



BY P. J. O'ROURKE

Our intrepid reporter discovers a high-school fantasy come true.

Palm Beach Weekend



• It costs \$70,000. But it's extraordinarily beautiful. Except the styling's kind of uninspired. But it's really well engineered. Although the engineering is completely antiquated. And it's fabulously luxurious. Even if it is pretty uncomfortable. And it costs \$70,000. It's a pure-blood, no-fooling sports car. But it's as big as a house trailer. Though it's real nimble and quick. And, anyhow, it's a maniacal scream to drive. In a dull sort of way. And it costs \$70,000.

This weird short set off so many bells in my head—especially the \$70,000 bell—that at first I didn't know *what* to think about it. I didn't know whether to rob banks to buy it, or join the Baader-Meinhof gang to kill the people who make it. Do you realize how much \$70,000 is? Six Corvettes, or ten Z28s, or fourteen Rabbits, or a different clapped-out muscle car for every day of the month, that's how much. Seventy thousand dollars is 350 of the kind of visit to a top-flight hooker that it would

be illegal to describe in print. It's 35,000 whiskey sours. It's enough coin to cruise the pickup bars each Saturday night for the next 26 years. And \$70,000 is the combined yearly income of 1167 citizens of Upper Volta.

No car is worth that much money, especially no cranky oddball Lime-Later car that's as dated as sock garters were when *Goldfinger* was made. Still, I liked it. In fact, I loved it. It took a long time, but I finally even figured out why: I love this car because (and most other guys my age will love it for the same reason) it's *the* car we were drawing in sophomore study hall along about 1963. The exact self-same vehicle.

I loved cars then, but I didn't really know much about them. That is, I couldn't have fixed one or anything. Christ, I couldn't even drive yet. All I knew was what I read in *Road & Track*. But I was sure I could design the perfect GT. And that's what I did in study hall my sophomore year. I knew the really