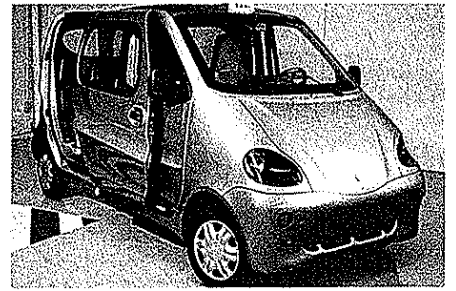


Right, top: British farmer Harold Bate with his chicken manure-powered car. Right, bottom: The French-designed Air Car.



LANGUAGE LEVEL: **BASIC**

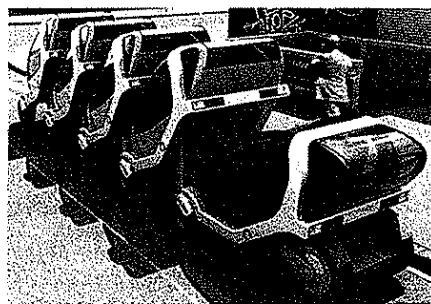
STRANGE STORIES

CARS OF THE FUTURE

Contamina, consume cantidades ingentes de gasolina y colapsa carreteras. ¿Tiene futuro el coche? Parece que sí: ya existen incluso vehículos que funcionan con aire.

Everyone is looking for the perfect 'green' car of the future and here's an unusual solution: an electric car that city councils can rent¹ to the public. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has designed a car (right) which folds up² so you can stack them like shopping trolleys³ outside a supermarket.

This solves the problem of space as you can park six cars in the space of one traditional car. The cars recharge their batteries in just ten minutes while they are in a stack.



HOT AIR?

How about a car that runs on air⁴? American car manufacturer Zero Pollution Motors plans to produce the world's first six-seat Air Car (above, bottom right). It

runs on compressed air with an engine designed by Frenchman Guy Nègre. Compressed air pushes its pistons instead of petrol, so there is zero pollution⁵.

The first commercial Air Car will have a top speed of 110kph and a range of 200km.

STEP ON THE GAS

There is nothing new about alternative energy: British farmer Harold Bate converted his 1953 Hillman (above, top) to run on methane gas from chicken manure⁶. In the early 1970s he patented a special converter which allowed any car or lorry to use the gas which he captured in a special tank in his garage.

He advertised⁷ a £12 kit all over the world, but it never caught on⁸, even though he was able to power his own car for many years.

GLOSSARY

- 1 THAT CITY COUNCILS CAN RENT:** que los ayuntamientos pueden alquilar
2 WHICH FOLDS UP: que se dobla
3 YOU CAN STACK THEM LIKE SHOPPING TROLLEYS: se pueden apilar igual que los carritos de la compra
4 RUNS ON AIR: funciona con aire
5 POLLUTION: contaminación
6 CHICKEN MANURE: estiércol de pollo
7 TO ADVERTISE: anunciar
8 IT NEVER CAUGHT ON: no tuvo éxito