**Disappearing Name Animation**

To view an example of a finished piece, go to
http://www.newton.k12.in.us/art/dd/images/mattanimation.gif

1. Create a new document in Photoshop. (approx. 200 height X 500 width)
2. Save the file as *yourname*ani.psd in your progress folder.
3. Using any color or layer style of your choice, type your name (first name or nickname) so that it fills the document but doesn't go outside the canvas. Duplicate that text layer 3 times so that you have 4 layers of your name. So there should be a blank background layer & 4 name layers.
4. Decorate the background layer in any fashion you wish. Ex: gradients, layer styles
5. Turn the visibility off on the 2nd and 3rd and 4th text layers.
6. Click on the top text layer in the layers palette to make it the active layer. Click on the Layer Mask Mode icon (on the bottom of the Layers palette).
7. Press D (default colors). While in the Layer Mask Mode, the black color hides areas on the layer and white color restores hidden areas. Choose the Gradient tool on the tools palette, and the Linear Gradient on the Options Palette with the Foreground to Background colors.
8. Turn the visibility off on any layers you are not working on so that you can see your gradient. With the gradient tool, click and drag your cursor across your name in any direction and watch it partially disappear.
9. Repeat steps 5-7 on text layer 2 and 3. For each of the next 2 layers, pull the gradient in the same direction little further each time. It will give the appearance that your name is disappearing gradually in an animation. You can add more than 4 text layers if you want for a slower disappearing progression.
10. Save the file.
11. Make the Animation Palette visible if it's not already by going to WINDOW/ANIMATION. Add 5 new frames on the animation palette. Assign each of the top 4 layers to a different frame on the Animation palette with the visibility icons. The last frame should have no text visible. Remember that the background layer must always be visible in each frame.
12. Press play to view. Tweak things as needed. You may have to redrag the gradient on a layer mask to help it look like it is gradually disappearing.
13. Save the psd.
14. Save For Web & Devices as a gif. *yourname*ani.gif with 256 colors in your to be graded folder.