

Family Responds to Ocean's Siren Call

Pete Calgaro had one request when the family began discussing possible vacation destinations in early 2005.

"It needs to be near the ocean," he said. "Specifically, with beaches where one might be able to swim comfortably," he quickly added, deterring the possibility of an Alaskan holiday.

The family decided that San Diego fit the bill, and started discussing possible activities.

None of their plans included a long plane ride followed by not being able to get into their hotel room, having to entertain themselves by walking downtown until their feet stung, then discovering that the carpet in their finally-ready suite was thoroughly soaked from a leaky pipe.

When they were finally in a suitable room, they decided to take a quick nap — for 14 hours.

The vacation improved tremen-



Above: Rachel uses still life to work out her feelings about the beach.

dously the next day, when the family took a cab over to Sea World. They enjoyed the numerous animal shows, feeding eager sea lions, and interacting with dolphins. However, the California sun had its way with the fair-skinned Calgaros, three of whom did not wear head coverings. Undaunted, they went to Coronado Beach the next day, stopping at a surf shop to pick up sunscreen and Crocs. After crabbily sitting on the sand (Rachel), frolicking in the surf (Peter/Pete) or obsessively searching for sand dollars (Dianne), all but Pete developed oozing, crusty sunburns which kept them indoors for the next day or so.

Rachel had requested a day alone

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back issues, links and photos online!

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Ocean Adventure Brings Sunburn, Stingrays

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in the hotel room (with room service), which was ideal for her condition. The others rented a car and visited museums. But their outdoor adventures finally continued, as they prepared for a kayak tour in La Jolla.

As the group headed out to sea, Rachel immediately regretted having chosen her mother as her kayak partner, since she managed to flip the kayak just 50 yards into the tour.

Peter was quite jealous, and kept commenting to his dad that “you’re supposed to get wet when you’re kayaking.” However, Pete was already becoming seasick and firmly stated that under no circumstances should the boy purposely capsize their craft.

The family bravely completed their tour, although they were uncomfortably close to a group of sea lions that included a reportedly aggressive male.

After the tour, all but Rachel (who stuck to her refusal to frolic) splashed around in the ocean until they realized the waters were teeming with stingrays and jellyfish.

Rachel had initially thought the beached jellyfish were sea lion hearts (recalling the aforementioned aggressive male). Peter took pity on one and recruited a girl with a bucket to help him carry it to safety in the water.

The family eventually made it back to Wisconsin, where they currently enjoy massive amounts of snow and cold. (Which is what autumn is all about.)

Freshman Year of High School Being Survived (So Far, At Least)

Almost halfway through her freshman year at Memorial High School, Rachel Calgaro reports that “it’s not so bad.”

In fact, high school is far preferable to middle school, according to Rachel and other area experts.

Although the homework load is excruciating, Rachel looks forward to her orchestra class (where she plays viola). She also enjoys the company of neighbor Brooke Ferrell, who appears at the Calgaro doorway each morning for the daily drop-off at school.

“Driving them is actually pretty interesting,” reports Dianne Calgaro, Rachel’s mother. “I hear all kinds of stuff that I probably wouldn’t know about otherwise.”

“Hee, hee! Our plan is working!” the girls whispered to each other. “Let’s keep casually feeding her information that makes her think we’re moral and

Right:
*Her
cunning
aids in
her sur-
vival.*



responsible young ladies—while we plot to take over the WORLD!”

Of course, any plans for world domination will surely need to wait a few years, since in most high schools, you have to at least be a junior if you expect to earn the blind devotion of your minions.

Samson Revisited:

Luscious Locks Key to Boy's Power

Peter Calgaro would not be the first young man to refuse to cut his thick, flowing hair. But observers suspect that unusual power lies within those follicles.

Despite pleas from his teachers at Toki Middle School to "let us see your eyes," Peter stands firm in his decision to banish scissors from anywhere near his head.

An incident at an area restaurant (when the hostess gestured toward Peter and asked, "How old is she?") gave him pause, but supernatural power always trumps indeterminate gender.

Peter continues to demonstrate great prowess in video games, undoubtedly due to the increased virtual strength and unstoppable reflexes bestowed upon him through his ever-growing mop of hair.

"For now, we're refraining from sneaking into his bedroom and giving him a crew cut as he sleeps," reported his parents. "Ask us again when it's reached his knees."



Above: *Guess who? (No, not Cousin It from The Addams Family ... Cousin It doesn't have braces. What? You mean you can't see Dr. Zietz's finest work?)*

Additional Appendages Considered for Musician

Rachel Calgaro may soon sprout additional limbs in her apparent quest to become a one-woman rock band.

She is well on her way to being her own rhythm section, thanks to her brother's decision to drop drum lessons after three weeks. Rachel eagerly picked up where he left off and now has instruction in bass guitar and drums in back-to-back lessons.

Rachel continues to enjoy rock music and attended a My Chemical Romance/Green Day concert in May which opened a new world to her.

"We moved up to the front of the mosh pit, and were kicked in the head about 15 times!" she and her friend Nicole Larrousse reported to Rachel's mother, who had remained in the old people's section with the other parents who had accompanied teenagers to the concert.

Rachel's brother, Peter, enjoys her music but gets annoyed if the volume gets too high. Naturally, his sensitivity to loud noises made his replacement band instrument an obvious choice: the trumpet.

Web Designer Neglects Most Important Client

Web designer Dianne Calgaro, sole proprietor of Pink Mandala Web Designs, mysteriously tends to procrastinate when given work by her most esteemed client: her husband of nearly 20 years, Pete Calgaro.

Although Pete provides his graphic design expertise at a moment's notice, Dianne often forgets to provide updates for his two business sites.

She blames her "day job" responsibilities, working 30 hours a week as admissions coordinator for Lakeside School of Massage Therapy, for her lack of attention.

However, Pete manages to work full-time as art director for NBC-15 as well as meet with clients for his side business, Creative Power Coaching. In addition, he directs the SpiritSong choir at St. Maria Goretti Church and composes his own music in his spare time. He became certified as a Reiki Master Teacher last spring.

He also runs four miles every day and does most of the family's cooking.

"In other words, my excuses are pretty lame," Dianne admits. "At least I get a lot of knitting done."

Dianne does tend to grab needles and yarn every time she has a spare moment, and has completed a fair number of projects since first learning the craft last year.

"Mom's obsessed," her children lament. "First it was those weird dolls, and now this." They did at least express appreciation for the Hogwarts scarves she made for them before the premiere of 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' in November.

If you're interested in coaching or CDs, visit these (up-to-date!) sites:

- creativepowercoaching.com
- petecalgaro.com



Above: *Unrelated but cute photo of Pete working on interspecies communication.*

Companion Animal Update

Still squeaking: Hermoine and Buddy the guinea pigs, who enjoy treats and hay — but not nail trims or being picked up.

RIP: Possum, the long-haired hamster who had shown up in the Calgaros' driveway in 2003 and achieved a fairly remarkable life-span despite her adventures. Also Faramir, the oldest betta fish ever.

Welcomed into family: Another long-haired hamster to ease the grieving process. Despite his name, Beelzebub (or "Beezie") seems to have given up digging his teeth into any fingers that venture near him.

Left home during vacation: Foxxi the corgi dog, who only tried to bite their housesitting friend Mitchell once during his visit. (Which is actually better than the Calgaros themselves are able to accomplish.)

Tolerated, then named:

Wayward flies which happened to enter the house, due to the family's reluctance to harm nature. The flies eventually were referred to collectively as "Bastchee" — short for "Sebastian," meaning that not only do the Calgaros name flies, they give them nicknames.