

Goerwitz Greetings

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Happy Holidays from New England!

Richard III at "Work"

1997 has been a time of settling in for the Goerwitz family. New England is a good, maybe great, place to live. But the people here just aren't as outgoing as they are in the Midwest, and it wasn't until Richard IV started school this year that he, in particular, began to feel he'd found his niche.

Fortunately for Richard, he has a couple of nice friends, Joshua and Daniel. And he plays baseball, soccer, and basketball, which helps him meet people. We tried to scowl appropriately when his grades dipped a bit in the fall. But it's hard to act too disappointed when things are going so well for him.

Richard IV and Trouble

One big change in Richard IV's life has been the arrival of a new family member. In April, we adopted an adorable black kitten named Trouble. Richard IV immediately assumed responsibility for his care and feeding. Trouble knows when it's time for Richard to come home from school and will often lie waiting to spring out and surprise Richard on his way home.

Supporting us throughout has been Richard III's job with the Brown University Scholarly Technology Group (STG). STG has been "a sweet gig," as Richard puts it. STG was what made it possible for him to make the leap from a probable lifetime of go-nowhere humanities professorships to an exciting life on the "bleeding edge" of today's computer technology.

Sure, Richard still has his gripes. Biking, jogging, etc. haven't done a thing to help him trim down. And he's been feeling bad about feeling good about not having to go to church. But overall he has few serious complaints.

Amy's favorite part about Richard's job is that it gives him an ample book budget. It's enough to satisfy Richard's deep love of books, without tempting him to leave any more of them on our

Later than we wanted in December 1997

(increasingly cluttered) shelves.

Like Richard, Amy has also been learning new tricks. Through April 15th of this year Amy worked as a tax preparer for H & R Block. Though the job paid much less than she was led to expect, she still found it to be worthwhile for a tax season (the operative word in the last clause is "a"). Since Amy has always prepared our own taxes, it was an eye-opener for her to mix with people who thought they had to pay someone else to do this. Many clients were even willing to pay thirty-five bucks for the preparation of simple forms like the 1040 EZ (more if they wanted them electronically filed). To be fair, there were some clients who needed help with complicated forms. But these were the minority. Most of her customers were low-income families who were intimidated by tax forms or who wanted their refunds right away and were willing to pay dearly for the service.

After her experiment with tax preparation, Amy decided it would be fun to try out major surgery. On April 23rd, she had a laparotomy to remove an endometrioma, which is a type of ovarian cyst. This was Amy's first real hospital stay, and, with any luck, it will be her last.

Before she went into the hospital, Amy spent a lot of time looking for information about endometriomas on the Internet. Despite all that's said about the quantity of information available there, she found very little of use to her. So, once she was up and around again, she posted her story to the Worldwide Web. Her pages take thirty or so "hits" a day, representing five to ten serious serious perusals of her material from people all over the world.

Richard IV at Play

IV Doing What He Loves

You, too, can read more about Amy and her pet endometrioma at the following World-Wide Web address (also called a URL):

<http://goon.stg.brown.edu/endo>.

By the summer, Amy had fully recovered, so she and Richard IV enjoyed the time together. This was the first summer in 20 years that Amy hadn't worked, and she recommends taking the summer off to everyone. (Did you know that it gets hot in the summer?)

Amy and Richard IV played tennis, picked lots of blueberries, and traveled to visit both sets of grandparents: in June, they traveled by car to Philadelphia and then in August they took the train to Minneapolis. Here's another recommendation:

travel by train sometime. The main difference between traveling by car and by rail, other than not having to drive, is that from a car you see people's front yards, while in a train you see their backyards. Believe us, the backyards are much more interesting.

Amy Doing What She Loves

Here are a few words from Richard Goerwitz IV: Hi, I'm now in sixth grade at Myron J. Francis Elementary School more stuff more stuff, more stuff....