

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

ISSUE 200

MARCH 2008

TEEN TIME

There's a teenager in the house! Thirteen years after his birth, Chad entered the official teen years. In some ways it is hard to believe he is already that old, but at other times, it isn't so difficult. He certainly looks big enough to be a teenager, approaching Angie's height (still a few inches to go), and occasionally he acts like a teenager in one way or another (sometimes good, sometimes bad).

Chad started the day out with the best celebration of all: the teen ritual of sleeping in as long as he could (it was a Saturday). This is another area where he seems well-prepared for the teen years. He finally got up to enjoy his big day, and still ended up napping on the couch that afternoon.

After his friend Colton came over for a while, we made dinner plans. For the third straight year Chad chose Olive Garden for his birthday dinner. He also proudly reminds anyone who cares that he had fettucine alfredo, Zuppa Toscana, four breadsticks and Coke for the third straight year, in addition to his share of dessert. He's kind of a traditionalist.

During dinner, Chad opened his birthday gifts from the family. He goes into great detail all his presents and some related purchases on page 3. He also asked during the meal if we could see Superhero Movie to complete his celebration, so we set off to see Drake Bell and Leslie Nielsen poke fun at the superhero genre. You can see each of our ratings of the movie on page 4.

In the final analysis we are all left with questions. Jeff and Marnie consistently ask why a 13-year-old should get any privileges not afforded a nine- and five-year-old. Chad probably asks himself why he's so smart and his parents are so stupid. And Ken and Angie are left to ask how it is possible that they are old enough to have a teenager. The answer to the last one? Time flies.



Chad, Mac and Jeff on Easter Sunday

say what?

Chad was a little shocked by Angie's apparent confession one night. As they were leaving the house, a new song came on the iPod. Angie exclaimed, "I love Barenaked Ladies!"

For those who may be unaware, BNL is a band, and Angie is not really that big a fan of unclothed women.

benadryl

Jeffrey routinely takes medicine to combat allergies. One day he took two pills as we headed off to church, where he fell into a deep, deep sleep during Sacrament Meeting. It seems like taking Benadryl on an empty stomach (it was Fast Sunday) increased its effects. By the end of the meeting, he was so hard to wake that Ken took him home, where he slept a couple more hours.

blogger

Over the past few months, Angie has spent some time in the virtual Mormon community, and this month was invited to blog at mormonmatters.org.

Her first two blogs, "Gathering the Good of Other Faiths" and "What is Jesus' Personality Type (MBTI)?" were very successful in generating comments.

SAVED BY THE BELL

By Jeff

MARCH 14

When March began, I was hoping that I would make it to the Grand Canyon trip. I already had about four late assignments, and if I missed three more by the end of the quarter (March 14) I wouldn't be allowed to go to the Grand Canyon field trip in April.

I ended up with two more late assignments by the end of the quarter, so I made it with only one strike left. Because I made it, I will be going to the Grand Canyon at the end of April.

Once the new quarter started, I also got to start something that I enjoy which was a cartooning class. I went to the first class on March 27 and I was already glad I had signed up. Our first project was a girl screaming "MOM!" The teacher directed us through the first drawing, including techniques such as guidelines and general shapes. The second project was a young boy eating something and either complimenting or showing disgust for his food. I drew him eating a doughnut and saying "Mmmm."



Jeff's spring portrait from school

EASTER FUN

By Marnie

MARCH 22-23

Right before Easter my cousin Ally came to my house with Mac, Uncle Chauvin and Aunt Sandy. When Ally came over she was very pretty and I gave her the dress me and Mommy bought and we were twins. We had the same dresses. Jeff and Mac also got new clothes, but not dresses.

That day I played with Ally and we got in the pool. At the end of the day we went to Chipotle, and I got a kid's quesadilla.

The next morning we hunted for eggs before church. The Easter Bunny gave us a note that told us which color egg was ours. My eggs were pink, and Ally's were purple. When I opened my eggs I got lots of candy. I got Smarties, and I ate all of them, and I ate one of Jeffrey's jelly bean packs.



At church I read the scripture in Primary, that I actually read myself without help. I still remember it mostly. Jeff gave the talk. I am going to have a talk eventually. I wish they would just let me do a talk.

After church we had dinner with Ally's family until they left. I miss her, and she is one of my best friends, and I wish she was in Phoenix.

MUSICAL REVUE

By Chad

This year my entire birthday wish list was 34 different CDs. My parents didn't quite go that far, but they did buy me an iPod and 6 CDs off my wish list. Combined with others I bought with birthday money and my own money, I got 13 CDs this month.

The Sleeping: Questions and Answers ★★★★★

The Sleeping: Believe What We Tell You ★★★★★

I began listening to their music about a year ago and really liked it, but they don't have many of their songs on Youtube. So, I was reluctant to buy one of their CDs. I'm glad I did because they are definitely my favorite band right now.

Bayside: Bayside ★★★★★

Bayside: The Walking Wounded ★★★★★

Bayside is a fusion of Alternative Rock and Punk Rock. Their lyrics are Alternative but the instrumental is Punk. The Walking Wounded is dedicated to their former drummer John "Beatz" Holohan who died in a car crash the previous year.

Streetlight Manifesto: Somewhere in the Between ★★★★★

I got a sampler CD with my Champion CD and liked the songs on it by Streetlight Manifesto (the other stuff really sucked). This led to me putting it on my birthday list, and receiving it. Streetlight Manifesto plays skapunk, a mixture of Jazz and Punk Rock.

The Audition: Controversy Loves Company ★★★★★

I bought Champion about two months ago. Controversy is a lot softer and was not as well received, but in my opinion the playlist is overall better.

Linkin Park: Hybrid Theory ★★★★★1/2

Linkin Park: Minutes to Midnight (Clean) ★★★★★

Linkin Park: Meteora ★★★★★

Linkin Park started out as rapcore, but they are now more alternative and get more regular airplay. They have four songs on the local station's playlist. Jeff likes their music too.

Kaiser Chiefs: Yours Truly, Angry Mob ★★★★★

This is one of the many good British bands to come out of Leeds in the past few years (others include The Pigeon Detectives and Phantom Strangers). They are definitely much softer than my normal, like Plain White T's. There are a few iffy songs on the CD.

Finger Eleven: Them vs. You vs. Me ★★★★★1/2

I found this one on the bargain rack at Borders and since I like one song, Paralyzer, I decided to buy it. It was well worth it. It has since become a favorite for Jeffrey and me.

Silverstein: Discovering the Waterfront ★★★★★

Silverstein: When Broken is Easily Fixed ★★★★★

Silverstein popped up on a record company video playlist after Hawthorne Heights and I really liked the song. I later downloaded it and it got 640 plays on my iPod the following 2 months. I bought their newest album 2 months ago and decided to complete the collection. The vocals on WBiEF aren't as good as on their newer CDs, but they have definitely matured as a band.

Songs to Download: Existing in a Crisis, Duality, The Blonde Lead the Blind, Who Stays Behind?, You've Made Us Conscious, Falling On, Heart "Beatz", In the End, Love's Not a Competition But I'm Winning, Believe What We Tell You, Discovering the Waterfront, Faint, and Shadow of the Day

RANDOM NOTES

- Ken attended a service project, helping clean a small church building on the reservation. Part of the time he climbed up to scrape paint off the steeple. Angie was nervous just hearing about this and asked to be reminded where the life insurance papers are filed.
- We had a bit of a social life on Stake Conference weekend. Between a leadership session and the adult session on Saturday night, Ken and Angie went to dinner with Rocky and Judy Nelson.
- The next day we had the Bones over for dinner and shared pictures of our 2005 trip to Tenerife and La Palma. Jeremy served in the Spain Las Palmas Mission several years after Ken & Angie.
- When Marnie woke up sick and wasn't going to Stake Conference, Ken and Angie started to decide who should stay home with her. Instead, they both went and Chad ended up taking care of Marnie.
- Sara Reinstein had a birthday, and Ken and Angie joined her celebration at Sweet Tomatoes. After dinner we also hosted a smaller group at our house for some SingStar games.
- The boys had spring break the week of March 17-21, getting a total of nine days away from school between the third and fourth quarters.
- Marnie went to a birthday party for her friend Bella Nielson.
- Jeff added a Webkinz kangaroo to his virtual/plush family.
- Jeff also bought a video game he had been awaiting eagerly: Super Smash Brothers Brawl for the Wii.
- Angie spent a bit of time on the road this month, visiting Albuquerque, Omaha, Tampa, and Houston.

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL

Angie didn't take a break from painting this month, but it looks like it here. She started her largest painting yet, but hadn't quite finished by the end of the month. Look for a return of the paintings in April.

MEDIA ROUNDUP

AT THE MOVIES...

Superhero Movie

Drake Bell and Leslie Nielsen pair up to mock superhero moves, mainly Spiderman. Like other parodies (Airplane, Police Squad, etc.), it is often funny but it has its share of groaners and bodily function humor.

Ken ★★
Angie ★★½
Chad ★★½
Jeff ★★ (because of the swearing)
Marnie "Three thousand eighty-five stars. I liked it best when he was peeing off the ceiling."



BOOKS

Atonement by Ian McEwan

Angie ★★½
Great piece of literature with a gut-punch double twist ending. Heartbreaking.

The Darcy Connection by Elizabeth Aston

Angie ★★
This is another Pride & Prejudice sequel, this time featuring the daughter of Rev. and Charlotte Collins. An enjoyable read.

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Angie ★★½
Well written and interesting. Finding sympathetic characters was initially tough, but eventually the book was rewarding.

Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult

Angie ★★
A fun, fast read about a high school shooting. Gripping. A real page-turner.

Identity Crisis by Brad Meltzer

Ken ★★
Another graphic novel, but anyone who thinks that comic books are for kids might change their mind after reading this one. Stunning artwork combined with a much darker story than existed when I used to read comics.

MUSIC

Plain White T's: Every Second Counts

Angie ★★½
This is a great CD. One song blends into the next one so that the CD is more like a soundtrack for life, or in my case, the book I was reading at the time, Atonement.