



As you may recall from the last episode, Darlene was pregnant with Mungus and Steve was the father (or so we are led to believe)... The year started off with the usual winter trip to Yosemite (have you ever seen a pregnant woman waddle through snow?). We took a Lamaze class (I asked if there



Adam testifying before the Senate Committee regarding his role in the Whitewater affair.

was also a La-pa's class) from someone that had absolutely no reaction to my constant barrage of puns and jokes (on the first day, I entered this room full of pregnant women and asked her if this was the "fear of intimacy" class). In April, we decided that our two-bedroom house was just too small for three people (it was usually too small for the two of us) so we got this idea to add two bedrooms. I designed the addition myself and took the task of obtaining a loan and hiring a contractor. We broke ground 16 hours before Darlene's water broke at 1:00 AM on July 10 (ironically, while she was watching the Playboy Channel). After rushing to the hospital and

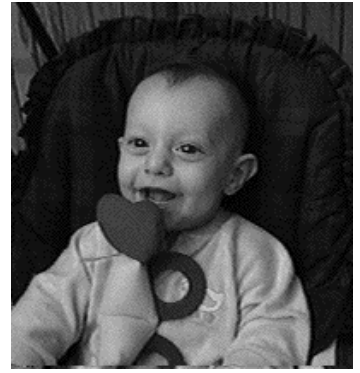
pacing the floors for 10 hours, Darlene's labor was sped-up with a drug that was formerly used in Third World countries to make pregnant spies "talk or else." Active labor was a delight— where just one hour before Darlene was telling me to eat because I need my strength, she was now telling me that she's getting sick from that "smelly food." Other memorable quotes include: "rub my back, don't touch me, rub my back, don't touch me" and "if you love me, you'll get the nurse NOW." Well, from then Darlene's labor went so quickly that there was no time for her oft-requested epidural. Lo, at 6:10 AM a child was born unto us. Enter Adam Jacob Manick. We were now responsible for a 7 lb. 12 oz. crying/eating/excreting machine. The three of us returned home to the nearby sounds of construction. "Wait, this is happening here." Our lives and our house entered a constant state of upheaval. After realizing that I didn't have enough stress in my life, I decided to do some of the work myself. Sound smart? Let me give some advice: (a) have a kid; (b) remodel



your house; (c) don't do (a) and (b) at the same time. Eight exhausting weeks later we were done with the new rooms (over-budget but ahead of schedule), of which Darlene and I each made an office. One week later my old office became Adam's own bedroom. He's very appreciative and calls us in to visit him on a regular basis. I went to get Adam a Social Security card, taking his birth certificate with me, and these zombies behind the counter denied my request, telling me that my newborn needs a second form of ID. I asked if they would accept a driver's license. Needless to say, I came home empty-handed...



Oh yeah, somewhere during this time I turned 40 (I could tell you that my jeans don't fit as well as they used to but you probably wouldn't appreciate the gravity of the situation). As for a gift, Darlene, knowing how much I've been wanting to start my own business, gave me... a lawnmower.



Now I can truly be out-standing in my field. Almost five weeks later she gave me a really great birthday surprise party and, of course, the lawn looked great.

Darlene's nursing of Adam is going very well, although I can only stand back and

watch my son grab hold of what was once my exclusive domain.

Adam is getting cuter by the day, and is very happy, talkative, and large. At three months he was wearing size "12 months" clothes.

At four months he weighed 18 pounds and measured 26.5 inches. At

that rate of growth, Adam will be over 18 feet tall and weigh over 315 pounds at 10 years of age (of course we do expect him to slow down

before then). Most people think he looks just like me, something an intelligent, resourceful kid should be able to overcome in time. As for his other attributes, we may change his name to one more

appropriate, like Drooly Methane Manick. If I sound like a proud

father, I am- I couldn't have asked for a better, more good-

natured kid. Darlene and I are now full-fledged members of the

EWPWDMG (Exhausted Working Parents without Daycare,

Maid or Gardener). I wake up at 4:40 AM leave for work at 5:45,

and, following my commute, return home at 4:45 PM. Darlene

typically leaves for work at 4:55 PM and returns as late as 10:00.

After the brief "Adam Report," Darlene goes to bed and I begin

"my own time." Yes, washing my car (which is definitely not

baby friendly) is a thing of the past. As for the rest of my family,

my parents will both be retired as of Christmas, and will be

reclassified as PROJECT (Parental Relief Offering Juvenile Entertainment and Cheap Thrills)

Specialists, and my brother Jeff and Jenifer will be committing marriage in September. Adam has

been eating everything we have given him (including some foods that I wouldn't touch) and is

almost ready to start crawling and talking (although somewhat advanced, he seems to have some

trouble with algebra). As we can usually notice changes in him almost daily, we are looking forward

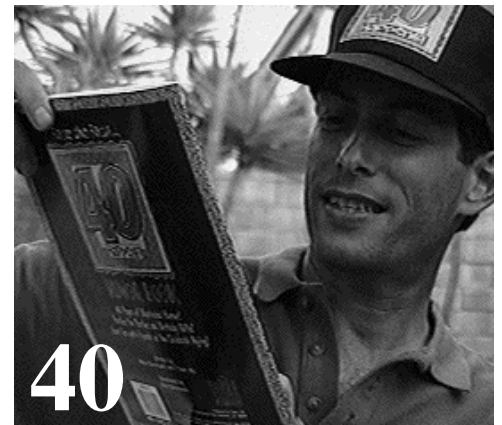
to the excitement of the coming year. I hope that you will have a

happy and eventful year, I hope we cross paths soon, and I hope that

we are awake enough to notice you. Remember that you can get

the latest news and family photos from my *Yosemite SAM Homepage*

at "<http://home.earthlink.net/~manick/>".



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
FROM STEVE DARLENE AND ADAM

