

Ludwig offended by holiday card omission

Insists on front page newsletter placement

Pomeranian Ludwig von Happy Calgaro was appalled to discover that his people had failed to include his photo in the family's 2011 Christmas card.

Adding insult to injury, the finished card clearly featured a dog other than Ludwig. Despite her obvious lack of modeling experience and her rank as least experienced canine in the family, Lily the Other Pomeranian scored prime placement in the family collage.

"This will not do," Ludwig thought to himself, as he used his power of mind control to guide Áine Calgaro towards her cache of digital photos highlighting Ludwig's unique cuteness. "Ludwig needs to be on the front page of your so-called holiday newsletter. Ludwig also would like a treat."

"The Weekly World Cheese should lead off with a tribute to Ludwig," said Áine to herself. "I must choose a picture that displays his beauty and majesty."

"But first, I have an urgent need to buy several bags of Pupperoni."



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Tough Year for Teen Driver

Accident is Merely the Beginning

Peter Calgaro IV, who had been trusted with the family's newest vehicle (their 2002 Toyota Prius) experienced his first brush with the law in January 2011.

Peter had stopped at a traffic light on his way home from Memorial High School. Pulled ahead after the light turned green, he was surprised by a driver turning left ... into the Prius.

The police soon arrived, and Peter called his mother to tell her about the accident. She told him to meet her at the auto shop after the report had been made.

Then she waited. He called her again. "It's going to be a while. The other guy doesn't have a driver's license." Nor did he have car insurance, or any kind of vehicle registration.

Some 20 minutes later, another call: "Now they're taking him away in handcuffs. I guess there was a warrant for his arrest."

As bad as the Calgaros felt about their \$500 deductible, they figure the other guy probably had it worse.

Peter found himself on the other side of the law on a Sunday morning in late October.

He had been at church for a one-time appearance as part of Unity of Madison's chime choir, directed by his father. The choir was short one person, and Peter was filling in.

After the chimers finished playing for the Sunday service, Peter headed home. So his parents were surprised to see him slip back into the pew 15 minutes later. He said nothing until the service had ended.

"I have good news and bad news," he began. "The good news is that I'm going to keep playing chimes for you! The bad news is that I just got a speeding ticket."

Although Peter had been going 73 MPH in a 55 MPH zone (Madison's Beltline Highway, AKA the Autobahn), the officer gave him a break. The ticket was only \$180.

As Áine drove home from church, Peter pointed that she was doing 70 MPH on the Beltline herself. So he isn't the only one who needs to slow down.

Peter has joined Memorial's concert choir this year. Another ticket, and he might find himself sharing his vocal gifts at Unity as well.

Pete Performs Second Concert

Pete Calgaro obviously has a great love of multi-tasking, since he decided to perform a 2nd annual solo concert on Dec. 17. Apparently working full-time at NBC15 and part-time as Unity of Madison's music director, practicing yoga, leading drum circles, and running 4 miles a day still doesn't keep him busy enough.

Pete did his best to stay calm and centered as he made lengthy preparations for the concert while also arranging and recording his 9th CD,

Free, which will soon be on iTunes and CDbaby.com (search for Pete Calgaro).

Unity held its traditional All-Music Sunday the next day. Then Pete prepared for the coming weekend's Christmas Eve service.

He resolves to set aside some time for sleeping in the New Year. That might have to wait, though. Pete and Áine have joined with friends Ross Meyers and Melissa Simonson to create a new music group: BlissSong.

Parents Don't Understand Linear Algebra is Just Too Difficult

Student Rachel Calgaro, a junior at University of Wisconsin – Stout, continues to learn things that her parents aren't even going to pretend to understand.

As an Applied Math and Computer Science major, Rachel has taken 3 semesters of calculus, various advanced algebra courses, statistics, and programming classes.

"She seems to enjoy that stuff," said Rachel's confounded father, Pete.

"I had trouble with first semester Calculus," added her mother, Áine.

"Also, when I took computer science classes, we used punch cards. We might as well have had friendly dinosaurs biting holes into rock tablets, like the Flintstones or something."

Rachel tutored math her sophomore year. This year, she is a student instructor in computer science. (So is her boyfriend, Wes, a fellow Memo-

rial High School graduate who also majors in Applied Math and Computer Science.)

Rachel had a taste of post-college life over the summer, interning for an education supply company in Eau Claire. (She worked on Android apps, and we won't even talk about how far in the future that sort of thing was in her parents' day.) While living in Menomonie student housing, Rachel discovered that commuting an hour a day and working full time takes up quite a big chunk of one's life. She still looks forward to working in her chosen field after graduation, which is projected to happen in 2013.

Next year, she will move into an apartment with 4 other students, all male. Rachel seems to be ready for the arrangement, since the demographic of her roommate group closely matches that of her brother.

Áine Gives Up Meat ... Again

After a dozen years of vegetarianism, followed by several years of intensive meat-eating, Áine Calgaro made yet another 180-degree turn with her eating habits. Because her family hadn't already suffered enough.

Ravenously consuming as much red meat as possible hadn't done much for Áine's ongoing anemia and lack of energy. Although she took iron supplements, she hadn't been eligible to donate blood in over four years.

In February, Áine came across a book promoting good health through green juice and veganism. She plunged into a 21-day fast from meat, dairy, eggs, caffeine, coffee, and sugar. It made such a difference

in how she felt, she decided to continue consuming a plant-based diet.

"I'm drinking coffee again, though," Áine pointed out. "There's such a thing as moderation."

Áine drinks a mixture of juiced spinach, kale, cucumber and green apple for breakfast every morning.

Unfortunately, she has figured out how to bake delicious cookies and scones without eggs or dairy.

The rest of the family is still omnivore, but Áine is pretty sure some of them are coming around.

e-mail the editors!

aine.calgaro@gmail.com

petecalgaro@gmail.com

Family Member Added

New Calgaro is Smallest Ever

One of Áine Calgaro's hobbies is looking through the dog profiles at Petfinder. Last year, she spotted an elderly Pomeranian named Chica, who was with the Wisconsin Chihuahua Rescue and needed a permanent foster home.

She contacted the rescue and found out that Chica's vet had nixed the idea of any further moves for her. The stress would have been too much for her already poor health outlook.

Áine knitted a sweater for Chica and stayed in touch with the rescue through Kim, Chica's foster "mom."

Months later, Kim sent Áine an email about another elderly Pom, a 14- to 16-year-old stray who had been found in Janesville in March.

The Calgaros had decided to keep Ludwig as an only dog, but Áine decided it would be fun to visit all the foster dogs and meet Kim in person.

So during spring break, Áine, Rachel and Ludwig made a road trip to Kim's house. They petted and played with all of the dogs, and Pete was relieved that they didn't bring any of them home.

Áine kept thinking about the little black Pom, whom the rescue had christened "Evie." The tiny dog had been shaved because her fur had been so matted. She had only one miniscule tooth in the back of her mouth. She was thin – less than 4 pounds. And she tended to wander her surroundings, probably to compensate for her poor vision.

Kim had said, "You can always just take her for an overnight, and see how she gets along."

A week or so later, the Calgaros (minus Rachel, who was back at school) were hosting Evie for a week-end. "You know this is nuts, don't



Learning about begging, shortly after coming to the Calgaro home.

you?" asked Peter. "We don't need more dogs." Pete pretty much agreed.

Ludwig didn't seem too rattled by the newcomer, even when she butted ahead of him and ate his food.

On Sunday, it was time to decide whether to have Kim come and take Evie back to the rescue. By then, the Calgaros had chosen a new name for the pup: Lily.

"Well?" Áine asked, as the family gathered on the sofa where Pete cuddled the little dog close.

"I'm kind of attached to her now..." he answered.

"I am, too," added Peter.

Lily now weighs five pounds* and has a full coat of fluff. She is stubborn and opinionated, and has a bark that suggests she spent too much time smoking and drinking whiskey in her youth. She loves fast cars and brisk walks.

And it's pretty obvious that she likes Pete the best.

** Rachel was over 8 pounds at birth, and Peter was 9 pounds, 9 ounces. So Lily really is the tiniest Calgaro.*