

A close-up photograph of Niki Lauda, a famous Formula 1 driver. He is wearing a white racing helmet with a yellow visor and a red racing suit with a white turtleneck. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is blurred, showing a crowd of people at a race track.

## Today in History

*August 1, 1976*

▲ Racing driver Niki Lauda was engulfed in flames when his car crashed at the German Grand Prix at the Nürburgring. He returned to Formula 1 six weeks later

**2001:** Homosexuals in Germany were able to marry after the country's top court legalised same-sex ceremonies

**2007:** Gull Force 10, the first commercially available biofuel, was launched in New Zealand

**2009:** Rare Buddhist treasures, not seen for more than 70 years, were unearthed in Mongolia's Gobi Desert

**2011:** In Syria, President Assad's forces stormed the cities of Hama and Deir ez-Zour