

## December '93

Noël from the narrow end of Idaho. Lotsa stuff to say. Little room to say it. So be thankful I'm in a cheery mood to write it all down in a somewhat merry fashion.

By the way, we hope everyone in your miserable corner of the country is doing fine. For us, life is grand. It's snowed already and the place looks lovely. Of course, the sun came out and eventually made the land look like the Slurpy machine exploded on Cola day.

**Big Event Dept.** The first big event of the year was the birth of the 8 lb. 12 oz. baby Simon Nathaniel Gookin, a boy, very fun and very *boobilly*. Simon is a strapping 30 pounder now, 10 months old and proving constantly that if Newton had any kids he wouldn't have needed an apple to discover gravity. Simon's most popular activity is laughing out loud. His favorite thing to do is point. Pastimes include bumping his enormous blond head on things, grabbing up clumps of kitty kat fur, and clutching his *deedee* in the bathtub.

Second big event: The family packed up and moved from the mold-infested Seattle-area rental and bought a lovely 5,000 sq. ft. house near Coeur d'Alene, Ideeho. The new estate commands a view of Wolf Lodge Bay and sits amidst 10 acres of lush pines and deer droppings. The other property we own (formerly in real estate limbo) has been set aside for future development, though Dan claims we should clear-cut all the trees just to peeve the local environmental cry babies.

**Jordan Dept.** Jordan is now 6 years old and a first grader at Fernan Elementary School. His teacher is Mrs. Wilson, "Though she's not the Dennis the Menace Mrs. Wilson." Alas, there are no babes in Jordan's life at this time; though Ashley and Heather swoon deeply near him, the Jordman remains cool and collected.

Jordan's passion as of late has been the Cartoon Network on TV. "It's G1, Channel 8," proclaims Jordan, who knows just that much about our satellite dish and can always find cartoons. "You mean they had *Johnny Quest* when you were a kid? But they couldn't because it's in color."

**Pet Dept.** We were given five baby ducks in July when we moved here. Their stay was both brief and tragic. Duck 1 was devoured by a nighttime creature; duck 2 was purloined in the middle of the night; duck 3 was shot after she broke her leg and began to deteriorate; and ducks 4 & 5 migrated.

On the up side, Dan got a little calico kitty for his birthday, Lydia. She loves Sandy's new furniture and her favorite thing to do is walk around the house with poop hanging from her butt. "Here," Lydia gushes, "Let me crawl into bed and lay on your face!"

**New Business Dept.** Finally, there's other news that may arrive before Christmas and possibly before you get this letter. It's yet another li'l bundle of joy at the Gookin house, a wee li'l baby-to-be that was, well, a sudden surprise.

No, we're not Catholic. Nope, not Mormon either. Let's just include this quote from Dr. Mortermer's Teenage Sex Handbook: "There is a common misconception that you can't get pregnant while you're nursing. We'll, that just isn't so." Thank you Dr. Mortermer.

Simon's Irish Twin, whom Dan calls Schuster, is actually due early January, but Sandy (who's big enough to sport her own weather system) feels that it may come early. She's rather reflective on the subject, saying "If we don't get a [bleep-bleep] Christmas tree up before I have this [bleep-bleep] baby I'm going to be really [bleeped]."

We wish you all a happy holiday season. Please supply yourself with the proper Yuletide greeting appropriate to your religion and cultural setting. And remember, just as the Clinton administration retroactively taxed us back to January 1, we love you all retroactively the whole year through. Please try to keep the weight off this merry holiday season. God bless.

Dan, Sandy, Jordan, Simon and Baby Gookin<sup>2</sup>