

Laico Lines Latebreaker:

FOUR PEPPY KIDS (and one dad out of pep)

by Peppy Elizaga

Hi from the Peppy Elizaga family. I can't believe it has been a year since our last *Laico Lines*. My sister Marnie has called the past two nights asking, "Have you submitted your story yet?" We have been so busy, but finally I have a night without any basketball games and no one has to go anywhere. So here goes.

Our family has been doing well. Shannon is working hard as a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) at the Morton Hospital Nursing Home. She loves her work and she has recently been offered a full-time position. Along with that, they also offer on-the-job training in several different fields of Nursing. She plans on working her way to an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse degree) then possibly becoming an RN (Registered Nurse), someday. When she is not working she enjoys working in the garden, planting flowers, and caring for the fishpond. Last summer our yard was so colorful it looked like a park. Too bad winter has to come along just when the plants have filled out. We're looking forward to spring when we can enjoy the garden again.



Our youngest (Sidney) turned two years old in October. She is always everyone's little spot of sunshine. She is so well-behaved and has such a nice disposition that we get asked, "Is she always cheerful like that?" She has been a little cranky at night because we recently took away her "baa" (bottle) because "Big girls don't have 'baas.'" I am so grateful the

other kids help out with caring for her. She gets a lot of attention.

Malia just finished an undefeated season of 5th grade basketball. It has been fun watching the team improve their game. As one of the tallest girls on her team she sees plenty of action. They played about 10 games--two games per week. Some of Malia's other activities are skating, Girl Scouts, and sleepovers with her friends.

Christopher played high school football this year. Even though he was the second smallest on the team (130 lbs. soaking wet), he enjoyed the season. The team ended the season with their first win in 2 years. One of the comments I heard from one of the coaches was, "He plays bigger than he is." Just as in the movie Rudy, he is more of an inspiration than a

player. He is a player, though, when it comes to his electric guitar. Sometimes when I get home he says, "Listen to this." It is usually from some alternative rock group that I have never heard of (or wouldn't care to) but sometimes he'll surprise me and "wail" a classic rock "riff." Chris and Brandon love to "jam" in Brandon's room (Brandon plays the drums). They are always good about checking to see that the baby or their Mom isn't napping before they "Rock the House."

Brandon recently earned his driver's license. He is a responsible driver, but I have a hard time letting him go too far unless I am with him. I tell him it is a problem with my comfort level, not his. I don't know if he understands. He is still racing motocross with his brother and currently he is in the top 5 in an indoor race series. The results are posted on www.motostuffplus.com under Clark County arenacross (125cc beginner class)--check it out. Besides being a very good student, Brandon continues to be a huge help around the house when Shannon and I are at work. We're so lucky to have him.

Vacation is always the highlight of the year for us, and last summer we went to Lake Shasta (Oregon) with our boat. We camped with a borrowed RV. The lake and the weather were so enjoyable-- the water was like bathwater, it was so warm, not what we're used to here in Washington. We enjoyed waterskiing, wakeboarding, swimming, and just hanging around the lake. When we couldn't hang on to the ski rope any longer, the Shasta Caverns offered a good break. Our only mistake was that we didn't invite any Laicos. Do Laicos camp?

It has been another good year and I am looking forward to reading the other stories in the latest *Laico Lines*. And Mamie, remember, Laico means "always late."

(Editor's note: This article was received by email the day before final IL publication.)

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JUST ONE MORE!



HANGING OUT AFTER DR. GAIL MELENDRES' WEDDING. The closest thing to a Laico wedding this year was Gail's wedding to Richard Wynn in Delaware last July. Gail is Lily Melendres Laue's daughter, and is chief resident in surgery at a hospital in Delaware.

Lily hosted a brunch also attended by her sister, Raquel Fok and family.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM FOREGROUND: Mito, Raquel, Terry, Lily, Nini, Bubbles, Rory, Patrick.