

## Miscellaneous Ramblings.....

Another irreverent interlude from my office to yours. John Julis



AN EPIC EVENT!!.....

ALMOST 10 YEARS IN THE MAKING!!

I guess, unless you live under a rock, the news of Holley's Chapter 11 filing was expected by most in the industry. A veritable mountain of debt, coupled with a backbreaking interest rate on that debt, made very tough sledding. I am certain that you join me in hoping Holley can keep it together and emerge a stronger entity in this industry. The people I queried reported "business as usual" but many behind the scenes are not as optimistic.

NHRA's knee-jerk reaction to the two devastating fuel funny car crashes last year was totally expected. When clearer heads prevail, one can look back and see the problem may lie in the one chassis builder who built the two cars in question. Nevertheless, NHRA has mandated major chassis changes for funny cars to be in effect by mid-season. It's too bad as none of the rest of the funny car chassis manufacturers have any problems that the John Force cars have seen.

Caught the Dr. Phil show the other day just in time to see one of my rep friends in his national TV debut. Hey man, is it true that the camera adds 10 lbs. and ages you 10 years? Not!

I am certain that many of you have heard of the performance enhancing gas called "nitrous oxide" or have actually used it in an engine. Nitrous oxide was first synthesized by an English chemist Joseph Priestly in 1775. He called it "phlogisticated nitrous air." It is now made by heating ammonium nitrate in a process developed in 1785 by French chemist Claude Berthollet. This method of making nitrous oxide, though widely used, still poses an explosion risk from overheating the ammonium nitrate.

- If the Jacksonville (FL) Jaguars are known as the "Jags" and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are known as the "Bucs," then what does that make the Tennessee Titans?
- Why do crutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?
- Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?
- What color hair does DMV put on the licenses of bald men?
- At income tax time, did you ever notice when you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together it spells... "Theirs?"
- Do you think that people who read the bible more as they get older are just cramming for the "final exam?"

I think that the NASCAR rulebook is thicker than Webster's dictionary. They have rules for final gear ratio, spring and shock packages, engine bore size and are now legislating exactly what car you can run... all in the name of cutting costs. If the rules get any more restrictive, next year's Daytona 500 could cut costs by deciding the winner with a game of rock-paper-scissors!

Here's some interesting anagrams (which means rearranging the letters to form new words or phrases)... Election Results... becomes, Lie's! Let's recount. Seven-Eleven Incorporated... becomes Open it and never close!

Truth is... becomes it hurts!

Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band... becomes Crap LP Sung By The LSD-prone Beatles.

If you were born in 1946 or before, you are older than: The transistor (1947), Velcro (1948), Israel (1948) and cake mix (1949).

The "Spirit of '76"

Thirty-two short years ago may seem like a lifetime to many and the prices we paid in 1976 are far removed from those today. Here's a remembrance of what things cost back then:

Movie ticket... \$2.25 New invention VCR... \$1600.  
Average income... \$12,700 A new Chrysler Cordoba automobile... \$5000. Gallon of gas... 59 cents  
McDonalds cheeseburger... 48 cents Tickets to Super Bowl X... \$20 (Steelers 21, Cowboys 17).  
Minimum wage... \$2.30 per hour. Want a minivan, a CD, Apple Computer or a Starbucks coffee? They weren't invented yet!

On June 30, 2006 the U.S. Treasury stopped collecting the 3% federal excise tax on long distance phone calls. It was always the last tax added on to phone bills. Purpose of this tax? It was instituted to pay for the Spanish-American War... 1898! Taxpayers can file for a refund of the taxes paid in the prior three years but not in the previous 105.

Some Interesting Human Body Facts

The female egg is the largest cell in the human body... the smallest is the male sperm. It takes food seven seconds to go from your mouth to your stomach. If a man never shaved, his beard would be 13 feet long when he died. Your body uses 300 muscles to balance yourself when standing still!

That's all for this time.

John Julis

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