



THE VASHON LOOP

Vol. 2 #11

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

June 1, 2005

Festival Adds Youth Stage

by Lauri Hennessey

Strawberry Festival has always been a place for kids. Whether it's the Children's Parade, the wonderful rides, or Doc Eastley's ponies, the Festival has always had plenty to offer. But this year organizers are taking things to a new level with the first ever "Youth Stage", located next to Zoomies. The stage is sponsored by Sungard Bi-tech.

Oanh Meyers is the organizer of this year's Youth Stage, and she has some fantastic goings-on planned.

"This year we want to make the Youth Stage a place for parents and their kids to go to escape the mayhem," she said. "We have heard parents say they would like to get a breather now and then. We figured we would let them do that in a really fun way."

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Dan Brown, a kid at heart, will dj Family Karaoke at the new Strawberry Festival Youth Stage



Loose Change After Graduation Party!

Come dance to Vashon's favorite R & B band on Saturday, June 11th at Bishop's. Show starts at 9:00. Cover charge? Nope. New chick singers (not pictured)? Yes.



Cher (aka Lyn McManus) in her Final, Final, This Time She Really Means It, Final Farewell Concert, flanked by chick singers from Jane's Fun and Adventure Club.

Cher, Elvis, and the Afrodisiacs (including Islander Ron Gatty) put on a great show to benefit the Europe-bound girls' soccer team. Michael & Catherine Cochrane, paparazzi

As The Rock Turns

We Disco for Soccer, Senior Parents Get Ready to Get Down, Everyone Quits at *The Beachcomber*, and More

By Marie Browne

OK, not everyone quit—just publisher Lee Ockinga and staff writer Anna K. Brinkmann, who could not be reached for comment. (I've always wanted to say that.) Ockinga has a new role as Executive Director of Vashon's Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has some big plans; the appointment of an Executive Director is one step toward implementing those plans. President Tom Bangasser

explained that the Chamber is going to include all businesses who do business on Vashon – 1009 of them, according to Ockinga—in its membership, whether dues paying or not. The Chamber is developing a completely new dues structure based on the level of services any individual business requests. Details to be revealed; all interested parties are invited to attend a Chamber

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Loop Talks Poop

PUD Proposed to Address Septic Crisis

By Steve Graham

For about a year now, I have been chair of the Septic Solutions Committee for the Vashon Maury Island Community Council, and I've spent a lot of time coming up to speed on septic technology, data and policy. It's not very glamorous, and not a topic that people like to talk about—unless, that is, they have been the subject of a septic repair project or redesign over the past few years. Or unless they've recently noted the polluted state of Quartermaster Harbor or our adjacent Puget Sound waters. Then they have lots to say about it, most of it not very positive.

Continued on page 12

A Few Thoughts About Effluent

By Stephen Wennstrom

(Editor: Stephen Wennstrom worked as Maintenance Supervisor for the Vashon school district for about 10 years. He submitted this piece in response to the District's Campus Master Plan (see May 18 Loop), which calls for hooking up the high school and McMurray to the sewer. The District has been considering this option at least since 1992, and Mr. Wennstrom has written several letters opposing the idea; most recently, he wrote to Superintendent Mimi Walker in October 2003. He has not received any response to his letters, though to be fair, none of his letters specifically requested a response.)

A well designed septic system is a thing of beauty, a marvel of efficiency and a tribute to the ingenuity of mankind. It is at once

Continued on page 11

Islanders Speak Out at Army Corps Hearing

By Marnie Jones

Marnie Jones is a member of the Preserve Our Islands Board of Directors

Of the nearly 500 islanders who streamed into the High School Commons for the May 17 hearing, over half of them had to stand. Colonel Debra Lewis made it clear that "The Army Corps is neither an advocate nor an opponent of a proposed project. If I make the determination that the project... is not contrary to the public interest, a federal permit will be issued."

Continued on page 5

Vashon Vultures Take State



The Vashon Vultures lacrosse team wins the D-II Championship, defeating the Whatcom Warriors 11-4. Game notes and more photos on page 18, courtesy of their website.

EMS Funding Approved

By Jim Wilson

In response to several staffing and funding concerns, King County EMS recently announced increased funding to three agencies, including Vashon Island Fire & Rescue (VIF&R), to improve staffing levels for Advanced Life Support (ALS) service. Included in the current six-year EMS levy plan were four County ALS units staffed with 50% funding. The King County staffing model dictates two paramedics be assigned to work together at all times. Out of necessity, VIF&R has been very creative over the years in

Continued on page 4

Get in The Loop

Free Solstice Celebration and More



PANGÉO
ENSEMBLE

Come celebrate the summer solstice on **Monday, June 20th** at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Green. Picnic and music by Pangéo, one of the most respected Greek ensembles in the US. This will kick off this summer's FREE three part series of World Music and Dance presented by Vashon Park District and Vashon Folkdancers.

Pangéo, led by multi-instrumentalist Christos Govetas is composed of five seasoned musicians based in Seattle drawn together by a

passion for Greek and Balkan folk music. With a taste for old-style dance music they are equally at home playing ballads from the mountains of Epiros in Greece, lively tunes from the Bulgarian border area or Roma dances from the Gypsy quarters in Macedonia. The instrumentation includes clarinet, accordion, violin, guitar, santouri, percussion, voices and bouzouki—for a sound that transports you to another world.

Mark your calendars: Other programs in this summers' World Music & Dance Series: Monday, August 8th - KGB Dance Band (Contra) at the Village Green, Monday, August 29th-Merita Halili and Raif Hyseni Ensemble (Albanian/Balkan) at Corbin Beach.

Pictured: Mary Beba, VHS girls' soccer coach, David Webster-Break Time Program participant, and Carin Beba playing balloon soccer. The Vashon girls' soccer players are fundraising to "boot the team to Italy." They will be leaving at the end of June for the Italy Cup and also get expert coaching in Holland. They are doing community service activities to help the community and to raise awareness for their cause. Service activities include visiting the Break Time Adult Day Program at the Vashon Community Care Center and doing outdoor work for the Land Trust. Car washes and bake sales are also a part of their efforts. Still time to buy your raffle tickets for only \$1.



Free Legal Clinic

The King County Bar Association's Neighborhood Legal Clinic (NLC) program has 25 legal clinics throughout King County utilizing over 550 volunteer attorneys and legal assistants. **The legal clinic for Vashon-Maury Islands is held at the Vashon Senior Center on the first Thursday evening of each month from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** The volunteers provide King County residents with up to a half hour of one-on-one advice, consultation, information and referral free of charge. NLC attorneys may help a client determine if their problem is a legal one, suggest possible options and provide sources for referral.

The clinics address a wide variety of civil legal questions on topics including divorce, child support and custody, employment, real estate, landlord/tenant, debtor/

creditor problems, bankruptcy, immigration, consumer affairs, car accidents, wills, estate planning and probate and are open to all residents of King County regardless of income. Clients who need further legal assistance may be referred to Volunteer Legal Services, the Lawyer Referral and Information Service and other legal or law-related agencies in the community. To make an appointment, call (206) 267-7070 Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m.to noon. Walk-ins are welcome but those with appointments are served first.

There are currently openings for two volunteer attorneys to help staff the Vashon legal clinic. Each volunteer attorney would be expected to attend the clinic only 3 or 4 times per year along with another attorney and a clinic assistant. If you would like to volunteer or have questions regarding the program, please call Cathie Caldwell @ (206) 267-7029.



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Quilt Show Winners

"Quilt Tales: Every Quilt Tells A Story", the show presented by Vashon Island Quilters in mid-May drew over 700 visitors who admired the quilts and other items produced by the local quilters.

The "Best of Show" award went to Pat Brand and Peg Clothier for their wall hanging entitled "Three Or More of Anything Is a Collection."

Well known quilters, Melody Crust and Megan Peacock were judges for the Show.



Best of Show award went to Pat Brand and Peg Clothier



Sue Nebeker won the "People's Choice" award

Sue Nebeker won the "People's Choice" award for her wall hanging quilt called "All That Jazz."

Pet Care

Sincere thanks from Marie Schlick to those who are entrusting the care of their homes and animal companions to me. I still have some time available in July, August and beyond for those who are taking later vacations.

Leave a message at 567-4030.

The Vashon Quilters Guild meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Presbyterian Church. For information about the Guild, call Arlene Higley at 567-4368. An evening group meets on the first Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church. For information about that meeting, call Nan Caskey at 463-3478.

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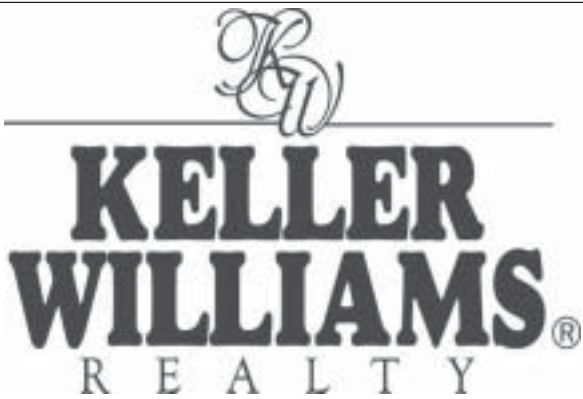
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Troy and Marie Talk to Inspector Tim



Tim Lafferty is a Home Inspector based on Vashon. We recently talked to him about home inspections, and what people should know about having one.

Troy: Tim, what prompted you to start Tim’s Inspection Service? And why Vashon?

Tim: After 28 years in construction management and college administration, I decided I had worked for others long enough, so I started my business. I belong to the Vintage Motorcycle Enthusiasts (VME) club; we came over for the annual Vashon ride in 1991, and two weeks later my wife and I bought a home here, making it my most expensive motorcycle ride ever. But I work all over the Puget Sound region, not just on Vashon.

Marie: Tell our readers about the home inspection profession and the various certifications available.

Tim: There are a few well recognized certifying groups, like the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) and the National Association of Home Inspectors (NAHI). I belong to the ASHI. Until recently, some people just started up inspection businesses without certification or education of any kind. This led to lots of complaints, with the ultimate result that now all Home Inspectors need to be licensed by the Washington State Department of Agriculture as Structural Pest Inspectors. You can find out whether your inspector is licensed at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/ListStructuralPestinspectors.htm>.

Troy: Should people have their homes inspected even if they are not involved in a real estate transaction?

Tim: Yes. In fact, recently *The Reader’s Digest* reported that home owners should have an inspection done every couple of years to uncover potentially damaging conditions that have arisen since the purchase of the home. It’s like buying a car and

taking it in for regular service. Home Inspectors can recommend “home tune-ups” that will preserve the value of a pretty expensive investment. The cost varies, from about \$299 to \$600. I charge a flat rate of \$300 per inspection for a single family home up to 5000 square feet.

Marie: What is the biggest problem you uncover while inspecting a home?

Tim: People on Vashon and in other rural areas often do work without getting a permit, and the work is done by the homeowner or another unlicensed person. Home Inspectors do not look at the home from a code compliance viewpoint, but they do look at it from a safety viewpoint, and renovations done unprofessionally often create unsafe situations. Home Inspectors look at a home’s major systems, report if those systems are safe and still working, and estimate how long the systems will last. The age of a home is not necessarily the key factor; older homes that have been well-maintained have fewer problems than newer homes that have not been maintained.

Marie: Thanks, Tim. I’ve been telling Troy that he should get up on our roof and check it out. Now he won’t have any more excuses.

Troy: I’ll get to it right after dinner. We should tell people that they can reach Tim at (206) 335-2379, and that if they would like to receive a copy of this information via email, they can write marie@kwvashon.com. And if they are looking for an agent to help them buy or sell a house, they can reach us at (206) 463-LIST (5478).

Next issue: So just what does it take to get a permit, besides an open wallet?

Your Home Team Realty

Vashon Library Program Calendar June 2005

Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Talk Time
Practice speaking English in a relaxed setting. Parents are welcome to bring children -- childcare will be provided. All nationalities and skill levels are welcome. New Talk Time volunteer hosts are Susan Keatts, Patricia Koncsek, and Rosemarie Heard.
No registration required.
Friday, June 24, 2 - 4 p.m.
Children and Teen Paperback Book Exchange
Want to freshen up your personal book collection at home? Come to our paperback book exchange and trade in your paperbacks for some fresh new titles! Trade-in limit is 15 titles. For school-age children and teens. No registration required.
Saturday, June 25, 6 - 10 p.m.
Late Night at the Library
Please join us for an evening at the Vashon Library Cyber Café. Surf the World Wide Web or play a game of chess, cards, Magic or Monopoly. Refreshments! Door Prizes! Security will be provided. For teens only. (6th—12th grades.) Sponsored by Vashon YMCA, Friends of the Vashon Library, Connections and Vashon Park District.
Sunday, June 26, 2 p.m.
Who wants to be a Medieval Knight?
Presented by AKT — The Interactive History Company. What was life like for a knight serving his king? Try on helmets, shields, leg and shoulder armor. Don’t forget your camera! Program will be held at the Ober Park building next to the library. Space is limited, so registration is required. Please register beginning Sunday, June 12 by calling 463-2069. Ages 6 and older.
Wednesdays, June 29 — August 3, 10:30 - 11 a.m.
Family Story Time
For ages 2-7, but younger children welcome with adult. Please join us for stories, songs and fun! No registration required.
Wednesdays, June 29 -- August 3, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m.
Brown Bag Story Time
Bring a sack lunch to eat while you enjoy great stories read aloud! For ages 5-10. No registration required. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.

Senator Poulsen at Sound Food

Senator Erik Poulsen and Representative Ed Murray (Chairman of the House Transportation Committee) invite you to join them for an evening of lively discussion on ferries, Glacier NW, and other Island issues in support of Erik’s re-election.
Monday, June 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Sound Food Restaurant
Great food and refreshments -bring your friends & neighbors! Contributions to Senator Poulsen’s campaign will be gratefully accepted.
Senator Poulsen will also be attending the Vashon Maury Island Community Council meeting at Courthouse Square directly afterward.

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The Loop

Letters From the Edge

Editor,
I am very disappointed to learn that Anna Brinkmann will be leaving *The Beachcomber* on May 31. Her well-written reports will be missed. Several people I've told about Anna's leaving have said that they very much like her writing and are sorry to see her go. Since Anna will still live on Vashon after her departure from *The Beachcomber*, it is my hope that her writing will be available to Islanders as a guest reporter or through some other means.
Roger Fulton

Thank You!
The Graduation Celebration committee for 2005 would like to give a big "Thank You" to Troy Kindred for his help with 'Vashon Idyll Deux'. His sound system and help with putting it up made all the difference for the production! We made enough money to get all scholarships covered and hire nice buses (instead of school buses) for the big graduation party night. We appreciate his willingness to help so much! Thanks to you, too, for such great coverage with photos and all!
Graduation Celebration Committee for 2005
Tammy Hiltz, Mary Langland, Tom DeVries, Mary Margaret Pearson, Bonnie DeSteiguer, Char Phillips, Kris Sovde, Herb Beck, Susy Roberts
Ass Ed: Aw, shucks. You're welcome. Next year, can I sing?

As The Rock Turns

Continued from page 1
meeting at Courthouse Square on June 16 at 6:00, preceded by a social half hour at 5:30.
But back to partying...
Dancing Queens and Brick Houses alike had a marvelous, sweaty time last Saturday night at the Disco Soccer Ball fundraiser organized by Jane of Jane's Fun and Adventure Club. Those of you who stayed home to watch *Law and Order* re-runs missed a good time. But you'll have another chance to get down with your bad selves: On Saturday, June 11 (well after graduation festivities) come shake your groove thang to Loose Change at Bishop's. New chick singers have joined the band, and they are hot!
As I write on this Memorial Day, I can't help but reflect on what a great community this is. I'm looking forward to another summer of fun on Vashon—and my 32nd consecutive Strawberry Festival. When I make it to my 50th Festival, I want to be Grand Marshal. Please make a note.

Hawe!
Vashon, it is spring and that means baby deer. Please remember: if you find a fawn in the woods please do not touch it. The mothers go off and leave their fawns while they forage. The babies are not abandoned.
Also please do not handle sick or injured wildlife, especially bats. Please call us, 463-9113 or a vet or the police.
Wolftown does feed out dead deer but they must be fresh and killed by trauma (hit by a car, etc.,) not by disease.
Wolftown is finishing up our wildlife rehab permits and we need help building some facilities for them. Can you help? Do you have materials?
We are working closely with Island Wildlife of Bainbridge for support. Right now, we are also able to airlift wildlife off-island. Thanks to Misty Isle for letting us use their airfield.
Thanks Vashon! A big howl from Wolftown!
T. Martino

Funding Approved

Continued from page 1
an attempt to maintain appropriate staffing levels with substantially less funding than most every other ALS provider. As our system was experiencing severe stress, so were the other three. As a result, County EMS director Thomas Hearne undertook a regional approach to remedying all issues at once.
Following a lengthy, and at times testy, eight-month process, Dr. Hearne recently announced additional funding to fully staff Vashon Medic One, Woodinville Medic 35, and North Bend Medic 3. Vashon's portion of the funding package will provide for 90% medic unit funding for the duration of the EMS levy. What does that mean for the Vashon community? It indicates that through consistent advocacy, Vashon Island has finally reached near parity with the balance of the County in the eyes of the medical community. Nearly full funding permits full paramedic staffing as well as provides adequate funding to properly manage an emergency medical delivery system. It also represents near parity in funding without increasing taxes for Vashon residents. In fact, it is probably one of the few examples of actually receiving more funding returning to our islands than we pay. At current levy rates Vashon will pay \$406,843 and receive back \$1,334,451 in direct funding.
In the coming months the community will benefit from two new experienced paramedics. In addition up to two students will be sent to University of Washington/Harborview Paramedic Training beginning October 2005. The net result will be full paramedic staffing for Vashon by August 2006 and full compliance with system guidelines issued by the County's medical control physicians.



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Marie and Troy

Army Corps Hearing

Continued from page 1

She heard 30-40 people say just how contrary it would be. Here are some high points. The two Glacier representatives remained silent.

King County Councilman Dow Constantine spoke first. “The billions needed to restore salmon runs don’t even include efforts to protect the orcas. Will we just wait to see if mitigations actually work or finally ‘just say no’?”

Ken Kadlec, aide to Congressman Jim McDermott, acknowledged aides from Senators Murray and Cantwell and three other congressmen. Then he read a statement from Rep. McDermott: “This project is the free enterprise system gone wild”. The mess in Puget Sound “happened piecemeal, with individual businesses or landowners trying to extract the maximum from ‘their’ property. The end result is the degradation of the common resource. ...The highest and best use of this property is in its natural state...”

Susie Kalhorn testified that a lack of data makes the Dockton Water Board very doubtful “that the proposed mine will have no significant impacts on our water supply.”

Jeff Hogan and Anne Stateler, with research from Mark Sears and Dr. David Bain, presented information on killer whales who, by the way, favor our side of the Sound. From Nov. 30, 2004 through March, 2005, members of J,K and L Pods were seen at least 15 days. We “cannot rule out the possibility that calving is occurring in our waters” as 11 of the 14 newborns of the past few years were first sighted off Maury and Vashon. This area is an important sanctuary for lactating mothers and their newborns—not a place for industrial racket.

Emma Amiad said that concerns about the mine have impacted property values in Gold Beach and Sandy Shores by 25% or more.

Scuba diver Karlista Rickerson expressed her concern that vibrations from the first tugboats would destroy the sunken barges which provide a home to a myriad of sea life.

Tess Rinearson, age 11, suggested the Corps read *Collapse*, by Jared Diamond. “In fact, my dad and I have brought you each a copy.”

A new fish study, presented by Laura Wishik and Joseph Bogaard shows that although chinook aren’t found in island streams, they are as abundant on our shores as on the mainland— *all year round!* Fish construction windows should not be mid-July through Oct as previously assumed. September is the only month in which construction would be safe for fish which come from as far as the Skagit River! Terry Dievendorf of the Sierra Club said that only 50% of original eelgrass fish habitat in Puget Sound remains. He submitted noise impact studies on fish.

Kathy Fletcher, of People for Puget Sound, claimed that this fight is about all of Puget Sound, which is

declining “one permit at a time”. She is also concerned about the increased risk of oil spills.

Becky Cox, from the League of Women Voters, told about Seahurst Beach where a dock was denied. The fully restored natural beach was dedicated recently by the City of Burien, “as a national example of excellent science and political will. This site should be our Seahurst Beach.”

Evan Justin, science teacher at McMurray and formerly a scientist for the Corps, said that he questions the wisdom of “cutting an island down to its watershed and not expecting landslides between two perched water tables.”

Christine Alkire was concerned that “Glacier would be using our water to mitigate the dust when water limits the growth of the island.”

Tim Robinson suggested that NW Aggregates “submit a Cleanup Action Plan, in case the containment berm should fail and send contaminants into Puget Sound”.

Toby Welch extolled the virtues of the uplands trails and their multigenerational use.

Ed Swan told how declining fish stocks are affecting bird species. Western Grebes are down 95% and others 75-90%. Rayna Holtz pointed to the bluffs as important nesting sites for Northern Rough-Winged Swallows, Pigeon Guillemots and Kingfishers.

“Because Glacier has ample resources, they may be able to lean on the decision-making process until it yields...” bemoaned Elliott Libman. “Are the wishes of a corporation more important than those of the effected people?”

Lori King stated “This island belongs to the people who love it and who live here— not a foreign conglomerate who would so cavalierly rape the land for profit.”

5 Alarm News

Islanders for Representative Fire Leadership

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Laurie Geissinger felt the project would be like “Extracting a kidney from a fragile and unwilling donor.”

Jack Barbash is concerned about the madrone forest, which is one of the healthiest in the state. Studies of fish bellies indicate that up to 50% of their food is insects from overhanging branches.

“When you fly into Seatac, you see a chain of emerald islands in a sea of blue...pure poetry,” reflected John Candy. “To turn that into an industrial site... seems unbelievable.”

Rick Dahms got a big applause when he reminded everyone of Glacier’s criminal record.

The only multi-generational islander who spoke was concerned with possible petroleum spills and has a real problem with “them ripping up the beach”. He also expressed concern for the area’s “strange little lizards and unusual grasses.”

As each single voice shed light on various facets of the project and its impacts, this community spoke with one voice. No one was in favor.

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Troy and Marie



Spiritual Smart Aleck

by Mary Litchfield Tuel

My Husband's Birthday



A few months ago I asked my husband, Rick, how he would like to celebrate his 60th birthday. Would you like to have a big party here, or would you like to go down to California and celebrate with your folks?

He said, “Are those my only choices?” This is classic Rick. Then he said he’d rather take the trip.

So we’ve been planning, as much as we plan, to take off today and head down to California. If you are reading this, you know we have not taken off yet. It’s not quite noon. I’m not sure if Rick has started packing yet.

Once we arrive down in the Bay Area, we’ll have a reunion with Rick’s dad and step-mom, and on Saturday afternoon a few friends will show up to wish Rick a happy birthday and eat pizza.

Rick’s dad was an Army lifer, which made Rick an Army brat. Rick says that as a military family they made friends in each new posting, and then when his dad was transferred they packed up and said good-bye and did not expect to see anyone again.

He grew up in various parts of the world, with occasional stays in his mother’s hometown of Dover, Ohio. Early on they lived in Japan for a few years. When they came back to America, Rick says he spoke a pidgin language that was neither English nor Japanese, and he had to take the first grade over again.

After that they lived in Salzburg, Austria, where Rick taught himself to play the ukulele, “because I didn’t speak German.” Then they lived at Fort Ord while Rick’s dad attended the language school in Monterey.

Rick taught himself to play four-string banjo, doing Elvis Presley songs for laughs. “There’s nothing quite like ‘Heartbreak Hotel’ played on the four-string banjo,” he says.

They lived in the exotic locale of Glendale, California, for a few years, and Rick loved going out to

Corriganville, named for “Crash” Corrigan, movie cowboy and stuntman. It was a movie set of an old west town where B-westerns were filmed in the fifties, but little Ricky dressed up in his hat, chaps, and cap pistols and went out there and lived the dream. We have pictures.

In the late fifties, Rick’s dad was stationed in Germany. They lived in Kaiserslautern. This is where Rick’s performing career began.



By the age of fourteen Rick had learned to play guitar. He teamed up with another kid named Terry MacNeil, and later with a kid named Jim Hutchinson, or “Hutch.” They named themselves, “The Balladiers,” and played at USO clubs all over what was then West Germany.

This was the Army, though, so Terry’s dad was rotated out and Rick never saw him again. Then Rick’s dad came back to the States and retired, and settled in Marin. We don’t know what happened to Hutch. We found out last year that Terry went on to be in a band called Sopwith Camel, so he and Rick were both in the Bay Area in the mid-60s, and didn’t know it.

Rick played at folk clubs in Sausalito and San Rafael while he finished high school, then went into the Navy, which shipped him off to Vietnam. He came back from the war a changed man, and in 1970 he and his friend Chris Howie packed up their guitars and moved to the Northwest, where somehow they landed on Vashon Island.

And now, this musical prodigy, my husband, is going to turn 60 next Saturday. You hear all your life how fast your life is going to go by, but it still hits you in the face like a plank. It’s been a great trip, though, and it’s been great sharing the last thirty years or so with him.


Sometime after three o’clock next Saturday, Terry MacNeil is going to show up at Rick’s folks’ house. Rick does not know he’s coming. They haven’t seen each other for forty-three years. I can hardly wait.

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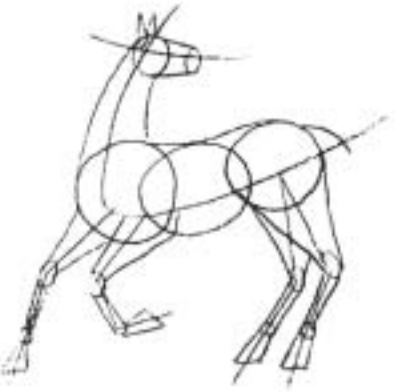


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I can remember when the air was clean and sex was dirty. — George Burns (1896 - 1996)

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Don't Forget the Birds

By Ed Swan

Evening Grosbeaks

Just the other day I saw the first Evening Grosbeak to visit a feeder at my house on Vashon. The grosbeak name comes from their very thick but short bill. They have big, dark heads with bright white and black wings. Male's backs and fronts appear a bright, golden yellow while the females show gray-green.

Evening Grosbeaks have the same tendency to wander as many other species also in the finch family. One year the birds may be numerous and widespread and the next only one or two might be seen or heard. Large numbers seem to be linked to



Jim Rosso photo of Evening Grosbeak

insect infestations of trees, especially spruce budworm outbreaks. At other times the birds feed extensively on the seeds and fruits of native and domesticated trees and shrubs such as Pacific Madrone, conifer and Big Leaf Maple seeds. They readily come to bird feeders, preferring black oil sunflower seeds. At times a large flock may take over a bird feeder.

Spring and fall migration periods in May and September seem to be the best times of year to be on watch for Evening Grosbeaks. They do show up at other times of the year and could very well breed on the island from time to time. If you have ever seen them nesting or feeding young,

please let me know for Vashon Audubon chapter database of breeding bird records. Listening for the piercing "peaer" call note as they fly overhead makes the likeliest way to actually spot them.

Everyone with a sunflower seed feeder on the island likely has also seen the related and brightly colored Black-headed Grosbeak. The males have black heads (what a surprise) and bright orange bodies with black and white wings. Females have brown and white striped heads and wings and yellow-tan bodies. Their song sounds much like a robin, and mornings lately have assumed an avian version of the battle of the bands between the grosbeaks and the robins. These grosbeaks have probably gone from non-existent a hundred or so years ago before the clearing of coniferous forests to quite common each spring and summer now that much of the island consists of mixed deciduous

and coniferous forest.

Interesting birds keep on showing up along with the usual returning breeders. Rich Siegrist observed a Townsend's Solitaire in mid May. Only one or two come through Vashon each year with almost all sightings occurring in April. Carole Elder found a MacGillivray's warbler by her north end yard May 9, another bird usually only seen once or twice each year. She also saw a Mourning Dove on May 8. Joy Nelsen heard Bullock's Orioles at her place near Pt. Robinson and also up by the old highway on the north end. Bullock's Orioles expanded their range and population


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in western Washington in the last several decades, utilizing the deciduous growth along riparian areas that sprang up with the logging of the previously coniferous forests. They now breed rarely on Vashon. Kathryn True saw three Turkey Vultures over northwest Vashon on May 22. They probably were migrating; for some reason Vashon doesn't appear to get any vultures that stick around despite all of the road kill on the highway. Of the usual migrants coming in, I heard the first Western Wood Pewees at my place along Paradise Ridge on May



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17 and Carole Elder saw the first Yellow Warbler May 23. If you have an interesting sighting or a question about local birds, call me at 463-7976 or email at edswan@centurytel.net.



Jim Rosso photo of Black-headed Grosbeak

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- Down**
1. Tap
2. Entire
3. Hotel
4. Police
5. Eager
6. Attack
7. Cry
8. Character on "Seinfeld"
9. Followed closely
10. Tub spread
11. African city
12. Computer makers
13. Beverage
18. Toddler
22. Stared
23. Used
24. Chief executive officer
25. Pull
26. Do business
27. Fall mo.
29. Delivery service
30. Pacific Standard Time

- Across**
1. File
5. Resources
10. Leave out
14. Dog food brand
15. Bowed stringed instrument
16. Ear part
17. Storeveggiesin
19. Writer Bombeck
20. Turf
21. Eskimo home
23. Eight
26. Beneficiary
28. 8 oz.
31. Sign of the zodiac
32. Encounter
35. Football assoc.
36. Meditating god
38. Single
40. Pros
41. Barrier
42. Popular president's initials
43. Promissory note
44. Replaces incumbent
45. Hoopla
46. Women's partners
47. Pen stuff
48. Disks
51. Verse meter

32. What the confederates tried to do
33. Cycles per second
34. Not the upbeat
37. Bird perch
39. Butane
40. A fox's hole (2 wds.)
42. Baseball playing area
45. Theoretical
49. Pain unit
50. Crown
53. Terminate
54. Fear
55. Angels' head wear
56. Basins
58. Holding device
60. Harden
52. Upland
56. Place
57. Book by Homer
59. For fear that
60. Color
61. Revolutions per minute
62. Unrefined metal
64. School group
65. Place
66. Take to court
67. Snacked
68. Neither's partner

61. Memorization
63. Of both parties
69. V.P.'s boss
70. Take off shoes
71. Motor vehicle
72. Be introduced
73. Sordid
74. Stags

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Island Life

Text & photos by *Peter Ray*

Imagine All The People

This was going to be about leaves, but sometimes you just have veer from the intended path. The original concept for the postcard project, after all, was that the images would drive the writing. I did have some pictures of foliage in various states of translucent illumination, and well, I still do. But they can wait, since last time around we had our way with plants and gardens. There is something to say as well for the fresh and the new, and since these latest pictures were just captured in the magical digital box yesterday and splashed onto the bigger home monitor last night. Even with the display function on the back of the camera, one is never sure about what is there until it is on the screen, or better yet, on paper. I have always been amused by the question coming from anyone who sees you clicking away with a camera: “Did you get any good shots?” My answer is usually something like, “We’ll see.” The question takes much longer to be answered in the realm of negatives and transparencies, but even with the digital image, I always wait to be hard-wired at home before I can safely say yes or no to the query. Since I was able to answer twice in the positive last night, it seemed appropriate to run in this different direction, so here we go.

I am not a fan of the music festival, although I used to be. There was a time when Bumbershoot was fun. Back in the early eighties when Seattle was still somewhat of an undiscovered outpost, Bumbershoot had both a sense of alternative community and end of the Summer ritual. I went there to hear music, run into people that I hadn’t seen in a while and participate in the set of

seasonal closure festivities that sent one home ready to get buttoning down for the dark months ahead and the return of the light to follow. Somewhere along the way it, and pretty much everything else around here, just got too big, and what was once fun just became another sheep and lemming march—at least to me. Although I hadn’t been in a while, the Folklife Festival always seemed to be at least somewhat immune to big and overwhelmingness. One could assume that this was due mostly to the greater probability, and actuality, of rain on that particular parade. And, well, the music wasn’t rock—it was that fiddle and banjo crap that Martin Mull always used to talk about, I think. This was definitely not the case yesterday, however, with clear skies and record temperatures, the once quaint and folky goings on at Seattle Center felt more like the cattle-call, sweat and flesh fest of late Summer; there were people everywhere and a surprising amount of rockin’ beats, and it wasn’t long before I really needed a beer.



If one were to let the truth out of the bag, I wouldn’t have been anywhere near the Seattle Center yesterday if Wendy hadn’t suggested it. My reasons for this aversion became clearer as we mingled through the masses on our circuit of the Center grounds. I tend to hyperventilate in situations like these, but in more of a metaphorical than actual sense. Coming from the wide Island spaces, all I saw as I looked around there were the overflowing streets of Calcutta and Bombay that friends who had been to India earlier this year had described it. The only thing missing was the sewage and the garbage and the rats and I guess that absence was a good thing. But the difference in speed from the slow, seemingly mindless and mostly unmindful meanderings

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of the crowd, and all the images flying through my own mind full of world overpopulation pictures and the page after page memory of recently digested reporting from the three-part *New Yorker* articles on global warming, all served to twist things up a bit for me inside. Then I saw the light and water.

My earliest memory of the fountain at Seattle Center goes back to 1980, just after I arrived in town. I do not remember the reason, only that I was wandering through there on a mid Fall evening and an old-fashioned Northwest misty rain filled the air in that not-so-drenching way. There was nobody there except me, but the fountain was going, along with some piped-in classical music that was synchronized with the alternating spray. I think it was that solace and solitude that I was seeking yesterday when I saw the silver spurts and spray above and through the passing masses. The sun was at the right angle, and I had a feeling there was a photo there, so I mentioned I would like to take a closer look. The third click of the shutter found the image I was looking for. It is the earth spewing forth water in abundance; at least that is how we seem to see it. There are people in silhouette—some standing, some playing and some running, caught in mid-stride. There is a sense of celebration here, along with the memory of recent talk of drought and the need to conserve. Sometimes life can be a bit confusing in this way, if you stop and think about it.



Wendy had been monitoring my agitation, and when I mentioned the growing need for some mental relaxant, we headed for the beer

garden. I didn’t let the nod and wave through by the ID checker bother me too much, although there are times when you don’t necessarily want to look that old. We grabbed some beers and listened to a sound check from the nearby stage, and I watched the planes fly by the Space Needle looming almost overhead. It was in the *Weekly Reader* that I first saw that space age spire. It was a time of World’s Fairs and all the hope for the future they could put on display. It also made me a bit jealous because my friend Curt was about to move all the way out there from New York, and he would be able to see that future embodied in the Fair and the Needle and the amazing monorail. Like that future, I have no idea where Curt is either.

On our way in to Folklife, there was a couple standing in a parking lot. He was wedged between two cars in a likewise crammed full lot. She was crouched a distance away, trying to get both him and the Space Needle in the picture. They were foreign tourists—it doesn’t really matter from where. What I was wondering was why one would choose to take that picture there? I suppose that in some way, standing in a sea of cars with the Space Needle in the background is an appropriate view of Seattle, but it isn’t really one I’d like to promote, encourage or bring home with me. I was thinking about that couple and any number of reasons not to take a Space Needle picture when I leaned back and looked up; I had to set my beer down to get the camera out. As for Folklife, the Children of the Revolution put on a great show and spoke of the need for unity through music in these weird times. On the way out, I ran into a guy I swam with twenty years ago in Masters; I guess the town isn’t that big after all.

There are two postcards this week, one buck for each one. Or if you’d like, send any amount to receive these cards and more in the future. Please specify if you would like to receive them as individual postcards, or get them in a packet to send out yourself. Make sure you include your mailing address. Send all requests

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The Film Thing

By Peter Ray pgr42@worldnet.att.net

Rhymes With Bash

When I heard that there was a new movie coming out entitled **Crash**, my first thought was along the lines of: "...why did somebody decide to remake THAT film?" What I was thinking of was the 1996 film of the same name, based on a novel by science fiction writer J.G.Ballard and directed by David Cronenberg. That **Crash** was, and still is, one of the most strangely erotic films I have ever seen. As it turns out, this latest **Crash** has nothing to do with the earlier one (I will not say the first one, since it seems there have been a number of other films and TV shows with this same name). What they do have in common is ensemble casts driving around in lots of cars with a fair helping of crumpled chrome and steel. There is an odd sense of connection woven through both films. Ballard's **Crash** is driven by a somewhat twisted take on the sensuality we experience through the automobile, while in this latest **Crash** from writer/director Paul Haggis, cars are the designated symbol of alienation, status and greed.

The main premise of this **Crash** is laid out in the very first scene in a voice over by Don Cheadle's character, a detective in the Los Angeles Police Department. What he is saying is that because there has developed such an emotional, racial and psychological distance between the people's of L.A. that they have lost the sense of the physical touch between human beings. The only way left for anyone to feel anything anymore is just to crash into each other. What this reminds me of is a song from The Who's bass player, John Entwistle, whose lyrics went something like "...gonna smash my head against the wall, 'cuz I'd rather feel bad than feel nothing at all." In truth, I've never really bought into that philosophy, and the nearly two hours of emotional noggin bashing that this **Crash** offers has done nothing to change that opinion.

'Uncomfortable' would have to be the word I'd use to describe most of the feeling I got from the bulk of this film. Like another head bashing analogy, there are moments when the beatings stop, and yes, doggone it, it does feel good then. But to say that this makes things better would be a bit like saying that comedy sketches about George W's inability to stitch together two coherent

sentences in a row makes everything right with the ongoing onslaught from the Rovian Dynasty up on the hill. Well, maybe it's not that bad—the movie, that is.

There are a number of subplots spinning here as we follow a rather stellar ensemble cast through a day in L.A. It is Graham (Cheadle) who is the pivot point around which all these plots spin. There is a hillside

discovery that starts this all off, the substance and meaning of which we are not privy to until the end. There are, in fact, lots of these secrets, the answers to which we are

granted along the way. Because of the size and diversity of the cast, the only character given any chance of depth and development is Cheadle's. If everyone here had been thoroughly explored, the nearly two hour running time would have been greatly extended, and the theater clean up crews would have had a hard time determining what was the waste paper on the floor and what were the crumpled remains of the emotionally battered viewers—sort of. This being said, the only character I would really like to have seen more developed was Jean's. Here we find Sandra Bullock in what could be described as her Ms. Uncongenialty role. 'Bitch' is a kind term for this person, and anything else that might be said about her can't really be printed here. We get a vague hint toward the end that she really does have a clue about the kind of person she is, but how she got there to begin with and where she planned to go with her minor revelation would have been a bit more interesting than a lot of the other avenues we are driven down.

In the lands of conspiracy theories, pulling up the draw bridge on paradise and product displacement, it might be said that **Crash** exists as a kind of anti-tourism campaign. If I were an alien from this planet or elsewhere and saw this film, I would steer clear of L.A. One could also put a bit of a religious spin on all of this by saying that if this is indeed the City of Angels, albeit a fictionalization of it, I would hate to see what hell is like.



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Dating on an Island

by Jessie Preste

On Line Dating 101



Hmmm....my horoscope for today says,” Your determination makes for great communication early in the day, so send that text message, email, or invitation. By this afternoon though, some radical romantic change is on the way.” Now I don’t really know how anything is going to happen this afternoon with me wilting under a hot sun in the predictably long Friday afternoon ferry line from hell, but we’ll see. Usually I’m just so wrung out after that ordeal that I barely have enough strength even to wink at someone, let alone say “hello.”

However, speaking of romance, I am very amazed to report that some singles seemingly have found contentment with a partner! One particular couple in question got interested in a variety of social activities through my column and Jane’s Fun and Adventure Club, got acquainted or reacquainted as the case may be, at one of Jane’s Dinner Parties, and were recently spotted walking hand in hand. So it IS possible! I wish you both the best!

On the Island here, speed dating hasn’t quite gotten off the ground, so we’re going to venture on to the on-line dating world. I visited the topic briefly a couple of articles ago, but I haven’t really explored the idea in depth. Most of us singles have visited the on-line parade, at least in a cursory fashion. So, let’s take a look at the idea and a couple of the web sites out there.

In case you don’t know anything about the on-line dating community, I’ll explain it a bit here. Basically, you can scope out pictures and bios of other folks looking for new people to meet. You can specify gender, age range,

and distance from your zip code in all sites. In some, you can even get more specific, like what kind of sense of humor, educational background, or general lifestyle you prefer. You can usually run searches for free, or maybe even send a wink (a little icon of a face winking at the person) for free, but you have to sign up to send anything more substantial like an email. Me, I am a rabid winker. I figure if I send out a dozen or so winks, I’ll get at least one response back.

First, we have the ever popular Match.com. You used to be able to send a wink just after doing a search, but apparently can’t anymore. First, you sign up for free and then you can read more in-depth info about the person you are interested in. If you want to send an email, then you will have to subscribe. There are various fun compatibility quizzes you can take, and then see how the other person matches up with you. If you do subscribe and email, then you don’t actually get their email address or vice versa; it goes through the Match.com system to keep it anonymous. If you want to email outside the system, then be smart and use a hotmail.com or yahoo.com address. In case you may have forgotten, there are always some loonies in every crowd.

EHarmony.com is an interesting site and matches up 29 or 30 points of compatibility for you. You sign up for free, complete the required survey, and then EHarmony sends you photos and bios of people who match your preferences exactly. If you look at them and decide you wish to email someone, then it is time to subscribe. I believe you can get a one, three, or six month subscription, maybe even up to a year.

My personal favorite is Matchmaker.com. I used to be a member, and as I recall, you can fill out a free profile, and then browse and maybe even send and receive email for free. I am certain that money enters into it at some point; otherwise it wouldn’t be a company.

As a part of checking out the on-line world of dating, the Group is going to meet at Rock Island again to have a profile writing party for the on-line site of your choice. So, if you’d like to come out, get a little help on what to write and how to do it, and maybe laugh uproariously occasionally, come on out to **Rock Island Pizza next Tuesday, June 7th, around 7 p.m.**

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Take Out

THE DORSAL SPIN: Sacred Space for Orcas and Humans

By Orca Annie Stateler, VHP
Coordinator



Odin and I beamed with civic pride when we saw the turnout at the Army Corps of Engineers hearing on replacing Glacier’s dock. We were moved by the passionate and often eloquent testimony on behalf of orcas, birds, salmon, herring, the madrone forest, and future generations of all Island flora and fauna. Well done, defenders of Vashon-Maury!

PLEASE REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS ASAP TO 463-9041. I received an intriguing report of a possible humpback sighting off the south end on May 15. Is Dalco back?

Thanks also to Nicole, who called with a helpful report on May 24. Apparently we had a few Transient killer whales in the neighborhood. Regrettably, I did not see them and they did not reveal their presence on the hydrophone. They could have easily changed direction somewhere off the north end of Vashon. The Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) wants to hear from you if you saw these orcas.

Killer whales, foxes, and bunnies, oh my! A plethora of marvelous critter encounters to fill two articles. From May 20 – 23, Odin and I were on San Juan Island for Orca Fest. On May 21, we did part of our Keet Shuka program for the Taste of Friday Harbor and a lecture about the importance of Native wisdom in killer whale conservation for The Whale Museum’s marine mammal conservation symposium.

Fellow Vashonite Billy Jarcho was also at Orca Fest with his Zambini Brothers puppet show “Annie and the Enchanted Whale.”

Dave Bain had the lecture slot before us at the symposium, so I personally thanked him for his invaluable guidance on Glacier hearing testimony. Like Mark Sears, who could not attend the hearing due to urgent family matters, Dave’s work was cited by many speakers.

Since we were at Orca Fest, in the heart of summer territory for J, K, and

L Pods, we sang a Tlingit song to honor killer whale clans and the Southern Residents. J Pod has been seen regularly around the San Juans since April.

As we finished our symposium talk, we were astonished to hear that L Pod was inbound from the Strait of Juan de Fuca, for the first time this season. Historically, L Pod often arrives in June. Though the two pods were not yet within acoustic range of each other, J Pod seemed in a hurry to return to Haro Strait from the Gulf Islands, as if anticipating L Pod’s arrival.

On May 22, we had a rewarding encounter with our beloved orcas, not far from Lime Kiln whale watch park on the west side of San Juan Island. We were thrilled to be with old friends we have not seen for a while, like big boys L57 (Faith) and L41 (Mega).

We saw a great deal of exuberant surface activity: spyhops, breaches, cartwheels, tail slaps, inverted tail slaps, pec slaps. Some whales gathered in intimate, mixed sex groups. J’s and L’s were socializing extensively, undoubtedly engaging in “orky schlorky,” (a highly technical term for courting and mating), creating the next generation of Southern Residents.

The two pods split up by the next day, when we had to leave the island. L Pod headed west and J Pod went north again. L Pod has not been seen or heard since. We feel extremely privileged that we had an opportunity to visit with them. Perhaps the Southern Residents showed us their appreciation for giving voice to their needs at the Army Corps hearing.

I humbly submit that keet yek, “killer whale spirit,” moves in ways we simple two-leggeds can not fully comprehend. Draw your own conclusions. Contact Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com or 463-9041.

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My Life as the Duck in a Shooting Gallery

By Sandy Friedlander

As a person with Environmental Illness, aka Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, my typical day bears a strange resemblance to what life might be for a duck in a shooting gallery.

The game begins when I leave the safety of my own apartment. Like that shooting gallery duck, I may start walking in one direction and then, at random and all-too-frequent intervals, find the need to turn tail and head in another direction as dangers, invisible to others, appear clearly to me. A little way in the new direction, and I'm turned around again by the next hazard.

Back and forth I go, with the primary difference between me and that duck (besides the fact that I'm alive, although possibly not for long) is that in my game, nobody ever wins a prize.

Why this strange existence, you ask? It's all due to a weird and complicated health condition that no one can agree on what to name, much less how to treat. Most commonly, it's referred to as "Environmental Illness." But since it is largely caused by human-manufactured chemicals, why blame the environment—the natural environment, that is—which is suffering at least as much damage as my sick compadres and I?

Misnomered Environmental Illness is also often referred to as "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity," which sounds too much like a set of some fussy diva's complaints. Alternatively, if you aren't listening closely, it sounds too much like "Multiple Personality," and don't we ducks have enough problems already?

One of my favorite alternative names for Environmental Illness, or EI (Ai! Ai!) is Toxicant Induced Loss of Tolerance, or— and this is why I like it— TILT.

TILT has onomatopoeia—it sounds a lot like the involuntary chemical-addled state of brain and body in which I, and other EIs (persons with Environmental Illness), spend so much time.

Whatever you may call it, having MCS (Multiple Chemical Sensitivity) or Environmental Illness (or Whatever-itis) means that one can get severe symptoms from such everyday chemicals as perfumes, colognes, hairs products, scented anti-perspirants and deodorants, cleaning solvents, fabric softeners (especially harmful), and other fragranced products that people use habitually on themselves, in their homes, cars and public spaces.

Vehicular fuels and exhaust, woodsmoke, cigarette smoke, smoke of any sort, natural gas, herbicides and fungicides are also serious problems; pesticides are deadly. Anything that leaves a lingering scent, or that is sprayed out of an aerosol can, is probably going to present a major health challenge to the person with MCS, as are as any number of odorless chemicals in common usage.

This does not make for a great social life.

It requires, in fact, a section here on Social and Cultural Weirdnesses of Living with MCS. Picture this: You, an EI, are standing on a street corner, having a pleasant conversation with someone you'd like to know better (hubba hubba, perhaps). Along comes a truck, spewing black smelly fumes which you know, from unhappy experience, will knock you on your behiney if you continue to stand there.

Your choices at that point fall into three categories —

1.) Dying for the Cause Mode (or, The Kamikazi Conversation): Continue the conversation and suffer the consequences, which may include bad drugtrip-like or intoxication-like physical and emotional symptoms: sudden incoherence, abrupt weeping or rage, memory loss, more incoherence, fainting, seizure, ceasing to breathe now or later. Et cetera.

2.) Science Fiction Mode: Clap onto your face a protective mask or respirator which, depending on brand, will leave you looking like some sinister surgeon or mad scientist, a giant bug, or Darth Vader (Bride of Darth, if female).

3.) Greet 'n Run Mode (or, Fleeing is Fun): Abruptly abandoning the scene, leaving the other person wondering what happened. Because if you stick around long enough to explain why you need to leave, you are breathing more fumes, thereby leaving yourself open to Option #1.

If you come into MCS single, you may need to kiss your possibilities of pairing goodbye—indeed, you may never again get much else to kiss. I, however, have chosen the option of a wild three-way intimate relationship between Me, Myself and I. It's a little repetitious, but it saves a lot of dough on birth control and safe sex devices. OK, that's a slight exaggeration. If a survey taker came to my door, and I didn't pass out or become incoherent from their cologne, I might list "The Television" as my Significant Other. Maybe the VCR too. Does that count as a love triangle?

Of course, there's a serious side to all this. Lots of them, in fact. I'm putting a humorous spin on MCS/EI partly as an effort to hang onto my own constantly escaping sanity, and partly so that you, The Gentle Reader, won't run screaming from the vital info which I am here attempting to impart.

For your world, too, could come to this. As could that of your loved ones. And we don't want that.

ooooo



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Thoughts About Effluent

Continued from page 1

simple, effective and inexpensive. Simple because it relies on basic laws like gravity to work, effective because it naturally and efficiently processes human waste, and cheap because it requires only rare and inexpensive maintenance and does not demand the regular infusion of other resources (electricity, chemicals, money) to keep working, day and night, without attention.

The septic systems at the high school and McMurray are two such systems. They are hugely oversized for the volumes they must handle; they were properly designed and installed and have functioned marvelously for many years. Thorough testing was conducted during the last round of "long range" planning, about ten years ago, and both systems were pronounced to be in excellent condition at that time. Very little drainfield capacity had been utilized, the water exiting the septic tanks was "almost good enough to drink" according to the consultants hired to interpret test results, and up to that time the tanks had not required pumping. The systems had not failed or required repair in the 25 or so years since their installation. There was no reason, at that time, to expect that they would wear out or fail in any way in the foreseeable future. In the unlikely event that an individual leg of drainfield should breakout or become unusable, other parts of the leach area could be utilized since much less than half of the drainfield had ever been "dosed" up to that time. These systems were truly built for the long haul.

Now, however, the abandonment of these systems seems to be a top priority for the school district, according to the new consultants. Has something

happened recently to make these systems quit working? Is there any logic to this proposal from an ecological, economic or political standpoint?

We have some experience with the proposed option of hooking up to the sewer district since we chose to do that with the Chautauqua building. In addition to the regular service fees, the system at Chautauqua has not been trouble free. There have been problems with pumps and switches over the years. Most recently, for example, the control box was damaged, possibly during the big repair last summer, and the "automatic" switching system failed. Until it was repaired, somebody had to physically switch the system on as needed. Would it be safe to assume that this system has cost the district more, in maintenance attention, repair work and outright costs, during its short life than both of the other systems have cost in their long ones?

The costs associated with "big sewer" will clearly exceed the costs of any of the onsite alternatives. In addition, on site treatment is low impact and responsible, returning water to the aquifer and atmosphere, providing nutrients to the soil, and setting a good example of responsible stewardship of resources. Can anyone make the case that spending our way into a high-tech, machine driven, maintenance intensive program of paying to export raw sewage to a less responsible destination makes good ecological sense?

Sewage is not toxic waste; system failures are not program threatening. Is there any demonstrable advantage in opting for a more complex, costly, and troublesome system? ooooo

PUD Proposed to Address Septic Crisis

Continued from page 1

My committee and I are convinced that there is a real crisis brewing, a crisis that should stimulate us to take some action. The number of septic system failures in Puget Sound has grown to the point that our government regulators and legislators are proposing solutions. And these solutions will have a direct impact on Vashon Island homeowners, who are in the path of the oncoming regulatory train. Your Septic Solutions Committee thinks that there are some possible solutions, described below, that could save us all a lot of money and time, but we need to get started working on them now, and not wait for the regulations to hit us later on.

We have a real problem here. The data collected over the past twenty years reveal a widespread pattern of failed and failing septic systems that are polluting our near shore environment, our land, and our ground water. The whole east side of the Island and Quartermaster Harbor have had shellfish closures; fecal coliform has been detected all over the Island, and nitrogen pollution is widely evident in the heavy growth of algae along our coast and in the near oxygen depletion in Quartermaster Harbor every summer. Recent surveys have estimated that a third to a half of our shoreline septsics have failed or are failing.

It's not surprising to find this kind of problem. Many of the homes here were built as summer cabins, when septic regulations were lax or non-existent. Others were built many years ago when regulations were entirely different. Septic systems don't last forever, and as systems get older, it's natural that they would fail. And they do.

Vashon Island is not alone in this. The entire Puget Sound area suffers from widespread septic failures, from Hood Canal to the San Juan Islands. As more and more people settle here and build homes on difficult and challenging property far from the nearest sewer system, the number of septic systems continues to grow. Along with that growth is an increase in the number of failures and the consequent water pollution and public health hazards.

The growing pollution problem has been recognized for a couple of decades. In 1995, state legislation was passed to encourage counties to clean up their failed septsics. This was a mostly voluntary program with little funding, and so it failed. While some counties took it seriously and tried to do something, many were so overwhelmed by existing regulatory and permitting requirements that they had no time or resources to worry about this kind of issue. Pollution levels continued to rise until today anaerobic conditions are common in many parts of the Sound, directly caused by failing septsics.

This last legislative session, a bill was introduced in the House to apply much more stringent enforcement

policies. The legislation passed the House, but failed in the Senate, apparently stopped in the Rules committee by senators who were concerned about costs to their constituents. But in a parallel process, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has been developing new and much more stringent regulations on septsics, very similar to the stopped legislation. That process continues today. The final draft of those regulations was released in January and is now under consideration, and after the requisite number of public hearings it is likely to be adopted, as early as by the end of the summer.

Both the Legislature's and the DOH's approaches are quite similar. Counties are to develop a comprehensive database of septic systems within their jurisdiction, identify those that are polluting or failed or failing, and then do something about it. Costs of "doing something" will be borne by the homeowner – there is little or nothing in the regulations to provide any resources to help those who can't afford to fix their failing systems. And consequences of not doing something will also be borne by the homeowner – the enforcement section provides for referral to prosecutors, civil and criminal penalties, etc.

The regulations apply to areas that have, among other things, 1) shellfish closures, 2) a sole source aquifer, or 3) significant nitrogen pollution. Vashon has all three. So there is little doubt that King County will be forced to take a strong enforcement stance with regard to septic problems here. What exactly they will do is not clear. But if history is any guide, we are looking at significant repercussions.

In the recent past two major septic repair projects were approved by King County and built to clean up the shoreline. One was a sewer project at Bunker Trail, the other a self-contained community septic system at Beulah Park. Each of these projects cost in the neighborhood of \$3.5 million and resulted in large sewer assessments to the homeowners, from \$30,000 to \$37,400 per homeowner. Monthly septic payments around \$300 per month are now in effect for those homeowners, in spite of over a million dollars in public subsidy for the projects themselves.

These two projects, totaling \$7 million, cleaned up only about 100 households. Imagine this kind of approach applied to the 4,000 septsics on Vashon, and you begin to see what a worst case scenario could look like. Many septsics, of course, are not failing. But they could fail in the future, and most of us don't really know whether our septic system is fully functional or meets current requirements. We don't test the septic field for leakage or test the water running out of our area. Those tests are now going to be made.

So what can we do? First of all, I don't think that avoiding our responsibilities is an option. This is our island; it's our property, our septsics, and our shoreline and water supply that are being polluted. It's

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Nathan Mantua is an Assistant Professor at the School of Marine Affairs and Department of Atmospheric Science. He specializes in large-scale climate variability and predictability and the human and ecosystem dimensions of climate variability.

He is a member of the **Climate Impacts Group (CIG)**, an interdisciplinary research group studying the impacts of natural climate variability and global climate change in the Pacific Northwest. The CIG's research focuses on four key sectors of the PNW environment: water resources, aquatic ecosystems, forests, and coasts.

The CIG is unique in its focus on the intersection of climate science and public policy. It performs fundamental research on climate impacts and work with PNW planners and policy makers to apply this information to regional decision-making processes.

our business to fix it, and we need to face that responsibility squarely and deal with it. Our goal must be to clean up our island, eliminate raw sewage flowing into our waters and make our groundwater safe for ourselves and for generations to come.

That said, there are definitely options for *how* to do this, and the Septic Solutions Committee thinks that there are real advantages to forming a local organization to manage and oversee the upcoming process of septic repair and cleanup. There are different organizational structures that might do the job, but we prefer the Public Utility District (PUD) option because we feel that it offers the most flexibility and power for the least effort and cost. A Vashon PUD would be able to develop standardized designs for the island, expedite permit processes for homeowners, reduce both direct fees and hourly rates, develop and permit experimental septic systems and cost-effective composting toilets and/or gray water treatment systems that are uniquely suited to Vashon conditions, and apply for grants and low interest loans on behalf of our citizens to help low-income folks with costs.

A PUD operates much like a water district or fire district. It is a

local utility, directed by three commissioners elected entirely by Vashon voters. It would assume responsibility for design approvals and permitting for septic systems under supervision of the state Department of Health. PUDs are community owned non-profit entities. They have taxing authority, but rarely use it; most PUDs exist entirely on fees. There are twenty-eight PUDs in Washington already, and reports indicate that overall they get about 2% of their income from taxes. The King County Department of Health also operates entirely on fees, so the PUD would have a level playing field with DOH.

To build a PUD, we need a petition signed by 10% of Vashon voters, followed by a vote in November 2006. Our Septic Solutions Committee has introduced a resolution at the Vashon Maury Island Community Council, calling for support of this process to the next level, building the petition for signature by the voters. To support us in moving to the next stage, please attend the VMICC meeting on June 20th in Courthouse Square to vote on the resolution. There is still a lot of debate and discussion to be done, but we on the committee feel that it's time to take the next step toward a local solution that can benefit everyone.

For more information, contact Steve Graham at 463-9579, or sngraham@centurytel.net. Also check out these websites:

www.vmicc.org – look under ‘committees’ for the PowerPoint presentation from the May 16th VMICC meeting

www.metrokc.gov/health/wastewater/index.htm - King County Wastewater

www.wossa.org - Onsite Septic Association

www.wpuda.org - Washington PUD Association

www.ecy.wa.gov/ecyhome.html - Washington Dept of Ecology

http://www.leg.wa.gov/rcw/index.cfm#RCW_by_Title – PUD regulations are RCW 54.

Festival Adds Youth Stage

Continued from page 1

Friday night there will be a “Teddy & Me” Storytime with guest storytellers. The event is chaired by Kebbie Beddard, with cookies and milk sponsored by Melinda Sontgerath of The Hardware Store. Friday night also brings a “Pirates Unite” event, with Vashon High School coaches, players and cheerleaders talking with the crowd. It is being coordinated by Sophia Ressler. Finally, there will be a Family Karaoke night, always a sure hit; it will be dj’d by Vashon’s own Dan Brown.

On Saturday, immediately following the parade, there will be an array of demonstrations and entertainment on the Children's Stage. On the schedule are Hip Hop Hour (dancing organized by Barbara Caroli), Rock the Rock with Stefan Wolczko (island teenage rock bands), Gaye Detzer and the Island Suzuki Strings, the Vashon Island Youth Chorus, directed by Marita Ericksen.

The theme on Sunday is “In the Good Old Summertime”, starting immediately after the car parade. There will be a bubble gum blowing contest, hopscotch, jump rope, marble shooting, a barbershop quartet, banjo playing, and an ice cream social, sponsored by Zoomies. During the Social, island favorite band Bob’s Your Uncle will be playing.

Meyers said that Vashon Theatre owner Eileen Wolcott is looking forward to getting into the spirit of “good old summertime”, providing penny candy at a concession and showing movies outside.

“There are tons of ideas we are pursuing,” Meyers said. “Some of the things will definitely happen, and some are still just coming together.”

Meyers is also thinking of doing a “Alice and the Mad Hatter Tea Party” and an “Antique Roadshow for Children.” Except, instead of kids bringing in their toy collectables to be appraised, there will be a demo with a knowledgeable toy collector, showing the many different toy collections and their worth and answer kids questions about collecting. She also may put on “My Secret Garden,” a demonstration about kids gardening.

Robinson's Furniture is getting involved in the event by hosting the "Robinson Racetrack" where kids bring their tricycles and race on a track. Kids will also be able to leave their trikes there.

Meyers is also working now on pulling together some activities that will allow children and senior citizens to get together, including a story time, or something involving acclaimed Vashon author Betty MacDonald's books. She also is looking at bringing in some animals.

More ideas are coming in all the time from islanders excited to help with the Youth Stage.

“One thing is for sure,” Meyers said. “There’s going to be plenty to choose from for families this year!”

If you would like to be involved in the Youth Stage, contact Oanh Meyers at 567-4477.

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Positively Speaking

By Deborah H. Anderson

I'll Walk With You


In one of those great mysteries; my column got half lost in cyberspace last issue. It's caused me to wonder if Someone in the great somewhere has other thoughts to put out there. The subject was my daughter's graduation, dealing with Rumer Willis and why I'm soon going to start drinking again.

So, here I am. The crush of Honors Convocation is over. The reception, where the room was so filled with people you couldn't actually find the little lemon desserts and brownies, is over. In a few minutes the band will start playing in the outdoor bowl for the kids' final party. They've partied for three nights after performing all day. It's been a joy. This afternoon, after three years of doing it, we finally figured out how to get it all covered between the five of us who are here to celebrate. If someone goes to the Senior Dance Choreography recital, someone else can go to the organists or guitarists. After lunch we all hit choir, of course, for my daughter's final solo. The Rachmaninoff piece they performed from the balcony did me in. Tears would not stop. The wonder of music is, as someone recently said, it touches places words cannot reach. I wish all of you who sent her could have been here to celebrate. There are 22 hours of concerts, one on top of the other in 48 hours.

Perhaps the Great Someone wanted me to talk about what a strange experience this has been. I mean, in the second week, Caity was assaulted by a nationally known television personality who was drunk during a visit to the school. Instead of bouncing Caity out because I ratted on the guy, I received a copy of a letter from the school's

attorney informing him that his behavior was despicable, and that he was banned from the school until Caity graduated. Strange indeed that she, the literally poor sophomore, was not the one kicked out. And then, of course, there was having to deal with Bruce, Demi, Ashton and Rumer. See, Rumer decided to cut Caity's fourteen inches of hair the third week of school. Since she was apparently on the phone with her dad the whole time she was cutting, do I take him on and tell him that ordinary parents would instruct their child that if the mother had said "no" the night before, she needed to wait until said mother (me) arrived for parents' weekend. By the time Rumer went back to Hollywood, I really liked the kid. She called me, "the nice mom." But just for the record, Demi and Ashton, the night I agreed to sing "Somewhere Out There" with Caity for coffeehouse and Rumer was hosting and you guys were visiting, it was for my daughter and the other kids. Fortunately, I resisted the urge to say, "Hey you, petite woman in the golf hat holding the Chihuahua, you do not blend! And the guy with you is the age of my son!" I wouldn't embarrass my daughter that way.

Yes, it has been a strange and wonderful three years. In the midst of all the extraordinary experiences, there was one thing I held in common with the parents on Vashon. I had to get my daughter through high school without drinking. So I told her “I’ll Walk With You.” We devised a logo and a covenant and she knew that for all of high school, me the celebration drinker who has exactly six drinks a year on holidays was going to show her she could have a good time without drinking.

The first weekend was a wedding. As I grabbed my apple juice, she came up to me and said “You’re doing this because you love me, aren’t you?” She got it. Just as I hadn’t thrown her in the pool to learn to swim, I wasn’t going to expect her to learn abstinence on her own. It has fostered wonderful conversations. And on May 28, 2005, she graduates and we open a bottle of Ukrainian champagne which her brother and I will enjoy. That was about everything in the last column. But as I pondered the copy Marie re-sent me to rework for timeliness, I realized there was one more thing to write about. All that I had talked about in the previous column was about being a parent who is trying to bring out the best in their child. Now, I don’t know if your parents were the kind of people who could bring out the best in you. Whether they were or were not, that’s our job as parents—to bring out the best in our children. It’s that simple. Whatever we have to do—deal with our own stuff so our kids don’t have to own it, do without so our kids have, restrict our work hours so we can be there for them in a way that makes sense to them, or work harder and better so they have the things they need—WHATEVER we have to do, we do it, so we can bring out the best in our kids. Tomorrow, I’ll start a whole new program with my daughter. It’s called individuation. If your parents didn’t know how to do it, you spent time in therapy trying to do it alone. Let’s give our kids a gift. Let’s hang as few stones around their necks as possible. Look at them, see who they are by listening with your heart, and figure out what you have to do to bring out the best. They are the only future that matters. And it’s fun. Have a great day! 

LIVING WELL WITH PLANTS

Text and drawings by Kathy Abascal (AHG)



I recently got an email from a friend who runs an herb farm and a small tincture company that completely startled me: “The WTO and global corporations must not be allowed to take away our ancestral right to natural, herbal medicine,” it warned. “In June of 2005 your right to choose your vitamin, mineral, herb, and other supplements may end. After that, US supplements will be defined and controlled by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).” The email then explained that under laws about to be enacted by Codex, the United Nations-based organization that sets food safety standards.

1. No supplement can be sold for preventive or therapeutic use.
2. Any potency higher than RDA (recommended daily allowance, aka minimal strength) is a “drug” requiring a prescription and must be produced by drug companies. Over 5000 safe items now in health stores will be banned, terminating health stores as we now know them.
3. Codex regulations become binding internationally.
4. New supplements are banned unless given very expensive Codex testing and approval.
5. Codex now applies to Norway and Germany, among others, where zinc tablets rose from \$4 per bottle to \$52 and echinacea rose from \$14 to \$153. Both are now allowed by prescription only because they are “drugs.” Vitamin C above 200mg is banned for over-the-counter and sold by prescription only. Ditto for niacin above 32 mg, vitamin B6 above 4 mg, amino acids (e.g., arginine, lysine, carnitine, etc.), essential fatty acids, DMEA, DHEA, CoQ10, MSM, beta-carotene, etc. All are banned for over-the-counter and sold as prescription drugs only.

Now that is a frightening picture. Of course, I promptly forwarded the email to most of my friends and soon got back a succinct comment from Henriette Kress, a Finnish herbalist who maintains one of the best herbal sites on the web: “Bullshit.” She says you can still get zinc and echinacea supplements at a reasonable price in Germany. (However, I do not know that you can get the doses we get here.) She said that the Codex scare has been around since 1995 and is without merit, making me feel a bit foolish and out of the loop.

Is Codex going to take away our herbs and supplements?

I sort of pushed the whole thing out of my mind even though I kept getting requests for an article on Codex. Recently, the topic came up on Herbal Hall (a professional herbalist site), giving me a bit more input from people who pay closer attention to these types of issues. Daniel Gagnon, owner of Herbs Etc., provided the web address for Council for Responsible Nutrition. CRN is a trade association for supplement and vitamin manufacturers. Logically, if trouble is looming in the supplement field, these folks would be up in arms. Instead, they have a site debunking myths about Codex (http://www.crnusa.org/leg_codex_mythsandfacts.html). Here is what they say:

Codex Alimentarius is charged with setting international food standards by the UN, and it is recognized by the WTO as the international authority for trade disputes on food standards. It has long been working on setting standards for vitamins and most recently considered whether maximum amounts should be based on recommended daily allowances (RDAs) or risk assessment. CRN preferred the risk assessment standard which was adopted by Codex.

According to CRN, Codex’ guidelines will end up making supplements more available in Europe and other parts of the world. Most countries, unlike the US, have long restricted vitamin supplements to low multiples of the RDA. Under Codex, these “safety limits” will be reassessed based on risk of harm. The RDA for Vitamin C is 60-75 mg/day. If 3 is the applicable low multiple, you could not buy vitamin C at doses over 225 mg without a prescription. In this county, doses are usually in the 500-1000 mg range. If dose were reassessed based on risk, the highest dose instead might be a low multiple of 1,000 mg. Most importantly, none of this applies to sales inside the US. Codex applies only to articles sold in international trade. Countries may adopt Codex but until the US does so, our laws which treat supplements and herbs as foods (presumed safe) will remain in effect – even after June of 2005.

And Codex will not change the rules on therapeutic claims for herbs and supplements. Under our laws, only drugs may make claim that they

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help in disease, supplements may not. In other words, manufacturers may not claim that echinacea will cure the common cold. Codex simply mirrors our laws on this issue. And again, Codex would not apply in any event until and unless Congress adopted it. I was greatly relieved after reading CRN’s explanation of Codex.

Nonetheless, there are some frightening aspects to these types of laws. The Codex commission is primarily composed of German and international pharmaceutical Corporations. There is no question in my mind that the pharmaceutical companies would prefer that herbs and supplements be sold by prescription. I think it is entirely possible that they will attempt to pressure the US into adopting Codex as the law in this country. If that were to happen, we would lose our free access to plants. However, for

Kathy Abascal is a professional member of the American Herbalists Guild and is certified by Michael Moore of the Southwest School of Botanical Medicine. She co-authored the book “Clinical Botanical Medicine.”

If you have questions about herbs, come by Minglement on Mondays or Wednesdays to meet Kathy. If you are interested in a private herbal consultation, you can pick up a brochure at Minglement that explains her services & how to schedule an appointment

now, all is well and Codex does not appear to be a problem for American consumers. It is still a good idea to stay in touch with your legislators to give them input, so that they understand that you care about these issues.

Troy Kindred & Marie Browne

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by MEarth

The Holy FIRE

The sacred fire is a symbol that burns deep within all us of in the form of our spirit. It blazes brightly and may ebb at times but never goes out. In many of our ceremonies, the sacred fire is used to help in our healing and carries many teachings to help us humans in our personal growth while we walk on Mother Earth.—Makwa

Fire is another being that has worked on this Earth from beginning—from even before the beginning. Fire is the light to which the spiritual warrior is in service and the celebration of life in its many transformations. Fire is the energy of creation in our lives and the flame that embodies the alchemy that defines our essential being—it is the fuel of us. It is the spark of rebellion and the evolution of the revolutionary spirit.

Fire, in its myriad of forms—from the flame to the electricity, from the spark of life and thought to the heat of the compost—is the local manifestation of the force that created. It, like all the elements, is an agent of change and purification—but, with fire, the change is always quick, sometimes much quicker than we might like.

It is power, it is action, it is purpose, it is danger. If air is the medium through which change and inspiration moves, then fire is that change and inspiration. Fire clears the path that begins and ends with the self; it is the power of the self—the fire-in-the-belly and the head aflame. It consumes all the obstacles to faith and trust and tempers us for the trials of long, hard use. Fire forges us into tools that can do the job—and, if we falter, it can consume us and make another.

Fire proves to us that we have the strength and courage we need. It aids us, connects us and protects us but, like all the purifiers, can destroy, disfigure and deny us if we are careless or inattentive. Fire burns a purity of purpose and heart into its warriors and reveals their power by showing them their vulnerability.

Fire can strengthen us as it strengthens itself. If you have ever seen a forest fire, you know how a simple flame can jump up a quantum level or two and become a living thing that dances on its own wind, makes trees explode and leaps vast distances. It can inspire the same degree of intensity within us; the searing vision that cannot be denied, the blaze and burn of mental and physical challenge, the heat of sexual energy.

Air and Fire are another two that dance like lovers—wild, passionate, uncontrollable lovers, lovers whose love consumes them or changes them beyond recognition. Yet, always they dance. It is a kind of love humans can only imagine, the inspiration of which borders madness.

GRACE



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New Teacher to Join Cooperative Preschool

The Vashon Maury Island Cooperative Preschool is excited to welcome new teacher Claudia Karll. Claudia and her family are moving to the island this summer and she will begin teaching at the preschool this fall.

Although Claudia will be new to the Vashon co-op, she is hardly new to teaching. Claudia has had extensive classroom experience teaching young children. She started on her path over 20 years ago, while studying Human Development and Family Studies, with a focus in Early Childhood, at Cornell University. At Cornell she

also trained in a nursery school and worked for Project Head Start.

She eventually received her Masters in Elementary Education and has taught at many different levels, including as an ESL teacher



for pre-K through 5th grade. She is currently teaching 4th grade at a private school in Seattle.

Claudia will be taking on the Toddler, 2/3 and 3/4 classes while longtime teacher Barb Danforth will continue to teach the 4/5 class.

Claudia was a “Co-op mom” herself, with her two Toddlers (who are now 9 and 20). She also substitute taught at a cooperative preschool, so she is a big fan of the co-op philosophy.

“I love the co-op philosophy, because it is a natural progression from home to school: children go from the comfort of home with one or two parents to the new activities of preschool with more children, but also with more caring adults. With toddlers, the ratio of children to adults is 1:1 plus the teacher; for 2/3s and 3/4s the ratio is 2:1 plus the teacher; and for 4/5s it is 3 or 4:1.”

Karll says “I am excited to be joining the VMCP. I know I will find the change from teaching elementary school to be stimulating and fun. I love to watch the development of language, so the Toddlers class will grow more than any other. I will surely use music—as I always have, and now I can get my hands messy!”

Claudia is thrilled about coming to live and work on Vashon. She ought to fit right in... as some of her interests are; organic gardening, sustainable living, alternative


healthcare, and running, biking, and swimming.

If you are interested in meeting Claudia, she will be coming to the end of the year picnic on June 18th at Gretchen Spranger’s home. All alumni and current members and interested prospective members are invited to attend. Call 463-2779 for more details on either the picnic or pre-school enrollment. ○○○○

Summer afternoon, Summer afternoon... the two most beautiful words in the English language.— Henry James (1843 - 1916)

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It's a Dino of a Year!
"B" is turning 60, but she is still a kid at heart!
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Aries (March 20-April 19)
Expressing your ideas in language remains not only the best therapy but also the most productive use of your energy. You have quite a bit of that at the moment and if you lapse in your commitment to how important your creative process is to your well-being, you may find yourself making more enemies than friends. You could just as well put the enormous leverage of your soul into making the world a better place, and filling it with the expressions of your heartfelt compassion for people, or your visions of beauty. The line between love and fear is not exactly thin, but it does come down to a choice.

Taurus (April 19-May 20)
As you've recently discovered, compassion is a more informative state of being than suspicion. You've done an excellent job shifting your perception of yourself from being a victim of people seemingly more powerful than yourself, to seeing yourself as one who can help any situation by offering the simple gift of caring. Events that come to pass in the next few days will have dramatic results around the Full Moon on June 22. Take care that you bring as much love into every situation as you can, as by doing so you're planting the seeds of a more secure future for everyone.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)
All that could prevent you from maintaining such an unusually strong position is not noticing that you're there. Another would be allowing petty resentments to build to a point where they no longer seem reasonable. If you handle the small matters of your life, you will likely see how easy it will be for you to take mastery over the larger ones. This odd thing called fate has been working for you very well these days, but it's not really fate at all; rather, your current life is not just evidence that decisions matter; it's evidence that in truth, little else does.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
If recent years of your life have brought you one gift, it's that you've become a more stable person, rather than someone given to moods and whims of emotion. You've earned this privilege by crawling out, at long last, from under the rock that so many people call life. The entire problem with depression is that it affects many people without them even knowing it, and then the vibe has a way of spreading. It takes so many forms it's difficult to see that they all have something in common. But in truth, it's a state of mind that's easiest to see from the outside, which is where I trust you find yourself today.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)
Whatever has been going on in your life lately, the reasoning behind it is suddenly becoming a lot more transparent. There is nothing random about the path of your life, even though it's had its erratic or unpredictable moments lately. You can now see the extent to which other people, both friends and colleagues, are poised to be far more helpful than you may have imagined, and you may also be noticing how eager they are to go along with your strange or creative plans. Whatever you are scheming, it has the power to benefit everyone. But you have a good track record, so you don't need to do any sell jobs.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)
A professional opportunity seems to have arisen out of the blue sky. Actually, though, this one has quite a long history and I am sure you have pages of notes on the issue. Think back to about two months ago, the last time this scenario is likely to have arisen. Read them over and make sure you've looked at the issue three or four different ways. As long as you're willing to make decisions, there's a real chance for a positive change now. Meanwhile, I suggest you beware of any ideas like 'relationships conflict with work'. It would seem that your desire to engage others in a real discussion is good for your whole life story.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)
You can see now that allowing yourself freedom of thought and expression has its virtues. Major virtues. Not just for you but for a lot of people who are depending on you to be the one with the clue. That is correct. It only helps that at the moment you really can see both sides of a certain issue, and it helps a lot more that you know exactly which side you're leaning to. You don't need to tell anyone what to think, but you might want to make sure you do exactly what you know is right, because it actually is.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)
Beware of any power play you might be inclined to pull off. I hope this advice is not coming too late; and if you've been involved in some rough play with anyone you care about, or value, or whose trust you need, then take a moment and apologize or at least offer some conciliation. You've been under a lot of pressure and I would hazard a guess that where certain emotional situations are concerned, you may not really understand exactly how you feel. Communication remains the key to both peace of mind and peace in your world.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)
If any relationship situation seems to be calling for a sacrifice of some kind, forget it. It's not true. You have plenty to give, and you will benefit from giving it. But whoever is on the receiving end will receive a gift far more important than you can imagine. You also have very little you actually need right now — your own requirements are quite well taken care of. So keep the focus on others, and see if you can get them to talk about what they're afraid to ask for, particularly from you. No matter what the appearance — there is something genuinely important you'll learn, and you can in fact respond.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
Remember, you are always selling yourself. But it helps if you're subtle about it. For once, your efforts and talent are not going unnoticed. The fact that people don't speak up is more about them than it is about you. So you may need to be your own most vocal advocate of your contributions. Keep your presentation simple and enter any discussion with the idea that people will be receptive; if you can do that, the chances are they will treat you with the respect you deserve. This is not just astrology that affects you on the work front; it has quite a bit of involvement with what's going on at home, too.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
Most people run for cover when they are seized by a creative revelation, or even when one comes knocking on their inner door. It's way too threatening to the status quo, or there may be the typical insecurity about how 'it's not such a good idea' or 'I'm not up to it'. Please get over these typically lame responses to human brilliance and while you're at it, give the status quo a shake. Whatever you've got going, it's hot, and deserves your attention, and both you and it, whatever it is, will benefit from that attention now. This looks like a daring idea of some kind; get it going, please.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
You are headed for a significant revelation about what you are doing, where you're doing it, and who you're doing it with. Continue to pay close attention to how physical space feels. Pay attention to how your creative energy flows, and what you create, depending on where you are and who you're with. You do need solid data — though in the end, I think you'll be making a decision of some kind based on nothing other than how you feel in the most intuitive level; it's like the truth will just come to you. It's nice when that happens, but then, you have the more formidable responsibility of trusting what you know is true.

Eric Francis has more to say at PlanetWaves.net.

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Madame Toudjourns

Dear Madame Toudjourns,
A week ago, my wife and I adopted a very expensive, eight-week-old purebred Pekinese puppy. We were looking forward to being new parents. I was particularly excited that Eileen had quit her job and would be a full-time stay-at-home mom. I looked forward to coming home every day to a clean house, dinner waiting on the table, a beautiful wife and a neatly groomed Pekinese.

The first two days were all right. The puppy slept most of the time and greeted me when I came home with wild wiggling and tail-wagging delight. So did Eileen. It was all very gratifying, but things have been going downhill since then. On the third day, I came home a little late to find Eileen still in her pajamas with her hair straggling around her face and not smelling too good. The kitchen was a mess, dinner wasn't ready, and the minute I walked through the door, Eileen thrust a filthy puppy, reeking of spaghetti sauce, into my arms and told me it was time for Puppy's first bath. She was a little hysterical. There were some tears, but I worked out that Chow-ming had been a little rambunctious, and Eileen had been running all day to keep up with her.

Now Eileen hardly seems like the sexy, exotic woman I married. I know the three a.m. potty trips take a lot out of her, and sometimes Chow-ming's snoring keeps her awake, but she does have a chance to nap during the day when the puppy sleeps, so why does she seem to be going to pieces?

Sincerely, Taken Aback

Cher M. Aback,
Oui, always it is the big shock for the husband when the wife, she becomes the mother. Gone are the evenings with the wine and the roses. Gone are the enticing clothings and the personal grooming which was being so attractive to you. Now the conversations, they are not about the literatures and the philosophies. Now everything, it is the feedings and the teethings and whose turn is it to take the baby to the backyard for the potty. Also, there is being all of the silly baby talking which is usually not being very erotic for most of the husbands.

Be patient. Give the puppy her bath. Try to make the baby race madly around the house like the demon until she is being exhausted. Soon, *Mme.* Eileen will be accustomed to the puppy, and she will be managing everything much better. This is because the brains of the female persons are being uniquely designed to be caring for small, obnoxious persons while performing useful tasks at the same time. Many major industrial corporations would be operating very much more efficiently if they were hiring the maternal-type persons to raise children on the premises.

Bon Chance, M. Aback. There is no point in wishing for the old life that you were having before the baby. Perhaps you will soon learn to be sexually aroused by the baby talking.


ooooo



Happy Birthday, Gemini!
Reading over someone's shoulder on a recent flight from Amsterdam to Newark, I saw mention in an article about how emotional intelligence is a prerequisite for leadership. That's a good thing to remember now, particularly given that your ambition may be functioning quite automatically, while your emotional intelligence needs to be something you access manually. The choices you make in this regard will have impact, and if you don't act in certain forthcoming circumstances with the utmost sensitivity, you may become the one who foils your own plans. However, should you choose to listen to others and listen to what your own body is telling you, the ways will part and you will find yourself with the ability to do quite a bit of good, in the world and for yourself.

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Financial Planning 101: Installment #4

By Mark A. Goldman

Lately I've been thinking about these little ants I found in the kitchen near the sink. One was quenching his thirst at the edge of a droplet of water. With one quick movement I squashed him. In one moment this unique and intricate little creature was alive and purposely going about his business. In the next, he was a black spot on my tissue. Had he seen me coming, he would have tried to get away. This turned out to be not a casual event for me. I wondered if he would be missed. I wondered if his friends would say a prayer and contemplate how fragile life is.

Well, none of us escape. The time will come when it will seem as if someone we love is here one moment and then not the next. For most of us it will not be a surprise. This person will wrinkle, slow down, their hair will turn gray—they'll have a chance to prepare. But for some it actually will come as a surprise.

That's why I'm mentioning this now. This is important if others depend on you financially... particularly if you are married or have children. And even if they don't depend on you financially, we all have some unfinished business that will need to be handled when we die. Being responsible about this unfinished business is one of the things we do out of concern for our family—and for charities we care about too.

That's why before I advise folks about where or how to invest their money, I usually take a close look at how they've prepared for the unexpected. When I do, I almost always find errors or incompletions: a Will that was never written or is not up to date, inefficient tax planning, missing or wrong beneficiary designations on insurance policies and investment accounts. Everyone should have a physician's directive, which gives

your caregivers instructions about how you want to be treated if you ever become unconscious and unable to speak for yourself. A living will authorizes someone to make medical decisions for you if and when you can't. A power of attorney is a document that authorizes your spouse or someone you trust to handle your financial affairs when you can't. Most people should have a document like this in place even when they're healthy. Some things, like writing checks, could cause great inconvenience if not done on time. What would you do, for example, if you were in some foreign country and were in an accident or your money and documents were lost or stolen? In any event, these things are all part of financial planning, and planning for contingencies is what responsible people do

Life insurance is a way to insure your mortgage will be paid, your kids will go to college, and your family won't have to suffer financially if you die prematurely. But some folks spend much too much money unnecessarily on trying to prepare for the unexpected. Too many people pay for the wrong kind of policies or for policies they can't really afford. Long-term care insurance is a prime example. My studies show that a lot of people will pay for policies that will likely not be in force when they actually need them. Someday I will write about this topic by itself because this is an area much abused. In any event, a good financial plan starts with getting your house in order.

For me, right now that means taking some caulk to the kitchen window.

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ooooo

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The Da Vinci Code: True or False?

By Rachel Bard

When a young person in my family saw me reading *The Da Vinci Code* the other day, he said, "Aw Grandma, that's so last summer!"

Yes, it took me a while to join the 24,999,999 other readers of this astonishingly popular novel. Too late for a review. Instead let's discuss the role of research in historical fiction in general and this book in particular. As a reader and writer of historical novels, I hold the subject dear to my heart. So often readers of this genre tell me "I want a good story, but I also want to learn."

Of course *The Da Vinci Code* isn't strictly a historical novel. It's a suspense story set in the present. But the subplot, the reason for all the chases and suspense and chicanery, is a complicated historical saga that Dan Brown doles out for us in bits and pieces, all 2,000 years of it.

The book bristles, burgeons and almost bursts with facts and theories, some relevant, some questionable and some just in the way. For example, on page 18 he tells us the Louvre is as long as three Eiffel Towers laid end to end, its plaza covers a million square feet and it's three miles around its perimeter. For good measure, it contains 65,300 works of art and I. M. Pei, architect of the new pyramidal entrance, was born in China but he's an American citizen. All right already! Let's get on with the story!

Brown tosses out nuggets like that with abandon, I suspect to lull us into believing his other "facts." After all, if a man tells us it's three miles around the Louvre he must know what he's talking about when he says that in Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper the figure to the right of Jesus is not one of the disciples but a woman—Mary Magdalene, no less. Or that a royal bloodline began with the child of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, persisted until the Merovingian kings, and that thanks to a mysterious descendant of the last king, the bloodline still survives. Hmmm.

My suspicions aroused, I chanced on the History Channel's *Beyond the Da Vinci Code* a few weeks ago. The program looked at the book's "history" from every angle. For example, the "Is that really Mary

Magdalene in The Last Supper?" question. This was rather fun: the producers used special effects to show Jesus and Mary leaning toward each other (Yes!) or drawing apart (No!).

Another segment explored the Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland, the meaning of its multitudinous carvings and symbols, and its placement (maybe) on the Rose Line, the meridian that runs on south through Glastonbury Abbey (associated with the Holy Grail) and which may or may not have some association with the Greenwich Meridian, which used to be in France. Confused? Me too. In search of clarity I did some Googling and found www.sacredconnection.ndo.co.uk/holyland/rosatemplum.htm. It's packed with fascinating stuff about the Crusades, the Templars, the Rosicrucians, the Merovingians—many of the theories and conjectures Brown weaves together to create his opus. The Sacred Connection sets out very few of them as verifiable history.

No one can deny the author's diligence or ingenuity in using results of his research to move his story swiftly along.

No—my quarrel is that so many of his "facts" are so dubious. You must either suspend your skepticism, or read with the nagging question always present: Can this be true? In the best historical fiction, the author doesn't hesitate to fabricate and imagine how "it might have been" if there's no way to know for sure. But the basic building blocks of the plot rest soundly on the accepted historical record.

In this book they rest on foundations of misty myth, pseudo-history and conspiracy theories. Next time: one last reason to distrust Dan Brown and six reasons not to give up on historical fiction.

Rachel Bard is the author of "Queen without a Country," a historical fiction novel based on the life of Queen Berengaria, wife of King Richard the Lionheart. She has lived on Vashon for six years, and is working on her next book, about another medieval queen.

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Loose Change
is booking now for
summer dates!

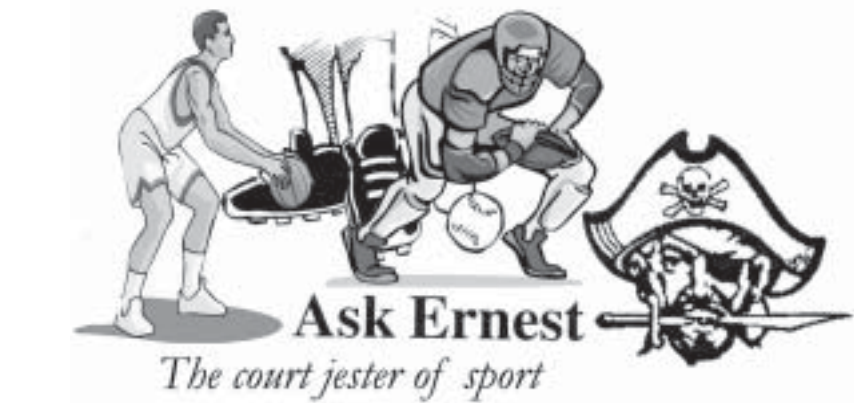
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Hello Ernest,
I would just like to inform you that Ace “Ms. Aristotle” Shigley recently was voted the **top Public Speaker at Backyard Barbecues**. She is in such demand that she only speaks at Backyard Barbecues and Bar mitzvahs. And, occasionally, if she has family connections, she’ll speak at Jamba Juice fundraisers—her claim being that the health benefits of smoothies are unparalleled. Anyhoo, her final speech at Dr. R. Wheeler’s Barbecue was brilliant: Ace Shigley spoke in a combination of Russian and Australian. She flawlessly mixed the Gorbachevs with the Billabongs, The Fyodors with the Fosters, and the Dostoevskys with the AC/DCs. Got that one sussed out, Mate? She’s natural, she’s skilled, she’s intellectual, she’s local: That’s our champ, Ms. Ace Shigley.
Senor Darren Foxarito

Senor Foxarito,
Thanks for the news. All news is good news especially if it involves Islanders and Backyard Barbecues. E.

Ernesto,
This is to inform you that much has happened while you’ve been off on vacation in Algona Pacific. Here’s what:

The High School baseball team had a great year, finishing their

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season at Districts by losing to Port Townsend (the defending State Champs) by a score of 5-4.
The soccer team was also beat out at Districts by Cascade Christian, but the team recorded many good wins this year.
The track and tennis and golf team head to Districts and State this weekend. Check High School website for results.
The Lacrosse team qualified for the State Championship game in Seahawk Stadium on Saturday, May 26. They beat Snohomish in the Semi Final game here on our own turf!

Just thought you should know. (I mean Algona Pacific is fun and all....)
Pam “The Regulator” Held
More Important News: (Sent to us from Sheriff Torch Martin)

Stephe Wolzcko to grow a beard for the Grizzly Adams filming this summer.
Fred Medlicott plans on being funny all summer. E. Phillips may join him.
Craven Martin plans on building a small castle this summer, one with a big moat that his horses can drink out of.
Mariners to trade for Eric Anderson before the All Star break.

Dominatrics to bulk up this off season—lift weights, buckets, and large farm animals.
Mt. Dew plans to boycott Vashon Schools—they don’t dew enough corporate promotion.

(Make sure to mow your lawn this weekend, the neighbors have been complaining.)
Sheriff T.
Sheriff Sir,
I’m out the door with my ear muffs and gas can. Consider me warned and ready.
E.
Ya’ll have a good weekend, won’t ya!

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Vashon Vultures Take State

Congratulations to Whatcom and Vashon for making it to the Championship Game, and showing Washington lacrosse fans that Division II plays some pretty solid lacrosse.
Both teams played with wonderful spirit, pride and determination through the game. Vashon’s offense managed to pull ahead in the 3rd quarter while the defense limited Whatcom to one goal after the first quarter.
Hats off to Senior Goalie Matt Bush for some terrific saves, Duncan Mayshark for some all-star defense, Senior Dane Loraas, whose 4 goals sparked the offense, and David Twietmeyer, whose ability to control the face-offs repeatedly gave us a boost.
In the JV Championship game on Friday evening, Vashon defeated Mt. Rainier 8-4 to claim the D-II JV title. Congratulations to the JV players on their outstanding season.



Kite Day drew a huge crowd on May 21.



Dan Brown photo

Lo'py Laffs

Today's subliminal message is “
Gravity isn't easy, but it's the law.
Grow your own dope, plant a man.
Adults are just kids who owe money.
You can't teach a new mouse old clicks.
BEER: It's not just for breakfast anymore.
I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
Support medical examiners—die strangely.
WANTED: Meaningful overnight relationship.
Which of my enemies told you I was paranoid?
All men are animals, some just make better pets.
The grass is always greener on the other side of the rainbow.

As a Delta Air Lines jet was flying over Arizona on a clear day, the co-pilot was providing his passengers with a running commentary about landmarks over the PA system. “Coming up on the right, you can see the Meteor Crater, which is a major tourist attraction in northern Arizona. It was formed when a lump of nickel and iron, roughly 150 feet in diameter and weighing 300,000 tons, struck the earth at about 40,000 miles an hour, scattering white-hot debris for miles in every direction. The hole measures nearly a mile across and is 570 feet deep.” From the cabin, a passenger was heard to exclaim, “Wow! It just missed the highway!”

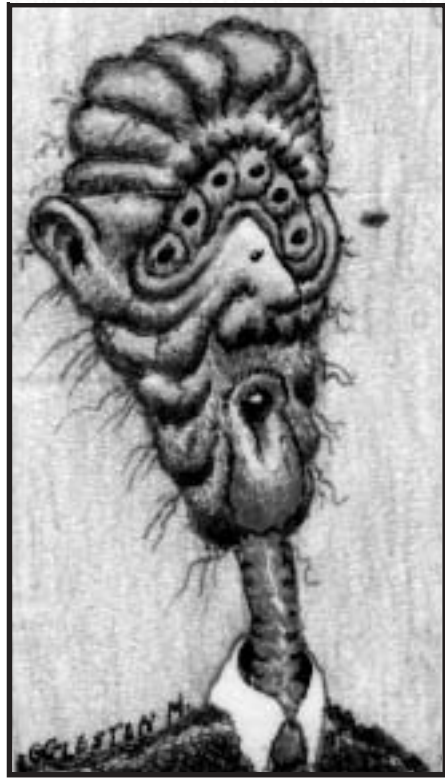
At the cocktail party, one woman said to another, “Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?” The other replied “Yes I am—I married the wrong man.”

It's is not, it isn't ain't, and
it's it's, not its, if you mean
it is. If you don't, it's its.
Then too, it's hers. It isn't
her's. It isn't our's either.
It's ours, and likewise yours
and theirs.— Oxford
University Press, Edpress
News

I called the local newspaper's classified
section to complain about an ad I'd placed. It
was obvious the person who took my
information had never spent any time on a
farm.
“I said ‘ewes,’” I argued.
“Pardon?” replied the operator.
“Ewes. It makes a difference to some
people.”
The ad that was placed read: “Sheep for
sale—USED.”



All husbands are alike.
They have different faces
so they can be told apart.



NOT
ALL
THERE
by
Tristan
Davis



WILD WORLD / Ed Frohning



A True Senior Moment

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two elderly gentlemen were talking, and one said, “Last night we went out to a new restaurant, and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.” The other man said, “What is the name of the restaurant?” The first man thought and thought and finally said, “What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that is red and has thorns.” “Do you mean a rose?” “Yes,” the man said and then he turned toward the kitchen and yelled, “Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?”

A news release from the National Center for Public Policy Research in Washington, D.C., was headlined: ‘Sun Plays Key Role in Global Warming’.



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gardeners, other artists of the soil, sharing your love of life.*

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'COME GROW WITH US'





Sally Elaine Greene

Sally Elaine Greene passed away unexpectedly on May 26th, at the age of 50. She was a long time resident of Vashon and a well-known face in the paint department of Island Lumber where she worked for many years.

Sally is survived by her husband Logan Longworth, stepsons Brian and Erik Longworth, brothers Jay, Ron, and Mike Greene, sister Carol VanDerVeldon, and her father Jack Greene.

Sally’s husband Logan invites friends to come to a potluck celebration of her life on Saturday, June 4th at 2:00 p.m., which would have been Sally’s 51st birthday. The potluck will be at Flamingo Flats, 26921 Wax Orchard Road. Some refreshments will be provided; bring a dish to share and your own chair, rain or shine.

Logan adds that he wants to thank the couple’s many Vashon friends for their kindness and helpfulness during this difficult time for the family.

The Loop would like to express condolences to the friends and families who have lost loved ones. We are so very sorry.

Ezra Blue Gregory



Artist Jeremy Gregory with his beautiful baby Ezra Blue Gregory. Because of placental abruption, Ezra Blue was born with only one third of his blood, and passed away after spending three days on life support.



Double Crostic by Richard Carson

Guess the answers to the clues, then transfer those letters to the corresponding numbered squares in the grid. Work back and forth between the clues and the grid until the quotation is revealed. The initial letters of the clue answers, reading down, form an acrostic revealing the source (author and title).

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| E1 | | N2 | I3 | | J4 | E5 | S6 | M7 | O8 | T9 | | C10 | G11 | P12 | A13 | O14 | M15 | D16 | | Q17 | D18 | | P19 |
| D20 | S21 | R22 | | D23 | R24 | Q25 | M26 | A27 | | D28 | A29 | P30 | H31 | I32 | C33 | K34 | R35 | F36 | | A37 | K38 | H39 | G40 |
| Q41 | R42 | F43 | | P44 | A45 | M46 | | C47 | O48 | G49 | B50 | U51 | I152 | | B53 | S54 | R55 | I156 | | F57 | P58 | L59 | B60 |
| | J61 | R62 | B63 | | U64 | P65 | K66 | N67 | F68 | | R69 | Q70 | I71 | D72 | O73 | S74 | I175 | | Q76 | N77 | | P78 | R79 |
| | C80 | K81 | | F82 | J83 | | J84 | | M85 | N86 | S87 | I88 | L89 | R90 | B91 | J92 | | M93 | G94 | L95 | U96 | R97 | C98 |
| | O99 | L100 | | O101 | F102 | | T103 | R104 | B105 | E106 | O107 | D108 | P109 | | T110 | | P111 | J112 | N113 | F114 | U115 | C116 | G117 |
| | J118 | F119 | K120 | D121 | | P122 | I123 | | K124 | O125 | M126 | R127 | F128 | I129 | E130 | Q131 | A132 | H133 | | | | | |

A . Opportunity

37 45 29 13 132 27

B . Concur

91 50 105 63 60 53

C . Dissolute

116 33 98 80 10 47

D . Seasoned hand

18 28 16 23 20 121 72 108

E . Lo-cal

5 1 106 130

F . 1960s band

102 68 128 43 114 82 119 57 36

G . Ridiculous

40 49 94 11 117

H . Disappoint

52 39 75 31 133 56

I . Clouded

3 129 83 71 123

J . On water

4 118 92 112 84 61

K . Filmed again

34 124 66 38 120 81

L . Municipality

95 89 59 100

M . Placate

7 85 126 15 93 26 46

N . Moisten meat

113 2 77 67 86

O . "Reality show," e.g.

48 125 8 101 99 73 107 14

P . Consistency

12 30 65 19 58 111 122 78 44 109

Q . Knot

17 76 131 41 70 25

R . Square of cloth

24 69 90 22 35 127 55 97 62 104 42 79

S . Deed holder

54 6 21 74 87

T . Flatten

32 110 9 103

U . Roof edge

51 96 64 115 88

Solution to Double
Crostic on Page 23

Loop Arts

Heron Hosts Double Bill Cello Concert

By Janice Randall

Come listen to unconventional cello music after wandering around on the Garden Tour all afternoon. Electric cellist and vocalist Jami Sieber and Canada-based cellist Corbin Keep will perform an **evening of Cello-bration** at the Blue Heron Art Center, **Saturday, June 4** at 8 p.m. Expect to hear more ways to play the cello than you ever thought imaginable.

Sieber, pioneer of electric cello, plays soulful and emotionally evocative original compositions. Sieber's atmospheric style evolved from a combination of her classical training and a passion for jazz, folk, rock, improvisational and avant-garde music. She has performed throughout the world, including China, Russia, Croatia, France and most recently Thailand. There she improvised with the Elephant Orchestra near Lampang, where musical pachyderms play xylophones, drums and other percussion instruments. Sieber wove the sounds into an inspired collection of stirring compositions, entitled *Hidden Sky*. Sieber has released three other recordings, *lush mechanic* (1995) *Second Sight* (1998) and *Hidden Sky* (2004). Victory Music says, "These musical paintings hang, framed in her own passion and dreams. If you've ever taken a



journey of the soul, be it to another place or your own backyard, this music will play back every scene." She has toured with Rhiannon (jazz vocalist), Ferron (singer/songwriter) Jennifer Berezan (singer/songwriter) and Kim Rosen (poet). Ferron says, "Jami Sieber's cello is the sound of my soaring heart."

Corbin Keep, self-proclaimed 'wild cellist,' says that a common response to his cello playing is "Oh I didn't know a cello could do that!" A dynamic and spontaneous performer, Keep plays a variety of styles, ranging from classical to rock with many points in between. You'll hear a mix of Corbin's own songs -

silly to serious - from his most recent recording, *Call of the Wild Cello*, as well as classical favorites and other familiar, yet fresh pieces.

Keep pushes boundaries and transforms the traditional instrument into a tool for musical experimentation. "To some extent it's simply a much more unexplored instrument than, say, guitar," he says. "If you look at guitar as being one mine shaft and cello as another, really a lot of it has been mined out by guys with guitars. The reason I'm so motivated with it is that I keep finding so much more to do with it."

Tickets are \$10 to \$13, and are available at the Blue Heron Arts Center.



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D.B. Williams at BBTW

Seattle author David B. Williams will sign and read from his new book, *The Street-Smart Naturalist: Field Notes from Seattle* at Books by the Way on Friday, June 3rd at 7:30 pm.

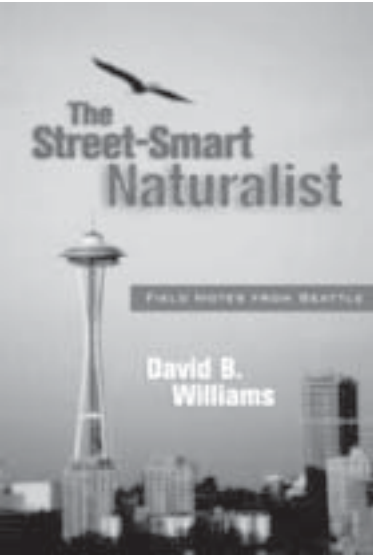
Back to the city or back to nature? In *Street-Smart Naturalist*, Williams shows us how we can get the best of both worlds. Botany and bugs, geology and geese, creeks and crows; living in a major city doesn't have to separate us from the natural world. Stepping away from a guidebook format, Williams presents us with a series of essays and maps that combine scientific data with personal musings and bits of humor with natural history observations,

forming a unique view of life in the city. In these descriptions of his journeys as a naturalist in an urban landscape, Williams addresses

questions such as: What did Seattle look like before Europeans got here? How does the area's geologic past affect us? Why have some animals thrived and other languished? How are we affected by the species with which we share the urban environment and how do we affect them? *The Street-Smart Naturalist* captures in highly readable prose, all of

the distinctive, urban and natural, flavors of the Emerald City.

All events are free, no tickets required. Limited seating, please arrive early. (206) 463-2696 www.booksbytheway.com.



“Uncommon Views of Vashon” A Juried Photography Show in August 2005

During August 2005, the Blue Heron Gallery will host a juried group photography exhibition of not-so-traditional views of Vashon. Open to submissions now and through June 15 the show will be juried by Michelle Bates, Ray Pfortner and Janice Mallman.


Entrants are encouraged to present images to the jury that depict their alternative views of Vashon, its landmarks, community, characters and lifestyle or use less traditional photographic techniques in presenting their personal vision.

Each entrant may submit up to three images in either slide or print formats with submitted prints being 8x10 or smaller. A fee of \$7 per image is payable at the time of submission of the work to Vashon Allied Arts and fees will go toward the support of Photographers of Vashon programs. The group is in the final planning stages for a community darkroom and digital space. Size limitations of work selected for the show will be announced at the time the final juried selections have been made. All entries should be delivered to The Blue Heron by June 15.

Application forms are available at The Blue Heron. For more information on Photographers of Vashon, see <http://www.vashonalliedarts.org/pov>.

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... I am always stunned to find these landmarks changed, the houses torn down, the vista altered, as if it is a personal attack on my history, a robbery from my experience. — Carolyn Smart, “About Home”



Ezra Blue

Ezra Blue

Illustrations by
Jeremy Gregory

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Blue Heron Offers Summer Art Camps

By Janice Randall

Quick, it’s time to think about what the kids will be doing this summer. Keep their minds engaged and hands busy with a Blue Heron art camp. Whether your kids are interested in visual arts, drama, pottery or dance, there’s something available for all ages.

Summer art camps for ages 7 to 10 offers a variety of activities with a different instructor each day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will experience making windsocks with Lynn Brevig, tiles with Irene Otis, garden sculptures with Jane Howard and more. Space is still available in the July 11-15 or August 15-19 sessions. Each session ends with an art show to celebrate artists’ work open to family and friends.

This year, art camp for older kids, ages 10-14, will feature more complex projects with the same format, a variety of activities to include impressionist acrylic painting, basketweaving, card making, beadwork and animated flip books. The session will take place July 25-29.

Pottery camps abound at Blue Heron Pottery. Instructor Liz Lewis is going all out with a sea-inspired clay camp for ages 6 to 10, August 8-11; teen clay camp (ages 11-17) with a Japanese pottery emphasis, Aug. 15-18; and family clay days for all ages, August 6 and August 13.

If theater is your kid’s artistic direction, try Lisa Breen’s fabulous fables for ages 4-6, July 5-8, 10:30 am to noon. Theater of the imagination will keep your 7 and 8 year-olds busy, July 5-8, 2 to 4 pm. And for more established thespians, ages 9 to 13, Breen will focus on everything from comic to serious. A showcase for family and friends will culminate each camp.

Teens and adults who want to try their hand at glass blowing can learn from one of the best, Brian Brenno. The teen camp, for ages 13-18, will take place July 18, 20, 22, from 9 am to noon. The adult camp will be held July 11, 13, 15, 7 to 10 pm.

Dancers of all ages will want to check into Blue Heron Dance summer offerings. Ages 8 to 12 (with one year of experience) will explore Ballet, modern, jazz and acting Monday, Wednesday and Friday, July 25 to August 12, 10 am to 2 pm. Two open dance sessions for a variety of interests and ages will be held July 11-22 and July 25-August 12.

For complete Blue Heron summer art camp schedule, registration and scholarship information, please call 463-5131.

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