

## *Happy Holidays 1999*

### «Salutation»

The “Battle of Seattle” that you have probably heard about and witnessed on TV is over, but the “Battle of Seattle Siblings” continues as ever. It’s amazing to witness Adam and Nathan start off with good-natured roughhousing or kidding around, and in a flash, with no provocation discernable to an adult eye, dissolve into threats, tears and an occasional (!) punch. Ah well, at ages 7 and 10, should I expect otherwise? They do both love to spend hours (carefully rationed hours) crouched together at the computer screen analyzing games which leave me slack-jawed.

We’ve added another member to our household this year. Luckily, he eats nothing, never creates a mess and is very quiet. Yes, Harry Potter is firmly ensconced in Adam’s imagination. He’s read Book One 47 times, Book Two, 32 times, and Book Three 21 times. Amazing. Adam, now in fifth grade (egad - middle school angst is less than a year away!), also is involved in a Korean martial art called Tae Kwon Do. He’s taken several belt tests, and now has achieved the Hi-Green level. Adam’s a real computer nut; he attended a computer camp last summer – 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and I still had to drag him out of there. He wants to go two weeks next summer.

Nathan started second grade at a new school this year. Lawton is a public school only a couple of miles from home, which has a stronger academic program than the school two blocks away. He’s adjusted surprisingly well, and loves his teacher, for whom he cannot find a superlative superlative enough. Nathan, current spokesman for the song, “All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth,” still simply loves to play. His Lego guys and other action figures form tableaux in the oddest locations around the house, and we often hear dialogues and simulated gunfire wafting up from the basement. He was designated his soccer team’s “most improved player,” but the post-game snacks remained the highlight for him.

In addition to my role of Queen Bee in this mostly male household (hey, wait, aren’t the drones supposed to do the work???), I’ve done some traveling, both transcontinental and in-place. In January I took a very special trip to Philadelphia to celebrate my mom’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and in October I was finally able to travel to Boston to visit an old college friend. Tim and I have this marvelous arrangement. He travels on business accruing frequent flyer miles, and I spend them on pleasure trips for me (that’s OK – she cooks the food and I eat it). A new fitness club opened its doors only three blocks from our house, so I’ve joined up and am doing my best to get into shape. Several times a week I go over to lift weights and hop on a treadmill to run and get nowhere.

My sister and her family came out for a week this past summer and we had a wonderful time. The cousins got a chance to hang around and bond (of course, around the computer), and I got to scare the living daylights out of Sheryl by driving her down the very steep Dravus Street Hill (Take note, it was the first time, ever, she’d been a passenger in a car driven by me). We all headed west for a few days at Lake Quinault Lodge, a resort in the Olympic National Park. My mom came out for her annual two-week visit in October and Tim’s mom and brother, Luther, came for a weekend in early November. Thanksgiving found us traveling again, although I have been known in the past to vow that I’d never travel at Thanksgiving. The convergence of the holiday and Tim’s sister Judy’s “golden birthday” on the 24<sup>th</sup> caused me to eat my words. (She was a good sport about it too.)

My turn. Ah yes, the “battle of Seattle”. I marched in the huge labor/environmental parade – you know, the one you never heard about. I saw no property damage, smelled no tear gas, broke no windows. Hence no media coverage. Kids were marching; I’d have brought mine, but they’d just missed two days of school – an extended Thanksgiving, saved us \$\$\$ on airfare.

Other than that, I coached soccer, teach Sunday School, work on the children’s staff for our summer camp and our New Year’s camp, chair the state Sierra Club transportation committee, and worked some really long hours on some very interesting projects at work, including one that has the potential to save the nation hundreds of millions in medical research costs. For recreation I do serious reading – Harry Potter & the like ☺.

