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The Weird World of Wheels

27 January 2006

WELCOME to the first edition of the weird world of wheels!

Each week Alex Eckford will be rounding up the essential strangest motoring news from around the world. And make sure you come back every Friday for your weekly helping.

This week:

1. Glamour girls on their way to UK

Valet parking is special - Whether you're a high roller or treating the missus to that special weekend away it's undoubtedly a nice touch to hand over the keys to your motor to the parking laddy.

But this writer for one has often thought the process could be even more pleasant if the surly teenage parker could be exchanged for someone more agreeable.

US-based Valet Girls Parking (above right) has been challenging this traditionally male only preserve on the other side of the pond since 1983.

And now the firm is preparing to launch the service in the UK.

And according to Brad Saltzman, the man behind the idea, all lady parkers possess: "a flawless driving record and a great smile".

Here's hoping Mr Saltzman doesn't adapt the uniforms for the UK's climate by making the girls wear duffle coats and moon boots.

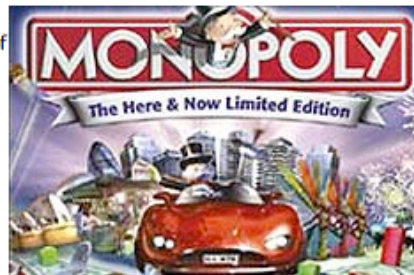


2. Jaguar does not pass go

Jag disciples will be broken-hearted to learn about the loss of one of the company's greatest icons.

Www can exclusively reveal the new version of Monopoly (right) sees the faithful E-type replaced with a Formula One car.

I'm all for progress, but there's a line. As if the loss of Jaguar's motor wasn't enough, the London-themed 'Here and Now' edition of the game is set to feature the congestion charge.



One thing I can't understand, however, is why the board still contains free parking...

Flying Car 3. Whatever floats your... car?

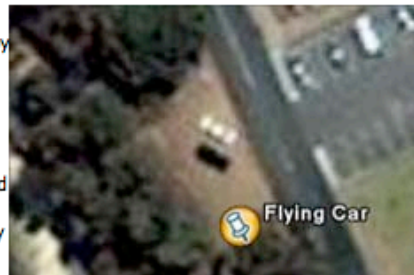
Vintage Science-Fiction films predicted them, every schoolboy dreams of having one, and eagle-eyed internet users have finally found one.

What are we talking about? A floating hovercar of course! Google Earth users have spotted a levitating motor (left) floating near a car park in Western Australia, thanks to the software that allows you to explore the world in high-detailed 3D.

No one has come up with a decent explanation for the spooky car, but we look forward to watching the Valet Girls park it.

Users of Google Earth - the software that allows you to explore the world in amazingly high-detailed 3D - spotted the levitating motor (right) floating near a car park in Perth, Western Australia.

Got Google Earth installed on your PC? Open this file to see the car for yourself.



4. Get off my land - fast!

The Wurzels took a combine harvester to the top of the charts, but even their undoubted talents would have been futile if challenged to make it travel at 85mph. Even if all of them were pushing it. Downhill.

We can only imagine tractor driver Steve Crossman's surprise, then, when he received a ticket from speed camera bosses telling him his three-and-a-half tonne piece of farm machinery had been clocked doing 85mph in Abergarwed, South Wales.

The red-faced cops were forced to take back the fine when Mr Crossman (above right) pointed out that his tractor has a top speed of 26mph, he has never been to South Wales, and even if he had wanted to go, it would have taken him four hours to get there from his home in Wiltshire.

