

Happy Holidays Friends and Family,

December 7, 1998

We've had another big year out here in California – lots of changes and more on the way. . . The biggest news of the year is that we're expecting a baby in late May 1999! We are tremendously excited, but our excitement pales quickly in comparison to that of all the anxious grandparents, aunts, and uncle, not to mention the extended family, all of whom have begun shopping vigorously for baby stuff!

David is still enjoying the fruits of working at Apple, despite an attempt by Sun Microsystems to lure him away. Apple underwent a lot of changes over the past year, most of them for the better. During this rebuilding time David transferred from the Imaging Division, which made printers, scanners, monitors, and digital cameras until it was shut down, to the Graphics and Imaging Group within the Mac OS Software Division. This transfer also included a move to Apple's main R&D campus in Cupertino. He is now working on portions of the software that will become Apple's new operating system in a year or two.

Christy spent the spring job-hunting, as the retail hours had once again become too taxing. In August she accepted a position in the fundraising office of *The International School of the Peninsula*, a private school which offers two bilingual programs, one in French-English, and one in Mandarin Chinese-English. Leaving her good friends at Barnes & Noble proved to be difficult, but everything has worked out for the best, as Christy is finally getting to use her French again, and very much enjoying being in an educational environment. Most important, Christy and David now have their evenings and weekends together, and a great deal of commuting time, since Christy's now regular schedule allows them to carpool.

Of course we couldn't let any of this "free time" go to waste, so we began landscaping the backyard – it's definitely a work in progress, but at least we have grass, rocks, and a shed. This project didn't seem to be taking up enough time, so we enrolled in a couple of classes. Christy took a French literature class at Stanford University, and we both enrolled in an amateur telescope-making class offered in San Francisco. We have spent countless hours grinding a 10-inch mirror by hand for a Dobsonian reflector telescope, and a 6-inch mirror for a sun telescope. These too are currently works in progress. It's been an astronomical fall for us – we attended a fascinating lecture by the notable physicist Dr. Stephen Hawking, and our telescope class is taught by John Dobson himself, the inventor of the Dobsonian telescope.

Other highlights this year included attending the Gilroy Garlic Festival – an absolute treat! We tried everything from garlic fries and roasted garlic to garlic ice cream – which tastes better than it sounds! We went to Reno for Valentine's Day to see Natalie Cole perform – she was fantastic! The summer was full of visits from Christy's family and lots of sightseeing, including a trip to Hearst Castle with Betty and Cathy and hiking in the Pinnacles with Charles, Kay, and Lee. We celebrated our 5th wedding anniversary in August, and reflected on our wonderful years together. The Thanksgiving holidays saw us on a whirlwind trip – we flew to Oklahoma, rented a cargo van, picked up some items neither David nor his sister Raye had brought out West earlier, and delivered some of them to Raye in Portland, Oregon before heading back to Hollister. While in Portland, we toured the Nike campus where Raye works. To get little Baby Pond off on the right foot, Tina Thompson, a WNBA athlete, provided us with some really cute Nike baby shoes. Finally, we experienced our first few earthquakes (the biggest a 4.55 magnitude centered a meager 9 miles away), which don't seem to disturb the kitties nearly as much as they do us.

We would like to send our very best wishes to all of you for a joyous holiday season and the most wonderful of new years!



David & Christy

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