



The Storm Front



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A Very Special Holiday Issue

Babies are Popping out all over

By Roger Hanna

NEW YORK, 10 DECEMBER 93:

Yesterday evening, Susan Cecelia Goldfried Mandel unexpectedly, and three weeks prematurely, plopped out a seven pound, several ounces, twenty inch baby girl named Rachel Elizabeth Mandel.

While little Rachel will remain in the hospital for a few days pending blood tests following possession-like projectile vomiting, she ought to be home within a few days and into the hastily-prepared and hopefully cat-proof nursery the Mandels share on the Upper East Side.

Little Rachel, sucking away on her dinner, looked remarkably like the proud father, Randy (who raced in from Boston with 45 minutes to

it takes six weeks for newborns to focus), but also because of the Mandel's fondness for a rock group which bears the same name. I do wonder, however, if they seriously considered a longer name for little Rachel, such as Beatrice Isabella Lois Louise Yolette Johanna Octavia Electra Lollapalooza [or "Devina Elissa Patricia Ellie Carolyn Hilary Edwina Mary October Delta Echo" and we don't even want to consider what would have happened if Randy and Susan liked "Crash Test Dummies" - Editor].

Ironically, mere hours before Susan

went into labor I spoke with her, predicting a boy Baby New Year. Susan confidently assured me that the baby would, if anything, come late, as doctors rarely predict a birth later than it occurs. Susan also asked me what pager service I used; they planned to get Randy a pager for the next month today, a day after Rachel arrived.

Ten finger, ten toes. One miracle.

[Congratulations to Randy and Susan from *everyone* here at StormCo Industries. - Editor]

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spare); that is, little Rachel looked like Randy until the pacifier slipped from her lips. Then, as her teeny fingers and tiny toes began to flex, her head turned bright red and she began bawling with the intensity and volume only comprehensible if you know her mother.

The baby truly IS beautiful; Elissa was worried that she'd have to lie to Susan, since most newborns look rather blotchy and scrunched; however, Elissa herself (who, since her father delivers babies for a living, has seen more than her share) proclaimed Rachel "the most beautiful baby I've ever seen."

The baby's name is after Randy's grandmother; Rachel's Hebrew name translates as "Teacher," after Susan's mother. Susan is quick to point out that while they considered Hilary Ann as another name, H.A.M. would be especially unfortunate initials for a Jewish baby born on the second day of Chanaka. Besides, R.E.M. seems more appropriate for several reasons. Not only because of the baby's disturbing Stevie Wonderesque eye movements (I'm told

An Open Letter to Santa

Dear Santa,

I've been a very good boy this year, and I want to ask you for a couple of things for Christmas.

But first, I want to thank you for the things I've already got. Thank you for all of my wonderful family and friends. Thank you for a job I find interesting and fun. And thank you for a life full of joy and possibilities.

For Christmas, I would like you to bring the following things. Please bring jobs for all of the people who are unemployed. Bring homes for those who are homeless. Bring love for those who have none. And bring peace and safety for those who live in fear.

I know this is a big order. So maybe you could just bring awareness to those who have closed their hearts to the world's troubles. Then, we could do all those things, and you could go back to bringing toys to little children.

Sincerely,

Moving Up in Elf-Land

UC Davis graduate (and ex-roommate of Steph Fisher) Linda Reed has finally been given the recognition and unlimited power she so rightfully deserves. She has just been named Assistant Distribution Center Manager for Keebler's West Sacramento distribution center. We are talking about the power to control the lucrative flow of cookies and cracker-like products throughout huge metropolitan areas that will remain nameless in order to protect you from realizing just how vast the Keebler empire has become (you have got to learn to watch out for these giant corporations, they have a way of just taking over. One day, they're a nice little "Mom and Pop" operation, and the next... Wham, global power!).

Linda started work at Keebler only six short months ago. She started out as some kind of general office type person who never would explain exactly what her duties were. However, there is an unsubstantiated rumor that she has been the "Voice of Ernie" for most of that time. Despite our one half-hearted attempt to learn the truth, Keebler Inc. did not respond to a Storm Front request for an in-depth interview with unlimited access to their files. We can only believe that they were hiding their involvement in the plot to kill Kennedy.

Linda's new duties will, undoubtedly, prove "challenging, stimulating, interesting" and a whole bunch of other "ing"s. It's not often that you know someone on their way to the top of the Prepared Snack Food world. And since most of these giant food conglomerates also own a defense contractor or two, I'm sure it's only a matter of time before Linda acquires some kind of thermonuclear device. But don't worry, I've seen her room. She'll get the warhead home and promptly lose it in the laundry pile. Maybe, in fifteen or twenty years, someone will find it and hold Lodi hostage with it. Then again, who would really care. I mean, it's not like Lodi has anything really cool in it. It isn't even "The Gateway" to anything.

Oh well, congratulations Linda. I'm sure you will be contacted by our marketing department to see if Keebler would like to sponsor some

kind of meaningless, self-serving, StormCo Industries "charity" event. We're really sorry about that, but the sales department is staffed by a whole bunch of people just smart enough to remember that they have a job (if they were any stupider, they'd forget, and just sort of wander away one day). Good luck, best wishes, send me COOKIES!!!! Did

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I mention that, when making a snack buying decision, I always look for the happy Elf Tree? Really, it's true, and I always tell other people on the cookie aisle why (even if I've never seen them before in my life); because I know someone at Keebler. But now, I know someone at Keebler.

And in other news . . .

A partial reprint from a story in the Sacramento Bee on October 16, 1993.

Because elephants are highly intelligent, highly social creatures, they are also easily bored, and need constructive stimuli to keep their boredom from turning ugly. Before her painting career began, for example, Ruby [an elephant at the Phoenix Zoo] would sometimes amuse herself by luring ducks and geese into her compound with grain from her trough, then squash them with her foot.

Your Gift-Getting Horoscope

PISCES * Feb. 19 - Mar. 20 * You will be visited by three ghost who will try to teach you the "True Meaning of Christmas." Unfortunately, you'll get caught up in the special effects and miss their point entirely.

TAURUS * Apr. 20 - May 20 * It's not that I'm saying you've been particularly bad this year, but the book that Santa's been keeping on you makes Bob Packwood's diaries read like "The Fluffy Bunnies have a Picnic." Can you say "coal?" Can you say "lots and lots of coal?" I thought you could.

SAGITTARIUS * Nov. 22 - Dec. 21 * Your Christmas tree is trying to escape. Haven't you noticed that it's been leaning a little more towards the door every day? There's no time to lose, you need to surround it with a whole lot of presents to block it's escape.

ARIES * Mar. 21 - Apr. 19 * Time to do your end-of-the-year tax planning. No, you can not take double deductions if you have a letter from a doctor declaring you schizophrenic.

LEO * Jul. 23 - Aug. 22 * This season is going to be very busy for you. You've go all those parties, the decorating, the shopping, the indictment...

AQUARIUS * Jan. 20 - Feb. 18 * You're asking for way too much for Christmas. Even if Elvis is still alive, I really doubt he's going to stop by on Christmas Eve just to sing "Silent Night" to you.

SCORPIO * Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 * The Elves have made an action figure that looks just like you. Sadly, it comes in the "G.I. Joe Third-World Prison Playset" and Congress has blocked its distribution in the continental U.S.

VIRGO * Aug. 23 - Sep. 22 * This is the time of the year to remember what is really important: freedom of the press. Don't you think you should send a gift to your favorite publisher? It'll make you feel wonderful.

GEMINI * May 21 - Jun. 20 * This is the year you're going to hear one too many renditions of "Jingle Bell Rock" and make a big scene in a crowded mall. During which, you're going to learn that Santa's Helpers carry stun guns.

CAPRICORN * Dec. 22 - Jan. 19 * Bad News: your Christmas lights will be mistaken for a landing field by space aliens who will park on your roof. Good News: they've come to halt the senseless escalation of fruitcake production here on Earth.

LIBRA * Sep. 23 - Oct. 22 * You're finally going to learn what "wassail" is this year, and the knowledge is going to haunt you for the rest of your natural life.

CANCER * Jun. 21 - Jul. 22 * You will be asked to sing "White Christmas" on Perry Como's 35th Star-Studded Holiday Special. But, at the last minute, you'll be replaced by someone who swallows Christmas trees.