

TOP of the WEEK

Rethinking Race

Pieces of the Tire Puzzle

The 'Thorpedo' Attack

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JIM COOPER, BURK UZZLE, TOM PUTT—SPORT THE LIBRARY

ON THE COVER: In every corner of America, we are redefining race as we know it. The old labels of black and white can't begin to capture the subtleties of blood and identity. In a Special Report, NEWSWEEK tells the stories of the people on the front lines, from the suburbs of the South to the plants of the Midwest to the start-ups of Silicon Valley.

INSIDE THE TIRE WARS: As tensions mount between Firestone and Ford, documents obtained by NEWSWEEK suggest the tiremaker may have known about the flaws in 1998. Plus: Bill Ford Jr. says his company's taken 'a heck of a hit.'

PLUNGING AHEAD FOR THE GOLD: Get ready for the 'Thorpedo'—Ian Thorpe, Australia's bright hope in the pools of Sydney.

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COVER: Photographs by Jim Cooper. Makeup by Lia van de Dank. Inset: no credit.

Newsweek

Letters to the Editor should be sent to Newsweek, 251 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019-1894. In the U.S. send subscription inquiries to Newsweek, P.O. Box 59967, Boulder, CO 80322-9967. Newsweek (ISSN 0028-9604), September 18, 2000, Volume CXXXVI, No. 12. In Canada send subscription inquiries to Newsweek, Inc., P.O. Box 4012, Postal Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W2K1. Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. 546593. Canadian GST No. 123-321-309. For all changes of address call

1-800-634-6850. For all other inquiries call 1-800-631-1040. Unless otherwise indicated by source or currency designation, all terms and prices are applicable in the U.S. only and may not apply in Canada. Newsweek is published weekly, except for 2 issues combined into one at year-end, for US \$41.08 a year and Canadian \$61.88 a year, by Newsweek, Inc., 251 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019-1894. Richard M. Smith, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief; Stephen Fuzesi Jr., Chief Counsel and Secretary. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. To order reprints (minimum order required: 500 copies) or request permission to publish a Newsweek article, please call 212-445-4870 or fax 212-445-5764. POSTMASTERS: send address changes to NEWSWEEK, P.O. Box 59968, Boulder, CO 80328-9968. Printed in U.S.A.

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