

## *"Happy Christmas to All!"*

From a poem Clement Moore wrote for his children, 1822

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This time of year we think of and appreciate you--friends and family. We hope you and yours are healthy, content, and enjoying the holiday season.

**Ian** is fine. His law practice (criminal defense) is comfortable, especially since renovation is now complete of the old downtown building he bought last year. The landscaping was finished just this month. He still cycles at noon, and he's still into rockclimbing. Every third weekend of the spring and fall he takes whichever child will go with him to Enchanted Rock. Burton and John are regulars, and Burton has even surpassed Ian's skill level, which Ian dismisses as purely a function of age.

**I** am fine. I still work weekends in neonatal ICU. Last year's Christmas note mentioned that I was trying to get into Barbara Jordan's coveted Policy Development class. I succeeded, and I will say, without hesitation, that the experience ranks at the top of the "Rewarding Life Experiences" category. This month I graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing, with minor in Public Affairs. I was honored at graduation with the Outstanding Student Award, and with the announcement that I was the recipient of the Texas Nurses Association Past Presidents Health Policy Legislative Fellowship. I will work with TNA in Texas's 73rd Legislative Session (January through May) on legislative policy issues regarding health and nursing.

**Burton** is fine. He's still going to Texas A&M and majoring in Horticulture. And he still works as a grip during the summer to pay for college. He moved off campus this year and has been developing his cooking skills as well as growing his own vegetables--like mustard greens, shallots, Chinese cabbage, white scallop squash, etc. And of course he rockclimbs with Ian every chance he gets. He and Kelley (from last year's picture) are still friends.

**Erin** is fine, also. She's in the eighth grade at the math, science, and computer technology magnet school, and still makes first honor roll. She has filmed several pilots for a children's show of which she is the hostess, called "Smart Show". The pilots have been shown on NBC, but the producer has yet to sell the show to enough cable channels to enable full-scale production. Adolescence struck swiftly and decisively this year. Every square inch of the walls of her room are covered with selected "art". Ian and I, the aliens, have begun our pointless, "Turn it down!!" again, which we got so good at 10 years ago (with Burton). How nice that in another five years we can start all over again with John...Not.

**John** is also fine, still as lovable as ever. He's in the third grade. Ian says he's a pretty good rockclimber, and he still loves baseball.

*Have a very Bright and Merry New Year!*

*Love,*

*Toni, Ian, Burton, Erin, and John*



*Christmas, 1992*