

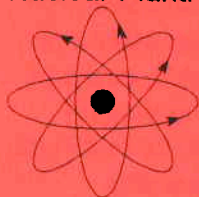


# Happy Holidays from the Kocherts

December, 1996

## ON THE WORK FRONT

Steven is almost finished with training for his new position of Control Room Supervisor at Callaway Nuclear Plant.



He has been a real pain in the butt to the family during this 18-month class, but he and we are surviving. He is doing very well to date on all exams.

One rather interesting portion of his training was Fire School in St. Louis. He needed to train to be a fire fighter. Needless to say, we don't look at the movie Backdraft quite the same anymore. He has a renewed respect and awe for this challenging profession.

Right now he is working some very strange hours so that he can use the control room simulator at the plant for training. We are sometimes like two ships that pass in the night, but, we're all hanging in there. He tells us it will all be worth it in the end.

With his different hours, Steven has been a more frequent visitor to school. He attended a Mexican Fiesta, to make and eat tacos at

8:00 am, with Joseph. In the Spring, he accompanied Ashley on her class orienteering field trip. In addition, he even volunteered for the committee to audit books for the middle school. Oh, to be visible in your child's school.

Steven will finish all of his coursework and on-the-job training in February, 1997. At that time he will take a final examination for his Senior Reactor Operator License from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. When he passes, GREAT...!

**REMINDER**, you are all downwind! Just kidding...

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Jamie tried substitute teaching but has since decided that it's not for her. There were too many kids leaving class to get their ADD medication to allow any teaching to go on. She is very disillusioned.

On a brighter front, she has taken a position as an Office Assistant with the City of Columbia's Regional Economic Development office. She really enjoys this part-time job. She drops the kids off at school, goes to work until noon and is there to pick the kids up after school. The position still leaves her time to

volunteer at school one day a week. Who could ask for anything more?



She gets to hear the latest employment gossip in the community. In addition, she involves herself with press conferences as well as other major happenings in the community. Recently, she helped organize a Career Fair for area eighth grade students and an Employment Fair for area residents. She is enjoying her new position tremendously.

## THE FAMILY

As always, we are running every direction with the kids. Ashley attended volleyball camp at Columbia College as well as played softball this summer. Joseph finished up Parks & Recreation basketball and jumped into baseball.

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## BASEMENT UPDATE

For the curious, the basement is all but finished! Yeah! Celebrate! Hallelujah! Jamie still needs to paint a couple of doors and some trim needs to be completed in the office, but other than that...Can you believe Jamie wants to build another house when the kids get in high school?

## THE BIG APPLE



Ashley left the family for a few days in June. She made her first trip to New York City, the Big Apple. Steven was a little leery of letting his baby girl go to the big city all by herself. However, alone she was not.

She went with a group from West Junior High School in conjunction with her Drama Club. They attended two Broadway plays and saw all of the usual tourist spots. (Statute of Liberty, Times Square, Empire State Building, Staten Island, and Strawberry Fields in Central Park), as well as several museums.

She also learned the fine art of navigating the city by subway. Ashley and a few of her friends, some old, some new, went to the Bronx for belly button piercing...not her, one of her friends. However, if she had pierced anything, we guess the belly button is

as good a place as any. At least it's not visible.

We are very proud of how hard she worked to earn her portion of the trip.

Yes, she is still the same creative, music-loving child you remember. Her tastes still run closer to the 60's and we are grateful. At least we **understand the words!**

## FOOTBALL CAMP

Joseph is now taller than both of his parents. He's wearing an 11-1/2 shoe, larger than Dad's and he continues to grow. We're sure that the body has to catch up with the feet sometime soon.

In addition, Joe decided to go back to the football field this fall. In preparing for that endeavor, he went to Football Camp in Kansas City for four days in June.



This was the first time he had gone to overnight camp. While he was looking forward to it, Dad and especially Mom, were a little sad to see him growing up so fast.

Joe's football season didn't go as well for the team as everyone would have liked, but, we saw great improvement in Joe's game. He primarily played left tackle on offense.

## Kochert Holiday News

### FINAL NOTE

We hope you and yours are safe and happy. Drop us a note sometime and let us know how things are going. Time is so short that it's a shame to waste even a second.

*With that said, as some of you may or may not know, Jamie lost her two-month old goddaughter (niece), Abby, this past spring. Abby came into this world with numerous problems, but, the most unforgettable blue eyes ever seen. Her strength, courage and spirit are a continuing source of inspiration to all who knew her. The joy she brought to our lives will exist forever in our broken hearts. Abby is terribly missed by her parents, sisters and extended families. We ask for your prayers.*

Treasure your time together and know that you are thought of often, with great affection!

Love,

*Handwritten signatures: Ashley Kochert (with a heart symbol), Jamie Kochert, and Joe Kochert.*