



Christmas 2008

Duelm Family Newsletter

from Julie, Brian, Tony, and Brock in The Woodlands, Texas

Happy Holidays!

We hope this festive season finds you healthy and happy, with excitement for the year to come. We also hope you enjoy our family tradition of pictures and stories from the past twelve months.

gallons of saltwater. He's also learned to open cabinet doors, which explains the "distressed" appearance of all our lower cabinet doors.

Men in Tights!

Texas hosts one of the largest Renaissance Festivals in the country, and it's common for visitors to attend in period clothes. This year Tony went to the festival as Little John with friends from college, Maid Marian and Blinkin. Being the seamstress he is, Tony assembled the costume with felt and a glue gun, plus some women's leggings. Turns out, the leggings were the featured highlight of the afternoon. When the group was asked yet again for pictures, Tony said to one female photographer "My aren't we the popular ones." Her response was "That's what you get for wearing tights."



Killer cat

Higher and Higher

Brock continues to enhance his pole vaulting skills, a talent I imagine only becomes useful to clear electric fences during prison escapes. This year he took several 1st place finishes and placed 2nd in the district meet for Freshman. He also continues to progress toward the Eagle rank in Boy Scouts, as long as his Casanova adventures don't get in the way.

2 Down, 7 to Go

People often ask why the power cord for my laptop computer is wrapped in green duct tape. Well, do you remember the movie Christmas Vacation when Aunt Bethany's cat is seriously fried when it chews on a strand of Christmas lights? Starting to get the picture? Recently I found sparks spewing from my power cord and our cat nearby looking like he'd been hit with a Taser. That's our Tiger, the same cat you may remember from our 2004 newsletter, who decided to go fishing in the aquarium, pulled out a hose instead, and flooded our living room floor with 30



Brock clears personal best 11'-0"



Tony as Little John



Brock with Tony before Senior Prom

No Longer Safe

Brock turned 16 this year, and like his brother he learned using the Parent Taught driver education program in Texas. Keeping with tradition, Brock was the fourth member of our family to fail the Texas Drivers License on the first try. (Hmmm...wonder if this has something to do with parent-taught driver's education?) Brian failed the driving part of the exam by speeding in a residential zone. Julie failed the written exam when she heard all the answers were "D," which it turns out isn't true. Tony then failed the driving part of his exam when he took a right turn over a curb, and Brock followed Mom's footsteps. Both Brock and Tony have been good drivers, with fewer tickets and no accidents compared to their parents, who together fund the Texas Department of Public Safety and have standing monthly appointments at the body shop.



Tony just completed his first semester at Texas A&M in Aerospace Engineering. It was a hard five months but he has adapted well. For those of you not familiar with the cult-like atmos-

phere of Aggieland, let's just say that the school performs more brainwashing than most government covert operations. Example? Tony has always despised the color maroon, and prior to school we couldn't convince him to let us buy him Aggie clothes. However, on his first visit back home, following Fish Camp orientation and a month of Aggie life, his mound of dirty laundry was...yes...a single color indeed.



Brian & Julie

In Other News...

Julie was promoted this year to the exalted role of "crosstitute," a significant step up from her previous role as a "street walker" serving as a crossing guard for the local school district. (We're a bit unsure what the district is looking for on background checks.) Brian continues as a human resources manager with HP. His most recent fetish is crossword puzzles in the National Enquirer, when he discovered all the boxes with vowels are a different color. Julie is still aghast when he strolls down the store aisle with the magazine prominently displayed in the shopping cart.

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