

J.E.A.M. CENTS

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"The Official Newsletter of April Fools"

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Irritated Colin Erupts- Begins Powell Movement

WASHINGTON (AP) - Expressing his frustration with "the recent constipation of progress," a visibly agitated Colin Powell announced the formation of a new "Powell Movement" to accelerate changes advocated by conservative African-Americans. "I'm sorry to just let loose like this," said Powell, "but I feel I must begin this movement immediately, no matter how painful it may be." The outburst came after a breakfast speaking engagement sponsored by the Enriched Bran Products Association.

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Inhibitions Dropped After First Sip Of Beer

TEMPE, AZ-- At a house party Saturday, Arizona State University sophomore Lisa Burrell let go of her inhibitions after a single sip of beer. "Jeff, my man, wassup?!" Burrell shouted to fellow partygoer Jeff Sharp before the half-ounce of Budweiser she had ingested was halfway down her esophagus, much less absorbed into her bloodstream. "Wanna dance, baby? Oh, yeah! Shake it!" Burrell is believed to possess the lowest voluntary alcohol tolerance in Arizona State history.

Rodriguez To Mariners: 'We Can Win It All With Rowley'

SEATTLE, WA- Seattle Mariners superstar Alex Rodriguez, fed up with the team's inability to reach the World Series, handed an ultimatum to M's management yesterday.

"Being a millionaire All-Star is OK," Rodriguez said. "But I'm tired of watching the Series from my couch."

The Mariners' short stop told team

owners he wants them to bring in Bret Rowley as a power-hitting third baseman. "Rowley may not be a household word outside Arizona, but I've seen Bret do things with a bat I've NEVER seen before." Rowley has no Major League experience, but Rodriguez is confident that the record-setting .378, 162-RBI numbers Rowley produced at Safford High School in Safford will lift the M's from near misses to champions.

"I don't care what they have to pay Bret," Rodriguez said, "but we need that awesome power and dedication to winning. If I have to give up four or five million to make it work, I'll do it."

When told of Rodriguez' "invitation," Rowley replied "Who can say no to Alex? If the package is right -- shoe deals, sunglasses, trading cards -- I will be on the plane tonight."

Cano III Emerges As The Latest Monica Lewinsky Lover

PHOENIX, AZ- It was announced today that another one of Monica Lewinsky's past lovers has apparently surfaced -- eager to share lurid details from the past. "I don't think a gentleman should go into details" said Eddie Cano III of Phoenix, Arizona, "but she was one little hellcat, let me tell you."

"She loved me until I had nothing left to give," continued Cano III over a lunch of flautas at Filito's, "and then she picked up her kneepads and blew out of my life, so to speak. I'm guessing she wore them out when she moved to Washington DC."

When asked if his revelations weren't just so many sour grapes, Cano III responded angrily. "I don't have to take that from the press. I loved Monica. True, I only remember that she had a beautiful

head of hair, and true, we didn't talk much, but a love like that only comes along in a blue moon. Except of course for a security guard my friend Chris just told me about last week. We're going to set something up for Friday night. Who o-hoo!"

When asked how it had ended, Cano III, his voice cracking audibly, said "I thought it was going so well, and then one day she told me she had found someone else." Then he added brightly, "Of course, now that I'm a celebrity, there may be a book deal or a movie in all of this. There might even be a country song."

Cano III refused to speculate on what the title of such a song might be.

DID SOMEBODY SAY McDONALDS OR TROLL?

By Chris Casias

A friend and I went to McDonalds for lunch one day, it wasn't very busy so we didn't wait in line for too long. I ordered some fries and a burger, same thing for my friend. So when we got our food we went to get a seat. My friend wanted to sit by a window and the only table available was by this dirty looking woman with all her belongings in a shopping cart, so with my experience in working downtown Tempe I figured that she was a transient. At this time I realized that we forgot to buy some drinks, my friend said he was going to the bathroom, while I went to get our drinks. I bought our drinks and went back to the table where we had left our food. When I got to the table I saw the homeless lady at our table eating our food! By this time my friend was still in the bathroom. So I

walked up and asked her, "Why are you eating our food? That's our food I just went to buy our drinks!" She said, "This isn't your food, this is my food!" By this time I was getting a little mad and again told her that she was eating our food. She

responded by asking me, "If this is your food where is your receipt?" "Who keeps a receipt from McDonalds? I know I don't!" I told her.

Finally my friend came from the bathroom and asked me what was going on. "This lady just came over and started eating our food!" So my friend said not to make a big deal out of it. I agreed with him since I didn't want the food she had already started eating.

We went up to the counter and ordered again. My friend wanted to sit somewhere else, but I wanted to go back to where the lady was sitting and sit there. So we sat right across from her and ate our lunch. A few minutes later she got up and I guess went to the restroom because she left her cart there with her bags in it. I waited until she was out of sight and then I went over to her cart and took her bags out of it. I took both bags over and set it on our table.

The lady came out and went over to her cart and started looking around, she was looking for her bags. She then looked over in our direction and saw the bags on our table. She started walking to our table, then she asked me why I had her bags. I responded, "What bags?" She said, "Those bags on the table, they are mine!"

I then asked her, "Do you have a receipt for them?" She said no, so I told her, "Then if you don't have a receipt for them these are my bags." She just looked at us and started walking back to her table. At this time I told my friend, "Let's get out of here!"

So we grabbed both of the bags, threw them in the car and took off.

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 \$12.00 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 can contact Billy Royal for details. You can reach him in 111 during office hours or leave a message.

DIHYDROGEN MONOXIDE WARNING

By Chris Casias

We have just learned here in the TCS newsroom that those of you who worked last weekend may have been exposed to the chemical Dihydrogen Monoxide. Crews that were out at the Lowrider Show and those at the Az Beer festival were the most contaminated with this substance. We ask that those of you look for the following symptoms or causes that Dihydrogen Monoxide can have:

1. It can cause excessive sweating and vomiting
2. It is a major component in acid rain
3. It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state
4. Accidental inhalation can kill you
5. It contributes to erosion
6. It decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes
7. It has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients
8. It can cause continuous urination

Dihydrogen Monoxide has been, in the past, used by many of our clients. In many cases it has been required by them. Therefore, in order for us to prevent them from using this chemical on or around our employees we must take a stance. For the next few weeks I will be circulating a petition on behalf of our employees, for our clients to stop using this chemical at events which we work at. Those employees that agree with me in stopping this practice, I ask you to sign a petition which will be available for you to sign at 10-93 all of this weekend and at office 111 the rest of next week. Feel free to stop at either of our offices and help me help you.

These petitions will be available for you to sign for the rest of the month and I will have petitioners at some of the events or venues where we will be at. So please help me out on this cause. As a T.E.A.M. we can wipe out this problem. If you have any questions or concern- e-mail me at chriscasias@netgenie.com.

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/31-4/2: M.A.M.A. Spring Art Festival

3/31-4/1: Mill Avenue Crews
4/3: Payday in 111. 4p-6p
4/7: Super Freaks/Jack Panic & The Crash @ Hayden Square
4/7-4/8: Mill Avenue Crews
4/7-9: Artfest of Tucson
4/9: Sunday on Central in Downtown Phx
4/14-15: Phoenix Gay Pride
Mill Avenue Crews
4/17: Payday in 111. 4p-6p
Tax Day or Panic Day
4/21: Good Friday
4/21-4/22: Mill Avenue Crews
4/22: Advance Training class. 1p-5p
4/23: Easter
4/25: Jimmy Buffett @ DSP
4/26: Secretaries Day
4/27: Tina Turner @ AWA
4/28-4/29: Mill Avenue Crews
4/30: New Times Music Showcase on Mill Avenue
Mariachi Fest. @ DSP

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Gloria Ruelas	4/2
Eddie Cano III	4/4
Richard Cavazos	4/5
Keith Liermann	4/7
James Sullivan	4/7
Pete Morales	4/14
James Carroll	4/18
Marcela Crosby	4/21
Kris Kirkendall	4/21
Waseem Muhieddin	4/23

Happy Birthday to all employees this month. Drinks and hugs are on Scottie this month!!!

T.E.A.M. ANNIVERSARIES

1 year- Derek Boice 4/14
Robert Rodrigues 4/14

Thanks to the following employees for hanging in there for one whole year. Keep it up and someday you'll be like Eddie Cano!

RECRUITER'S REQUIEM

By Andy LaFave

Hey Teamsters! How is everything going out there in T.E.A.M. land? In this article I would like to talk with all of you about a couple of things that have been on my mind for awhile.

Before I get started I want you all to do something for me. Try and remember back to your first day working for T.E.A.M. and how uncomfortable you may have felt. As you walk up to sign in, whether it be at a concert or down in Mill Ave, and see everybody else talking to each other and laughing together, people kind of looking your way but not really showing you much attention because they don't know you. Wondering what was in store for you because you may have never

worked anything like this before. Does this sound familiar to any of you? This is exactly the way I felt on my first day. Situations like this have got to stop! We need to start making our new guys feel comfortable when they go out in the field. Not only should this responsibility fall on the backs of the supervisors, it should also fall on the backs of every employee who has been working for T.E.A.M.

I don't think that it is a lot to ask for everyone to show a little initiative and make our new employees feel comfortable.

It takes something as small as a handshake to make someone feel welcome.

Let the new guys know who you are, because they may just be working right next to you. If some of you out there already do your best to make our new employees feel comfortable, then let me take this time to say thank you. The first impression of T.E.A.M. that you gave them is beyond measure.

It is very important that all of you out there do your best to set an example for our new employees to follow. When a new employee is out in the field for their first time it is our example that they will follow. We need to make it a good one.

A special thank you to all of the employees who are bringing in friends and family. We strongly encourage all of you out there to do the same. There are incentives for those of you who recommend people to come in and apply with us. The people that you recommend

must work a certain amount of hours before the incentives kick in, so make sure that they are worth recommending.

Well that is pretty much all I have to say for this issue. Remember to be safe out there and most importantly have fun.

SIKORA SAYS...

By Mikel Sikora

I would like to start out by thanking those of you that have helped us during the last few weeks.

We have just hired a new recruiter to replace Stephanie Foley after she resigned from T.E.A.M. to pursue a different career. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck. Until we increase our employee base substantially, we will need your support and hard work.

REFERRAL BONUS:

A referral bonus is what we provide our employees with when they refer a new employee to T.E.A.M. This is one of the ways to earn extra cash and increase our employee base. Stop by the office to get more info.

BLACKOUT DAYS:

I know all of you have heard about blackout days lately. A blackout day is when we have a very large number of shifts to cover on that day. This is when we NEED you and you have the opportunity to get a large amount of hours. When you schedule for these shifts remember we are counting on you being there on time. If you call off or do not show up when you are scheduled, it puts us in a major bind and we have to ask your fellow employees to work longer and harder. I appreciate those of you that have stepped up and covered those shifts.

RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION:

When you were hired you were asked if you had reliable transportation. This was to make sure you could make it on time to

the place you were scheduled for. Please make sure you have made transportation arrangements before the day of shift.

PHONE NUMBERS:

When you applied for

employment, you were required to give us a phone number we could contact you at. It seems that a lot of you have changed phone numbers. Please contact us at the office with your contact numbers so we can update our phone list.

EXTRA HOURS:

If any of you are interested in extra hours, contact a manager. We have many things that we could use your help with. You will be compensated for the time you spend doing these things.

Again I thank you all and look forward to working with you during the coming events.

BILL'S BAR-B-QUE SHACK

By Bill Selby

We are starting a new season with all of our events, we are going to be busy. If I can get all of you to help us out and make checking - in and checking - out it easier by making a single file line so we can get you properly signed in and you have the right uniform and the right info so we can make things work.

For those of you that work on Mill Ave, I have changed my hours to the night time to help insure that the sign in sheets are done properly and also to be there to talk to when you have ideas or complaints or just have questions answered. Thanks to all of you for a great job.

BOUNTY HUNTER BEATTIE

By Scottie Beattie

Kudos to all of you who worked the following events, your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated:

CHANDLER OSTRICH FEST

-Farmer Byrd would liked to know has anyone seen Ozzie the Ostrich-he is offering a reward of \$15,000 if found.

ALWUN HOUSE

-Erotic Art/Exhibitionist festival(Put some clothes on that man!)

RUNDMC

-Rap/Up in smoke concert

AZ BEER FEST

-Moonshine or Microbrewery

LOW RIDER SHOW

-Arsenal or Automobile

Chris Casias is auditioning all T.E.A.M. employees for the April 14th "Out of the Closet" lip sink contest. Chris is looking for those creative and courageous employees who can learn the words and choreography to the Village People's song, "Macho Man". Costumes will be provided. Please see Chris by April 8th. In addition, Chris will be conducting a mock reconnaissance mission weekend in Tucson April 7-8,9, 2000. During this weekend, you will learn how to think and operate a covert operations mission like a Navy Seal. Other activities included are erecting your own living quarters from scratch and conducting mock C.I.A. covert operations in the desert of Tucson. Please see Chris Casias for more information.

I received the following story from a friend, enjoy!

The first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I

stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled, little old lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire being.

She said, "Hi handsome. My name is Rose. I'm eighty-seven years old. Can I give you a hug?" I laughed and enthusiastically responded, "Of course, you may" and she gave me a giant squeeze.

"Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age?" I asked. She jokingly replied, "I'm here to meet a rich husband, get married, have a couple of children, and then retire and travel." "No seriously," I asked. I was curious what may have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age. "I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!" she told me.

After class we walked to the student union building and shared a chocolate milkshake. We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this "time machine" as she shared her wisdom and experience with me. Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she reveled in the attention bestowed upon her from the other

students. She was living it up.

At the end of the semester we invited Rose to speak at our football banquet and I'll never forget what she taught us. She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her three by five

cards on the floor. Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said, "I'm sorry, I'm so jittery. I gave up beer for lent and this whiskey is killing me! I'll never get my speech back in order so let me just tell you what I know." As we laughed she cleared her throat and began: "We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying, being happy, and achieving success. "You have to laugh and find humor every day. You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die. We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't know it!"

"There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. If you are nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one protective thing, you will turn twenty years old. If I am eighty-seven years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything I will turn eighty-eight. Anybody can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding the opportunity in change." "Have no regrets. The elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets." She concluded her speech by courageously singing "The Rose." She challenged each of us to study the lyrics and live them out in our daily lives. At the end Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those years ago. One week after graduation Rose died peacefully in her sleep.

Over two thousand college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it's never too late to be all you can possibly be.

GREETINGS FROM THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

By Bret Rowley

All continues to go well in the Corporate Office. We continue to expand in a very rapid manner. Because of this expansion there are a few matters of business that we need to take care of. First of all, we have outgrown our current accounting software and it is no longer useful to us. With the help of a CPA we have selected new software that will make the accountant's life even easier. But the implementation of this new software will be very time consuming and requires much new data entry. Because of this, the paycheck that you receive on April 3, 2000 will be the last that you receive for four weeks. But when you do receive a check again on May 1, 2000 it will be for four weeks instead of the normal two. Also because of this, no employee advance or payroll protest checks will be able to be printed either. We are very sorry for this inconvenience but this is the only way that the company can continue to grow. If you have any problems with this please contact Human Resources manager Chris Casias and he will inform you that this is just a April Fool's joke and that you will receive your check on April 17th as scheduled. Until next time Ciao.

Bret in Accounting (also appearing at the Improv on April 31st for one night only)

SUMMER UNIFORMS

As of March 31, we will be changing over to summer uniforms:

- *solid black shorts/pants
- *shorts must not go below knees
- *no baggy shorts

Any questions see equip. manager

MIGUEL'S COLUMN A ABIERTA

Por Mike Windsor

Well I made it through my first full month as a T.E.A.M. employee. I have learned a lot in the past month, there is never a dull moment. Recently I worked a couple of events, Run DMC and the AZ beer festival, so I would have a greater understanding of what we do, and I must say we do an awesome job! Although I had a slight case of dihydrogen monoxide poisoning, causing me to sweat and have an upset stomach, I had a great time.

I was very impressed the way these events were handled, and the way everyone worked as a team. I have met a few of our employees, and I am looking forward to meeting the rest of you. I would like to thank Chris Casias for showing me the ropes, (I hope the process of transforming me from an accountant to a security guard didn't drain you too much Chris).

Back to accounting business. We have been very busy in the accounting office, with all the spring events taking place; we have more sign in sheets to enter and more invoices to make. This means more opportunity for you guys and gals to work. I am pleased to see that the errors on sign in sheets have reduced. If we can keep this up we will have less payroll errors as well, so please do your part in making sure you are signed in and out. Here are 10 rules to live by. Have a great month and keep up the great work!

10 Rules To Live By

10. Don't major in minor things.
9. Be brave, even if you're not, pretend to be. Know one can tell the difference anyway.
8. When in a fight hit first and hit hard
7. Swing for the fence.
6. Don't cut what can be untied.
5. Learn to say F*%Kum if they can't take a joke in 10 different languages.
4. Avoid stepping on toes. They maybe connected to the BUTT you have to kiss tomorrow.
3. Don't mistake kindness for weakness.
2. Don't stand around wondering why somebody isn't doing something. You're somebody.
1. Make sure you personally sign yourself in and out on all sign in sheets!!!

THE ROYAL REVUE

By Billy Royal

'One can choose to go back toward safety or forward toward growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again.' --Abraham Maslow

Change is the one thing in life that is constant, yet most of us fight its inevitable rein as if we could really do something about it. If you welcome change instead of fighting it, you'll learn to roll with it. My point is that our lives are changing all the time, sometimes we perceive it as positive and other times negative. If you let it bury you, you will miss all the good that was passing you by simultaneously. At work, T.E.A.M. is changing every day. We're growing constantly. Our goal is to get better, not bigger. But as you get better, demand from our clients gets greater. There for we'll need also to get bigger. The change at times is confusing and even painful, but we need to look at it as a daily lesson. We'll get through it and as long as every one of us does the best we can, and be flexible, we'll come out the other end stronger and wiser. As we continue to grow as a company, you will notice numerous changes. Be open to it. We're doing the best we can to make this work every day. Also, feel free to contribute ideas, suggestions, constructive criticism, it can only help.

Have a good month and remember, every days a holiday!

MICK'S MEMO

By Mick Hirko

Now that we made it through...
(Sorry Chris - I couldn't help myself)

Last month, I made this bid cryptic announcement about a new account that was possibly coming our way, and even though many of you now know what it is, I legally and morally still can't tell everybody what it is. I can tell you that the first time we will be working there will be towards the end of this month, and it really is not an April Fool's joke. If it is, it is being pulled on a lot of people, and has been in the works long before the first.

Speaking of April Fools, I would like to thank Joe Coomer, the biggest April (and rest of year) Fool, that we have. For the past several months, Joe has really

been spending a lot of his time trying to take some of my work load off of me, that is, when he is not busy making my life miserable. With Willie (Not to be confused with Willie 805) Royal finally settling in,

and getting over his Coliseum addiction, we can finally focus on some of the larger and smaller issues and changes we have been wanting to make for some time. We now own (or the bank does) all of our own radios, have a new phone system, signed a new long lease for our office, are working on getting our computer hardware problems fixed, the biggest challenge we now have is getting this long promised software system running. There is actually light at the end of that tunnel. We have actually seen something close to an almost operational beta version. We hope that within the next couple of months we will be able to test an operation version, and be on line with the whole package by middle of the summer. I won't make any more promises when it will be done, because we have little control over our software development genius. He is on binary time, which has no relationship to anything any of us understand. We are also making upgrades and changes to our web page, and most of the links are now working. We are trying to find a qualified developer to either do additional work on it, or send one of us through a course to learn how to better utilize and develop our page. As many of you know, Karen Foley, who designed and built our site, has recently moved to California, and is trying to get into the media business out there, and thus, cannot dedicate the amount of time necessary to keep it up. We will keep you posted on news regarding your web page.

I would also like to thank all of you that have really stepped up to the plate lately, trying to be available, and help when and where needed. You are what keeps us going, and you know who you are. Thank You.

Finally, we really appreciate and desire your input and feedback on how things are going. This is your company, and you are the ones who make it happen. There have been several people who have recommended that we implement a suggestion box. If you think that is a good idea, please drop a note in the suggestion box and let us know. If you are done with that, please contact Chris Casias, who is still looking for a few volunteers for turning on hydrants prior to the fires.

Seriously, we really would like to hear from everybody, either through the newsletter, by calling us, or hopefully soon, by suggestion box. Try to not tell us ideas while we are working at events, because we all kind of suffer from information overload during that time, and will forget even the best ideas.

We hope you find the new coupon section useful. I hope if there is anything you want added, and that would help you, to please let Chris Casias or Mr. Royal know with your ideas. Keep up the great work, and we will see you out there.

CHRIS ' FINAL THOUGHT

Time to share a personal story of my life. I always get asked if I have any tattoos or piercings. I had a few tattoos (as far as piercings I'll cover that next month). No one ever believes this, especially my two best friends, because mostly they've been covered by my clothes, but I did have some tattoos. I had the first one done over a decade ago, and still

remember exactly how it felt. Sitting there in the chair while the needle etched a picture into my body.

It was in many ways, a spiritual experience. The image reflected how I was feeling at the time, and it was a visible marker of my growth. I also thought it was just plain cool.

Since then I had three more, each one marking a particular moment in my life. I've enjoyed getting each tattoo, and each one meant something to me; but I don't need them anymore. I don't know why, really, except that one day I was looking at them in the mirror and I realized suddenly that it was time for them to go.

For the past three to four months, I had been going to a dermatologist and lying on the table while he took my tattoos off with a laser. Because we were doing all of my tattoos at once, it took a while. I had a lot of time to think about it all and what it means.

My first tattoo was of the White Rabbit from *Alice in Wonderland*. I've always been a lot like the White Rabbit, and I thought he would make a good talisman of sorts. The woman who inked him onto my shoulder was used to doing tattoos like burning skulls and naked women, and she thought my rabbit was great.

A year later, when I told her I wanted another tat, she suggested doing the same rabbit, only in a motorcycle jacket and boots. I agreed, and on went the rebel rabbit, back to back with his more refined waistcoat-wearing twin.

Now the White rabbit and his brother have been burned off my shoulder and back. One laser burst at a time, their lines of ink broken into small bits that my lymph system gobbles up and swallows. Tattoo removal is a long and painful process. The laser only takes away so much ink each time, and you need to wait a month in between treatments. It will take me about one more month to be wiped clean.

My rabbits are all gone, ghostly reflections of their former selves. When I look at them in the mirror, I see them just below the surface, as if they're staring up at me from underwater. While from a monetary and pain management standpoint I would prefer to had done it in one quick treatment, but I kind of liked the gradual goodbye. I've lived with these pictures for so long that I don't remember what I look like without them.

When someone asks me to describe what getting a tattoo is like, I can't really do it. I can tell them that it sort of feels like having a pin dragged along your skin repeatedly. But that's inadequate.

I can't explain that the rest of it, the wonderful part, is feeling something being written on your body, a visual record of who you are at that particular moment in your life. I can't really explain how having to trust someone to paint your skin with a steel needle and colored inks is one of the most intimate moments you can experience. All I can tell them is that it kind of hurts, but in magical way.

Similarly, I can't really explain how having my tattoos removed feels. I can tell you that the physical pain of being burned with a laser is like being snapped with a rubber band repeatedly. In doing research on tattoo removal, I found one source that described the pain as being splattered with bacon grease.

While hardly encouraging, this is a fitting description, but mainly because the smell really does remind me of bacon cooking. The other day, while undergoing another treatment, I sniffed the air and had the sudden, horrible, realization that the only thing that keeps humans from

becoming someone's breakfast is the fact that pigs can't manipulate machinery.

But the physical pain is only part of the process. The real work is in saying goodbye to the person you used to be.

When I called to make my first appointment for laser surgery, the nurse said, "So it's time to grow up, is it?" I knew what she meant, but she had it all wrong. This isn't about growing up. It's about continuing on my journey.

I didn't have my tattoos removed because I didn't like them. I got them removed because, just as it was important for me to get them, it's now important for me to reclaim the space they occupy. I want my skin back. It's part of an overall process of reclaiming my body, which is very important to me right now.

But even when they're all gone, the ink turned into invisible particles eaten by my system, my tattoos will still be there. I will remember how it felt to get them and how it felt having them removed. Each of these memories is important to me, and I don't want to forget them.

There is pain in remembering, but there is also joy. So as the laser zaps my skin and the White rabbit and the other tattoos grow fainter and fainter, it's with a mixture of sadness and relief that I let them go. I just wish I smelled less like bacon frying and more like a Pop-Tart toasting.

COOL THREADS POLICY

March 31 is the date that we switched to the summer uniforms. The summer uniform consists of the polo shirt and the option to wear shorts. So between now and then you need to make arrangements to trade your jackets and/or sweatshirts in for polo shirts. If you do not already have a deposit on a uniform, you will want to put a deposit down on one or two. Don't worry we will still keep the jackets around for those cold nights.

If you do not yet have a deposit on any uniforms you may go about doing so by first contacting the equipment manager. Then you must fill out the correct form. Uniform deposits can be made by either a cash deposit or a deduction from your paycheck. The summer polo uniform requires a \$15.00 deposit to be placed on each uniform issued.

Our policy regarding inside events still stands during the summer. That policy is-

if you are working an indoor event, you must wear long black pants and no caps.

The weather also is starting to warm up so keep these points in mind when on shift:

- 1) Take regular water breaks if working outside, or carry small water jug with you.
- 2) Take short breaks in shaded area.
- 3) Avoid caffeine consumption which cause dehydration.
- 4) Use sun screen with an SPF of at least 15 - even on cloudy days.

Have fun out there and let's stay safe. If you see Bill hanging around you when you're sweating and starts splashing seasonings on you- RUN!!!