

We want to hear from you!

1307 Georgetown Court
Columbia, MO 65203
573-445-6605

Email
Steven: bronchos@socket.net
Jamie: hotdogs@socket.net

Kochert Kronicles

Christmas 2000

CHRISTMAS

This poem was sent to us last year. Although the author is unknown, it so completely expressed our feelings about each of you that we wanted to share it!

There is a list of folks we know all written
in a book. And every year at Christmas
time, we go and take a look.

And that is when we realize that these
names are a part, not of the book they're
written in, but of our very hearts.

For each name stands for someone who has
touched our lives sometime. And in that
meeting, they've become the "rhythm of the
rhyme."

Of each remembered name, and while you
may not be aware of feeling quite the same,
our lives are so much better than it was
before you came.

For once you have known someone, the

years cannot erase the memory of a pleas-
ant word or of a friendly face.

So never think the Christmas cards are
just a mere routine of names upon a list,
forgotten in between.

For when we send a Christmas card that is
addressed to you, it is because you're on
the list of folks we're indebted to.

And whether we have known you for
many years or few. In some way you have
had a part in shaping things we do.

So every year when Christmas comes, we
just realize anew, the biggest gift that God
can give is knowing folks like you!!

2000...

2000, the year that began with much fan-
fare around the world, came and went
very quickly in the Kochert house.

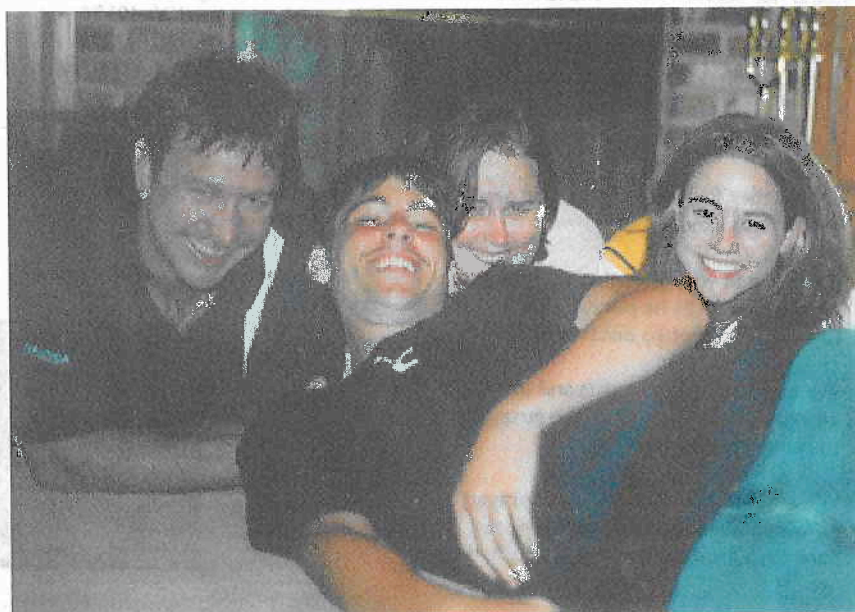
Unfortunately, the new year began with
the death of Jamie's father. Although, Ja-
mie and her father were not close, it is our
sincere hope that he has finally found
peace.

We honestly have to admit, much of the
year was spent getting ready to push Ash-
ley out of the nest. Again, those of you
with grown children did not tell us how
difficult this would be!

In addition, some time was spent getting
Jamie's mother up and around after having
total knee replacement in June. We are
happy to report that the surgery was suc-
cessful and she is progressing nicely. Even
more remarkable, Sandy quit her 40+ year
smoking habit. Not sure that she's as
thrilled, but the rest of us are very proud
of her accomplishment. Sandy also
changed elementary schools this year, but
still works as a lunchroom supervisor.

Stability seems to be the watchword for
both Steven and Jamie. Steven continues
to work at the Callaway Nuclear plant in
Fulton. Although morale is low due to
merger issues, he continues to plug along.

Meanwhile, Jamie soon begins her 6th year
with Regional Economic Development, Inc.
She also continues on the board of the
Hickman Touchdown Club. Along with
other duties, she is the web goddess for
the organization.



Joseph

We now have Joseph all to ourselves, well, almost! We're not so sure he is enjoying our togetherness as much as we are. However, he is turning out to be quite a wonderful, yet mischievous young man. A drier sense of humor we have never encountered. What a hoot! If you ever see him, ask about the horse who walked into a bar.

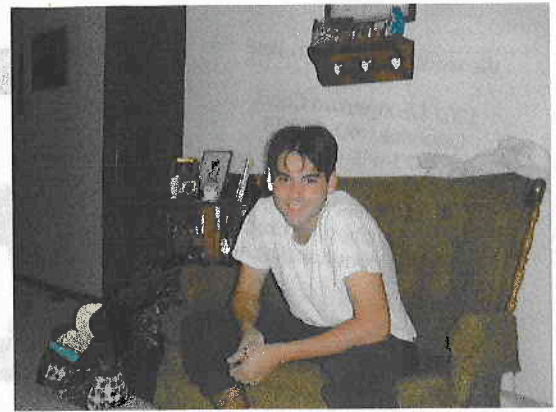
Remember last year when we told you a speeding ticket was in Joseph's future. Well, he was stopped by the city police, state police and the local sheriff's department in the span of two weeks. All stops resulted in a speeding ticket, a seatbelt violation and a warning about weaving all over the road (a habit he picked up from

Dad). Knock on wood...it appears he learned his lesson.

Joseph bought his first car this year. He looked long and hard, but finally found his 1984 maroon Cutlass Supreme. He is happy as a clam and the car seems to fit him. However, it is a gas guzzler so he is working at one of the dining halls on the UMC campus to make ends meet.

He seems to be thriving at Hickman High School, where he is a junior. Grades have never been better.

As mentioned earlier, we "almost" have



Joseph to ourselves. He has been seeing the same girl for over a year now. Our luck...her name is Ashley. Talk about confusing!

Ashley

2000 was quite a year for Ashley. After being accepted at Missouri and much to our surprise, she decided to apply to a couple of more schools...out of state. She explained that "if I'm really going to grow up and be on my own, I have to do it away from Columbia." We guess she's



"everyone just gets dressed up to talk to the same people they talk to every day"

really growing up after all.

She quit her job at Wal-Mart

in February and it appeared that the weight of the world had been lifted. Luckily, she had put away enough money to pay off her car and have spending money for her spring break trip.

In March, she and a couple of friends ventured to Cancun, Mexico. The parents were extremely anxious for the entire week, but the kids rose to the occasion and arrived back in the States safely.

Much to our surprise, Ashley decided to attend her Senior Prom. She looked beautiful! However, comments heard following the event included, "it was a big waste of money" and "everyone just gets

dressed up to talk to the same people they talk to every day."

In June, she graduated from Hickman High School. We celebrated with a BBQ following the ceremony. We certainly enjoyed the company of family and friends.

In August, we packed up cars and headed to Lexington, KY. Ashley seemed to settle in nicely in spite of her roommate backing out the week before school started. Yes, parents cried both coming and going. We look forward to seeing her over the month-long holiday break!

If you happen to be in the neighborhood, look her up. *Translation: check up on her and report back to parents.* Her address is:

University of Kentucky
Blanding III, Box 92
Lexington, KY 40526
Phone: 859-323-3379
Email: ajkoch0@pop.uky.edu

IN CLOSING...

As the Christmas poem on the front page so eloquently stated...we think of each of you during the year. You are all a part of us in some way or another.

We hope the year 2000 was a happy and productive year for you. We pray that this note finds each of your families in good health and good spirits.

We ask that your thoughts and prayers be with Ashley as she forges a new fu-

ture farther from home than her parents would have liked.

We ask that your thoughts and prayers be with Joseph as he ponders what road to take in the not so distant future.

We ask that your thoughts and prayers be with Jamie's mother as she struggles to remain smoke-free.

We ask that your thoughts and prayers be with Steven and Jamie as they prepare for a future without children in the

house. It is coming much sooner than they had expected!

We wish each of you a blessed holiday season!

Steven
Jamie
Ashley
Joseph
Sandy

