
if you're after a
used car bargain**

AS I predicted a couple of weeks ago, trade price bible Glass's Guide says that used car prices are going up. British Car Auctions report that dealers are bidding with unseasonable enthusiasm, and even problem cars like 4x4s and Merc S-Classes are finding buyers.

Mind you, it's not a recovery, just a respite. I reckon prices could start to fall again in a month or so. If you're after a bargain-price used motor, you need to watch the market like the Stock Exchange, because it'll go up and down like Alistair Darling's eyebrows.



**Pick up a Ferrari
for just £18,900**

UNBELIEVABLY, I've just seen a dealer advertising a gorgeous 46,000-mile 1994 Ferrari 456GT for just £18,900.

Once one of the most expensive Ferraris ever at £160k, the 456 is as chaste and elegant as they come.

And at this money it's an outrageous bargain. Can these supercars get any cheaper?

**Obama sounds
death knell for
monster SUVs**

AMERICAN automakers who listened carefully to Barack Obama's inaugural speech will be worried.

Deep in the lyrical rhetoric was the intriguing sentence: "We will power our cars using wind, sun and soil." Which means it's a racing certainty that the 44th US President will mandate an end to the industry's blinkered obsession with 10mpg pick-up trucks and evil-handling SUVs. About time.