

Subj: Neil Update
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Hi Family:

Been a while since I said hello, so "Hello!" Hope things are going well for all of you. We've enjoyed hearing about Lili's mission and Ginger's family and Sherlene's. How are the rest of you folks doing? (Like this will get a response!)

Here's our goings-on:

Marty has officially quit his General Manager job and is now working at Agilent (the new company that has divided off from HP) Labs helping to identify markets for new products the engineers are developing. It's an effort to bring a business-minded side to the labs and Marty has to develop

and define his own job which is interesting for him. I attended a surprise send-off/roast for him at his old division last week where a few of his managers said really wonderful things about Marty's honesty and character

and his ability to work well with everyone. Several people came up to me to tell me how much they would miss Marty including one woman who said she

was "only the site librarian" who never really even had occasion to be with

Marty, but that she would really miss the "Monday Memo" he sent out each week which often told of family activities which he somehow managed to turn

into business metaphors. She said it made the big manager upstairs seem like a real human being to her.

Emily and Peter have moved to an apartment in Sandy which is closer to her

work at Waterford School, but now farther for Peter to drive to school.

They had been living in a home in Orem owned by Peter's sister, which sold last month, so they had to scramble quickly to find a new place. They're blisssssssfully happy and doing well. Emily seems to be recovering from her mono, but we're still urging her to not overdo.

Erin's big news is her engagement to Jason Bylund of Kentucky, who many of you have met at various family functions. (Brief biography: 22.5 yrs. old. Returned Missionary. Philosophy major. Pre-Med. Full Scholarship. Graduates April 2001. Soccer Enthusiast. Math Lab Tutor. Philosophy T.A. "Former" Night Clerk at Days Inn--now that the ring is paid for. Wacky sense of humor, not unlike Greg and Marty.) They were engaged Saturday night on Temple Square in the time-honored kneel-down fashion. She was verrrrry surprised so they can't remember if she said "yes", but she IS wearing the ring which is always a good sign. They think late June seems like a good time for a wedding. This sounds familiar.

Greg has been doing temp work at Novell, where they told him last week that they'll be offering him a full-time job. He will look elsewhere for full-time work if the offer is not good.

I'm doing a little less in the music department for Christmas this year--although I'm still directing our ward choir program and a small children's choir who will sing four songs with the Valparaiso Singers at our Creche Exhibit.

John is excited to have signed his official National Letter of Intent to play for Utah State last week and is basking in the glowing press release they sent out--says it gives him a lot to live up to. He's 6-6, not 6-7 --Utah State measured him themselves when he was there in September. Maybe they think he'll grow on his mission. Canada is pronounced Canyada--I can't put the little spanish doohickey over the "n" in e-mail. Here's the press release:

<http://sticky.usu.edu/~athletics/>

NOVEMBER 12, 1999

Utah State Signs Junior College Standout

LOGAN, UT -- Utah State's head basketball coach Stew Morrill announced today the signing of John Neil to a national letter of intent to compete for the Aggies beginning in the fall of 2002. Neil, currently a sophomore

at Canada College in Redwood City, Calif., will serve an LDS mission beginning next fall.

Neil, a 6-7, 212-pound forward, averaged 27 points per game at Pinewood High School in Los Altos, Calif., and 12 points and six rebounds per game for Canada College as a freshman last season. Named to the all-Coast Conference Second Team as a freshman, Neil shot 82 percent from the free-throw line, 51 percent from the field, 41 percent from three-point range, and led his team in scoring in the final eight games of the season. Canada College has averaged 25 wins a year for the last eight seasons for Coach Mike LaGarza.

"John is an excellent skill player who can shoot, pass and handle the basketball," commented Morrill. "He comes from an outstanding junior college program, so he will be ahead of some in terms of the coaching he has received. He will be a valuable addition to our program and should be able to play both the big guard and small forward positions.

"John is a high character young man that will join us when he returns from an LDS mission. We will lose five seniors that year, so we will need him to be ready to go."

When Neil joins the Utah State basketball team in the fall of 2002, USU will have to replace the class that includes Tony Brown, Brennan Ray, Dan Stewart, Rashaun Thomas and Brad Willden.

We're getting along fine with Jeremy, our 6-9 "foreign exchange" student from San Diego who is on John's basketball team. He still hasn't learned to duck under the lamp in the hallway and he's too tall for our shower, but he seems to like it here--who wouldn't with free room and board, transportation, and a housekeeper to change your bed once a week.