New S-Class is a technological showcase For more than 50 years, Mercedes-Benz's "S" designation has promised top-of-the-line sedans and coupes packed with technology. The latest S-Class continues this tradition with ground-breaking innovations – from Brake Assist PLUS and infrared vision to seats that massage your back **\$550:** New 5.5 litre, V8 engine Bodyshell: High-tech steel alloys offer produces 26% more output. Fuel maximum strength with minimum weight consumption reduced by up to 9% Adaptive brake light: Flashes under hard braking – said to reduce rear-end Acceleration: 0-100km/h in 5.4 seconds collisions Wheelbase: 3,035 - 3,165mm Brake Assist PLUS and PRE-SAFE systems use two radar frequencies to detect vehicles ahead, warn of likely impact, and prime braking system for faster response when driver applies brakes Distronic PLUS radar-quided Instrument cluster: cruise control system varies speed Centre display of either to keep safe following distance display computer-generated analogue speedometer or infrared night view of road ahead - extending driver's range of vision when on low beam 2 Steering-column selector lever nudges 7G-TRONIC 7-speed automatic transmission 3 Multifunction steering wheel controls functions including radio, TV tuner, CD/DVD changer, telephone and navigation system 4 S/C/M adjusts drive from Comfortable to Sport 5 "COMAND" controller selects function menus 6 Handrest flips up to reveal telephone keypad Sources: Mercedes-Benz, Neil Winton © GRAPHIC NEWS