



News from Peef & Lo

Rainy Days & Mondays

There are countless ways to describe it: *gripping, grumbling, murmuring, whining, bemoaning, belly-aching, lamenting, expostulating, sniveling. The outward expression of inward discontent.*

We've all experienced it at one time or another — the insatiable need to just let it all out and complain about everything that's bothering us. It's a human thing. A natural phenomenon. A favorite pastime, even. There is even a web site that caters to people who want to complain: complainsdomain.com.

It's been a great winter for complaining. The weather has been cloudy and rainy (yes, rainy!) and just generally dreary. Even the warmer-than-average temperatures haven't been enough to bring people out of their deep blue funks.

There's been more than your average level of complaining — even at our house, where we generally pride ourselves on being endlessly pleasant, impossibly contented, and abnormally hospitable to all that life has to offer.

That said, we each have our own way of dealing with our whiny moments. Even the cats have their own way of expressing discontent — usually by pacing back and forth across the floor and whining. Sometimes by jumping up on the dinner table (bad kitty!) and wreaking havoc with the tablecloth. Cats, of course, have even less reason to complain than the rest of us, since they are fed and cared for on a daily basis and spend most of their free time sleeping. So, we don't usually listen to them.

On the other hand, when the people are not happy... well, that's a different story. Most of the time when Lo feels the need to complain, she likes to disguise it. She calls it VENTING — as if somehow that makes it all better. After all, then it's therapeutic, right? Some days, rather than "venting", she matter-of-factly emphasizes her tendency towards being a realist. After all, she says, the world is a naturally LOUSY place, and so she's just telling it like it is. Complaining? No, she's not complaining....

On the other hand, when Peef feels the need to



"Quit complaining about your job."

From unleadedjokes.com

complain about something, it comes out of him in a long, wailing, whiny note — very musical, but not altogether pleasant. On the other hand, his approach is very effective and often gleans the intended results (see Panini Press article, p. 3).

A favorite topic for complaining is one's job. And I never met a man (or woman) who couldn't go on and on for a good long time about the oddities of his/her profession. And to that, even Peef and Lo are not immune. That said, there is a great photograph which I picked up off of a website a while back that sort of puts things into perspective. You can see it up above. It's a real reminder that there are many things worse than whatever is ailing us at a given moment in time.

Along a similar vane, Maya Angelou tells a story about the lesson she learned as she watched numerous folks entering her grandmother's store in Stamps, Arkansas and complaining up a storm. Her grandmother told her "...you watch yourself about complaining, Sister. What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Don't complain." Hmm. That's pretty good advice. After all, what have we really got to complain about when it all comes down??

The Saga Continues...

Volume 8 Issue 1

January/February 2006



It's been a weird winter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

AVERAGE HIGH/LOW TEMPERATURES IN JANUARY: 26°F/11°F (-3°C/-12°C)

2006 was the warmest January in Milwaukee since 1942, with 36 consecutive days above 30° between December 22—January 26. We are now going on day 44.

Seventeen (17) cloudy days between December 24—January 9th broke the 1991 record for most consecutive cloudy days (14 days).

Inside this issue:

Rainy Days & Mondays	1
Peef & Lo in Fargo	2
Facts about Fargo	2
Tales from BURP!	3
The Adventures of Bebop and Fifi	3

Peef and Lo in Fargo: Exclusive Interview

If you've been a long-time reader of this newsletter, you know that Peef and Lo have embarked on a myriad of journeys together. Most of these journeys have turned into great adventures and so we decided to ask the couple a few burning questions about their latest trip.

First—the obvious question. Why would you go to FARGO?

PEEF & LO: Well, if we told you that we are obsessed with the movie of the same name, you probably wouldn't believe us. So, I suppose the truth will have to do. We went to Fargo to visit friends.

Peef and Lo have friends?

PEEF & LO: No comment. I mean, we really do have friends. Who live in Fargo. Mind if we sit down? We're carrying quite a load here.

Sure. But seriously, why would you go to Fargo?

PEEF & LO: Well, if you really must know, we drove there to see George Strait in concert!! (much laughing and very long pause)... well, no. I mean, there was a George Strait concert going on in Fargo while we were visiting, but we didn't go to it. In fact—you're not going to believe this—every last hotel in Fargo was booked up!!

Really?

PEEF & LO: You betcha! We ended up finding a bed & breakfast that had one open room. But the place was utterly packed otherwise. A lot can happen in the middle of nowhere, ya know.

That's pretty hard to believe. You went to Fargo in January, right? (rolls eyes)... Why in tarnation would you drive to North Dakota in the middle of January?! I mean, no offense, but that seems silly.

PEEF & LO: You **are** a smooth smoothie, ya know. We really did go to visit our friends. We knew we were taking a

chance with the weather at that time of the year, but we decided to risk it.

Wow. You two are real risk takers! So, how was the weather during the days of your visit?

PEEF & LO: It was actually quite pleasant. The temperatures in Milwaukee were around 40° when we left, and the temps in Fargo were somewhere between 20-30°. That's a bit cool, but it's warm for Fargo! There was quite a bit of snow on the ground there as well, which wasn't the case in Milwaukee.

No, we've had quite the mild January here in Wisconsin. So, what do you two do on such a long road trip? Fargo must be, what, 8-9 hours from Milwaukee?

PEEF & LO: Yeah, Fargo is about 9 hours away (hence the name FAR-GO). And recent research suggests that it's getting farther and farther from Milwaukee with each passing year. But we've developed some pretty creative ways of keeping ourselves occupied while we travel. We listen to the radio...

I hate to break it to you, but that's not all that creative...

PEEF & LO: No, it's not. But you didn't let us finish. Sometimes we make up new words to the songs we hear. We find that listening to country music makes particularly fertile fodder for our creative lyricism.

Mmm.

PEEF & LO: And we also practice our best Norwegian/Yooper accents while we drive. Lo has a pretty keen schtick she does about a guy named Bob who drives a plow. That turns into a regular FOUNTAIN of conversation, there buddy. A geyser. You'd better believe it.

Sounds fascinating.

PEEF & LO: Yeah, well, it wasn't so funny this time around, considering there

wasn't a whole lot of snow. We figured Bob must have quit the plowing business for this year and gotten a job doing something else...

There was a trooper pulling someone over and a high-speed pursuit. And we did see a wood chipper on our way...

A wood chipper, eh?

PEEF & LO: Yah, a wood chipper. Speeding right along on the highway. But there were no body parts, so we felt better about it. Actually, it was pretty funny. That was shortly before Lo fell asleep like she always does on long trips.

Hey—aren't you going to ask us what we did while we were in Fargo?

Well, sure. I was getting to that. What did you do while you were there?

PEEF & LO: We had a great time. Mostly we visited with Jeremy and Rebecca — our FRIENDS.

Oh, yeah. Your friends.

PEEF & LO: And we made tamales. And ate some fantastic food. We visited a local pastry shop. And we spent time playing with their kids. We learned more than we ever wanted to know about Star Wars in three days from their son, Alex. It was great. After three days it was really difficult to wave goodbye to Paul Bunyan and head home to Wisconsin. You almost had to drag us home screaming in our underwear.

So will you be planning another trip to Fargo in the near future?

PEEF & LO: You're darn tootin'!

Well, hey—thanks for sharing with us.

PEEF & LO: Anytime!



FUN FARGO FACTS:

- Alpha Gamma Rho (at the University of North Dakota-Fargo) is the ONLY national agricultural fraternity in the U.S.
- North Dakota passed a bill in 1987 making English the official state language.
- North Dakota grows more sunflowers than any other state.
- The North Dakota State University research experiment station in Hettinger is the largest state owned sheep research center in the United States.
- Dakota also JUST HAPPENS to be a Sioux word which literally means **friends** or allies. (need we say more???)



Peef Presses the Panini ...

So, Peef received a panini press for Christmas...

Really, that should be enough said right there. But for those of you who don't already know about his obsession, let's start at the beginning.

It's difficult to pinpoint the exact moment when Paul became obsessed with the idea of grilling his very own hot pressed Italian sandwiches. But it will suffice to say that his dream has had a good long time to steep. It can be presumed, with a great deal of certainty, that Peef saw paninis being made on a cooking show sometime in the past 7 years, and he fell in love.

Despite his obsession, he refused to fall prey to the common habit of making panini by grilling a sandwich on a grill with a hot cast iron pan on top to press the sandwich. No—he wanted those fabulous grill marks, the (apparently) authentic calling card for the fantastic, hot-pressed sandwich. Lo swore up and down that there was no need to have another gadget in the house. There simply wasn't space in the small kitchen. At first, Peef seemed to agree, and he gave up his need to acquire a genuine panini press. He made a few grilled-cheese type sandwiches with a stovetop grill and a cast iron pan. But such fraudulent cooking did NOT make him happy. And so, after a period, he began whining and complaining again. And at Christmas, his dearly beloved mother-in-law succumbed to his pleading.

Peef's new Krups Universal Panini maker has a sleek and attractive chrome exterior with thermo-insulated handle for added safety. The grill can be used to grill hamburgers, fish, chicken or veggies — so it's also multi-purpose (look out George Foreman!). And this particular model also features a floating hinge system which will accommodate

paninis that are the size of Peef's head.

Since the acquisition of this lovely tool, as you can imagine, there has been much making of paninis in the kitchens of BURP! In fact, various versions are now being tested for feature on the winter/spring menu.

One of our favorites so far has been a variation on the Cubano sandwich—a mouth-watering combination of freshly roasted Lechón Asado (Cuban pork marinated in mojo), thick-cut bacon, Swiss cheese, a bit of butter, and pickled escabeche (hot jalapeno relish) on ciabatta. We've also done beautiful things with roasted chicken and smoked cheddar as well as freshly roasted vegetables and goat cheese. And we're dreaming of the hazy, lazy days of summer when we can pop out to the garden for a luscious heirloom tomato to pair with fresh mozzarella and basil for an afternoon snack. Admittedly, despite her earlier objections, Lo is now sold.

For those of you WITHOUT a panini press, here is another handy trick for making sandwiches with common tools you can find out in your yard (or at a construction site)!! Take a common, household brick (the heavy kind) and wrap it in tinfoil (aluminum foil also works). When the recipe demands that you place your sandwich in a panini press, laugh haughtily and simply place it on a preheated griddle and place your brick on top. After 2-3 minutes, remove the brick and flip your panini. Place the brick back on your sandwich and wait another 2-3 minutes. Remove brick and enjoy. NOTE: *This method is NOT Peef-approved.*



The Adventures of Bebop and Fifi.

By now you all know that we have no compunction about nicknaming at our house. Peef... Lo... why not the cats too?

We've gone through any number of names for the cats. Elmo has been known as "Elms," "Melms," and "Bilbo." We called Zoe "Gertrude" for a period of time (as in "Gertrude Stein"). And we frequently call her "Zoz." Lately, however, we've been experimenting with a couple of new names for Elmo and Zoe.

Sure, Bebop and Fifi SEEM like silly names at first glance. But when you get down into the nitty gritty of it, they make perfect sense.

First—BEBOP.

Yeah, it's a style of music. And it's heavily based on improvisation. So, what better name for a cool cat like Elmo, who embodies the soul of bebop. He's a fast-tempoed cat with complex harmonies and a great rhythm section. And just when you think you've seen it all, he hits you with a steady beat on bass that makes it difficult

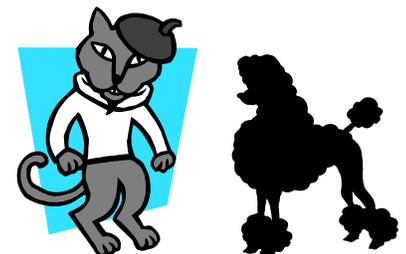
not to smile.

And then there's the new anime hit, COWBOY BEBOP, which features space cowboy bounty hunters struggling to survive in a world that is a strange combination of past, present and future. And, best of all, all of the cartoons are set to a soundtrack of totally swanky Bebop-styled music. Yeah, we're pretty sure that Elmo is diggin' it.

And how about FIFI?

Well, hey—you've all seen the classic little fluffballs of fur all loaded up in the granny purses and dragged out to the mall. The poodles du jour with their pink fur and beady little eyes... Well, Zoe is the perfect little purse cat... and she is also (unbeknownst to many) the epitome of fashion.

If you have some time one of these days, you should take a trip on over to fifi.com where you can find the weekly scoop de la scoop... a report from Australia of all the latest and greatest in fabulous fashion,



gossip, and all things groovy, written by Fiona Milne (AKA Fifi) all for \$10/month.

And we can't forget about the hot new UK cartoon, which features FIFI the Flowertot. She's been slated as the latest female backlash to the overwhelmingly successful Bob the Builder craze.

According to the British Creative Director of the show, "She lives in a watering can in the flowertot garden with her friends Primrose, Violet and Poppy. Besides often forgetting her words and forgetting her trowel in the garden, Fifi has other problems. She's small, so everything's huge."

We're sure you'll agree that the similarities are just uncanny...

The Saga Continues...

Paul & Lori Fredrich
6136 W Locust St
Milwaukee, WI 53210-1464

AMOR SITIS UNITI!

