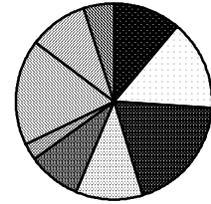


Everyone is so busy these days, and since we are both mathematicians, we feel compelled to *prove* to you how busy we have been. Let B denote a mapping from the class of abstract time units to the power set of the set of activities.... Wait a minute, this is an expository letter, let's do math the USA Today way!

The Year 2000 Pie Chart of Lew and Enid's time

Working:	30%	Doing Laundry	10%
Sleeping:	20%	Wishing we were sleeping	8%
Eating Meals:	5%	Snacking	12%
Trying to leave the house with nobody screaming, and everyone wearing appropriate clothes (including shoes):	9%	Driving Around	5%
		Looking in boxes for lost items	4%
		Everything else in life	2.5%
		Making sure pie charts add up	0%



Our traditional holiday letter is late (as usual). It was actually written and copied four weeks ago, but then we made the mistake of putting on one of the 4 usable flat surfaces in our entire house at which point it was immediately covered with children's artwork. Notice that "Cleaning the House" is not a significant slice of the above time pie. But speaking of houses, I need to be more specific...

A big news item for us this year was our decision to buy a house and to stay in Georgia. We still currently own our house in New Orleans, but it's on the market (wanna buy it?). Please note our new address is:

141 Shadowmoor Dr., Decatur, GA, 30030, 404-377-5631. We moved just down the street from the place we rented last year; we like the neighborhood very much. The kids can walk to the high quality public school, there's a nice park nearby, and lots of other families with kids live in the area. The city of Decatur is an older area and relatively close to the middle of Atlanta. Our house is only a short walk from the subway, which has proved convenient since a taxi totaled our car in November (no one seriously hurt).

Of course, this also means we have resigned from our positions at UNO. Lew will remain at Georgia Tech as the Information Technology Director for the School of Mathematics. He's in charge of their network of about 175 systems and servers. He has a staff of student workers and a full time system administrator to help. He has a zero course teaching load, and he's been trying to continue his research in addition to playing around with computers (mostly Unix and Linux systems). He really likes his job. Enid was hired as the Director of Advising and Assessment for the Georgia Tech School of Math. In addition to her one course per semester teaching load, she spends a lot of her day talking to undergraduate students. This position will hopefully get easier as she learns the ropes here. It's also been a pain since Georgia Tech shifted from quarters to semesters in 1999 and student requirements are different for the two systems. Enid is also trying to continue research. She traveled to Finland in the summer and she's co-organized a special session at the upcoming AMS meeting in New Orleans. The bad part about these two positions is that, although they are permanent faculty positions, they are not tenurable. Only time will tell if we have made a mistake by giving up tenured positions at UNO to take these jobs. We obviously think that we made the best move for our family, given the complete picture.

And what a family! Hannah, Monica, and Natalie are all doing great. They have really adjusted well, and they've made many friends at school and around the neighborhood. Second grader Hannah is a fan of the Backstreet Boys and likes braiding her own hair. She loves reading Mary Kate and Ashley mysteries and excels in math and science (nature or nurture? you decide..). She's been an early riser since her school is being renovated this year and she catches a bus 7:18 to go to a temporary facility at the local high school. Natalie and Monica have moved to a Pre-Kindergarten program in the public schools where they blend in mixed age groups that include kindergarteners. This works out great since their October birthdays and a strict Georgia policy dictates that they won't enroll in kindergarten until Fall 2001. Natalie is athletic and actually scored goals (on purpose) on her soccer team. She's likes games like UNO and Rummikub. And, she successfully graduated from speech therapy after a struggle with the phonemes "k" and "g".

Monica loves to draw, sometimes on items that weren't intended to be canvases. This is consistent with her philosophy that "Rules are made to be broken." She's a very social girl who loves to talk, and dolls are still her favorite kind of toy.

There are two sides to every (non-Mobius) coin. We've had a multiple helping of bad news this year, too. Enid's father Rich Steinbart died in late November, two weeks after an unsuccessful surgery to treat lung cancer, which had been diagnosed only a few weeks previous to that. Enid visited both her parents the week prior to the surgery and stayed with her Mom during the surgery and for a day or two afterwards. Enid's mother Agnes spent much of the year under chemotherapy treatment, but thankfully, her doctors feel that no more is needed for the time being. Lew's father Seymour, who has been battling prostate cancer for many years, entered hospice care this fall. Seymour is not well, but he's facing his final chapter with admirable strength and spirit. We took the girls to visit their "Zaidy" in October. It was a bittersweet visit, but it was great for Lew's entire family (including his sister Charna who flew in from Bolivia) to spend precious time together. We are spending a lot of time trying to support our parents and families in this difficult period. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated.

Despite the difficulties, we are doing our best to enjoy life. Lew has been getting out to perform TheaterSports (an type of improvisational comedy) with a local theater company called Dad's Garage. We visited Rich and Agnes over the summer and helped them move out of their house (Enid's childhood home) to a smaller apartment in the same area of Omaha. On that same trip we saw Enid's brother Neal and his family in Indianapolis, and our friends Ram and Roni Ben-David in Chicago. Seymour and his wife Dione visited us in Atlanta in August.

We have no pets (goldfish don't count), except the..... nah, you'd never believe it anyway. Lew built a computer for himself in the spring and got DSL (high speed, always on Internet access) for his 40th birthday (what a geek). In Enid's rare moments of free time she helps at the kid's schools, enjoys baking, and teaches Sunday school (just like June Cleaver, only with a brain!). We hope you and your loved ones all have a healthy and happy new year! Beware the newly upgraded Y2.001K bug.