UU helps put renewable materials in pole position

By Michael McHugh PA

The world’s first racing car made from cashew nut shells has been assembled with the help of Northern Ireland researchers, it was revealed yesterday.

Potato starch and recycled bottles were also used in the construction of the Formula 3 vehicle. It can reach speeds of 130mph.

Dr Julie Soden, pictured, researcher at the University of Ulster (UU), helped make a barge board, which is positioned behind the front wheels.

“It is exciting and refreshing to see an actual product coming out of the research lab,” Dr Soden said.

“The next step in the process is the testing and improvement of the first design, so the initial work will be built upon to show the full potential and the scope of the research.

While the safety-critical parts are not made from sustainable materials, the racing car is evidence of the significant advances made by researchers into what is readily achievable in the sustainable composites field.”

The project was undertaken in collaboration with the University of Warwick’s Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre.

The car will run on bio-diesel.

The unique design of the barge board, used to improve airflow around the vehicle, is reinforced by high-strength flax fibres woven into a multiple layer fabric at the Belfast campus of the UU.

The Formula 3 racing car is the first full-scale demonstrator model manufactured using some sustainable and renewable materials.

It appeared at this year’s Goodwood’s Festival of Speed and was driven by A1 Grand Prix champion racing driver Adam Carroll.

Lisbon promises ‘binding’ Irish told

By Colm Kelpie PA

The independent body set up in the Republic to explain the Lisbon Treaty yesterday maintained assurances attached to the charter were legally watertight.

The Referendum Commission said while guarantees covering abortion, tax and defence gave voters extra clarity, the issues had not been in the treaty to begin with.

High Court judge Mr Justice Frank Clarke, chairman, said assurances thrashed out with European leaders last December to address Irish concerns did not change the treaty.

“A lot of the campaign ended up concentrating on whether things were in the treaty...”

The commission is sending out an easy-to-read treaty guide to 1.9 million homes in advance of the October 2 vote.

A more detailed booklet will be available online or by contacting the commission.

He said research carried out by the commission showed that knowledge of the treaty among voters had improved.

As the campaigns kicked off last year just 21 per cent of people had a sound knowledge, rising to 60 per cent at the start of this summer.

The senior judge said the boost could be explained by the television and media coverage of the treaty and the debates about the guarantees.

“It’s also possible to argue that one of the things that happened the last time was that a lot of the campaign...”
Police ‘failed to act on naked plinth complaint’

SCOTLAND Yard has received a complaint about the failure of officers to act after a man stripped naked on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square.

Justin Holwell, 24, from Loughborough, Leicestershire, posed naked for an hour on Sunday as part of the long-running Antony Gormley One & Other Exhibition in which people take it in turns to spend an hour on the plinth.

The Metropolitan Police has received a complaint that its officers did nothing when a member of the public complained that Mr Holwell’s actions had upset his wife and children.

A force spokesman said: “The complaint is being considered and the complainant will be notified in due course.”

He said it is not an offence to be naked in public unless it was in a lewd or obscene manner.

Mr Holwell, who makes double glazing panels for a living, said the idea to strip off on the plinth came to him after friends said he was “a bit of an exhibitionist”.

He was applauded when he finished his stint and said afterwards that he had “thoroughly enjoyed” the experience.

Asked what he would say to anyone who disapproved, Mr Holwell said: “It’s the human form, everyone’s the same, it’s not like I’m showing off something that no one else has got.”

Racing car researchers going nuts about speed

BY MICHAEL MCHUGH
newsdesk@newsletter.co.uk

THE world’s first racing car made from cashew nut shells has been assembled with the help of Northern Ireland researchers, it was revealed yesterday.

Potato starch and recycled bottles were also used in the construction of the Formula 3 vehicle. It can reach speeds of 130mph.

Dr Julie Soden, researcher at the University of Ulster (UU), helped make a barge board which is positioned behind the front wheels. “It is exciting and refreshing to see an actual product coming out of the research lab,” Dr Soden said.

“The next step in the process is the testing and improvement of the first design, so the initial work will be built upon to show the full potential and the scope of the research. “While the safety critical parts are not made from sustainable materials, the racing car is evidence of the significant advances made by researchers into what is readily achievable in the sustainable composites field.”

The project was undertaken in collaboration with the University of Warwick’s Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre. The car will run on biodiesel. The unique design of the barge board, used to improve airflow around the vehicle, is reinforced by high-strength flax fibres woven into a multiple layer fabric at the Belfast campus of the UU.

The Formula 3 racing car is the first full-scale demonstrator model manufactured using some sustainable and renewable materials.

It appeared at this year’s Goodwood Festival of Speed and was driven by A1 Grand Prix champion racing driver Adam Carroll.
**COURTS**

Teen drops parole bid

A TEENAGER charged with shoplifting yesterday dropped his bid to be allowed out to see a girl fighting for her life.

Anne-Marie Curran, 17, was critically injured in a fall on Belfast's Cave Hill. Peter McCormack, 18, had been granted compassionate bail to go to her hospital bedside.

But his application was withdrawn to ensure Anne-Marie's family "suffer no further distress". McCormack, of Pinkerton Walk, North Belfast, is accused of stealing shirts.

**CRIME**

Shoe trips up hijacker

A WOULD-BE hijacker was caught by police because he ran off leaving a shoe behind.

Drunk Thomas May, 28, was jailed for six months yesterday after trying to steal the taxi he was a passenger in.

Belfast Crown Court heard May, from Juniper Rise in West Belfast, also assaulted the driver when he tried to take his Mazda car in May 2007.

In the struggle he left behind a trainer and was identified from DNA samples on the shoe.

---

**STARCHING GRID**

Scientists make first car out of cashew nut shells

YOU might say they are nuts even to try it but researchers from the University of Ulster have made the world's first car from cashew shells.

Potato starch and recycled bottles were also used in the construction of the Formula 3 vehicle which can reach speeds of 130mph.

UU researcher Dr Julie Soden helped make a barge board which is positioned behind the front wheels.

She said: "It is exciting and refreshing to see an actual product coming out of the research lab.

"The next step is the testing and improvement of the first design.

"So the initial work will be built upon to show the full potential and the scope of the research. While the safety-critical parts are not made from sustainable materials, the racing car is evidence of significant advances by researchers into what is readily achievable in sustainable composites.

"The project was undertaken in collaboration with the University of Warwick's Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre.

The car will run on biodiesel. The unique barge board used to improve airflow around the vehicle is reinforced by high-strength flax fibres woven into a multiple layer fabric at the Belfast campus of the UU.

The Formula 3 racing car is the first full-scale demonstrator model manufactured using some sustainable and renewable materials. It appeared at this year's Goodwood's Festival of Speed and was driven by Northern Ireland's A1 Grand Prix champion driver Adam Carroll."
ONCE again it was a case of what might have happened. A 600lb bomb that didn’t go off was the big story yesterday. But this is a bomb that was bigger than the one which killed 29 people and unborn twins in Omagh.

And it was left close to homes by people who are still wiping the blood from their hands after Massereene and Craigavon. They are well capable of murder, even mass murder and the awful reality is that it is only a matter of time before one of these terror weapons actually goes off.

We can hope and pray that the so-called dissidents see sense. However, few believe they have any to see.

Petering out

THE troubled marriage of Katie Price and Peter Andre may now be over. But somehow we think this show will rumble on for some time.

Keiser and Black

JORDAN mourns failed marriage:

“Tonight I’m wearing my knickers at half mast!”

THE property boom went off with such a bang that it’ll be quite some time before many people recover from the shrapnel wounds.

Negative equity, developers wanting money for overpriced apartments and banks not lending anyone any money to buy a house, adds up to a miserable vista.

But cheer up, it’s not as bad here compared to the Land of the (Sleeping) Tiger.

One in four consumers in the Republic believe their standard of living will change significantly because of the recession.

In the cheerful North, only one in 10 reckon they will be affected.

In the Republic, one in four have postponed a major purchase, while here, just one in 10 have.

It’s slightly unnerving that so many of us think the recession is someone else’s problem.

Financial ignorance is even more dangerous.

BIRD-BRAINED THUGS IMPOSSIBLE TO FATHOM

• ANYONE who’s ever taken their kids down to feed the ducks and swans at the Lagan, or any other river or lake for that matter, will be baffled by people who shoot them for some reason.

Baffled because it really is difficult to understand.

Are they trying to kill them with crossbow bolts but aren’t a good shot or do they just like to maim them for some reason.

But what is the reason? Up close they are one of the most beautiful creatures.

Up close one wonders what you might think if you came face to face with the dimwits with the crossbows and too much time on their hands.

THEIR actions were reckless and dangerous in the extreme. Their target may have been the police, but they did not care who they killed or injured.” Newry and Mourne Police Commander Sam Corder speaking after the discovery of a 600lb bomb in Forkhill.

Can border separate us from reality?

• THE property boom went off with such a bang that it’ll be quite some time before many people recover from the shrapnel wounds.

Negative equity, developers wanting money for overpriced apartments and banks not lending anyone any money to buy a house, adds up to a miserable vista.

But cheer up, it’s not as bad here compared to the Land of the (Sleeping) Tiger.

One in four consumers in the Republic believe their standard of living will change significantly because of the recession.

In the cheerful North, only one in 10 reckon they will be affected.

In the Republic, one in four have postponed a major purchase, while here, just one in 10 have.

It’s slightly unnerving that so many of us think the recession is someone else’s problem.

Financial ignorance is even more dangerous.