

J.E.A.M. CENTS

Volume IX Issue No. 5

May 1-31, 2004

TEN YEARS AND COUNTING

DISCLAIMER

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!!!!!!ALL EMPLOYEES ARE REQUIRED TO WORK ONE SHIFT ON BLACKOUT DAYS!!!!!!

MAY EVENTS

May 5 - Cinco De Mayo -Lots of Work
 May 7 - Campbell's Birthday Bash @ Mr. Luckies
 May 9 - Mothers Day - Get MOM a card.
 May 15 - Armed Forces Day
 May 20 - Styx @ Cricket-**BLACKOUT**
 May 24 - Christina Aguilera and Chingy @ Cricket-**BLACKOUT**
 May 31 - Memorial Day

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

SIX YEARS:

Bill Selby May 27

FIVE YEARS:

Gilbert Murrillo May 31

FOUR YEARS:

Rick Skupski May 17

THREE YEARS:

Pat Targioni May 11
 Lisa White May 20

TWO YEARS:

Fred Begay May 10
 Karri Maloy May 22

Johnnie Powell May 22
 Joel Birch May 22

ONE YEAR:
 Darryl Rice May 10
 Richard Turek May 10
 James Wright May 15
 Dorsey Brown May 22
 Jack Estevez May 31

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Tim Rice May 14
 Regina Walter May 14
 Dominic Contreras May 15
 Robert Russell May 15
 Joey Perez May 15
 Rhonda Brown May 17
 John Crow May 18
 Richard Campbell May 19
 Kathy Kidston May 24
 Dennis Lynch May 24
 John Fox May 28
 Marilindino Yazzie May 29
 Shelton Smith May 29
 Bruce Lawson May 30
 Efrain Salinas May 30

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH THE EMPLOYEE OF THE 1ST QUARTER (**Rhonda Wegner**) AND THE SUPERVISOR OF THE 1ST QUARTER (**Isaac Perez**).

NOTICE TO ALL EMPLOYEES

If any employees bring in leads for new business and those leads turn into a permanent account, there may be a reward for you. If you have any information on any accounts let Taz know and if you are lucky it will turn into a permanent account giving you

your "handsome" reward.

LEGAL LYRICS

This was sent to us by our attorney, Michelle J. Perkins

Dear TEAM Management Personnel:

For those of you who do not know me, I am the attorney for TEAM. I believe I have met most of you. I am writing this e-mail to re-convey the importance of **dating** each and everything you submit in the course of your work for TEAM. If you complete a report, the report needs to be dated. If you are referencing an event that occurred within the report, you need to put the date of the event in the report and the report should be dated the day you write it. If you are copying articles from the newspaper relating to an event that occurred you need to copy the date of the newspaper with the copy of the article. If you are taking a phone message or relaying any type of information, it needs to be dated.

I know that all of you only see one side (i.e. having to do all the work) and may not fully understand the tremendous importance. Sometimes people are asked to do things and it seems redundant or a lot of work over nothing. There is a reason that you are asked to fully document things when they occur. We live in a very litigious society and you will never be able to guess which interaction you have at an event will result in a lawsuit. In addition, most of the things you encounter have a 2 year statute of limitations. What that means is that people can wait for 2 years before they sue. I don't know about the rest of you, but I have a hard time remembering last week. It is

impossible, without the proper documentation, for a person to remember with the necessary specificity a particular individual or event that happened 2 years ago.

I get the other side of the coin, i.e., I am the one that has to piece everything together if or when a lawsuit presents itself. We all know that TEAM does good work. We just have to be able to demonstrate it through the presentation of proper investigations and documentation, that has a date on it.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle J. Perkins, Esq.

Owens & Perkins, P.C.

TAZ TOOLBOX

by Richard Zahn

I would like to take this month's article and explain something that we ALL should know and how we ALL should act. "Treat everyone the way you want to be treated." That is pretty hard to swallow sometimes for some of us, maybe for most of us it's most of the time. Nobody owes us anything! We expect things to be different however we don't go out and make things different. We usually sit and watch and talk.

There is a gentleman that has a saying that goes like this, "All you can do is All you can do, and All you can do is enough." Think about it. If All you can do is All you can do and All you can do is enough, then when is enough?

Enough is when you are sick and you go do it anyway. Enough is when you don't feel like it and you take care of your responsibilities anyway. Enough is when you've done all you can do and you do a little more. Enough is when life kicks you in the teeth and you smile and say It's a great day! Life is how you look at it. Do it without complaining. Treat people like you want to be treated and eventually more and more people will be attracted to you in a positive way. People are people and they will let you down, disappoint you, take advantage of you, talk behind your back and all sorts of things. Life is supposed to be HARD. It's

not supposed to be easy. Life is what you make of it. There will be struggles and let downs, hurts and disappointments and a whole mix of challenges, but life is what YOU make of it!!!

I'm from the thoughts of old school in that when something major comes along that has an impact on an individual or family, I'm there to lend myself and my resources to help make a difference. Well.....this time I'm on the other end of things and it is a very humbling experience. With much thanks I applaud, hug and shed a tear for each one of you that has made a difference in my family situation. I cannot thank you enough! For those of you that don't know we had a fire in our home. The fire damage was minimal however the smoke damage was enormous. I've never seen how devastating smoke can be. Everyone is fine physically, and there was no structure damage. It's rebuild time, something that will take months to get done. I am thankful for the friends I have. I'm sure you've heard people say things like "keep in touch" or "call me if you need anything". Rarely do they follow through. It is even more rare that when someone finds out about a situation, they take their resources, time and money and say here...now what else can we do? That is what you have done. I will never be able to thank my *friends* enough for what you have done for my family and for what you mean to me....*You have touched my heart.*

THANK YOU!

T.E.A.M. is more than just some place to work. It truly is a life changing company and this is just another way it has. People are human. If you learn from the issues and challenges that come your way and apply them to your life, then someday you can experience what TEAMWORK really means. Remember, "All you can do is All you can do and All you can do is enough." Be

safe out there....TAZ

BARBIE'S BLONDE MOMENTS

by Rebecca Nesler

As everyone may know this month has one of the most important days of the year, Mother's Day. To me Mother's Day is so special because I grew up with a single mother. She had to be both parents rolled up in one, and she did a

great job. She has been the biggest inspiration in my life, she has learned from her mistakes and taught me through them. She has not only been my mother but my best friend. I know she would give up everything for my brother and me. So if you know any mother please call them or drop by and see them and let them know they are a good mother. The don't have to be your mom or even have years of experience, just let them know. Here is a good title for you all you mothers.

Just a Mother?

I'm Just a Mother??? Excuse me! A few months ago, when I was picking up the children at school, another mother I knew well rushed up to me. Emily was fuming with indignation. "Do you know what you and I are?" she demanded.

Before I could answer and I didn't really have one handy - she blurted out the reason for her question. It seemed she had just returned from renewing her driver's license at The County Clerk's office.

Asked by the woman recorder to state her occupation, Emily had hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself. "What I mean is," explained the recorder, "do you have a job, or are you just a mother?" "Of course I have a job," snapped Emily. "I'm a mother." "We don't list 'mother' as an occupation... 'housewife' covers it," said the recorder emphatically.

I forgot all about her story until one day I found myself in the same situation, this time at our own Town Hall. The Clerk was! obviously a situation career woman, poised, efficient, and possessed of a high-sounding title like "Official Interrogator" or "Town Registrar." "And what is your occupation?" she probed.

What made me say it, I do not know. The words simply popped out. "I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations." The clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in midair, and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly, emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pompous pronouncement was written in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire.

"Might I ask," said the clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?" Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing program of research (what mother doesn't) in the laboratory and in the field (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters (the whole darned family) and already have four credits (all daughters)." Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day (24 is more like it), but the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are in satisfaction rather than just money."

There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and personally ushered me to the door. As I drove into our driveway, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants - ages 13, 7, and 3. Upstairs I could hear our new experimental model (6 months) in the child-development program, testing out a new vocal pattern. I felt triumphant! I had scored a beat on bureaucracy! And I had gone on the official record as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than "just another mother"!!!

Motherhood. What a glorious career. Especially when there's a title on the door. Send this to another Mother you know. Whether a stay at home Mom or a career Mom, we should all carry this title. Does this make grandmothers Senior Research Associates in the field of Child Development and Human Relations and great grandmothers - Executive Senior Research Associates???

SOMETIMES JUST BECAUSE

Richard Campbell

We have all been on a very wild ride with all the Events over the past couple of months. It has given everyone a lot of experience in the dynamics of the Event world. My Schedulers have for the most part scheduled for 2 Block Parties in 2 weeks, and have still been able to make

things work despite the call offs and last minute additions to the schedule. I know that they have wanted to go postal a few times and I would not have blamed them. So to Pete and Isaac I thank you for all the hard work.

I am writing the newsletter on the heels of the season opener at Cricket Pavilion. Kid Rock was our first show this season and it was a wild one. Getting to see everyone out there and working with people that we only see during the season was a great way to start off.

Now to the serious portion, there are things that happen at every place of business, groups of friends, or just in a group setting. These things usually end up with people taking sides and friendships lost or others not trusting someone they have been close to. There comes a time where decisions are made to do things that not everyone is in agreement on. When it comes down to it all decisions usually have a detractor or two. All I can say about that is not everyone has all the info and at times there can only be one person trying to make a un-biased decision. When others get involved the tempers flare, people take sides, personal feelings get in the way. I for one have always believed in a democratic solution. My thought process has never been so off as it was. I found that by everyone putting in there two cents and getting involved that nothing was accomplished except for hurt feelings and all involved getting the facts muddled. I know this is vague in nature but to all involved it is not, and I know that everyone has heard the rumors. All I can say is that monarchy is the only way to deal with issues. I commend people like Bert, Jared, and Jose for putting it all out there and trying to accomplish just that. I will let them have that, I will deal with the democratic portion and they can have the really hard and fast decisions that evolve with the company.

On to better things. I am going to go to Country Thunder for four days with Mick. Yes the owner of our company. The one that can't stand country music and rides me all the time about being a redneck. I can't wait to see the look on his face when all my relatives are in one place at one time to share some time with

him. I will be collecting all of his weapons and anything that you would from a prisoner on suicide watch so that he can return to work. I know that he may need to take some time to recover but counseling will help him along with regular doses of loud rock music. I am not aloud to bring a camera, video, or recording device so I am telling all my friends to bring that stuff so that we can have before and after pictures.

The only thing left is the Lucky's Bash next month. It will be the 7th of May. It will be Campbell's Birthday ho-down. My birthday is the 19th of May. I hope to see everyone there. Please try to invite one new employee to the event.

SWANSON'S SONG

by Jeff Swanson

Sometimes I get so caught up in the "city life" that I forget to slow down and smell the roses. The other day something told me to walk home from my aunt's house. I was by myself, and for those of you who know me, walking is not something that I normally enjoy doing. I never realized how many rose bushes there were between my aunt's house and mine. The bugs left me alone and the sun was setting. My walk only lasted about 15 minutes, but it was one of the most relaxing things that I have done this week. What is the point of this story? Only one, it never hurts to catch your breath.

For those of you that have not heard, Steve Abbett and Lisa White got married on the 16th. It was a beautiful wedding and I am very happy for them. Finding your life partner is not always easy. My advice to them is to always remember their vows to each other. I would also like to say thank you to both Steve and Lisa for asking me to perform their ceremony. I feel very honored that you entrusted me.

Last but not least. To my wife Suzanne who reads this news letter every month. I remember the day I asked you to marry me, I remember the day you said "I do", I remember the days you told me you were pregnant, I remember the birth of our wonderful children, I remember the day we bought our first house together, I remember the important things, the good things. I love you so much that words just can't describe. Don't worry about things that are not

important, as long as we have each other, things will always be perfect.

ISAAC'S IDEAS

Good day my good T.E.A.M. peeps (people) we just finished the big Kid Rock concert at Cricket Pavilion and I would like to thank everyone who worked that day not just at Cricket but every where else. I would also like to congratulate Rhonda Wegner for being the employee of the quarter you deserve it.

May is here and I don't think there could be a bigger month to be Mexican we have Cinco De Mayo which is Mexican Independence Day, ahhhh a time to drink, celebrate and have a good time kind of like what we do every weekend with just a little more beer. You know it wouldn't be a big Mexican month with out Mothers Day "Dia De Los Madres" I know some of you guys can't say that or are like what in the world, so let me help you out with a little Isaac Spanish 101(no no not female) ready say it with me DEE AH DAY LOWS MAH THRES

keep trying you'll get it sooner or later, anyway Latin Women in this world have more kids than we got employees so Mothers Day for a Mexican man isn't nothing nice, we spend more money on Mothers Day than we do drinking on Cinco De Mayo think about it we got to get something for Mom, something for Nana, Great Nana, Something for Sister if she has kids, Aunts who are like your Mom anyway and something for your baby's Mom depending on how many you

have that's a lot of money but what ever it takes to make them happy on their day I'm cool with that so to all my Mexican friends happy Cinco De Mayo and

to all the baby mama's happy Mothers Day hope you enjoy it.

SWAMP THING

by Pete Van Horn

Guess what? Pete is on vacation and did not turn a newsletter article. Give him a hard time next time you see him.

Bert's Business

by Bert Rawls

Hello everyone. I know you are used to me being a harsh person in my articles, but I thought this time I would pass on a little advice that one of my good friends gave to me the other day.

Live for you and your family. Do not let people try to run your life. You and your family are the most important things and you need to focus on what is important not the little things in life. Especially do not let people push their opinions on you.

Think about it. What is important to you?

Be safe out there and make sure that all of you show up at least 15 min. prior to your shifts. If you don't you will be suspended.

CONNIE'S CREATION

by Connie Cook

I'm finally back! I sure have missed everyone. I had a baby on March 9, 2004

It was a little girl and we named her Emma Lee Cook. Marlies thought of the first name for her. Thank goodness for Marlies, we couldn't figure out a name for a girl. So when she came up with that name we both thought wow simple but cute. So I want to give a special thanks to Marlies. THANK YOU!

Not just for naming Emma, but for everything else that you've have done.
You

have made this time very special for me. To everyone else in the office. I want to thank you all for everything you have done to make this time special. You've all been very patient with me and spoiled me while I was with child. What happened I get nothing! NO FOOD anymore. HA HA just having some fun. I love ya all. bye for now.

Training Time

By 904Rafferty

Safety during searches

Prior to doing a search of the person or their belongings it is important that you notify them prior to doing the search and continue to communicate with them about what you are doing. Always check what is in the patrons' hands before doing a search. When doing a search it is important to **never** stick your hand or anything else into a patrons bag/purse/fanny pack. This is extremely important! For the following reasons.

Personal protection:

(Needle sticks, razorblades, porous absorption of dangerous substances.)

Protection from accusations of theft: ("You stole twenty dollars!")

Protection from accusations that you placed an illicit item in the patrons' bag/purse.

("You put that crack pipe in my purse!")

Below is a case in point, That you should always protect yourself when in the field.

Whether conducting searches at Cricket or working a one-person patrol. Use caution and common sense. Our job is to protect others. But, if we fail to protect ourselves our job is left undone.

Liquid meth sickens security guard

10:01 AM PST on Sunday, March 14, 2004
The Press-Enterprise

A shopping-center security guard was taken to a hospital early Saturday when he became ill after picking up a bag containing liquid methamphetamine, Palm Springs police and fire officials said.

The guard was making his rounds at the Smoke Tree shopping center about 2 a.m. when he discovered a plastic bag filled with some kind of liquid, police Sgt. Phil Parker said by phone.

The guard picked up the bag and a white substance oozed out onto his hand, Battalion Chief Scott Ventura said by phone. "He became nauseous and felt like he was going to pass out."

The guard was able to call for help, Parker said. He was taken to Eisenhower Memorial Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, where he was treated and released, the sergeant said.

The Riverside County Fire Department's hazardous-materials team was called to the scene and determined that the substance in the bag was low-grade methamphetamine, Parker said.

Marlies' Notes:

I would like to focus my article on some of things that I notice back here, in my office in the back of T.E.A.M. As you all know I do all the time sheets, payroll, and a lot of other things also. As it relates to time sheets, I have been noticing a lot of people being late, and or not calling in their hours. If you don't sign in or out call your hours in anyway (ext 233)... OR YOU WONT GET PAID.

We empower our employees with responsibility. I would like to make sure everyone knows the definition of responsibility:

Definition for **responsible**. Bottom of Form

Main Entry: **re·spon·si·ble** 

Pronunciation:
ri-'spän(t)-s&-b&l

Function:
adjective

Date: 1643

1 a

liable to be called on to answer

b

(1)

liable to be called to account as the primary cause, motive, or agent <a committee

responsible

for the job> (2)

being the cause or explanation <mechanical defects were

responsible for the accident>

c

liable to legal review or in case of fault to penalties

2 a

able to answer for one's conduct and obligations

TRUSTWORTHY

b

able to choose for oneself between right and wrong

3

marked by or involving

responsibility

or accountability <

responsible

financial policies> <a

responsible

job>

4

politically answerable;

especially

required to submit to the electorate if

defeated by the legislature -- used

especially of the British cabinet

- **re·spon·si·ble·ness** *noun*

- **re·spon·si·bly** 

/-

ble

/

adverb

synonyms

RESPONSIBLE

,

ANSWERABLE

,

ACCOUNTABLE

,

AMENABLE

,

LIABLE

mean subject to being held to account.

RESPONSIBLE

implies holding a specific office, duty, or trust <the bureau

responsible

for revenue collection>.

ANSWERABLE

suggests a relation between one having a moral or legal obligation and a court or

other authority charged with oversight of its observance <an intelligence agency

answerable

to Congress>.

ACCOUNTABLE

suggests imminence of retribution for unfulfilled trust or violated obligation

<elected officials are

accountable

to the voters>.

AMENABLE

and

LIABLE

stress the fact of subjection to review,

censure, or control by a designated

authority under certain conditions <laws are

amenable

to judicial review> <not

liable

for the debts of the former spouse>.

Bottom of Form

As you read the definition, please think of what it is actually saying. We pay you to be responsible. That is part of your job. Being on time, calling in your hours, signing in and signing out is also part of being responsible.

My responsibility is to make sure all the paychecks are correct. It's not always the easiest thing when I am chasing people around for their hours.

Think about it.

Quotes of the Month:

"Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly."

There is no beginning or end...

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is mystery.

Today is a gift.

MICK'S MEMO

This month is very important to many of us, and I would like to reflect on 2 very important days in the month of May. The First is the Law Enforcement Memorial

Day, on May 15th. After 9/11, many people showed their respect and pride for peace officers and fire firefighters. Most people are not very happy to see a police officer, but we all need to remember that

not only are they there to keep our society safe, but they are often the first line of defense against so much that is now a way of life for all of us. These men and women risk their lives every day they

go to work. Every traffic stop, every domestic violence call, and call for service could be their last. Not only for the many heroes that gave their lives in the call of duty, who gave their all, but for all members of the law enforcement community, please show your respect. If you have a moment, visit this site:

<http://www.nleomf.com/>.

Show your respect, and fly a blue ribbon from the antenna of your car for the month of May, and give a smile and a hand shake to a police officer.

Secondly, May 30th is Memorial Day.

For many, it means the beginning of summer. For me, it means something very deep and hard to share. My Dad is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He was a veteran of both World War 2 and Korea. He was in the 101st Airborne during the landing at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded many of our Nations highest military honors. My father was not only my hero, he was one of our Nation's heroes. It is one of the many reasons that Memorial Day is important to me. If you have any interest in our military history, check out the mini-series "Band of Brothers", a very realistic representation of what really happened. I wish I could sit down with my Dad and talk about his experiences, and his thoughts. Many of you still have that opportunity, by talking to your grandfathers, uncles and others that served. The veterans of World War 2 are dying at a rate of over a thousand a day, so do not take them for granted. They are our living history, and we must show our appreciation for their service and sacrifices.

I once was in Israel, and painted on a wall, was written: "For those who

fought for it, freedom has a flavor the protected will never know". I have never forgotten those words, and they ring true. No one can have any idea what freedom really is, if you have not fought for it, or seen what it is like to not have it. No one can understand the horror and fear of a warrior during battle, or the sacrifices not only made by the soldiers, but by their families, unless you have been there

At this time, where so many of our counties warriors are in harms way in a just cause, I would like to share a few stories that affected me profoundly when I heard them. The first is a story from last year about the Old Guard, the President's and the Military's most distinguished honor guard.

Arlington, Va. -- For the first time ever, soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery were given permission to leave their post at the Tomb of the Unknowns if Hurricane Isabel became too dangerous. None left.

"We made the decision we were going to stand where we were," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Geary, 37. Around the clock each day for about two hours at a time, seven soldiers take turns manning the tomb where the first unknown soldier was buried in 1921.

But on Thursday night, during the height of the storm, Sgt. of the Guard Geary took it upon himself to march for 5-1/2 hours before the tomb against heavy rain and 60 mph wind gusts.

The wind was so strong that it felled at least 24 trees on cemetery grounds, most more than 20 years old. In turn, three headstones were crushed. Crews began working at 4 a.m. Friday to clean up the 612 acres scattered with downed trees and limbs. The tombstones could be replaced within two weeks, officials say.

Looking at the tomb on Friday, Geary, who led the charge to stay, choked up: "Did they volunteer? Did they get drafted? How did they die? They did their job and this country paid them back by not remembering who they were. We have a job to do here and at no time was a life in danger.

"It was my life. I was just doing what I believed to be right."

The second story is about something that happened at the home of the Screaming Eagles, the 101st Airborne Division a few years ago:

It was raining "cats and dogs" and I was late for physical training. Traffic was backed up at Fort Campbell, Ky., and was moving way too slowly. I was probably going to be late and I was growing more and more impatient. The pace slowed almost to a standstill as I passed Memorial Grove, the site built to honor the soldiers who died in the Gander airplane crash, the worst redeployment accident in the history of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Because it was close to Memorial Day, a small American flag had been placed in the ground next to each soldier's memorial plaque. My concern at the time, however, was getting past the bottleneck, getting out of the rain and getting to PT on time.

All of a sudden, infuriatingly, just as the traffic was getting started again, the car in front of me stopped. A soldier, a private of course, jumped out in the pouring rain and ran over toward the grove.

I couldn't believe it! This knucklehead was holding up everyone for who knows what kind of prank. Horns were honking. I waited to see the butt-chewing that I wanted him to get for making me late. He was getting soaked to the skin. His BDUs were plastered to his frame.

I watched-as he ran up to one of the memorial plaques, picked up the small American flag that had fallen to the ground in the wind and the rain, and set it upright again. Then, slowly, he came to attention, saluted, ran back to his car, and drove off.

I'll never forget that incident. That soldier, whose name I will never know, taught me more about duty, honor, and respect than a hundred books or a thousand lectures.

That simple salute -- that single act of honoring his fallen brother and his flag -- encapsulated all the Army values in one gesture for me. It said, "I will never forget. I will keep the faith. I will finish the mission. I am an American soldier."

I thank God for examples like that. And on this Memorial Day, I will remember all those who paid the ultimate price for my freedom, and one private, soaked to the skin, who honored them.

This last story I felt was especially pertinent at this time. It is an open letter written several months ago by an Army Major serving in Iraq. Before you listen to the garbage being spread by Madonna, the Chixy Dicks and other idiots that don't understand the first thing about freedom, you might remember that it is really easy to believe in peace only, if you were raised by hippies or are one. Anyone who has fought for freedom or paid a price for it, knows better. Have we already forgotten 9/11?

OPEN LETTER TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RICHMOND BEACH

It has been a while since I have written to my friends at First Lutheran Church about what's really going on here in Iraq. The news you watch on TV is exaggerated, sensationalized and selective. Good news doesn't sell.

The stuff you don't hear about? Let's start with Electrical Power production in Iraq. The day after the war was declared over, there was nearly 0 power being generated in Iraq. 45 days later, in a partnership between the Army, the Iraqi people and some private companies, there are now 3200 mega watts (Mw) of power being produced daily, 1/3 of the total national potential of 8000 Mw. Downed power lines (big stuff, 400 Kilovolt (Kv) and 132 Kv) are being repaired and are about 70% complete.

Then there is water purification. In central Iraq between Baghdad and Mosul, home of the 4th Infantry Division, Water treatment was spotty at best. The facilities existed, but the controls were never implemented. Simple chemicals like Chlorine for purification and Alum (Aluminum Sulfate) for sediment settling (The Tigris River is about as clear as the Mississippi River) were in short supply or not used at all and when chlorine was used, it was metered by the scientific method of guessing. So some people got pool

water and some people got water with lots of little things moving in it. We are slowly but surely solving that. Contracts for repairs to facilities that are only 50% or less operational are being let, chemicals are being delivered, although we don't have the metering problem solved yet (It's only been 45 days).

How about oil and fuel? Well the war was all about oil wasn't it? You bet it was. It was all about oil for the Iraqi people because they have no other income, they produce nothing else. Oil is 95% of the Iraqi GNP. For this nation to survive, it MUST sell oil. The Refinery at Bayji is at 75% of capacity producing gasoline. The crude pipeline between Kirkuk (Oil Central) and Bayji will be repaired by tomorrow (2 June). LPG, what all Iraqi's use to cook and heat with, is at 103% of normal production and WE, the US ARMY, at least 4th ID, are insuring it is being distributed FAIRLY to ALL Iraqi's.

You have to remember that 3 months ago, ALL these things were used as weapons against the population to keep them in line. If your town misbehaved, gasoline shipments stopped, LPG pipelines and trucks stopped, Water was turned off, power was turned off.

Now, until exports start, every drop of gasoline produced goes to the Iraqi people, crude oil is being stored, the country is at 75% capacity now, they need to export or stop pumping soon, thank the UN for the delay. ALL LPG goes to the Iraqi people EVERYWHERE. Water is being purified as best they can, but at least it's running all the time to everyone.

Are we still getting shot at? Yep Are American Soldiers still dying? Yep, about 1 a day from the 4th ID, most in accidents, but dead is dead.

If we are doing all this for the Iraqi's, why are they shooting at us?

The general population isn't. There are still bad guys, who won't let go of the old regime. They are Ba'ath party members (Read Nazi Party, but not as

nice) who know nothing but the regime.

They were thugs for the regime that caused many to disappear in the night and they have no other skills. At least the Nazis had jobs they could go back to after the war as plumbers, managers, engineers, etc...these people have no skills but terror. They are simply applying their skills...and we are applying ours. There is no Christian way to say they must be eliminated and we are doing so with all the efficiency we can muster. Our troops are shot at literally everyday by small arms and RPGs. We respond and 100% of the time, the Ba'ath party guys come out with the short end of the stick. The most amazing thing to me is that they don't realize that if they stopped shooting at us, we would focus on fixing things and leave. The more they shoot at us, the longer we will stay.

Lastly, Realize that 90% the damage you see on TV was caused by IRAQI's, NOT the war. Sure we took out a few bridges from military necessity, we took out a few power and phone lines to disrupt communications, sure we drilled a few palaces and government headquarters buildings with 2000lb laser guided bombs (I work 100 yards from where two hit the Tikrit Palace), he had plenty to spare. But, ANY damage you see to schools, hospitals, power generation facilities, refineries, pipelines, was ALL caused either by the Iraqi Army in its death throws or the Iraqi civilians looting the places. Could the army have prevented it? Nope. We can and do now, but 45 days ago the average soldier was lucky to know what town he was in much less be informed enough to know who owned what or have the power to stop a 1,000 people from looting a building by himself.

The United States and Britain are doing a very noble thing here. We stuck our necks out on the world chopping block to free a people. I've already talked the weapons of mass destruction thing to death, bottom line, who cares, this country was one big conventional weapons ammo dump anyway. We have probably destroyed more weapons and ammo in the last 30 days than the US Army has ever fired in the last 30 years (Remember, this is a

country the size of Texas), so drop the WMD argument as the reason we came here, if we find it GREAT, if we don't, SO WHAT? I'm living in a "guest palace" on a 500 acre palace compound with 20 palaces with like facilities built in half a dozen towns all over Iraq that were built for one man. Drive down the street and out into the countryside 5 miles away (I have) and see a family of 10 living in a mud hut herding two dozen sheep, Then tell me why you think we are here.

Respectfully, ERIC RYDBOM MAJ,
ENGINEER Deputy Division Engineer
4th Infantry Division

This Memorial Day, show your respect and patriotism. Honor a veteran, help a family who has a loved one deployed in combat. Remember those that gave the last full measure for this great country, our heroes buried in National Cemeteries across this great Nation, laid to rest with honor on beaches and fields on foreign continents. Remember those POW's of wars past and present, the MIA's who we still hold out hope for, and all those that served. It is these men and women who made this Nation great.

We are not a warring nation, but we are always the first to come to the rescue of the downtrodden and oppressed. We appreciate democracy and freedom, and do not impose our will on others, just want to give others the opportunity to chose. I have traveled through much of the world, and can freely say that we are still the greatest country in the world, even if we have our flaws. We are the most patriotic, with good cause. Our flag stands

for more than any other country's. There was a big surge in patriotic pride after 9/11. It has since ebbed, and it should not. We should wake up every day, and our hearts should swell with pride, for we are proud and strong, and have to be thankful for. Remember that this Memorial Day, and show your pride.

After several months of slacking, I have some catching up to do. Thus, several pages later, you are still reading (hopefully) my contribution to

the newsletter. I would like to give a few shout outs (I learned that from Isaac. Next month he is going to teach me tagging):

First of all, to Malcolm, the best pole greaser we have ever had at T.E.A.M.
(Just ask him)

Secondly to Brandon, who by time of this printing will have gone over a month without abusing any animals. We are proud to be back in his house for another great season.

To Sergio, who we found out is easily scared by little girls (Ask TJ for details)

To all of you that did such a great job in the past several months, and have come through for us when we really needed your help.

To Marlies and Jeff, who made our move in January possible, and without whom so many things would not be the way they are, which would not be good.

Finally, to Anna, for being back in my life, for bringing me so much happiness and for putting my doubts to rest. I love you.

We are all looking forward to the upcoming months, with many exciting and fun events and concerts of the horizon. Show your pride in your work, in this great country, and In the people that made it the home of the brave and land of the free. Keep the Peace, and see you out there.