

Seasons Greetings,

It looks like Christmas is upon us once again. It doesn't seem possible that another fun-filled, action-packed year has gone by. We've never done a Christmas letter before, but we bought a really cool printer and needed an excuse to use it.

Picker International is still keeping Rob busy, the company makes CAT and MRI scanners for hospitals. He enjoys his job a great deal, even though it's stressful. He now works with his childhood chum, Chris Cobb. They share a cubicle and are two little computer nerds in a world all their own.

About a year ago, Rob hooked up with an Internet access company in Cleveland. He moonlights every Monday night and some weekends. He enjoys working at Multiverse, but that has some stressful moments too. I thought Java was coffee, but Rob insists there is some in <http://www.logan.com>.

On the fun side of Rob's life, he is half owner of a two-seat, enclosed, ultralight aircraft. I usually describe it as a lawnchair with wings. I was taken to admire this toy one day and asked if I would like a ride. I declined after being informed that the engine smoked and coughed once in a while. He has a lot of fun, but seems to work on it more than he flies. Rob is also taking private pilot lessons, but not so much now that the weather is so fickle. His ultimate goal is to buy a bigger, more expensive plane. I'm convinced his spending is going to exceed the National Debt!

In March, Rob set up a 120 gallon, salt-water, reef tank. It has been quite an undertaking. We currently have nine fish who are as follows: Spencer, Ringo, Alvin, Theodore, Gus, Sunny, Tony, Gizmo and Stain. We've had five floods involving the tank, the last one being the worst. It required a professional carpet cleaning service and carpet installers. We didn't have to buy new carpet, just replace the pad underneath, but it was ugly. Needless to say, the tension was thick around here for a few days. We corrected the over-ambitious design with the pumps in the basement and the tank on the first floor, so there hasn't been a flood in four months.

I bought a Dodge Caravan in June which already has 15,000 miles on it. We didn't trade in a car, so there was the trauma of selling one. Rob has a 1990 Eagle Talon that he really didn't want to sell and I had a 1991 Honda Accord. As you have probably figured out by now, we still have the Eagle Talon. Rob got brave and advertised both, but we ended up selling the Honda even though it was newer, had less miles and was overall in better running condition. Rob got four new tires and front brake pads, so that will hold him for a while. He's happy and that's all that matters.

I'm still baby-sitting. It's rather ironic, Chris works for Rob at Picker and I baby-sit for him and his wife. Talk about intertwined lives. I have been baby-sitting for two years now, Talia was only two months old when I started in February. Chris' wife, Jo, and I have started potty training, my what a learning experience that is! I can now appreciate what my mother went through! Talia likes to read books while she is sitting on the potty. This certainly helps pass the time, while we're waiting for her to do something. Her latest expressions are, "Where's the puppy?" and "You can't say that," which is said right after you tell her "no". Ah, the joys of baby-sitting, never a dull moment!

As I stated earlier, our van has 15,000 miles on it, Jo, Talia and I would be the reason for that. We travel a good share of the summer visiting various relatives. We leave the husbands at home since discovering that we have more fun without them. Also, they don't realize how much of their money we are spending.

This brings you up to date on what's happening in our little corner of the world. We hope that you have a safe and happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,