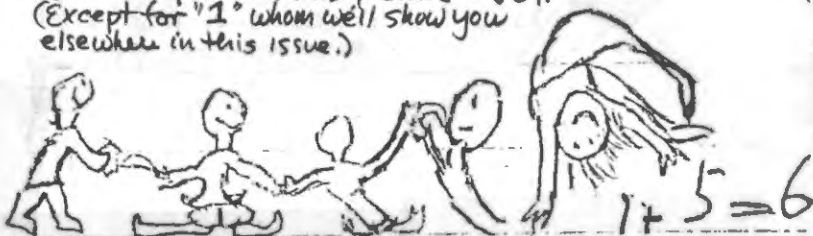


SPECIAL EDITION!



The figures below were drawn by Megan on a Math paper in the 3rd grade, illustrating $1 + 5 = 6$. The ENNL Ed. has always called this picture "Joy." (Except for "1" whom we'll show you elsewhere in this issue.)



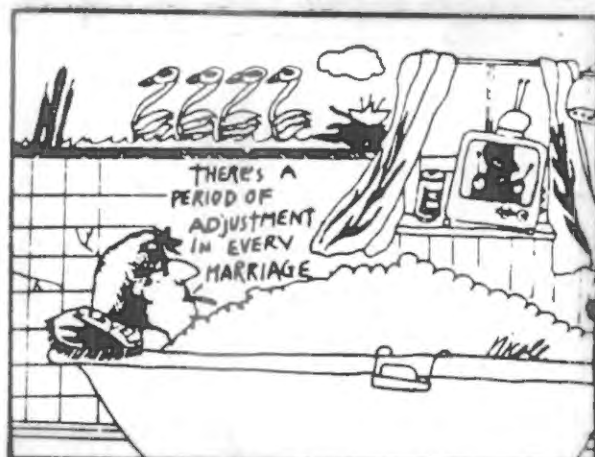
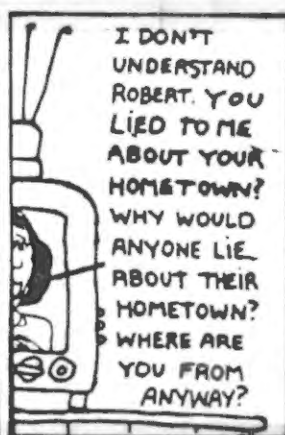
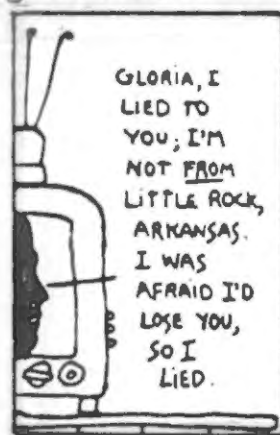
THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL IX NO 4 FEB 1991

"My heart is like a singing bird
Whose nest is in a watered shoot...
Because the birthday of my life
Is come, my love is come to me."
-- Christina Rossetti

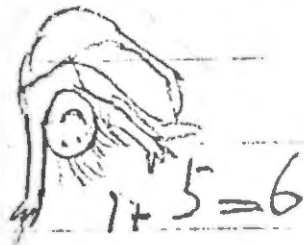
MEGAN AND MICHAEL TO MARRY IN MARCH

"I WAS SMITTEN BY HER GHOULISH CHARMS," CLAIMS GROOM

Santa Cruz They met at the ETR Associates Halloween bash. Megan came, in her own creative and inimitable style, as a long dead and decomposed body, carrying her own tombstone (as I believe ENNL reported in an earlier issue.). She won the prize for the most gruesome. Another prize-winner was Michael Ryan, not of ETR, but pulled into the party because he happened to be there, doing some work on the building. His "costume" was judged "most natural." Was it love at first sight between the two winners? Only they can tell us -- but the next morning Michael remarked to Megan on how different she looked. Replied Megan, "It's remarkable what a good night's sleep will do." Maybe that was the moment. Since then, the courtship has trotted briskly & mutually along; Michael gave Megan an engagement ring on her birthday, Feb. 2., and the wedding date is March 16. More details will be published as we learn them. Michael has joint custody of his three children: Michael John, 11; Matthew, 10; and Melinda, 6; so Megan's stepping into a ready-made family. (Is that where the term "step mother" comes from?) Knowing Megan, you all know the kids have lucked out in a stepmother, and it's not just because we're biased. And that Michael has found pure gold. Although the ENNL Ed missed meeting Michael in the Midwest at Christmas (storms kept them from coming) and she didn't



(GHOUL, cont from p.1) manage her trip there in January (being busy saving Grandpa for another day) other family & extended family have, and Pronounce him also a gem - & that he & Megan seem "right" together. (Megan has reported on him favorably from the start early on, I (speaking as a Dougan) quipped that anyone named Michael Ryan could not be all bad! We're all looking forward to meeting him and the kids at the wedding. And the ENNL Ed is studying out how to be an agreeable mother-in-law and a unique step-grandma. She figures she sorta goes along with the territory. (lokoopie!)



SINCE THE EDITOR HAS NO RECENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOS, OR MORE DETAILS TO SHARE, WE'LL SPEND A FEW PAGES ENJOYING MORE OF MEGAN'S ART & WRITINGS, MOSTLY FROM HER CHILDHOOD & ADOLESCENCE, SOME FROM LATER. THESE ARE MOSTLY FROM A COLLECTION OF D, M, G & E'S art, writing, & commentaries on life put together over a number of years in a volume called "WHAT? CINNIMON TOAST AT THIS HOUR?" I've tried to show some of Megan's many talents and facets.

Everyone sleeps but I
am risen with the sun
And the grass
wets with cold and freshness
above my knees
Softly then
under the trees
through the fence.

Down now
to be seen is to be caught
Scramble up a cliffside
Scraping stinging and brambles
hold me down
The trees at the top are quiet again.
and up the hill to the open

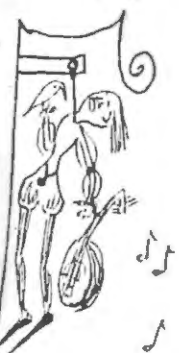
Here I see the lake, it begins
to wake
I watch and am watched
by none
but the birds.

Rocks drying.
warming waiting
for my curled body
berries nestled
deep in green leaves
field enclosed by trees, hidden
hiding me

Now for a change of mood:
A fancy-art game of
Hang Man between
Demi & Megan.
(Prob. 14 & 16)

C R E S C E N D O

I played in the stream
every day by myself.
I built castles of pebbles
Sandy cakes decorated
~~decorated~~ with grass and sticks
Dammed it up
making little pools
to catch minnows in.
Then
one day
I had to go to school
After that
Things happened so fast
I couldn't keep track
Now
I again stand by the stream
overgrown
A log has fallen across it
years since
I am 17
Hands in my pockets
The same old ache in my heart
but new eyes.....



E O R E V E I

H O E

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL IX NO 4 P3



Megan designed these gentle, humorous and musically accurate Christmas cards for her grand parents to send out. I love the ecstatic cellist! -- The letter below is a loving & sensitive Christmas note to her sister. What was the book, Twyla?

Dear Demi,

This is a book for your 8 yr old self. It is not exactly a children's book - the author will reveal that. But it made me think of you and your love for fairies, nymphs, and mysterious young women (Twyla Twinkletoes) Anyway, it is mostly peaceful and graceful and has a whole "little Demi" feel about it.

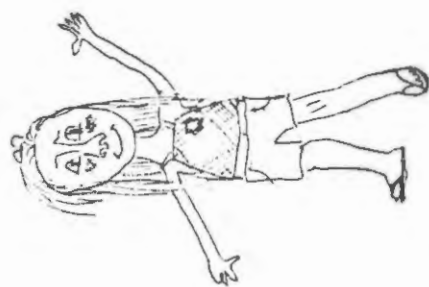
Besides, the author is a favorite and I think you will like it, even if you are 24. I knew it was for you when I found it, and esp. after I read it.

It just fits.

Love,
Megan

Bear Claw,

This is for you. The pin is an antique. Sterling silver. O.K.?



Remember: I I I I
and You... You... You... You... You... You

Love,
Megan

and this is a loving
note to Ellie.



Draw a picture showing a tree, a boy or girl, and a house.

Have the child facing away, so that his back shows. Have him holding his arms out in opposite directions. It is noon (sun time). Torso. Note how Put in a shadow straight ahead of him.

← A school exercise

when Megan was

little interest she

has in the tree or house,

how much in the child --

whom she's emphatically

made a girl, in spite of the

generic "he." Notice the

clothing, shoe lace untied,

fingers, hair. Below:

Megan's pictures usually

tell stories. This pair, from

an Old Maid deck she's her

sisters + Phoebe + Coby made

one summer, tells a story

Annabelle Dirks will recognize,

any one of you who've read Elsie

Plus more.

The child is facing in what direction?

N

The tree is in what direction from the child?

W

The house is in what direction from the child?

E

Merry Christmas

1955

Seth
" Daniel
Arthur
7 Samuel
4 Patrick
John Sara
Grace
20 no.



Does this one seem a bit prophetic? ↑

How about
this one? →

I'm yours!

Boop boop

de doop!



Elsie & Enna



Elsie & Enna



DO NOT FLUSH
 THE POT OR YOU MAY
 FIND YOURSELF WITH
 MOP IN HAND AND
 ANKLE WRAPPED IN VET
 TOILET PAPER WITH
 SHIT BETWEEN TOES
 WADING IN SWIRLING
 WATER...



What time is it?
 I mustn't miss
 "As the world turns"



Found taped to bathroom mirror
 -Megan 17

Cottage Work

Yet to do

Clean out bus

Wipe cobwebs from windows
 (inside & out)

Wash windows

Sweep off picnic table & wash it

Wipe off porch railings.

Put out dock

Climb on roof & gather clean
 eavestroughs

Gather kindling

Wash bathroom basin

Wash tub

Clean out medicine cabinet

cut off broken branches



No, this is not the happy
 couple. Drawn when Megan
 was 12, 13. School teachers, I
 believe.

Megan's
 pictorial commentary
 on the worksheet
 Summer '71 age 15



And lest we forget:



Here is poor little 1 of $1 + 5 = 6$.



No, this is not the bride at 17.
← No, this is not the bride at 26.
(Two separate drawings, tho both from Megan's Uvula Period.)

