

The curtamous page

January 2006 Archived Notes

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January 30, 2006 - Aloha! Welcome to Monday everyone! Hey, if you get a second, go look outside. All that white stuff; That's SNOW!!! Seems like its been a long time since we had to deal with that stuff... Not so bad, but I'm afraid after our long layoff, we're in for a LOT more... Can't complain though, we we're on the downslope of winter now. Yeah, its a LONG downslope, but we're on it...

Medical Update: Good news! Ma Nelson came home from the hospital Friday and is doing much better. Not back 100%, but much better than she was. She says "Hi" to everyone, and thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers! On to the bad news... Aunt Darlene is in the hospital in Texas recovering from surgery. She had some cancer removed and is recovering well. She's in the care of her son, who just happens to be a surgeon, so she's got that going for her... which is good... So, keep her in your thoughts and prayers too as she heads back to health...

Well, lets take care of the update from the other side of the planet:

Gidday to all followers of the BBC,

Another week has passed and another aspect of the culture learned. This week I realized that the country lives on two things, text messaging and iPods. Cell phones here aren't for talking, they are for texting, and nobody seems to be able to walk without sounds from an iPod.

This past week brought us few highlights due to no mid-week game because of injuries sustained at last week's tournament. I was an all work and no play week. The weekend took us to Auckland for one of the premier tournaments in the country, the Vic Guth Memorial. It was up and down for the team. We were meant to be the favorites, but our ace pitcher didn't make it because his girlfriend went into false labor and then his flight got fogged in. Two good excuses. We went on without him. We ended up somewhere around 5th place, not too bad, but not as good as expected. The weekend was highlighted by seeing some old faces. I was able to see some of the old Circle Tap guys that were in Denmark a few years ago. In fact my mother gave one of them a ride to CT after his truck broke down one weekend.

I was also able to catch up with former Denmark resident Christine Kafka, now Christine Warner, and her son Jackson, who is six months old. He is definitely a Kafka, there is no doubt about it. She came to one of our games and then I was able to meet her and a friend out for drinks on Saturday night. It was a good visit at one of the local establishments. The only down fall was the crappy band that was playing there.

This week brings games on Thursday and on Saturday for our local competition. Both games should be good to watch and be a part of.

I received both good and bad emails this week from home. Sad to here about Aunt Darlene, but I am sure that the Nelson stubbornness will bring her through this battle. Good to here that Grandma is doing well again. I am sure that being back at home will be a big help. Hopefully both stay on the track to better health!

Until next week, take care and stay warm. I am finally getting used to the sun here and the heat. In Auckland this weekend it was in the low 90's with comparable humidity to what we have back home. I saw a forecast for back home and saw a heat wave of mid 30's with snow. Enjoy everybody!!!!

*Cheers
Ric*

Sounds like the boy had a quiet week... But he didn't mention his email to The Mayor about spending a few hours in jail the week before last... Yeah, and the Mayor wasn't too happy about it. Seems the email mentioned the stay, but not that it was for a safety meeting for some work they were going to be doing there... SEC-Transportation and I thought it was pretty funny... The Mayor found little humor... go figure...

Got this from the FM. VERY ACCURATE!

5 Rules to having a happy life for a man.

- 1. It's important to have a woman who helps at home, who cooks from time to time, cleans up and has a job.**
- 2. It's important to have a woman who can make you laugh.**
- 3. It's important to have a woman who you can trust and who doesn't lie to you.**
- 4 It's important to have a woman who is good in bed and who likes to be with you.**
- 5. It's very, very important that these four women don't know each other.**

I don't think Rule #5 can be stressed enough... Actually, ANYONE that could handle four women in their lives is a MUCH better man than I...

Had the pleasure of running into The President and AG multiple times this weekend. He and the AG were painting the AG's room when I stopped over Friday. Stan and Ollie if I ever saw 'em. "MSU Green" paint to boot. The President is planning on growing mushrooms in there and going into business...

Then The President called on Saturday evening to see what I was up to. He and the AG had finished painting and were into cocktail hour. They wondered why I hadn't stopped over. It turns out The First Lady had made her bacon wrap appetizers and was out on the porch waiting for me to show up... I got a little scared... I stayed home...

Sunday I got my courage back and called The President. Told him I was headed out to the shop and told him to stop over. Actually, I didn't feel like working, but it took him so damn long to arrive that I actually got another ten feet of wall insulation in. Thank God he finally arrived so I could stop working and start drinking... We shared a few, solved a few world problems, and he was on his way... Great day!

Just got in the office... a little late, as I had to stop and pay Ma/Pa Nelson's taxes. I also got my taxes started this weekend, so everything is looking good... somewhat back to normal even...

Just got this from the Jack/Ass team. It was stuck in my "junk" mail folder, so thank God I found it. Its pretty good...

Subject: Today's History Lesson

Humans existed as members of small bands of nomadic hunter/gatherers. They lived on deer in the mountains during the summer & would go to the coast and live on fish and lobster in winter.

The 2 most important events in all of history were the invention of beer and the invention of the wheel. The wheel was invented to get man to the beer. These were the foundation of modern civilization and together were the catalyst for the splitting of humanity into 2 distinct subgroups: Liberals and Conservatives.

Once beer was discovered it required grain and that was the beginning of agriculture. Neither the glass bottle nor aluminum can were invented yet, so while our early human ancestors were sitting around waiting for them to be invented, they just stayed close to the brewery. That's how villages were formed.

Some men spent their days tracking and killing animals to B-B-Q at night while they were drinking beer. This was the beginning of what is known as "the Conservative movement."

Other men who were weaker and less skilled at hunting learned to live off the conservatives by showing up for the nightly B-B-Q's and doing the sewing, fetching and hair dressing. This was the beginning of the Liberal movement. Some of these liberal men eventually evolved into women. The rest became known as 'girliemen.'

Some noteworthy liberal achievements include the domestication of cats, the invention of group therapy and group hugs and the concept of Democratic voting to decide how to divide the meat and beer that conservatives provided.

Over the years conservatives came to be symbolized by the largest, most powerful land animal on earth, the elephant. Liberals are symbolized by the jackass.

Modern liberals like imported beer (with lime added), but most prefer white wine or imported bottled water. They eat raw fish but like their beef well done . Sushi, tofu, and French food are standard liberal fare.

Another interesting revolutionary side note: most of their women have higher testosterone levels than their men. Most social workers, personal injury attorneys, journalists, dreamers in Hollywood and group therapists are liberals. Liberals invented the designated hitter rule because it wasn't "fair" to make the pitcher also bat.

Conservatives drink domestic beer. They eat red meat and still provide for their women. Conservatives are big-game hunters, rodeo cowboys, lumberjacks, construction workers, firemen, medical doctors, police officers, corporate executives, Marines, athletes and generally anyone who works productively. Conservatives who own companies hire other conservatives who want to work for a living.

Liberals produce little or nothing. They like to "govern" the producers and decide what to do with the production. Liberals believe Europeans are more enlightened

than Americans. That is why most of the liberals remained in Europe when conservatives were coming to America. They crept in after the Wild West was tame and created a business of trying to get MORE for nothing.

Here ends today's lesson in world history!

It should be noted that a Liberal may have a momentary urge to respond to the above before simply laughing and forwarding it. A Conservative will be so convinced of the absolute truth of this history that it will be forwarded immediately.

You know, they should teach this type of stuff in school... At least the kids would learn a little something...

No update on the newsletter other than I hope to get back to it this week... Keep an eye on your email box as The President has agreed it would be a good idea to have a Fish Camp meeting soon. With his endorsement, its a must have!

Other good news! The President, AG, and I all got our 2006 turkey permits this weekend, so there's more to look forward to. I haven't heard from Zumbo yet, but I assume he has his permit too. Looking forward to it already...

That's all I got for today. I hope everyone has a safe, happy, beer-full week, but before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members:

"I Work Hard Because Millions On Welfare Depend on Me!" - Unknown

Seemed appropriate with taxes and all...

Until next time, take care...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice!"

curtaceous

January 23, 2006 - Good morning everyone! Happy Monday! Well, the Superbowl is set... yawn... The games were mildly interesting, I guess. Didn't really care, but was satisfied with the winners. Not a fan of Denver, so I was glad Pittsburgh won... Seattle? OK I guess... I'm over my anger at the walrus for leaving Green Bay, and he's taken his lumps, so I guess I'm happy for him...

It was a short week, and I spent a lot of it up at the hospital again, so this'll be a short update... I hope... Yeah, Ma Nelson was back in the hospital. Seems the issue she had last week was never really dealt with and it really took hold. Bad infection, and she's been a very sick lady. Some small signs of improvement yesterday, so lets hope she's on the road to recovery. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers...

The Chief is recovering nicely from his appendicitis. Back to school and feeling pretty normal again. He'll see the doc this week to get the OK to get back work and maybe basketball. I hope it goes well as he's getting a little antsy without much to do.

Got a call from The President on Saturday looking for some input on a project. I had a few spare minutes so I stopped over. The President is hoping to kick off his garage shop project, but wasn't sure how to proceed with the temporary wall he's considering. We tossed around a few ideas and had a beer... Yes, that's right! ONE beer! After considering the options, I've come up with a few more ideas, so I may have to stop over there again this week... I'm not even afraid...

Got our weekly update from the other side of the planet...

Gidday everyone,

Another week has gone past here in beautiful sunny New Zealand! It has been around the 80 degree mark for the last week with a nice breeze coming off of the ocean to keep us cool. The kiwi thought of the week: The toilets don't swirl in the opposite direction than ours do when flushed, it is just viewed from the other side! Discuss.

Just got home from our first road tournament. Not so good. The team finished 8th place out of 12 after an embarrassing loss today. Not because of the score, but because it looked more like a circus than a ball game. Nothing I expected from a team over here. We were the joke of the tournament.

I got to spend some time at one of the local correctional institutions on Friday. We are going to be starting a project there for work, it will be where I am working until I leave I think. I never thought that I would be spending my first day in jail in a foreign country. At least I am being paid for being there.

A look ahead. We will be traveling to Auckland this weekend for one of the premier tournaments in the country. While there, I will be meeting up with another former Denmark resident, and my old baby sitter, Christine Kafka, now Warner. She has kindly offered to take me out on the town for a night. It will be nice to talk to another person without an accent.

Everyone have a great week!

Cheers
Ric

Hmmm... The SEC-W/M is doing close up inspections of the local toilets, he's finally dragged his softball team down to his level, and he's been jailed but sounds like he gets weekend furloughs... Sounds about right... I am interested in his whole toilet inspection... I wonder what The President will have to say about it...

To be honest, I'd really love to be down there with him. He's with his intellectual equals from the sounds of things, and I'd really love to observe him in natural surroundings. It would be like seeing the AG and SEC-Transportation in Munchkinland... Fascinating!

ZERO progress on the newsletter. Well, not zero, as The President DID submit his work, so I got that going for me... which is good... This years release may set a record for late delivery though... But I'll keep at it... I hope...

You know, Fish Camp 2006 isn't too far away, but I have word from rural Denville that a certain Sausage Stuffer wants significant menu changes this year... Soups, salads, whole grains and fiber... and even Beer Can Tofu! I don't know what's gotten into him, but we may need a meeting... I'll have to consult the SEC-State to see if we can schedule something... Stay posted!

Zumbo's beautiful bride celebrates another year this past weekend, so be sure to send her best wishes... She was born in '53 and turned 53, so we were wondering if there was any special considerations for that considering she turned 39 again... Interesting...

That's all for today... I hope everyone has a good week... Before I go, a few words of wisdom for

our junior members:

"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on." - Thomas Jefferson

Ain't that a fact!

Until next time, take care...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice!"

curtamous

January 17, 2006 - Happy Tuesday everyone! Well, it was quite a week for me. Birthdays, anniversaries, parties, hospitals, the holiday, even football! All in all, a very busy time, but things are looking up!

To start the week, Ma Nelson was in the hospital. She had some issues probably complicated by a bit of the flu. Then her antibiotics adversely affected her, and she was worse off than when she started. She did get those out of her system, and was home by Thursday. Very glad to be home!

Tuesday started off fine, but by 4:30 that afternoon, the Chief Inspector was in surgery having his appendix removed. Its amazing how slow things go in a hospital until something like that is diagnosed. Then "BAM"! Then they got you running down the hallway. Things went fine, and he was home on Wednesday, milking his illness for all its worth. He'll be fine, and was back to school yesterday. However, he'll be out of basketball for a while, so FM Jr, aka "The Glove", will have to pick up his slack.

It was so busy up at Bellin, that I never even got to visit my aunt, who had her knee replaced. Word is she's doing well, and we wish her well from the BBC.

Lets see, that kinda gets us to the weekend... Saturday was parents night (or afternoon as it were) for Denville's boys b-ball. Luckily, The Chief was up to it and we made the game. I ended up working concessions for a couple friends so they could watch their son, but it all worked out and I still got to see most of the game during slow times.

Then, the best part! A coordinated "Parents Night" at a local establishment. With the Chief's condition, I didn't stay too long, but the beer was cold and OH SO flavorful! A good time was had by all...

Sunday brought us brunch in rural Eaton with the in-laws. Mass was for my beautiful bride's father, and then we went to eat. I would recommend this local establishment to anyone who asked. The place was VERY busy, but we still got in to eat relatively quickly, and the buffet was EXCELLENT! Great selection at a decent price. I was good for the day! To top it off, the NFL brought us the "Choking Bares"! I had one of those very proud moments in life when, as the clock was ticking down on the Bare's season, the Chief blared "The Bares Still Suck" on his computer. My eyes even got a little moist...

Monday brought us our first holiday of the new year, MLK Day! What an action packed day. I spent the morning out at Zumbo's ranch for the annual MLK Day Bunny Hunt! Despite questionable weather, there were bunnies everywhere. At one point I thought I'd have to start beating them off with the butt of my gun! We saw at least eight, but the trusty .410 just wasn't on target. I had at least three really good shots that I just couldn't connect on. Thankfully, Zumbo saved the day and he nailed one so we could put something in the freezer. All in all, it

was a great hunt despite my deplorable shooting! Thanks Zumbo! Can't wait for next year!

Monday night brought us more festivities as we celebrated Ma and Pa Nelson's 60th wedding anniversary. The crew went over for a nice evening of Suster's chicken and fine champagne. A nice event...

HAPPY 60th ANNIVERSARY!!!

Finally, we need to send birthday wishes to our Comptroller! He celebrated another year yesterday, and according to his beautiful mother, spent it watching "24". Kinda strange if you ask me, but its his birthday, let him do what he wants...

Cripes... that's an awful lot of stuff for one week...

On another note, I've received my first inquiry for advertising on the site. Take a look at this and let me know if you think its worth pursuing:

Do you have feelings of inadequacy?

Do you suffer from shyness?

Do you sometimes wish you were more assertive?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist about Tequila.

Tequila is the safe, natural way to feel better and more confident about yourself and your actions.

Tequila can help ease you out of your shyness and let you tell the world that you're ready and willing to do just about anything. You will notice the benefits of Tequila almost immediately, and with a regimen of regular doses you can overcome any obstacles that prevent you from living the life you want to live. Shyness and awkwardness will be a thing of the past, and you will discover many talents you never knew you had. Stop hiding and start living, with Tequila.

Tequila may not be right for everyone. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not use Tequila. However, women who wouldn't mind nursing or becoming pregnant are encouraged to try it. Side effects may include: dizziness, nausea, vomiting, incarceration, erotic lustfulness, loss of motor control, loss of clothing, loss of money, loss of virginity, delusions of grandeur, table dancing, headache, dehydration, dry mouth, and a desire to sing Karaoke and play all-night rounds of Strip Poker, Truth

Or Dare, and Naked Twister

What do you think? I've had experience with this product, as has the FDA Chair, and I'd have to say its a great product. Well see what kinda of deal we can strike up...

We got an update from the other side of the planet:

Kia Ora from New Zealand,

Kia Ora is Kiwi for hello! Something for everyone to learn today! Sorry no update last week, I was selected to represent our province on the New Zealand Provincial Championships. We did fair very well, 5th out of 12. A little less than expected.

This weekend was highlighted by my debut on the mound for the powerhouse Tamatea. We destroyed the opposition 16-3! It is pretty hard to lose when your team scores 16 runs for you. Good start to the after Christmas competition.

Also on the softball front, as you all have heard, our pitcher ditched us mid-season to go sit the bench behind his brother for the rest of the season. It would be like me leaving softball to say that I was going to drive Greg's car. Nice idea, but not going to happen. As a replacement, I was able to get us one of the best pitchers in the world to play for us. Paul Algar of The Farm has decided to come and play for us at the national tournament. Definitely a upgrade from what we used to have and from having me try to pitch us through the tournament.

Other news: I was offered a job here until 2008 with the company I work for here. Unfortunately, it is our turn for Thanksgiving next year, so I had to turn it down! That and, how could I miss Deer Camp for the next two years, Mr. President would probably discontinue my membership! That would be like the ending of life itself! But wait, there must be some grace periods of absence, look at the FM! He makes it as much as I miss Deer Camp!!

Looking ahead to this week: New coach for our team, so practice will actually be a softball practice rather than fitness training. Also the Braves Memorial Classic is this weekend in beautiful Wanganui. This is a no-pick up tournament! What does that mean you say. That means that the pitching is up to me and the 15 year old phenom! Should prove to be an eventful weekend for everyone involved!!

Hope all is well in the States! I hear that this is one of the warmest winters in awhile. I am guessing it isn't quite the 80 and sunny weather that we have hear. I am guessing that the beaches there are still a bit frozen, by the way, swimming in the ocean in January is a beautiful thing!!

Cheers

Ric

How long to you think it took the SEC-W/M to figure out that "Kia Ora" thing? He probably thought it was some kind of cookie and kept responding, "Sure, I'd love one!". As far as his job offer, I'd hate to see what kind of construction they have down there if they're offering him long term employment. Makes my think of the first of the "Three Little Pigs" and a lot of straw homes... Good to hear from him!!!

With the busy week, I got NOWHERE with the newsletter... I DID get the President's article though, so I should have all the material I need... Now I just need time...

Pretty good update for a change... with the short week, I better get going... One last thing... Zumbo's beautiful bride celebrates her birthday this weekend, so I'm sure you'll find her at some local establishment. Stop by and wish her well!

That's it... here's hoping for a MUCH quieter week... Before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members:

"Don't think of yourself as an ugly person, just a beautiful monkey." ~ Unknown

Don't know where that comes from, but it immediately made me think of the junior membership!

Until next time, take care...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice!"

curtamous

January 09, 2006 - Howdy Folks, and welcome to Monday. This is my first Monday post in some time, and hopefully my last for a few weeks too. See, I have next Monday off for MLK Day (Hopefully spent bunny hunting) and I need to use up a vacation day from last year the following Monday. Funny, as I NEVER, EVER, remember having a vacation day left over. For everything, there is a first time... hopefully my last too...

Not much going on really... Spent Saturday night checking Ma Nelson into the hospital with a flu/infection issue, so that kind of sucked, but hopefully she bounces back and is home soon. She's always in our thoughts and prayers...

No update from the other side of the planet yet, so I thought I provide some "kiwi" humor, and you can guess the source...

50,000 Kiwis meet in Eden Park for a "Kiwis Are Not Stupid" Convention. Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand, says, "We are all here today to prove to the world that Kiwis are not stupid. Ken I hev a volunteer."

Carlos Spencer gingerly works his way through the crowd and steps up to the stage. Helen asks him, "What uz fufteen plus fufteen?"

After fufteen or 20 seconds Carlos says, "Eighteen!"

Obviously everyone is a little disappointed. Then all 50,000 Kiwis start chanting,

"GUV HUM ANOTHER CHANCE! GUV HUM ANOTHER CHANCE!"

Helen says, "Well sunce we've gone to the trouble of gitting 50,000 of you un one place end we have the world wide priss end global broadcast media here, I thunk we ken guv hum another chance." So she asks, "What uz sivven plus sivven?"

After nearly 30 seconds he eventually says, "Ninety!"

Helen is quite perplexed, looks down and just lets out a dejected sigh - everyone is disheartened.

Carlos starts crying and the 50,000 Kiwis begin to yell and wave their hands shouting, "GUV HUM ANOTHER CHANCE! GUV HUM ANOTHER CHANCE!"

Helen, unsure whether or not she is doing more harm than damage, eventually says, "Ok! Ok! Just one more chance ...What uz two plus two?"

Carlos closes his eyes and, after a whole minute, eventually says, "Four!"

Throughout the stadium pandemonium breaks out as all 50,000 Kiwis jump to their feet, wave their arms, stamp their feet and scream...

"GUV HUM ANOTHER CHANCE! GUV HUM ANOTHER CHANCE!"

Hopefully the SEC-W/M can show this to his buddies and verify the authenticity of the story... Actually, SEC-W/M was probably in the front row!

Interestingly, I received a good batch of newsletter articles last week. Maybe whining about it helped, or maybe everyone just finally got around to it. However, The President and AG had not yet submitted THEIR articles, so I stopped over there on Saturday to get the story. As I walked in, The President and AG informed me that they were just thinking about me and were going to stop over. Luckily, I headed them off! I got an update on life according to Bob as they pried a few libations into me. The First Lady was even cooking appetizers, so it was a very nice stop. However, I was promised that the pair would stop ever to drink some of MY beer, right after they cleaned guns...

Well, about four minutes after I got home, The President and AG arrived. Barely enough time to get a pail of beer up to the shop! Needless to say, their guns didn't get cleaned, my guns didn't get cleaned, and I was pretty primed up. To make things even better, WORK called 10 minutes after they left, and I had to muddle my way thru fixing something in Florida. (I think it actually worked!!!) Then the topper was going with Trixie to take Ma Nelson to the hospital. (We got home around 2am) All in all, a pretty good day!

Which leads me to submission from the FM. This is ALL too true!

I recently picked a new primary care physician.

After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing "fairly well for my age".

A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him,

"Do you think I'll live to be 80?"

He asked, "Well, do you smoke tobacco or drink beer/wine?"

"Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing either."

Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?"

I said, "No, my other Doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy!"

"Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?"

No, I don't," I said.

He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lot of sex?"

"No," I said. "I don't do any of those things."

He looked at me and said, "Then why the heck would you want to live to be 80?"

You bet! Live your life to the fullest! We all have to die of something... Might as well live life while you can. I can't remember The President's exact quote, but it was something like this; "A healthy nut dies just as much when hit with a bus as someone who enjoys life..." Well, it was something like that... you get the idea...

I got a picture of the FDA Chair's new refrigerator magnet:



That's a pretty good one... At least I "think" its just a magnet...

Found a new use for The Bus up at the cabin:



Get a good card game going and we might spend some time in the woods...

Well, not much else going on that I can think of... Work, meetings, and a ball game going on this week. I am hoping for good weather next Monday's MLK Day Bunny Hunt! Your update next week won't show 'till Tuesday...

That's it, but before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members:

"There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it." ~ Oscar Wilde

Very deep... but very true...

Until next time, take care...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice!"

curtaneous

January 03, 2006 - Happy New Year! Welcome to Tuesday! Sorry about the late update, but I had off yesterday and had no ambition, at least not in the way of anything to do with a computer. Football? Well that's another story...

Well, I had a typically quiet New Year's Eve. Had the wife's sister and hubby over for drinks (cocktail hour) and they were gone by ten... I then ran g in the new year on the east coast and here with one of Milwaukee's finest cold ones while watching Animal House. Doesn't get much better than that.

I found a baby picture of a senior member from one of their first New Years Eve parties... You figure out which one...



So what's your New Year's resolution? If you have a good one, drop it in the guestbook. ME? Same as every other year; nothing. I don't get into that whole January 1st resolution stuff, but, I'm sure we'd all be curious as to YOUR resolution this year.

Here's a list of some possibilities:

- 10. Read less.**
- 9. I want to gain weight. Put on at least 30 pounds.**
- 8. Stop exercising. Waste of time.**
- 7. Watch more TV. I've been missing some good stuff.**
- 6. Procrastinate more.**
- 5. Drink. Drink some more.**
- 4. Start being superstitious.**
- 3. Spend more time at work.**
- 2. Stop bringing lunch from home: I should eat out more.**
and last but not least...
- 1. Take up a new habit: maybe smoking!**

Not a bad list...

While I'm thinking of New Year's, the AG and FM Jr. celebrated birthdays recently.. I'm guessing they're a year from driving, but you surely can't tell by the way they act... Five years old one minute, 35 the next... Must mean they're ready to be adult males... Happy Birthday!!!

Here's our very own SEC-W/M's greeting from the other side of the planet:

Welcome to 2006 everyone!

I would like to wish everyone a blessed and prosperous New Year! I started mine off on the right foot, sober! That is right! I was the sober driver for the evening. I did have one beer just to celebrate with my New Zealand friends.

Unfortunately, it looks like it is time to thank old No. 4 for the memories. I don't wish for that, but is sure looked like it from this end of the world. So..... Thanks Brett, it has been a great ride! What a way to go out, a win over Mike!

Sorry, no softball to report as of yet. It does look like I did find us another pitcher. More on that as details come to us. Our first game will be on the 14th, so look for softball news after that. Training has been kicked up a notch, if this keeps up, I will be in better shape than I was when I was eighteen! I need to lose the weight that I have so quickly put on here. With the cooking here, that will take all of the will power I have.

As far as New Year's resolutions go, I guess am going to start acting my age! It is about time, don't you think?

That is it. Until next week, stay warm everyone. The weather has been warm. It hit

40 degrees today. Celsius!! That is somewhere around 85 I believe in our language! And sunny! Only to get warmer and nicer!

Happy New Year everyone!!!

Ric

Sober? "I" didn't even do that! And he's going to act his age? Well, that probably lasted a four minutes into 2006. I wonder if they have any Sicilians in kiwi land... we may need one to go rough him up a bit if he keeps rubbing in the weather stuff...

That brings us to football... SEC-W/M mentions #4's impending departure. I don't know. With the coach gone, a decision I have a tough time arguing with, but that probably is the right one, it may complicate things. Obviously, it depends on who they bring in. Well, at least the Pack ended things on the right foot and got a win, as meaningless as it was.

Yesterday's big win for the Badgers was a shocker, at least for me. I kept waiting for Auburn to wake up, but maybe the Badgers just played that well. (Despite what the damn announcers said) They did look good, that's for sure, and Barry sure set the stage for Coach B going into next year. Thanks for the incredible job Barry, well done! (No matter WHAT the FM says!)

Well, I got a few more newsletter articles, but a lot that weren't submitted... I'm kinda disappointed in the response this year. Maybe its getting old and its time to give it up... We'll see... For this year, I'm going with what I have. At least it'll be a shorter version this way, and for those that didn't get an article in, let them deal with The President...

That's it for this week, but before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members:

"The proper behavior all through the holiday season is to be drunk. This drunkenness culminates on New Year's Eve, when you get so drunk you kiss the person you're married to." ~ P.J. O'Rourke

I'm not sure I can get THAT drunk, but I'll keep trying...

Until next time, take care...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice!"

curtamous

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