

Taylor Gazette

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Holiday 1996

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TAYLORS SURVIVE ANOTHER YEAR (ALBEIT, BARELY)!

We could blame our tardiness on the Post Office (why can't they deliver overnight for 32¢ anyway?) The truth is that ~~we~~ we were tardy! Well, another year has come and is almost gone! 1996 started and is ending on a good note, but there were some major bumps in between. (See "The Long Road Home" on Page 2)

So, we shall have to endure another New England winter. We hope 1997 brings all good things to you and your family - good health, happiness, and fulfillment.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

Happy
New
Year!

DANCE AS IF NO ONE IS WATCHING,
SING AS IF NO ONE IS LISTENING,
LOVE AS IF YOUR HEART HAS NEVER
BEEN BROKEN.

[Author Unknown]



WHAT'S NEW WITH JIM?

Other than coping with Debbie's illness, I had a good year. Work at Hughes-JVC went extremely well. The company is finally on track under the leadership of JVC which bought controlling interest from Hughes Aircraft late last year. Our projectors were used at both



Happy Chanukah!

presidential conventions, election night (NBC) and over 30 were at the Olympics. Although the competition is becoming more formidable, we still make the biggest, brightest, and best pictures in the industry.

We made our annual trip to the Tunk Lake family camp in Maine. Unfortunately it was shorter than usual because of Debbie's work obligation and the cabin availability, but we still had a great time. The lake was a beautiful as ever. The boys absolutely love it there and start counting the days until next summer from the moment we leave.

In October, only several weeks after Debbie's hospital discharge, we had a wonderful week-long visit from my old friend Ralph from Australia. We have been friends for nearly 30 years after meeting on the Great Barrier Reef while working a summer high school vacation down under. Unfortunately, I was very limited in the quality time we could spend together due to both my work schedule and the added

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THE LONG ROAD HOME

(Or, Debbie goes through hell and so does the family!)

The best laid plans of mice and women. . . .

After a wonderfully successful year of public service with the AmeriCorps program, I felt certain that my mid-life changeover from business to a social service setting was the right move.

Despite the serious juggling act the whole family had to do, I was a happier

person and better mother. The fact that the house was neglected did not matter much, as no one was ever home to notice! I made a special friend, who has become surrogate family, got lots of training and some tuition assistance. I became a "Certified Character Educator," which means I can train teachers and parent groups to be trainers in ethics education for children and young adults. This may figure into some of the activities I take on in the future. I was also asked to serve on Stratford's Youth and Family Advisory Board, which studies and recommends to the town

manager, programming for youth and families. They do great work, and I feel proud and flattered to serve on this board.

Because my AmeriCorps service was done in August, I planned to attend school full time in the fall, and graduate in the spring of '97.

After an elective surgery in August to "clean up some loose ends, I developed infection and complications, resulting in another surgery and month long hospital

But in deed. . . a friend is never known till a man has need.

Ibid

stay. The recuperation thereafter was long - over three months at home, including intravenous feeding to allow the

perforation in my intestine to heal. During all this time, I had to cope with a lot of pain, both physical and emotional, which took its toll on my usually cheerful self (!)

My parents were up and back from Florida a couple of times, lending an enormous amount of help, and our babysitter fully funded her retirement account. In addition, some very kind and caring friends and neighbors fed the family with home cooked meals (every other day), and filled our freezer, freeing Jim from the responsibility of food preparation. I didn't have to worry that the kids' cholesterol would be over 200 from Burger King kid's meals!

Jim had to take on all the home duties of laundry, shopping, cleaning and watching the kids,



New England Winterland

while trying to keep his job going. His life was very tough for several months. He has been a real trouper, rising to the occasion with grace.

The children suffered their share of stress as well - mom was not there for the first day of school, for homework and the like. Jared made a wonderful nurse when I returned home, providing me with an intercom to call for service!

As the year winds up, it seems I'm at 85% - still a great improvement over several months ago. Though I still have a way to go, life is nearly normal (for us, anyway, whatever that means!).

We are all grateful that it seems the worst is behind us. I plan to resume school with a vengeance, as I ready myself for a winter intersession course (killers, those courses), then four classes in the spring. With summer school and a few fall classes, I hope to graduate by the end of '97.

THE END

**JARED IS IN
SECOND GRADE**

Jared is quite a young man.

Born from the ashes of a hurricane, he has settled into being a very sweet and caring young boy (not that he doesn't have his moments!) He is reading and writing, and carries a pad and pencil wherever he goes. He is compulsively organized when it comes to party planning (a future career, maybe?), sets a mean table and is sure to include tickets and sign-in sheets for the event. (He charges admission sometimes, too - a budding entrepreneur, if not a rude host!).

Somehow, unfortunately, these organizational skills never apply to his room or play areas, but he is creative and we tolerate as much as we can before ordering him to clean up or risk losing his "stuff." All things told, we think he is turning out just fine and love him with all his faults!!

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A faithful friend is a strong defense: and he that hath found such an one hath found a treasure.

The Apocrypha

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household and childcare responsibilities during Debbie's recuperation. Ralph made the best of it and fit right in, proving to be a true friend. I would like to get back to Australia to visit him someday, but chances are that it won't be any time soon.

Although it has been a tough year for our family, 1997 will start off with much optimism as Debbie's health continues to improve. While she was hospitalized for 4 weeks I gained a lot of understanding and respect for the amount of work she has to do to run the household in addition to her school and job responsibilities. I love her so very much and can't wait until she's back at 100%.

The rest of the family is doing well. Dad just turned 75 and shows no sign of slowing down. Mom is as busy as ever with all her usual social and charitable activities.

My best to you all for the coming year.

Do we have your current information? (Just like the doctor's office!)

Send us your fax number and e-mail address. You can reach us any way listed in the previous column!

David is 4 Years Old!

Oh, the delights of being parent to a 4 year old! Some moments are precious and memorable, as when he arrives home and says to his mother, "Do you know what I give thanks for? You, mommy." or when he just comes up and whispers, "I love you" in her ear, along with a hug. At other times . . . we won't talk about *those*!

David is a little lover, delighting the girls in his nursery school with his highly developed sense of humor. His best routines include swooning and fainting, bathroom jokes, and pretending to be the cat that lives under his bed.

It is hard to believe that our "baby" will be going to "real" school before you get next year's update!