

## Curd Appeal

by Jon Vara

To most people, 10,000 pounds of condemned pepper-jack cheese might seem like a simple, if unappetizing, waste-disposal problem. But to New York artist Cosimo Cavallaro, it was an opportunity. Cavallaro — who had previously constructed a life-size

over hot water, and applying the resulting fondue-like substance with specially modified spray equipment.

Not everyone was happy about the project — a neighboring homeowner voiced fears that the project might attract mice — but the artist was



bed made entirely of cake, as well as several smaller works in the medium of cheese — conceived a more ambitious project: to spray an entire house and its contents with a thick layer of the melted stuff.

After negotiations with a number of cities and towns, the Montreal-born sculptor finally located just the right structure — an abandoned house in the small community of Powell, Wyo. With the agreement of the City of Powell, Cavallaro and a small army of volunteers set to work late last October, painstakingly slicing up dozens of huge blocks of cheese, melting them

delighted with the finished product. “The outside had a fairy-tale feel and the inside was eerie,” Cavallaro told the *Powell Tribune*. “It had a wonderful, magical, childlike feel to it.”

Sadly, the work of art had only a short shelf life. Although Cavallaro had voiced hopes that the work might be preserved for posterity in a cold-storage warehouse, a local demolition contractor broke the structure to pieces and hauled it to a landfill during the first week of November. The artist returned to New York and began preparing for a new project, which will involve burning a piano. 