



Getting wrecked. Pages 7, 22, 39, and 93

EDITOR/PUBLISHER
David E. Davis, Jr.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Don Sherman

EDITOR AT LARGE
Patrick Bedard

ART DIRECTOR
Anthony J. Nelson

MANAGING EDITOR
Don Coulter

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Rich Ceppos, Larry Griffin
Jean Lindamood

TECHNICAL EDITOR
Csaba Csere

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Susan Wallin

COPY EDITOR
Suzanne Wise

ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR
Linda Golightly Moser

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Cheryl Ritchey

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Harriet W. Stemberger

EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT
L.J.K. Setright

ASIAN CORRESPONDENT
Koh Shirano

MILITARY AFFAIRS EDITOR
Steve Smith

BAJA PALOS VERDES DESK
Michael Jordan

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
David Abrahamson, Gordon Baxter
Charles Fox, Anne Hope
Bruce McCall, John McGovern
P.J. O'Rourke, Warren Weith

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS
Pete Biro, Rich Chenet
Ken Dallison, Robert Harmeyer, Jr.
Don Hunter, Aaron Kiley
André LaRoche, George Lepp
Bill Neale, Humphrey Sutton

RECEPTIONIST
Mary Ann Pickney

GOPHER
Evanthia Speliotis

Car and Driver, ISSN 0008-6002
Published monthly at One Park Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10016, by Ziff-Davis Publishing
Company—Richard P. Friese, President;
Selwyn Taubman, Treasurer; Bertram A.
Abrams, Secretary. Second-class postage paid at
New York, N.Y. 10016, and at additional mailing
offices. Authorized as second-class mail by the
Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada, and for
payment of postage in cash. One-year subscrip-
tion rate for U.S. and Possessions, \$11.98.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Car and
Driver, P.O. Box 2770, Boulder, Colo. 80302.

SPORTS-CAR SHOWDOWN

- 39 **DE LOREAN VS. THE WORLD** Four on one in a three-round GT title bout—by Larry Griffin

SPECIAL REPORT

- 51 **JAPAN 1982** What's left after the samurai strikes—by Don Sherman
55 **CHARTING THE CHANGES** Humble notations—by Rich Ceppos
57 **TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS** Keeping the pressure on with steady refinements—by Csaba Csere
58 **DRIVING IMPRESSIONS** New from Datsun, Toyota, and Isuzu

ROAD TESTS

- 63 **ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SPIRIT** Reassurance that you can still get a decent car for \$109,000—by Patrick Bedard
73 **DODGE CHARGER 2.2** Go ahead, have some fun—by Rich Ceppos
131 **MERCEDES-BENZ 300CD** For some cars, only platinum yardsticks will do—by Csaba Csere

FEATURES

- 81 **DATSUN 200S/XTRA** Build a car, win a trophy, said Datsun. Imagine the surprise when we built two—by Don Sherman
93 **LOWRIDER** How low will the future go?
93 **GETTING WRECKED** We try harder—by P.J. O'Rourke
DRIVE-A-DREAM Decadence on a budget

SHORT TAKES

- 98 **IECO TURBO CHEVETTE** A silk purse?—by Michael Jordan
100 **FIAT STRADA** Falling through the cracks—by Jean Lindamood
106 **LINCOLN TOWN CAR** Don't laugh—by David E. Davis, Jr.

COLUMNS

- 7 **DRIVER'S SEAT** Four out of five isn't bad
10 **LETTERS** Heavy feet, eagle eyes, lumpy growths, and Abolu Kuka
18 **BEDARD** Read all about it: the dirty little secret of BMEP
22 **SHERMAN** The agony and the eczema
167 **SETRIGHT** Bird avoidance

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- 25 **NEW & IMPROVED** Porsche 944 and 911 convertible
28 **CAR BOOK UPDATE** Claybrook on the defensive
35 **HI-TECH** From Renault, the EVE of a new era

SPORT

- 149 **MARCH 817** Testing the fastest Can-Am car in the land—by Larry Griffin
154 **BMW M1 TRILOGY** Tests of the street car and the race car; the rest is history—by Michael Jordan, Csaba Csere, and Larry Griffin

Cover photography by Aaron Kiley

SPECIAL REPORT All the new cars from Japan

CAR and DRIVER

DECEMBER 1981 • \$1.50

FILTHY-RICH ROAD TESTS

Mercedes Turbo Diesel Coupe, Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit

SPORTS-CAR SHOWDOWN

De Lorean versus Porsche, Ferrari, Corvette, Datsun Turbo



ST PAUL
T SCHREINER
1766 SILVERBELLE RD
MINN 55122
28155
490320 SHR 17665090 SHS
12
28AON B119 06059911
14024 14275

WRECKED

P.J. infiltrates the rent-a-relic scene