

Miscellaneous Ramblings.....

Another irreverent interlude from my office to yours. John Julis



A quick look around at the recent PWA cocktail reception in Phoenix reveals the fate of everyone in the room. We are all faced with the "graying of the industry." People who we have worked with over the years are now older, in some cases "rounder" and noticeably "grayer." My emergency health problem in Phoenix exposed a greater problem under the surface and that is a plan for succession. Granted, none of us are in this business for the money. We love cars and everything about them. Why should we see our hard work go down the tubes if any of us should suffer a major health issue? Do you have a plan for your business should you become incapacitated? Do you have someone who can step in and run a smooth operation until you are on your feet? Luckily, I did.

I trust that my health issues did not take from a successful conference program. I was just in town to meet with a few of my peers regarding SEMA and beyond. I want to thank John Towle and the staff for updating my friends and adversaries on my fate. My prognosis is very good, but for the first time since the early days in Anaheim (1971) I will miss the SEMA show. (Gosh, that last sentence really dates me)

We've Come A Long Way In 100 Years
 In 1907.....
 Only 14% of homes had a bathtub
 8% of homes had a telephone
 There were only 8000 cars on the road
 90% of all doctors had no college education
 There were only 230 murders in the entire country!

Why Men Have Better Friends Than Women
 A woman did not come home one night. She told her husband, the next day, that she slept over at a girl friend's. The man called 10 of her best friends and none of them knew about it.
 A man did not come home one night. The next day he told his wife that he slept over at a buddy's house. The wife called 10 of the man's best friends. Eight of them confirmed that he spent the night and two claimed that he was actually still there.

Ben Franklin once said: "In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom and in water there is bacteria." In a number of carefully controlled studies, scientists have determined that if we drink 1 liter of water each day, at the end of a year we would have ingested almost 2.2 lbs. of Escherichia (E-coli commonly known as poop). We do not risk the same bacteria when drinking wine, beer, tequila, rum or whiskey because of the purification process during fermentation. Remember: water = poop; wine = health. Therefore, it is better to drink wine and talk stupid than to drink water and be full of poop. This has been a public service announcement.

How about NASCAR's save-all "Car of Tomorrow?" If any of you caught the Talladega snoozer and could stay awake for more than a handful of laps... my hat's off to you. Even Jeff Gordon said that it was the most boring race he had ever run. I could cite some exciting moments for you, but I did not see any! Someone must have dangled a pretty huge carrot in front of Michael Waltrip. He stood on the gas (for a change) and won the pole position. They must have all of the mystery crap out of the moto, as NASCAR let his time stand... unlike Daytona.

Most "streaks" in racing sooner or later come to an end. This time it's John Force mending broken bones in Baylor University Hospital. I do not think we will see his Castrol Fuel Funny Car until the Winternationals at Pomona... if then. In other Funny Car news, it seems that Gary Scelzi is out of retirement without ever having to miss a race. Now that Gary has found someone with an airplane to ferry him back and forth to his digs in Fresno, CA, he will continue on the NHRA circuit.

Do you enjoy a glass of Cabernet with dinner, or some Merlot after? There is a 90% chance that it came from some California winery. If you don't think that wine is popular, you should know that after Disneyland, California's wineries are the second most popular tourist destination. The most popular grape? The 2005 Chardonnay grape took up 95,000 acres of the over half a million planted.

That's all for this time.

John Julis
 On the mend.

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