

we have a new baby

BY TERESA DAMOCLES



TOP: Samantha; MIDDLE: (from left to right) Teresa, Corey, Carlo and Charlotte with Rafiki (the one with the big white beard) at Walt Disney World. BOTTOM: Charlotte and Corey tear up the pavement.

Hi, everyone! It's been a fun year for our family. We started off with surprising news back in February that we'd soon have a new family member. Not a new dog or cat, but a baby. Carlo and I were thrown for a loop because we didn't plan on having a third. We had already set our family vacation plans to Disney World for the month of November, but managed to move it up to May. We didn't want to disappoint the kids just because of a new baby, so we spent the middle of May in Florida, and even brought along Mom. We stayed at Vistana, the same resort where we had the last Laico Reunion back in 1994. Still as nice and well kept as back then. We saw all of the Disney theme parks. We also enjoyed Blizzard Beach, a really neat water park in the Disney resort area. The kids' favorite was the Magic Kingdom, of course. The hardest part of this trip for me was not being able to ride most of the attractions because of my obviously pregnant middle. But at least the kids had fun, and that's all that mattered.

THIS YEAR WAS ALSO FILLED WITH A TOUCH OF sorrow when, on August 30, Carlo lost his younger brother, Arnold. He had been suffering from Muscular Dystrophy for most of his 31 years of life. Things got even more intense when his mother suffered a stroke two weeks later. She is now recovering and getting stronger.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE, COREY STARTED FIRST grade this year. In addition, he earned a yellow belt in karate, performed in his first formal piano recital, and is an avid street hockey player. Whenever he goes out to play, he's always on wheels: bike riding or roller blading.

Charlotte is 4 years old and was in pre-school until now. She also tries to play the piano and she's already showing her potential when she tries to do the scales on her own. Singing is also her favorite thing to do. Most of the time, she makes up her own songs and sings them out loud to anyone who will listen.

Then there's Samantha Arnold Michelle, born on October 5. She's still too young to do most of the things her older brother and sister are doing, but she's mastered sleeping and spitting up very well. It was Charlotte who came up with the name Samantha, and we liked the way it sounded.

Soon after Samantha was born, we learned that another Laico (Anton) had a baby girl this year named Samantha. Of course, we had no idea that Tita Bibot even became a "Lola" this year. Maybe someday, when they're older, the two Samanthas will be able to meet each other.

Since we won't be able to attend the big Laico Millennium Reunion, we want to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday from our family. Happy 2000!!