

# The Week

## Nonfiction

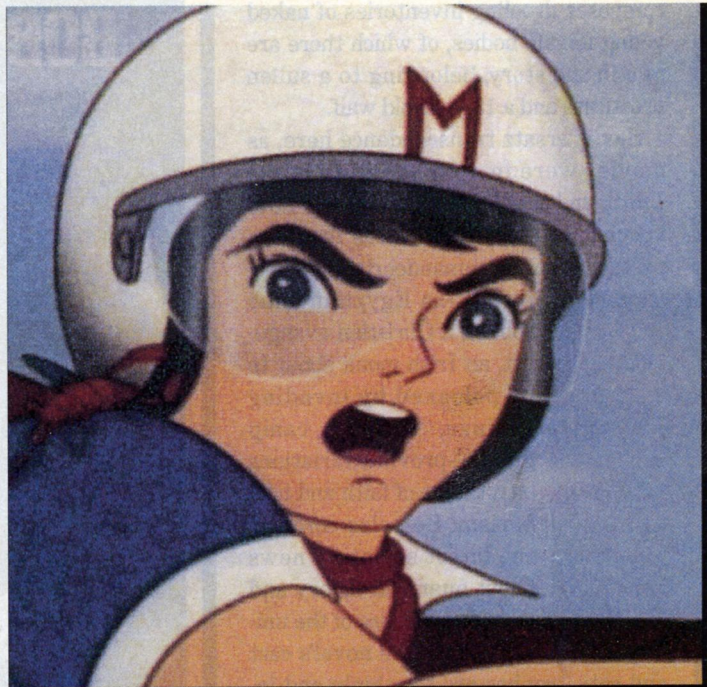
**SPEED RACER: THE OFFICIAL 30TH ANNIVERSARY GUIDE** Elizabeth Moran (*Hyperion, \$11.95*) This ode to the boyishly handsome driver of the Mach 5 reads more like a dutiful textbook than a fan's reverie.

Moran slogs through a thumb-nail description of Japanimation, tracks down the actors who recorded the English-language voices of Speed, Trixie, and Spritle, and even includes a painfully dated readers' poll from 1988 about who should play the characters in a feature film. On the plus side, her descriptions of the 52 original episodes include generous samples of Speed's hopelessly earnest dialogue: "But that would be cheating, and I've never done anything illegal in my life—ever!" Ultimately, though, this book skids off course. **C** —*Michael Giltz*

like you did while watching her wrestle with chicken legs: Sit back, slightly dazed, and let the drama unfold. **A** —*Alexandra Jacobs*

**THE ESSENTIAL JACKIE CHAN SOURCEBOOK** Jeff Rovin and Kathy Tracy (*Pocket Books, \$16*) With all apologies to James Brown, the hardest-working man in show business these days may be Jackie Chan. The veteran action figure from Hong Kong has been such a presence recently, he seems to have sprung fully formed into American filmgoers' consciousness.

The authors, Chan fanatics to the core, show it ain't so. Humorously exploring Chan's upbringing, his early movie apprenticeship with Bruce Lee, his injuries, and his philanthropic work, this biographical filmography reveals a fresh dimension to the king of chopsocky. **B** —*Michael E. Ross*



**RACER BURN:** This tribute to the animated TV show gets stuck in low gear

and his own assumptions to answer them. The result is a chon-

although not forbidden shellfish, and so the eating of shrimp sig-