











Dear Underwood School, 11/29/93  
I'm feeling fine this   
morning, I hope to come  
back to school soon, I am  
going to try and keep in  
~~away~~ touch with you guys  
if I don't send many  
letters it is because I am  
~~am~~ tired and taking naps. If  
I don't do my homework  
it is because I am tired  
and having tests. I have a  
room mate named Alexis  
she has kanser as well. I miss  
you Love Kate 

matthew swarts









## My Amputation and Amputations

Amputations may have to be done for many different reasons. I'll tell you a few reasons. One reason is an accident like falling off a motorcycle or having cancer. There are lots of other different reasons too.

I'll tell you the story about my amputation. It was three years ago when we found out I had cancer. First I went to Harvard Health, but they didn't do anything about it. So we went to Children's Hospital. They said I had cancer. So they did surgery on me to try and get the cancer out. They got some out, but not all of it. So they said that it would be a good idea to amputate my leg. So they amputated it. Then I had to have chemo therapy for fourteen months to make sure all the cancer was gone. Then about six months later my leg opened up so they had to stitch it back

together. Later they put a central line in me so they wouldn't have to put a I.V. in me. When I was finished with my chemo they <sup>took</sup> my central line out. I have a scar on my chest from it. I've had five operations in all.

Even though my right leg was amputated, I can still do everything that other kids can do, sometimes even more.

Horimer Kaplan















I write these notes as a father of an adolescent with cancer. Even though it has been almost seven months since Kevin was diagnosed, it seems like we have been dealing with this for a much longer time. His cancer is in remission but I fear his next visit to the clinic.

When I sat with Kevin in the doctor's office and he told Kevin that he had a cancerous tumor, I wanted to cry but I saw that Kevin was not crying. Driving home that afternoon, we were both silent. I now realize that I should have opened the conversation and let him talk.

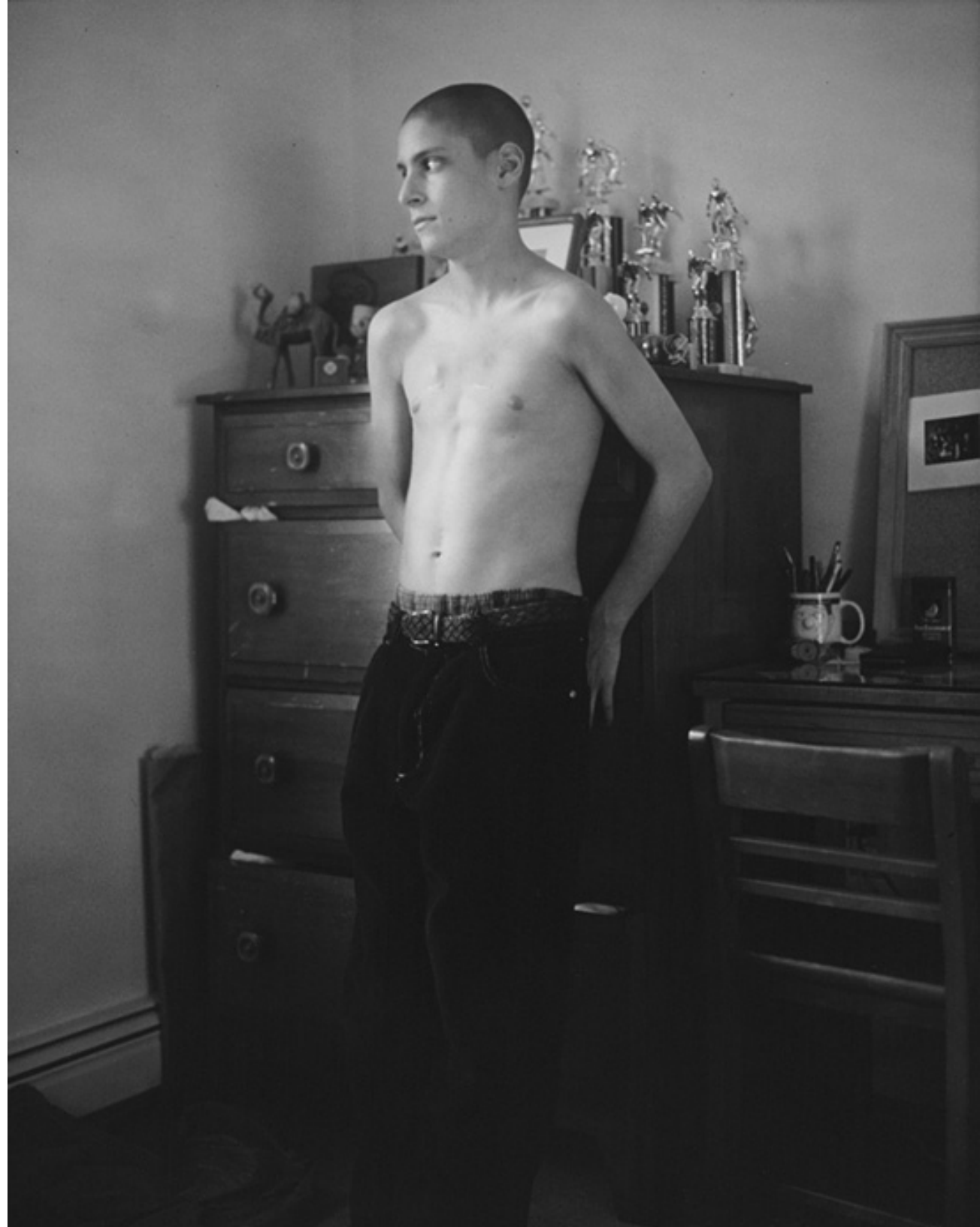
It is very difficult for parents not to be able to help their children. I couldn't say everything was going to be fine. I couldn't say I'll fix it. I couldn't say we'll get another one. I truly did not know what to do or what to say. I couldn't share the suffering that Kevin was experiencing.

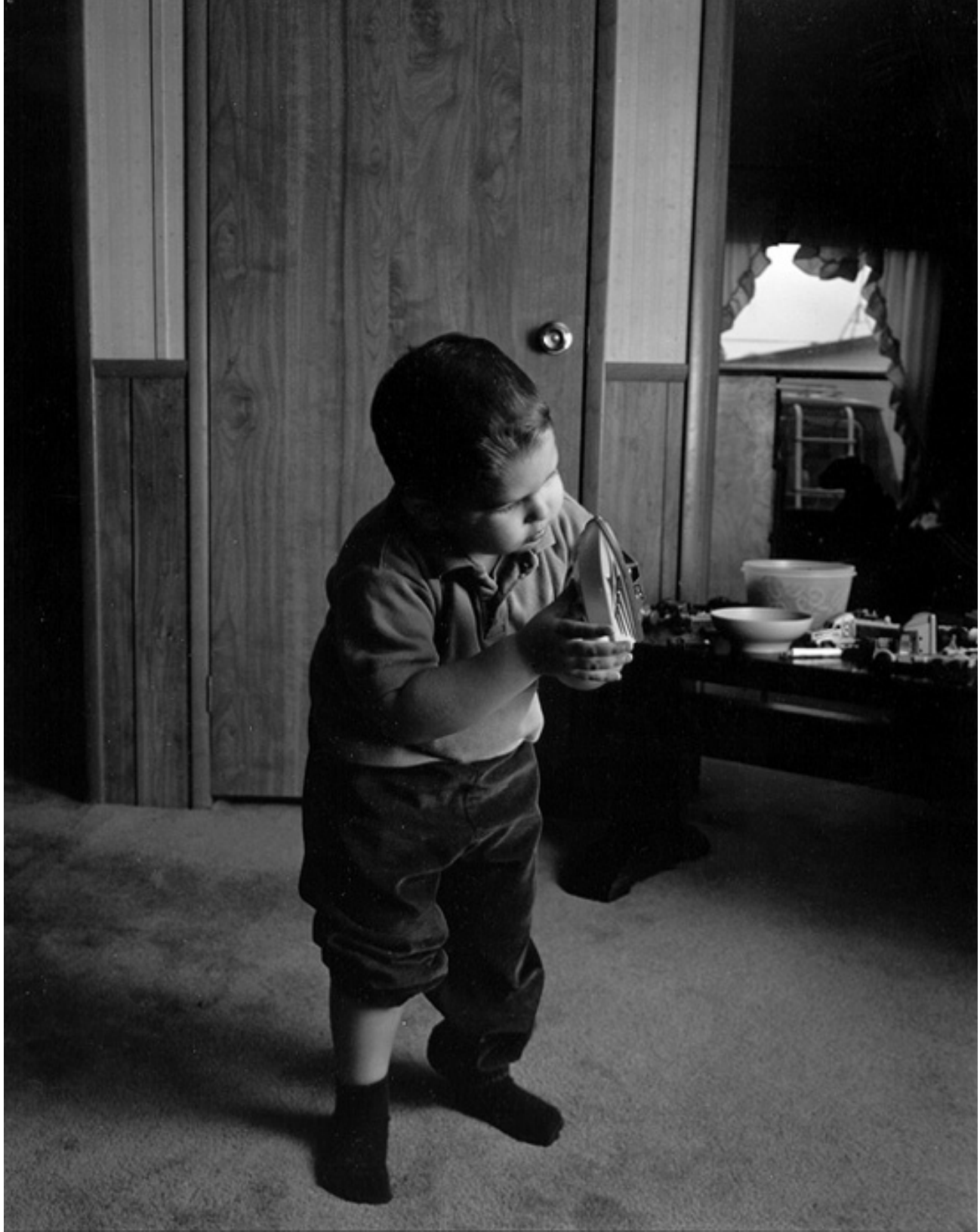
Everyone has a bad day at work when the "boss" yells at you. Everyone has a car problem that ruins the rest of the day. Everyone slips and falls on the ice. These are things in life that happen to just about everyone of us. But everyone doesn't have cancer. So you can't compare the feelings; you can't compare the sorrow; you can't say "Dad knows what you're going through." Dad has no idea what an eighteen year old is now thinking about the rest of his life.

Kevin continues to demonstrate a positive, energetic attitude in everything he does. He will start his college studies this fall after a one year delay because of his cancer and treatments. I look forward to this because I can return to my role as his father. I can help him with a math problem. I can give him some money for a special occasion. I can offer my help; I haven't been able to do that for a while.



Robert Nowak

















My name is Jonah. I  
am seven years old.  
I was diagnosed with  
leukemia on March 19,  
1996. I wrote a book  
about my experience  
to get things out of my



head. The book helped my head feel not as heavy and I felt lighter all over. The story is about a bear called Arthur going to the hospital after he was

hit or punch their brother or sister or say nasty things to their grandmother. One final thing: Arthur says, if you lose your hair don't be sad because

diagnosed. The doctors don't know why kids get leukemia. They do know that it is a problem with your blood and you get chemotherapy and

you can wear a hat or a wig that makes people think you really have hair. And don't forget, after you finish your treatment

radiation to get rid of the bad blood cells so new ones can grow. They do know that kids never do anything that causes them to get leukemia-even if they

your hair grows back!









