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30. If John Labbous wants to stand around in the engine room of one of his countless Mopars, that's all right with us. Maybe that's one of the secrets of his success: anyone who can knock down 36 grand in the bracket races must be doing something right. Usually, though, the engine compartment is filled with 440 cubic inches of big-block wedge,



and Labbous' mind is filled with schemes to improve his chances of winning. Don't be surprised if Labbous pulls into the next big money bracket race with an entire trainload of cars, all running Bracket 1.



47. Indy is that kind of race. Officially it lasts six days, but for those who participate, it seems like a month. You drive for hours to get there, then sleep in the tech lines overnight. You wait all day to make one qualifying shot, and then you get right back in line. You work on the car till you drop, then you work on it some more. The U.S. Nationals is a killer, but you do it because it's the greatest drag race in the world.

63. Staff member emeritus Terry Cook is the man responsible for uncovering the new craze at Chevrolet's Tech Center, where upstanding engineers have been hooked on mushrooms. Visions of medicine men stalking the polished corridors,

stalking the polished corridors, hawking peyote and pushing Carlos Castenada danced in our heads. "No!" reprimanded Cook, author of *A Yankee Way of Knowledge. "Mechanical mushrooms!*" Well, if they can make imitation bacon bits and artificial turkey, why not metal mushrooms?

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