

Madison Usurped as 'Best Place in the U.S.' Teenagers Assert Seattle's Superiority

Madison, Wisconsin, having been rated as best city for quality of life, bicycling, access to outdoor activities and numerous other titles, was knocked off its pedestal after a recent poll revealed that Seattle, Washington is the "best place ever."

Survey results revealed that among teenagers living at 7102 E. Valley Ridge Drive in Madison, Seattle is top rated for pleasant climate, proximity to awesome cousins and overall coolness.

The results were announced after the teenagers returned from a summer visit to their Uncle Gary and Aunt Kathy's Seattle-area home. Their grandparents had accompanied them on the trip, while their parents stayed home awaiting their children's assessment.

"It was sort of a preview of what it'll be like to have an empty nest," said Aine Calgaro, mother of the surveyed teens. "It was a little surreal

Some Reasons Why It Rocks There:

- *Carpet throughout house*
 - *Better-planned meals*
 - *Air gun target practice in Cameron's room*
-

coming home from work and finding everything in the same pristine condition we'd left it in earlier."

When the teenagers returned home, their father informed them of his expectation that the windowsills remain clear of dirty cups and granola bar wrappers.

After their hearty laughter subsided, the Calgaro children revealed Seattle's superiority. A big part of the city's charm is the presence of the teens' relatives, whose house was declared both "more comfortable" and "more fun" than the Calgaro home in Madison (see above).

To illustrate, the teens showed their parents YouTube video clips of their cousin Cameron (18) eating cake while nodding rhythmically and Christopher (25) dancing wildly to the electric sounds of T.A.T.U.

The Calgaro parents hope to join their children in their next journey to the city and experience the splendor for themselves. Aine is already looking forward to a pilgrimage to the original Starbucks.

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Cubicle Occupied Joyfully

Working at Home Not So Great After All

Aine Calgaro breathed a sigh of relief when she accepted a position with employer MyWeather at the end of May.

"I found out that being self-employed wasn't the fulfilling experience I expected it to be," she explained.

"My boss was distracted by her home life, and I was on call 24 hours a day."

While she derived a certain satisfaction from getting to stay in pajamas as long as she wanted, and enjoyed having a dog lie at her feet as she worked, Aine ultimately missed

the activity and stimulation of a regular office environment.

She is thrilled with her current working situation, where she is part of a team creating weather-related information for display on the web.

A candy dish in her cubicle serves as bait to draw unsuspecting passersby into conversation. Aine has also joined the office social activities committee, which isn't quite as wacky as the party planning committee on the hit NBC show *The Office*, but it's close enough.

Four Retainers in One Year

Boy Sets Record, Generates Income for Dentist

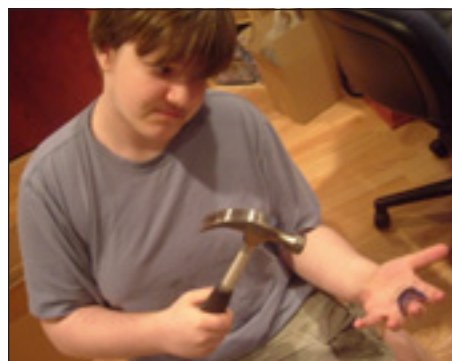
When Peter Calgaro, 13, had his braces removed in mid-2007, his parents reasonably assumed they would save money on dental bills.

However, less than one week later, Peter broke his first retainer cleanly in two. "I put it in my pocket and was resting on the couch, but then I fell off and landed on my side where the retainer was," he explained.

After a new set of impressions, he received a shiny new retainer. However, it was no longer in his possession when he returned from a trip to Seattle in August.

"I think I left it at the food court at the (Seattle/Tacoma) airport," Peter informed his disraught parents. His mother contacted the airport, which indeed had a retainer in its possession—but not his.

Another set of impressions later, Peter received his next retainer, which was lost at Toki Middle School during the first few weeks of school. The incredulous dental staff did more impressions and ordered yet another



Peter contemplates the fate of his current retainer.

retainer—which surprisingly has remained with Peter for a record three months.

In addition to losing dental appliances, Peter enjoys his 8th grade technology and math classes; playing trumpet in band; participating in D&D, chess and other games with his friends; wearing shorts every day regardless of seasonal appropriateness; and being five inches taller than his mother.

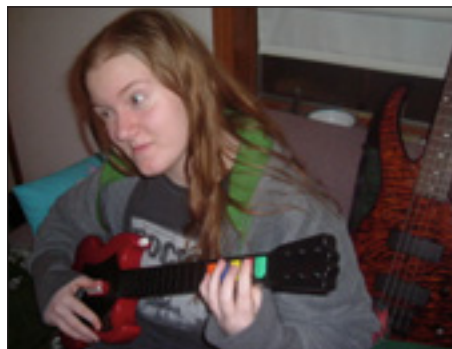
Teen Practices Video Guitar More Than Real Instruments

Just one month after purchasing Guitar Hero II, Rachel Calgaro has already moved into “expert” level play.

This achievement represents many hours mastering “medium” and “hard” songs after quickly knocking off the everything in the “easy” playlist. Amazingly, the high school junior has spent more time playing Guitar Hero than practicing her actual instruments.

Rachel takes weekly lessons on both bass guitar and drums at Good ‘n Loud Music. While she is not in a real-life band, her avatar Izzy Sparks fronts “Skitzopodd,” earning enough to purchase an impressive number of novelty guitars from the game’s shop.

Izzy is happy with Rachel’s control, as he rarely fails a song—which is good because not being able to complete a song makes him collapse to his knees and dissolve into bitter tears. (Rachel’s brother’s avatar, Grim Ripper, is much less emotional.)



Rachel conquers a rock classic while her five-string bass languishes in the background.

In other news, Rachel has acquired her driver’s license after finishing training alongside her friend Brooke. The two girls are halfway through their junior year at Memorial High School and work together on stage crew for the upcoming musical “Little Shop of Horrors.” However, Brooke has her own car. Rachel, tragically, does not. (She doesn’t have a job, either. Offers of employment are welcome. Cash is, too.)

Elvis Lives!



21st century teenager Rachel Calgaro insists that Elvis indeed lives on ... in her heart. And throughout her room, immortalized through a vast quantity of memorabilia.

Pet Update

RIP: Beezie, who died peacefully after a long and healthy life as a hamster. He joins the other pet rodents in the family plot.

Still Huge: Buddy the guinea pig, who is plump and beautiful and squeaks authoritatively in demand for treats and hay.

Shedding Constantly: Foxxi the corgi dog, who is 11 years old and still bites the hand that feeds her. *(See related story, next page.)*

Man Constantly in Motion

Although Pete Calgaro is the first one out of bed every morning, he is often the last one to go to sleep at night. One reason is his job as art director at NBC15, where he has worked for the past 15 years. Another is his need to run four miles a day, even on weekends or when several feet of snow covers the sidewalks.

"Exercise gives me energy," he claims, and he needs it for all of his interests and activities, for he also serves as music director for Unity of Madison and is responsible for the church's vocal and chime choirs. He composes music in his own basement studio, and has released his 6th CD, *Essence*, in as many years. (Production plug: get 'em online at CD Baby, iTunes, or PeteCalgaro.com!)

Pete also is the most likely family member to feed the family's animals and launder clothing and fine linens. "We'd probably fall into complete anarchy without him," admitted his wife.

Although Pete's children reluctantly pick up the messes he helpfully points out to them, they appreciate his painstaking nature when it comes to grocery acquisition.

"We need a certain amount of bagels and orange juice to get us through a typical strenuous school week," explained his daughter, Rachel. Her brother agreed. "You wouldn't believe how much work we do," he said as he reclined on the sofa with a video game controller in his hands. "We're completely exhausted by Tuesday, let alone the weekend."

A Guest Editorial by Foxxi Calgaro, Family Dog

Generating a constant stream of treats and affection is a challenge for us dogs. Cuteness only gets you so far, and barking can backfire —leaving you hungry and alone at the end of a tieout.

Early this year, I thought of a new approach: raw pity. I made my move when the humans were distracted with something downstairs. It looked like they were about to use tools, which is always good for a laugh.

I ran down the stairs, figuring I could trip on the way down and limp around a little for sympathy snacks. But one of my claws caught on a carpet loop. I really wanted those treats, so I just kept running. I felt funny and decided to lie down. That's when the humans noticed my paw was dripping. All sorts of mayhem broke loose, and the next thing I knew, we had bypassed the treat cabinet and were taking a car ride! Wrong! I tried to tell them, but I felt kind of woozy. We ended up at one of those places where strange humans look into your

mouth and ears and stick you with pointy things. I wasn't too scared, though, because I knew one of the humans—she lives across the street with my arch-enemy Kona. (Kona is always wagging her tail, which is *so annoying* to those of us who are differently appendaged.)

I don't remember everything that happened the next few hours, but all of my humans waited for me in a little room. Kona's human took my claw out because it wasn't attached anymore. She said it would grow back, and it did! In the meantime, I had a big pink bandage that made me limp more than ever. You wouldn't believe how many treats I got after that.

I pulled off the bandage the next day, so I had to go back to my usual strategy: barking furiously and pre-tending to go potty outside. Time for a new plan. Any ideas?

