



THRILLING TO THE TOP

CEDAR POINT'S *TOP THRILL DRAGSTER*
CLIMBS TO NEW HEIGHTS OF TERROR

BY JEFF KING

Roller coasters have reached a new level in terror. A very tall level, indeed. Topping out at a record-breaking 420 feet, Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio has created both the ultimate expression in roller coaster height and, at 120 mph, the heart-pounding leader in speed.

Cedar Point debuted Millennium Force, the 310-foot tall scream machine built by Intamin AG of Wollerau, Switzerland, in 2000. For a few months, it held the record for height, and at 93 mph, was one of the fastest roller coasters on the planet. Since opening, Millennium Force been an instant classic. Part of the coaster's popularity was based on the speed of the ride.

Looking forward to what could possibly top this ride, Cedar Point's corporate Vice President of Planning and Design Rob Decker said, "There was a lot of talk about raw speed and how we could take the sensation of drag racing and incorporate it into roller coaster technology."

In order for a coaster to be able to reach heights exceeding 400 feet, you either have to design an incredibly large lift hill requiring enormous amounts of land, or you