

The NIK L Gazette

Volume 1 Issue 1

February 12, 1994

EVENTS, MISHAPS, AND OTHER OBSERVED CHILDLIFE PHENOMENA

Chef's Secret

Banana bread is one of the favorites around here, so Kim decided to make some today. After some time in the stove, she realized that she couldn't smell it and wondered why it didn't seem to be cooking. When she checked and found that the oven had been turned back from the required 350-degree setting to 275, some questions were in order. The culprit, Nikolas, confessed, and the cooking was resumed.

A bit later, Kim could smell that the banana bread was burning. Upon investigation, she found that Ivi is now tall enough to reach the oven controls and had bumped the temperature up to 450, apparently to compensate for Nikolas' deed.

Of course, the finished banana bread was *DEELICIOUS*.

- 02/08/94

Little Haulers

Now that Nikolas has a new red wagon, all garbage runs now employ its services. And in between such runs, Ivi rides in it while Nikolas tows her as he rides his "Chicco" car. Last weekend Ivi was observed under tow, as usual, but this time she was sitting on one

of Nikolas' toy cars which was inside the red wagon. We should point out that Ivi was sitting on the foot-long Isotta car, not one of the three-inch Matchbox cars!

- 02/09/94

A Future Career As A Lawyer? 🐾

From time to time, Nikolas will demand of his little sister, "Prove it, Ivi, just prove it!"

- 02/11/94

Bedside Manner

Nik was wrestling with Ivi. He bumped his head. Kim put him down on the bed and covered him with warm clothes fresh from the laundry. Then she put an ice pack on his head. When he had recovered, Nikolas decided that Ivi should have the ice pack on her head. So he made Ivi lie down and put the ice pack on her head.

So Ivi just setted back, relaxed and sighed a big "Aaaah".

And she kept repeatedly coming back for more throughout the day.

Kim says, "I guess you had to be there."

-02/10/94



Riding the CHICCO Car

And Finally...

Frustrated by his ability to keep the N-Factor child occupied while trying to perform computer work, *The Daddy* capitulated, asking, "Okay, what do you want me to do with the computer?". Nikolas' response led him to write a Visual Basic program on the spot which displays an animated video clip of some cars. Nikolas, however, insisted on running the program for hours until *The Mommy* finally made a rescue with a call for dinner.

-02/11/94

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The NIK & Ivi L. Gazette

Volume 1 Issue 3

April 1994

EVENTS, MISHAPS, AND OTHER OBSERVED CHIDLIFE PHENOMENA

Attention!

When Ivi wants someone to read to her, she will generally first select a book, then creep up behind the desired participant, and hit them on the head (or the stomach, if they are reclining). It works.

The Next Bill Gates, or Just Another Nerd

Every day, Nikolas now will telephone *The Daddy* in his office, and announce that he wants to "do colors and shapes on the computer". Presently, he comes down the elevator, then plants himself at his designated keyboard and mouse, where he "works" for a couple of hours. Note that his attention usually is never sustained for any other single activity -- except for some sessions of block-building -- for more than about twenty minutes.

Mall Fever

We have discovered a new reason to hang out in shopping malls. At the Glendale Galleria, our local PBS TV station this month opened the "KCET Store of Knowledge".

After our first visit of over two hours in the place, we still had not begun to scratch the surface of its offerings of fabulous educational toys, games, videos, books and software. The *entire* family was absorbed. We have now officially crossed Toys 'R' Us and the like off our list, and expect that we will never be satisfied with anything less than the KCET Store of Knowledge. This store is to be the first in a nationwide chain, so Nik & Ivi urge anyone, of any age, to watch for one in your very own neighborhood!

Get It Right

When *The Mommy* asked Nikolas to find out how many, if any, pickles *The Daddy* wanted on his sandwich, he reported to her -- after *The Daddy* said, "not too many" -- that, "Daddy doesn't want two-many pickles, he only wants one-many."

Little Ms. Clean

Tidy as ever, Ivi was seen taking her recently-changed t-shirt and a piece of bread that she was too full to eat and placing them into the dishwasher.



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Volume 1 Issue 5

June 1994

EVENTS, MISHAPS, AND OTHER OBSERVED CHIDLIFE PHENOMENA

Game Pain

Today Nikolas found some old Polaroid snapshots and decided to invent a game with them. This game consisted of stacking similar pictures together on the cover of a magazine. After successfully testing his game -- and finding it to be "playable" -- he decided to name it "So Uncomfortable". Perhaps market research will indicate that he needs to consider a name change.

The Traveler

While driving his Chicco car around The Daddy's office, Nikolas explained that he was trying to get to either South America or North Dakota.

Music Is Where You Find It

Nikolas was heard to be singing a song, interspersed with sounds like "ssssssss" and "glub, glub". At its conclusion, he proudly announced that he was "singing the song of the toilet".

Our Future Olympic Gymnast?

By placing one of the small child's chairs against the closet doors, Ivi has found that she can stand on it and reach sideways to one of the pair of U-shaped door handles. Then she swings through the air, grabs the other handle with her free hand, dangles for a bit, then drops to the ground with great laughter. Then she scrambles onto the chair and does it again. This would be a sequence obviously well suited for videotaping, but this description will have to serve, as the family camcorder has died.



Ivi and The Foot of Her Father on Father's Day - June 19, 1994



Beyond Carmen Sandiego

Despite visual clues that *The Mommy* detected, Nikolas refused to interrupt his "tennis" game to make a trip to the bathroom. Sure enough, a few seconds later, a large puddle emerged on the floor before she could do anything about it. Remorseless, Nikolas pointed to the shape of the pool beneath him and exclaimed, "North America!" *The Mommy* threw him into the shower to facilitate his personal cleanup, while she tended to that of the floor. And as soon as Nikolas came out of the shower, he rushed over to the scene of the crime to see if "North America" was still there.

-06/24/94

The Unusual Human Condition

Claiming that someone had "shocked" his Chicco car, that he had blood on himself, and that he wanted the "doctor" (*The Daddy*)

to "inspect" him, Nikolas presented himself for a physical evaluation of the condition of his body. He held up his arm, declaring "There's something unusual in there." *The Daddy* examined the arm, seeing nothing out of the ordinary, and asked, "Like what?". Nikolas' answer: "Like bones."

But It Worked Yesterday ...

Technology can be frustrating. Nikolas was annoyed to find that the "nine" [a name Nikolas assigned to remote control devices before he was two years old, apparently inspired by the numeric keys on the things; a name which the entire family has since adopted], which works so well to rewind VCR tapes, could not take him back to some "interesting numbers" he saw on a live TV broadcast a few seconds earlier. He has also been known to try to "rewind" some automobile commercials to get another glimpse of an alluring car. Why not? Perhaps he is just anticipating what will be reality when TV-on-demand is actually available over the InfoBahn.

Growing Demands

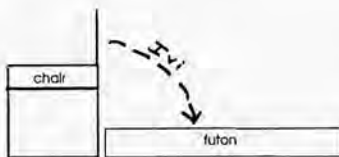
Every day Ivi's skill with the spoken language seems to surge ahead. Now that she can clearly identify Mommy vs. Daddy, she does not hesitate to call on either or both, emphatically and by name. (And from time to time she refers to herself as "Baby Ivi".)

Top Priority

As a result of a case of severe diaper rash during the current heat spell, Ivi was doing much crying this afternoon. After bathing her and doctoring her up, *The Mommy* went to the kitchen to try to cheer Ivi (and her brother) up by offering food and drink. In fact, she told Ivi that she could have anything that she wanted that would make her feel better. Ivi's response: "Keys." (By way of explanation, one of the most sought-after but off-limits items are the easy-to-lose -- but very tantalizing to the children -- car keys! So *The Mommy* made an exception this time, and Ivi was soon merrily playing away with them, forgetting her affliction.)

Stunt No. 2

By pushing a director's chair -- back first -- against the edge of the futon bed on the floor, Ivi can climb on the seat, then fling herself against the chair back, tipping it over to bounce on the bed. Of course, she picks herself up, laughing, and eager for another go at it.



Keep 'Em Guessing Department

In a charade-like game that Nikolas plays with *The Mommy*, he will assume a

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position or an action and require the rest of us to guess what he is doing. Like today, when he simply sat down in the middle of the floor. When nobody could guess what he was up to, he finally clued us in that he was "sitting in a helicopter".

"That" Ivi

One of the most used words in Ivi's growing spoken vocabulary -- that -- and clearly enunciated in phrases such as:

1. Look at that!
2. What is that?
3. Read that, Mommy!

Reading Frenzy

These days, it is not unusual to awaken in the morning to find Ivi standing bedside -- or possibly standing directly on *The Daddy's* chest -- thrusting a book out, demanding a reading. And the moment that he enters the house at the end of the day and finds a chair, even before the shoes can be removed, Nik is likely to have a book in tow: "Can you read this, Daddy?" As luck would have it, some friends whose son graduated from high school this month presented us with boxes of their now-unused children's books -- about sixty in all! So, one can enter our space and expect to see all of us wallowing in books, books on the bed, books all over the floor, books on shelves, books on chairs, books on top of toys, books on the TV, books under tables, books in the refrigerator, books everywhere.

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The NIK L Gazette

Volume 1 Issue 6

July 1994

EVENTS, MISHAPS, AND OTHER OBSERVED CHILDLIFE PHENOMENA

Heat Stroke

During the worst of the late June heat spell, *The Mommy* filled the children's little red wagon with water to serve as a portable swimming pool. Of course, the little scoundrels loved it. Nikolas asked "Do you want to say, what is this named?" *The Daddy* said, "OK, what is it named?" Nikolas said that he called the water-wagon **The Different Hair Shop** because when you ducked your head under the water, it made your hair look different.

Federal Frolic

Upon returning from a visit with *The Daddy* to the Government Printing Office Bookstore, Nikolas reported to *The Mommy*: "I totally had fun and recognized that there were books in there." He also saw a Peruvian band playing for a lunch-time audience at the plaza, but made no comment.

Stunt No. 3

When Ivi started walking in her eighth month, the walker was put into storage. However, a couple of

months ago it was put back into action so that Ivi could have her own "car" and join Nikolas when he races around the loft in his Chicco car. Ivi has lately been using the walker in an unintended way. She has been seen pulling her self onto the walker's seat head first, so that she is essentially standing on her head in the thing.



A Typical Early Morning Wakeup

Polite Always

For the past few days, Ivi has been experiencing a fever which is brought down by a dose of Baby Tylenol. As it was being administered by *The Mommy*, amid great struggles and protests, Ivi interrupted her high-pitched yowling to shake her head and calmly say, "No, Thanks." To follow through on this story, we have to report that the doctor is performing further tests, but says she can find nothing wrong, and believes that it is no problem.

Question Authority

This slogan, often heard in the Sixties, seems to have been taken to heart by Nik-o-Boy. He has reached that stage in his development when just about any statement or observation made by his parents is challenged with a persistent "Why?".



Watching World Cup Soccer
July 9, 1994

OD'd on OJ

This morning Nikolas was cruising around the loft in his Chicco Car, announcing that he was driving "OJ's white Bronco." 07/16/94

NOTICE: Ivi turned 1.5 years of age today, Saturday, July 16, 1994.



Book Me!

What Ivi says when she wants to be read to... She also will say "Paper Me", when she wants you to give her the paper, etc. Nikolas (or "Nik-us" to Ivi) was probably the first among us to recognize and respond to her way of speaking.

3-D Massage

When *The Daddy* is weary and stressed (just about always), *The Mommy* often applies the healing qualities of her patented back rub. However, as soon as such activity is spotted by the children, Nikolas will proclaim, in tones of great suffering, that he also needs a back rub. So he will throw himself down on the back of *The Daddy*. Whereupon Ivi then straddles Nikolas' back and positions herself for *The Mommy's* inputs. As soon as we get a camcorder back into action, this dogpile will form the subject of a few video frames.

The Defense Rests

When Ivi began "interfering" while Nikolas was playing with some toys, he yelled "No, no!" as is his custom, and then she shoved her over. When *The Mommy* came to investigate Ivi's wailing, Nikolas quickly declared, "I only pushed her *once*."

Moon Shot

As everyone was watching Jupiter comet coverage and celebrating the 25th anniversary of Apollo 11, *The Daddy* began to regale *The Family* with tales of his (tiny) involvement in Apollo history as a participant in a Congressional review of the Apollo program at Rockwell in El Segundo. Within moments, all members were stretched out, either completely asleep or well on their way. Just before dropping off, Nikolas did mutter something like, "Let's play cars."

An Update

Checking in with Dr. Avila Biederman for their 1.5 yr and 3.5 yr examinations, both Ivi and Nik were declared to be utterly healthy. Statistically, Ivi just hit average in terms of height and weight and Nik is in the 75th percentile. The details? Read on.

	<u>NIK</u>	<u>IVI</u>
Weight	38 lb.	23 lb.
Height	40 in.	31.5 in.

Another point about today's visit was that it represented a real breakthrough for Ivi. This was the very first time she visited the doctor without constant crying -- only a brief yowl was issued when the inoculation was administered.



The NIKL Gazette Socialization of Ivi, The

Speaking of Ivi, she and Nik and the rest of us had a surprise visit from Cousin Jean (usually in Kansas City). Despite some initial shyness, within thirty minutes or so, Ivi was playing hide-behind-the-cap and other small games with Jean, and even let herself be picked up. Heretofore unheard of. And Nik was so taken by Jeannie that he cried at the conclusion of the visit, and talked about her frequently over the next few days.

So we all went over to Jean's hotel a couple of days later for another adventure, where Nikolas took photographs with Jean's camera, we rode the high-speed external elevator to the revolving bar at the 30-something top floor for juice and a panoramic view of Los Angeles, everybody sat and played around the hotel pool, and Ivi in an unshy manner boldly walked out of Jean's room carrying her TV remote control.

A (Small) Woman of Words and Action . . .

Yesterday Ivi pointed at a battery on a high shelf and said, "shelf ... battery ... reach it ..." and then set off to drag over a chair she could use to achieve more height. - 07/25/94

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The NIKOL Gazette

Volume 1 Issue 9

October 1994

EVENTS, MISHAPS, AND OTHER OBSERVED CHILDLIFE PHENOMENA

The Meaning of Careening

Racing madly across the floors and halls, screaming at the top of their lungs, chasing each other. This is the standard mode of interaction for Ivi and Nikolas. Ivi has learned to run very quickly, but she is not nearly as stable as Nikolas, and does a lot of wobbling and stumbling along the way, as the speed picks up. Is there insurance for a thing like this?

How It Breaks Down

Typically, the children spend their days as follows:

Playing blocks	2 - 3 hours
Reading	2 - 3 hours
Run/bike/etc ¹	1 - 2 hours
TV ²	1 - 2 hours
Misc games ³	1 - 2 hours
Computer (Nik)	1 hour
Eating	Ongoing
Administrative ⁴	Ongoing

¹ General wildness

² Sesame Street, Mr. Rogers, Reading Rainbow, StoryTime, McNeil-Lehrer News Hour, Trailside, Rough Guide, etc..

³ Puzzles, painting, cutting, pasting

⁴ Diapers, dressing, etc.

Nikolas' Calendar

As Nikolas stepped out of the building into the bright sunshine, he declared that it must be Sunday. But then he rescinded that call and said that it must be Wednesday because it was blowing.

Stunts, Cont.

First there was Ivi jumping from a chair to the basketball goal pole, and sliding down it ala *Curious George At The Fire Station*. Then, just moments later, she was in the kitchen, climbing and standing on the cabinet handles, crying, "Look at me! Look at me!"

Nikolas' List

When Nikolas asks that various items of interest be purchased during shopping forays, to keep things under control *The Daddy* has used the ploy of consulting *The Mommy's* shopping list to determine whether it is "on the list". So Nikolas often brings articles to the shopping cart or points them out on the shelves, asking whether they are on The List or not. Wising up, Nikolas has now discovered where *The Mommy* keeps the ongoing list in the

kitchen, and adds his own entries beforehand. So when *The Daddy* takes off to do the shopping, he can expect to find scrawled somewhere on The List entries like "ice cream" and "animal crackers."

The Innocent

It is not entirely unusual for Ivi to seek retribution for a perceived injustice by pulling on Nikolas' hair. And it is not unusual for Ivi to then crawl upon *The Daddy's* lap, or tug at his sleeve, while Nikolas is howling and writhing in agony, and ask "What happened? What happened?"

The Alphabet Syndrome

Carrying his ongoing obsession with reading and the alphabet to new levels, Nikolas was yelling to get our attention: "Here is the letter K!" We turned to see him, assuming a position like this:



Twenty-One Months Later

Today -- 14 October 1994 -- Ivi visited Dr. Biederman for her regular checkup. Whereupon we learned that she has grown just slightly:

Head size	19 inches
Height	33 inches
Weight	23 lbs., 3.5 oz.

The Demand, Revisited and Updated

Previous newsletters have followed the development of her verbal facility. What started as a grunt and a bop over the head has now progressed to Ivi's requirement, expressed as "Read this book right now!". The bop over the head may or may not accompany the request.



Ivi Has A Bath

Breakthrough

Now that two years of age is right over the horizon (January 16, 1995), Ivi has begun to shoulder some new responsibilities befitting her maturity. Particularly in the area of social interactions. When she went

to the pediatrician this month, for the first time she did not cry constantly, and was even what could be described as -- from time to time -- cooperative. Two days later, during a Trader Joe's and Hughes Market shopping spree, she uncharacteristically dropped her frown and lowered gaze, and actually grinned at the checkout clerks.

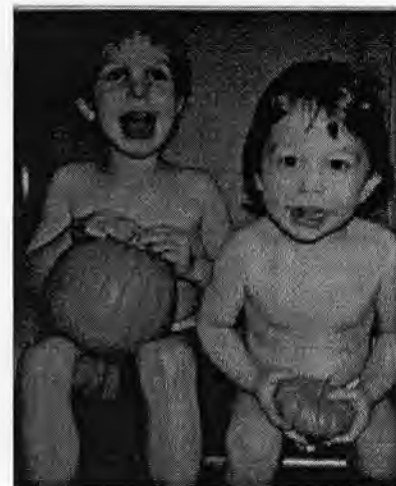


The Two-Edged Sword

While his reading ability continues to grow, the results can sometimes be rather unnerving. While driving, Nikolas (now perched on pads in the front seat where he can use a regular shoulder belt and let Ivi assume his previous position in the rear child seat) reads everything in sight, and asks questions about same at a furious rate. Most disconcerting is that he tends to excitedly shout out words which he recognizes -- including STOP! when he sees a stop sign.



Nik & Ivi - October 10



Pre-Halloween Pumpkin Pranks



A Peaceful Moment - October 10, 1994



Happy Halloween!

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The NIKOLAS Gazette

Volume 1 Issue 10

November 1994

EVENTS, MISHAPS, AND OTHER OBSERVED CHIDLIFE PHENOMENA

Save That Junk

You never know how something might come in handy in the future. Now that Nikolas is writing at a furious pace, he needs a lot of paper. So he discovered the forgotten cache of several cases of pin-fed computer paper that became obsolete a few years by our laser printers. Now yards of computer paper, covered with magic marker and watercolor pictures and writing, are everywhere. Which brought back rainy-day childhood memories for *The Daddy*, who used to use rolls of wallpaper for the same purpose.

Getting There

Just for the record, Ivi is close to being able to recite and recognize the alphabet. She constantly has her nose in a book. Nikolas, in contrast, is more action-oriented. And while Nikolas could identify and differentiate between makes of cars at age two while we were on the freeway or seeing ads on TV or in magazines, to Ivi all cars are Hondas.

Mood Music

Maybe he can't carry a tune, but he does seem tuned in. Nikolas first asked *The Mommy* to "put a sad CD on." Then, after listening for a while, he brightened up, saying, "Okay, now you can put a happy CD on."

Obsession, Cont.

Yesterday, we made our pilgrimage to the Los Angeles Central Library to get our weekly quota of twenty children's books. While this is an event given to much celebrating and excitement, it does have its complications. Like Ivi crying and crying at bedtime, reluctant to stop reading. And she woke up in the night, found one of the new books, pointed at it and cried, "That one!"

Marks The Spot

In keeping with the family compulsion to brush teeth as often as possible, Ivi is being conditioned accordingly. However, she is not too efficient at

the act, as she likes to grab all the toothbrushes and play with them. The other night she was holding up two of them, crossed at 45 degree angles, and saying, "This is X!" So now we concede her this delaying activity, on its educational grounds.

Take A Letter ...

In his best executive manner, Nikolas has been dictating letters to *The Mommy*. He came up with two different versions for his grandparents

Version One

Dear Grandparents:

Please come to our house and bring all your toys.

Nikolas

Version Two

Dear Grandparents:

Please come to our house and play all day. When it's late you go to your house.

Nikolas

Tip of the Iceberg

It must have started over a year ago when Nikolas was rushed to the ER when he slammed the back of his head against a step corner. Ever since, the first remedy demanded

by the children for almost any problem has been application of the ice pack. So much so, that we have had to keep two ice packs at ready, so there is no conflict -- the one who "needs" it invariably inspires the other to believe she/he needs it as well. As an illustration of the efficacy of this remedy, today Ivi stepped on a corner of a plastic block with a bare foot, emitting a yowl of pain. She immediately called for the ice pack, pressed it against the bottom of her foot for all of two seconds, then jumped up and returned to play, fully recovered. This treatment also works well for Nikolas when Ivi pulls his hair.

HangMan

One of Nikolas' favorite games is Hangman. After a session in which he won several games while playing with *The Daddy*, he decided he had a word that he wanted *The Daddy* to guess -- an eight-letter word. Well, nobody ever could guess Nikolas' word, which turned out to be "VARJWYZL" (pronounced var-juh-wizzle). Probably an archaic spelling of a well-known (to young children) term.

Cause Vs. Effect

Sometimes the reason for crying by the children is obvious. Often, some creative questioning by *The Mommy* or *The Daddy* is needed to get to the bottom of the matter. For example, Ivi often responds to a "What's wrong?" query with (through sobs or wails or sometimes in a frail little whisper):

"Ivi's cryin'". Sometimes there's a tug at the sleeve or pantleg, and a little "Ivi's cryin'".

Runs in the Family

Looking over his shoulder as he diligently scratched away at a pad of paper, Nikolas was seen to be writing these words: "I love you. I don't know why I love you." Asked what he was writing, he responded that he was writing a book.

Try A Pear

What follows is a poignant tale. Asked how they wanted to spend Thanksgiving, the children opted for "swings and slides!" So we went to Elysian Park, near Dodger Stadium. Not very crowded; only a few Latino kids. Most people, perhaps, were home around a traditional meal or whatever. Nik, in his usual highly sociable style tried to approach the other children and mix with their play. But one boy, who seemed to be almost exactly his age, said something to him then hit him. Nik was rather astonished, but came back to the scene, saying, "I just want to be nice to you. What do you want me to do for playing?" The boy again struck at him, then shouted something in Spanish. Nikolas was baffled, asking "What did you say? I don't understand 'Try A Pear'. What does that mean?" Finally, the boy's older sister said "No Englese", as Nikolas puzzled over the meaning of what he heard as "try a pear . . ." We drove home a while later.

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Ivi and The Purple Dinosaur

Overheard with a variation on Barney's theme song was Ivi, innocently singing away, "I love me, you love me, we're a happy family ..."

S&M Starts At Home

Also overheard was Nikolas telling Ivi, "Hit me. Push me. Go ahead, it's all right."

An Independent Woman

Her motto is a demand. "By Myself!" Ivi lately has come to insist on walking up and down stairs, opening car doors, getting in her car seat, high chair, etc. without any assistance. This can create a major confrontation when attempting to do something important like crossing a street (which is just about the only time she doesn't get her way). But we just add in an appropriate time factor for accomplishing whatever it may involve. Her fierce sense of independence, however, does create some concern about safety, as she seems to be in a more or less constant state of careening, tipping, falling, spilling, bumping. Which leads to another story ...

What Happened the Weekend Before Thanksgiving

Friday night. Nikolas slaloms through a series of chairs when one of his training wheels picks up a chair leg as he makes a turn. He hits the ground, and starts screaming. No blood, but he is holding his right hand and refusing to let anyone see it. Still crying an hour later, he falls asleep. The next morning a trip to the ER shows that nothing is broken but he has a nasty sprain. He comes home with his wrapped arm in a sling. A few hours later that night, Ivi crawls up on a kitchen counter, then back down on a table when admonished, but suddenly she turns upside down and hits the floor. Blood spews almost everywhere, but it doesn't last too long. Turns out to be a cut lip; looked bad. Whew. As Ivi says "Close call!" The next day she is back at it, climbing on anything, apparently because it's there. And a final note: by Monday afternoon Nik was out of his sling and behaving in an utterly normal way.



Cousin Jeannie - July 1994
(photo by Nikolas)

He Knows His Cars

Riding for the first time with some friends in their Jaguar XJ6, Nikolas exclaimed, "Hey, this is a newer and better car than ours!" He also wondered if he could drive that car when he was as old as *The Daddy*.

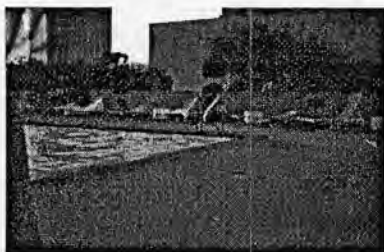


Nikolas and His Male and Female Play-Dough Sculptures

(photo by Kim 10/30/94)

Career Plans

Not long ago, Nikolas announced that he had decided what he wanted to be when he grew up -- a teacher. Not surprising, as he loves to watch TV programs about school and keeps a tiny yellow matchbox school bus under his pillow at night.



Ivi and *The Mommy*
(photo by Jeannie 7/23/94)



Ivi and *The Daddy*
(photo by Kim 10/30/94)

By The Way

This month's mystery photograph of the swimming pool of the Hotel Bonaventure in Los Angeles is the first known taken by Nikolas, using Cousin Jeannie's camera during her visit from Kansas City in July.



The NIK_{ik} L_{vi} im L_{arry} Gazette

Volume 1/2 Issue 11/1

December 1994 / January 1995

EVENTS, MISHAPS, AND OTHER OBSERVED CHILDLIFE PHENOMENA

The Performer

After an evening meal a while back, Nikolas set three chairs up in a line, two adult chairs and a child's chair in the middle. Then he escorted *The Daddy*, *The Mommy*, and Ivi to those seats. Announcing that he was going to conduct a puppet show, he then went on to dance around in front of us as though he were a puppet, accompanied by a mystical monologue. We all applauded heartily at the show's conclusion, whereupon Ivi decided she should also have a try at puppeteering. A grand time was had by all.

Get Down

Nik sez: "We need the blues and rock 'n' roll for dancing".

An Eye On The Future

We were recently told by Nikolas that he is going to be a teacher, an astronaut and a regular guy.

A Leap of Faith

Inspired by Nikolas on 12/21/94, Ivi jumps from a height of four feet, laughing heartily as she lands on a pillow. Now, two weeks later, she is jumping at just about every opportunity.

A Sense of Identity

Ivi often introduces herself by saying "I'm a girl (pronounced 'gorl')", sometimes with the optional trailing clause, "...And that's the truth."

Sure, What Else Is A Father For?

Nik asks *The Daddy*: "Are you available to be the bad guy?"

Get Down, II

When one of Nikolas' computer programs takes off with a hard-charging guitar riff, both he and Ivi

sit in their computer chairs, wildly "dancing" and gesturing in time to the music.

I Know The Feeling

Waxing eloquent and philosophical, Nikolas observed that "the days toodle on into obliviato".

Just Say No

What Nikolas may like best about visiting the library is getting time on the computers there. But on last Friday's visit, an older kid pushed him away and commandeered his computer. So Nikolas retreated, got a piece of paper, wrote **NO** on it in large block letters, then went back and placed it in front of that kid. - 01/08/95.

NOTICE

Due to increased postage fees, lack of time and other issues, publication of the NIKL Gazette is suspended (temporarily, we hope) .



A Mateo Street Christmas Eve

To begin with, it rained, and rained hard. Torrential. All night. Very cold. Water soon was dripping, then streaming, from half a dozen or more spots in the ceiling. So we turned on the music to accompany the excited children who danced through the mist and the streams and splashed in the puddles, as *The Mommy* and *The Daddy* tossed tarps over the stereo and other electronic equipment, moved books out of range, and placed receptacles ranging from pots and pans to Nik's Tonka dump truck under the cascades of water. Later, we turned out the lights and snuggled up in sleeping bags to watch the lightning show outside. Turned out to be one of the happiest and most exciting Christmas Eves in memory.

Bill Nye, Step Aside

Combining three combs and latching them together at right angles, Nikolas declared: "This is an Airplane of Science." Like many scientific experiments, it failed to fly well the first time.

Quest for the Wiper

When Ivi repeatedly and urgently asked for her "wiper", neither *The Mommy* nor *The Daddy* could get a handle on what she wanted. Consulting with Nikolas, he said that he didn't know but he asked her again. After several attempts, he suddenly sprang up and ran to the toy barrel and extracted the object of her need -- her White Bear.