



Carol Weight-Gain Mystery Solved



Carol, mystery weight gain

A visit to a forensic obstetrician has solved the mystery surrounding Carol's recent 20-pound weight gain. "You're pregnant," said Dr. Kenneth Manfre of the

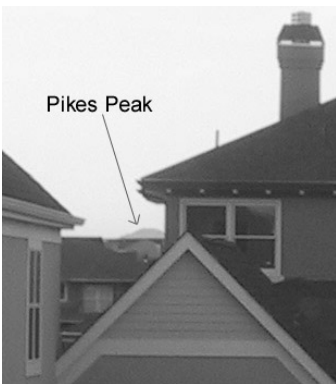
Medical Center of Aurora, near Denver. "Congratulations."

The news was followed by a series of short kicks from within the nexus of the mystery weight gain.

The baby is due in late March, 2003. An ultrasound examination showed normal development, but the baby's positioning foiled a boy-girl determination. Its parents took this as the first of many instances in which the child's actions will be completely contrary to their desires.

Carol's recent layoff from a struggling titanium manufacturer has afforded ample opportunity for prenatal preparations.

In January, she plans to begin work on her master degree in computer information systems at the University of Denver.



Pikes Peak View

Denver is known for majestic panoramas of the snow-capped peaks of Colorado's Front Range, such as this view from Todd and Carol's laundry room.

TODD QUILTS FRONT RANGE TECHBIZ; BOREDOM CITED

Todd has left his job as staff writer at Denver weekly technology newspaper *Front Range TechBiz*.

The editorially well-received publication was shuttered by its parent company in November 2002 due to a lack of advertising revenue. After several days spent loitering in the hallway outside the paper's deserted, padlocked downtown Denver offices, he announced his resignation.

"Though I have enjoyed my tenure at *Front Range TechBiz*, it's time for a new

challenge," he said, trying the door handle yet again.

Fortunate happenstance has landed him a one-month, full-time reporting assignment in the *Rocky Mountain News* business section during Nov.-Dec. 2002. He called the opportunity "great experience and a real challenge. They seem to publish just about every day."

His work there has included stories on Wal-Mart and United Airlines labor issues, an HMO bankruptcy, and a hard-hitting costume-shop-opening exposé.



PATRICK EGAN PHOTO ©2002

Todd departs Front Range TechBiz

Name that Baby!

Carol and Todd have narrowed down their baby-name choices, but just can't decide on a winner. Select a name (or write in your own) and send them your pick for fun and prizes!

Male Finalists

Vinegar (pronounced VINE-gar), Heinzken, Jeff, Biff, Seth, Male (pronounced MAL-ee)

Female finalists

Vinaigrette, Beth, Female (pronounced fuh-MAL-ee)

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!

Home, Sweet Home



Carol and Todd's home in Denver's Lowry district

Carol and Todd bought their first home in June 2002, a breezy three bedroom in the Lowry district. It is roughly five miles east of downtown Denver.

As new construction, the couple had the chance to choose options such as floor coverings, bathroom tiling and whether or not to install pricey options like doors, insulation and windows.

"We got quite a deal," said Todd from beneath the hood of a thick down jacket, which he was wearing in the living room. "You wouldn't believe how much these guys want for windows. And you don't really even need them, especially not in June."

The new home allows the couple to live the "open-door" management philosophy they so appreciate in business.

"Natural exteriors are said to be coming back into fashion," Carol added, as she tried to pick up a (frozen) chocolate-chip cookie through a ski mitten.

The couple commissioned a local graffiti artisan to paint the address under the bay window. "He said it represented 'three sevens and a three,'" said Todd.

**YOUR AD
HERE!**

TRAVEL REPORT

In September, for the second year running, Carol and Todd took advantage of the many interesting sights of the American West by vacationing in difficult-to-pronounce European countries.

But the reasons were good: the wedding of Christian and Inga Volz in Germany, and the opportunity thereafter to spend a few days on the Croatian coast with good friends Klara and Patrick Egan.

On the occasion of the nuptials — in a roman castle among the vineyards of a town called Battenberg — our German friends again demonstrated their God-given ability to consume prodigious volumes of alcohol until 5:00 a.m.

Andreas, Petra and Sophie Macha played host in their finely renovated Ludwigshafen condo, giving up their own bed for the American invaders. Three-year-old Sophie expressed considerable interest in a gift Clifford book despite



Todd considers sightseeing options on Hvar Isle, Croatia

the strange English text accompanying the Big Red Dog (in German, *der Riesenrotenbundercliffordbeisst*).

Martin Juchem and Yvonne Veurmann deserve special mention for patiently carting the Neffs around the *Vaterland*, as does family Pflanz, which kept lunch warm despite the Americans being two hours late.

Following the wedding, the Americans opted not for Paris, but rather Pescara. A cheap flight landed them on the Italian coast, from where they took a bus into town, a train to Ancona, a ferry to Split, Croatia, and, after a five-hour layover in the limestone warren of that exquisite city, another ferry to the Croatian island of Hvar.

The couple had roughly three days there, or about two hours for every one in transit. But it proved once again that the journey can be as memorable as the destination.



Exotic Bird Sighted

An unidentified exotic bird appeared on the back fence during Thanksgiving with the Neff family in Arizona. If the Audubon Society petition goes through, the Neffs will name the new species the "Free Range TechChicken."

