

Fire Destroys Stovetop Experts Cite Mishap as Proof that Coffee is Hazardous to Your Health

On April 15, Pete Calgaro received a phone call from home which began with cryptic words of dread: "First of all, I just want to tell you that everyone's fine."

Behind the scene, firefighters had arrived and were clearing the smoke from the house. The family pets had been lined up on the front lawn. The kitchen had been filled with fire extinguisher chemicals sprayed by a panicky Dianne.

The French Press

The mishap began weeks earlier, when Dianne acquired a French press coffee maker. She began her mornings by boiling water in the tea kettle on the stove, then pouring the water over the fragrant grounds waiting in the French press. Five minutes later, liquid bliss.

But an unfortunate mistake that fateful morning rendered her coffee

Photo right:

*The ill-fated
burner. Note
the melted-off
plastic knob.
Fragrant!*



undrinkable. Upon placing the kettle on the front burner, Dianne turned on the back burner and relaxed on the sofa while waiting for the telltale whistle which never came.

Instead, the high-pitched wail of the smoke alarm filled the house. When Dianne stood up to investigate, she discovered black smoke filled the upper half of the room. She ran into the kitchen to discover the stovetop in flames. After dousing it with water (bad idea—electricity), she remembered the fire extinguisher that had been in its box in the laundry closet for the past 12 years. It still worked, but Dianne could not decipher the instructions on the box due to the high amount of adrenaline rushing through her body.

(Continued on next page)

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Coffee Consumption Linked to Kitchen Destruction

(From previous page)

Fortunately, the next-door neighbor was home and able to assist Dianne with reading English. This enabled her to blanket the kitchen with a coating of powdery flame repellant.

Next she carried the various pet cages (with pets inside) outside and made sure that Foxxi was secured to her tieout. Then came the red-faced call to 911.

"The fire is under control," she told the dispatcher. "I'm really kind of embarrassed about this. Can they not use the sirens when they come?"

"No," answered the dispatcher.

A few minutes later, a fire truck pulled up, and several burly firefighters ran into the house. They checked the electrical system and set up giant fans to suck the soot-blackened air outside.

Dianne has been putting up with jokes at her expense ever since. Fortunately, insurance took care of the cleanup process (which included repainting most of the house) and a new stove.

Skeptical observers have pointed out that this was a pretty extreme way to get the house cleaned. However, it was an excellent strategy for generating material for this year's newsletter.

Nocturnal Creature Takes Up Residence in Calgaro Household

Beginning last summer, family members started to encounter a strange organism in the Calgaro house. The creature seemed to prefer daytime slumber, coming out later to feed and groom.

Apparently a female member of phylum "teenager," the creature apparently draws nourishment from a process called "IM" or "Instant Messenger."

She is also prone to rolling her eyes and complaining that there's nothing to eat in the house.

The family has decided to continue educating this "teenager," although obviously she already knows more than virtually everyone around her. Fortunately she is going along with the educational system and continues to earn remarkably good grades at Toki Middle School.

She shows affinity for the bass guitar and prefers rock CDs containing parental advisories (otherwise known as the "Mark of Quality").



The creature, purportedly a "teenager."

Experts Astounded: Perpetual Motion Machine Slows Down

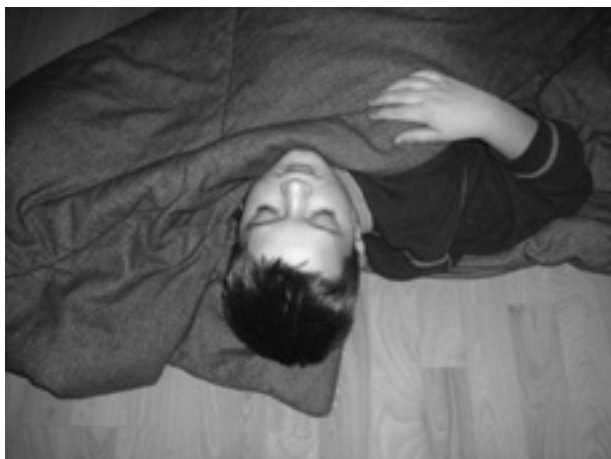
Ten-year-old Peter Calgaro, who captured the imaginations of the science community years ago with his inability to stay still, has again perplexed experts with a new development.

He has shown unforeseen powers of concentration and achievement as a 5th grader at Falk School.

"We don't seem to be on the school's speed-dial anymore," Peter's mother reported.

Aside from an incident early in the year where a stack of blank homework papers was found hidden in the bottom of Peter's desk, the boy has had an amazingly productive semester.

Experts attribute the development to



an incredible teacher and the presence of Peter's best friend in this year's class. Further illustrating Peter's ability to slow down is his practice of lying on the floor in various locations throughout the house and effortlessly falling

Coach Not Involved With Sports

Pete Calgaro loves coaching, but he's not involved with sports in any way.

That's because he's a "life coach." Disappointed area children, hoping for someone to teach them tackling maneuvers and ball-handling skills, were encouraged to consider the bigger picture.

"I can help you focus on your goals and manifest your dreams," he said. "And I won't even make you do push-ups."

Pete's new venture began several months ago after he completed training as a Reiki master. (Which means he can help with those pesky sports injuries.) He enjoyed helping people,

and decided to channel his interest into life coaching. His business, Creative Power Coaching, focuses on helping people determine their life goals and make practical steps toward making those dreams into realities.

In addition, Pete still works as Art Director for NBC-15, which coincidentally is located next to a Little League baseball field. He directs the SpiritSong choir at St. Maria Goretti Church and writes music in his spare time.

Information about Pete's music CDs and artwork will soon be available on Creative Power's website:

www.creativepowercoaching.com

(And we're not kidding about that. Contact him for a free consultation!)

Remodeling Project in Progress

Christmas Season Apparently Not Hectic Enough

After 12 years living in their house, the Calgaros decided it was time to finally finish their basement. And the perfect opportunity to do so? During those quiet, activity-free weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's, of course.

The family cleared the area to be remodeled, cramming extra items (electronics, music equipment, books and assorted found objects) into the bedrooms and the space next to the water heater.

Although most of the work is being completed by Art, a friend who is a

professional builder, Pete has assisted with such tasks as lifting drywall, but Art singlehandedly installed light fixtures and wiring, put up a wall and taped/mudded the drywall.

Recently, Pete and Dianne primed and painted the area, an effort which made them realize what wusses they are compared with Art.

After the trim and flooring are installed, the basement will contain a music studio and Reiki area.

At that point, Dianne can begin constructing a suitable living area for her Blythes. (See story below.)

Tiny, Creepy Women Move Into House

Several 12-inch plastic women with enormous heads and unsettling eyes moved into the Calgaro house this year. They arrived at the invitation of Dianne, who had become inexplicably enamoured with them.

"They look like Chucky," her children insisted, referring to the popular horror-film star.

They're collectively known as Blythe, based on a doll originally produced in 1972. The new versions are sold by Takara, a Japanese toy company. Dianne acquired her collection via eBay and an online Blythe forum, as the dolls are generally not available outside Asia.

Dianne's girls — Angelica, Audrey and Xanthe — each have unique personalities and have starred in various photo compilations. Dianne amuses herself endlessly acquiring clothing and accessories for them, and has been inspired to take up knitting as a way to provide the girls with tiny sweaters. She plans to create a living



Above: Dianne and her friends.

space for them, complete with refrigerator and other furniture.

When she's not playing with dolls, Dianne works as admissions coordinator for Lakeside School of Massage Therapy and operates her own business, Pink Mandala Web Designs.

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