

Good Hello

Happy Holidays from the house of Marla Pemberton & Cody Rich! We all made it through another year, and as it draws to a close, it is as good a time as any to produce a Holiday Letter, to keep you posted as to what we've been up to lately.

The biggest news in our lives is our impending wedding next summer. As many of you already know, I proposed to Marla last November, and due to a momentary lapse of reason on her part, she said yes. The proposal story is actually pretty entertaining: after Marla got sick, and was then asked to work from home on the day I had planned to propose, I revised my plan to involve a walk in the park the following day, only to have Marla twist her ankle on the way. Assuming that nothing worse could possibly happen, I asked, we cried, and I helped carry her home only to step in dog shit while wearing my nice shoes. I'm sure we could have hired a few Harvard Grads to write something a little funnier for us, but I have a feeling things turned just fine, with hindsight.



On par with the proposal is our recent move to Salem Oregon, our state's fine capital. As the prices in Portland began to inflate beyond both of our incomes, we decided that something more in our price range was needed to keep us financially solvent. After much searching and deliberation, we found the place we're in now, a three bedroom house with a full basement, plenty of kitchen and living space, a front and back yard, and everything else you would want in a home. While we're still fine-tuning everything, it is more than we ever had in our tiny Portland apartment, at a fraction of the total living expenses.

We're very happy with how it all turned out, and Salem has turned out to be a good place for us to settle down and grow as a couple. As with most of the United States these days, the Inter-Web-A-Tron has homogenized our culture in a way where most things are basically the same everywhere you go. While the small-town pace does mean that we miss out on last minute parties, going to shows, and some of the other amenities that Portland offered, we have some excellent bar and restaurant choices, and we get to spend lots of time with Marla's family, which is very nice. I've already found that the slower pace of a smaller town has done wonders for my nerves, and gives me more focus for creative endeavors.

Career-wise, we're both doing fairly well. Marla just got a new job, and will start in December working in essentially the same business, but in the Salem-Albany-Lincoln City-Corvallis areas. Up until the beginning of July, I was still working for PSU, but on July 16th I began working for The State, as a DHS worker. Not only was it a raise and a quality of life improvement – my commute is now 20 minutes by foot – but the work is important, and helps people all over Oregon. I have my own cubical, I can keep my own hours, I will never have to work on the weekends, and I'm home by 3 PM every week day. All in all, the job has been a huge change for us, and I'm very happy to be rid of the long bus rides and I-5 traffic.



Marla's cat Feyd has been adjusting to our new home as best she can. At first she was very angry with us, as we gave her a mansion, but kept some of the doors closed, a behavior of which she did not approve. However, after we bought her a cardboard catnip perch by one of the windows, she now sits happily and watches the squirrels that play in one of our trees. She still finds our lifestyles to be inscrutable, and has taken to crying at us for no apparent reason pretty much all the time, pausing only when we give her



our complete attention.



Both of us are still on The MyFacester+ and the Twinstigrammer and all that Inter-Web-A-Tron stuff, so we're not completely inaccessible. But we would love to hear from and see ya'll more often, so let us know when you are free. Hopefully we can come to visit, and you can return the favor.

We hope you are all well, are enjoying your lives in the best possible way, and are enjoying the holidays in the way you prefer to. We love all of you, and we hope your family and your friends are as healthy and as happy as possible.

Take Care!