May 27th 2008

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San Bernardino, Riverside and Ontario ranked the worst for teenage car crash fatalities in California (Melina Perez/Chronicle).

Crash fatalities overshadow IE

Melina Perez
Staff Writer

Traffic sins stop a gravy whale away from disguised vehi­cles have become a common scene across the Inland Empire, accor­ding to a study released by Alliance Insurance. The study examined 50 of the na­tion’s largest metropolitan areas.

According to the study, San Bernar­dino, Riverside and Ontario ranked the worst for teenage car crash fatalities in California and 13th national­wide.

For every 100,000 teenage colli­sions, an estimated 30 fatalities occurred in the area.

“Traffic sins are the leading cause of death for teens in the US, according to the Centers for Dis­ease Control and Prevention, with 6,000 occurring every year. The reason we are seeing such a high number of fatal teen crashes is lack of education,” Riverside CDP Officer George Foard said. “This includes four factors: peer pressure, speed, DUI and restraint. At least one of the four factors is involved in most teenage fatal car crashes.”

Speeding led all causes of car crashes, accounting for 35.4 per­cent of crashes. Lack of seat-belt-use followed

Continued on Pg. 2

With the end of the school year approaching, summer months experi­ence the most fatal car accidents (Melina Perez/Chronicle).

10-year plan seeks affordability

Felice Dedyn
Staff Writer

The goal of the plan is to make college edu­cation affordable.

The 10-year plan builds upon the foundation of the “Corner­stone Initiative” adopted in 1998, which identifies priorities needed to meet the chal­lenges facing CSU students and faculty.

“Access to Excellence” names some major priorities for the sys­tem. First, increasing student access and success. Second, meeting the state’s need for economic and civic development needs. Lastly, sustain­ing institutional excellence through investments in CSU members.

“If we can students be expected to pay these yearly fee increases, how can we continue to keep up with them?” asked Duro. “We are working more than one job and going to school full­time. Some of us have families and other expenses to attend to. If it is taking an average of six years to graduate, how will I be able to pay the six years worth of fees? Not only to that also books, gas, park­ing, living expenses, etc.”

“Through Access to Excell­ence,” the CSU positioned itself as a leader in strengthening public ac­countability and ensuring the tran­parency translates into greater student learning and informed con­tingency,” Aschberg said.

The CFA, ASI and SQE held a rally for the Governor’s restoration of $288 million back into the Califor­nia State University (CSU) system (Brian Spears/Chronicle).

CSU students, TAKE ACTION!

$288 million to go

Shantal Anderson
Staff Writer

San Bernardino Mayor Patrick Morris joined the fight against the Governor’s education budget cuts. The California Faculty Assoc­iation (CFA), Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) and Students for Quality Education (SQE) held a rally for the Governor’s restoration of $288 million back into the Califor­nia State University (CSU) sys­tem.

“What we will try to do is cut our very last barrel of cut budget. We’re do it very best to make sure the needed classes are offered, but there will probably be fewer of them offered, there probably will be fewer services and there may be larger classes. But we will try our very best to make sure our next steps in terms of time of graduation. We need to make sure the legislators also listen and tell them that CSU and higher education is the so­lution,” Morris said.

There will be 10,000 fewer stu­dents in the CSU system next year than this year, which is about a 2.5 percent cut in the number of stu­dents. According to Morris, the cuts will result in fewer college gradu­ates in the future.

Continued on Pg. 2

The California State University System (CSU) announced its plan “Access to Excellence” to make college education affordable (Felice Dedyn/Chronicle).

Aschberg added. "This is not a plan in theory, but one crafted through an extensive consensus process and one that will guide our decision making in the challenges of the fu­ture," Aschberg added.

Access to Excellence names three major priorities for the sys­tem. First, increasing student access and success. Second, meeting the state’s need for economic and civic development needs. Lastly, sustain­ing institutional excellence through investments in CSU members.

“We want affordable... and quality education.”

The goal of “Access to Excellence” is to make college education af­fordable (Felice Dedyn/Chronicle).

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Continued on Pg. 2
2008-09 ASI officers set goals

With the school year coming to a close, the newly elected 2008-2009 Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) officials have big plans for the future at CSUSB.

According to ASI’s mission statement, they represent 16,500 students at California State University, San Bernardino.

ASI includes the Board of Directors, the Club Allocation Committee, the Activities Committee, and the elected executives of ASI.

Jeremy Vasquez, the newly elected ASI President was unavailable to comment regarding his ASI views.

The position of Executive Vice President will be filled by Tyra Vazquez who was scheduled to compete in a run-off election against Natalia Cervián who decided to re- move herself from the race.

The battle for Executive Vice President was initially too close to call.

The ASI Elections Board decided that no run-off election would be the only way to determine the final outcome.

Tyra is now gearing up for a year of dedicated service to CSUSB students.

"My Hope is to enrich our campus and the surrounding community. I hope to see campus spirit increase for students to gather as a unified voice to take on battles against board and new problem that afflicts us all," said Vasquez.

The new vice president of finances, Johnathan Billinger, gave details about his position and objectives for his term of office.

"Palm and multiple clubs and organizations ensure about the Club Allocation Budget (CAB) funding process and benefit of receiving funding for their programs. As now, a little over half of the clubs and organizations on campus do not use CAB funding which is a resource that should be taken advantage of," said Billinger.

ASI has big plans for the 2008-09 school year.

In regards to Billinger’s vision for CSUSB’s image in the upcoming year, he anticipates this campus will be viewed and respected as a force to be reckoned with for our thriving campus pride.

Joseph Magdaleno will be the new vice president of university affairs. He hopes to improve marketing and advertising of ASI events and to conduct surveys to get student opinions on matters they believe to be exciting to see.

"We’re going to be a great group for ASI. We’ll all know each other for a while and we communicate very effectively. I know we will work well together," said Magdaleno.

Paul DeLorenzo, newly elected vice president, David Provenza will be in charge of the club allocation budget, chairing the advisory committee and interfacing the voice of the students with the faculty and staff.

In an outgoing message for the newly elected officials, Anthony Conley gave his words of advice for the incoming officers.

"Having the ability to really listen to those you represent and those you work with will truly allow you to become a better person and achieve your goals," said Conley.

ASI hopes to achieve the above mentioned and more in order to serve CSUSB students needs.

False alarm

Felice Dodgson
Staff Writer

Fire alarms were accidentally set off Thursday May 22 in University Hall (USH) causing an evacuation and building evacuation.

"It was not a false drill," Linda Sand, Communications Studies Department secretary said.

The drill was not planned. Standards of students and faculty were forced to move class for a period of 30 minutes.

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Continued: Students rally

The rally gave students the opportunity to sign up for the "Alliance for the CSU" (Shan Anderson/Chronicle).

Continued: Teenage deaths

With 19.5 percent, the study reported.

Gender and time of year factored into the probability of fatal car crashes as well.

California males experienced 71 percent of fatal crashes, whereas females suffered 29 percent.

With the end of the school year approaching, summer months experience the most car accidents, with July having the highest fatalities.

Although the Imperial Empire has seen a 25 percent decline in teenage car crash fatalities in the past four years, it still had the most fatalities.

According to Friends, the safety program sponsored by Friends, offers credit for the reduction of number of teen car fatalities in recent years.

The CHP program is an educational tool used to promote driver safety for teens and Nixon licensed teenage drivers and their parents, according to the CHP.

"We talk about the issues that are really going on for young drivers and not just those things that people hear on T.V.,” Friends said.

Other safety campaign include the Check It or Ticket program and D.U.I. checkpoints.

Proper driving education appears to be the most vital factor for ensuring teenagers' safety, according to Friends.
Silly String Spring Fling gives students fun, prizes

Daniel Aguilar
Staff Writer

One CSUSB student didn't feel silly enough to play, but he sure got a payoff.

"Someone convinced me to play. I had no idea what this event was about but it was a lot of fun," said Lucia Gonzales, winner of a hand-crafted $2,500 custom accoutrements gift.

The Coyote Radio sponsored its first annual Silly String Fling on the Alumni lawn Tues., May 20 at 2 p.m.

Tickets for the event were available for anyone interested at $5 from Coyote Radio, and all the proceeds went to the Ronald McDonald House.

During the event, the Coyote Radio rose over $150 and accepted donations throughout the event.

"We help provide a place for the parents of children that are in hospitals, to help keep the family together so that a mother can be next to her child," said Karen Van Hoo, event manager for Lorna Hom, event manager for Lorna.

"The Coyote Radio wants to make a difference and this is a fun and funny event that allows them to do that.

Up to 50 CSUSB students participated in the silly string event, which resulted in a lot of laughter and many ticklers.

"The object of the game was to grab as many of the over 1,000 capsules plastic capsules as possible, each containing a raffle ticket, inside a pool in the middle of the lawn," said Brooks.

The pool containing the capsules was guarded by Coyote Radio staff members who were armed with cans of silly string.

"Participants were given a brown bag that contained a can of silly string. Then they were line up around the square perimeter and wait for the referee's signal.

Once the whistle is blown, they have one minute to fill their bags with as many capsules in possible, while using the silly string as a distraction.

The game continued until all the capsules are gone.

Some capsules contained white tickets which served as decoys, while capsules with pink tickets had a prime value.

Afterwards, participants lined up at the Coyote Radio booth and waited to redeem their prizes which included a variety of Coyote Radio gear.

A bandshell acoustic guitar, which was made by Richard Allan Brooks, father of Coyote Radio staff member Megan Brooks, served as the grand prize of the event.

"I took three months to make the guitar from scratch. My father has been doing this for a very long time," Brooks said.

"This is an overall fun event that allows us to help provide a place for the parents of children that are in hospitals, to help keep the family together so that a mother can be next to her child," Brooks said.

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Indoor air pollution

Erica Evans
Staff Writer

Toxic chemicals found in the air of almost every American home are three times more likely to cause some type of cancer than outdoor air pollutants, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has found that the air in some office buildings is 100 times more polluted than the air outside. Poor ventilation causes about half of indoor air pollution problems. The rest come from specific sources such as copy machines, electrical and telephone circuits, mold and microbe-harboring air conditioning systems and areas, cigarette smoke, carpet, paint, vinyl molding and building materials and furniture that emit air pollutants such as formaldehyde.

A major indoor air pollutant is radon-222, a colorless, odorless, tasteless, naturally occurring radioactive gas produced by the decay of uranium-238.

Exposure to radon is second only to smoking as a cause of lung cancer, according to the American Lung Association. These pollutants are dispersed throughout the world's atmosphere in concentrations high enough to gradually cause serious health problems.

The two main sources of pollutants are transportation and fuel combustion in stationary sources. Motor vehicles produce high levels of carbon monoxide and a major source of hydrocarbons and a major source of sulfur oxides, which are precursors to acid rain.

Carbon monoxide reacts very rapidly with haemoglobin in the blood, preventing oxygen uptake and transport of oxygen. Carbon monoxide readily and firmly attaches to haemoglobin, it is very weakly bound, and it is excreted relatively slowly.

At high levels of carbon monoxide exposure, impaired decision-making and the central nervous system regulate the ability to respond quickly to external stimuli.

After exposures that contain 5 percent to 10 percent of the circulating haemoglobin, isocyanates that are formed are easily released when the index of exposure is decreased.

The ability to recognize and react to flashes of light in a test system is almost eliminated.

At 10 percent to 30 percent, monoxide, headaches, unconsciousness and death can result.

Air pollution can irritate the eyes, throat and lungs. Blurred vision, cough and chest tightness are common with exposure to high levels of air pollution.

According to familydoctor.org, radon is one of the most important indoor pollutants affecting health and energy recovery ventilator to provide indoor with outdoor air.

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The Santos Manual Student Union held their yearly event on May 21 from 12-2:00 p.m. at the back night in the 1800s when women could not walk the streets of London without having a violent crime committed against them. These violent acts against women led to reform.

This undeniably was a huge impact throughout the trials of history.

Inspiring many to birth their very own organizations with hopes of stopping and prohibiting violent acts against women.

The year 2008 included a movie, music, clothing and food to encourage students to come out and gain information. Over 100 student participated and supported the event.

Take back the night historically found itself knowing the importance of speaking against violence, understanding there is a power in taking a stand when violence occurs.

Micheville Villerah
Staff Writer

A chemical has been found in baby plastic bottles that might be dangerous to babies who drink from them (Courtesy of showroom411.com). BPA, a chemical used in plastic bottles, may interfere with reproductive hormones. New studies have found that the production of polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins may interfere with reproductive hormones.

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Cook: no cut cookie

David Cook is the new American Idol (Courtesy of www.americanidol.com).

Melanie Hunter
Assistant Ed. Editor

D

d or “Cookie” Cook, the latest Idol, doesn’t fit the show’s standard

muggy sweet catalog of win-

ners.

According to Billboard maga-

zine, Cook earned 6 percent of the

round 97 million votes cast.

As said Ryan Seacrest an-

ounced her winner, Cook was

brought to tears claiming, “I’m at

an absolute loss for words right

now.”

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### Scarlett Johansson the singer?

Ken Bilodeau
Copy Editor

S carlett Johansson isn’t trying to prove to the world that she can sing well as she can act.

“Anywhere I Lay My Head,” a collection of Tom Waits covers (and one original), comes off a mix of an effortless tribute to a legend than a look at her fiery into music by the talented actress.

Unfortunately, thanks to unac-

cessible production and a general lack of production, the record falls short of its mark.

Johansson deserves kudos for not attempting to parcel her well-

deserved successes on the silver screen into a mega-hits-pop record like other Hollywood stars have done.

“Anywhere I Lay My Head” definitely reaches for an artistic ideal without beyond the goals of any David Hasselhoff, Lindsay Lohan or Jamie Fox albums.

The record runs into trouble with the limitations of Johansson’s vocals and the overwhelmingly ob-

trusive production by TV on the Rado’s David Sirk.

Sirk claims he was shooting for a “soulful, tough sans-yip” sound, and that’s exactly what every song on the record displays.

Chains and music boxes pluck titles above a few tracks and every syllable of Johansson’s smooth alto is layered with echo.

Sticks’ production regularly falls into the same mistakes. Every song seems to occupy the exact same head-space.

Sparsc percussion languishes below “I’m Losing Enemy of Desired Wind Instruments and Drunken Piano Too often, the background dominates the vocalist.

The album feels too much about the production and not enough about the singer. This is good and bad.

Johansson’s vocals are pleasing enough.

She can carry a tune and her voice has a classic smoothness that meshes well with the production scheme on paper.

On the record, however, the singer with absolutely no emotion.

break-dancing debut.

Despite the heavy production, stainless steel pipes and chummy dancing from Paul Abdul, their guest performances from prominent musicians and the top 5 finalists.

Third place finalist, Sybyla Mercado, joined the stage with the top 5 female finalists, who showed more stage pres-

ence and charisma than the stage Ryan Adams performed two songs with the top six male finalists.

The highlights of the show were guest appearances from for-

mer “Idols” Carrie Underwood and Justin Timberlake who each performed songs from their albums.

Underwood performed her lat-

est, “Last Name,” proving that the

real show has matured to actu-

ally cheer out chart-toppers with talent.

Unfortunately, Sparks’ man-

agement didn’t feel the need to pro-

mote her hit, “Need You Now.” Instead she performed “One Step At A Time,” in coincide with the new album release.

Season three winner Fantasia

Barrino also showed up with her

fire red hair.

“Ain’t No Other Man” by Cook

quickly became the number one

song on iTunes the day after the fi-

nal airing, and Cook earned herself

a record deal with Sony BMG.

The album was picked up by Jive Records, which is also under the same label as Fantasia.

Cook and Archuleta will join the rest of the top 10 contestants on the “Idol Live” tour this summer.

Ryan Seacrest also makes his

TV gets 90210 again

V i c t o r i a G a r c i a
Staff Writer

B everly Hills 90210 is back. A pilot for an untitled spinoff was released on March 18, 2006 on the CW.

Rob Thomas, creator of “Veronica Mars,” is writing the new

series.

Similar to the original “90210,” the show will revolve around a family who recently

moved from the Midwest to Beverly Hills with two teen sons, a boy and girl, who will dissemble the original series Brenda and Brans-

don.

Rob Estes, who played Kyle "Kyle" Mohan on “Melrose Place,” has

signed to star in the new series.

Estes’ character takes care of his aging alcoholic mother, Tabitha, who is played by Jessica Walter. Joining him in his role, Celia, a former Olympic medalist, biological
cousin of daughter Annie and adopted son Dixon.

A trailer of the show which has been receiving positive feedback from internet blogs features scenes with some of the principal cast members, including Lani LaHoff and Jessica Walter.

“Write confidant that the new "90210" will be the most buzzed-

about series of any this fall,” said CW Entertainment President

Down Oftour.

To interview before the presen-

tation, Oftour said the plan is for

original "90210" characters to be

popped in for a visit on the spin-

off.

“We’ve been speaking to most original cast members, and they’re interested in one way or another,” said Oftour.

Beverly Hills 90210 was a prime-time drama series that began on October 4, 1990, and lasted until March 11, 2001, on FOX.

The show followed the lives of a group of teenagers living in the glitzy community of Beverly Hills and attending West Beverly Hills High School.

The original cast of the show: “Beverly Hills 90210” (Courtesy of www.cw.com).
State Court says 'I do'

Gabrielle Mays  
Staff Writer

Gay couples will legally be able to get married in California beginning June 16. The California Supreme Court has overturned the law against gay marriage.

The 4-3 decision ruled that the former proposition against gay marriage was unconstitutional and lacked equal rights for gay couples. This is not the first time California has led the way for change. In 1948, it became the first state to allow interracial marriage.

"I have mixed feelings because it's their life but I guess I'm pretty much against it because I'm Christian. It will all just go down hill from here," said sophomore Keshia Bell.

California previously permitted domestic-partner registration which allowed same-sex couples to make rights like inheritance and 

Some expect the measure to appear on the upcoming November ballot.

"They should be able to get mar­ried. It's their choice and we shouldn't be forced to choose what is right for them," said Andrew Hernandez.

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres announced last week on her show that she and longtime girlfriend Portia de Rossi are get­ting married in June.

Students all about diversity

Andrea Putnam  
Staff Writer

Taking their first step in an organization on CSUSB, the Nigerian Student Association gathered to­gether for the very first time on Tuesday, May 28.

With a turnout of around 20 people, the organization's president began the meeting with an open dis­cussion regarding Nigerian culture.

"I wanted to come out and sup­port, plus to learn more about the culture," said third year student Ruth Washington.

According to the board members, no experience is needed.

The organization has been planning their very first event that will be taking place here on cam­pus. The event will be a dance perfor­mance.

This is scheduled to be towards the end of the year.

The group has begun taking signatures from those willing to participate in the event on campus.

Advance toward your degree.

Currently enrolled CSUSB students and new fall 2008 students can work toward degree completion with summer classes at Cal State-San Bernardino.

• Class schedules are available at the bookstore or online at http://ocs.csusb.edu/ocs/ched/summer.html
• Financial aid is available. (Check your eligibility)
• Register now! Classes begin June 18.
• Classes are offered at the San Bernardino campus, the Palm Desert campus and online.
• Same fee schedule as regular academic year.

For more information call the Academic Services Office at (909) 537-8100.
Are hikes that bad?

Lauren Padia
Staff Writer

Tuition costs are going up. Get ready.

The California State University Board of Trustees met Wednesday, May 14 and voted to increase CSU tuition costs by 10 percent for the 2008-2009 academic year. This vote passed 15 to 3. The increases are expected to bring in an estimated $10 million to the state to help offset budget cuts.

So what does this mean for students?

Undergraduate students will pay $276 more and $342 more for graduation students, per year. This may sound like a lot, but think of the amount you pay for textbooks each quarter.

It's not unheard of to pay $200 for first-year textbooks in any quarter. Consider the $276 increase as two and a half extra textbooks in the fall.

Right now, full-time tuition costs about $1,230 per quarter, or approximately $4,000 a year. After the increase, the yearly tuition costs will be increased to roughly $3,966.

It is an obvious difference, but so minimal that by fall it probably won't mean the difference of two tanks of gas for some people.

If you break it down it averaged to $52 per week per quarter.

This sounds like a lot, but you're really only paying an extra $9.20 per week per quarter.

That's less than an extra two hours of work a week if you're making the state minimum wage of $7.50 an hour.

Tuition has been gradually increasing over the years. In the 2006-2007 academic year, full-time tuition for the entire year was only $1,428.

However, the state minimum wage in 2000 was $5.75.

The cost of tuition has doubled in the past eight years, but minimum wage has also increased by 1 percent.

One of the groups to be most impacted by the increases will be low-income students who rely on financial aid.

The California State University Board of Trustees has agreed to put up 25 percent of the revenue from the increases to help students on financial aid and to compensate for the higher costs of tuition. An estimated $36 million will be given to approximately 143,475 qualified students.

This means that 75 percent of the current total aid will be given extra aid to offset the increased tuition costs, according to the CSU chancellor's office.

The increases may sound great, but the group most affected by the increases will not be current students, but incoming freshmen.

Even the tuition increases cannot help them.

Approximately 10,000 incoming freshmen have been denied admission in order to counteract the budget cuts.

These students cannot take extra classes to help compensate for the extra tuition costs.

Instead they will find themselves at community college for at least two years and by the time they transfer.

Tuition for CSU students is going to increase next fall and to parents it seems like hiking up a never-ending state tax (Courtesy of caglecartoons.com).

College is a great getaway

Jackie Brown, Julie Kalendrowski, Tiana Turner and Krishi Jacobs find an oasis from this crazy world at the San Manuel Student Union (Scott Heathen/Chronicle).

Jackie Brown, Julie Kalendrowski, Tiana Turner and Krishi Jacobs find an oasis from this crazy world at the San Manuel Student Union (Scott Heathen/Chronicle).

College is a great getaway

Robert Gnamer
Staff Writer

If you're just around the corner, teachers are pushing us to get things done, jobs are demanding more of us and current movies are about to pop.

If you've lived four decades and decided to go to school at the end of my third. People ask me why? Well, to take a break from the insanity of life, that's why!

We get one more, school is pressure. School is also a place of community and a place to form things outside the classroom - at your own pace.

At our school, teachers are like the students. We are all learning, all the time.

That is why school is a good thing. It takes you out of the insanity of life and into an interesting environment.

The best thing about our school is the teachers. Why? Because they are just like you and I. Many of them are people that I can bring.

I particularly believe the teachers at CSUSB are probably some of the best. Not the best in the nation. That may sound exaggerated but go into the classrooms each day and then have a talk with our instructors.

You'll agree, they are good people.

When I feel my life is out of control, I'm so thankful for the instructors. It's like a touch of reality, compassion and knowledge, mixed with fun and beauty.

It's the absolute shining star of our community.

CSUSB is the oasis in the insanity. Give yourself a break and learn, grow and live.

Preachers problems

Scott Heathen
Staff Writer

Here's another example of politics at its best.

Rod Parsley is one of the pastors that San. John McCain so desperately recruited when he was concerned that another candidate, Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, was getting all of the right-wing religious votes.

Parsley is head of the World Harvest Church in Columbus, Ohio.

McCain has called Parsley "one of the truly great leaders in America, a moral compass, a spiritual guide.

Parsley has appeared many times in McCain's campaigns. But the preacher has once called him a "complacency of spiritual evil."

"America was founded with the intention of seeing this false religion destroyed," said Parsley. "I believe that if I was a makeup call and a call to arms."

McCain is no dummy. He has learned from Sen. Barack Obama's mistake and is trying to distinguish this fine before it gets too big.

Video clips of Pastor Parsley's sermons are already drenched on websites in the Arab world.

I do know what is more disastrous, a politician seeking an endorsement from a preacher or a preacher who would think about endorsing a politician.

Whose are preachers going to stop estranging themselves in political situations and start worrying about the sub-woofers of their congregations?
Danical Patrick may have won an IRL Indycar race recently, but women in motor sports is nothing new. I am only 17 years old and have been drag racing for 12 years. I am a semi-professional race car driver, continuing on my path to a professional drag racing career by competing in the Nitro Nostalgia Funny Car class.

Nitro funny cars have 3,500 horsepower engines, all under body styles that replicate cars of the 60s and 70s. I race a 1969 Mustang Mach 1. My style is funny car that exceeds speeds of 240 mph in the quarter mile. I am frequently asked if I am afraid to drive that fast. The truth is, yes. There is a certain amount of fear associated with driving that fast. The danger level is so high that serious injury or death can occur if I come into contact with the guard wall or if a fire were to break out and I was trapped inside the car. In order to be a successful driver, I must maintain that fear into confidence. As long as I can face up, the flames start shooting out of my 100 gallon fuel tank and the body gets lowered down on top of the chassis - with me in it. That's when my fear turns to confidence.

I pull the car forward into the flag zone and over the baseline and down to a 500 box and slam the throttle down to start the engine. The crowd loves it. I back my car into the staging lane but keep the throttle in the floor to keep the car in second gear. I hold on tight as my car accelerates to 1,000 mph.

At the starting line, I square up with the track and strategically drive my car over the spot with the most traction. After my crew chief removes my throttle stop, I pull forward in the staging lane and wait for my opponent to do the same. Once we have both plugged up our cars, I release my clutch, turn on a fuel boost that flows 20 gallons of nitro into my motor and wait to see the amber lights flash, signaling me to hit the start. Every muscle in my body is tense and waits to react to those lights. The amber lights flash. I release my hand brake and mash the throttle to the floor. My rear tires spin so much traction that it raises my car off the ground. I floor it and pop a wheelie. I am supposed to race straight, but all I see is blue sky.

I lift off of the throttle, let the wheels come down in earth and slowly roll the throttle back in. I make a turn and cut the engine at the 1/4 mile mark. I lift off of the throttle, let the wheels come down in earth and slowly roll the throttle back in. I make a turn and cut the engine at the 1/4 mile mark.

I am looking straight ahead, focused on bear-wrangling the steering wheel to keep the car on the course and to make sure my opponent is ahead of or behind me. I think the clutch kick point of 60 feet and press a button on my steering wheel to shift the car into second gear. I hold on tight as my car accelerates to the 1,000 mph mark and hit another button on my steering wheel that restricts some nitro from entering my motor. At the 1,000 foot mark, I lift my right arm and push two levers that release both of my parachutes. I react fast from the throttle at 1,200 feet and proceed to slow down by pulling on my hand brake, creating a pressure equal to three times the force gravity on my body.

All of these functions are to be executed within five seconds while accelerating to 240 mph. I wear a three-layer fire proof driving suit with fire proof long underwear, gloves, socks, shoes, boots and gloves. I sit in my carbon fiber seat and restrict my seat and restrict my seat.