

From Behind Our White Picket Fence Week 114
By Freddy and Eddy (www.freddyandeddy.com)

Hello 2008

Normally homebodies on all the major holidays, we ventured out to visit friends in Temecula this past weekend, then rang in the New Year in Dana Point, finishing with football games and leftovers January 1st. There's something quite satisfying about not being the destination and simply enjoying others' munificence for a change; indeed, the pounds we've gained since Thanksgiving will take far more than a 10-day Master Cleanse to shed this time around. But rather than surrender and buy larger waist pants, we've decided to fight our way back to the clothes in our drawers and finally reach the point where we can button up our jeans. Elastic waistbands be damned!

Of course, all this resolution stuff will have to be shelved for a few more days, as we will once again hit the 15 to Vegas for the annual AEE (Adult Entertainment Expo). A necessary evil of doing business in the adult industry, we will for the 7th consecutive year mingle with friends and foes alike in porn, vibes, lubes, and whatnot, cursing the smut we're forced to endure year after year, while marveling at the ingenuity of small and large novelty manufacturers and inventors alike as they display their infinite ways to provide our bodies with pleasure. Every time we think we've seen it all, some clever inventor comes along to prove us wrong and provide our anatomies with stimulation. Of course, we'll provide all the gory details in the weeks to come, which is the reason we do all this, after all.

Mom has improved a bit – at least mood-wise – since we adjusted her medication six weeks ago. We basically lowered the Parkinson's L-dopa while increasing the mood stuff, resulting in less flexibility and more shaking, but happier disposition. As long as we keep her from getting nervous, her shaking stays minimal; however, her memory continues to degrade drastically with each passing month. We definitely foresee a future in which she will barely remember US, at which point we'll probably move her back home to waste away in front of the television. It's a sad prospect, surely, but one which will be necessitated by our inability to continue paying the exorbitant costs of keeping her in assisted care (which will eventually top 4-5 THOUSAND dollars per month). Such... is... life.

In a positive note, we're back coaching and team-mom'ing, respectively. This time, it's back to basketball at Mar Vista Park, where we have a brand-new team of 9-11 year olds ready to further develop their skills and (hopefully) win a few games along the way. Our son is just a hair underage, but his skills are sufficient to bump him into the next level. Hopefully, we won't encounter the petty bickering and power struggles we encountered in the Japanese league (where, ironically, every member of our former VYC team returned after expelling us, proving blind loyalty to organization trumps years of teaching and skills building). If we learned anything from our past experience, it's that parents will always act in self-interest, regardless of who gets hurt in the process. So coach and shut up, or don't take the job in the first place, we guess.

In the final analysis, our holiday sales numbers were fairly good. Though down from last year, we managed to rake in enough money to pay our vendors and reduce the credit cards a bit. If Valentine's Day business can sustain decent levels, we should enter February/March in very good shape; especially if we get the expected PR bump from our January Love LA expo (did you get your tickets yet? If not, get your butts over to www.lovelashow.com and help support this worthy cause!). With no employees and only the two of us running the business, our overhead is way under what it's been in the past, meaning we might get that much coveted vacation after all!

Finally, we'd like to mention two classes taking place at our shop next week. The first, a five week course starting tonight entitled "From Sex to Love Making," is being taught by Deva Charu, explores tantra, and is specifically for couples. The second is "Empowerpole," which teaches women the basics of pole dancing and how to embrace the untapped sexuality within. Call us for more information or to book a spot.

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