

### Brett, Craig, and Jessica celebrate graduation from H.S.



# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

July, 2001

#### GRADUATIONS (continued)

Because of our vacation schedule we had to miss all of the graduation ceremonies, and we are sorry that we were not able to be present on those special days. However, we did get back in time for two of the parties, one for Craig and one for Jessica. The pictures shown on the lower half of page 1 are scenes from the parties, which we enjoyed very much. We enjoyed talking to Bernie and Audry Benesch, and were pleased to see that Jeff's mom has recovered from her hip operation and is getting around easily again. We also enjoyed meeting some of Jessica's friends. At Craig's party we also enjoyed talking to Bob Gillingham's parents, Dave and Martha, along with Bruce's mother Nataline, and some more family friends. Both parties were great, but most of all we **CONGRATULATE** Brett, Craig and Jessica for successfully completing high school and moving on to the next level in their education.

#### SICK CALL

As you can see in Jessica's party picture (page 1) she is using a crutch (sometimes) to get around. We are happy to report, however, that the knee operation was a complete success. The first few days after the operation were pretty painful, and compounded by the requirement to use a special device that flexed the knee constantly, to avoid stiffening. Things are much better now, and she is looking forward to a full recovery.

We also have good news on Tim Riel. The recent surgery to remove a small cyst in the neck area was successful, and the material removed was benign. Everything is back to normal, and Tim is looking forward to going to San Francisco in the fall. We extend best wishes to Tim and Jessica for full recoveries.

#### **Birthday calendar for July**

Sorem	July 8	15
	2	16
e Sorem	July 21	49
iel	July 26	19
	2	4

#### Kids win sports awards

We learned recently that Scott Hartman was voted the Francis Parker Track and Field Most Valuable Player award for the year 2001. **CONGRATULATIONS, SCOTT!!** 



Recently the San Diego Union-Tribune announced the make up of the High School All Academic Teams, honoring 3,608 student-athletes. The family was well represented, with three kids named. Kristy Gillingham was named on the Francis Parker softball team, Brett Sorem on the Scripp's Ranch Golf team, and Megan Riel-Mehan on the La Costa Canyon Track Team. GREAT WORK, KIDS AND KEEP IT GOING!!

#### **Casual dress day at Francis Parker School**



another tough day at the old schoolhouse.

On the morning of the day Grandma and Grandma took off for their Indian Wells condo vacation Birdy dropped by to pick up the garage door opener, so she could put away the mail. We were somewhat surprised to see her dressed as shown in the accompanying photo. She explained that it was casual dress day for the kindergarten class, and everyone came in their PJ'S. That explained everything, and we thought that it would be nice to get a picture of the teacher ready to take on

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## Family celebrates Father's Day at Hartman home



As you can see from the above pictures Father's Day was a big and happy day at the Hartman home. We enjoyed lots of snacks, followed by some great food and dessert. The kids spent lots of time in the pool, while the rest just sat around and enjoyed each other. We certainly thank Bruce and Birdy for inviting us to share this special day in their home.

### **Travel news**

There are two big travel items just completed or in progress. First, Bob Riel and family have just returned from a business/vacation trip to Vancouver, B.C. They spent ten days enjoying the sights in this lovely area. We understand we did some hiking and sightseeing, and Robert has promised a full account plus pictures for the next issue of RFNL.

Grandpa and Grandma recently returned from a week in Indian Wells, where they enjoyed lots of golf plus some bingo and slots at the local Indian Casino, Fantasy Springs. The first couple of days were marred by some minor tooth problems experienced by Grandpa. It seems that a recent root canal procedure (still not finished) caused a toothache in the middle of the night. He had to go out to an all night drug store for some pain pills, which seemed to do the trick. After that it was all fun and games.

The big travel story, however, is that Margaret and Megan took off Wednesday, the  $5^{th}$ , for South Africa. They will be in Cape Town for ten days, and we hope to have a full report next month.

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## 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations

Grandma and Grandpa celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> twice. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> we took in a Padres baseball game, after a tailgate party in the parking lot. We enjoyed our usual grilled hamburgers plus snacks, and a Padre win afterwards. On



summer I am goin g to be ta

July, 2001

Some news from Michael at UCLA We have the following by e-mail.

Grandpa - Well, I survived another year at UCLA. I am currently swamped with finals and my brain is a little sore so bear with me if this e-maim rambles a little bit. I recently switched majors, well actually picked one to be honest. I was searching the UCLA web page looking for something to do with my life when I stumbled across an unknown major called cybernetics. It is a Life Science major that integrates computers and system study to understand and school manipulate biological processes. This means I'll have a bunch more biology and Computer Science courses to take, but don't worry, I will still manage to squeeze in a few chemistry classes in there too. I am still not sure if I am going to med but I am still taking all the pre med requirements to keep my options open.

While I am not hitting the books I try to get out to the soccer field as much as I can. The competition isn't as stiff as the Thanksgiving Day battle but it gets me running. Earlier this year I was on a semi-pro team with a bunch of the guys who don't play for UCLA but still have a lot of talent. We got off too a rocky start but finished real strong after we sorted out a coaching issue. Next year should be a lot of fun. My intramural team did win the UCLA intramural soccer tournament though. The UC system even splurged for a champions' T shirt, so I have something to show for my efforts.

This king summer school and working in Santa Barbara. I have a bunch of high school friends that live there and I think Jason will be there too. Two Riels in Santa Barbara could be dangerous for the civilians. I am going to miss being home though so I 'll probably be in S D a lot, which will give them time to recover. The beaches up there are terrible compared to San Diego anyway. After I finish summer school if everything goes according to plan I may be flying to Granada, Spain to study abroad for a quarter. I am currently waiting to see if my application gets accepted. I've heard space is limited so I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

Well that's all my news for now. Thanks for sending me the newsletters, I read them cover to cover as soon as I get them. It's nice to get a taste of home every month, even if I have ti read about getting evicted from my room for my sister's amazing art skills. It looks better now than it ever did while I was living there, anyway. Love. Michael

Thanks much, Michael, and let us hear from you soon!!