

J.E.A.M. CENTS

Volume VIII Issue No. 2

"The Official Newsletter of Cupid's Day"

February 1-28, 2003

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Welcome to the month of February- the month of love. To fall in love with those overnights, permanent schedules and getting those security licenses.

We have many changes this year, one being scheduling and the other payroll dates. For those of you with security licensed, you will be required to call in on Mondays for a schedule. Any employees without a security license will be able to call in on Tuesdays only for a schedule.

Paydays for licensed personnel will be on Mondays from 4pm to 6pm. Those employees that do not have security license will pick up your checks on Tuesday from 4pm to 6pm.

There are many changes coming up, as we are complying with state laws, so please bear with us and try to complete all of your requirements in order to continue working with us. Any questions on what needs to be completed may be directed to Chris Casias.

Thanks to all of you for the work during the month of January and hope to see many of you out there next month....

DISCLAIMER

T.E.A.M. Cents staff does not assume liability in any way for anything printed, inferred, or diagrammed in *T.E.A.M. Cents*. If at anytime you find anything you read in *T.E.A.M. Cents* offensive, then by all means please stop reading immediately. If you should happen to be inadvertently offended, and continue to read, you do so at your own risk. If you continue to read this offensive material to yourself, and your lips move while you read, and you are in a room with anyone who is able to read lips, then YOU and not US are responsible for offending them. The stories and characters you read about in *T.E.A.M. Cents* are purely fictional. Any similarity to real people living or dead, places and events is merely coincidental.

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 17, 2003: ALL PAYCHECKS FOR LICENSED PERSONNEL WILL BE ISSUED ON MONDAYS FROM 4 PM TO 6 PM. ALL UNLICENSED PERSONNEL'S CHECKS WILL BE ISSUED ON TUESDAYS FROM 4 PM TO 6 PM. ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT CHRIS CASIAS. THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 2/3: Payday in 111. 4p-6p
- 2/7-8: Glendale Chocolate Festival
- 2/12: Mexico vs. Colombia soccer @ BOB
- 2/14: Exotic Art Show @ Alwun House
- 2/15: Advanced training in 111. 1p-5p.
- 2/17: President's Day
Payday for Licensed personnel in 111. 4p-6p.
- 2/18: Payday for un-licensed personnel. 4p-6p.
- 2/21: American Cancer Walk @ S. Mtn Park
Scorpions @ Cricket
- 2/22: Advance training in 111. 1p-5p.
Prairie Home Companion Radio Show @ Cricket
- 2/24: Flag Day
- 2/29: Beastie Boys @ Cricket

Please visit www.teamsecurity.net for more updated info.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Vince Garcia	2/3
Sergio Gonzales	2/3
Chris Palmer	2/4
Michelle Lauria	2/7
Brian Butcher	2/10
Justin Hart	2/12
Valerie Callaway	2/15
Vincent Harr	2/15
Bryan Williamson	2/17
Raymond Morris	2/19
Marianne Morrison	2/19
Amy Wheeler	2/19
Kenneth Lewis	2/20
Corvanda Kee	2/24
Eric Adams	2/25
Necolai Wendelboe	2/29

T.E.A.M. ANNIVERSARIES

One Year- Brian Knapp	2/6
Kathleen Hammond	2/13
Two Years- Terry Tautimes	2/17

RAISING THE BARNES

By Mike Barnes

Hello out there T.E.A.M., clients, and friends. Well another month has gone by and we are in a new year.

I am working to get the STO table full in the next couple of weeks, so those of you who have guard cards come see me. If you don't have your guard card yet, then you need to come down and get it.

I would like to thank everybody who showed up early for "George Strait" and for everybody's hard work. I saw a lot of dedication and positive energy.

On Mondays please call the office and let Katrina or myself know if you will be unavailable. If we do not get a call two weeks in a row you will be removed off the phone list. When we are trying to get a hold of you and we leave messages on your answering machines, please call us back. Thank you ! Lets have a great month.

Thanks to mick for being an awesome boss to work for, Richard for his humor in times of stress, Bert you have a gun. Kelly you're doing a great job, keep hiring. Marlies, thanks for being you, you're always on the ball. Billy, your fish needs a friend, we should get him a partner in the water world. Chris thanks for everything. Katrina is doing a great job, keep it up "Ka-Trina". All of you out there that have been on time, that show up, thank you.

On another note I, I have something you might like to read. Have a good month, talk to ya soon....late

The SCHEDULER'S Puzzle

Mick Hirko walks into the scheduler's office and sees the schedulers whooping and hollering.

"What's the matter? " "Nothing at all boss. I just done finished a jigsaw puzzle in record time!"

"How long did it take you?"

"Well, the box said '3 to 5 Years' but I did it in a month!"

"The O.J. Murder Trial" by Dr.Seuss "

I did not kill my lovely wife.
I did not slash her with a knife.
I did not bonk her on the head.
I did not know that she was dead.
I stayed at home that fateful night.
I took a cab, then took a flight.
The bag I had was just for me.
My bag! My bag! Hey, leave it be.
When I came home I had a gash.
My hand was cut from broken glass.
I cut my hand on broken glass.
A broken glass did cause that gash.
I have nothing, nothing to hide.
My friend, he took me for a ride.
Did you take this person's life?
Did you do it with a knife?
I did not do it with a knife.
I did not, could not kill my wife.
I did not do this awful crime.
I could not, would not anytime.

Did you hit her from above?
Did you drop this bloody glove?
I did not hit her from above.
I cannot even wear that glove.
I did not do it with a knife.
I did not, could not kill my wife.
I did not do this awful crime.
I could not, would not, not anytime.
And now I'm free, I can return
To my house for which I yearn.
And to my family whom I love.
Hey now I'm free -- Give back my glove!!

50 Ways To Annoy Osa ma bin Laden...

Fifty Ways To Annoy Osama bin Laden
If You're Invited To A Dinner Party At His Secret Afghan Lair.
By Alan Meiss

Point out the lice in his beard to make him feel self-conscious.
Pause for a moment, listen carefully, and say, "Doesn't that sound a lot like a B-52?"
Ask him if he's looking forward to replacing Hitler as Satan's favorite chew toy in the lowest inferno of Hell.
Tell him all about your great vacation to Saudi Arabia, where you went absolutely everywhere and did everything, just stomped all over the place.
Use his satellite phone to call the time and weather line in Buenos Aires and leave it off the hook.
Tell him how much less you paid for your Kalashnikov rifle.
Now that you know the address of his secret cave hideout, fill out magazine subscription cards for him for the Wine Spectator and Penthouse. But do not, under any circumstances, send him Popular Mechanics.
Order him ten Domino's pizzas with extra ham topping.
Correct him when he ends a sentence with a preposition.
Ask whether the Taliban gets cable, because you haven't seen "Sex and the City" for weeks.
Yank the end of his turban really hard to make him spin around like a top.
Switch all the CD's in the jewel boxes in his CD collection, so that when he reaches for Michael Bolton, he'll actually get the Oak Ridge Boys.
Mine his bathroom.
Use your dinner fork for your salad, and, if questioned by your host, mutter something about "spots".
Leave business cards for the Israeli Mossad

in his Rolodex.
Take pictures of all his wives and post them on www.amihotornot.com.
Ask him if he wears boxers or briefs. Check. Take pictures. Again, post these on www.amihotornot.com.
Give him a Hot Chicks of Palestine calendar.
Ask him if Paradise is different for each person, and whether in your own paradise you'll get to, "kick his ass every day for eternity."
Reset his VCR and leave it blinking 12:00.
Refer to him as "Osama-osama-fee-fi-fo-fama bin Laden."
Ask whether suicide bombers have to pay union dues.
Tell him it's lovely what he's done with his cave, but that it'd look much nicer covered with huge, smoking craters.
At dinner, imply that the Northern Alliance has much prettier place settings.
Claim you once saw him at a Hooter's in Muncie wearing a yarmulke.
Ask him if he wouldn't mind if you opened the door and shined your laser pointer on his forehead for a few minutes.
Tell him that this is the worst pajama party you've ever attended.
Ask for some pork rinds and a good brew to wash them down.
Mix up his Rubik's Cube.
Ask him if he provides his employees with a 401K plan.
Compliment him on all his poppies outside, but mention that a few day lilies would be a nice accent.
Run your finger along his credenza, and say, "tsk, tsk" if there's dust.
Ask whether the Taliban is hoping to be bombed ahead into the Stone Age, or perhaps the Iron Age if enough shell casings survive.
Explain that America is a land of freedom and opportunity, filled with people of every race, religion, and background, including millions of women strong enough to knock the crap out of him.
Claim that they serve much better falafel at the public executions in Sudan.
Ask him if he's pursuing the Lesser Jihad, the Greater Jihad, or the "Completely Whacked Out of his Freaking Gourd" Jihad.
Swirl your drink thoughtfully and mention, "Just think, in a few weeks you might fit in this glass!"
Check to see if Saddam is on his speed-dial list.
They have to wait a few years to see current

television shows in Afghanistan, so give away the secret of who's having a baby on "Friends."

Warn him that you're "in a New York state of mind."

Mention that his wives look quite fetching in their burkas, and ask whether they've ever thought of modeling.

Ask him, "Say, where do you keep all those Stinger missiles?" just in case he'll be caught off guard and answer correctly. Give him a "noogie" or a "wedgie." If there's actually still a flush toilet left in Afghanistan, give him a "swirlie".*

Ask to borrow his hedge trimmer and never give it back.

Play a game of Monopoly with him. Make him play the thimble. See if he charges interest. Claim that his properties are your "holy lands" and blow up his hotels.

Fish out the secret toy surprises in all his cereal boxes.

Offer to take him "clubbing" in Tel Aviv with your friends Saul and Ivan.

Ask him which Ninja Turtle is his favorite. Give him your cell phone as a gift and ask him to leave it on for a few days so your friends can call and say hi.

When you leave, wave and say, "Shalom!"
*Some translational notes for non-Americans: a "noogie" is a painful head rub administered to the scalp while holding someone's head in an arm-lock; a "wedgie" involves grabbing the back of their underwear and hoisting it up until they squeal; a "swirlie" involves being dunked head-first in a running flush toilet. See what you missed by not attending school in the States? ;)

FIERY ONE'S FORUM

By Kelly Rogers

With us going into the second month of a new year, I think, like many people, of the goals I'd like to accomplish in the upcoming year. As I define my goals for my life, I'd be remiss if I did not include at least one goal for the workplace, since we spend a good portion of our lives at work.

I have been thinking a lot about the concept of teamwork. I have always thought that the acronym for the company was appropriate because that's what we are - a team. And the time that this is most apparent is when the going gets tough.

My goal this year is to make T.E.A.M. a stronger team. But this is not something I can do on my own. I need your help. What I'd like to see is each and every

T.E.A.M. member make an effort to strengthen the team in some way.

When push comes to shove, each of us as individuals come together and, as a team, we get the job done. Imagine how it would be then, if that team was a little bit better, a little bit stronger. Imagine what we could do then.

If you want to talk about what you can do, or if you have any ideas, feel free to stop by the office, or drop me a line. I'd love to be able to look back next December and see the progress we have made because of the ideas and efforts of our team throughout the year.

Until then, I'll leave you with some thoughts and quotes related to teamwork. Peace!

-Kelly

"None of us is as smart as all of us."
-Unknown

"A group becomes a team when each member is sure enough of himself and his contribution to praise the skills of the others." -Norman Shidle

"Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." -Henry Ford

"I asked "Why doesn't somebody do something?" Then I realized, I was somebody." -Unknown

"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself." -Harry Firestone

"If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." -Unknown

SWANSON'S SONG

By Jeff Swanson

You may or may not have noticed a few minor changes at 1093. The first would be that the dressing room has moved. Please respect others privacy and keep this area clean.

The second would be "The Great Wall of Bert". This wall was constructed for the sole purpose of giving Brian the largest office at T.E.A.M. I wish to send a special thank you to Bert for his help in the construction. I would also like to remind everyone that parking for 1093 is at 5th. St. and Farmer and or the Centerpoint surface lot. Parking at 1093 is reserved for "working managers" and supervisors that

are picking up/dropping off equipment. All others are subject to tow.

Allow me to share.

Our employer, Mick Hirko, recently lost someone very dear to his heart, Christy. I was fortunate enough to have spent some time with her before her passing. She was a very gentle and kind person. Christy, like all of us, was not perfect. She did however possess something that most of the world has lost, a good heart. She truly cared about others. I've known Mick for over 15 years now. He also is one of the few with a heart of gold. I imagine this is why the two of them connected like yin and yang. My thoughts and prayers are with him. Many of you do not even know what Mick looks like.

The funny thing is, you have probably worked side by side with him. That's one of the things a boss that cares about his employees does.

About Uniforms

When you put a deposit on a T.E.A.M. uniform it remains the sole property of T.E.A.M. Our uniforms can not be "sold", only signed out. Non T.E.A.M. employees who possess T.E.A.M. uniforms have stolen property. Our uniforms are registered with D.P.S. and wearing a T.E.A.M. uniform while not on duty is a crime. Any "non" employees or (off duty employees) caught wearing a T.E.A.M. uniform will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Anyone who does not take pride in wearing our uniform does not deserve to wear one. Uniforms may be turned into Chris Casias at the office. If you have any questions and or concerns about your uniform, please feel free to contact Chris or Jeff.

Question for the day...

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? This question has been asked time and time again. Marlies says the chicken came first. Her point was you need the chicken to lay the egg. Mmmmm omelets. Selby says the egg came first. His point was you need the egg to make the chicken. Mmmmm chicken nuggets. There is only one way to know the real answer, ask our resident chicken farmer Brian Gustavson.

MARLIES' THOUGHTS

By Marlies Meinhold

Here it is the day our articles are due and I am scrambling. It has been a crazy month and I haven't had 5 minutes to write this article. With all the tax returns due, W-2's and 1099's it has been extremely hectic. (Not even to mention Block Party Payroll) But W-2's were done a two weeks ahead of schedule. They were actually mailed on 01/24/03, and done on 01/15/03. I need to send a special thanks to Katrina for all her help. She was a big help. Thank you Katrina.

Otherwise, life goes on here at T.E.A.M. A New Year, with new resolutions for everyone. I came across this article about keeping New Year's Resolution, so I thought I would share it:

Achieving Success

Determined that this year you'll keep those New Year's Resolutions? Here are a few goal setting tips to get you started!

Don't Try Everything at Once! There's a temptation, with the New Year, to run off a list of everything we've ever wanted to change. Don't fall for it! You'll have better luck fulfilling one or two goals than you will with a list of fifty. You can always add new resolutions to your list later. Take one thing at a time.

Word it Carefully. Let's say your resolution is to relax more in the coming year. Word this carefully. Try not to think of it as "This year I am going to relax." That's a stress-inducer waiting to happen. It forces you into thinking of the resolution as something you must do, not something you want to do. Try to make it sound a little gentler: "This year I'm going to explore different ways of relaxing." It also suggests more of a plan—you'll fulfill the resolution by experimenting with relaxation techniques. The first resolution sounds as if you're going to force yourself to relax by sheer willpower.

Make a Plan. Once you know what your resolution is, try to break it down. Nobody accomplishes anything of significance by trying to do it all at once. This doesn't have to be a complicated plan; just brainstorm enough to give you a place to start.

For relaxing, you might devise a plan like this:

1) Surf the Internet to find different

relaxation techniques.

2) Make a list of all the techniques that interest you.

3) Pick one of these techniques—meditation, progressive relaxation or self-hypnosis, for instance—and try one for a month.

4) Try a different technique every month until you find one you like.

Write it Down. Write down your resolution and your plan of action. Stick it up on the fridge, in your locker, wherever you know you'll see it. That way you'll have a constant reminder of the resolution. You may want to change the wording as time passes and your goal changes.

Have a great month :) Keep up the great work.

WHATZ UP DOC?

American Chiropractic

That Headache Had Meaning!

Remember this when a headache occurs. You gamble with your health when you treat the pain rather than the cause.

Some headaches have simple explanations such as those resulting from overindulgence in food and drink. This type usually passes as soon as its cause—a disturbed digestive and eliminative tract—has been relieved.

Most other headaches, however, particularly if chronic or recurring, should be taken more seriously, as they may be a warning signal of a more serious health problem. And often the problem is not related to the head.

Headaches can, of course, result from many conditions. But research has revealed that a common cause—often unrecognized—can be traced to the cervical vertebrae (spinal bones of the neck).

One should not delude oneself in assuming that headaches are "normal" and that they can be easily corrected with a package of pain killers! Seeking relief by merely drugging the pain often allows the cause of the symptoms to go untreated. The further a condition is permitted to advance, the more serious it becomes, and the more difficult it is to overcome.

Headaches are the most common health complaint in America today. If you have headaches, it would be an act of wisdom to seek qualified professional counsel as early as possible from a doctor of chiropractic. Under chiropractic care, a patient is either treated or referred after a comprehensive differential diagnosis.

BRIAN'S BACKYARD BARGAINS

By Brian Gustavson

Hello everyone.....for those of you who don't know me, I'm the guy who hands out equipment at Cricket and makes sure you have your equipment at events.

Let me tell you, that this is not an easy job, but I love it! I would love it more if I received equipment back that is all there. If you take a shirt or jacket at an event and want to keep it, please sign a uniform deposit form....it's not that hard. The same thing goes for flashlights. These things don't come free to us. So please sign it out!!!

It is also the supervisor's responsibility to make sure that everything is in the equipment box when returned. If something is missing and there is no paperwork for it.....you will be charged for it. Whether it's a radio, jacket, polo, flashlight or a battery.

One more thing to add, If you are working at an event and you need a piece of equipment....ask your supervisor. Even if you see the equipment just laying there, do them a favor and let them know that you need it.

Well, I guess that's all for now so until next time everyone. HAVE FUN! Brian.

KATRINA'S CURTAIN CALL

By Katrina Marquez

Hello everyone! First of all I would like to thank all of you who worked Barrett Jackson. I know most of you put in a lot of hours thanks. To the overnight crew thanks for everything it's a dirty job but someone has to do it.

I have been here for about 2 months now and I am really enjoying it. I am happy I get to work with Richard Campbell again. I was glad to get to meet some of you at George Strait. I would like to thank a few people who have been woken up to go to work by me. Brett Gibson for covering it all, Matthew Mann for covering overnights, Janine Sheperd on New Year's Day, Brad Hardy for always being there at the last minute, Valerie Callaway for working doubles, Bill Craig for endless schedule changes, Efrain Salinas Jr for Jilly's, Richard Dozier for everything.

I know there are more of you to thank but these stick out in my mind. Please make sure you call in every Monday even if you can't work. That way we know you checked in and your still out there. Also make sure we have the right phone numbers for you.

UNDER THE PLATE

With Sully

Hello T.E.A.M. I just want to remind people of a few things. Events this time of the year have a tendency to be both hot and cold. Often we start the morning when the sun is not up yet and work into sunset. Therefore, it is very important to dress in layers. Make sure you are drinking plenty of water and stay away from event food.

In addition, we are in need of a lot more supervisors. If you are interested or want to know more talk to a supervisor or manager to find out the plan of attack. Being a supervisor brings you a lot more interesting work environment.

Finally Remember to be 15 minutes early for call times. This will allow event managers with a smooth deployment. Also with things being over scheduled you may find yourself without hours.

As always, you can contact me with any questions. C-Ya, Sully

BERT'S BUSINESS

By Bert Rawls

Hello everyone. How's life in T.E.A.M. land? I really don't have much to talk about so I will try to be brief.

First off let me say one thing: PAPERWORK. Our paperwork is vital to what we do and I have seen some paperwork that is lacking in content and important information. Just so everyone knows, if you ask the question to yourself "Should I write an I.R.?", you need to write one. Another thing, our field cards need to be filled out to the fullest extent that you can do. This means that if there is an incident and you make contact and start to fill out a field card- complete it. If the police take over the incident do not be scared to ask the police, AFTER they are done dealing with the investigation phase of their contact, for the personal information on the victims/suspects. If they do not give the information to you after you request it, do not cause a problem, Just get the officers name and put it on the field card. Again, our paperwork is very important, it is our backbone when it comes to client concerns or legal problems.

Other than this problem, I am very pleased with how everything is going in Tempe. If you have any questions call or e-mail me at bert@teamsecurity.net.

LORD OF THE OPS

By Richard Campbell

I sit here writing this thinking of events past, present, and future. I usually start with the thank you portion and drone on from there. I am only going to give those that actually worked a high five and get to the portion that didn't.

We have had a number of changes with licensing since the new year. T.E.A.M. has been tasked with being compliant with state regulations that require everyone to have a guard card to work in this industry. The amount of work that will be available for non-licensed personnel will be minimal.

With that comes changes in how we can schedule and staff events. Mondays are going to be scheduling days for licensed employees and Tuesdays will be scheduling days for non-licensed positions.

On payday Mondays no numbers will be given out before 1545 or by phone. We will also be working on a new delivery system for licensed and un-licensed personnel can pick up their checks. More will follow on this.

I had a unique opportunity to do job interviews for Kelly when she was out sick and my perspective on applicants has changed on what it must be like to walk in here. You fill out an application, sit through an eight hour training session and you are sent out to the field ready to work. That only happens in a perfect world. In our world the new recruits are still going out with the same feelings we had when we first started. That we can never change. I can only say that they deserve all the help toward their enthusiasm that we can give them. We need to instill in them what we have learned about the fact that everyone gets noticed and them to see that all the posts matter not just the Supervisors because without the employees we can't ourselves do the tasks we are assigned. Thanks to my Supervisors is given in my articles now it is time for my Supervisors to pass along that type of accolade to the ones that make your event run smooth and we have given the client what they expect from us. Mick says it all the time that we are only as good as our weakest link, sometimes that happens to be the supervisors in their training habits. A red head has said many times that is easier to fire someone then to train them to do there jobs properly.

VILLA CON DIOS

By Jose Villa

quality adj. Having a high degree of excellence

Every year, we as a company, have a goal that is accompanied by a phrase that drives us for that year. In 2003, our goal is to improve our quality of service above and beyond our already good service. Part of the process of improving our service is focusing on the quality of our team members that provide that service. That means YOU. Our initial focus will be to initiate a structured training program for our supervisors that will further instruct them on leadership and management principles. If you are interested in the becoming a supervisor, contact Richard Campbell or Jose Villa.

Our next step is mandated by new state laws and enforced by the Department of Public Safety. All employees will need to be licensed to work in a security function. Since we are a security company, 99% of our shifts are security. Priority will be given to those that are licensed in scheduling and pay dates. This means that if you have a license, you will be able to schedule on Mondays and if you don't you will be able to schedule on Tuesdays, if there are non-security shifts available. Also, if you are licensed, you will get paid on the regular payday Mondays. If you are not licensed, your pay dates will be changed to Tuesdays.

For those of you that are already licensed and have not taken the Advanced Training class, you must do so by March 31, 2003 or you will be taken of the phone list and not allowed to work until it is taken. There are classes scheduled in February and March. Contact a scheduler to schedule for these classes. A list of all training classes are available on our new website at www.teamsecurity.net. Check the website frequently for new training classes.

I know that we are all busy, but these training classes are very important. Besides, you can make more money by having your license. What better reason do you need.

See you next month!

ROYAL REVUE

By Billy Royal

"It's the friends you can call up at 4 am that matter" --Marlene Dietrich

Unless you're in the scheduling department!

Greetings all! I would like to share with you my feelings about friendship and camaraderie. When I found the above quote, I found it ironic that one of my own favorite expressions was "you really know who your friends are by who you would call at 3 am if you had run out of gas". Now Marlene and I were off about an hour, and I want to know what she was doing out at 4 am, but the message is the same. In a time of need, who would you call with no questions asked, and know that they would assist you in any way they could at anytime. I bet the list is short. I call those kind of friends "life-ers". Now I don't know if my buddy Bobby would drive from Ohio, or Tracy from Boston, or Bruce from Cape Cod, or Scott from NYC, with a can of gas, but if it was in their power, they would do anything for me. I'm also blessed to have my very best friend in my immediate family. My Dad. What a wonderful luxury.

Now you know I usually like to put a spin on things to make us think, here it is. I asked you to think of who you would call to bail you out (figuratively but I guess literally as well!). Now I want you to think about who could or would call YOU to come bail them out? Puts a whole new light on things doesn't it. I know instantly who I would call. Do they know it? Would they feel as comfortable calling me? Why, or why not. Who could call you? Who would you make excuses as to why not and who would you drop everything and run like the wind? What you have just done is define what friend ship means to you.

My Dad has a favorite story he likes to tell about our friendship. He's been telling it at dinners since I was 17. To us, our friendship is defined by a single word, "Absolut". Not the Vodka, he doesn't drink, but the no questions asked support and commitment we have to each other. Even our handshake is unique. Since I was a kid we've shaken hands using an ancient Roman grasp, passing the hands and landing on the wrist. Somewhat like a

grip you would use if someone were trying to save your life. Anytime. Anyplace. For what ever reason. Anyway, back to the story. "If I ever told my Son to drive a tank up the front steps of my house, drive through the front door and stop in the living room, he would do it, pop open the hatch, stick his head out and he would say "Dad you better have a damn good reason for this", but the bottom line is when you have a trusting bond, a true commitment to self and the other individual you trust, knowing that person and that they would never put you in a compromising position. Now the fact that he lived in New York City at the time would have made the whole tank idea a little difficult, but don't ask us to test the system! We'd have one heck of a mess to clean up.

In my three years at T.E.A.M. I have made wonderful friends, both in the office and from our clients. I want to thank you all for your friendship, and if you ever need gas at 3am, call me. Peace.

Take care, be careful and remember, every dayz a holiday! br

MICK'S MEMO

By Mick Hirko

I recently lost a close friend. She was killed on January 3rd, in a single car accident in Oregon, where she was from.

Even though we had known each other less than a year, we had grown very close in that time. We met under the most unusual of circumstances, and it was love at first sight. We encountered many challenges in the time we knew each other, and some pulled us apart, others brought us closer together. I can say at the end, we were looking forward to a future together, and that the prospect of that shared future not only made us both work harder at bettering ourselves, but I have to believe, made her last days happy. She was one of the most beautiful women I had ever seen, both inside and out. She had the most amazing and sincere smile, and eyes that were the deepest blue you can imagine. She had a warmth and depth of caring that I have never seen. She had a lot of demons that she had to fight on a regular basis, but she was winning the battle. She will always remind me of a spring bird, happily flying around, loving every minute of her life, in spite of much pain in that she felt inside. She never showed her hurt, only her happiness. In many ways, she was like a child, living her life to the extreme, and so pleased and happy in discovering something new. A

few of you met her, as she came out to a few shows, and stopped by the office a few times. She was an incredibly shy and private person, and I honor her by not sharing the depth of emotions I feel for having lost her, but just to say that I was blessed by her love, and will miss her very much. Cristy - You are now with the angels you loved so much, and hopefully found the peace you so yearned for. I love you, and will miss you always.

What we do often times exposes us to the worst in people, the dark and ugly underside of humanity. This is not the first time I have shared some of my thoughts on this topic, but I am telling you: Don't let a day go by, without telling someone you care about that you do care. Don't miss an opportunity to share a moment with your loved ones, and don't ever go to bed angry about someone you love. Life is so fragile and precious, and you never know when you can lose someone in your life. All the "coulda, woulda, shoulda's" in the world can not turn back the clock. We are all blessed by having people we care about, and who care about us in our lives. It is our greatest blessing. Never underestimate the power of caring, and the strength of positive emotions. Finally, never take for granted the people in your life. We all have to learn that the hard way at times.

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