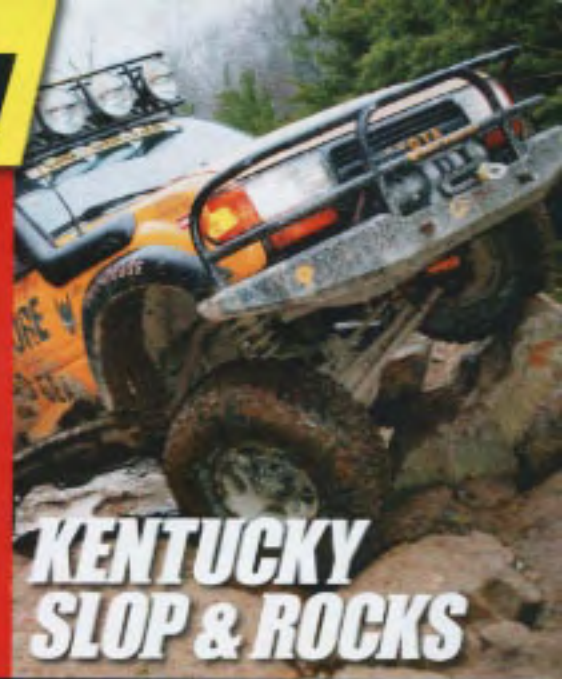


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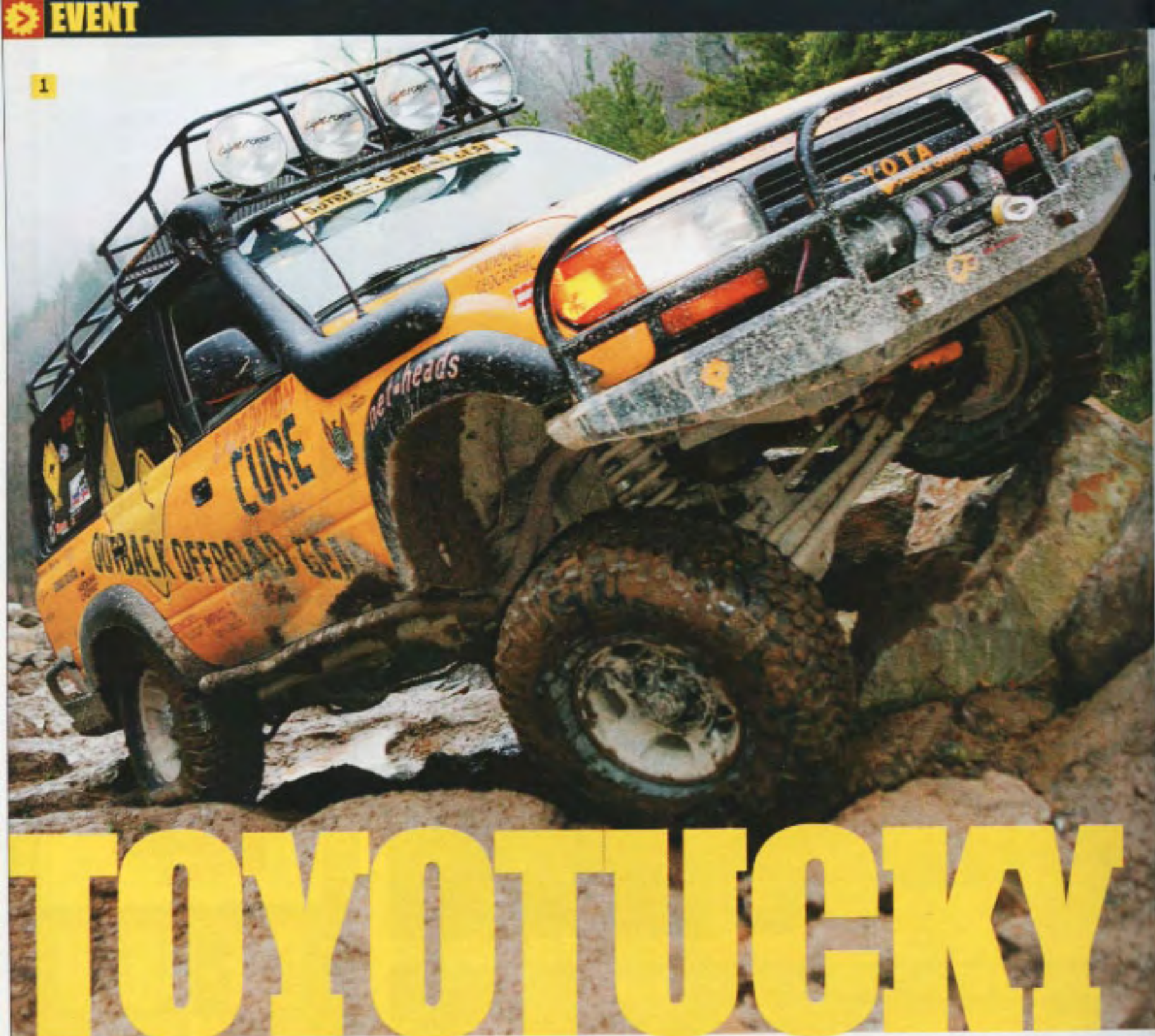
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APRIL FOOL'S DAY TOYOTA CRAWL

BY Chris Pearson
PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS PEARSON

THERE AREN'T TOO MANY TOWNS where you can cruise down the highway in an off-road buggy and not get a second glance from the locals, or the cops for that matter. The people in Harlan, Kentucky, have become somewhat immune to the loud exhausts and humming tires for one good reason, tourism. Harlan County decided to open up 6,000 acres of mountainous terrain once used by the coal mining and logging industries for off-road enthusiasts to use year round. With organized, well-marked trails,

1 You might recognize this truck's logos from Carl and Page St. Clair's 4Runner they ran in the Ultimate Adventure back in 2006. The FJ-80 was originally built for a 21-day trip across the Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico to raise awareness for Parkinson's disease.

2 Judging by the slew of stickers, Matt Rasnake has been all over the country with his new Cruiser. He had a Rough Country 6-inch suspension system custom designed to work with a set of Fox coilover shocks to clear the 35-inch Dick Cepek.

3 Dave Rees was out having fun in his custom tube buggy. The rain didn't seem to faze him much with the rubber suit and ski goggles on. He designed and built this buggy that runs a 4.7L Vortec, a Turbo 350, a Dana 300, and FJ-80 axles.

4 People were still out in the mountains well into the night. Tony Woody's exo-caged '84 Toyota pickup made this off-road challenge look more like a freeway drive.

5 Bill Combs brought out this clean '73 Land Rover that has been swapped over to a Toyota mini-truck powertrain and driveline parts. In fact the only thing Land Rover on it is the body and frame.



5

no entrance fees, and some of the most challenging terrain in the state, it didn't take long for people to start coming in droves. The area is host to many events during the year, including this year's April Fool's Day Toyota Crawl. The event turned out to be a muddy one for Toyota lovers. From old to new, and stock to built to the hilt, all of the true die-hard four-wheelers were out enjoying every minute on the slippery rain-drenched trails. Most of the serious rock trails were lined with waterfalls flowing down between the boulders and cascading over the ledges, but that just makes it even more fun. To learn more about the Harlan County Trails, visit www.harlandcountytrails.com.