

WEEKLY WORLD CHEESE

*Special "Next Year is
a Palindrome" issue*

December 2001 • Calgaro edition

2001: A Canadian Odyssey Niagara Falls a Highlight

Presence of Children, Dog Thwarts Romantic Potential

Pete and Dianne Calgaro had an international adventure in mid-July, as they headed for the exotic foreign land of Canada. Their destination, determined a mere three days before their actual trip: Niagara Falls.

While Niagara Falls is renowned as a honeymooner's paradise and highly romantic venue, the Calgaros ignored this fact by electing to bring their children and dog on the trip.

The odyssey began with a voyage across the waters of Lake Michigan. While forward-thinking tourists brought games and snacks for the four-hour ferry trip, the Calgaros failed to bring either. The first hour was fascinating, but the subsequent three hours were not. Fortunately, no one in the Calgaro family felt a need to hurl any stomach contents into the lake.

Despite Pete's well known tendency for motion sickness (inherited by Rachel), the



family enjoyed several boat rides (Maid of the Mists! And later in the trip, the Sault Ste. Marie lock tour!). They remained fascinated by Canadian currency and the widespread use of the metric system. Celsius temperatures were extremely entertaining, as was hearing native Canadians say "aboot" and "eh."

Upon returning to Madison, the Calgaros waited for installers to finish putting flooring in the family home. Pete and Dianne then relaxed by moving their entire collection of furniture from the garage back into the house.

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Inside:

Ancient spirit!

Shocking discovery!

and the all-new

Calgaro injury update!

Calgaro Injury Update, 2001

- Fat lip from impact with other child's skull while standing in line—*Peter (who else?)*
- Black eye—*same child, different incident*
- Knee injury from daily jog to work—*Pete, recovering nicely after learning special exercises*
- Large bruises on arm from fall, while getting towel for wet dog—*Dianne*
- Fleas—*Dorito and Speedy the gerbils, who endured vigorous shampooing on two occasions. Dianne is still recovering from the experience.*

R.I.P.

- **Cocoa** the Gerbil, spring 2001, age 3. Cocoa's passing inspired tremendous grief, especially from Peter, who said dramatically while falling asleep that night, "Tell Dad how sad I am that Cocoa is dead."
- **Spike** the Guinea Pig, May 2001, age 5 (see related story)
- **Licorice** the Gerbil, aka "Seizure," summer 2001, age 3. By this time, grief was less dramatic. Licorice's passing was marked by the casual call of: "Mom, there's a dead gerbil."

Calgaros Improve Home

House is Still Standing, Regardless

Pete and Dianne decided this summer that it was high time they did something about the stained carpet and scratched-up paint in their house. So they moved.

Ha! Ha! Just kidding. Actually, they painted the entire living area, including vaulted ceiling. Then they proceeded to paint Rachel's room, move all their furniture into the garage, and go on vacation. Burly men installed flooring while the Calgaros were away. Or at least, that was the plan. The family returned to Madison a day

early and had to stay occupied while the job was finished.

Future plans include painting Peter's room and the bathroom. Miraculously, Pete and Dianne remained on speaking terms throughout the process, greatly improving the chances of them following through on the other rooms.

Fear Faced

Pete and Dianne celebrated their 15th anniversary by taking a balloon ride over Madison. They were delighted to survive the trip.

Pete Visited by Spirit

A look around the Calgaro kitchen confirms that an outside force is present. Seminola flour inhabits the cabinet along with a wide variety of other flours, at least two different types of olive oil, and a large wooden bowl.

A baking stone below the oven has taken on a well-seasoned sheen.

All this is the work of Pete Calgaro, who has obviously been affected by the spirit of some Italian ancestor.

Pete enjoys making bread and pasta without using any special machinery whatsoever. He pores over cookbooks and sneaks flax seed into anything he can.

Although he continues to work at NBC15 as Creative



Pete having fun with noodles.

Services Director, he would be equally at home in a restaurant kitchen.

He also has remained director of the contemporary choir at St. Thomas Aquinas, and has not yet tried to get choir members to sing in Italian.

Rachel is Not Amused

Rachel Calgaro, 10, is not amused by her parents' antics and all-around embarrassing behavior.

Nor is she amused by aforementioned parents writing anything which may be construed as humor at her expense.

She remains unmoved by repeated requests to walk the dog, fold her clothes and do other chores. These things are highly unamusing.

However, she does enjoy school to a great degree. A 5th grader at Falk School, she is an outstanding student and generates praise from all teachers who encounter her.

Although she plays the viola and reads profusely, she enjoys listening to loud music by strange rock groups, arguing, and other activities which make her parents think that adolescence is just around the corner.



Peter Highly Amused

Peter Calgaro, 7, is highly amused by a wide variety of things, including bodily functions, bodily noises, and wildly running around.

A 2nd grader at Falk School, he is also amused by his classmates, board games, action figures, and random movements. He remains a solid chess player and can be entertained for hours with a Mancala board and a willing opponent.

Peter plans to become a scientist in the future, no doubt in order to mix dangerous substances together and watch things blow up. He is fascinated with how things work.

His mother is happy to report that she has not been called by either Peter's teacher or the school principal this year. However, she has spoken to the school nurse a few times. (See injury update.)



Miracle Recovery Delays Pet's Inevitable Passing

Spike the Guinea Pig displayed a remarkable recovery during the early months of 2001. While her demise had been expected since fall 2000, and adults were preparing children for the inevitable, she surprised onlookers by growing back a full coat after near-baldness. In previous years, she had recovered from a leg amputation and a nasty bout with lice.

Credit was given to a small squeaky toy guinea pig, a gift to Spike from a friend. Spike seemed to enjoy the pseudo-companionship and carried the toy with her.

Spike's health took a turn for the worse in May, and breathing difficulty led to a trip to the animal emergency care center. (Yes, there really is such a thing.) There the Calgaros made the difficult decision to allow Spike to pass away comfortably.

Spike enjoying healthier (albeit three-legged) days.



A few weeks later, Rachel Calgaro's friend Nicole (who had—and still has—many pets) offered her guinea pig Hermoine to the family. The Calgaros adopted Hermoine, who has since developed a feisty personality which seems native to all children and animals in the home.

Spike is remembered fondly.



Hermoine the Guinea Pig, otherwise known as Hermie.

Public Shocked by Discovery

Weekly World Cheese Actually Published Only Once Per Year

The newspaper-reading public is recovering from the shock of a recent revelation that the *Weekly World Cheese* is actually printed only once per year.

Editor Dianne Calgaro asserts that no one meant to mislead the public. "Yearly World Cheese just didn't have the same catchy appeal," she explained.

Apparently, the editors lack the time and talent for an actual weekly edition. Dianne continues to hold down a full-time job, where amazingly she is trusted to oversee a convention which has been known to attract nearly 4,000 people to Milwaukee in January.

"The Wisconsin Association of School Boards does not even expect me to lie about the weather," she said. "People must come because of Milwaukee's reputation for fine beer."

Dianne's commute by bicycle or bus also takes time which could otherwise be devoted to writing comical things about her family. The 17-mile round trip takes a total of 90 minutes of her typical weekday. Additional physical

workouts—another two hours per week—are needed to tone Dianne's muscles, calm nerves and release much-needed endorphins.

Although Dianne no longer has day-to-day Web responsibilities on the job, she does continue to use her HTML skills for fun and relaxation. She is the volunteer "websteward" for St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, having redesigned their site this year. (See www.stdunstans.com.)

Back issues of the beloved *Weekly World Cheese* are now on the Web as well. "Perhaps this will make up for our liberal use of the word 'weekly,'" Dianne pointed out.

While Dianne still loves her scrapbooks, she reports being approximately six months behind in completing new pages.

Needless to say, house cleaning, cooking and similar tasks have continued to be low on Dianne's priority list. (*Thank goodness Pete's on top of those things. See page 2.*) She asserts that the Calgaro residence is merely "homey" and "unpretentious," and extends an open invitation to potential visitors.

However, skeptics suspect that she's hoping for some extra help around the house.

Procreation Watch

Yet another one of Pete's sisters, known to the Calgaro kids as **Aunt TC** (or Theresa), is expecting. She and her husband, Mike, will be parents of Aidan O'Grady in mid-February.

Aunt Chris (Cookie) and her family indeed welcomed baby Ambria on Jan. 12. She is expected to be walking soon (Ambria, that is—Chris already knows how to walk).

With gratitude the Calgaros report that no members of their immediate household are pregnant at this time. (Including pets.)



Merry Christmas from all of us!