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NASCAR Illustrated

CELEBRATING THE NASCAR LIFESTYLE

6 NASCAR Stars Show Off Their Favorite Cars

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Anatomy Of A Burnout

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'Petty Blue': The King Looks Back On A Life In Racing

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17 Pages Of Racing

'BRAD' TO THE BONE

Brad Keselowski Sets The Record Straight

"I'm just a person that sticks up for the sport and myself when I feel like I've been done wrong." —B.K.

OCTOBER 2010

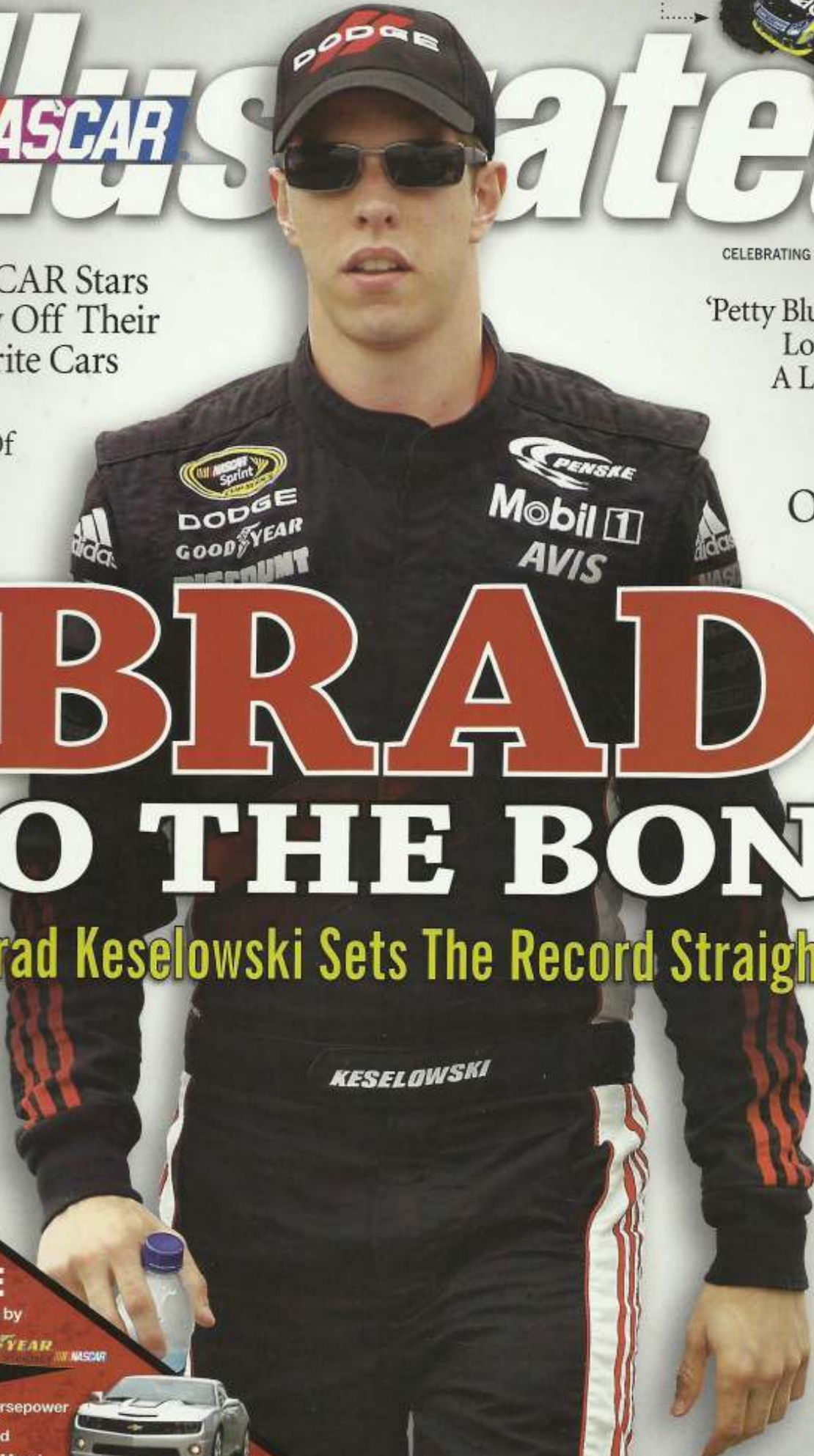
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- Avoid Getting Scammed

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Where Are They Now? Shawna Robinson



THEN: Born and raised near Des Moines, Iowa, Shawna Robinson wasn't groomed to become a race car driver. She didn't run her first race until graduating from high school, where she was a standout athlete. And when she began competing in 1983, it wasn't behind the wheel of a late model or sprint car. Robinson cut her teeth racing 8,000-pound big rigs. She moved up to the Dash Series in 1988 and won in just her sixth start.

"Asheville (N.C.) was my first win, and it was so cool," she says. "The Dash Series is where I proved myself and earned respect as a driver."

Robinson made her first Nationwide Series start in 1991 and even ran a handful of Cup Series races. She made her last NASCAR start in 2005.

NOW: When Robinson wasn't racing, she took up interior design and has her own design firm in the Charlotte area. Recently, the 45-year-old former racer branched out and started designing what she calls "Happy Chairs."

"It's kind of a passion — like women have for shoes, I have always had for chairs," she says. "I love chairs. There was this one chair I wanted, but it was really expensive. I said, 'I'm going to make my own.' So that's how it started. Now, I have a lot of people come to me and ask me to design chairs for them. I'm happy with where I am; I feel like I'm in the right place."

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