

December '92

Hapless Holidays from O little town of Issaquah, perched on Seattle's shoulder in America's Great Northwest. It's cold out. Got up to 38 yesterday. The good news is we're used it (Dan stood outside last night, crunching ice in his bare feet) and that when it's cold it doesn't rain. The bad news is the cat needs thawin' and we don't know how to do that properly without making the house smell funny. And now the major events of 1992 that touched our lives:

Something happened in March.

Actually, Dan and Sandy tied the knot in March. It was a beautiful ceremony down in San Diego (where most of our cool friends live and where we have the *Reach-Out 619*TM plan from AT&T) and a really fun reception. Thank you all who came and left early before we got a chance to thank you. And whoever got us the camera and binoculars, thank you. (The name fell off the box.) The camera and binoculars came in real handy on the honeymoon.

Oh. And those of you who didn't hear, the honeymoon was one of those week-long "love boat" things in the Caribbean. Dan and Sandy's thoughts on the subject? Sandy says "It was really fun and romantic, though Dan turns into a real grunt when he had to dress up on the 'formal' nights." Dan adds, "They really buff you out, though I'd advise against getting sunburn the first day out — if you know what I mean."

Jordan is now 5 "and a half." (In fact, for future reference, he's always "and a half" around Christmas time.) He started kindergarten at Issaquah Valley Elementary in Mrs. Kim's class. Sez the Jordmeister, "Oh that Mrs. Kim. Hubba-hubba." Jordan informs us, however, that the cutest girl in the class is Amanda Landerbeast.

Jordan's taken on a number of personas over the year. Most often he's Batman. He's also been Superman on occasion and a cowboy. Once he was Mr. Data from the new *Star Trek*. He's wanted to change his name to Jack Peanut, and then to Jack. He says, "Jack, only Jack." And we call him "Jack-only-Jack" and he says "No, it's Jack, only *Jack*."

Our favorite car game is the Quiet Game, where whoever talks first loses. (It's not Jordan's favorite game.)

The favorite spot for travel this year has been Idaho, where they truly know how to spell the P-word. Soon to be joining Mr. and Mrs. Potatohead will be the Gookin family since Dan and Sandy plunked down massive sums to purchase a 113-acre combo forest and pasture land estate. It's located in the "pan handle" part of Idaho (the "spout" if Idaho were a plastic bleach dispenser). The closest town is Resume Speed.

The land is still in real estate limbo, so we'll let you know next year if we live there and have built a massive house.

And the biggest news of all is the new arrival, slated in early February, of the thing we've come to call Baby Gookin. Sandy is seriously as big as a house. In fact, we installed a device that beeps when she backs up.

Baby Gookin's sex isn't determined yet, though the ultrasound did render an image not unlike the Terminator robot.

Terminator Baby spends its time kicking mom all over (even in her "girl"), and loves to wiggle its toes under Sandy's ribs. Occasionally, Dan and Sandy have thumb wars to see who gets to carry the baby next.

Everything continues to look up here in the Mt. Pilchuck manor. Jordan got a big star on his locomotive rendering ("Paper Images in Black and Purple with Crayon"). You can see the fruits of Sandy's labors on the front of this envelope. Her printing and design business continues to grow.

According to one book publisher, Dan is now "America's number one computer book author." *DOS for Dummies*, *PCs for Dummies* and *WordPerfect for Dummies* are the #1, #2 and #3 best-selling computer book titles the first week in December. (So be a dummy and buy one!)

We wish you the very best of holiday season. We also hope that with the new administration you'll keep us in your hearts and minds, and send along those Hillary jokes as soon as you hear them. 'spect a birth announcement sometime in February. We love you very muchly. God bless and all that.

Dan, Sandy, Jordan and Baby Gookin