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TCLCYC (hurry before the asset sale)

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Aurora, CO – December 7, 2002 (a day that will live in infamy). TCLCYC (*Tim's Christmas Letter Consulting for the Yuletide-Challenged*) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection today. A company spokesman from the law offices of *Dewy, Cheatem, and Peter* would not comment on the potential global catastrophic ramifications today's filing may have. However, Feld (more on him later) was overheard to have said "...that's a pretty stupid thing to say".

The company itself is not large. It has only one employee, Tim Feld. He is (or rather, was) the founder, President, CIO (Chief Information Officer), Vice President of Human Resources (no known acronym for that useless position), COO (Chief Operating Officer), CEO (Chief Executive Officer), CTO (Chief Technology Officer), CCO (Chief Continuity Officer), CMO (Chief Morale Officer), JPCO (Just Plain Chief Officer), CFO (Chief Fiction Officer), and CRE (Chief Regular Employee). Feld was quoted as saying that the failure was, in an odd way, a relief as it was getting expensive to print business cards.

Although TCLCYC is a company of one employee, the sudden failure came as a complete surprise to Feld. In an interview conducted this morning at the local Sears store, he recalled how the previous day began as any other business day. He was just finishing his morning solitaire game (he lost...rather prophetic considering how the rest of the day went) when he asked himself if he could have a minute of his time. He began the conversation by going over all of the good things he had done for the company over the years. Then he paused and an uneasy and flushed expression came over his face. It was then that Feld realized that he was about to lay himself off. But, as previously mentioned, it did not come as a complete surprise...being a one person company it was difficult to keep such information from himself.

Feld took it like a true professional. He arranged to return his cell phone, security access card, the corporate AmEx card, and the key to the executive washroom within the requested 2-5 business minutes. He asked himself if he could use the company laptop PC for two weeks to work on his resume. Being the humanitarian he is, Feld agreed with his request. Next, he wrote down all of the network and server passwords he had. Feld will use these to immediately log in to change them (this is a standard security procedure most well-run companies follow). The severance package was discussed in detail. Feld seemed pleased by what he had offered himself, although there were a few contentious moments. He reminded himself of the NDA (Non-

disclosure Agreement) document he had signed when he formed the company many years ago. The legal document bars him from accepting employment from any competing company for a period of ten years. There was another tense moment until Feld reminded himself that no competing companies exist on the planet. He felt the strange irony of simultaneously not having to worry about the NDA and worrying about the fact that he has no marketable skills whatsoever.

Then Feld escorted himself (another common security practice...one never knows how people who were just laid off will react) to his desk to gather his personal belongings. Since Feld knew this was coming, he had already set aside a cardboard box for him to use. He carefully placed pictures, plants, and a special mouse pad in the box. Feld's passive-aggressive tendency reared its ugly head when he decided to leave the 184 pennies and the 47 packets of Arby's Horsey Sauce® that accumulated over the years in his desk drawer. He figured he would just leave them for himself to clean out after he left.

Nasdaq has simultaneously announced the de-listing of TCLCYC (stock symbol *TLC*). The ASE (American Stock Exchange), the CME (Chicago Mercantile Exchange), and the PTE (Propane Tank Exchange) were surprised but mostly dismayed to learn *TLC* was listed with their respective exchanges. Nasdaq, in a fit of rage, went as far as erasing the video tape of Feld ceremoniously ringing the opening bell four years ago. Copies of the tape are currently being recalled.

TCLCYC has long been rumored to use the accounting services of Arthur Anderson. In a telephone conversation held earlier today with Joseph Berardino (Anderson's former CEO), the rumor was denied. Joe was quoted as saying "...I hardly knew the guy...he just wrote one lame Christmas letter for us to send to our friends at Enron a few years ago and hey...come to think of it, shortly after Ken read that letter our relationship began to sour a bit...why that no good...". There was no further comment from Mr. Berardino as the phone line suddenly went dead. Feld's only comment on the incident was a rather odd smirk.

An asset sale was scheduled for November 6, 2002. The sale was not well attended since the event was not publicly announced until seven days later. As a result, the few attendees profited by some great deals on hardware, software, and like-new roast beef sandwiches. The coordinator of the event, Martha Stewart, was quoted as saying "I don't have any idea why just a few people knew about that sale...but look at this killer graphics card I picked up...it's really a good thing".

To cap off this most unusual day, President Bush is said to be mulling over what, if anything, should be done about the demise of TCLCYC. His close advisors say the President is torn between what to do about United Airlines, Al Gore (wait, he's already taken care of that), and TCLCYC. He is quoted as saying "we've got plenty of other airlines but a well written Christmas letter can really sustain a vibrant economy...get me his phone number".

Perhaps TCLCYC is not dead...yet.