

It all comes down to sex and money

Readers seek wealth and VW trysts

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IT'S only March and already the emails are running hot with controversy. Just as in the rest of life, the two main issues this year are sex and wealth.

A constant stream of polite emails has been along the lines of: "We like reading about these cars but only rich people could buy them so we can only dream."

Of course, that's absolutely wrong. Wealthy people buy pricey classic cars. Really wealthy people buy pricey classic cars and put them in their boats. Indian yacht designer Ashish Gupta's latest project is a 95m super-yacht complete with three swimming pools, helicopter and a Lamborghini next to the bar.

While \$35,000 will get you into the classic car market with something you can race or rally, it takes \$35 million to get you into the super-yacht market.

Of course, if you just want to go sailing you could combine your love of cars with your love of boats by buying Neville "Croaky" Crichton's 30m Alfa Romeo II for a bit over \$4.5m.

However, if you really want to be taken seriously in Monte Carlo around F1 time in May then you need a boat like Jack Cowin's Slipstream. Of course, as well as paying the builders for a 60m aluminium super-yacht powered by twin 2200hp engines, a marina berth in Monte Carlo will cost you about \$36,000 for the month.

Still, if you have already shelled out \$2.4m to charter Jack's boat, what's a lazy \$36,000?

Jack's dad, Stan, worked for Ford and, wise man that he was, suggested to Jack that Canada was a good place for maple syrup and Olympic ice hockey teams but that's about it, and that he should move to Australia. At the

time, Australia's idea of fast food was Chinese takeaway after the pub closed, so he borrowed \$30,000 and opened Kentucky Fried Chicken in Western Australia. Today, he owns a health food empire that would be every teenage boy's greatest fantasy: not only all of the KFC stores in the west but Hungry Jacks and Domino's Pizza.

Anyway, Jack traded his old 44m boat Slipstream (yours for \$30m) on the new one. It has six guest suites, 15 crew, a picture show, and a spa with barbecue and bar.

Talking of barbecues, Gold Coast muscle-car specialists Greg and Donna Leahy have finally done the right thing and produced an authentic 1.5 scale cooker that looks like a small-block Chevy engine. When you put the lid down the smoke comes out the headers. I bet Jack will be buying one from www.geezers.com.au at a little over \$1200.

OK, the other controversy that prompted more than 150 emails was my suggestion that sex in an original Volkswagen was so impossible you should buy one for your teenage daughters. There were two types of response. One was the affront to manhood (that is, "of course we could" and graphic details) and a smaller number from men writing on behalf of their wives to say the Volkswagen was the site of their first romantic interlude together.

Since we keep all readers' names confidential here I won't single out the creative excesses of Richard Creswick's spouse or Bruce Finlay's boasts.

Finally, a big sale for H&H with one of the 17 original right-hand drive Porsche RS 2.7 lightweights bringing \$400,000.

Unfortunately, a trio of glass car mascots by Red-Ashay all sold for money that really bothers me. Naturally Ecstasy made nearly \$5000.

That Chevy barbecue sounds cheap.
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