

NEIL LETTER

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Dear Family:

March 22, 1996

Greetings! How is everyone? Hope Betsy's hand is better and Doug is doing well. Actually, I haven't talked to Nancy and Doug for a while, so I need to call and get an update. We'll be in Utah next week and it hope to see everyone then. Emily has her Senior Recital on the 28th and we plan to stay through most of the next week. John has the week off for his Spring Break. Marty is spending this weekend in Texas with his parents. He was scheduled to be in Dallas on Monday through Wednesday, so he added a few days over the weekend to be with his parents. Then he flies into Salt Lake City at the same time John and I do Wednesday evening, and we'll drive down to Provo together.

We have also decided to come to Mark's wedding, and then will be up in Provo again for Emily's graduation at the end of April. That's a lotta Utah in one month! Make the weather nice, will ya?

I'm involved with our stake youth musical production now and am transcribing, transposing, and recording tons of music. Rehearsals are two nights a week and performances are the 10th and 11th of May. We involve every kid that wants to participate, which is a particular challenge, but everyone is in at least one number, and most kids are in two or three. It's fun. I'm always glad for these opportunities to use my computer and music system. I used my keyboard recently to accompany Valparaiso Singers in a reader's theater production of Les Miserables. We gave two performances and will do another next month. The different sounds of my keyboard provided a really nice variety to the accompaniment. I only wish it were a little more portable (weighs 70 pounds.)

We just refinanced our mortgage to get a better interest rate (6.9%). We took some money out of equity to redo our kitchen and the contractor will begin around the first of April. We should only be in a mess for six weeks. Marty gets to be at the University of Michigan Business School the entire month of May for some special executive school, so he will miss most of the fun. I expect John and I will be eating out most of the time. Spouses are invited to go to Michigan for the last few days of the program, and I intend to go. Marty has also been invited to speak on the subject of "Organizational Change in the Workplace" at a meeting in Como, Italy the week of June 10. Marty has become somewhat of an expert on this since he came on at Santa Clara as General Ganager, and he and his organizational changes have been featured--along with two other companies--in a book written by a UCLA professor, and published by Knopf, which should come out in the next few months. Guess what you'll be getting for Christmas! Anyway, it looks like I will be going along with him to Italy (although we have to pay for my ticket). We've planned to go to Europe on a trip for years, but have never made it. Now it looks like we finally will, if only for one week.

John was moved up to the Varsity basketball team for playoffs. They won league and Central Coast Division V, but lost in the NorCal semi-final game.

Now he's outside every day after school with a few of his friends working on their "hops". They do a series of increasingly intense jumping and stretching exercises guaranteed to increase their vertical leap by 12" if they stick to the entire twelve-week program. So far it's been two weeks and they haven't missed a day. I keep the garage refrigerator stocked with juices and drinks, and the boys really go through them fast.

Erin, Emily, and her new boyfriend, Casey, came down for a weekend this month. Casey is a really tall (6'6") and good looking blond boy who returned from his mission to Oakland last August, so he was excited to return to his mission area. He took Emily up to San Francisco and showed her around, which was a switch because Emily usually shows her guests the sights. They seem to really get along, if you know what I mean. He seems like a great guy--Marty is impressed that he is working his own way through school. Emily and Casey came to church with us on Sunday and everyone was eyeing them and asking if Casey and Emily were engaged. They took it all good naturedly. Emily will come home after graduation and work for the summer, then go back to Provo and work or go to Graduate School so she can date Casey. Her missionary Jim suddenly seems interested again. Too late.

The night after Emily's recital we will see Greg in performance, as well--the first time we've heard his band play. He says to bring the foam ear plugs--we'll still be able to hear well. He's been fitted for specialty ear plugs which he uses while he plays and rehearses, because he already has a little tinitis. Greg and his band are also recording their songs onto a c.d. that they hope to sell at his concerts and in local music stores. Guess what else you'll be getting for Christmas!

Erin has decided to stay Spring Semester since we are paying rent in her apartment anyway and our kitchen here will be torn apart. I don't know about these BYU apartments that require you to rent three semesters even if you're only going to school for two semesters a year. What a deal! Erin's had a wonderful roommate this year and they will be rooming together next year as well at the Liberty Square Apartments. She finally found a good voice teacher this semester and is enjoying her lessons. Greg will stay the summer up in Provo to promote his c.d. and work. He's looking for new digs.

Well, take it easy. Button up your overcoat and all that.

Love y'all,

Liz, Marty, and assorted Yahoos