



Alyssa Francesca Silva "Francine"

Born: June 5, 2000

Birth Weight: 7.8 lbs

Length: 20 inches

Born in the year of the female dragon

Big brother calls her "baby girl" or "baby doll"

Lola Bingbing's "sweetie pie"

MY LITTLE Y2K BABY

By Lia Juarez-Silva

I just started a new job in September 1999 for which I had to take BART back and forth every day to San Francisco. One afternoon I felt really tired and lightheaded. I called Alex to come pick me from the station right away, and I had a check-up with my doctor. The doctor said, "I think you are under a lot of stress from work," and I agreed. However she still ordered some lab tests, just in case.

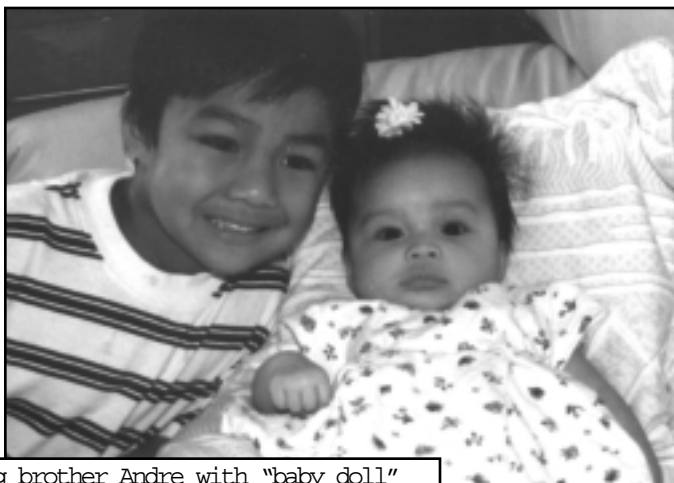
A few days passed, and I felt better. Then I received a call from Kaiser stating that I was positive and I replied, irritably, "Positive for what?!" and she said "Congratulations, you're pregnant." I was stunned, and couldn't say a word.

Nine months passed and it's the Year 2000. Everyone was waiting for this baby and bets were made on the gender. I was due May 24 but that date passed and everyone started asking whether this baby was ever coming out. In fact, I was induced at the end of May and nothing happened. I even attended a wedding in Monterey. Then, two days later I was in pain! It lasted for three hours then my water broke. I told Alex, "Let's just go, I don't care if they send me home again."

We got to the hospital at 11:00 PM June 5; I was 8 cm dilated. The nurses asked if I wanted to push now and I yelled, "I want some drugs!" As soon as that happened I was in nirvana, talking and laughing with all the nurses. The nurses told me I had a choice, to have the baby on June 5 or June 6 since it was 11:20 PM. I suddenly thought if I had this baby on June 6 then on her 6th birthday it would be 06/06/06. That was not a good omen. So 20 minutes later out came Alyssa Francesca Silva (a.k.a. Francine), all 7.8 lbs and 20 inches.

She has grown 5 more inches and weighs more 6 lbs since then. Francine is a really good and cheerful baby. She always wants to be part of the action. By the way, she was also born in the year of the dragon, which is considered good luck, and just having her proved that.

LL



Big brother Andre with "baby doll"

VIRTUAL RELATIONSHIP

By Lia Juarez-Silva

Alex and I belong to the "X generation," for whom everyday lives revolve around e-mails, voice mails, cell phones, handheld devices such as Palm Pilots and other wireless gadgets. Our workplace has also evolved from the standard brick and mortar to home offices where you can sit all day in your sweats and work via telecommuting.

However this scheme of things does not end there, choosing to work in the world of I.T. (information technology) means paying the price, and travel I think is the ultimate one.

Alex has been assigned to work in this company's Seattle office to manage and support some of their strategic accounts for the last two months, and he may have to stay there for the next year. He flies out Monday mornings on the 6:20 AM flight and comes home Fridays at 7:30 PM.

It was an arduous routine at first, especially since we've got two little rug rats at home and I also hold a full-time career. On the other hand, our communication has strengthened and we have both learned to value our time together on the weekends and spend quality time with our kids. Also, having solid family support has made this venture possible.

So the days when dad goes to the office with his briefcase and mom is in an apron waiting at home are long gone. I guess if this is the 21st century way of life I wonder what's in store for our kids.

LL