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Who's Their Daddy? Sperm-Donor Kids Find Siblings Via Web Site

10.27.2006 3:04 PM EDT

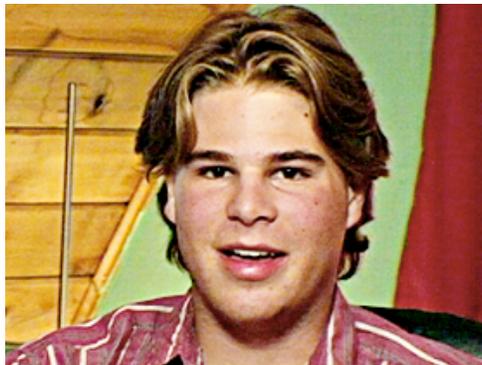


Photo: MTV News

Ryan Kramer's father is number 1058.

As one of more than 30,000 kids born each year through the assistance of a sperm donor, the 16-year-old counts that ID number among a handful of facts he will ever know about his biological dad. Born just outside Boulder, Colorado, where he lives with his mom, Wendy, Ryan has held on to the pieces of information 1058 put down on his form back when he was a student in Los Angeles in need of some cash: 6 feet tall, blue eyes, born in 1967, an engineering-degree candidate.

Ryan is even more curious about the man behind the number because Ryan is a math prodigy: He graduated from high school at 14, and is now a third-year aerospace engineering student at the University of Colorado. "I always loved math and hated the liberal arts," Ryan said. "And my entire maternal family is the polar opposite."

"How did he get this *brain*? That was one of our questions," added his mom. "There's that missing half of himself that he's questioned throughout his life."

Ryan understands that he has little hope of meeting number 1058. But when his sperm bank, California Cryobank, mentioned that there might be half-siblings — between three and 30 of them, according to Ryan — he decided to take action. "We decided that finding some of these half-siblings might be equally good at answering my questions," he explained, "seeing some of the invisible side of me in somebody else."

So the Kramers created the Donor Sibling Registry (DonorSiblingRegistry.com), a kind of social-networking site where donor families can connect in the hope of finding their half-siblings — and maybe even their biological father. Using screen names to protect their privacy, users can browse by clinic or create a new posting with the little information they have about their respective sperm donors. To date, the site has nearly 7,000 members and has generated matches between 2,684 half-siblings. That's 2,684 kids discovering brothers and sisters they'd never even known about.