

The Need For Speed

What is so intriguing about going fast? Whatever happened to taking things nice and slow, a process that allows a person to do things correctly without maximum risk? In the past, the slow and easy approach to life was appealing. Today, that theory has literally been lost in the dust of the high-speed lifestyles that many of us live today.

Adults are asking why speed is so appealing, as teenagers can't get enough. The thrill of speed is a reality in today's society—the thrill that consumes a teen's everyday life. A day in the life of a teen consists of waking up and speeding to get ready for the day. The average teen sleeps as long as he or she can and doesn't mind the fact that they will have to speed in order to make it on time to school. Before the teen leaves for school, he or she will eat a quick breakfast (usually in the form of a pop tart or breakfast bar—something that is already made for them to enjoy). As the teen is eating their breakfast, they will quickly check their E-mail capability that they can enjoy with the use of high speed Internet. Then, the teen will drive quickly to school in their fast car. Speed allows a teen to live this lifestyle, and without it, the life of a 2004 teenager would be greatly disadvantaged.

Among other things, the need for speed with motor vehicles has become very popular. Not only are modern cars meant to be fast, but they are meant to look fast too.

In today's society, engines are being made bigger, faster, and with more all-around performance. Car manufacturers like Nissan, Ford, Chevrolet, and Toyota have all started to include performance parts and flashy appearances to their vehicles' productions. Features such as bigger wheels, spoilers, and tinted windows are all little things that make a car look more sporty.

However, the real speed comes from within the car itself. Recently it appears that cars are shooting for speed and performance rather than smooth ride or gas economy. The Nissan 350Z is exactly what a sports car should be. It includes the engine, color, and design that consumers are looking for in a sports car.

This year, car companies such as Ford are designing their cars with retro styling, another speed-based feature. The 2005 Ford Mustang is bringing back some of the same designs that were seen in the Mustang models produced in the 1960s. The Mustang also incorporates the bigger engine, styling, and the little things that makes cars sporty. Those extra features would be having the option to change the color of your gauges. This feature among several others in today's cars are becoming more common to be standard on new cars.

Today's standard car includes more performance features such as the engine, wheels, and exhaust. These features used to be aftermarket upgrades, but now come stock on many of the cars on the market today.

There is no doubt that the need for speed in cars is growing among American's. There will always be companies producing new cars to fuel America's ever increasing need for speed, whether it be by speed-influenced body stylings or sheer power under the hood.

Shift Into High Gear



Real Mobility

About one in every two Americans owns a cell phone. That's more 140 million people in our nation alone. Cellular phones provide an easy and efficient connection to the world when on the move, or even when sitting at home.

Companies like Motorola, Nokia, and Samsung have spent fortunes on making the cellular phone the most innovative communication device on the market.

Today's cell phones now come equipped with special features which bring the world even closer to one's fingertips. The latest of these features include things like a personal GPS navigational system built into the phone to increase the ease of traveling to places unknown. Some phones include mp3 players, for the music lover's enjoyment. The most popular are videophones, which capture live footage that can be sent to other cell phones, and picture phones, which take digital pictures that can be loaded on to a computer or sent to another's phone. Basically all of the phones on the market include wireless high-speed internet, which hooks the user up with instant messaging, E-mail, latest sport scores, weather, the stock market, and more.

Above all other features, today's high-tech phones are fast. With digital networks sending and receiving data via satellite, communication is super speedy. The sheer amount of cell phone towers in the U.S. multiplies every year, ensuring us the high speeds that we rely on.

Americans, no matter what their race or beliefs, have a hunger for swiftness when it comes to anything. Cellular phones feed our culture's need for speed with quick, clear communication and high speed upgrades right in our palms.

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Blazin' Browsers

This country lives in an atmosphere of supply and demand. As we entered the new millennium, the more our technology supplied, the more we demanded. That is the way it has continued from then on, and the demands that we are making are becoming higher than ever. It seems that our biggest demand is for blazing fast internet. Why do we need high speed internet? High speed internet lets you do anything online including watching movies, conducting research, planning vacations, or even running a business. For teens, fast means less hassle when browsing online, whatever their needs may be. "I do not really use the internet for anything else but research, and to occasionally talk to my friends," said sophomore Katie Hanley "I get pretty mad when it acts slow. I like it to be as fast as possible." When the people want more, technology gives more, and

the dial-up connection is no longer satisfying or being able to meet our needs. It's slow speeds are now a thing of the past. Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) is up to five times faster than dial-up and has the upper hand in many aspects of the connection services. With DSL, there is no tied up phone line, there is a twenty-four hour connection service, instant access to E-mail, and in many aspects it is cheaper than dial-up. If one were to factor in the monthly cost of the dial-up connection, which usually runs about \$21.95 per month, and the cost of a second phone line about \$29.00 a month, the price for both is about double of what DSL costs, which usually runs for about \$30.00 a month. "The convenience of being able to connect to any website or download anything imaginable at the click of a button without tying up the phone lines is what makes DSL

so much more appealing," said senior Paul Applegren. With the same lighting fast speeds that we all demand, a wireless network can be set up inside one's home. By using wireless routers one can access the internet and share files over a network with high speeds and no cords attached. "Convenience and speed are what I want when I'm on the internet. I don't have time to wait for things to load," said junior Nick Scotti "the faster, the better."

