

A Swamp Bottom Jamboree

Tickets are on sale now for A Swamp Bottom Jamboree, a fundraiser for Vashon Community Care. The event will be on June 5th at 7:30 PM. Ticket cost is \$85 per person until May 17th and \$100 a person after May 17th. They will be first come, first served and will be limited according Governor Inslee’s mandate on outdoor gatherings. You won’t want to miss this roving performance at dusk, produced and directed by Steffon Moody and featuring some of the finest talent from Vashon and beyond. It will be an outdoor, masked affair. To purchase tickets, go to Upcoming Events at www.vashoncommunitycare.org.

Questions? Contact Anne Atwell, aatwell@vashoncommunitycare.org or 206-567-6164. Tickets are limited and must be purchased before June 5th.

A Swamp Bottom Jamboree
Fundraiser for Vashon Community Care
Saturday, June 5th, 7:30pm



Island Life The Big Lie

By Peter Ray
pgray@vashonloop.com

One of my go-to movies that I go to when I need to get away and don’t want any surprises is ‘Sneakers’ with Robert Redford, Sidney Poitier, David Strathairn, Dan Akroyd, Mary McDonnell and others. I think what keeps me coming back to it is the band of misfits thing- and that they are able to hold it all together to outsmart the layers of stuff that gets thrown at them. For those who don’t know, it is kind of a hacker movie where they wind up with the ultimate translator chip that breaks all secret codes. It kind of falls in the timeline of things about midway between ‘War Games’ from way back in 1983 and the very early inklings of internet dalliances, and ‘the Matrix’ in 1999, which to me was a bit disturbing and earth shaking in its revelations about another reality at the other end of a phoneline that I won’t go into. The line from Sneakers that keeps coming back to me is from when Redford’s character is riding in a car in San Francisco with a member of the Russian consulate there, and they are pulled over but what appears to be agents from the FBI. Gregor, the Russian, implores Redford to not get out of the car by saying “you won’t know who to trust...”

There is a nice bit of twisted irony in that, and a somewhat scary prescience relating to the former occupant of the White House and his inclination toward believing in all things Russian, as opposed to anything our own intelligence services might have to say to the contrary. With the casting of doubt into the truth behind the results of the 2020 presidential election, the Mar A Lago menace has sown the seeds of distrust into the core of our democratic beliefs. He has done that with virtually no proof- just his “belief”. Certain national news organizations that have bolstered and amplified his claims in the past have continued to do so, again without any proof of fraud in the election, except for maybe the few instances where dead wives or mothers have been shown to have cast posthumous ballots in favor of Hair Twittler. This contrived view of a fabricated reality makes logical and coherent discourse about these things impossible. At least in the movie, Neo is given a choice of whether or not he wants to find out the truth about the Matrix in the form of choosing to take one or the other of two different pills. The blue pill allows one to wake up the next morning and carry on as one always has- the red pill takes one on a ride to a different reality, and opens up a window or a door there to actually see “how deep the rabbit hole goes.” Trump acolytes have embraced the blue pill, while it still remains to be seen if the Kool-Aid they are washing it down with will be terminal for the Republican party, or if it will just sustain them indefinitely on a delusional sugar high.

What is fascinating about the cast of the Matrix is that in some ways it is similar to the cast of Star Trek- they are both basically gender and race diverse, and seemingly neutral to their

differences. Neo and his tribe are there to free minds from the enslavement of the machines. Kirk and Spock and the rest are on a mission to explore new worlds and do it under the guidance of the prime directive of non-interference into how those worlds go about their existence. On the other hand, what we are having to deal with in the Big Lie and its spin offs is the underpinning belief that there are lesser human beings out there, and that they are the source of all our troubles. Some might say that that is an oversimplification- I would disagree. The most disruptive bit of the Trumpian agenda manifested itself on 6 January 2021 in what has been called many things, but most accurately one can name it what it was- the Capital Insurrection. The people that were there have stated many times that their sole reason for participating was to “take back our country, and election, that was stolen from us”, and they were doing it because Trump had told them to.

Following their multitude of losses sustained in the 2020 election, it is people of color that the Republicans are targeting with all their new efforts to restrict and curtail voting rights, as well as the xenophobic fear of the other that is on display in the insane breach of voting security going on in the farcical recount currently happening in Arizona. It is there that the snipe hunt search continues for the bamboo paper ballots that some claim were flown in from China in order to stuff ballot boxes full of illegitimate votes aimed at denying Mar-A-Lardo the continuance of his emperorsip. It is because of Trump’s racist characterization of Covid-19 as being the “China virus” or the “Kung flu”, that Asians are being attacked and beaten across this country by people who believe in what he is saying and are physically expressing their blame accordingly. And it is Trump’s racist rants against people of color in general that have enabled and entitled his public and political supporters to just make things up in order to further his and their racist, white supremacist agenda.

It is easy to just shake one’s head in disbelief at the Republicans’ seemingly relentless ability to make things up to suit their agenda du jour. One could continue to marinate in bafflement at what surely seems to be new levels of human indifference to the truth, but then a quick check of history might just tend to reveal that there is truly nothing new under the sun. We have talked about this before here, but it seems that one cannot repeat certain things too many times. When it comes to the setting and justification of basic, racist policy, one need look no further than the signing of the Doctrine of Discovery contained in the Papal Bull issued by Pope Alexander VI on the 4th of May, 1493. Just a year after Christopher Columbus supposedly “discovered” America, it was the Pope that declared

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The Road to Resilience Market Madness

When it comes to real estate, we on Vashon, like the rest of the country, have a schizoid relationship. We seem to cheer on the rising property values as a sign of prosperity while at the same time worrying that housing prices are ever more unaffordable for a larger and larger segment of the community. About 145 years ago, the American politician, writer, and activist Henry George wrote a book, Progress and Poverty, that proposed that individuals or groups own what they create but land belongs to all equally. At a time of dramatic growth, urbanization, and industrialization, a parcel of rural land that was purchased for a pittance could be worth thousands of dollars a front foot as a city grew around it. George’s main argument was that the owner of that property did not earn the appreciation on his property. It was the people and businesses that moved in nearby that created the value. Although his book was very popular in his day, he was promoting an idea that was, and still is, anathema for wealthy speculators and it was quickly forgotten. When George died in New York in 1897, tens of thousands came out to pay him tribute. But his ideas went against the grain, and I would be surprised if anybody reading this column

By Terry Sullivan,

has ever heard of him. I was introduced to him by a big fan of his, Rose Ballen, back in 1990 when we, as original board members, incorporated Vashon Household.

Rising property value in the housing market is directly responsible for the housing unaffordability crisis we are facing today. Until the last 50 years or so, there were still plenty of options for a home buyer, and as the supply decreased, the population grew, and real estate values went up, many a speculator traded their way into wealth and have continued to do so. The problem now is that demand greatly exceeds supply, so those of modest means entering the market for the first time can find nothing they can possibly afford.

The great advantage of being a homeowner is that you have the opportunity to build equity. For a middle-income person, a home is usually the largest asset they own. If your parents did not get on the gravy train early on, then you may have no assets to build on and will be effectively denied an opportunity to buy a home. The inequality in our country is directly related to assets. When the stock market goes up, 75% of us do not participate in any significant way. For older Americans, 28% rely on social security for 75% or more of their income.

During the housing crash of 2008, many thousands, maybe millions, lost their homes and their only source of equity. These were forced into the rental market where their money simply gets consumed by a landlord and no equity accrues at all. I would imagine that many who are homeless today as a result of the pandemic had mortgages on homes in 2008, and their fortunes may have been very different if they had been able to weather the crisis then. Today, 11% of homes are vacant.

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The Vashon Loop

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Submissions to the Loop

Do you have an event or Public Service Announcement? Email questions or submissions to Steven Allen, editor of the *Loop*, at editor@vashonloop.com. Photos are welcome as jpeg or pdf attachments.

*Can't stop drinking
and want help?*



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**Next Edition
of *The Loop*
Comes out
Thursday
June 3**

Deadline for the next
edition of *The Loop* is
Saturday, May 29

*No puede dejar de
beber Alcohol?*



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2021 Spring Fix-It Café

The Vashon Fix-It Café is hosted by the Vashon Island Time Exchange and Vashon Eagles and staffed by members of the Vashon Tool Library, Zero Waste Vashon, and Backbone Campaign, with support from the King County Eco-Consumer Program.


Saturday, May 15, 2021, 10am-2pm. Free to the Public
RSVP: <https://www.vashonresilience.org/may15>

Participants will be encouraged and guided in making their own repairs, so a tool kit should be handy. For more complex repairs there may be a drop off option. Once your item is registered a Fixer will contact you regarding arrangements.

All household fixable items are welcomed: furniture, toys, electronics, lamps, bicycles, electrical garden equipment, kitchen appliances, and other household repairs. Fixing and advice are free to the public, but if parts are needed, participants may be required to buy them. Because of the virtual nature of the event, participants can register items such as large household appliances, plumbing repairs and similar household repair quandaries. Spanish speaking fixers are available.

The Vashon Fix-It Café is hosted by the Vashon Island Time Exchange and Vashon Eagles and staffed by members of the Vashon Tool Library, Zero Waste Vashon, and Backbone Campaign, with support from the King County Eco-Consumer Program.

Saturday, May 15, 2021, 10am-2pm. Free to the Public
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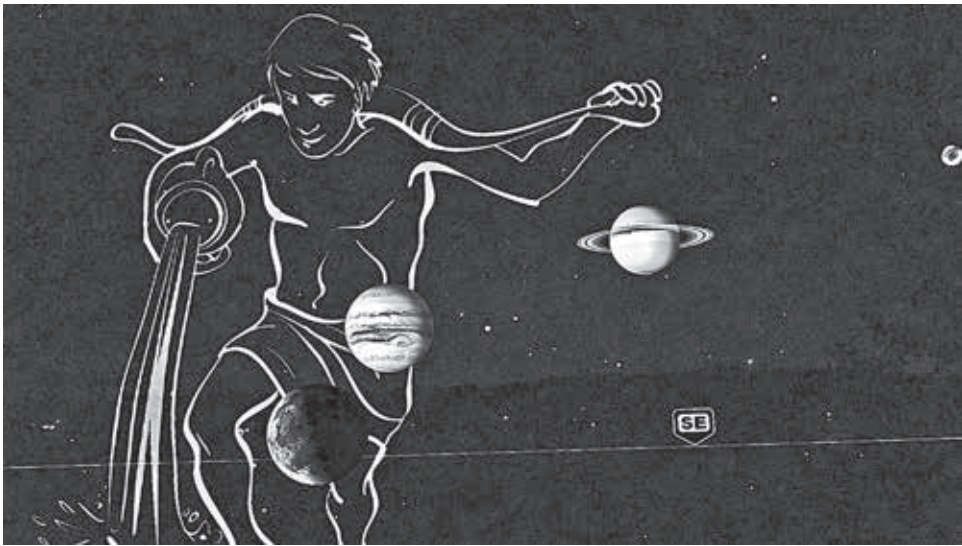


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The Sky and Eye



The constellation Aquarius or water bearer in Latin, was recorded in the second century by the Greek astronomer Ptolemy.

By Seán Malone and John Sweetman

“Lift that cigar higher and take a big draw!” I said to Seán as we sat out on his Indian Point deck, waiting for the late April ‘pink’ super-moon to rise. His glowing cigar tip would look just like the moon images we saw as kids in homemade telescopes from ‘Things of Science’ or ‘Edmonds’ scientific of comic book fame. I took a picture of his bright-red Dominican cigar tip against the Eastern horizon above Maury and across the outer harbor. The picture did not come out well. “We better try for the real super moon,” I said.. “Let’s try our new sky program! ..” and Seán promptly aligned his smart phone and we could see exactly where to look for the moon rising as well as a whole bunch of constellations and planets that we were not even looking for.

“Years ago we would have to ask our dad or a scoutmaster to show us what there was to see.. Now, it’s just a smartphone and you can ask that smartass Siri you always talk to..!” I commented..

We had both gotten astronomy merit badges and I had actually built a crude telescope from one of those kits called ‘Things of Science’. I think I saw moon craters and fuzzy images of Venus on a shaky tripod.

Both Seán and I looked up a lot.. And we both were ‘ground observer corps’ members and had earned the cheap pewter-badger that said so!

“Nice cigar” I said.. “Pour a glass of that fair-to-middling red wine, and tell me more about your career in the ground observer corps!”

“And be sure to tell about your UFO sighting! You know, I once saw a UFO, and there was some suspicion that it was a wayward used-up weather balloon... but it sure looked ufo’y to me!”

As we sat on the deck waiting for the moon to rise, Sean related his ground observer career, a good story.. and here it is:

I was hanging out on a different rail, the cat walk of the Ground Observer Corp’s tower on Sunrise Ridge. It was made of wood and I was still sweating for what I had done hours earlier. Mom had caught me carving my initials in the wooden hand rail guiding you up the many stairs. She told me, “Don’t you ever do that again, you are defacing government property.” At 12 years old, I was so proud of my ground observer corps badge that I tried to pin it to my Boy Scout uniform when they told me I couldn’t do that because; one was US government and the other civilian.

It was cold standing at the rail of our watchtower, describing aircraft activity to Mom who stood with the telephone in her hand, ready to give our call sign: M R Cocoa 2-2 Black to the people at Sea-Tac plotting center and pass on a description of the aircraft. “Due East about 15 degrees off the horizon, flying NW and believed to be a DC 4 with two engines. There was

a poster on the wall beside the telephone desk that had all the silhouettes of both our planes and the enemies’.

I wasn’t allowed to call in aircraft descriptions and identifications, only Mom could do that. That didn’t stop me from standing my watch, many times at night where the sharp autumn air made the stars sparkle on a moonless night. I was looking for unidentified aircraft and these ground observer towers stretched between here and the East coast and most were manned by volunteer observers, like Mom.

Spotting a UFO or unidentified flying object rarely happened. I was cold and on the east side of the catwalk when I saw something rise from the Cascade Range to the east, at an accelerated rate, faster than any plane we knew of. At 45 degrees above the horizon, it was joined by two other fast moving objects and they came together and all three shot off into space in a matter of seconds. I was very excited when I told Mom, who came out to the rail too late. Never-the-less, she called Sea-Tac and reported a UFO.

At show and tell, the next day at school, I related of my having seen a UFO, I was so proud and all the kids laughed and said that I was seeing things. Even the teacher explained that I had probably seen search lights from one of the used car lots. It was common for the car lots to rent huge WWII anti-aircraft search lights to advertise a big car sale and I was flabbergasted that nobody believed me.

The Ground Observer Corps was quite old and came before the Nike missiles and radar sites on the mountain tops across the country, about the same time as the AAA batteries and the “open houses” they had for Vashon people. The army guys let us kids sit in the seat of the quad 50mm machine gun and then they would start the ten horse Briggs and Stratton that allowed us to move the barrels up and down or across the sky to find the imaginary enemy planes. We lived on Beall Rd. and the 150 mm howitzers were just across the wire fence and in the next field west toward town; where the local Eagles Aerie has their clubhouse in the old mess hall. The army never shot their howitzers on Vashon, but would trail the big guns all the way to the Yakima Firing range for their yearly exercises.

Uncle Bruce, our scoutmaster introduced us to the sky at night, by showing us the location of the big dipper, Orion’s belt and the star Arcturus, and neat constellations that the ancient Greeks had given names to. Uncle Bruce would then describe their different functions in mythology.

The direction North was determined by lining up the two stars on the far end of the dipper and then tracing a line from the bottom star, through the top star to a brighter star, Polaris or the North star. Uncle Bruce’s lessons were valuable

Spiritual Smart Aleck

By Mary Tuel

Big Fat Lies

When Trump was in the White House, I reached the point of feeling that a rock would cry out at the insanity going on. Some of my columns here were those rocky cries, expressing what I felt about watching the Republican party follow Donald Trump over a cliff and try to pull the country over the cliff as well. Granted, the Right Believers had been primed to go over that cliff for the last thirty years, but they found a leader they could die for in Trump.

After President Biden was sworn in, I thought that perhaps we would settle into the more conventional kvetching that is aimed at all presidents.

Hah. I am so naïve.

In the tradition of the late (unlamented, at least at my house) Rush Limbaugh, the right wing media continue to lie, edit videos, and make up windmills for the cultists to charge, and a large audience continues to swallow this poison and smile and ask for more, and as we have seen, the MAGA crowd and their elected representatives are committed to overthrowing the American republic. Patriots, pah. I spit in the corner.

A couple of weeks ago the Republicans were running around like chickens with their heads cut off because Joe Biden was going to take away their meat, limiting everyone to four pounds of meat per year. This was a lie that the citizens of Trumpworld bought right into, and not only grassroots people but politicians like Governor Greg Abbott of Texas.

“Ain’t gonna happen here!” he tweeted.

No, Greg, it is not. Because that story was a Big Fat Lie.

OneAmerica News (which is somewhat to the right of Fox News) declared on January 6 that the people invading the Capitol had to be antifa disguised as Trump supporters because, of course, Republican/Trump supporters are never violent, unlike the antifa-commie-socialist-Democrat-black protesters.

If you are ever taking a psychology class and need an example of what “projection” is – look to the Republican/ right wing Americans who constantly accuse everyone else of doing what they do.

Meanwhile, back at the insurrection - at least OneAmerica’s insistence that the rioters could not be Republicans shows that there was some awareness that day that invading the Capitol was wrong. There are still people who are trying to blame antifa for the insurrection, which is a Big Fat Lie.



Then there is THE Big Fat Lie – that Biden did not win the election. Millions of people believe that, the poor gullible dangerous saps.

I hear that many younger people coming along are fed up with the lies, calumnies, and outright claptrap of the far Right. That gives me hope. Please, young people. Save us from the sins of my generation and the generations that came before. I like to believe that we, as people, are becoming better in small increments, but it is not enough.

Joe Biden has turned out to be a President who acts. For starters, he has taken steps to fight the pandemic, is trying to reunite the families that were ripped apart at our southern border, and has reclaimed money that was taken to finance building the border wall that would not keep anyone out and would destroy a lot of natural habitat for some species of flora and fauna.

Is Biden perfect? Oh, heck no. That reclaimed money is going back to the defense budget. Wahoo. He was in the Senate too long not to know how to play politics.

But who knew that there were politicians around who would work for the good of the people? Such a quaint old notion, eh?

Now - next I would like to see all the people who claim to be Christians start practicing love instead of hate.

I am so naïve.

(pause)

In other news, my grandchild is graduating from high school, and his parents have bought airplane tickets so that I can be present for this milestone in his life.

Perhaps you know that the thought of flying makes me sick to my stomach.

There were times over the years when flying seemed necessary – when there were deaths in the family, mostly.

And then, in September of 2001, the day we remember as 9/11 happened. All my fear of the many things that can happen on an airplane came rushing back into my psyche, plus more things I had not imagined.

I have not set foot on an airplane since, and I have been okay with that.

It is almost certain that these upcoming flights will be fine, but because every time I fly, I’m afraid I’m going to die, I will say: It has been a pleasure writing for you all these years, and I really appreciate your reading my columns. Thank you.

Blessings, beloveds, and I encourage you to fight the Big Fat Lies.

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The Loop’s soy-based ink is good for composting.

when describing how to find directions from a night sky.

Well Sean and i still Look up at the sky. And despite getting older we seem to see more now than we did as kids...! And thanks to some smarty- pants phone applications we actually know what we are looking at!

Next Edition of The Loop Comes out Thursday June 3

Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is Saturday, May 29

Let’s Do This Vashon!

From: Rosie the Raccoon
To: My Beloved Vashon Friends and Neighbors
Subject: We're All in This Together!

VashonBePrepared.org
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Here's the deal. It's now easy to get vaccinated right here on Vashon. You don't need an appointment and it's still totally free.

More than 20% of Vashonites still haven't been protected from COVID-19. That's bad, because all around us on the mainland the infection rate and hospitalizations have been rocketing up. We are at constant risk.

Let’s all pull together to get Vashon back to normal! If everyone gets vaccinated, we'll have parties, hugs, ball games. It'll be like old times. I'll even come over and wash your food for you. :)

Here are the two places to get your shot on Vashon so you can get your own bandaid and strike a cool Rosie pose, just like me.

Vashon Pharmacy: No appointment required Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Or make an appointment at VashonPharmacy.com/COVID. It's wide open most days, no more computer jams.

Sea Mar Clinic: No appointment required most weekdays. Best to go first thing in the morning. Or, call ahead for an appointment at (206) 463-3671. Check daily availability at SeaMar.org/COVID-Vaccine.

All COVID vaccinations are free. They'll ask for insurance information but there's no co-pay. If you don't have insurance, no worries, it's still free.

Tell them I sent you!

Cheers!
Rosie the Raccoon



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Music History: Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, Partnership in Jazz

This TALK on the ROCK is both a Music History Lecture and a Live Performance.

In the 1920s out of segregated Washington DC, a self-taught Afro-American pianist, composer and band leader, Edward Kennedy Ellington, embarked on a career that would last into the 1970s. By the late 1920s Duke Ellington was performing in Manhattan’s Cotton Club. By the 1930s he was playing to sold out crowds in Paris, London, and cities throughout the US. In 1938 Ellington met a 23 year old, gay Afro-American musical prodigy, Billy Strayhorn. For the next 30 years Ellington and Strayhorn formed Jazz’s great partnership producing such great songs as “Take the A Train”, “Lush Life” and many other famous hits.

Michael Tracy, lecturer, will be joined by jazz pianist Dylan Hayes, bassist Stanley Ruvinov, both Cornish College alumni, and drummer Xavier Lecouturier.



\$10 General Admission
Buy Tickets HERE: <https://webstore.vashoncenterforthearts.org/TheatreManager/1/>

Chloe and Norris Need a Home

We’re a sister and brother who have learned to like people even though we weren’t around any when we were teeny-tiny kittens. Eventually we figured out that good things (like treats!) come from people, so now we look forward to seeing the shelter volunteers.

One of our favorite places to hang out together is the patio. We can’t



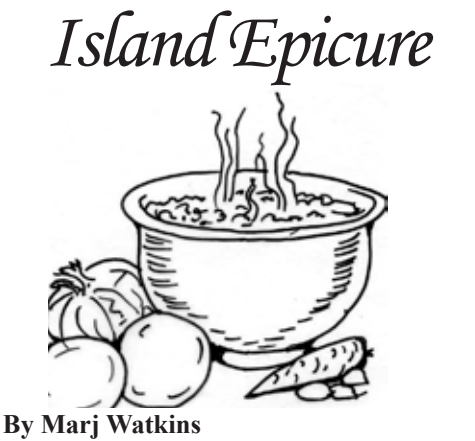
Norris

bring ours along if you adopt us, but VIPP can give you information on the many different kinds - there’s one to fit every space and budget. And speaking of budgets, because the two of us want to spend the rest of our lives together, whoever gives us a home will qualify for a “Purrfect Pals” reduced adoption fee. Such a deal!

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online?performance=8245
This event will have limited in-person seating in the Kay White Hall. It will also be Live-streamed on the

VCA website and YouTube page. Tickets must be purchased 24 hours prior to start date to allow for seat mapping



By Marj Watkins

Marj’s Home Remedies
Part 2: Burns

Of course, your best bet is to avoid burns in the first place. I keep hot pads in the kitchen drawer next to the stove, and know from experience to use them.

Burns, first degree: Red and painful

Douse the heat. My remedy is to swing to the sink, run tepid (not cold) water over the hand that brushed the hot rack above the cookies while pulling their rack from the oven. I aim to remove the worst of the heat without shocking my nervous system.

2. Dry hand. Apply aloe vera lotion or gel.

3. Apply package of frozen peas to the burned area. It will mold to your hand. When one side heats up, reverse the package and apply the still-cold side. Apply more aloe vera.

4. Still uncomfortable? Take out another package of frozen food that comes in bits, blueberries for instance. Restore the peas to the freezer if still partially frozen. If totally thawed, put them on the menu for the next meal. When you do that put a pat of butter on the peas. Don’t put butter or anything greasy on the burn. It just holds the heat in!

When you should consult a doctor or consulting nurse:

Second degree burn, or any burn that blisters, is bigger than a silver dollar, or is severe enough that you can’t tell whether

to call it a first degree or second degree burn.

For chemical or electrical burns. (Don’t touch victim until power is turned off.)

If a contact burn covers more than 10 percent of the sufferers body.

If a burn doesn’t heal within 10 days or two weeks. Actually, with frequent applications of coolness and aloe vera lotion, most of the burns I’ve got while cooking have healed in three days. Once I spilled a whole kettle of just-off-the-boil soup on a bare foot. The resulting blister took a month to go away. I called a doctor who said to bring it in an he’d take the lid off the blister “so it would not get infected.” That sounded counter-effective to me, so I didn’t. The blister gradually resorbed. The body knows what it’s doing.

Another time I had a smaller blister on the top of one foot. A doctor took the lid off it, and the resulting ulcer took three months to heal.

If clothing sticks to the burn, see a doctor. I’ve never had that happen so I can’t advise you.

If the burned area shows any sign of infection, like a blister filled with greenish or brownish fluid, see a doctor. A blister with clear fluid is okay; it’s the body’s attempt to protect the area. As it heals, the blister will shrink and go away. If it springs a leak, I’d cover it with a sterile dressing. Keep it dry.

For a burn severe enough to seek professional medical care, don’t put any lotion, antiseptic, or spray on it. Just gently wrap the area with a sterile dressing and take it to a doctor.

Sunburn: Take a tepid shower. Or soak 15 minutes in a cool bath. Sooth pain or itching by putting baking soda into the bathwater. Pat, do not rub, dry. If it’s on your back, get someone else to gently— patting, not rubbing— go over it again and again with soft, cool, used tea bag. The tannin in the tea will take the heat out and begin the cooling. Sleep on your stomach for a few nights.

The Big Lie

Continued from Page 1

that with all these explorer guys out there looking for stuff around this world, that they should probably have some sort of definition that delineated what might happen with what they found along the way. And so, in a somewhat sweeping and superior way, it was affirmed by Papal decree that any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be discovered, claimed and exploited. If the indigenous, pagan inhabitants could not be converted to Christianity, they could then be enslaved or killed. In one fell swoop, Pope Alex VI established the basis for the taking of American lands from the “lazy savages” that lived there, and thus the white entitlement and belief of superiority that drives the “patriotic” inhabitants of the American Homeland. And then in 1823, the U.S. Supreme Court used the Pope’s bull to establish a precedent in determining that the government could sell lands and the Indians couldn’t in the case of Johnson v. McIntosh. This has been cited as recently as 2005 in the case of City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York by none other than Ruth Bader Ginsberg, where she stated “Under the ‘Doctrine of Discovery’ ...[ownership] to the lands occupied by Indians when the colonists arrived became vested in the sovereign-first the discovering European nation and later the original states and the United States.”

And so we come around and back to the question of where and when do we say that enough is enough and just put an end to a lie. According to fact checking done by the Huffington Post, by late November of last year Trump had told somewhere close to 30,000 lies, and in just one day he told 500 of them. One could extrapolate from that that he really doesn’t know what the truth is and that stretching it to serve his purposes is a big part of how he rolls. The fact that Trump logged this lie count while occupying the office of the president of the United States should be disturbing to pretty much anyone who attempts to digest that. This is not to say that U.S. presidents don’t lie, but it would seem that Trump’s total while in office would establish an unacceptably low bar of credibility for that position of power, or any position anywhere for that matter. One could say that popes should be held to a much higher standard. In truth, it

was not just us that took Alex VI’s decree and exploited indigenous peoples, as much the same tale went on around the globe in the name of “discovery”.

As we now head out into the spaces of space, where do we go with this desire to get out there and take what we want with impunity? I would suspect in a purely speculative sense, that as we go where no one has gone before, that the people or beings that we meet out there will probably not have heard of Jesus, or Buddha or Muhammed for that matter. So, does that mean that everything out there is free for the taking from whomever we come in contact with? What would Jean Luc Picard say?


I have not yet turned the teevee on today, but the curious and disturbing news still filters through the tubes and dungeons of the internets. As expected, Liz Cheney has been removed from Republican power. Her dad was and is a liar, but Trump still probably has the upper hand on that account. As it was, Ms. Cheney was told to go because she was telling the truth about Trump’s big lie. In the same journalistic breath, I just read that 100 or so members from the ranks of military leadership in this country have sent out a letter in support of Trump’s big lie as well. It seems that once again, seventy two or so years on, Mr. Orwell has gotten it right again- Ignorance is Strength.

In looking it up, it appears that Joseph Welch passed away over sixty years ago. He was, of course, the lawyer that asked Joe McCarthy the pivotal question that turned the tide on McCarthy’s communist witch hunt when he plied, “Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?” I have just read more of that exchange that I did not remember or had not heard. It is amazing to me now that there was a time when simple eloquence and a call for decency shut down a tirade of lies and mistruths. It appears that eloquence has no standing in a time of Trumpian outrages and abuse, and I have no idea what it might take to close this box of Pandora’s that he may have irretrievably pried open. I do believe though that part of the way toward gathering the errant demons and slamming the lid back shut on them will lie in a thorough examination of what we call free speech and truth, and whether or not anyone should be allowed to continuously trample upon it without at least some consequences.

Patsy Needs a Home

I’m an exotic combination of calico and Manx, possibly the only one on Vashon. My stubby little tail doesn’t seem to go with the rest of me! I get along with people but not dogs or other cats, so my dream home is one where I can be the only pampered pet.

Have you heard of VIPP’s eBay store? Proceeds from the sale of donated items go to VIPP to help animals like me. If you’re doing some spring cleaning and would like to pass along things you don’t need or are in the market for some cool stuff, please check out the store at <http://ebay.com/usr/vashonislandpetprotectors>.



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Road to Resilience

Continued from Page 1

On Vashon, as of 2019, a third of all homes are in the \$750,000 range and another third are above that. Only 6 % of homes are valued at \$300,000 or less, only 2% a \$100,000 or less. These figures are now probably too modest as houses all over the region are being furiously bid up above the asking price. Right now, the only landowners that are not wealthy are those – or their families – that bought land 40 or more years ago.

Our mission at Vashon Household was and still is to create a community in which people at all income levels would have the opportunity to obtain a secure place to live. In the twenty years I spent with Vashon Household, it seemed to me that we could only apply a Band-Aid to the problem. Certainly, we built housing for hundreds of people now living in VHH projects, but they all involved massive subsidies and strict requirements for the recipients. With the

Roseballen project, we did create a limited Community Land Trust that allowed us to sell homes to those below the existing threshold for home buyers, and we were partially successful in limiting the profits from appreciation on the later sales of those properties. At least that was the case when I was last involved fourteen years ago.

Today, the housing affordability crisis is even worse than when we formed Vashon Household thirty years ago. Certainly not because of VHH, but because we as a society have not decided to give up the windfall profits of land speculation in favor of seeing to the needs of all the members of our community. There are solutions but they are institutional changes and all outside the box. Next time you consider cheering about the rising property values, think about what that means for our propertyless fellow islanders.

Comments? terry@vashonloop.com

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Aries (March 20-April 19)
Society is experiencing and witnessing an eruption of family drama on a scale rarely seen. I have not heard it described this way before, though in legal terms, nearly everything that is happening is about in loco parentis: the duty of authorities to stand as guardians rather than abuse their power. That the great majority of people are not waking up or pushing back seems to be about how accustomed we are to being treated this way. Here is a clue, that might serve as a reality check if you need one, particularly if anything happens to slip into your personal life or immediate family. Check the scope of the reaction as contrasted with any problem that seems to exist. Are these things in proportion? At what point does something become recognized as an inappropriate overreaction? You have to decide this for yourself; you set the terms of your reality, since nobody else can do it for you — even if you think they do. The content of the scenario is nearly irrelevant. The scale of the situation is what to focus on.

Taurus (April 19-May 20)
Your fellow Taurus Adrienne Rich, in an essay called “When We Dead Awaken,” wrote: “Until we can understand the assumptions in which we are drenched we cannot know ourselves.” In our day, we could add to “assumptions,” delusions, propaganda, and toxicity in emotional, intellectual and chemical forms. Many wonder: when will everyone wake up? But the question is, are you awake? Are you living as if you are alive, and what does it mean to do so? Consider that being alive means questioning those assumptions and all their cousins consciously and vocally. That would include investigating your own tentative approach to existence, and any tendency you may have to doubt yourself before the discussion is even begun. Notice whenever you make an excuse or tell a ‘white’ lie to slip out of something without a confrontation. Ask whether you anesthetize or deaden part of yourself every time you do not object to what you know is wrong. To stand up may feel dangerous. To be alive may feel dangerous. That is the challenge.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)
At some point you must face the unknown. That might begin the moment you recognize that something you believed to be correct turned out not to be. You could also make a discovery that something is possible, which is the truest form of learning. The discovery you are in the process of making is about yourself, which takes the concept of learning to its most essential level: that of being. The question goes something like this: what does it mean to be real? Many people go their whole lives faking it, so they don’t have to face this challenge. It seems way too frightening to step out of the seeming comfort zone of hazy denial. There can be no denial about anything but you: the nature of the world is irrelevant because ultimately you determine your relationship to it, whatever it may be in some objective sense. Your side of the seeming equation is the more powerful of them, and it is the one that you can influence by your choices and your evaluation of your existence. You are guided at this time by thought and feeling in equal measure, though there is something else: a kind of magnetism reminding you who you are and what you want.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
Today’s New Moon takes place in the angle of your solar chart where you connect to society. This starts with the people immediately around you and ripples out a few degrees of separation. Therefore, there are many sources of infiltration from the wider world into your personal world. And at the same time, your awareness, your ideas, your feelings, your presence,

sends waves out into the community around you. This may not be ‘comfortable’ to consider. For most people, standing out is the very last thing they want to do. Being any kind of shock is the last thing they want to be, and our whole society seems to have organized itself around the fictional issue of ‘not making people feel uncomfortable’. However, your chart being what it is suggests that this is not a matter of preference for you, but of accepting the influence and the role that you have, or pretending not to have it. That would amount to pretending to not be who you are. Despite the overwhelming popularity of this concept, it’s not going to work for you. In particular this relates to your own personal healing mission. Said another way, this is about your deep need to fully embody a whole new concept of responsibility.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)
As the sign that rules the heart, yours is also the sign of courage. The associations here are beautiful and deeply needed today. The heart is the seat of the emotions, and from the 14th century this word meant “valor, [the] quality of mind which enables one to meet danger and trouble without fear.” Well, you might feel fear, though you would not let it block or deter you. Fear is natural enough; what we do with it is another matter. To live in our society at this time pretty much means being inundated by sources of fear around the clock. These verge on impossible to avoid, no matter where anyone may hide. The pressure is coming in from so many angles it seems like there is no way to push back, and there may be no point. So what do you do? You can Know Thyself. Only then is courage possible. Conversely, the easiest way to terrify people is to teach them to not Know Thyself, lie to them about who they are, and distract them from who they are. If you have a spiritual path, you might refer back to that now, and work from the inside out. Learn to have an influence on yourself. To be who you are is true courage.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)
One of the deepest aspects of the crisis of the past year has been the theft of the future. It’s as if the whole concept of potential, and the resource of time ahead of us, has been taken over and consumed by some other force. Hopes, dreams, plans, people and entities on a successful trajectory, have all evaporated. Of course, the future still exists, though the possibilities have been narrowed, as a matter of consciousness. Of course it is up to everyone to regulate their own mind, though we are all under an offensive coming in from all directions. Young people in particular are under a lot of pressure. Many feel they are looking ahead at something between absolutely nothing, the edge of a cliff and a wall. Whatever it is you felt when you were young, they do not feel today. Most of this is because they are told they must be afraid of everyone and everything — and that is no way to live. It is not living, neither for them, nor for us. Use your creative power and open the way. Help yourself and others regain a sense of potential. Choose from among the most meaningful things you can think of for yourself — desires you’ve nurtured consistently for years, or maybe something new. And help open the way for others.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)
Let others lead the way, though do not be deterred by their resistance. You cannot fit your reality inside that of other people. Allowing them to lead is a way of not pushing or guiding them, and if the result does not work for you, then do your own thing. Yet the temptation will be strong to attempt to exist within the boundaries of what they perceive as real, legitimate, and most of all, nonthreatening. You have

different ideas. You are ready to stretch out, and explore, and get to know yourself. Sadly, this is not for everyone, but happily if it is for you, then your options remain open. It may take courage to not be pressured into doing what someone else claims is right for you, especially if they have not asked honestly whether it is right for themselves. The point where you might capitulate is this: freedom and expansion and adventure feel more dangerous than they ever have. And so it would be easy for someone to convince you that the risks are not worth the rewards. But that is your business, and you can make your own fun.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)
All matters related to the body have been infused with terror the past year, to the point where people cover their faces while driving alone in their car, or walking their dog in the suburbs at 11 pm. You could look at this two ways. One is that it’s based on the perception that the body is a thing of danger, and a disease vector, to the exclusion of all other things. Or you could say it’s evidence that people are not connected with their physical existence, which in turn relates to their emotional presence. Mars, your ruling planet, is in a square aspect to Chiron, something that happens briefly about once a year. There is a perfectionism to this aspect, and an obsession with integrity, though it’s often a ruse for something else. To what extent have you questioned whether the danger is real? The question is: do you feel safe in your body, and exactly what does that mean? How much of what you do every day is about avoiding what you perceive as danger? Where does this leave you room to feel and experience pleasure, both of which require trusting your body and those of other people?

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)
YThe primary personal quality to work on at this time in your life is flexibility. It is not easy for you to see how set in your ways you are. You may feel it as resistance, fear, and unnecessary skirmishes with people who are a little more easygoing than you are. Yet your self-image may be that of a relaxed and carefree person. You will know whether this is true by how you respond to others, who might for example do something like change their plans, or want to do something without you. The most important measure of your flexibility is your impulse to control others. Another is your ability to face the unknown. The need for certainty is a sign of a stiff mind. There are many variables at play in your life right now, and your ruling planet Jupiter is about to change signs and enter Pisces. This is an invitation to be a little more insecure and uncertain and not have to fill in the blanks with anything that might not be true. Stand in the face of the unknown, and let yourself welcome the experience: there is a gift for you there.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
Beware the tendency to think you are doing something for someone else, for their benefit. You might try an exercise of identifying the self-interest in everything that you do. Be bold about this, and remove entirely the excuse that your conduct is in some way altruistic. Perhaps it is; perhaps it’s not; but if you try to be accountable for the way that you in fact gain by your actions, that will prove to be enlightening.

You might be inclined to judge this, when you see the extent to which it’s true, though do your best to notice rather than evaluate. Claiming to do things for other people is usually an excuse. There are times when it’s true, and the only way to be aware of those occasions is to sort out when it’s not true. This exercise will help you notice when others do this, and I would propose that it’s rampant. We live in one of the most self-serving societies ever to exist, and we make it sound as if the whole thing is one enormous charitable institution. It is possible to take care of others, and it’s possible to have that in some way work for you — or not. These distinctions need to be made.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
Jupiter leaving your sign and entering Pisces may at first present you with more questions than answers. Those would be the questions you have not been asking but may not have missed. They could be about anything, though mostly they are about yourself, and specifically, the basis of your relationship to the world. The language I quote most often from A Course in Miracles is, “Every decision you make stems from what you think you are.” So what you think you are is something to monitor closely, since it will become your basis for choosing. Pisces as your 2nd solar house can be prone to deep but unacknowledged insecurity. You might just take this for granted; you may not feel what is missing. What you think of as confidence may not always be self-nourishing. However there are those moments when you feel and connect with the substance of who you are. And one of those is dawning with Jupiter beginning its journey through Pisces later this week. You are likely to have the sense of a missing experience coming to you — please remember it. You will almost surely experience many gains, though the most significant is connecting in a solid and quiet way with what you have to offer.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
For the past five months, you may have felt like you were trapped inside of some invisible bubble. That was the sensation of your ruling planet Jupiter going through your 12th solar house, a zone where things go missing, get lost, or are caught in a parallel dimension. With Jupiter as your signicator, that would be you. Late this week, the largest and most influential planet manifests into your sign, as if it emerged from behind some kind of veil. It was always there, though out of reach. This happens with Neptune also in your sign, a much longer-term visitor (2011-2026). Neptune can create a sense of deficit. It might come across as an all-consuming vortex, adding to the sense of not quite existing — and this has been going on for a while. Speaking as a Pisces who identifies with the whole idea, my thought is this: allow this ingress of Jupiter into your sign to be about a positive, even bold change of your environment. Catch up on all the experience you’ve gained, and give yourself full credit. Make your decisions on the basis of abundance: that is a whole new sound.

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