

Synthesis of a novel biochemical composite material: Reed Aleksander Hicks

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About one year ago, a decision was made to expand the then current size of the family by at least one additional member. Shortly thereafter, the authors set off to determine experimental parameters for the synthesis of the title material. The precursor reagents to the material were mixed in the classical manner (exact details are proprietary, but general references on the subject are readily available). The initial mother liquor was augmented with good nutrition, vitamins, and love and was then incubated at ambient temperature in vivo for approximately nine months.

On Sunday, August 3, 2008 at 8:45 p.m. and without immediate warning, the protective water sac surrounding the material ruptured, necessitating a trip to the hospital. Labor subsequently ensued and progressed normally over the course of the next six hours. At 3:12 a.m. on Monday, August 4, 2008, Reed Aleksander Hicks was born by natural childbirth without any complications. Reed was characterized in numerous ways, but most notably by measurement of mass and length; he weighed in at 7 lb 15½ oz and measured 21 inches length.

Shortly after birth, many photos were taken to document the arrival of Reed. For the first hour, Reed was quite vocal, exhibiting a lusty cry (Figure 1) but soon came to grips with his new surroundings and settled in nicely (Figures 2-3).

The name Reed Aleksander was chosen for several reasons. The obvious namesake is Reed College, of which the authors have many fond memories. The authors hope to instill into Reed the values and qualities that are so pervasive on the namesake campus: trust, honor, intelligence, love, and community. The middle name is a tribute to the mother's Russian heritage.



Figure 1. Reed's first photo, pale in color and still upset.



Figure 2. After some time to get acclimated to his new surroundings, Reed decides that it's better to sleep with mom than to cry.



Figure 3. First family photo, taken on Reed's second day.

Supplemental information can be found on the web at:
<http://people.reed.edu/~hicksr/BabyReed.htm>

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