

Merry Christmas!

1996 in Review

Merry Christmas from Julie, Brian, Tony, and Brock. We hope this season again finds you in excellent health, grand spirits, and filled with great anticipation for the year to come. We continue our family tradition with this newsletter—a sprinkling of pictures and tidbits of family activities.

This year we'll be spending the holidays at home in Texas, where until today the thought of snow had no chance in the 70° weather. However, a cold front pushed through dropping the temperature below freezing and giving us snowflakes for the first time in three years.

Let's start with news from the first half of this year.

Vacation

It's becoming a tradition to vacation in Florida in May. This year we not only burned on the beach and played golf, but also visited local attractions. At Alligator Farm, Tony was surprised when a snake chose to burrow inside



his shirt. We needed a boy scout to remove the knot this snake decided to tie.

Brock was a bit less

enthusiastic about having the reptile around his body. He gave the necessary smile for the picture, and that was it.



School

Tony graduated from Kindergarten in July of this year. He was in year-round school, which unfortunately the district has dropped. First grade has provided more challenge, and Tony has excelled. It is exciting to watch his knowledge expand at unbelievable speed. In fact, we've now lost our jobs as nighttime readers.



Brock too has been attending school, but something tells me that his work has been a bit less strenuous.



Sports

This has been another year of sports for the kids. Tony was in spring and fall baseball, and Brock dabbled with soccer. Tony's spring baseball team won their division with some exciting plays, including double-plays, home runs, and some amazing throws from all over the diamond. Here, Tony's playing first and making the out. We're not sure if the runner ever left the base.



Below is Brock driving for the goal. Every indication is that he will want to do everything Tony has done, and maybe a few sports more. We have now become a taxi service for our children's extracurricular life.

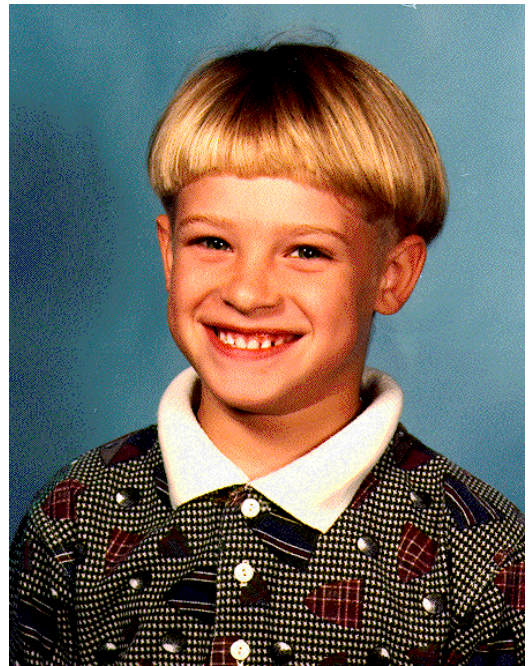


Havin' Fun

Disney had a great year at the box office. And, of course we supported them by purchasing just about every bit of paraphernalia we encountered. Can you name the three Disney characters shown below?



School Pictures



As for the rest of the household, we're happy to say that Julie and Brian are doing fine. Still in The Woodlands, north of Houston. Brian's still with Compaq and Julie continues to serve as domestic terrorist. Our new area code is (281) 292-0791. And, you can reach Brian at Compaq on the Internet at bduelm@bangate.compaq.com. Our home page on the web should be available for next Christmas!