



## Lily largely ignored



Lily, front, in Rothenburg, Germany, ignored as usual.

Compared to Martha Stewart and George W. Bush, Lily remained largely ignored this year.

Despite this relative lack of attention, Lily continued to take full advantage of her household's extreme child-centric bent.

Weekends involved frequent trips to the zoo, where she saluted the opening of the much-ballyhooed "Predator Ridge" lion habitat by stalking the free-range peacocks.

She also enjoyed wagon rides to the local rec-center swimming pool, where she commanded her father to carry

her up a 2½-story water slide and accompany her down until his thighs turned to jelly.

Lily started school in April at Mile High Montessori, which is a five-minute walk from the house. There, she has honed her snacking skills and contracted most of the world's better-known viruses.

At press time, Lily was two-foot-8 and weighed roughly 25 pounds. She runs at the pace of an adult's brisk walk, climbs anything with a handhold and can nearly get both feet off the ground when jumping.

She has begun to speak in partial sentences, usually in the imperative: "Daddy carry Lily downstairs" and "Lily sleep Mommy bed" being examples.

She pronounces her own name "Lulu."

Lily is an avid reader, particularly before 6 a.m., when she insists that classics such as "ABC book" be read in Mommy bed.

Despite her youth, Lily appears to be of considerable means, owning everything she touches, including the rec-center's water slide. "Mine," she confirms, often with an overhand swat.



## Lucy gets cereal

Lucy, a tiny facsimile of a cat, got cereal. The creature's disinclination to eat was linked to its being an inanimate object.

## CAROL HAS RELAXING YEAR

It has been a relaxing year for Carol, with only caring for a toddler, graduate school and a part-time job to occupy her otherwise languid days.

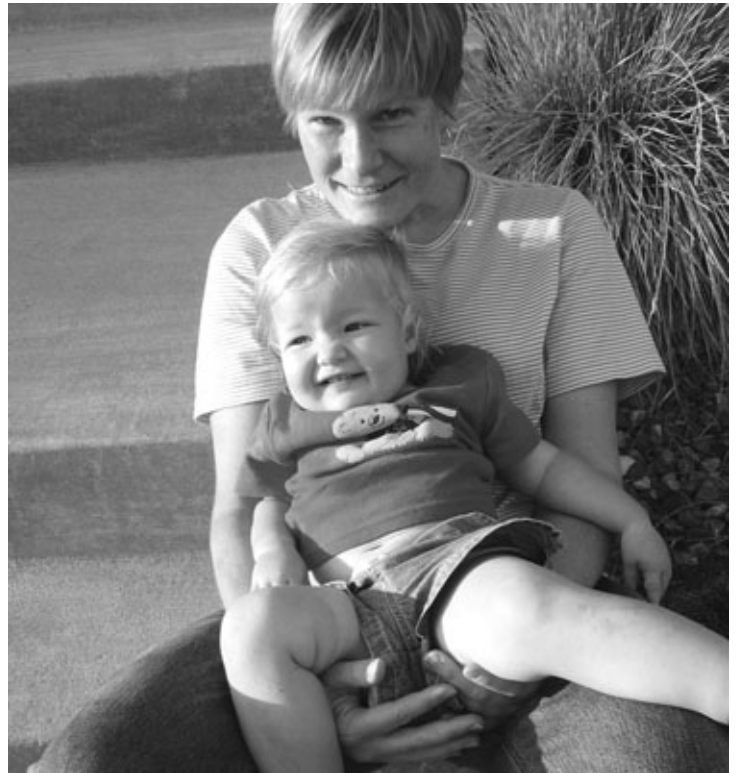
Carol completed a graduate certificate in distributed object-oriented programming at the University of Denver in the fall, and can now really program those objects.

She continues to work from home as a contract-

programmer for Leanin' Tree, the company from which everyone should be purchasing exquisite cards, posters, puzzles and coffee mugs.

She takes quiet pride in grossly out-earning her husband despite her limited work schedule.

Minor knee surgery in November was a great success, and she can once again fully straighten her leg.



Carol, top, with full hands.

## Little People® rampage

A group of Little People® neither made lots of friends nor offered helping hands in a Neff-basement rampage.

Pig, Frog, Horse, Big Baby, Sprinkles and Duckie were among the victims of the midmorning sliding-board violence.

"That's no way to work and play," said Pat, the bunny caught in the crossfire.

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### TODD LIVING LA VIDA LOCAMOTIVE



Todd, left, and Lily on the Denver Zoo's crazy train on just another day in Todd's Ozzy-like existence.

Fatherhood has not changed Todd in the least, as he has always spent Saturday mornings in the local rec-center kiddie pool and enjoyed awakening before 6 a.m. on weekends.

He remains with the Boulder Daily Camera, where he now covers science, the environment and the occasional University of Colorado scandal. He has written in-depth stories on such pressing topics as fossilized dinosaur dung and

the Boulder County Fair's Open Highland Cattle Contest.

In keeping with his role as an environmental reporter, he has been taking the bus most days on his roughly 30-mile commute to Boulder.

He attempts to banish from his thoughts the immortal words of Loelia, Duchess of Westminster, who said: "Anyone seen in a bus over the age of 30 is a failure in life."

Todd also forced his wife to buy squiggly light bulbs, and is attempting to freeze her out of the house in the name of energy efficiency.

Todd resumed his soccer career in the fall. He scored no goals, but did lose 2 toenails and strained several muscles. His hamstring he pulled outright, but while running for a bus.

### A conversation with Lily

Lily came home from school, and said to Carol: "Efan. Finger."

Ethan is a classmate in Lily's toddler classroom.

"What happened to Ethan's finger?" Carol asked.

"Mouf."

Carol had already been briefed by Christine, one of Lily's enormously patient teachers at Mile High Montessori.

"Did Ethan put his finger in Lily's mouth?"

"Ya," Lily said.

"What happened then? When Ethan put his finger in Lily's mouth."

Lily considered this for a moment.

"Bite," she said.



### Lily Work to MoMA

An early, untitled work of Lily's has been selected for exhibition in New York's new Museum of Modern Art.

"I believe it will fit well in the elegant, understated, cohesive, six-story space I designed," said architect Yoshio Taniguchi.



### TRAVEL REPORT

The Neffs intended to take an easy summer car trip this year somewhere in the American West, but ended up flying to Paris and driving to Germany.



Carol, Lily, pacifier, Mont St. Michel

Phileas Richard Bennett Pflanz's christening was the occasion, and Todd's erstwhile host brother Frederic used 3.8 billion frequent-flier miles to transport the Neffs to the company of his family and a slew of wonderful friends.

The trip included time in Paris with "Big Phil" and extended family, a quick jaunt to Normandy, and a drive to Germany. There the Neffs spent a week, first at the Machas (where the Neffs appeared with little notice at 2 a.m.), then at the Volzes of Highwood/Schwäbisch Hall, and finally at the Rehfeldts near Ludwigshafen, where Annika was most generous with her stuffed animals. The Neffs are indeed blessed to have such good friends.



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