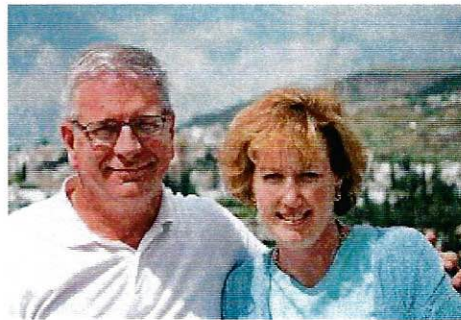


# Happy Holidays

from the

## Hoekemas on the Hudson

Christmas 2001



Dear Friends,

It's been a sobering time for everyone in the New York area since September 11, with unexpected effects of the attacks still turning up almost every day. The reactions and support from the rest of world have made a big difference.

We continue to enjoy our lovely house and garden, the small-town life of Newburgh, and this beautiful area of the Hudson Highlands.

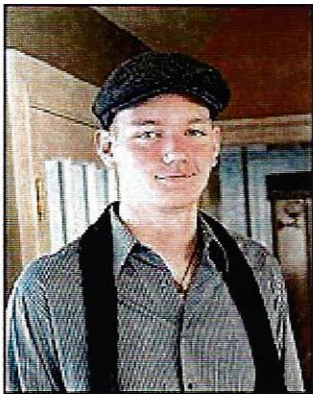
The highlight of the year for four of us (Colin had to work) was a trip to the Islamic cities of southern Spain, including Cordoba, Sevilla, Jerez, Ronda, Granada, Toledo, a day in Tangier, and some time in Madrid. Sanford was on a school trip, while the rest us were on a tour (our first) with local friends.

Continuing a pattern first reported last year, our children all persist in being teenagers. Naturally, they tell us nothing, but here's what we've been able to discover:

### Colin

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Colin, 19, entered college this Fall at Mount Saint Mary, which he enjoys very much. He lives in the dorm with a great roommate and a window-rattling stereo system. Losing over 50 pounds he attributes entirely to the unique quality of dorm food. He enjoyed a class in theatre and says philosophy has been the most stimulating ("it makes my head hurt"). Judging by the 1200 minutes racked up on his cell phone last month, his social life seems to blossoming as well.



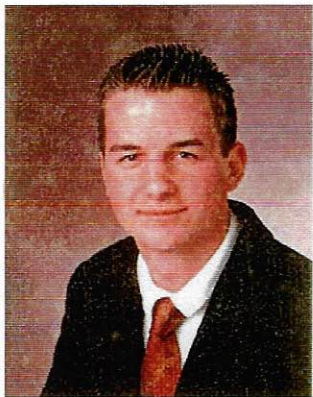
### Sanford

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Sanford, 18, is having a great senior year at Storm King School, where he was the first day student elected student body president. He loves the school and often brings friends home for the weekend.

Sanford continues to enjoy his guitar collection, plays on and off with short-lived bands, and often attends nearby concerts of "hardcore" music. He still enjoys games of all sorts, especially his new Nintendo GameCube.

After a dozen campus visits, Sanford applied for early admission to Alfred University in western New York.



Wendy (wendyhoekema@aol.com) is halfway through her second year as Alumni Director at Mount Saint Mary College. She also taught a survey course in art history for the college. She visited friends & family in California, Texas, and North Carolina. As part of Sanford's college search, Wendy visited a dozen campuses in the Northeast. She volunteers for the Garden Club of America, Planned Parenthood, St. George's (our church), and the Newburgh Chamber Music Society.

Jim (hoekema@aol.com) continues at Philips Electronics, where his department lasted the entire year without changing divisions. These days, he maintains two internal web sites and helps edit massive unintelligible technical documents. Outside the office, he became very active with a nonprofit group promoting the restoration of Newburgh's landmark 1835 former Dutch Reformed Church ( www.newburghdrc.org ).

### Emily

IceCreamHunnie@aol.com

"Emma," 15, continues to be our most fashionable child, ever alert to shifts of teen taste. Armed with a new camera, she has become quite the photographer -- a handy skill for a yearbook editor. The boys calling her now have deep voices, and they are reclassified from "cool" to "dork" with a frequency that leaves us breathless. Emma communicates: she still loves to have one or two girlfriends over, watch TV, talk on the phone, and carry on 6 or 7 "instant message" conversations -- all at the same time.



In the quadraped department, elder feline statesmen "JoeB" aka "Gomez," dignified as ever at 14, stays in more these days but still brings in a mouse from time to time. Junior bruiser "Max" reflects the confusion of growing up with one cat and one dog as mentors. He's picked up hunting skills from Gomez, but he has a doglike tendency to follow the humans around the yard.



Our beloved Livia goes wherever we go and always aims to please. Her fierce barking keeps the property clear of trespassing deer and dogs of all sizes -- not to mention groundhogs, squirrels, and crows. Her only defeats, unfortunately for us, have been with skunks.

