

J.E.A.M. CENTS

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APRIL 1-30, 2005

ELEVEN YEARS AND COUNTING

DISCLAIMER

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

04/01 to 04/03 - **BLACKOUT DAYS**

AZ Beer Festival @
Arizona Center,
Downtown Phoenix

04/01 to 04/03 - **BLACKOUT DAYS**

DTC Festival of the Arts
@ Downtown Tempe

04/01 to 04/08 - Arizona Bike Week @
Rawhide

04/02 - **BLACKOUT DAY**

Tempe Music Fest @ T.B.P.

04/02 to 04/03 - **BLACKOUT DAYS**

Arizona Pride Festival @
Steel Indian Park

04/07 - Forks and Corks @ Esplanade on
Camelback

04/12 - **BLACKOUT DAY**

Jimmy Buffett @ Cricket Pavilion

04/14 to 04/17 - Country Thunder @
Florence, Arizona

04/15 - **BLACKOUT DAY**

Arizona Christian Music Fest @
Cricket Pavilion

04/29 to 05/01 - McDowell Mountain

Music Festival @
Westworld

05/11 - **BLACKOUT DAY**

Maroon 5 @ Cricket Pavilion

05/15 - **BLACKOUT DAY**

Alan Jackson/Sarah Evans/The
Wrights @ Cricket Pavilion

05/19 - **BLACKOUT DAY**

Snoop Dogg/The Game @
Cricket Pavilion

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Five Years: Richard Campbell

Two Years: Ben Barber
Jon Tucker

One Year: Albert Williams

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Chris Green	04/01
Albert Williams	04/02
John Peck	04/06
Mike Hammerand	04/08
Eric Horsman	04/12
Jacklyn Smith	04/15
Gabe Ginsburg	04/21
Amanda Morrissey	04/22
Tom Klepac	04/27

T.E.A.M. IS NOW HIRING

If you like your job, why not tell a friend?

If you refer someone to T.E.A.M., who we consider a good candidate, they get a great job and you get a little something extra on your paycheck.

(\$25.00 for each person, once that person completes 100 hours)

A Reminder to everyone!!!!

All T.E.A.M. Employees have signed an agreement that they will work at least one shift on all **BLACKOUT DAYS**. If you fail to do so, you voluntarily resign your position with T.E.A.M.

This has always been our policy and it is the most strictly enforced policy. If you do not remember signing the "Blackout Days" form I will gladly show you your signed obligation with T.E.A.M.

LANE'S LINES

Apples & Wine (The Secret to 25 Years of Marriage)

Women are like apples on trees. The best ones are at the top of the tree. Most men don't want to reach for the good ones because they are afraid of falling and getting hurt. Instead, they just take the rotten apples from the ground that aren't as good, but easy.....

The apples at the top think something is wrong with them, when in

reality, they're amazing. They just have to wait for the right man to come along, the one who's brave enough to climb all the way to the top of the tree.

Now Men.... Men are like a fine wine. They begin as grapes, and it's up to women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

Many of you know that I recently celebrated my 25th Anniversary with the most wonderful woman in the world. I am still amazed that she has kept me around since I do not:

- 1). Take out the trash.
- 2). Pick up after myself.
- 3). Put the lid back down.
- 4). Balance the checkbook.

After all the kidding and jokes, I realized that (for me) this is the best relationship in the world. Not only could I not do better, but that I want to be better for my wife and family. It did get me thinking about some of the people I work with, though. I really am a very lucky person being able to do a job that I truly enjoy and have the company of some outstanding people. I don't mean just the people in the office, but all the staff that comes out to the events, stadiums, and job sites.

So after 10 months of "observing", here are some things that might be of interest (or not) to those of you reading this article.

Mick Hirko is the owner of T.E.A.M. I'll bet dollars to donuts that 50% of the staff doesn't know this. Sometimes, he is referred to as the "Stealth" owner. His IQ is somewhere close to the number of call offs we have on a blackout weekend. (over 150) He is one of 5 Republicans that I'll actually listen to. Ask me who the other 4 are some time. You might be amazed.

Red necks are not really red. They eat more sushi with chopsticks than I do. Pick up trucks are their standard mode of transportation. Everyone laughs about the trucks until they have to move apartments or haul new kitchen appliances around. Tight jeans are not by choice. They wear these to keep their necks red.

Do not tell Marlies anything that you do not want her to remember. There is a CD

burner in her head and her memory is close to perfect. Lying to her is suicide by embarrassment. However, if you have a question about TEAM, Marlies will probably have the answer. I have seen her (and heard her) direct people to event sites, explain post orders, process ejections and clear up payroll protests all at the same time.

If there was any job at TEAM that qualifies for the TV Show MAX XTREME, The Worlds Worst Jobs, it is scheduling. Being stuck between a rock and a hard place would be an improvement. For those of you that are parents, you understand this role instinctively. Whinny kids, bossy in-laws, high stress jobs and no time off. For those of you that haven't been there yet, I recommend a month behind the phones.

You will either have the patience of a saint or the criminal record of a psychopathic axe murderer.

Being the Director of Human Resources is kinda like being a priest. Every week people tell you outrageous lies and ask for penance. I cannot name names but I can give you some examples of the stories. For example, did you know:

- 1). ...that it takes 6 hours to order a meal from McDonalds?
- 2). ...that security guards have 6 sets of parents that die 2 to 3 times a year?
- 3). ...that honesty is as rare as hen's teeth?

Taz (Richard Zahn) has missed his true calling in life. Tony Robbins, Zig Ziggler and Susan Orman have all taken lessons from Taz on public speaking and motivational lectures. Taz could sell a bald man a comb or life insurance to a corpse. What I have seen Taz do is motivate and encourage people to go the extra mile. If you were to look up "Customer Service" in the dictionary, you would see "Richard Zahn" as the definition. Any manager that can stand on the roof of a furniture store, casino or concert hall and direct cars and traffic in the wind, snow, rain and blazing heat does not need a commendation. He needs a psychiatrist.

Things we take for granted.

Clean uniforms

Gatoraide to drink

Flashlights when we forgot to bring our own.

A tent to sit in out of the sun.

It is said that a good military leader thinks in terms of supply.

A great military leader thinks in terms of logistics. Getting what you need out to where you need it when there are multiple locations and venues, a variety of needs and limited time is more closely associated to magic than juggling. Jeff and his crew are the "roadies" of the event world. There is very little glamour, almost zero recognition and hours of boredom accented by moments of sheer terror.

And what about our TEAM mates? The longest I have held a post is 12 hours. My feet hurt, my back hurt, I did more squats from pat downs than I ever did in a gym. Yet, I have seen guards pull 12 hour shifts, go home and shower, pull another 6 hours and then get ready to pull an overnight. I have seen guards remain at their post when the next shift was late because it was in the best interest of the client. Guards have routinely volunteered to work for charities because they believe that charity begins at home. I saw guards approached by other security companies with enticements and still remain loyal to TEAM.

Is it any wonder that TEAM Security is the leader in Special Event Security? Anniversaries are amazing benchmarks that allow us to look back to what we have accomplished and to look forward to what is in the future. I hope that all my co-workers and fellow employees look at what we have, believe that it is the result of dedication and hard work, and look forward to a bright future with a company that values its employees.

Truthful
Energetic
Able
Motivated

Do you want \$1,000.00?

Me Too, but now that I have your attention.

There are 5 Blackout Days in April so be prepared to work them all.

TAZ TOOLBOX

GREAT Day! It always can be. You have the ability to change everything. 2005

WOW, a chance to "start over" and make a

difference.

I appreciate ALL the things that you guys (and gals) do out in the field that continues to make a difference for the client, the patrons, the facility and venue and our staff. Each one of you are leaders in your own way. You are depended upon to contribute a little bit of yourselves in every effort, above and beyond, for the completion of each and every event. To have a patron comment on how well we did our jobs, or a facility to recommend we come back, or the client for choosing us above the rest. It takes A LOT to impress and do a good job, many hours of work in the office and in the field. The Supervisor in planning and executing an event no matter how big or small. The employee who continues to strive for excellence with courtesy to each patron and staff member they come in contact with. It takes much work for success....it takes seconds to leave a bad impression. Always go the extra step. You never know how or to whom you will make a difference.

A movie that comes to mind is "Pay it Forward." You will never know just to what degree the impact you all have on people....

Here is something I found that reminded me of my "duties" to others. Enjoy.....

Read this once, it will make you think.

FIVE (5) lessons to make you think about the way we treat people.

1 - First Important Lesson - Cleaning Lady.

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one:

"What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely," said the professor. " In

your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello".

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

2. - Second Important Lesson - Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in the conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him.

Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached.

It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away... God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others."

Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.

3 - Third Important Lesson - Always remember those who serve.

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

"How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked.

"Fifty cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it.

"Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired.

By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient.

"Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied

The little boy again counted his coins.

"I'll have the plain ice cream," he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies.

You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

4 - Fourth Important Lesson - The obstacle in Our Path.

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand!

Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

5 - Fifth Important Lesson - Giving When it Counts...

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare & serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded.

He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away."

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

Now you have 2 choices.

- 1. Delete this from your memory banks, or
2. Share it with people you care about. I hope that you will choose No.
2.....and remember.

Most importantly "Work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like you do when nobody's watching."

Remember you ALWAYS make a difference! You just may not know when.....

Be safe

out there.....TAZ

TAZBOX

Funny things happen to doctors

A man runs into the ER and yells, "My

wife's going to have her baby in the cab!" I grabbed my stuff, rushed out to the cab, lifted the lady's skirt and began to take off her underwear. Suddenly I noticed that there were several cabs - and I was in the wrong one. Dr. Mark MacDonald, San Antonio, TX

At the beginning of my shift I placed a stethoscope on an elderly and slightly deaf female patient's anterior chest wall. "Big breaths," I instructed. "Yes, they used to be," replied the patient.
Dr. Richard Byrnes, Seattle, WA

One day I had to be the bearer of bad news when I told a wife that her husband had died of a massive myocardial infarct (heart attack). Not more than five minutes later, I heard her reporting to the rest of the family that he had died of a "massive internal fart."

Dr. Susan Steinberg, Manitoba, Canada

During a patient's two week follow-up appointment with his cardiologist, he informed me, his doctor, that he was having trouble with one of his medications. "Which one?" I asked. "The patch. The nurse told me to put on a new one every six hours and now I'm running out of places to put it!" I had him quickly undress and discovered what I hoped I wouldn't see. Yes, the man had over fifty patches on his body! Now, the instructions include removal of the old patch before applying a new one.
Dr. Rebecca St. Clair, Norfolk, VA

While acquainting myself with a new elderly patient, I asked, "How long have you been bedridden?" After a look of complete confusion she answered...Why, not for about twenty years - when my husband was alive."

Dr. Steven Swanson, Corvallis, OR

I was caring for a woman from Kentucky and asked, "So how's your breakfast this morning?" "It's very good, except for the Kentucky Jelly. I can't seem to get used to the taste" the patient replied. I then asked to see the jelly and the woman produced a foil packet labeled "KY Jelly."

Dr. Leonard Kransdorf, Detroit, MI

A nurse was on duty in an emergency room when a young woman with a purple hair styled into a punk rocker Mohawk,

sporting a variety of tattoos, and wearing strange clothing, entered. It was quickly determined that the patient had acute appendicitis, so she was Scheduled for immediate surgery. When she was completely disrobed on the operating table, the staff noticed that her pubic hair had been dyed green, and above it there was a tattoo that read, "Keep off the grass." Once the surgery was completed, the surgeon wrote a short note on the patient's dressing, which said, "Sorry, had to mow the lawn."

AND FINALLY...

A new, young MD doing his residency in OB was quite embarrassed performing female pelvic exams. To cover his embarrassment he had unconsciously formed a habit of whistling softly. The middle-aged lady

Upon whom he was performing this exam suddenly burst out laughing and further embarrassed him. He looked up from his work and sheepishly said, "I'm sorry. Was I tickling you?" She replied, "No doctor, but the song you were whistling was, "I wish I was an Oscar Meyer Wiener". (Dr. wouldn't give his name).

Remember...TAZ

SWANSON'S SONG

I was listening to talk radio_as I often do while I'm driving and I heard some stuff that made a lot of sense, so I thought I would share a little with you. The first is "It takes almost the same time to do something right, as it does to do it half a__ed." The second is "How can there not be enough time to do a job correctly, but there be enough time to do it twice?"

I've often written that the values and priorities of people, in my opinion, have changed for the worse. In general, I believe that people want to work less and get paid more. People want bigger and shinier things, but want to pay less. People want to have kids, but want someone ells to raise them. People want to drive faster, but don't want anyone to pass them. At what point is enough, enough? In the security world, much like the police and

fire dept. world, we only get one chance.

People rely on us. We are in a unique situation. This is not a job where you are going to make your first million, nor is it a job that you will receive an abundance of compliments. Where we get our fulfillment is when we reunite a lost child to their parent, or when we find a weapon on a patron before anyone gets hurt, or when we give directions to someone and you sense their gratitude. Everyone in this world has something that fulfills them. Many of you have other jobs or go to school, but I hope that all of you remember your experiences at T.E.A.M. Working here changes the way we look at things. Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone worked your job here for 6 months? I'm proud to be a part of this TEAM, and hope that all of you feel the same.

LILLY'S LULABYE

Hey! to everyone in TEAMland. Hope all is well with you and yours. To all the new hires....welcome to TEAM. To all the "old timers", thanks for staying with us. We appreciate the hard work of each and every one of you.

Spring is here and that means warmer days ahead....soon. Remember to take plenty of water and sunblock to your job sites. We can't guarantee there will be extra water at the site and we don't want you getting dehydrated.

Attitude: Your attitude will determine what kind of day you will have. Whether you're at work or play, if you have a bad attitude you will have a bad day. When you're assigned a post and you have a negative attitude towards it, you will have a bad time and treat patrons accordingly. With a positive attitude you, and everyone around you, will have a much better time.

So, smile and make the best of it. No assignment is more or less important than another. It's all in your attitude towards it!

With the addition of Robert there are now 3 rednecks in the office. I think Mick is getting nervous we're taking over (if he only knew...). In honor of that, I've included a little redneck humor. Enjoy! Talk to ya next month.

Redneck High Tech

Backup - What you do when you run across a skunk in the woods.

Bug - The reason you give for calling in sick.

Byte - What your pitbull done to cousin Billy Joe Jim Bob.

Chip - Pasture muffins that you try not to step in.

Terminal - Time to call the undertaker.

Crash - When you go to Junior's party uninvited.

Digital - The art of counting on your fingers.

Diskette - Female Disco dancer.

Fax - What you lie about to the IRS.

Hacker - Uncle Leroy after 32 years of smoking.

Hardcopy - Picture looked at when selecting tattoos.

Internet - Where cafeteria workers put their hair.

Keyboard - Where you hang the keys to the John Deere.

Mac - Big Bubba's favorite fast food.

Megahertz - How your head feels after 17 beers.

Modem - What you do when the grass gets too high.

Mouse Pad - Where Mickey and Minnie live.

Network - Scooping up a big fish before it breaks the line.

ROM - Where the Pope lives.

Screen - Keeps mosquitoes off the porch.

Serial Port - A red wine you drink with breakfast.

Superconductor - Amtrak's Employee of the year.

SCSI (pronounced scuzzi) - What you call your week-old underwear.

Marlies' Notes

We it's that time again to write my article. We just had our first Cricket show this past weekend, and that is what on my mind. Motley Crue.... What a way to start a season at Cricket.

For all the new employees, I would like to introduce myself. I was the person at the table at Cricket with the 6 radios. I was the person doing dispatch and I was also the person that signed everyone in and out.

With everything that was going on at

Cricket, I did manage to put some more names with employee's faces. I would like to refer back to my January newsletter article.

"The next time you are at an event, see how many people's names you know. Go out of your way and make it a point to meet and learn at least 5 peoples names. If you see me, and you need to know someone's name, ask me. If I do not know, I will find out also."

How many people learned at least 5 people's names?

February came and disappeared quickly, now we are halfway through March. Boy this year is flying by. Easter is right around the corner, and so is April. Isn't that amazing we are already ¼ of the way through 2005. At this rate New Year's Eve is right around the corner. So I wish everyone a wonderful April!

LYNN'S LYRICS

The word listen contains the same letters as the word silent. - Alfred Brendel

Active listening is one of the most important skills of communication. But how well is it done in practice?

The CEO of a large multinational company based in Britain once said that he owed his success to three things: his ability to listen ... his ability to listen ... and his ability to listen! He explained that in his day-to-day dealings in the company, he spoke to lawyers, electricians, engineers, and accountants. Many times he didn't understand what they were saying and only by listening carefully was he able to get to the core of the problems.

We all know that some people are better listeners than others. How often have you come across a person at a gathering who won't let you finish your story before bursting forth with their own story, which they obviously feel is more interesting than yours? Have you experienced the "conversation surfer" who shows little interest in what you are saying and tunes in to parallel conversations of surrounding groups?

I have witnessed many conversations where two people are busily telling their own tale without taking notice of any replies and

merely waiting for the other to pause so that their next thought can be verbalized. An American psychologist once said, "Conversation in the States today is a competitive exercise where the first person to draw breath is declared the listener!" It is not confined to the States; it happens all over the world.

In the our busy world, many people not only speed read, but speed listen as well. Such is the world today, where there is never enough time! Speed-reading is an ideal method of getting the gist of written communication, but "speed listening" is filled with danger.

Sometimes you need to be silent on the inside as well as outside to listen well!

ROBERT'S ROPERS

You Guys Rock!!!!

The beginning of the season started off with a bang because all of you did YOUR jobs ABOVE and beyond what I could ever ask. Do you know how great it makes me feel when a client tells me that they want YOU back for every event they have scheduled? Does that make you proud? Do you know when you show up on time with a professional attitude (because you are professionals) you make T.E.A.M. stand out above the rest! It is all because of you.

This month was a very busy month. Think about what you did RIGHT. Think about what you could do better because the next few months will be even more challenging. I am very confident every one of you will step up and perform even better than you did last month.

When I came to work for T.E.A.M., I was impressed that everyone did their part to get the job done, no matter what the task. That ethic is an integral part of me. I will do whatever it takes to get the job done, and I appreciate those of you who will do the same.

Remember, we are a customer orientated business. Without our clients, we shut our doors.

This is what T.E.A.M. means to me.

Together
Everyone
Accomplishes
Much

Be proud of who you are and what you do.

I am.

Robert

Would you like lots of

SEX SEX SEX SEX SEX SEX
Who wouldn't!!!

Got your attention again!
Remember that April 1st, 2nd, 3rd,
12th and 15th are all Blackout
Days and you are required to work.

BERT'S BUSINESS

Hey everyone. For my vocabulary lesson this month I have chosen the word OBLIGATION.

To correctly define Obligation I need to define Obligate as well so here is your lesson.

Obligate - 1: to bind legally or morally 2: to commit to meet an obligation.

Obligation - 1: the action of obligating oneself to a course of action (as by a promise or vow) 2: something (as a formal contract, a promise, or the demands of conscience or custom) that obligates one to a course of action.....

Source: Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary; Tenth Edition

You may ask where am I going with this. Well I am sure a few of you have figured it out. When all of you went through orientation you signed multiple forms acknowledging that you both understand and will follow T.E.A.M. Policies and Procedures. The term "Blackout Day(s)" is mentioned more than once and you sign a form dedicated to just this policy. You are OBLIGATED to work all Blackout Days.

There are very few places of employment that are as lenient with

schedules as T.E.A.M. is. If you went to any other company and interviewed for a position with that company and stated "I only feel like working one day every two weeks". See what they tell you. I will be willing to bet the response you get will not be pleasant and you will not have a position with that company.

We have Blackout Days for a reason. There are a few days a year that we need everyone to work because of the workload. If you do not want to follow our policy then please call me and resign. I do not want to waste your or my time. If you do not want to resign on your own then when you do not work a Blackout Day you will resign anyway so make it easier on everyone.

MICK'S MEMO

In the past several weeks, I have begun this newsletter contribution several times. All, up to now have been abandoned, simply because the subject matter outdated itself too fast. I give up. I am going to write what is my mind, not worry on how current it is by the time it gets to press. Hey, you know what my idea of a nightmare is? A French TSA employee. OK, now that I got that out of the way, on to matters at hand.

I am sure most of you heard about Terri Schiavo, the woman in a vegetative state in Florida. Whatever sympathy I may have had for her family I lost, when her parents and their attorney equated her situation to the suffering of Christ. SHUT UP. Using the proximity of Easter as a basis of this to me is disgusting, tasteless and blasphemous. Hey, her spine has turned into mush, she is not feeling anything. Any of you that saw "the Passion of the Christ", you think Jesus felt nothing? I have message for the parents - If you really think that your daughter is like Jesus Christ, let her go. She will rise again in three days. Her brother then getting on his soapbox, comparing her to the suffering of the Jews in the concentration camps of World War II sealed the deal for me - Terri is not the only member of her family that is in a vegetative coma. This whole situation is out of control. Does the concept of the quality of life mean anything to them? If all these

people that are having temper tantrums and demonstrating her deathbed would use their energy to point out the plight of thousands of children dying every day in Africa, we might have a better world. Schiavo died 15 years ago. Let her go. She cannot be helped. The people suffering here and now can be. One important thing all this does point out, that effects all of us - get a living will. Don't think you are young and bullet proof. Terri was young and vibrant when she ended up in a coma. She did not think she needed one. Just because we have the technology to keep a human shell alive, does not mean we should. Do not put your family and loved ones into that situation. 50 years ago, we would have never heard of Terri Shiavo, simply because the technology to do what they do now did not exist, and no human being should have to make the choice of life or death of a loved one. Hey, hopefully none of us ever have to, but it does happen every day. None of us want to think about it. I did not want to, either, but my attorney drafter one up for me a long time ago, and as much as it disgusted me at the time, I am glad I did it. No worries, if something ever does happen to me, it is clearly written into the document to begin a criminal investigation into Campbell's possible involvement.

I look around my little world, and am constantly amazed by what we worry about. The news is full of Terri Shiavo and Michael Jackson. When is the last time you saw or heard any updates in the progress of democracy in Afghanistan or Iraq? Because our soldiers are not getting killed every day over there anymore, it is not important what is happening there. Our troops are still there, their friends and families still worry about them, and the whole reason we are there is still real. Things are getting better for Iraqis every day. Does the media show that? No, not interesting. They might actually have to admit that Bush may have been right. That democratic reforms are spreading all over mid-east, in not half as interesting as the color of the pajamas that Jackson wore to court.

By the way - news flash. We lost the war on terrorism. A too little

mentioned document called the Patriot Act assured our defeat. The irony of that it was created by our government, not foreign insurgents. It took away so many of our rights and freedoms that we will never get back, that there is no way we will ever be able to say we won the war on terror. We will never get those rights back. Trust me. The government likes having more control over each and every one of us, and the provisions of the Patriot Act, even though good on principle are being abused every day by small minded, impotent bureaucrats to abuse civil rights, and gather personal information on innocent people. This is dangerous stuff, and most of us won't realize how much we lost until it is too late. Guess what - It already is too late. I strongly support our government, but also will not accept everything that they try to tell us they are doing for "our own good". I think I know what is best for me, and do not need anyone else deciding that for me, and neither should you. The right we have is one of the few things that sets us apart from the citizens of most other countries. The loss of liberty often comes as an evolution. The regaining of that liberty will require a revolution. Be informed. It is a right you still have, and your obligation.

By the time you all read this, the whole Shiavo matter will hopefully only be a mention for the history books, not that I think it even deserves that, but I do hope that it makes all of us think about how fragile life really is, and makes everyone appreciate the blessings that each and every one of us has in our lives. Live life with passion, happiness in your heart and always keep your mind open to the possibilities that are out there. You never know when someone can touch your life. Keep the Peace, and I'll see you out there.

Mick