

WEEKLY WORLD CHEESE

*Special "And I feel
fine" issue*



December 2012 • Calgaro edition

World Not Ending 2012 Newsletter Gets Done After All

The denziens of planet Earth breathed a collective sigh of relief when the Calgaro family of Madison, Wisconsin, United States finally managed to complete their annual newsletter mere days before Christmas.

"I don't know how life could have continued without an update about the Calgaros' car problems and pet expenses," the world population agreed.

The days in December seemed to pass especially quickly this year, confusing editors into thinking that the holidays were far in the future. Warm, sunny weather and a lack of snow affected other aspects of Christmas as well. Visitors to the Calgaro home noticed a shocking lack of holiday cheer: no Christmas tree, no gifts, no cookies warm from the oven.

Pete Calgaro was the first to realize the family better get their act together: he successfully organized and performed his 3rd annual holiday concert at Unity of Madison on Dec. 13. Nonetheless, it still seemed as if the family had plenty of time to publish the *Cheese*.

A blizzard on Dec. 20 — the day before the winter solstice and end of the Mayan Great Cycle after the



We got some snow in Madison.

completion of the 12th Bak'tum — brought forth a great burst of energy, allowing for feats of editorial greatness. Also, Pete finally brought the Christmas tree up from the basement.

Inside:
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and The Great Job Hunt

back issues online!
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Graduation Miracle

Peter Secures Diploma Against All Odds

Peter Calgaro IV, who had begun his senior year of high school without enough actual credits to be considered a member of the senior class, surprised and delighted his family by graduating from James Madison Memorial High School in June with his peers.

Peter's parents suspected as early as freshman year that he might take an unorthodox route in completing his secondary education. After all, he had a 12-year history of questioning authority, ignoring homework, and not caring about grades.

Despite his ennui, Peter managed to learn and remember a great deal of academic information. He was an excellent candidate for a non-traditional program that allowed him to make up for lost credits by attending class eight hours per week and taking a series of equivalency tests.

Not only did Peter walk across the stage with his more academically inclined friends, he also endured enjoyed a separate ceremony with the ROAD graduates.

The highlight of the day was when Peter's grandfather (Peter II) walked up to the podium and gave an impromptu motivational speech, sharing his experiences as a high school dropout who eventually earned Master's degrees.

"We see several indicators of personality traits that must have skipped a generation," said Peter IV's parents.

"All of those traits are admirable and highly desirable," they added quickly, nodding with enthusiasm.

Peter enrolled at Madison College this fall with the intention of transferring to UW-Madison after two years. However, since academic work has not magically become a delightful pastime for him, he plans to apply



Peter accepts a scroll from his teacher Katy, during the more entertaining of his two ceremonies. (Also, he shaved for this one.)

for an apprenticeship program.

His parents proudly note that he did achieve a high A in his music theory class. If all else fails, Peter can get together with his friends and sing for tips on State Street.

Vehicle Update

Procreation Watch: The Calgaros added a 4th vehicle to their fleet after Áine's work commute increased to a 30-mile round trip. Pete and Áine each had worked within 2 miles of home for almost 10 years, and at one time ran a one-car family. With an 18-year-old male driver and two traffic tickets (one was Áine's), they are doing their part to keep the insurance industry profitable.

Death Watch: The '98 New Beetle has generated 4 AAA calls within as many months, causing Pete and Áine to look longingly at the '94 Buick that Rachel drives.

One More Semester

...Until Rachel is Making More than her Parents

The past four years of paying college tuition will finally pay off for Pete and Áine Calgaro, as their daughter will probably make more than either of them when she secures her first job after graduation.

"Heck, Rachel's hourly wage at her summer internship was more than what I was pulling in at the time," Áine noted.

Rachel spent the break between junior and senior year working for General Dynamics in Bloomington, MN. Her boyfriend of 3 years, Wes, secured an internship with the same company. They decided to share an apartment while also working together on the same project team.

The togetherness didn't drive either of them to re-enact *The Shining*, so they continued living together when they moved back to UW-Stout in the fall. The only difference is that they cohabitate with three other



Rachel soon will have enough money to adopt her own large-headed dog.

young men now. Pete and Áine have not seen the inside of their duplex, and maybe that's for the best.

Rachel is finishing out her senior year by continuing to take incredibly difficult math classes such as Real Analysis — and occasionally enjoying an adult beverage as a newly legal 21-year-old.

Journey Through Unemployment

Weather Central went through many changes over the past two years, and Áine was among the dozens who lost their jobs this year.

She knew her fate as soon as she was called into the HR office on May 15 — although she hadn't expected layoffs that week since the HR manager was on vacation.

He let her go over speaker phone.

After she gave him her sympathies for having to call in from Florida (or wherever he was), she cheerfully packed up her personal items and pondered her future.

She immediately started working on business projects and making connections with people. (She also spent a lot more time with the family

dogs.) In June, she took a part-time marketing job with a local pet clinic, but remained eligible for unemployment benefits.

Áine enjoyed the people, the pets, and the perks of the veterinary business, but continued looking for a more secure situation.

In November, she found it — and accepted a full-time position as Communications and Membership Coordinator with WASBO, the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials. (No, it's not the association she worked with 10 years ago. That one was WASB.)

Ludwig is hoping that WASBO observes "Take Your Dog to Work Day." Of course, he'd prefer "Take Your Dog to Work Every Day."

Dogs Love Car Rides

Except When Destination is Vet Hospital

Ludwig and Lily each visited Veterinary Emergency Service for overnight stays in 2012, making the Calgaros thankful for the existence of credit cards.

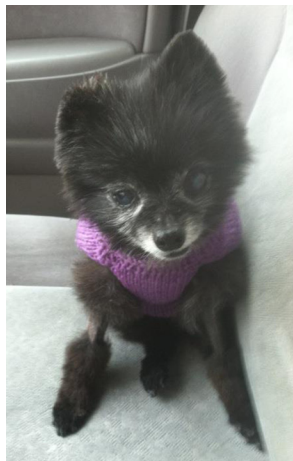
Ludwig was the first to experience a health crisis — in mid-March, he started having trouble breathing after having thrown up in various places throughout the house.

He ended up staying the entire weekend in an incubator with an oxygen pump after first being given IV fluids for what looked like pancreatitis. The following Monday, he was transferred to the UW Veterinary cardiology clinic, because the Calgaros hadn't maxed out their credit limit. (Well, and also to save Ludwig's life.)

Ludwig was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension, which is easily treated with medication every eight hours forever. That miracle drug? Viagra — because if a Calgaro pet needs a lifelong prescription, it might as well be for something hilarious.

Lily, despite her advanced age, didn't need medical care until a bout of vomiting (oh, why does it always have to involve vomiting?) in November. She felt much better after getting IV fluids during her overnight stay at the vet hospital. The staff could tell she was feeling better because she started pacing inside the incubator and barking her cigarettes-and-whiskey old lady bark.

She looks like she's wearing doggy Uggs now. (That actually would have been less expensive.)



The Calgaros are feeding Lily a bland diet, but the dogs still get Milk-Bones when they accompany their mom to the coffee drive-through. And after all they've been through, Pete and Áine are allowed to refer to themselves as the dogs' "mom" and "dad" without anyone giving them crap for it. (Not counting the stuff in the front yard.)

Pete Celebrates Workplace Anniversary

Pete Calgaro was recognized this summer for having survived completed 20 years with NBC15. He was presented with a trophy in the shape of a teardrop, representing the tears shed during countless late night sessions making last-minute updates to meet client deadlines and keep profits rolling in for the station.

To balance out the time he spends working for the man, Pete composes music, runs, and practices yoga. He finished his 11th annual CD, "Bliss," and is not at all worried about running out of words to use as titles for his musical collections.



The graduate wishes you a holiday season filled with the same joy and enthusiasm he experienced on his big day.