

# Entertainment Outlook

## Blowing in the wind

When the Biological Weapons Convention was signed in the 1970s, it seemed that the world's superpowers had finally laid the spectre of germ warfare to rest. But now there is renewed concern — and renewed activity. In the U.S. the budget for biological defence research increases annually. Scare stories suggest that the Soviet Union is perverting the new technology of genetic engineering to make biological weapons, and the U.S. alleges that the Russians have ignored the treaty while stockpiling and deploying biological agents.

*Biology at War: A Plague in the Wind*, Thursday, August 17 at 8:00 p.m. on TV Ontario, explores the history of biological warfare from World War II until 1969, when Presi-

dent Nixon renounced U.S. use of biological weapons. Research in the West during the 1970s is examined. For 20 years, in conditions of total secrecy, the Allies worked toward the perfection of germ warfare.

Today, American biological-warfare laboratories work under the label of defensive research. Is there a gigantic loophole in the treaty that allows governments and private research groups to develop biological weapons? As the concern over the possible use of biological weapons by Third World countries, terrorists, and the Eastern bloc continues to mount, the genetic-engineering industry is being forced to confront the danger of misuse of biotechnology.

## The great races

A must for vintage-car buffs and racing enthusiasts, *Supercharged: The Grand Prix Car*, on TV Ontario, Thursday, August 31 at 8:00 p.m., combines unique film footage dating from 1924 and lovingly restored cars to re-create the golden era of motor racing.

The 1924 Grand Prix began the greatest era in the history of motor racing. All the classics — Bugatti, Alfa Romeo, Mercedes-Benz — appear in a series of dramatic and sometimes dangerous races.

Motor racing in those days was

very different from today. Drivers had to pay for the privilege of racing, making this very much a rich person's sport. But after World War I, Germany underwrote the construction and racing costs of two Grand Prix teams — Auto Union and Mercedes-Benz.

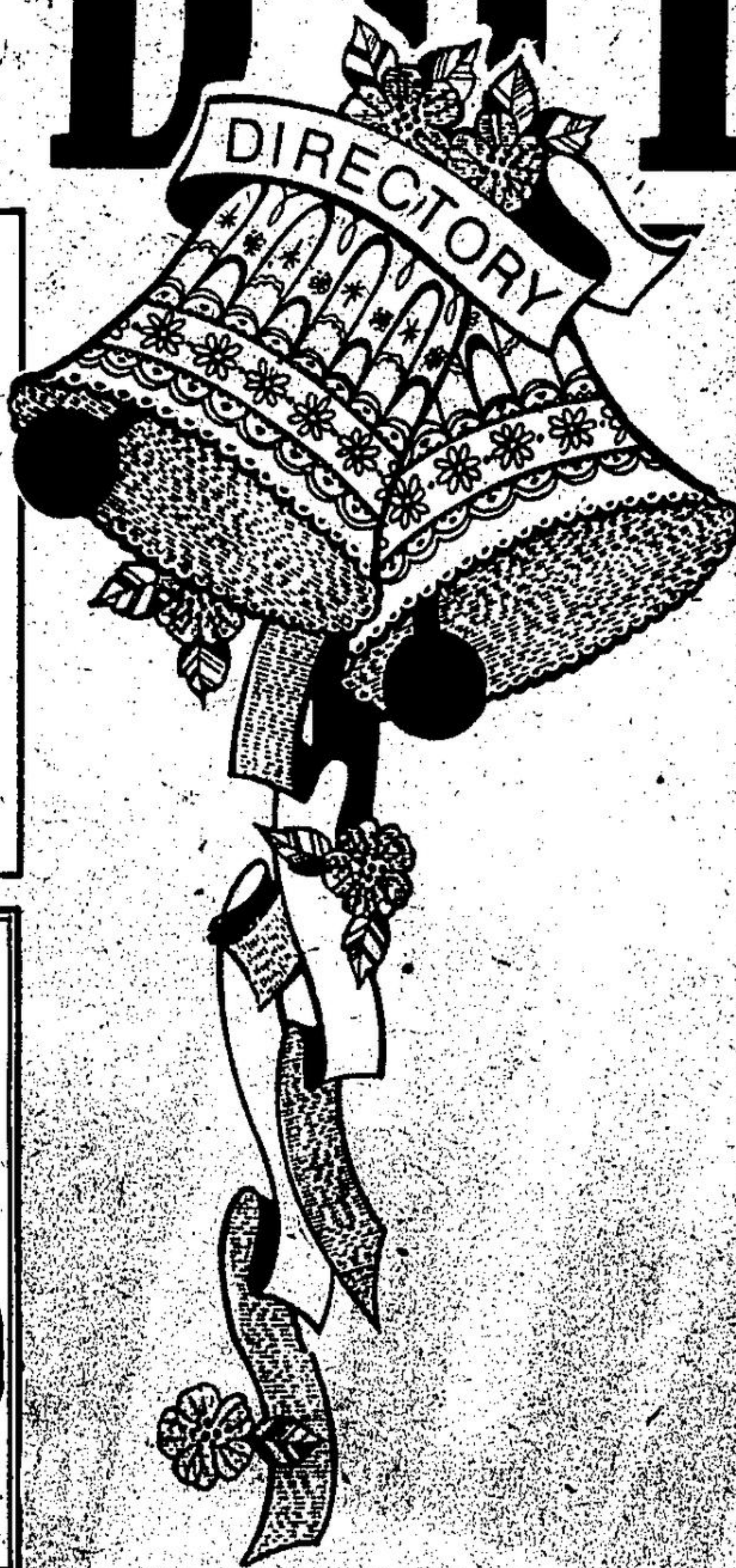
The racing that followed was to become legendary. With rare archive film footage, the hour-long program shows how the two German teams came to dominate international motor sport for a decade.

## Rebels with a cause

As Napoleon Bonaparte and a large army sailed for Egypt, a smaller French army landed on the west coast of Ireland. The British commander in Ireland was Lord Cornwallis — the same man who had surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown. Caught up in the middle and sided with the French were the Irish — who would ultimately pay the price.

*The Year of the French*, a six-part drama series, airs on TV Ontario Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. beginning August 15. The story begins in July 1798, with Dublin barrister Wolfe Tone urging the French to join the Irish in their revolt against the English occupation. In Killaloe, the rebel Whiteboys take revenge against English landowner John O'Malley.

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