## HOLIDAY UPDATE LETTER 2004

## DAVE, CATHERINE and MARC MATOS

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Hi! Daddy handed the keyboard to me and ran out of the room jabbering something about "finally someone else to mow the lawn and write that darn Christmas letter". So, here I go, my first try ever...

It's been it's been an eventful year for me! It started off a little bit dark and with me listening to a lot of math lectures, but on May 20, 2004 my cozy little world was turned upside-down, since I was already 8 days late. I was forced to make my grand entrance (with some medicines that made me loopy) at 2:25 pm! I was 7 pounds 13 ounces and 20 ¾ inches long. I really didn't want to show up, it was really nice and cozy where I was and the math lectures were starting to get pretty good. Mommy's students didn't even know I was on the way until April, but they eventually figured it out!

Mommy got promoted to Assistant Professor and got a nice new office of her own at Clayton State. She promptly took her promotion and took the whole summer off to stay with me! For Fall semester she had to go back to school 2 ½ days a week, so Daddy stayed home with me the other 2 ½ days a week. Aren't they great! Their bosses are pretty understanding too! Mommy's been a natural at this "mommy-ing" thing, she's really good at it and can sing pretty good (my favorite is the 'Cranky Baby Song", it kind of sounds like Oh My Darlin' Clementine). I'm very lucky to have such a great Mommy!

Daddy got promoted, too! First he got to be his own boss for a while, now he's just the boss of his old group. I think they still like him – at least they seem to. Daddy painted me a wonderful "safari" nursery, you can see pictures of it on my website (it's listed at the top of the page – both names work and go to the same place). What's a gaskbaby anyway? Daddy says he didn't faint when I showed up, but when I saw him he looked really woozy! Daddy changes my diapers and feeds me and tries to entertain me (I love to pull the little bits of hair on top of his head). He's been a really great Daddy!

Mommy and Daddy finally sold the old house in April and bought a family car. No, not a minivan, a 4-door Accord. That's as close as they get to a family car. There's a lot of boxes around the house with stuff in them, they keep saying they'll get unpacked soon, so I'm helping by getting into them.

My brothers and sister are doing much better than Mommy and Daddy expected. Freya is still a little scared of me (and other small people), but Loki and Tyr kind of play with me. They usually are chasing each other, but sometimes they let me chase them too. Tyr keeps stealing and eating my socks, sometimes from the laundry, sometimes right off my feet! Mommy keeps laughing and says we need to get him his own "Mutt's little pink sock".



My Grandparents (Matos) are still living in Augusta and doing well. They are absolutely giddy when they are around me! Unfortunately Great-grandma Katie (Nuni) passed away this fall,

but I got to spend lots of time talking with her and she did teach me about "the slots"! My other Grandparents (Moseley's) sold their house in Virginia and moved into a storage unit in Macon. Well, actually it's Mommy's Grandma's house, but most of it is being used for storage until they figure out where they want to live. Aunt Suzie, Uncle Jason and cousin Ben are all doing well (although Ben keeps stealing my pacifier). Uncle Mike is managing a steak restaurant in downtown Atlanta and he comes to visit me a lot!



Ok, enough about everyone else, back to me! I spoiled my parents by sleeping through the night very early, but I am making up for that now! I started crawling at 5 months (which surprised the heck out of my parents) and now I cruise along the furniture with ease (look out kitties, here I come!). I just started eating "baby food", more like liquefied fruit and veggies, but it's pretty good – I really like apple sauce, but who doesn't like the sauce? I have 2 teeth now and drool all over the place! Right after I was born I watched the Stanley Cup Playoffs and Daddy said that we'd go to a bunch of games this fall. I was very excited, I even have a Thrashers jumpsuit! We haven't gotten to go to any games, Daddy says it's a lock-out and that everyone is acting younger than me – I agree! I wanna ride the Zamponi or at least see it up close!

Well, I guess that's all for now, please check out my website, send me an e-mail, give Mommy and Daddy a call or just drop by! I'd love to meet you! My best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year,

Love, Marc

(...and Mommy and Daddy and Loki and Freya and Tyr)