

Brown's 2004 Newsletter

December, 2004

Mary's Year in Review

Well, here I am starting another year of college. Nothing new has really happened to me in the past year. I rowed crew last year for the University of Washington, we did pretty well, and I believe that our novice team was one of the top teams in the nation. Even though I had a great time last year I have decided not to continue with rowing and focus more on my job at the genetics research lab.

I spent this past summer living in Seattle and continuing to work at the lab. Although I did take time off for a vacation with my parents to Europe, which was very exciting. Right now I am currently taking business classes at UW, I have decided that premed may not be the right route for me, but I am still keeping my options open. For right now, I am just trying to stay focused on school work and my job. Hopefully next year I will have something more interesting to say because according to Liz my life is too boring to write an article on.



Mary puts the pedal to the metal in 2K race.

Adele's Year in Review

This year has been has been busy in the "get to know your world" category. We started the year in Tanzania on a two week safari, on to Norway in May, with the two girls to Western Europe by riverboat in July and to Egypt in December. It was wonderful getting to go to all those places. I think we went to two extremes cost wise, Norway and Egypt. I bet you can guess which has a cup of hot chocolate for \$3.00 or more. My favorite trip was to Europe with Elizabeth and Mary. It was neat having the four of us together as we floated from Antwerp, Belgium to Basel, Switzerland. I'll never forget the last night as we sat on the open deck watching the sun set in Basel on a beautiful clear evening.

We also went to the east coast to visit my brother and sister in August and to Cancun for my nephew's wedding in November. Both trips were priceless.

It has been great having Mary at the University of Washington where she can easily take the train home any weekend. We haven't been with Elizabeth as much because she's been in Sri Lanka since August. We are so fortunate to have 2 wonderful and responsible daughters.

I am still out on leave from the Vancouver School District. I have to return next year or retire. I have never really gotten into sub-

stituting and traveling is too much fun to give up. So, now you know which way I'm leaning. I am still taking an occasional art class and painting, be it watercolors or pastels.



Adele with friends in Norway

A Year of Traveling

Question – What do the Virgin Islands, Tanzania, Norway, Belgium, Holland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Mexico, Japan, Sri Lanka and Egypt have in common?

Answer – They are all places visited by one or more of the Browns in the past year.

Yes, it was a very busy year for our passports. We have always wanted to travel and now that both girls are in college and we are both retired, now is the time! Enjoy the photos. I'm sure there will be more next year!



September, 2004 – with Adele's Family in Connecticut



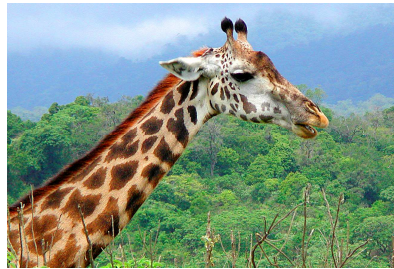
November, 2004
Cancun
Wedding of Adele's nephew Jeff McClure

Caribbean Flowers December, 2003—Virgin Islands



Liz getting cornrows

February, 2004—Tanzania

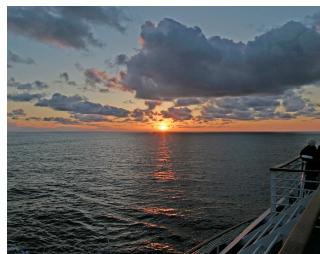


Handsome dude posing for us

Relaxing before dinner.



May, 2004—Norway



Midnight Sun—WHB actually stayed up until midnight!

December, 2004—Egypt



The ghost of Nefertiti still haunts Egyptian tombs!

July, 2004—Europe



Even in Germany, she's famous



Belles of Basel



Liz's Year in Review

Shouldn't the advent of my 21st birthday be a turning point in my life? Most of my friends, my sister included, are jealous of the new found privileges of this age group. I'm still a dependent on my tax return, I don't drink much, and the highlights of my year occurred in countries where 21 is the same as 19 and 40.



In Sri Lanka with her host mother

always wondered where the Japanese picked up these supposedly "western" things that I had never experienced be-

fore, and learned they came from Europe. For example, the Japanese definition of a sandwich and the grocery stores being in the basements of shopping complexes.

My first overseas adventure of 2004 was an all-expense paid trip to Japan. By taking a class taught by a visiting professor from Japan on Mahayana Buddhism and spent two weeks in June continuing my studies first-hand with that professor. It was an amazing trip, seeing the side of Japan I missed when I was there as a high school student. In July, I traveled with my parents to Europe. I had

Two weeks after returning from Europe, I set off on a forty hour journey to the other side of the world and landed in Sri Lanka. The humidity, sites, sounds, and smells overwhelmed me before leaving the airport. I had no idea what I had got myself into. There were men with semi-automatic machine guns guarding the airport, there had been a recent bombing, and that was the heightened security. It was a bumpy ride to Kandy, as the roads hadn't been repaved since the British left in 1948. I learned some Sinhala, about living in the upper crust of a society, and how to cross streets when drivers don't follow any traffic laws.

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Rock Climbing in Sri Lanka

when drivers don't follow any traffic laws.

Bill's Year in Review

What with our ambitious travel schedule, I spent much of the year in a state of jet lagged stupor, so I don't remember much about 2004.

My treat this year was a new BMW. I figured that it might be one of my last cars and I at least wanted to match one of my first (a Mercedes sports car). Fortunately, my banker (a.k.a. Adele) agreed, so I am now tooling around in luxury. Of course, the trade-off is that I have to take my banker on frequent shopping trips!

I've been spending a lot of time restoring old family photos on the computer. Although seeing a 100-year-old photo restored to life can be very rewarding, it is a very tedious and time-consuming process. I'd hoped to

have a CD-ROM ready for my family this Christmas, but I'm not going to make it.

What with the traveling and my conspicuous lack of ability, I haven't been playing golf. I hate to admit defeat, but I've given up the game. Although it saddens me, it must be absolutely heartbreaking to the golf ball manufacturers who were making fortunes replacing my lost balls.

I managed to win another photo contest. The prize was an excursion to Sun River (a Central Oregon resort). Adele and I went in September and had a great time in that beautiful area.

We took a short "road trip" to California to test-drive the beemer

and see some family. We spent an enjoyable overnight at Crater Lake along the way.



Egyptian Fashion Model Mohammed Brown

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Here are the Browns!

Bill & Adele brought exotic costumes from Egypt back for the girls. Although Liz and Mary think it was just for love and fun, the real reason is that several Egyptians offered a thousand camels apiece for the girls.

Adele is hoping for a better price and feels that a really nice picture will close the deal. Please address bids to Adele's e-mail, specifying whether you want the redhead or the blonde. Minimum bid is 2,000 camels each. There will be a 10% price reduction if the buyer pays for their college education!

