

September 2010 Volume XIX

Edition IX

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Disclaimer

Misty Water Colored Memories....by Ashleigh Gaylord

Top 10 Memories with TEAM

My most vivid memory, is fainting on my very 1st shift on the 4th of July, working at Rawhide. That taught ME how to over-hydrate! Gravel in the face is NOT very fun and WILL teach you these things.

- Pulling this crazy man (looked like he was on drugs) out of the seating area by the mixer per request of Cricket Pavilion staff and pretending like I was going to be his friend (we locked elbows). Then calling over 2 big roamers to take him away. Psychel
- Trying to get this really drunk guy to leave when McDowell Mountain Music Fest was over. We kept coaxing him to the exit, but he sure was set on going out the VIP gate, which was in the OTHER direction and he kept yelling about his discontent. PD got in his face near the exit and finally got him out of there.
- The girl fight at VIP during a Warped Tour concert. Girls are the worst when it comes

- to breaking up fights because they don't let it go! I had to tell the one girl she could NOT go in the bathroom after the other one.
- Taking pictures in the pit for this crazy band in the parking lot at Warped Tour.
 The singer had fake blood dripping down his chest and decided to jump from the top of the speakers into the crowd. He was insane and creeped me out.
- The night I worked Widespread Panic and got MAJOR munchies. I wasn't even inside the theatre, I was working VIP! And I ended up eating some pizza from this random guy on the street, who I found out later was selling Nitrous balloons earlier in the night.
 Hey, Dan did it so I figured it was safe. J
- Working on top of concessions to video tape the fires for Mayhem. There are some crazy characters out there. They like to throw things at you when you are up there too...not very nice. I saw lots of birds...of the finger nature.

- Working the TCA Ballet and having way more cars than we could handle with 3 guards. It was intense but I loved the energy.
- All the Arts Fests have lots of memories. Specifically in my mind...Sharpie eyeliner and techno parking cones. Hahaha! When you work a 3 day event and don't get the normal amount of sleep, things can get quite amusing. This last time on the last night, I got to roll around in Butch's wheelchair while he went somewhere. It was cool (yes, he said I could). Oh and vendor Tetris is always real fun. Probably my favorite part.
- New Year's Eve in the Blue Ox. This was the PD command on top of Mill Ave. Bridge. I got to work with some awesome people, Joy being my favorite. All the commanders have been a pleasure to work with as well. The best part was the view of the fireworks right above us!

Remember...9.11.01



T.E.A.M. Security is pleased to partake again this year in the Healing Fields Project 2010. Every year, volunteers gather together to set up Tempe Beach Park to create a dynamic memorial to those who lost their

lives in the horror of September 11, 2001. Each year volunteers assemble in the early morning to pound stakes, mark lines and set thousands of flags in the ground. One flag to mark the life of every person who died that day in New York City. Simply viewing the Memorial is amazing. Being able to stand back at the end of the day and look around you at the people you worked with to help make it come to life, to be part of this yearly celebration of what it truly means to **REMEM-BER...and NEVER FORGET** is an experience that you will never forget. It changes you on the inside, somehow saddens you while you are prouder than ever. If you would like to

sign up for any of the volunteer shifts avail-

able, please call or stop in the office. Many hands make for lighter work and it takes a lot of work to put this all together. If you are unable to volunteer, please still stop down at Beach Park, and take a moment to reflect.



View From the Captain by Ashleigh Gaylord

Top Ten Things to Expect Working Top of VIP at Cricket

- Women aimlessly walking towards me, looking up for a sign. When they get to me, I ask for their ticket, and they look at me like I have two heads. Then they proceed to say, "I just need to use the restroom" to which I reply, "it's right there behind you" and point. Then they get embarrassed and say "Oh I'm so sorry" and then I make them feel better when I tell them people do it ALL the time.
- The drunken "high five" guy. This guy loves to give you five every time he comes into VIP and every time he leaves.
- The guy that gets into the line, and when he gets to me, puts his hands up and asks if I need to frisk him. I nonchalantly just respond with "no that's not necessary I just need your ticket" and then I smile.
- 4. People that want a picture with Captain

- Morgan. The cap'n is ridiculously popular believe it or not. I can't say I blame people for loving him...I have a picture with him myself. J
- 5. Cougars. Yeahhhh...those women that dress like they are still in college or high school...but shouldn't be. You just wanna say..."lady...c'mon now...have some class!" And usually it's these women that get totally wasted and start wobbling when they come back through the gate. I believe the men they are with are usually pretty wasted too.
- 6. The regulars. I do see a lot of the same people at every show, and it's always such a good feeling to say "Welcome back!" I think they feel special to be remembered. Ruele is one of my favorites. He always gives me a hug and he's a funny guy.
- 7. People with other "VIP" lanyards. This gets pretty annoying. They come to my gate with a VIP lanyard that's for a completely

- separate area, such as the private party in the East Party Area. I tell them it's not for my area and they insist "but it says VIP on it". Then I explain to them where THEIR VIP is located and usually they are pretty happy that I can help them get to the right place.
- Bribes. Yep...people have tried to bribe me quite a few times at VIP. They want to get a drink after the bars close on the plaza, or they just want to get in to hang out with the cool crowd. I've even had someone DRAW a picture of a ticket and try to hand that to me. I gave him an A for effort.
- Possible celebrities coming through. At one country concert, I stopped Julianne Hough (I didn't know who she was). Her handler was right behind her and informed me she was one of the performers and that he was her handler. Of course I apologized and let them through. At least they knew I was doing my job.
- 10. Jean. Jean is the beer guy. He's super nice and always asks if I need anything.

Cop Quest is my one stop shop for holsters. They have holsters for everything, and make it really easy to match the gun you have to the holster you need. Their page is super easy to navigate and they also usually offer some cool free stuff like hats for orders over a certain amount. They also have free shipping on orders over \$99.

www.dutygearstor.com

I have never ordered anything from dutygearstore.com, but I have checked it out a bunch of times. They have A LOT of stuff, everything from pants, to rams, shields, lock pick kits, and a whole bunch of other stuff that you wouldn't really need unless you were on a SWAT Team.....but if wishing made it so.

Bottom line when it comes to getting any work stuff, most peoples priority is to save some money. If you are looking to be frugal, check out the online stores first. Perhaps get together with some friends and make a large order to cut down on the cost of shipping. If you just need something quick or in an emergency (such as your pants rip before a cricket show.....it's happened before) swing into one of the local uniform/police supply stores. I would recommend Universal Police Supply first; they know TEAM and have a friendly staff that will help you find what you need. Good luck with your shopping and if you find a cool deal or new piece of equipment you think I won't be able to live without, let me know. See you in the field.

Good Deals on Your Gear by David Ellis

Some people have a problem with buying too many shoes, or collecting random things like coins and stamps. I have a problem with buying and colleting too much equipment and duty gear. Because of my affliction, I was asked to contribute an article in this month's newsletter on places here in town and on the internet where you all can go to pick up equipment such as flashlights and duty belts, as well as work clothes like pants and boots.

Local stores:

Here in town there are four major uniform/ police supply stores that you can get all kinds of goodies based on where you live in the valley.

Universal Police Supply Co.

2090 E. University Dr. #115 Tempe, AZ 85281

4801-968-2118

Universal also has an online store that you can check out at www.mypolicestore.com

East Valley Uniforms

2602 W. Baseline Rd. Mesa, AZ 85202

480-831-5199

Arizona Tactical (located inside AZ Shooter's World)

3828 N. 28th Ave Phoenix, AZ 85017 www.arizonatactical.com

Ace Uniforms

1506 E. McDowell Rd.

Phoenix, AZ 85006 602-258-7029

www.aceuniforms.com

For most of my uniform or equipment needs however, I like to check out the deals online first. Below I have listed a few of my top online stores. Most of the online stores have a clearance section you can check out for good deals.

www.lapolicegear.com

This is by far the first place I check when looking for anything I need. Check out the "Closeout", "5.11 Closeout" and "CEO's Closeout" sections. Most of the time they have awesome deals on stuff like pants and boots. You might have to get lucky to find what you want in the right color/size, but if you can find what you want, you can save tons of money! Also, the LA Police gear brand name is a quality brand at a discounted price compared to name brands like 5.11 or Blackhawk.

www.galls.com

Galls' is another company that has their own brand name. It is not a bad quality and will save you some money. They are also a 5.11 Tactical distributer.

www.qmuniforms.com

Quartermaster Uniforms has been around for a long time. I used to get their paper catalog in the mail all the time. They are quick with delivery and have a cool section called "\$10 Tuesday" where you can find random but cool stuff like sunglasses and gloves on sale for \$10.

www.copquest.com

The Calendar

All Employees are required to work a shift on a blackout day.

September 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat 1 David Grey @ Dodge Theatre 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 Jonas Brothers @ CWP Wed Survey Brad Palsley @ CWP Margaret Cho @ Dodge Theatre 19 20 21 22 23 24 KISS @ CWP CWP Daniel Tosh @ Dodge Theatre 26 27 28 29 30							
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JD Andrews	2 years
* Derrick McClure	2 years
★ Brian Nicoson	2 years
David Sessions	2 years
Alan Gillis	1 year
David Young	1 year
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A Wisconsinite on Pizza: A Philosophical Discussion by...Pat Maloney

PIZZA ANYONE???

The history of pizza, from its origins as a Greek food, to its reincarnation as an international treat. Pizza is a modern favorite all over the world. But how did this meal get its start? Who made it first? The idea of pizza is older than Italy. The Greeks first came up with the idea of baking bread in round, flat shapes and adding things on top. A combination of olive oils and certain spices was a favorite. Leaves were typical toppings, along with certain kinds of meat and even fruit. It's almost certain that the Greeks would have used the tomato, except that it was not discovered at that time!

Pizza was first created by the baker Rafaela Esposito in Naples, Italy. According to legend, Esposito wanted to create a kind of bread that would stand apart from all other kinds sold in Naples. He first experimented with adding only cheese to the bread, then added sauce underneath it and let the dough take the shape of a large round pie. His creation was a hit and he was called on to make a pizza for the visit of King Umberto and Queen Margherita of Italy in 1889. He made a pizza using white cheese, red sauce and green basil, to mirror the three colors of the Italian flag and show his loyalty to his country. The Queen loved it so much he named his creation the Margherita pizza after the Queen.

Pizza spread to America, England, France and Spain very quickly after it's Italian birth. It was little-known in these respective countries, however, until WW II. After occupying Italian territory, many American and European soldiers tasted pizza and brought the memory to their homeland. In America, Italian immigrants had been selling pizza In their stores, and the first pizzeria opened in 1905. The American GI's popularized this feature of most Italian neighborhoods, drawing pizzerias into the hearts of every city In America.

As with every international treat, pizza has its share of crazy facts and lore. February 9th is international Pizza pie day. The Guinness Book of World Records has an entry for the largest pizza baked and eaten. According to the Book, this pizza, made in Florida, was 100 feet one inch across! This is nothing, though, when you consider that Americans eat over 100 acres of pizza per day, and an average of 23 pounds of pizza each year. Pizza is second only to hamburgers as Americas Favorite food.

So now the real questions is....Chicago or New York? When we first moved here in 97 the search for a good Pizza has on. The chain style pizza was not the answer. We searched high and low to find just the right one. We found one at San Marco's Resort in Chandler, Maria's, but that closed shortly after. The search continued.

After great lengths we found Rosita's. If you are looking for authentic Chicago style pizza, there is no other. Talk about deep dish. If you fall in, you need help getting out. Nothing compares to their deep dish pizza. If New York is your style, nothing compares to a Venezia's. Being from the Midwest and eating a lot of deep Dish pizzas I take my hat off to Venezias. They made me a fan of New York Style pizza.

Now for all you bratwurst lovers from the Midwest, or not, this is the best way (according to me) to make your Brats. First, grill 'em for about 20 to 30 minutes. Get em good and brown. Next, get your slow cooker out and stack your brats on the bottom, pour in a bottle of miller high life, the only beer for brats, and last but not least, add a can of kraut to cover your brats. Now let this simmer on low for about 6 hours and you will have the best tasting brats in the world. Garnish with spicy brown mustard and horse radish and hold on to your hats. If you have any leftover kraut, just add a pork roast to the slow cooker and you have the next meal ready to go.

Enjoy!!!!

Posing Questions to the Guru by Dear Frankie

DEAR FRANKIE: Do you remember last Thursday at Cricket when you and the Police were dealing with the combative patron back at dispatch? I had asked you if I could schedule my 300 hour evaluation and you said something about a snowball and a kite. I'm still a little perplexed and thought I would ask again. How do I schedule an evaluation with you? NICK OF TIME

DEAR MR. TIME: I remember the situation and I somewhat remember somebody asking me something, but I thought I was hallucinating, because there was no way somebody would have thought that was the best time to ask a question like that. However, I appreciate your persistence. As you know, we explain in orientation that you are responsible for tracking your own hours and scheduling your evaluations. To do this, simply call in to the office (480-829-8326) or send me an e-mail (frank@teamsecurity.net) and let us know that you are coming due for your evaluation. I generally schedule evaluations on Wednesdays, but if you are not available on a Wednesday we can work something out. It's just that simple.

DEAR FRANKIE: I was wondering...I grew up in Arkansas and moved here about 12 years ago. I love this state. I didn't realize when I moved here that we can open carry, let alone carry concealed weapons. Since I have moved here I have become a card carrying member of the NRA, own 50 guns, and built a compound on the outskirts of town where I can shoot all I want and nobody bothers me. This brings me to my question. What do I need to do to become an armed guard with T.E.A.M.? ARMORED SAINT

DEAR ARMERED: WOW...can I come to your place if zombies take over the world? In order to be considered as a candidate to be armed with T.E.A.M. you must first be with the company for a minimum of a year. This is not negotiable. We need this time to get to know you. Obviously there is a great deal of liability we take on by putting you in that capacity and we want to make sure that you have the right mentality for the job.

Next you need to submit a letter of intent. In this letter you need to explain to us why you think you would make a good armed guard. You need to really sell yourself in this letter. All employees who submit letters are reviewed and the final decision rests with the owner of the company. Not everybody who submits letters of intent will be selected. As an armed guard you are considered to be Elite. This means that you are held to the highest standards and everything you do will be scrutinized. Your behavior is expected to be above reproach and you must set the example for other guards. Additionally, you will be financially responsible for providing you own equipment. This can be costly. Hopefully this answers your question. Watch out for those Zombies.

DEAR FRANKIE: One of the advantages of living in Arizona is the ability to open carry a pistol. Additionally, I have obtained a CCW (Concealed Weapon Permit). Whether concealed or not, I generally carry my gun everywhere. I was recently made aware of a new "law" stating that I can not carry my gun if I am wearing flip-flops. Why is that? — BAFFLED BEATNIK

DEAR BAFFLED: I have never heard of this "law". It sounds like something concocted by a local liberal in the attempt to suppress your 2nd amendment right. However, there is admittedly concern about the conflicting images. Flip-flops (AKA Thongs) were inspired by the traditional woven soled "Japanese Sandals", adopted as beach wear in New Zealand in the 1930s and popularized by servicemen returning from occupied Japan. Today flip-flops are worn for a number of purposes from it's original beach wear to a more fancy semi-formal style of flip-flop, but generally worn by those of a very "laid back", liberal nature. (i.e. hippies, beatniks, and most University students). Guns on the other hand send a very different message. Guns have a stigma of being instruments of death and directly conflict with the liberal image of the flip-flop. The second amendment tends to be fiercely defended by conservative groups. (i.e. rednecks, military members, and most vocational college students) All this being said; it is my opinion that having the freedom to be a walking contradiction to one's self is one of the advantages of living in America. Rock on with your goofy self.

Life Lessons from the Homer Simpson by TJ Atchison

I am a big fan of the Simpson's, can you believe how long the show has been around? Everyone has his or her favorite characters, but mine is definitely Homer. This guy says the funniest (and often completely true) things. Here is a list of the all time best Homer Simpson guotes ever.

- 1. Son, when you participate in sporting events, it's not whether you win or lose: it's how drunk you get.
- 2. Son, a woman is like a beer. They smell good, they look good, you'd step over your own mother just to get one! But you can't stop at one. You wanna drink another woman!
- 3. What's the point of going out? We're just going to wind up back here anyway.
- 4. I'm normally not a praying man, but if you're up there, please save me, Superman.

- 5. Fame was like a drug. But what was even more like a drug were the drugs.
- 6. Books are useless! I only ever read one book, "To Kill A Mockingbird," and it gave me absolutely no insight on how to kill mockingbirds! Sure it taught me not to judge a man by the color of his skin... but what good does *that* do me?
- 7. I hope I didn't brain my damage.
- 8. Weaseling out of things is important to learn. It's what separates us from the animals... except the weasel.
- 9. Kids, you tried your best and you failed miserably. The lesson is, never try.
- 10. How is education supposed to make me feel smarter? Besides, every time I learn something new, it pushes some old stuff out of my brain. Remember when I took that home winemaking course, and I forgot how to drive?
- 11. Old people don't need companionship.

They need to be isolated and studied so it can be determined what nutrients they have that might be extracted for our personal use.

- 12. Facts are meaningless. You could use facts to prove anything that's even remotely true!
- 13. How could you?! Haven't you learned anything from that guy who gives those sermons at church? Captain Whatshisname? We live in a society of laws! Why do you think I took you to all those Police Academy movies? For fun? Well, I didn't hear anybody laughing, did you? Except at that guy who made sound effects. Makes sound effects and laughs. Where was I? Oh yeah! Stay out of my booze.
- 14. You don't like your job, you don't strike. You go in every day and do it really half-assed. That's the American way.
- Oh, I'm in no condition to drive. Wait a minute. I don't have to listen to myself. I'm drunk.

On this Day, Once Upon a Time by Frank Herbert

September 1, 1939 - At 5.30 a.m., Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in

September 2, 1789 - The third Presidential cabinet department, the U.S. Treasury, was established by Congress.

September 3, 1783 - The Treaty of Paris was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin & John Jay,

formally ending the American Revolutionary War

September 4, 1886 - The last major U.S.-Indian war came to an end as Geronimo was captured.

September 5-6, 1972 - Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an at-

tack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army.

September 6 - Marquis de Lafayette was born in Chavaniac, France Lafayette was given command of an army in Virginia and was instrumental in forcing Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown, leading to the American victory.

September 7, 1994 - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American



military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century. September 8, 1883 - The

Northern Pacific Railroad across the U.S. was completed.

September 9, 1776 - The United States came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies.

September 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Two fully-fueled jumbo jets, had departed Boston for Los Angeles. Both jets were diverted by the hijackers to New York City where they were piloted into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The impact and subsequent fire caused both 110-story towers to

collapse, killing 2,752 persons including hundreds of rescue workers and people employed in the towers.

September 12, 1990 - A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a re-unified Germany.

September 13, 1814 - The Battle of Fort Henry in Baltimore Harbor occurred, observed by Francis Scott Key aboard a ship, inspiring him to write the verses which became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

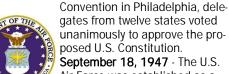
September 14, 1930 - The Nazi Party became the second largest party in Germany following a stunning election triumph by Adolf Hitler.

September 15, 1944 - The first entry of American troops into Hitler's Germany occurred as elements of the U.S. 7th and 5th Corps reached

the southwestern frontier of Germany September 16, 1620 - The *Mayflower* ship departed from England, bound for America. The Pilgrims

disembarked at Plymouth on December 26th.

September 17, 1787 - At the Constitutional



Air Force was established as a separate military service. September 19 - British author

William Golding was born in Cornwall, England. Best known for Lord of the Flies, he received a Nobel Prize in 1983.

September 20, 1973 - The much-hyped "Battle of the Sexes" took place in the Houston Astrodome as tennis player and women's rights activist, Billie Jean King, defeated self-styled male chauvinist Bobby Riggs in three straight sets. September 21, 1949 - The People's Republic of China was proclaimed by Communist leaders.

September 22, 1776 - During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

September 23 - Autumn (Sept. 23-Dec. 21)

begins in the Northern Hemisphere with the autumnal equinox, at 1:37 a.m. EDT.

September 24, 1980 -War erupted between Iran and Iraq as Iraqi troops crossed the

border and encircled Abadan, then set fire to the world's largest oil refinery.

September 25, 1789 - The first U.S. Congress proposed 12 Amendments to the Constitution,

ten of which, comprising the Bill of Rights, were ratified.

September 26, 1960 - The firstever televised presidential debate oc-



curred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon.

September 27, 1964 - After a 10-month investigation, the Warren Commission Report was issued stating a lone gunman had been responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

September 28, 1978 - Pope John Paul I died after only 33 days in office. He

was succeeded by John Paul II. September 29, 1789 - Congress created the United States Army, consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.

September 30, 1955 - Actor



James Dean was killed in a car crash in California at age 24. Although he made just three major films, Rebel Without a Cause, East of Eden and Giant, he remains one of the most influential actors.

Eric





Travis





Carlos







A Moment of Silence...

This year alone, the Valley has lost 3 good police officers to violence. Each of them left behind a family. Please take a moment to remember those who go everyday to keep the rest of us safe, and to honor their deaths. Our wishes on healing to the families of the deceased

In the words of Abraham Lincoln:

"I pray the Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."



From the Top of the Heap by Mick Hirko

As some of you might know, I grew up in Germany. I am a military brat, and it probably helped form a lot of my love of country and support for the military. We hear all the time how the members of our military forces represent the best we have to offer, and there is no way that I can disagree with that. Our combat troops obviously experience the culture of a foreign land quite differently, but you have to remember that we also have military personnel assigned to over 100 nations. Some serve as peace keepers, others are assigned to embassies or function as good will ambassadors. We have often times been called the world police by others, and just like the regular police, it is a thankless job. We (the United States of America) are always there when other nations cry for help. We provide food, shelter, safety, medical aid, whatever is needed in the midst of a natural or manmade emergency, and our military is always the first to come in. I can tell you from personal experience, that there is nothing as amazing and relieving as hearing and seeing a U.A. Air Force or Marine jet to come screaming across the sky, to see a squadron of relief helicopters or a row of Army trucks coming down a road in the time of other peoples need.

I will never understand why the help and the many good things are so easily forgotten, and the whole world seems to be getting in line to blame us for all of their problems and criticize for our way of life. I am not trying to bring politics into this discussion, but obviously politics play into what is currently happening. Personally, I think we need to do less apologizing and draw more lines in the sand.

I think we should stand up to Washington and DEMAND that they find some way to make sure that every member of the military gets to vote in the next election. I am sure it is just a coincidence that this is suddenly a problem, since most members of the military tend to vote fairly conservative, but let me point out once again that it is our military forces that not only ensure our "rights", but they are the truly the ones by their conduct that have the right. They give us the privilege. Shame on Washington.

I think that instead of standing in judgment by the United Nations for Human Rights violations in our own country, we should be helping the entire U.N. pack their crap and to move to Darfur, Sudan, Iran, China, Pakistan, Cameroon (One of the countries who will be deciding our punishment). Bosnia, Mexico, or dozens of other countries.

I think that instead of being called islamaphobes, we mandate that every person immigrating to the United States, or here on a long term visa take a U.S. History course, and learn about our religious tolerance. I also think that they then learn firsthand how poorly we really respond to getting spit into our faces. We are rapidly running out of cheeks. This argument has nothing to do with religious tolerance, but everything to do with seeing how far our overall tolerance can be pushed.

I think that all the people that are very busy screaming at us, calling us racists, intolerant, bigots and whatever other offences they can conjure need to be reminded why they came here in the first place, and need to ask themselves if the things that they are DEMANDING of us are allowed in their countries. America has often been called the great melting pot. We are a country of assimilation and be it the Irish, the Polish, the Italians, Germans or any of the many other nationalities that immigrated here, they came here to get away from their governments, religious or political oppression and to start a new life. They came here and became part of America, and in doing so changed it by and with their culture. Their contribution helped make America. Now, we are supposed to bow down to people coming here, many not even legally, and adapt our country to conform to their wants. Just like the U.N., I think we should help these folks pack.

I realize that my statements sound a little militant, but they stem from having been to other nations, having experiences other cultures and governments and being able to compare. We, the United States of America are not perfect, but we are by leaps and bounds better than most any other government out there. Sure, we have our troubles, but there is a reason that everybody wants to come here. You see very few Americans packing up and trying to sneak into other countries. (Which by the way, every other country has laws against, most quite strict, and all involve prison time and deportation) I have also learned that when we, as American citizens go to another country and tell them our demands, and how they must change to incorporate our sensitivities they really do not respond so well. Try it sometime. You will get laughed at if you are lucky, beaten and imprisoned if you are less lucky, but none of the outcomes will be very positive in regards to change. I wonder what would happen if Billy Graham wanted to build a Church in downtown Riyadh in the name of "religious tolerance"?

When I moved back to the states, I brought my experiences and memories with me, and I had to get used to some changes, some good, some not so good, but I never even considered to demand any changes based on my wants. I would discuss with people the pros and cons, and realized early on that change comes from within, from a desire of a society to grow, adapt and change, not from the hate filled rantings of someone that just wants what they want, irrespective of what the majority supports. This country used to be ruled by majority vote. At some point that changed to minority discontent. I cannot have the McDonalds French fries I used to love because 3 vegetarians filed a lawsuit against McDonalds and won, because there were trace elements of animal fats in the grease. It was the animal fat that gave the fried the good taste. We used to be a country of great many choices, where if you did not like the fries, you just went to eat them somewhere else. The same principle applies to most everything. It is not always about what you can do. Often, it is a lot more important to do the right thing.

I was recently thinking about the different phases of my life, and was telling someone about my first trip to the United States with my dad. Landing at JFK airport, we took a cab into the city, and I was shocked to see that there were stores that sold drugs, and they even advertised in public. And I thought Amsterdam was liberal. HA! Well, I started reflecting on a few other things that are different here. And this is how you bring change – By discussion.

Continued on page 10



From the Bottom of the Heap by Mick Hirko

continued from page 9

Some truths I have learned from living in the U.S.A. that I do not understand:

That no matter what you order in a fast food drive thru lane, all they will hear is "Combo meal".

We can put a man on the moon, send pictures back from the furthest reaches of the universe that are mind boggling in their clarity, but yet we cannot come up with a P.A. system in that drive thru that actually does not sound like a broadcast from those far reaches.

If you shop at Wal-Mart, especially late at night, you will see people that people in most any other country will pay good money to see.

The people of Wal-Mart web site is NOT staged.

The chances of someone on the freeway pulling right in front of you without using a turn signal are about the same as getting harassed by a pan handler on Mill Avenue.

Which happens to be the same odds as that same idiot being on his cell phone while he is doing it.

We live in the "most advanced society" in the world, but have more power outages than a third world country, at least in my neighborhood.

The longer you work with Clear, the weirder you realize she really is (This one cannot change with discussion. She has tried. A LOT!)

We build the best muscle cars and one of our biggest sports is watching cars go as fast as they can, and we have the biggest and longest roads, but we are not allowed to drive fast.

The most important thing I have learned — We truly are a great people and can do anything we set our minds to, and are truly only held back by bad politicians and bad politics. George Washington did not hesitate the fight for our freedom, as Abraham Lincoln did not for equality, nor John F.Kennedy to take us to new worlds and make ours a better place, or Ronald Reagan to tear down the walls of the Cold War. We need more great leaders, not more people telling us what to do. God bless the United States of America. And I will NOT apologize for being a proud American. Nor should you.

I wrote this not because it has much to do with T.E.A.M., but it has everything to do with us being Americans. I personally am outraged with what I see happening all around me. Make sure you exercise your right to vote in November. If you think your life is better now than it was 2 years ago, vote to continue the course. If you are sick of Washington ignoring your voice, then vote against the people who are ignoring you and lying you. The important thing is that you do vote. I also wrote this because we are coming on the 9 year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. I will never forget and will always remember who attacked us. I hope you all will join us again this year at Tempe Beach Park, as we pay our respects at the Healing Fields. We hope you can spare some time helping us build it and taking it down after the event. It is a labor of love for all of us.

Keep the peace, be safe and I will see you out there!

Mick Hirko

President

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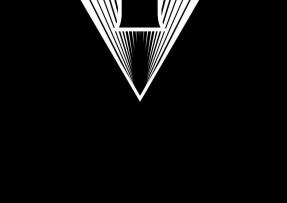
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