

J.E.A.M. CENTS

Volume VI Issue No. 11

"The Official Newsletter of the North Pole"

December 1-31, 2001

Season's Greetings. Hope everyone's preparing for that special day. The day when you spend time with your family and friends, give each other gifts, make those long distance calls home, go on vacation. I'm talking about December 24th, when you sit around the tree singing Chris carols. I'm talking about Chris Casias' birthday. Oh yeah, remember to celebrate Christmas Day the day after.

This month look forward to spending **New Year's Eve** with us. This is T.E.A.M.'s biggest night, so we need all employees to work. We have many shifts available-from the **Block Party** to Club Rio to those glamorous overnights. Get with your schedulers for more details

For those of you who follow paydays-our payday scheduled for December 24 will be moved to the Friday prior. On December 21st our payday will be from 4p-6p. So make a note of it.

In this month's newsletter, read about Stephanie's secret, cold remedies, Marlies' Christmas story, how Andy spends his day, new insurance benefits to our employees and of course, be sure to read the Xmas Files. Enjoy the newsletter and remember-when you finish reading it, give it to a friend. After all they make great Christmas gifts.

Have a Merry Christmas and be safe, warm and healthy.

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DECEMBER EVENTS

- 12/8 : Advance training class in 111. 1p-5p
12/10: Payday in 111. 4p-6p.
12/15: Snow Day on Mill Ave.
12/21: Payday in 111. 4p-6p.
12/24: Chris Casias' Birthday- offices closed
12/25: Christmas Day- offices closed.
12/31: **New Year's Eve**
Blackout Day
Fiesta Bowl Block Party
Club Rio
1/1: New Year's Day- offices closed.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Richard Fairclough | 12/3 |
| Gail Metcalf | 12/5 |
| Travis Frank | 12/8 |
| Darrell Holloway | 12/11 |
| Philip Munoz | 12/12 |
| Kristie Parker | 12/13 |
| Terry Tautimes | 12/17 |
| Jason Koenig | 12/18 |
| Julie Waldon | 12/20 |
| Jonathon Begay | 12/22 |
| Cedric Lauson | 12/22 |
| Chris Casias | 12/24 |
| Rebecca Butler | 12/24 |
| Deborah Ivester | 12/27 |
| Ernie Rodriguez | 12/27 |
| Everardo Alamillo | 12/29 |
| Wendy Sher | 12/30 |

Happy Birthday to all of the above employees- see Stephanie for your birthday spankings!

T.E.A.M. ANNIVERSARIES

Two years- Deborah Ivester 12/1

One year- Margot Partch 12/20

Robert Erdmann 12/30

Congratulations to all of you for hanging in there. Hope to see you for many more!

TARA'S TINSEL

By Tara Clark

Hello everyone! For those who do not know, I have been promoted and am now the new Recruiter.

Yeah! Rey will be doing evaluations and supervisor reviews. If you are coming up to 100 hours or all the other hours give Rey a call and he will set up an appointment for you. If you need anything else don't hesitate to call me, I will be glad to help you with any thing that I can. I know that you all know that **New Year's Eve** is right around the corner. We have incentives for our employees to bring friends to work on **New Year's Eve**, come talk to me and I will let you know all the details of bringing friends, family, boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands, and wives.

On **New Year's** T.E.A.M. employees will be making holiday rates, so if you bring people in to work you will be able to make even more \$\$! We definitely need some people for that evening- spread the word, you would help me out a lot!

If any of you live in an Apt. Complex and they have a bulletin board to post flyers if the office is willing to allow the flyer, let me know. So I can give you some flyers to put up. That goes the same if you go to school or your other place of employment anywhere you can think of and are allowed. You can put your name on the flyer and then the potential people can say, "Frank"

referred me. That's extra bonus for YOU!
!! Come talk to me about all these bonuses!

Have a Wonderful and Happy Holiday!
Stay Safe! Tara

STEPHANIE'S SANTA SECRETS

By Stephanie Foley

Well gang, we had a lot of you fill out the employee questionnaire a pay day or so ago and we really appreciate the feedback, for those of you who missed out never fear your input is still wanted.

Speaking of input I want to thank a certain employee, (I won't mention names but I'm sure he knows who he is) who has come to me a couple of times to talk about certain "issues" he is having. During his last visit he apologized if he sounded like he was complaining and I emphatically stated, "You are not complaining!! I want your feedback." And that is how we feel regarding all of our employees. All of us have heard someone say 'How can I fix something if I didn't know there was something wrong in the first place.' It is so very important that we keep the lines of communication open amongst employees, managers, supervisors, etc.... I am not promising that we will instantly solve or fix what could be wrong but the first step to resolving anything in life is communicating. In the future if you have an idea or concern be sure to speak up or write in anonymously whatever is easiest and we will start from there.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and is geared and ready for the biggest holiday of them all, except of course for my birthday! Take care and be safe!!!

THE REIN-DIEHL

By Michael Diehl

Hello T.E.A.M. members. As you may recall in last month's newsletter, I mentioned how October was a extremely busy month and November was going to be slow. How wrong was I, thanks to Mick, Billy Royal and Rey, November has been just as busy as October.

I would like to thank all of you out there who have been able to work on short notice for these events. Now that November has come to a close, what does December have in store for us. We all know that **New Year's Eve** is a **Blackout Day**, the **Block Party** alone warrants that. Ozzfest, which was also supposed to be on **New Year's** was cancelled by Ozzy. So we will be looking forward to all of you

working on **New Year's Eve** for the **Block Party**.

As many of you came into the office to pick up your last paycheck, you were asked to fill out a survey. On the survey there was a question concerning scheduling, Andy and myself read these results and were interested by the responses that you gave. The biggest response was more hours, our answer to that is this: if on Monday when you schedule we have no more hours for you- call back on Thursday or Friday. Later in the week we normally get another event or two, so by calling us to see if there is any more work, let's us know you want to work and we will let you know what we have.

So to all you T.E.A.M. members out there, let's be safe and I will see you on **New Year's**.

LITTLE GOLDEN BOOKS THAT NEVER MADE IT

You Are Different and That's Bad

The Boy Who Died From Eating All His Veggies

Fun four-letter Words to Know and share Hammers, Screwdrivers and Scissors: An I-Can-Do-It Book

The Kids' Guide to Hitchhiking

Kathy Was So Bad Her Mom Stopped Loving Her

Curious George and the High-Voltage Fence

The Little Sissy Who Snitched Strangers Have the Best Candy

Daddy Drinks Because You Cry

I Spend My **New Year's Eve** on Mill Ave With My T.E.A.M. Daddy

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

By Andy LaFave

Hey Teamsters! How is everything going out there in T.E.A.M. land? In this month's article I would like to simply say thank you.

Thank you to all of the employees who have helped us out through the month of November. Last month was supposed to be a slow one for us, but it did not turn out that way. We had numerous events appear last minute and because of your dedication, were able to get them filled. So to all of those employees who rocked last month, THANK YOU!!!

Now I would like to talk about the scheduling department. I want to give all of you a little insight into what Michael and myself go through on a daily basis. First of all I want you all to know that without you the scheduling department would be non-

existent. I would just like to give you an understanding of our lives as schedulers.

Are you all ready? O.K. sit back, relax, and here we go...

Our normal day begins around 5:00 A.M. when the emergency pager goes off. Usually, it is an employee calling in his or her hours. While trying to go back to sleep we will deal with the pager around three or four more times until 8:30 or 9:00. Then we will come into the office and attempt to fill our open shifts. That is when all of you get the privilege of hearing our sweet voices either right then or on your answering machine. In either case we are calling to see if you can work. Throughout the day we are pulled in many different directions.

One minute we will be on the phone scheduling and the next minute we are in a meeting discussing upcoming events. Our days in the office are never the same. Our day does not end when the clock strikes 6:00. In many cases it has just begun.

While on the pager, we have to take care of any unforeseen incidents that may arise throughout the night. The next day will start the same as the one previous and we will do it all over again. I just wanted to give you all an insight to our lives as schedulers.

There are many perks that go along with this job. One of the most predominate ones is the ability to communicate with all of you out there. As I said before, you are what makes this company. The long hours you put in and the dedication you show is what makes us shine. I am, and always will be, happy, excited, and privileged to be a part of such a great thing.

Until next time be safe and most importantly have fun. Later....

REY'S REINDEER-ROUNDUP

By Rey Marroquin

Hello everyone and congrats to making it through another interesting season of events. We are not quite done yet, but it has dwindled down to a few, before the "BIG" one, and that would be **New Year's Eve**.

It took a T.E.A.M. effort, and I'm glad you were all a part of the success and deserve a round of applause!!!

Hey, guess what??? Some more new changes are happening around here, in case you haven't noticed; I know...I know, "now what"???" Here we go again, "right"? Well, like it or not it's in the process...this time around with me being involved. I have challenged myself to put out the effort and focus in striving to become better in all aspects of personnel and operations included. Maybe you've heard this stuff in

the past, and maybe it never materialized, but guess what's different about it? I wasn't here and now I am. This may come as a little harsh or as a warning to some of you, but I am very direct and adamant when faced with a challenge, and when that happens I do my best to win, so take caution out there because- yes, I know who you are and what you're doing.

I truly appreciate your efforts and will work for you to make your experience with T.E.A.M. more pleasant. In case you weren't aware of it, part of my duties include employee evaluations. I only ask that you do your best and either I or my supervisors, whom I respect very much, will take notice.

For now, may you and your loved ones be truly blessed and I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season!!

THE XMAS FILES

Mulder: We're too late. It's already been here.

Scully: Mulder, I hope you know what you are doing.

Mulder: Look, Scully, just like the other homes: Douglas fir, truncated, mounted, transformed into some sort of shrine, halls decked with boughs of holly, stockings hung by the chimney, with care.

Scully: You really think someone's been here?

Mulder: Someone or some THING

Scully: Mulder, over here -- it's fruitcake.

Mulder: Don't touch it! Those things can be lethal.

Scully: It's O.K. There's a note attached: "Gonna find out who's naughty and nice."

Mulder: It's judging them, Scully. It's making a list.

Scully: Who? What are you talking about?

Mulder: Ancient mythology tells of an obese humanoid entity who could travel at great speed in a craft powered by antlered servants. Once each year, near the winter solstice, this creature is said to descend from the heavens to reward its followers and punish its disbelievers with jagged chunks of anthracite.

Scully: But that's legend, Mulder -- a story told by parents to frighten children. Surely, you don't believe it?

Mulder: Something was here tonight, Scully. Check out the bite marks on this gingerbread man. Whatever tore through this plate of cookies was massive -- and in a hurry.

Scully: It left crumbs everywhere. And look, Mulder, this milk glass has been completely drained.

Mulder: It gorged itself, Scully. It fed without remorse.

Scully: But why would they leave it milk and cookies?

Mulder: Appeasement. Tonight is the Eve, and nothing can stop its wilding.

Scully: But if this thing does exist, how did it get in? The doors and windows were locked. There's no sign of forced entry.

Mulder: Unless I miss my guess, it came through the fireplace.

Scully: Wait a minute, Mulder. If you are saying some huge creature landed on the roof and came down the chimney, you're crazy. The flue is barely six inches wide. Nothing could get through there.

Mulder: But what if it could alter its shape, move in all directions.

Scully: You mean, like a bowl full of jelly?

Mulder: Exactly. Scully, I've never told anyone this, but when I was a child my home was visited. I saw the creature. It had long white strips of fur surrounding its ruddy, misshapen head. Its bloated torso was red and white. I'll never forget the horror. I turned away, and when I looked back it had somehow taken on the facial features of my father.

Scully: Impossible.

Mulder: I know what I saw. And that night it read my mind. It brought me a Mr. Potato Head, Scully. IT KNEW I WANTED A MR. POTATO HEAD.

Scully: I'm sorry, Mulder, but you're asking me to disregard the laws of physics. You want me to believe in some supernatural being who soars across the skies and brings gifts to good little girls and boys. Listen to what you are saying. Do you understand the repercussions? If this gets out, they'll close the X-files.

Mulder: Scully, listen to me: It knows when you are sleeping. It knows when you're awake.

Scully: But we have no proof.

Mulder: Last year, on this exact date, S.E.T.I. radio telescopes detected bogeys in the airspace over twenty-seven states. The White House ordered a Condition Red.

Scully: But that was a meteor shower.

Mulder: Officially. Two days ago, eight prized Scandinavian reindeer vanished from the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Nobody - not even the zookeeper - was told about it. The government doesn't want people to know about Project Kringle. They fear that if this thing is proved to exist, then the public would stop spending half its annual income in a holiday shopping frenzy. Retail markets will collapse. Scully, they cannot let the world

believe this creature lives. There's too much at stake. They'll do whatever it takes to insure another silent night.

Scully: Mulder, I --

Mulder: Sh-h-h! Do you hear what I hear?

Scully: On the roof. It sounds like . . . a clatter.

Mulder: The truth is up there. Let's see what's the matter.

WHATZ UP DOC?

By American Chiropractic

Tis the season for colds, we can recommend some remedies that may help you feel better and that can be useful to your health. Vitamins are helpful to you for many reasons.

* Vitamin A - helps reduce colds, flu, allergies, and skin problems.

* Vitamin C - helps rebuild and strengthen all the cells of the body. It prevents scurvy; helps reduce colds and flu, and can help skin and heart conditions.

* Vitamin E - is an anti-aging and anti-cancer supplement. It is also good for hair, skin, and nails. It also helps your blood vessels stay more flexible and less clogged.

Some multivitamins and herbs that also may be beneficial to your health include:

* Anti-oxidants - they include A, C, E, and D, as well as zinc and selenium. They help to speed the healing process. Anti-oxidants can help prevent cancer, and cardiovascular problems like hardening and clogging of the arteries. They also help with diabetic circulation, skin problems and arthritis.

* Proteolytic Enzymes- provide a multitude of benefits including treatment of muscle pain and soreness due to over exertion, digestive support, immune system support, and helps to maintain healthy circulation.

* Echinacea- also called "Natures Antibiotic," this herb can help boost the immune system and reduce bacteria and viruses. Research shows that zinc can be an effective remedy for a cold, cutting down the length of the symptoms be almost half. However, caution should be taken when using zinc as a cold treatment.

* Use zinc lozenges within 24 hours of the onset of cold symptoms.

* Take the zinc every two hours while awake; stop taking it once symptoms stop.

* Lozenges may cause nausea.

* Pregnant women, children, and people with serious illnesses should refrain from taking zinc; you should always consult your doctor before taking any vitamins or herbs.

* Long-term, high doses of zinc can have ill effects on your immune system. So take care of yourselves this cold season stay warm and keep your self healthy and as always, good luck, good eating and good health.

By: Dr. Lynn and Dr. Vince

MARLIES' MIRACLES

By Marlies Meinhold

Hello everyone! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanks giving!

I appreciate how well things have been going with the calling in of hours. It seems to be working well. As we get close to the end of the year, I want everyone to double check the information on their paychecks, mainly Social Security numbers and addresses. Please check to make sure this information is correct, so it will be correct on your W-2's.

Well, I don't have much to say this month so, I want to include a Christmas Favorite:

Twass the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their bed,
While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads,
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap...
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Dunder* and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes -- how they twinkled -- his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,

And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his teams gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"
-Clement C. Moore

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and
Happy New Year!

JOLLY JEFF'S LETTER

By Jeff Swanson

Dear Santa,

The post office told me you were not excepting mail this year so I thought I would write to you in the news letter. I hope you read this before Christmas. I have made you a "wish list" for the staff in our office. I hope it helps.

Andy LaFave	Mr. Microphone
Bill Selby	Red Rider B.B. gun (because everyone else has one)
Tara Clark	A day at the Studspa
Rey Marroquin	Bobble head Jesus
The Fish	Fresh bath water
Steph Foley	Bottle of Tequila and plane ticket to Wyoming.
Steve Sullivan	Big Wheel with working K.C. lights
Mick Hirko	Choo Choo train that is big enough to ride
Talia Jackson	Poster of the Budweiser Girls
Michael Diehl	Case of Red Bull
Marlies Meinhold	Ten more fingers and ten more toes.....for counting reasons you weirdo
Christina Whitney-	Silly Putty
Billy Royal	Black Polo shirt reading "I'm the Boss"
Chris Casias	Hot tub and couch bed for his van
Laveda Risley	Free sample of Prozac
Jeff Swanson	As you know I'm still homeless. Anything at this point would be nice. I've had my eye on a gently used shopping cart over at the Fry's grocery store! Hint, hint.

Santa, you and I both know that not everybody was nice. Please feel free to replace these gifts with coal for the naughty.
Merry X-Mass Santa!

To all others readers, I hope you have a wonderful holiday, no matter what you

celebrate. I plan on spending mine with my pride and joy, my wife and kids.

P.S. If you find it absolutely necessary to drink and drive over the holidays, (even one beer), PLEASE, don't wear a seat belt! Thank you...

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

Approximately one month ago we enclosed some information in your paycheck envelopes regarding health insurance options through Usher & Associates.

Just a little friendly reminder for all of your individual and family needs, we will maximize your financial potential through careful evaluation and planning of: Investments, IRA's and Retirement Programs, Life Insurance, Disability Protection and Health insurance.

If you or any of your family members have any questions or if we can be of assistance in any of these areas, please call Jenn at (480) 922-7044 ext 12.

THE ROYAL BELL RINGER

By Billy Royal

"You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus." --Mark Twain

Greetings all! This time of year I always tend to reflect about the last year, the next year as well as family and friends both here and back East.

With all the people I've met in Arizona, I still have many, many friends that I've known most of my life scattered between here and New England. I was supposed to fly to Boston for a wedding on 9/18/01. Needless to say flying at that time, to me, was a choice that I decided not to make. What it did though was make me miss home even more!

So now, as I go through this reflective time, I have come to a realization about what the **New Year** means to me. I'd like to share it with you. Once a year between Christmas and **New Year's Eve**, I tend to "clean the slate", that is start new and fresh. I look at the past year, try to sum up those

things that went well and perhaps those things I might have done differently, and come up with a plan to make those adjustments in my life.

Examples for me might be, lose a little weight, clean the garage (again!), try to elevate my positive attitude even further, cut down on caffeine and Red Bull, (but

it's my last vice!) read more, spend more time with my family and loved ones (in this business?!) and so on.

The **New Year** is a time when we can all look back and embrace those things that mean a great deal to us. I'd like to take this time to thank each and every one of you for all of your hard work and encourage those that feel they could do better. We've gone through a very tough year as a company/family and the managers we have assembled now are awesome. You all deserve a huge round of applause. We faced adversity, still am, and are coming out of it swinging and shining. You guys are the best. Many of you don't know what it takes to open the doors to a business every day. Having been a member of Mr. Hirko's family for almost two years now, (Wow!) I'd like to tell you that it's not an accident that we're considered the premier security company in town. It takes a great deal of planning, perseverance and sweat! Mick if I haven't told you lately, I'm proud to be a member of your clan! OK enough of all that, I've done my reflective bit.

Now let's all bring at least one person to Tara for orientation and **Block Party** so we can spend it together celebrating the **New Year!** We could double the size of our staff, think of it! Thank you all, I hope your Holidays are great. We'll see ya out there!

Remember, every dayz a holiday!

br

MICK'S MERRY MEMO

By Mick Hirko

Hey guys and gals! Here it is December, and we are busy planning for the **Block Party**.

We do hope that you all plan to be there, and for those of you who do not remember, **New Year's Eve** is a **blackout day**. Not to be insensitive, especially around the holidays, but not working on **New Year's Eve** is grounds for termination.

In the coming weeks and months, we are going to be spending a lot more time on the basics, such as proper dress code, grooming, earrings and other facial jewelry, and punctuality. Your arrival time is 15 minutes before your scheduled call time, to give enough time to get you signed in, equipped, briefed and to your post. People, you have no idea how important this is. When you guys show up late, you get to your post late, doors get opened late, etc. It is a whole domino effect, that makes us all look bad.

Alright, enough of the bad stuff. 'Tis the season for wreaths of holly, Chris Casias placing annoying motion activated Santa Clauses in very strange places, Billy roasting his chestnuts over the fireplace, Stephanie Foley being really, really merry (if you can imagine that), Michael Diehl running around, yelling: "I'm a candy cane! I'm a candy cane! Lick me!", Jeff Swanson appropriating Christmas gifts for everyone, Andy is using his red and green drumsticks, Marlies has officially stolen all of my green and red pens, and Tara keeps trying to put recruiting flyers in everybody's stockings. It wouldn't be so bad, except for those people still wearing them while she is trying to do it.

The holidays are a bit nuts for all of us, and at times it is easy to forget what Christmas is all about. I will save you the morality lesson, but irrespective of what your religious beliefs or personal way of celebrations are, try to remember that a lot of what Christmas is, is to be with your family, and celebration of all lives and to give thanks to how blessed we truly are, to have friends and family that mean so much to us.

I would like to take this opportunity to not only thank all of you for being part of our "family", but to thank my extended family, the people that really make this happen day after day; our managers - Andy, Rey, Billy, Marlies, Chris, Stephanie, Steve, Michael, Jeff, and Tara. You guys rock!!! My, and their thanks go out to all of you, for making us who we are, and so damn proud!

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our clients, thank you for your confidence and trust in us, and my solemn commitment that we will not let you down. Even though I cannot thank all of our clients, I would like to thank a couple of very special people: Brandon Sirochman, (even if you let out all your frustrations on us) and his entire staff out at Cricket Pavilion. You guys are the best! George Bevins, Jon Bloom, Taryn and everybody at America West Arena, for making our schedulers lives a living hell (they need the mental challenge at times), Kori Humphries, Becky White and Mary McGowne, without whom we wouldn't even exist, (Long story), especially Kori, who has made it her mission in life to ruin as many of my days in a week as is humanly possible (Keep it up, and I will bring out the old nickname), and finally a special "thank you" to all of our friends and clients with the City of Tempe.

You are our pride, and we thank you for the many opportunities and challenges.

SOME SHORT CHRISTMAS JOKES

How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer 'Olive'? Olive?

Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names".

* * * * *

Why is Christmas just like a day at the office?

You do all of the work and the fat guy in the suit gets all the credit.

* * * * *

One Christmas I got a battery with a note saying 'toy not included'.

* * * * *

Gift Idea: Give children mental blocks for Christmas

* * * * *

The three wise men arrived to visit the child lying in the manger. One man was exceptionally tall and bumped his head on the low doorway to the stable, "Jesus Christ" he shouted.

"Joseph, write that down," said Mary, "it's better than Clyde!"

"The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office."

-Robert Frost

How to Tell a Democrat from a Republican During the Holiday Season

By John Carlson

And you thought you could tell Republicans from Democrats by how they vote. Not so! Just observe, how they act during the holidays:

Republicans say "Merry Christmas!"

Democrats say "Happy Holidays!"

Republicans help the poor during the holidays by sending \$50 to the Salvation Army.

Democrats help the poor by giving \$50, one buck at a time, to panhandlers on the street.

Democrats get back at Republicans on their Christmas list by giving them fruitcakes.

Republicans re-wrap them and send them to in-laws.

Democrats let their kids open all the gifts on Christmas Eve.

Republicans make their kids wait until Christmas morning

When toasting the Holidays, Republicans ask for sherry or mulled wine.

Democrats ask for egg nog. When not in stores, Republicans use a catalog.

Democrats watch for "incredible TV offers" on late night television.

Democrats do a lot of their shopping at Cost-Co and WalMart.

So do Republicans, but they don't admit it.

Democrats give their children gifts that make a political statement.

Republicans give their children gifts that will keep them out of their hair.

Republican parents have no problem buying their kids toy guns.

Democrats refuse to do so. That is why their kids pretend to shoot each other with dolls.

Republicans spend hundreds of dollars and hours of work decorating the yard with outdoor lights and Christmas displays.

Democrats save their time and money and drive around at night to enjoy the scenery.

Democrat's favorite Christmas movie is "Miracle on 34th Street."

Republican's favorite Christmas movie is "It's a Wonderful Life."

Right-Wing Republican's favorite Christmas movie is "Diehard."

Republicans always take the price tag off any expensive gifts they buy before wrapping.

Democrats also remove price tags off pricey gifts...and reposition them to make sure they are seen.

Republicans wear wide red ties and green sport jackets during the festive season.

Democrats do too, all year round.

Most Republicans try, at least once, enclosing indulgent, wretchedly maudlin form letters about their families in their Christmas Cards.

Public ridicule from Democrats usually discourages them from doing it again.

Democrats favorite Christmas song is "Deck the Halls."

Young Democrats favorite Christmas song is "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer."

Republicans favorite Christmas song is "White Christmas."

Young Republicans favorite Christmas song is "White Christmas."

Cheapskate Republicans buy an artificial Christmas tree.

Tightfisted Democrats buy a real tree, but they wait until the week before Christmas when the lots lower their prices.

Democratic men like to watch football while their wives, girlfriends or mothers fix holiday meals.

On this, Republicans are in full agreement.

Republicans see nothing wrong with letting their children play "Cowboys and Indians."

Democrats don't either, as long as the Indians get to win.

Republicans first began thinking like Republicans when they stopped believing in Santa Claus...

Democrats became Democrats because they never stopped believing in Santa Claus...

The Early Reindeer Retirement Package

The recent announcement that Donner and Blitzen have elected to take the early reindeer retirement package has triggered a good deal of concern about whether they will be replaced, and about other restructuring decisions at the North Pole.

Streamlining was appropriate in view of the reality that the North Pole no longer dominates the season's gift distribution business. Home shopping channels and mail order catalogues have diminished Santa's market share and they could not sit idly by and permit further erosion of the profit picture.

The reindeer downsizing was made possible through the purchase of a late model Japanese sled for the CEO's annual trip. Improved productivity from Dasher and Dancer, who summered at the Harvard Business School, is anticipated and should take up the slack with no discernible loss of service. Reduction in reindeer will also lessen airborne environmental emissions for which the North Pole has been cited and received unfavorable press.

I am pleased to inform you and yours that Rudolph's role will not be disturbed. Tradition still counts for something at the North Pole. Management denies, in the strongest possible language, the earlier leak that Rudolph's nose got that way not from the cold, but from substance abuse. Calling Rudolph "a lush who was into the sauce and never did pull his share of the load" was an unfortunate comment, made by one of Santa's helpers and taken out of context at a time of year when he is known to be under executive stress. As a further restructuring, today's global challenges require the North Pole to continue to look for better, more competitive steps. Effective immediately, the following economy measures are to take place in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" subsidiary:

- The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree never turned out to be the cash crop forecasted. It will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant, providing considerable savings in maintenance.

- The two turtle doves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are therefore eliminated.

- The three French hens will remain intact. After all, everyone loves the French.

-The four calling birds were replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. An analysis is underway to determine who the birds have been calling, how often and how long they talked.

- The five golden rings have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals as well as a mix of T-Bills and high technology stocks appear to be in order.

- The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day is an example of the decline in productivity. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by

personnel will assure management that from now on every goose it gets will be a good one.

- The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. The function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are on order. The current swans will be retrained to learn some new strokes and therefore enhance their outplacement.

- As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEOC. A male/female balance in the workforce is being sought. The more militant maids consider this a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Automation of the process may permit the maids to try a-mending, a-mentoring or a-mulching.

- Nine ladies dancing has always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps.

- Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords plus the expense of international air travel prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work congressmen. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant because we expect an oversupply of unemployed congressmen this year.

- Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cutback on new music and no uniforms will produce savings which will drop right down to the bottom line.

- We can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and other expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can drop ship in one day, service levels will be improved.

- Regarding the lawsuit filed by the attorney's association seeking expansion to include the legal profession ("thirteen lawyers-a-suing"), action is pending.

- Lastly, it is not beyond consideration that deeper cuts maybe necessary in the future to stay competitive. Should that

happen, the Board will request management to scrutinize the Snow White Division to see if seven dwarfs is the right number.

THE LAWS OF WORK

** If you can't get your work done in the first 24 hours, work nights.

** A pat on the back is only a few centimeters from a kick in the butt.

** After any salary raise, you will have less money at the end of the month than you did before.

** The more crap you put up with, the more crap you are going to get.

** You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.

** Eat one live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.

** If at first you don't succeed, try again. Then quit. No use being a damn fool about it.

** There will always be beer cans rolling on the floor of your car when the boss asks for a ride home from the office.

** Everything can be filed under "miscellaneous."

** Never delay the ending of a meeting or the beginning of a happy hour.

** To err is human, to forgive is not my policy.

** If you are good, you will be assigned all the work. If you are really good, you will get out of it.

** If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.

** At work, the authority of a person is inversely proportional to the number of pens that person is carrying.

** Following the rules will not get the job done.

** Getting the job done is no excuse for not following the rules.

** When confronted by a difficult problem you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would Chris Casias handle this?"

** The last person that quit or was fired will be held responsible for everything that goes wrong.

CHRIS' FINAL THOUGHT

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 2001" 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 31st** is a **blackout day**- which means everyone must work. We will be having a few meetings and classes regarding the events for this night, if you are interested on attending one of these classes contact us 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 Selby for your Holiday Hugs, he'll be the one in a red suit!

*Merry Christmas to all of
you. From the Staff at
T.E.A.M.*