

# J.E.A.M. CENTS

Volume IV Issue No. 12

"The Official Newsletter of Festivus"

December 1-31, 1999

#### DISCLAIMER

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#### DECEMBER EVENTS

12/3-5: Millennium Avenue Crews  
12/3-5: MAMA Fall Arts Festival On Millennium Avenue  
12/5: Cardinals Game- Millennium Avenue parking/bar crews  
12/10: ZZ Top @ AWA  
12/10-11: Millennium Avenue Crews  
12/11: Advance Training Classes @ 111. 1p-5p  
12/12: Our Lady of Guadalupe Day  
12/13: Payday in 111. 4p-6p.  
12/16: Rage Against The Machine @ AWA  
12/17-18: Millennium Avenue Crews  
12/18: Advance Training Classes in 111. 1p-5p.  
12/19: Cardinals Game- Millennium Avenue parking/bar crews  
12/24: Chris Casias' Birthday- corporate office closed.  
12/24-25: Millennium Avenue Crews  
12/25: Christmas Day/Festivus Day  
12/27: Payday in 111. 4p-6p.  
Bette Midler @ AWA  
12/28: I.D. checking classes in 111. 4pm and 6pm.  
12/31: Judds Reunion @ AWA  
Fiesta Bowl Block Party on Millennium Avenue

#### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Wes Lattin 12/3

Justin Thornton 12/3  
Swee Chow 12/6  
James Garcia 12/6  
Robert Johnson 12/17  
Jenna Richardson 12/18  
Cara Shinjo 12/21  
Anthony Lopez 12/22  
Robert Benavidez 12/24  
Bret Reynolds 12/26  
Bryon Ross 12/26

Happy Birthday to all the above employees. Look for your presents under the tree!

#### T.E.A.M. ANNIVERSARIES

1 Year: Mike Sikora 12/10  
Dawn Joralmon 12/31  
Congratulations to those completing their one year anniversary with T.E.A.M. See Bill for a hug!

#### JOB OPENING

This position has reopened in the past few days: If you are interested in working a full-time shift, Monday through Friday, from 1000-1800. We are offering this shift to a qualified employee who is interested in benefits and over \$9.50 an hour.

You get many benefits including therapy and educational programs. You will be working with the fire department- duties include but not limited to checking all fire hydrants an hour before each fire and refilling them after each fire. Anyone interested contact our new scheduler Scottie Beattie for details. You can reach her in 111 during office hours.

#### UNIFORM REMINDER:

We know it's getting cold out there, but you must still look and act professional. For those of you that have forgotten already our winter uniform is in effect. No more shorts are to be worn. If you are wearing a jacket or sweater, sleeves must be rolled down. Long black pants are to be

worn and even though your hands may get cold- please keep them out of your pant's pocket.

There's nothing worse than seeing an officer walking around with their hands in their pocket. It looks sloppy and unprofessional. So please keep your hands out of your pockets.

Jackets and sweaters are still available if you wish to check one out. Contact Bill Selby for uniform and paperwork.

#### ADVANCE TRAINING CLASSES

Because of November being very busy for us, we were not able to have training classes for that month. This month we will be having a few training classes to get ready for New Year's Eve.

On December 11 and 18, we will have advance training classes in 111 from 1pm to 5pm. If you have not completed your probationary training you must attend these classes.

We will also be having a few I.D. checking classes on the following dates and times: 12/2, 12/28, and 12/30. See Chris Casias for times.

To sign up for these classes call Chris in 111.

#### A WORD FROM THE TCS

By Chris Casias

Happy Holidays to all of you and thanks for tuning in this month. For those of you faithful readers out there our end of the year issue is coming up later this month.

Our last issue of the year is the "Best of 1999" issue. If any of you have memories of this past year that you want to share with everyone let us know. We will have categories of the best employees, best events, most improved employees and

many other different categories. If you wish to nominate someone or have a category included, feel free to contact me in 111.

Be sure to pick up this issue by the end of the month. Remember, December 31<sup>st</sup> is a black out day- which means everyone must work. We will be having a few meetings regarding the events and instructions for this night, if you are interested on attending one of these meeting contact me in 111.

I hope all of you have a great Christmas and spend it with your family, as you will be spending New Year's Eve with your T.E.A.M. family. See Bill for your Holiday Hugs!

### **RECRUITERS' REQUIEM**

By Stephanie Foley

Season's Greetings to each and every one of you and that of course includes your family which by the way if you have any dose ones that are still looking for something to do on New Year's Eve just send them my way

Now down to business... First thing I would really like to thank Derek Boice, Brandy Leue, and Andy Lafave for their help with orientation. I swear I'm not asking for the help because I am lazy!! I just really want orientation to be informative and helpful but also entertaining and with the assistance from the above mentioned names we are getting

there Secondly, I just want to wish everyone a really great holiday season. Sure it can be stressful with all the shopping and lines and the usual holiday tada but lets all remember it only happens once a year and without fail once they are over we feel they went by too fast. So please remember to take a breath and enjoy all the ruckus going on around us!! 'Tis the season to be JOLLY!!! Oh one last thing when you all are filling out your shift reports, IR's, Patrol Logs, etc. Please remember we need to be able to read them so take your time write legibly and remember to fill them out completely or you will be answering to Brandy who by the way is the new voice at 111 and we are all super happy to have her around!! thanks

### **ZACH'S ON MILL AVENUE**

By Zach McFall

We made it through another busy month. I would like to thank everyone, once again, who pulled through for us and made the month of November a smooth one. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day, and didn't eat too much.

First thing I would like to do is say

"Welcome" to Scottie. Scottie is going to be our new scheduler. She is currently in training for this position, and I am sure she will be a wonderful new asset for TEAM. I hope all of you will help her out as much as possible. So on behalf of T.E.A.M. I would just like to say "Welcome to T.E.A.M.!"

I know that everyone has been dreading this month for a long time, but guess what? Block Party has come. At this point all I can say is, I hope everyone is planning to work. As you all well know, December 31<sup>st</sup> is what we call a "Black Out Day" that means that everyone has to work. There will be an increased level of pay that one will get for working that night. Please see Chris for the details.

Well, I think that about does it for my section of this month's newsletter. I will see all of you out in the field, and I hope to see all of you on NEW YEAR'S EVE. Thanks again, and be safe.

### **SCHEDULING SALUTATIONS**

By Scottie Beattie

Seasons Greetings and the best for the New Year. Just a short introduction and hello for those who do not know me. I am the new scheduler at 111 and I have recently relocated here from the "Federal jungles" of Washington, D.C. where the Natives are Restless!!! It is great to be a part of this company.

Thanks to everyone and especially the people at 111 for making me feel so welcome. I truly appreciate all the help you have given me during the few weeks I have worked with you and I look forward to meeting and working with everyone at T.E.A.M.

### **FROM ACCOUNTING: PART I**

By Bret Rowley

Greetings from the Accounting Department. It has been a busy last couple of months. We appreciate all your help. Also the end of the year is fast approaching, for operations, this means Block Party and the other New Year's events for us as accountants it means time to get the tax work ready to go out. We need your help, last year we had a lot of W-2's returned to us because we did not have the correct addresses for the employees.

If you do not get your W-2 you will not be able to get your refund in a prompt manner. So what we ask is that if you have had an address change in the past year you contact Chris Casias and make the change with him. Also if you know any former employees have them give us their address changes also. Have a good holiday season and thanks for your help. Bret in

Accounting

### **SIKORA SAYS...**

By Mike Sikora

We have finally made it through November and almost through the year. The past few months have been busy and hectic, to say the least. They have taken their toll on all of us emotionally and physically. I should apologize for being short and irritable with others around me. I have been extremely exhausted. I am not the only one that has shown signs of exhaustion.

For example, I had heard that someone was so exhausted that they had dropped a lit cigarette and burned themselves. I've seen someone forget about the last step on the stairs. I've seen someone stall their car by forgetting to engage the clutch. I've seen someone stop for a green light. I've also seen someone fall asleep while eating. Some of us have begun relationships that should not have begun, while others have ended. The list could go on and on. Needless to say, we have all done stupid things due to exhaustion.

Our clients as well as new employees should not expect this of our company, so let's try to grin and bear it a little longer. We will persevere through the month of December and be able to start the year 2000 fresh and relaxed. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

### **www.bs.com**

By Bill Seby

Hi gang! Yes it is me your wonderful equipment manager, just letting you know that I still have a few of you that have uniforms out that their is no paper work on and if we do find out which one person we will charge you for it.

Also if you want to purchase a sweatshirt you will need to fill out the proper forms and we can deduct from your pay check. ( shirts are \$ 15.00 and sweatshirts are \$30.00 so please contact me. Also just a friendly reminder that if you eat at 10-93 you

need to clean up after yourself. If I have to clean up after you, I will charge you a fee, that means I will check the cameras and see who it was So please help keep the office clean. We will be using a calendar and assign people to clean each week and if you don't it

just extends your time cleaning so please keep up on it.

### TECHNOLOGICALLY CHALLENGED?

Just in case you think you are TC, the following is an excerpt from an article in the *Wall Street Journal* about service calls some computer companies receive:

\*\* A Compaq technician received a call from a man complaining that the system wouldn't read word processing files from his old diskettes. The customer had stuck labels on the diskettes, then rolled them into his typewriter to type on the labels.

\*\* A customer was asked to send a copy of her defective diskettes. A few days later, a letter arrived from the customer along with photocopies of the floppies.

\*\* A Dell technician advised a customer to put his troubled floppy back in the drive and close the door. The customer asked the tech to hold on, and was heard putting the phone down, getting up and crossing the room to close the door to his room.

\*\* Another Dell customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of troubleshooting, the tech discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the "send" key.

\*\* A Dell technician received a call from a customer who was enraged because his computer had told him he was "bad and invalid." The tech explained that the computer's "bad command" and "invalid" responses shouldn't be taken personally.

\*\* A confused caller to IBM was having trouble printing documents. He told the technician that the computer had said "couldn't find printer." The user had tried turning the computer screen to face the printer, but that his computer still couldn't "see" the printer.

\*\* An exasperated caller to Dell Computer Tech Support couldn't get his new Dell computer to turn on. After ensuring the computer was plugged in, the technician asked her what happened when she pushed the power button. Her response, "I pushed and pushed on this foot pedal and nothing happened." The "foot pedal" turned out to be the computer's mouse.

### FROM ACCOUNTING: PART II

By Adam Tolman

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year. In this fast paced world of technology and advancement, we rarely take the time (or have the time) to stop and notice just how blessed we are. We are expressly given this opportunity at least once a year, and how fortunate are we that it falls the day before the Holiday shopping season officially starts. We need all the extra gratitude and happy thoughts to endure the heightened levels of rudeness and self-servitude that are found by the throngs that head out to purchase material items in their quest to show their love for others. Bah humbug! (Just kidding, I love Christmas, but the attitudes displayed by many such shoppers does cast a negative light on the whole season.)

As the year's end draws nigh, it also provides us with an opportunity to reflect over the year that has just passed us by. We at T.E.A.M. have many accomplishments to be proud of. May we rededicate our efforts towards helping the company achieve higher goals and loftier standards.

### T.E.A.M. TOP TEN LIST

By Chris P. Casias

Our list this month comes from our home office at Trails, Az, located on Inner State 420. The category is....."Top Ten Things I Learned While Working At Trails"..

10. Vegetarian: Indian word for "lousy hunter".

9. I can't spell worth a shirt.

8. I want to be born again, but my mom says no.

7. Enjoy traffic- drive naked.

6. Dress code: Four tooth minimum.

5. I still miss my ex. But my aim is improving.

4. I'm glad we weren't exposed to Mambos #1 thru 4!

3. Tongue peirthing ith thtupid.

2. My wife thinks I'm at Promise Keepers.

.....and the number one thing I learned while working at Trails is... **D.A.R.E.:**  
**Donuts Are Really Expensive!!!**

### MICK'S MEMO

By Mick Hirko

To start with, I just want to make the

disclaimer that I am not a great big sports fan. As far as I am concerned, sports is a business, athletes making more money than any of us can ever dream of, or that they could ever spend. As a sports fan, we are all helping put these massive amounts of cash into their pockets. There is something wrong with a system that glorifies a person who is pushed through an academic system, coming out the other end barely able to spell his own name, and far from being able to read the contract that guarantees him millions of dollars. There are exceptions, but that does seem to be the rule. What happens if they get injured, or can no longer perform. Unless they are wise, and managed to save some money, they will soon be in trouble, as they definitely cannot compete in the world on non-athletic business. The y

never learned the skills necessary to conduct themselves in any other arena than the sport they specialized in. Growing up, I was a big fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Not to date myself, they had a great team back then. One by one, the great players was either traded off, or became free agents, and left on their own. When you root for a team, it is for the players. You develop a kinship, and long distance admiration for the individual. What happens the following year, when the player you admired the most, is suddenly playing for the arch rival team? Do you still support him and his new team, or is he suddenly the enemy, because he is no longer a member of "your" team? There is something very wrong about that whole value judgment, and it is also the main reason why I don't follow sports.

I realize that was a long introduction to the point I am trying to make. For some reason, I am very long-winded today. It must be the holidays. Here is my actual point; Shortly after our last months edition came out, I was saddened to hear of the death of Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears. (Hold on Mick - You're not a sports fan) Walter "Sweetness" Payton was not your average athlete. I remember watching him play. I remember seeing his career ending injury during the Super Bowl of 1987. It was a gruesome injury that ended his career, and was not the way a great player deserved to end playing the game he obviously loved. Every time I watched him

play, he was always sports man. On or off the field, he had greatness about him, humble as a human being, the best at what he did, and someone who truly cared about others, especially those less fortunate than him. He had a smile for everybody, and that smile came from the inside, from the soul, and was not there, because there might be a camera around. I never

saw him get angry at anybody, act like a spoiled brat, or act inappropriately. Everything you heard about him was positive. I realize that a lot is image, but I believe that he really was the person that was portrayed to us. We often hear how great this person or that person is or was, and the same old cliches are used all the time, and they were used for Walter. He was a great person, not for being a fantastic athlete, but for being a good man. It saddens me, not as a sports fan, but as a human being to see a role model for so many pass on. We tend to admire and emulate rock stars, film stars, athletes and other celebrities. Do we do it, because we want to grow up to be like them, because we truly share their values, or because we want to be rich and famous like them? Most of these role models are spoiled rotten, have no values, care about very little, and set a good example only in front of the camera. Some can't even do that much. Why would anybody pay any homage to people like Kurt Cobain, Dennis Rodman, Val Kilmer. These were only a few of many that fit in the group of being either somewhat or very talented in an area, but complete failures as human beings. Cobain, is compared to Jim Morrison. They do have one thing in common. They were both pathetic losers, not having the strength to live, and becoming immortal through their death. If either of them had lived, we would all go "Who?" at the mention of their names today. Shooting stars is all they were, at best. Any just like so many over paid celebrities in other walks of life, they do not deserve to be remembered, except to learn from their mistakes, and on how not to be.

I did not know Walter Payton personally, but would have liked to have met him. Not for being a celebrity. I wanted to shake his hand, and just thank him for being a good, caring, decent

person. It is sad when

one sees a good person taken before his or her time, when there are so many that really are not good people, that seem to last forever. "Only to good die young". I guess it is true. Walter - from a person who was a fan of you the person, not the sport you played. You will be missed here. I hope to get to shake your hand in the place you are now, hopefully many years from now. You had a positive influence on many, and left a legacy. That is the most any man can wish for.

The holidays are almost upon us, and I don't want to talk about T.E.A.M. issues and reminders. I have many, but I will save them for another month. This is the time of year for friends and family, to build new memories and reflect on old ones. A lot of people get very depressed around the holidays for that reason, because they reflect too much on the memories of moments and family gone, rather than enjoying the present. Enjoy and cherish both, and remember the true spirit of Christmas - It is not about shopping, it is about giving. Give of yourself, show that you love and care, and let others know. My dad passed away quite a few years ago, and I miss him a lot, especially around the holidays. At the same time, I feel him closer to me at this time, because of the great memories we made together. If nothing else, I want that to help me appreciate the people who are in my life. Never hide your love.

I wish you all the very best for the holiday, a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and I will wish you all a Happy New Years in person, because we all will be working together that night.

Good Will and Peace to all (except the Trolls)

## **STORIES TO SHARE AROUND**

### **THE TREE**

A guy gets up really early in the

morning to go ice fishing. He goes out onto the ice with his tent, his pick and his fishing rod, and starts to pick at the ice. A short while later, the guy hears a big, booming voice, "There's no fish under the ice." The guy looks around, sees nothing, so he starts to pick at the ice again. Suddenly, he hears the voice again, "There's no fish under the ice". Now the guy is getting a little edgy. He looks up, "God, is that you?" There's no answer, so he starts picking again. "There's no fish under the ice!" repeats the voice. Again, the guy yells, "God! is that you?" "No, it's Waseem the security guard of the ice rink!"

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The CEO of Tyson Foods manages to arrange a meeting with the Pope at the Vatican. After receiving the papal blessing, the CEO whispers, "Your eminence, we have an offer for you. Tyson Foods is prepared to donate \$100 million dollars to the church if you change the Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread' to 'give us this day our daily chicken.' The Pope replies, "That is impossible. The Prayer is the word of the Lord - it must not be changed."

"Well," says the Tyson CEO, "we anticipated your reluctance. For this reason, we will increase our offer to \$300 million dollars if you change the Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread' to 'give us this day our daily chicken.' Again, the Pope replies, "That, my son, is impossible. The Prayer is the word of the Lord and it must not be changed."

Finally, the Tyson CEO says, "Your Holiness, we at Tyson Foods respect your adherence to your faith,

but we do have one final offer. We will donate \$500 million dollars - that's half a billion dollars - to the great Catholic Church if you change the Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread' to 'give us this day our daily chicken.'" The Tyson CEO turns to leave and says, "Please consider our final offer and let me know by week's end."

The next day, the Pope convenes the College of Cardinals. "There is some good news, and there is some bad news, he announces. "The good news is that the

C h u r c h  
has

come into \$500 million dollars." "And the bad news, your eminence?" asks a Cardinal. "We're losing the Wonderbread account."

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I had a near death experience that has changed me forever. The other day, I went horseback riding. Everything was going fine until the horse started bouncing out of control. I tried with all my might to hang on, but I was thrown off.

Just when things could not possibly get worse, my foot got caught up in the stirrup. When this happened, I fell head first to the ground. My head continued to bounce harder and harder, and the horse just wouldn't stop or slow down.

Just as I was giving up hope and losing consciousness, the Wal-Mart manager saved the day and unplugged the ride. Thank God for heros.

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Two gas company servicemen, a senior training supervisor, and a young trainee, were out checking meters in a suburban neighborhood.

They parked their truck at the end of the alley and worked their way to the other end. At the last house, a woman watched the two men from her

kitchen window as they checked her gas meter.

When they had finished the meter check, the senior supervisor challenged his younger co-worker to a foot race back to the truck to prove that an older guy could outrun a younger one. The co-worker accepted the challenge.

As they approached the truck in full stride, the two men realized that the lady from the kitchen window was huffing and puffing right behind them. They stopped in their tracks

and asked the woman why she was running behind them.

Gasping for breath, she replied, "I'm not stupid... when I see two gas men running that fast, I figure I'd better run too!"

**CHRIS ' FINAL THOUGHT**

By Chris P. Casias

This past week in our staff meeting, Mick mentioned of spending time away from work or staying away from work on our days off. Oftentimes for our management staff, we find ourselves in the office or out in the field pretty much every day. For some of us it's hard to get away or spend a day away from T.E.A.M. Sometimes we don't realize that the more we work the more there is to do. A person has to slow down, sit back and relax. This gives you time to think about your projects, your tasks and many times you will come up with a better way of doing things.

Slowing down our pace. Resting in silence and solitude. Quieting our inner thoughts. As important as these simple aspects of life are, they are very difficult to incorporate in our lives.

Most of us are busy people. Most jobs today require some sort of overtime. Students always struggle to organize their time to accomplish the variety of tasks required of their studies. Relationships, families,

involvement in clubs, groups, or other activities keep our lives full. Even though we may enjoy the many things we do, we need to have time for ourselves. But taking real time for ourselves, really stopping and slowing down, sometimes seems more than we can do.

Last month, I considered some of the difficulties some people have with silence. It happens often enough that when we spend time in silence, our thoughts take us to the hurts and pains of life that need to be healed. Most of us just don't want to go there. We'd rather pass over the pains, so we fill our surroundings with sound.

But what about when we want to move beyond the pain or when setting a slower pace is just difficult? What does it really take to slow down?

I recently spoke with a woman who told me that a few years ago she learned some simple techniques of meditation. She said that when she did the meditation she enjoyed it. But she got away from it. She said it just didn't fit with her life.

I suspect many people have similar experiences with spiritual practices. They like the practice well enough but just

aren't able to incorporate it in their lives. Because of that, I think the most important thing about any spiritual practice is to do what you can and don't do what you can't. As simple as that sounds, it's a lesson that's difficult to learn.

When we begin to learn to slow down, to take time for ourselves and incorporate any spiritual practice in our lives like being quiet inside, we have to seriously consider how that practice is going to work in our life. It's unrealistic to assume that a busy person who's never taken time to be quiet before will find it easy to start doing an hour of Zen meditation, sitting in a perfect lotus position, each day. It's just not going to happen.

However, that same person probably could make a few little changes that would result in taking steps toward slowing down. For instance, that person could begin to walk regularly in a quiet park. It would be good exercise, as well as time to be alone. If the person already takes walks, perhaps leaving a tape or CD to listen to at home would be the next step. Maybe the person walks a dog in the park. At the end of the dog walk, the leash could be tied to a bench and the person could take five to ten minutes just to sit and relax. Just imagine sitting on that park bench, taking a few deep breaths, and relaxing, allowing your mind to drift to no places in particular. That would be a good way to slow down.

Many active people find it easier to learn spiritual exercises that include movement rather than those that require sitting still. Walking in a park is one way to start. Other things include taking a class in Tai-Chi or walking one of the labyrinths in town. Walking a labyrinth is a medieval form of meditation. By slowly walking the concentric, winding path of the labyrinth, one's body is occupied while one's mind and spirit are able to slow down and become quiet. It's an excellent spiritual practice.

In past columns I've explored a variety of spiritual practices including meditation, walking a labyrinth, and journaling. All of them are great, simple practices that help us slow down and quiet our minds. With any spiritual practice, the important thing is to do it on a regular basis. It's really like going to the gym: you don't develop a well-toned body without a regular training program. It's that same with personal and

spiritual growth.

With the holidays upon us, some of us find it hard to get away from family or friends, take some time for yourself. In the end you will feel a lot better.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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