



# THE VASHON LOOP

Vol. 2 #20

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

October 12, 2005

## Gift of the Wild

by T. Martino

The Interns at Wolftown this year are: Chloe, who is French and Spanish, a passionate and gifted young horsewoman who is coming back to the Project for her third year; Marin, from Spain, who is quiet and introspective, with an easy smile and bright spirit; and Stephanie, a happy go lucky teenager from Germany with a great sweet love of Wolves and dogs.

They had never before seen big wild animals in their natural habitat.

I am the Director/founder of Wolftown. My name is Teresa



Martino but my friends call me T. An old Barn nickname. Recently I have started doing non-invasive study of big predators in the Pacific Northwest. I share my information with the Parks Department and State Fish and Wildlife. I do this in a non-invasive way which means you must know where to look for big animals, what their habits are, how to track and how to see them without disturbing them. I am doing this work because preservation of land is very important. And big predators require a lot of territory.

*Continued on page 19*

## Broke and Broken

By Mark A. Goldman

*Part 1: Real Wealth vs. Income*

One of the dire consequences of the Bush administration is the acceleration of what I would call the cannibalization of the American economy resulting in the destruction of real wealth in its many forms. This did not start five years ago, but the acceleration is now hyper.

This process goes largely unreported because results are not directly reflected in national income accounting. What allows this to happen is sleight of hand coupled with the fact that principles of economics are not widely understood by the general public.

One of the great tragedies of our time is the fact that US citizens have been brainwashed over a period of

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## Farm and Garden Theft: Assault or Insult?

By Peter Ray

Two events happened recently in Vashon's farm and gardening community that are more than likely to be unrelated, but they did have one common theme -- theft. The recently completed entrance garden for the Vashon Household Roseballen Project has experienced two instances where plants have been taken from the landscape. At about the same time, word came from the Vashon Island Growers Association (VIGA) email list that one of the farmer's stands had been vandalized and the cash box stolen.

I learned of the theft at Roseballen firsthand, since I was the person who had done the planting. Having nurtured the plants through the

dryness, things were starting to look good, in spite of the deer browsing. If deer pull up a plant, they generally drop it somewhere nearby. The eucalyptus tree that was stolen was four feet high, and the soil trail from its roots led to the edge of the curb where it disappeared — I don't believe it had called a cab. Anyone noticing a new planting anywhere that contains a eucalyptus, some bright magenta-flowered hardy ice plants (ones that I had specifically propagated for this job), some paler pink diascia, and assortment of other small, four inch plants are encouraged to contact me at pgr42@att.net or 206-567-4542.

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## Hennessey Asks Support for Bond and Levy

by Bob Hennessey

On November 8th, Vashon Island residents will vote on two measures that are badly needed for our schools. The first is a \$2.4 million capital levy to replace the one that expires at the end of 2005. The second is a \$4.9 million capital bond to pay off the loan the District took out to fund critical repairs at Chautauqua two summers ago. We are gathering a list of key school supporters in the community and here's how you can help.

I would like your feedback on whether or not you know about the school bond/levy that will be on the November 8 ballot. In particular:

Do you understand that there are two different issues up for vote?

Do you feel that you have the information you need to make an informed choice?

Is there anything in particular that you would like to know about the bond/levy?

If you are in favor of the bond/levy will you please e-mail me at: bobhennessey@earthlink.net and give permission to use your name as a supporter? The supporters list will be published in *The Beachcomber* and *The Vashon Loop*.

The consequences of not passing this bond and levy are grave. If the Chautauqua bond is not approved, the District will have to continue paying interest on the loan. If the loan is not paid off by the time it matures in two years, the District must take out another loan or use money from the General Fund, taking resources away from teacher salaries and curriculum. The proposed \$2.4

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## Gallery Cruise:



Three young gallery cruisers

## Photography Feast

By M. L. Tuel

The First Friday cruise was heavy on photography this month.

The art show circuit started for me at Treasure Island, Marci Christopher's eclectic collectibles and antique market-in-miniature. The photography of Stephen K. Malshuk was featured there, a collection of stunning and simple color photos. Malshuk has an eye for the graceful in the ordinary – a rising flight of geese; a family of deer grazing in an island meadow; his wife Kathy's feet seen in a clear stream. When I asked him to stand by whatever was his favorite in the room for a photo, he chose, "Those women over there," meaning his



Malshuk and works of art

wife and neighbors. I liked Stephen K. Malshuk.

From there I headed north to the Vashon Bookshop, where you can see the photography of Robert Feeny, who seems to have been everywhere in the world, and photographed most of it. The photos concentrate on the man-made more than nature. They are mounted over the bookshelves, which makes them high, and viewing them a neck-cranning operation, but oh well. Where else on Vashon can you see the market in Istanbul?

Down the street at Blooms on Vashon, there was a small sampling of the work of Hartmut Reimnitz. He took up painting only recently, and I say, keep it up, Hartmut. Nice work.

In the hallway between Blooms and the Blue Heron gallery, the photographs that Ray Pfortner's students took in Dockton are on display. These photos take the

*Continued on page 18*



# Get in The Loop

## VashonBePrepared.ORG

**Do you take prescription medicines?**  
Don't let your prescription run too low before you refill!

- ~ Keep two weeks' worth on hand if possible.
- ~ Keep a copy of your prescription handy.

### VMICC meets Monday

A report from the Septic Solutions Committee and a long program on "What You Need to Know About Local Taxing Districts" will be the highlights at the next Vashon Maury Island Community Council meeting on **Monday, October 17**, at 7:30 p.m. at Courthouse Square.

Steve Graham will give the interim report on findings of the septic committee. Bill Ameling will present an hour long program, beginning between 8 and 8:30 p.m. as the final portion of the meeting. Ameling's very informative program has been given at least twice on the island. It has been met with much enthusiasm as an incredibly educational presentation about how the various taxing districts work.

In addition, a vote will be taken on the various by-law motions. Mike Meyers has been appointed clerk of the council for VMICC.

### VIPP Garage Sale

The Vashon Island Pet Protector Garage Sale is **Saturday, October 15** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and **Sunday, October 16** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Firefighter's Association Building. Donations are gratefully accepted **Friday, October 14** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Unfortunately, we're unable to accept large appliances, mattresses, exercise equipment, computers or clothes. For more information please call Victoria at 463-5381.

### Mish Family Still Needs Help

A fund has been set up at Bank of America to help the Mish family with expenses. On September 2, Doug Mish hit a deer with his motorcycle. He is still at Harborview with a head injury and other fractures. Updates can be found at marniejones.com. It is expected to be a long recovery. A fund has been set up to help the Mish family with expenses. Checks may be sent to the Mish Fund, Bank of America, P. O. Box 857, Vashon, WA.

### King County Fire Marshal Lifts Burn Ban

The King County Fire Marshal's Office will lift the burn ban effective 0800 hours on **Tuesday, October 4, 2005**. A burn ban should not go back into effect until early Summer, 2006.

Burning in unincorporated King County requires a permit from your local fire district and the following regulations apply:

Only natural vegetation shall be burned. The fire shall not contain any rubber products, asphalt products, petroleum products, plastics, garbage, dead animals or other waste materials.

Persons and equipment capable of extinguishing the fire shall be on the burn site and in attendance at all times.

A distance of 50 feet must be maintained between the burn pile and any structure or combustible material.

To see which fire district serves your area, log on to the DDES Web site at [www.metrokc.gov/ddes](http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes) and click on Property Research, then on GIS Property Search: Parcel Locators.

For additional information, please contact Paula Adams, DDES Communications Director, at 206-296-6682.

### Zen in China by Van Crozier

Tony Fairbanks, a historian and translator from Bainbridge Island, will present a slide show and talk entitled *Chan Buddhism in China Today* at the Land Trust Building on **October 20** at 7 p.m.

Tony recently took a one month tour of Zen monasteries in the People's Republic of China. The trip was organized by Cris Cyders of Seattle, a long time Zen and Tendai practitioner, and was led by none other than Bill Porter, (*Red Pine*), China scholar, noted translator and resident of Port Townsend, Washington. Bill's deep experience of traveling in China and his extensive knowledge of dozens of Chinese Buddhist temples made the three-man tour a superb introduction to Buddhism in China today.

Traveling to more than twenty Chan (Zen) temples in northern, central and southern China, Tony took more than 600 photos of what the group saw. His presentation will offer a slide show of the tour, a discussion of the trip and some observations about what's going on with Chan Buddhism in China today.

The program is presented by the Puget Sound Zen Center. For more information contact Van Crozier at 567-4065.



## BIG FALL SALE 20-40% OFF!

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### RED HAT SOCIETY ITEMS

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### Adopt-A-Cat Days

Vashon Island Pet Protectors will host an Adopt-A-Cat Day **Saturday, October 15** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and **Sunday, October 16** from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Pandora's Box. Please stop by or call VIPP at 206-389-1085.

### Legal Volunteers and Computer Hardware Needed

Washington Legal Advocacy for the Disabled (LAD), a Washington 501 (c) 3 charitable non-profit, is working for access to justice for our state's disabled community. They are asking for tax-deductible donations and/or 90-day deferred billing of legal services and computer hardware to advance this important cause.

Attorneys and support professionals with experience in constitutional, civil rights, appellate, administrative, employment, criminal law, and legal research are encouraged to contribute to LAD's work, which involves change at the level of policy.

Computer hardware needed includes: Desktop and Laptop computers with desired minimum specs: Pentium III, 10GB Hard Disk, 128MB RAM. They can also accept individual components (CPU, Monitor) or systems with fixable minor defects.

If you are able to help, please email [walgadvcy@yahoo.com](mailto:walgadvcy@yahoo.com), or call 567-0763 and ask for Robert or Vijay. A final thought:

*"Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of Justice when it mattered most, that has made it possible for evil to triumph (Haile Selassie)."*

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### VIPP '06 CALENDAR AVAILABLE

The Vashon Island Pet Protector 2006 Pet Calendar is now available for \$15 at the following locations: The Vashon Bookshop, Fair Isle Animal Clinic, Books by the Way & Pandora's Box.







# Troy and Marie Get in the Gutter

*We're going to go out on a limb and proclaim that summer is officially over. But we are ready – we just replaced our old falling-down gutters with a fancy new “continuous” gutter. It's made on site with a special machine that shoots it out one end, kind of like a pasta maker. Ed Palmer Construction did the job for us, and we took the opportunity to ask Ed everything we always wanted to know about gutters.*



**Marie:** Ed, our gutters look great! I know you've been building beautiful quality houses and doing remodels here on the Island since 1979, but I didn't know you were the Gutter Guy, too.

**Ed:** We added continuous aluminum gutters to the things we do about 5 years ago because it got to be so expensive to bring someone from off the Island to do them. We were just going to do them for our own jobs, but we kept getting calls from other people wanting us to install gutters that we decided to make that part of our business.

**Troy:** What makes continuous aluminum gutters better than regular ones?

**Ed:** The only joints are at the corners, which eliminates a lot of potential leaks. Plastic gutters, on the other hand, have joints every 10 feet, a joint at every downspout and two at every corner. Also, continuous gutters are made of aluminum and have a baked-on enamel finish that can safely be pressure washed without damaging the paint. They will not decay like wood.

**Marie:** I love the fact that you were able to match the color of our trim.

**Ed:** Yes, the gutters are available in about 30 different colors, and if someone can't find just the right color, they can be painted, too.

**Troy:** Regardless of whether a homeowner has regular gutters or continuous gutters, what is the most important thing to do to maintain them? I'm guessing you are going to say to keep them clean, thus giving my wife another thing to add to my honey-do list.

**Ed:** Sorry, Troy, but it's true. Keep the downspouts clean so the water doesn't fill up the gutter and overflow.

**Marie:** What about using gutter guards?

**Ed:** I am not a big fan of some styles of gutter guards. Debris can still fill the opening into the gutter. The manufacturers say that all gutter guards will plug up, but can be cleaned out easily with a hose. I say that when you're paying \$6 to \$10 per foot for a gutter guard you shouldn't have to clean them out at all.

**Troy:** I agree! But if they don't work, am I stuck cleaning gutters the rest of my life?

**Ed:** Pretty much. But there are a few things that will help. We sometimes use screens that fit over each downspout or a heavy-duty 1/4" mesh screen that clips into the gutters and keeps out most of the debris. The screen costs between \$1.50 and \$2.00 per foot installed, so it is a lot more reasonable than gutter guards.

**Marie:** And it sounds like it works better, too. Any other advice?

**Ed:** On some homes the downspouts drain directly into the footing drain. This defeats the purpose of a footing drain, which is to drain water away from the house. All that water from the roof can create a basement leak, and debris can plug the footing drain. I would recommend that people install a tight line (non-perforated, that is) drain system that catches the roof water and drains it away from the house. This doesn't need to be very deep, so it usually isn't very expensive to install.

**Troy:** Ed, thank you. I know you and your 20 carpenters keep busy, and we sure appreciate your time. We'll suggest to our readers that if they want to talk to you about gutters—or construction—they can call you at (206) 463-4111, or visit [www.edpalmerconstruction.com](http://www.edpalmerconstruction.com).

*If you have suggestions for topics to cover in Tips For Homeowners, or if you want to receive your copy via email, please write [marie@kwvashon.com](mailto:marie@kwvashon.com). And if you need real estate services, please give us a call at (206) 463-LIST. We would love to work for you.*

## Your Home Team Realty

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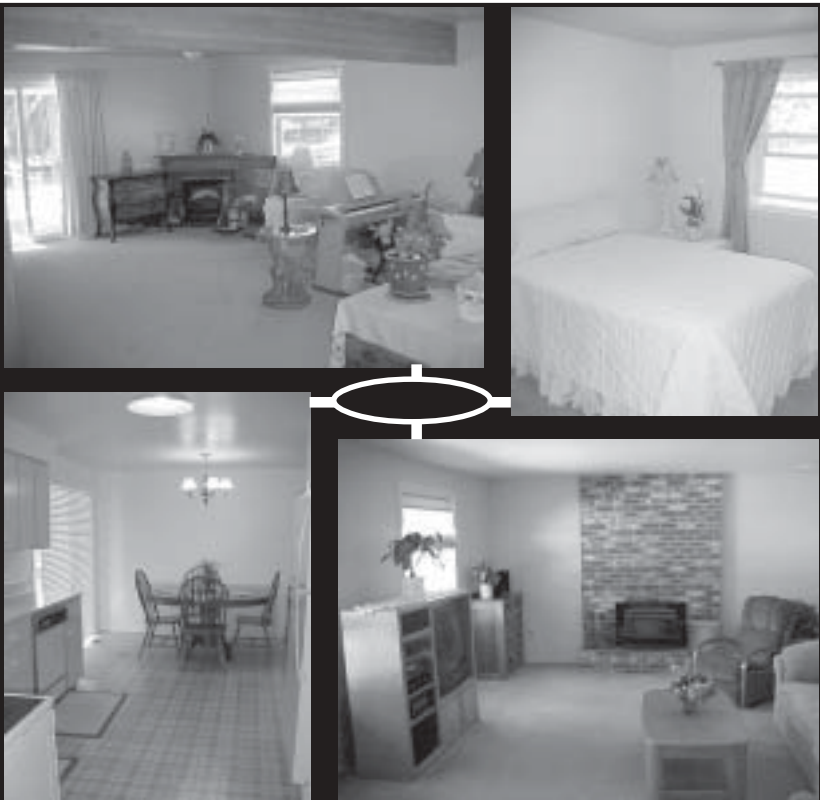
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On Tuesday, November 8th,  
vote for  
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for  
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**12522 SW 154th St.**  
**Vashon, WA 98070**

**McDonald to Speak  
October 12**  
Douglas McDonald, State Secretary of Transportation, will be the main speaker at the 34th District Democrats meeting on **Wednesday, October 12** at 7 p.m. He will speak on how measure I-912 will affect transportation planning in our area. The meeting will be held at The Hall at Fauntleroy, 9131 California Ave. SW, West Seattle. It is preceded by a social time at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to [www.34dems.org](http://www.34dems.org).

**District and Unions Reach  
Successful Contract Renewal**  
By Mary Kay Rauma  
The Vashon Island School District (VISD) administration and all unions associated with the district concluded a smooth negotiation process for renewal of labor contracts in September of 2005. The three-year agreement gives all staff an annual 1.2% cost of living adjustment for the 2005-2006 school year with the potential for a 1% increase in years two and three of the contract dependent upon state legislation. Union and district officials negotiated the contracts over the past six months. Both sides said the negotiations were positive and collaborative. The teacher contract renewal focused on the implementation of staff evaluations and performance accountability. “I am extremely pleased with the agreements we have reached with all of our employee groups and the manner with which we arrived at those agreements. This is great news for our students and their families,” stated VISD Superintendent, Dr. Mimi Walker. Walker noted that the Vashon Island School District administrators and associated union leaders have a good track record of working together to negotiate contract renewal. Over 1,600 students are enrolled in the Vashon Island School District. The District employs 114 teachers, 63 uncertified staff, and 7 administrative staff.

**Candidates Forum  
October 26th**  
On **October 26** The Vashon Maury Islands Community Council and the Vashon Unit of The League of Women Voters will co-sponsor an opportunity for Islanders to meet candidates for our local offices in the election November 8. It will be held in the courtroom at Courthouse Square at 7:00 p.m. On November 8 Islanders will be voting for directors and commissioners for School, Fire, Parks Water, Sewer, Airport, and Cemetery Districts. Becky Cox, President of The League of Women Voters of King County South will come across the water to serve as moderator.

**Vashon Democrats  
Offer Training**  
Please join the Vashon Democratic Club (VDC) and Vashon Democracy for America (DFA) for our back-to-back meetings this **Saturday, October 15**. In the DFA meeting, we will use training modules to build campaign skills in the development of messages and communication plans. Participants will also plan for the screening of the DVD *Wal-Mart, The High Cost of Low Price*, which will be shown at 7:00 p.m. on **Saturday, November 19**. At the Democratic Club meeting, we will review candidates and ballot issues for the **November 8 General Election**. We meet in the Land Trust building: DFA at 5:30 p.m., potluck social at 6:00 p.m., and VDC 6:30-8:30 p.m. More information: VDC: Dan Schueler, 463-5423; DFA: Jean Young, 463-2461.

<b>Retain Commissioner</b>	<i>Your vote matters! Please vote by absentee, or on November 8.</i>
<b>Dean Katz</b> <i>for</i> <b>WATER DISTRICT 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leadership</li><li>• Fiscal Integrity</li><li>• Environmental Stewardship</li></ul>
<b>POS #2</b> <small>Sponsored by Friends of Dean Katz &amp; District 19, 18850 103rd SW, Ste 108, Vashon, WA 98070 email: <a href="mailto:deankatz@msn.com">deankatz@msn.com</a> phone: 206.755.1281</small>	<b>Join us and many others in supporting Dean Katz:</b>  George and Sandy Eustice Lauri Hennessey • Mike Sudduth Melinda Sontgerath Tressa Azpiri • Bruce Haulman John Runyan • Beth de Groen Mary Kay Rauma • Ed Palmer Joyce Olson • Margaret Cruse VivIlo Veith • Joel Castoriano Shawn and Stacy Carkonen

**Vashon Youth Council and DOIT Begin  
Visioning Process**  
What gifts do youth have to give? Is there a need for youth-led organizations on Vashon? What might they look like? That’s what Debra Boyer is determined to help the community find out. A steering committee made up of representatives of the Vashon Youth Council and Development of Island Teens has hired Debra, a cultural anthropologist, to guide a visioning process between now and the end of the year to determine how our community can support the efforts of all young people who want to take an active roles in creating positive change in the world and in fulfilling their own dreams. Debra will be conducting interviews, focus groups, mapping exercises, and other activities to ascertain ways to create an organization or program that is led by youth and supported by adults. Debra Boyer’s background as a cultural anthropologist with expertise in children’s and youth issues is perfect for this work. She worked with Native American communities in Alaska, was co-founder of the Seattle-based Committee for Children, and most recently was associate director of YouthCare in Seattle. To contact Debra with questions or suggestions, please call her at (206) 329-0381 or e-mail her at [boyerdebra@hotmail.com](mailto:boyerdebra@hotmail.com). To contact the steering committee call Yve Susskind at 567-5036 or [ysusskind@earthlink.net](mailto:ysusskind@earthlink.net).

**Hennessey on bond, levy**  
*Continued from page 1*  
million capital levy replaces and builds on the current levy which expires at the end of this year. If approved, these funds would be used for immediate structural, safety, communications, and technology needs in the District. The District has undertaken numerous steps to ensure that problems like those occurring at Chautauqua never happen again. It has hired a capital projects manager to oversee future construction, increased maintenance staff and is implementing a maintenance plan to promptly identify problems and make repairs. These safeguards, along with strong Board policies making facilities stewardship a top priority, will protect all of our investment in Vashon’s schools. This community has an admirable history of supporting public education. Please vote Yes/Yes for schools on November 8.





# More Political Poop



Island Food, Housing Needs Are Critical

By Yvonne Pitrof, Executive Director  
Vashon-Maury Food Bank

Food and shelter. Many of us are reminded through recent events of some of our most basic needs. And it is beautiful to see all of the support and help that is pouring out from everyday people, including our island community, to help. I am proud of how much our community continues to respond upon hearing a cry for help. It makes the world a better place. I also ask that we not forget these basic needs among our own neighbors here on the island.

Over the last few years the numbers of people coming to the food bank has increased dramatically. These numbers reflect an increasing number of households living on the edge of financial disaster. To give an idea of what that means, since the beginning of the year the food bank has served 391 different families representing just under 1000 people. Some come a few times, just to get them through a temporary crisis, and more and more families are coming through on a regular basis, whether that is once, twice, three or four times a month, just to make ends meet. There are

anywhere from 10 to 26 new families every month. There are many more people who may be struggling, but don't feel they are to the point of needing help from the food bank, but nevertheless these households are often one paycheck away from crisis.

Housing is a huge factor in this equation as it often represents the largest expenditure in the budget, and one that often takes precedence over all others. One may be able to really only afford \$500 per month, but often the only thing available is \$850. Or maybe one can afford \$900, but can only find rentals with a price tag of \$1200. People end up with what there is available, regardless of the relative affordability for them, or they find themselves homeless, sometimes even with kids, creatively coming up with temporary shelter until something with an affordable rent can be found. And, at times, people will end up in any variety of little cabin, trailer or shack, often with a tarp over the roof to cover leaks, some with mold appearing on the walls in places, but which are affordable. Many of these places have been great affordable "finds" in the past and have been a staple of sorts for low-income folks, and some continue to be, but many of them are falling into decay and disrepair until they simply can no longer be lived in.

We are in no way seeing devastation as it is being experienced in the aftermath of the hurricane down in New Orleans, and while we need to do all we can to help, we cannot lose sight of these most basic needs that continue to be unmet here.

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# Vote Joyce Olson for Water District 19 Position 1

*"Bringing Critical Expertise When It's Needed"*

"Joyce Olson can bring her 20 years plus of CPA experience to bear when Water District #19 sorely needs it. She also provides a moderate voice that will help ensure Vashon's downtown business core remains viable in years to come."  
-- Melinda Sontgerath, Owner, The Hardware Store Restaurant

## Vote for Joyce Olson because:

**A.** Joyce Olson has been a CPA for 28 years, including years working on the finances of nonprofits on the Island, from Vashon Youth and Family Services to the Vashon Chamber of Commerce. Joyce will put her CPA skills to work, and help the District focus on moving out of its current difficult financial period.

**B.** Joyce knows the Island from her volunteer work in an array of organizations over the last several years. Currently the President of the Vashon Rotary, Joyce Olson believes in helping her community, and will bring that same dedication to her role as Water Commissioner.

**C.** Joyce wants to bring a reasonable perspective to the ongoing debate about Vashon's water supply. Her view is that controlling water shares is not the way to control growth, but that it only pushes development outside the core business district. Joyce will work to find a way to stabilize the water supply for Water District 19, both for the good of local businesses, and local families now critically in need of shares.

The hurricane really highlighted for me how much the most impoverished people, the most marginalized people were often the most vulnerable in the wake of disaster. I hope never to see that here. The more we ensure that these most basic needs can be met, the more we can effectively create various community plans that truly reflect the longer term needs and goals of our island, including economic development and disaster plans.

We can make a difference, here in our own community, and there are organizations on the island that do make a difference, everyday:

**The Vashon Maury Community Food Bank** serves anyone needing groceries every Wednesday from 11

a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. behind Granny's Attic and the Health Center. The Episcopal Church hosts a free hot meal open to all every Wednesday evening. The Presbyterian Church hosts a homeless shelter over the winter months that will expand to two nights per week (Tuesday and Thursday) this year.

**Vashon Household** is amazing in holding the long term vision it takes to plan, build and create low cost housing opportunities for low and moderate income families, seniors and disabled members of our community, including JG Commons, Charter House, and the upcoming Roseballen, Sunflower, and Earnisse projects.





# Spiritual Smart Aleck

by Mary Litchfield Tuel



## Island Employment: Living the Dream

Over the years I have heard people speak wistfully of their dream of both living and working on the Island. No more commuting; no more leaving at night and coming home at night in the winter months; no more missing out on that laid back, beautiful life that was, after all, the reason they moved to an island in the first place.

Well, my husband and I have lived the dream. I was thinking about that this morning as I tried to figure out how to make the new greeting on our answering machine say everything it needed to say in less than five minutes.

Because I have taken on the job of Editor Plenipotentiary (look it up) of *The Loop*, I decided I needed to devote one our three mailboxes to *Loop* messages, one to personal messages for Rick and me, and one to our older son, who is living with us. My grand daughter isn't old enough to have her own personal mailbox yet, thank heavens.

And what about my husband's work? People call here occasionally to report water system problems. Rick has been a water guy on Vashon since 1974, when we were all feckless young hippies. It didn't take long for the feckless young hippie to become a feckless wise old water guy, an *augenblick*, really.

But I digress. The point is, when you live and work on the Island, things can become complicated.

For one thing, because jobs on the Island tend to pay wages that would not support a moderate-sized Corgi, people who work here usually work more than one job. Sometimes they work a lot more than one job – once a friend told me that when she stopped and counted up all the things she did to earn money, it came to eight different jobs: office jobs, cleaning jobs, etc. She had a dazed look on her face as she told me this, and no wonder.

Three was my maximum. I was doing two part-time secretarial jobs, and doing in-home care, which added up to working seven days a week and some nights. I am downsizing from two to one. My husband works two jobs, and when we pool all our incomes together, we still don't have enough to pay the bills.

So that's one part of working on the Island.

Another part of working on the Island is that Island jobs mostly do not have benefits like health insurance, vacation days, holidays, or sick leave. When commuters are off, you work. There are no pensions or retirement plans with most Island jobs. You just get old and die.

If you are self-employed, you have the freedom to work insane hours, pay for your own medical insurance, and pay a huge chunk of your income in taxes at several levels of government. The largest of these taxes is Social Security. When people find out how much they owe the IRS for Social Security they tend to bend over and throw up. I do, anyway. It's stunning.

You also get to pay for insurance, gas, and repairs on any vehicles you use.

On top of that, there are property taxes to pay if you are a homeowner, and you know what property values have been doing here on the Island. They only go one way, up, and our tax bills go up along with them. Ours have quadrupled in the last few years.

When you add up the low pay, long hours, lack of benefits, lack of days off, huge expenses, and lack of retirement plan, well, the old commute can start to look pretty good. Or, some people move off.



As I say, we have lived the dream, living and working on the Island, so here we are, working several jobs, scrambling to pay the bills, no pensions. But when I go out on the porch on the ravine side of the house, drink my coffee and look out at the trees and hear the creek below, life seems pretty darn good, regardless, and the biggest problem I have is how to get all my people and jobs covered in my answering machine greeting.

To leave a message for the editor of *The Loop*, press 3 now.

Thanks.

ooooo

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# Don't Forget the Birds

## Returning Scaup Ducks

By Ed Swan  
Photos by Jim Rosso

The other day at Ellisport, I noticed the first Greater Scaup to return to the island this fall. Lesser Scaup might also be coming through soon as well. The two ducks look almost exactly alike but have different habitat preferences. Greater Scaup appear only on saltwater, while Lesser Scaup use saltwater slightly during migration. Lesser Scaup usually show up on small, freshwater ponds. Both ducks are about a foot-and-a-half long with dark head, breast and tails. Their grey backs and white side separate the black on either end. Differentiating between the two is difficult. Greater Scaup are somewhat larger, with rounded heads. The Lesser Scaup's head rises to a sort of squared-off point at the back. Field guides show a color difference in the head's plumage but the pictures are misleading. The color of the head usually just appears dark with both species' heads looking the same tint in most lighting conditions.

Small numbers of Greater Scaup return each year to Tramp and Quartermaster Harbors. They are possible anywhere on saltwater with Manzanita, Paradise Cove and Pt. Robinson being other likely locations. They eat a variety of foods such as molluscs, crustaceans, eelgrass and herring spawn, all of which occur in Vashon's near shore



environment. Occasionally, a Lesser Scaup or two will be mixed in to a flock serving as a nice comparison.

Greater Scaup around the island usually are observed in groups of six to eight males and females, with three to five groups spread around various locations. In some years groups of 30-50 might be seen. The Vashon Christmas Bird Count shows stable if not a slow increase in numbers over the seven years of the Count. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reports indicate that a 72% decrease occurred in the north Puget Sound area based on the Marine Ecosystem Analyses of 1979-80 and the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program surveys of 1992-99. Vashon, part of the central Puget Sound region, appears to be bucking that trend so far.

Lesser Scaup occur on saltwater in areas such as Tramp and Quartermaster Harbors as well as on small freshwater ponds such as Old Mill Road Pond and Fisher's Pond. In general, they utilize saltwater only in migration.

# PANDORA'S BOX

So Jenny thinks she's going back to Arizona.  
What's Glenn Frey got to do with it?  
Everything, apparently. Business will close until  
June 1. Margarita wake held June 13th.  
On a brighter note, Cheryl went shopping and got some great new merchandise - however Marge got the bill. You'd better come buy some

---

**Horus' Pick of the Week:**  
The new cat furniture Cheryl bought,  
especially the tube.  
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17321 Vashon Hwy. Big Red Building w/Animal Stuff on the porch

On saltwater they usually mix with Greater Scaup. Prior to the early 1900s, the scarcity of open fresh water ponds of any size on Vashon meant that Lesser Scaup were more uncommon than they are now. Observers currently find



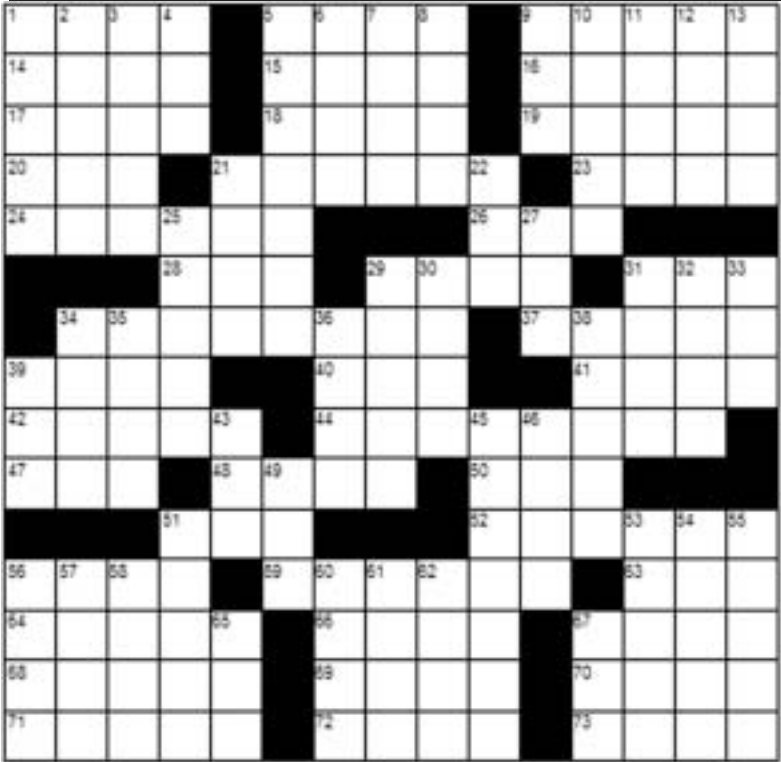
these ducks on ponds about every other year.

Other waterfowl have been migrating by as well. I noticed Ring-necked Ducks returning to some island ponds on September 22, Rich Siegrist observed 50 or so Greater White-fronted Geese over Colvos Passage on October 1, and Joy Nelsen saw about 40 Snow Geese over her place by Pt. Robinson on October 5. I looked up to see another overhead migrant, Turkey Vultures, probably coming down from

breeding in British Columbia, passing by over Pohl Road on the south end on October 1. Land birds showing up in the last couple of weeks included Varied Thrush in the woods September 15 and a Western Scrub Jay at the Blichfeldt's feeder in the Dockton area on October 6. Scrub Jays only show up at most once a year on Vashon. If you have an interesting sighting or a question about local birds, call me at 463-7976 or email at edswan@centurytel.net. ☺☺☺☺

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- 5. \_\_\_ matter
- 9. Month
- 14. Margarine
- 15. Valid
- 16. Waitress on "Cheers"
- 17. Ratify
- 18. Festive
- 19. Whiff
- 20. Thai
- 21. Using a keyboard
- 23. What you put in rope
- 24. Stellar
- 26. Affirmation
- 28. Wood chopper

- 29. What a clock tells
- 31. Munch
- 34. Creative
- 37. Long spear
- 39. Right
- 40. Lager
- 41. Kiln
- 42. Eyesight, for example
- 44. \_\_\_\_\_ Eggs(Easter treats)
- 47. Dab
- 48. Misfit
- 50. Parody
- 51. British drink
- 52. Horse-like animals
- 56. Prego's competition
- 59. Bright spot on sun
- 63. Furthest back

- 64. Perfume
- 66. Ma
- 67. East
- 68. Florida City
- 69. Globes
- 70. Fringe benefit
- 71. Mythical deity
- 72. Smirch
- 73. Very tall plant

### Down

- 1. \_\_\_ Rica
- 2. Anonym
- 3. Legitimate
- 4. After sun.
- 5. Socks
- 6. Vault
- 7. African country
- 8. Actor Alda
- 9. Spots

- 10. Sounds like change
- 11. Pour
- 12. Information
- 13. Parted
- 21. Cab
- 22. Workout place
- 25. Prices
- 27. Conger
- 29. A Hindu's red dot
- 30. Chilled
- 31. Desire

- 32. Pros
- 33. Decade
- 34. Realm
- 35. Midget
- 36. Mexican sandwich
- 38. Main artery
- 39. Teaspoon (abbr.)
- 43. Stretch to make do
- 45. Heavy ship cargo
- 46. Ca. University
- 49. Klutz

- 51. Stomache
- 53. Microwave laser
- 54. On fire
- 55. Bet
- 56. Professional football team
- 57. Opera solo
- 58. Kid's mom
- 60. Famous cookies
- 61. Fish
- 62. Convexity
- 65. Atmosphere
- 67. Clever

Solution on Page 17 ➡

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# Island Life

Text & photos by *Peter Ray*



I was talking with a friend the other day about a lot of things, not the least of which was my sensing that not very much interest had been generated from my ad that runs nearby in these pages. His response gave me pause, as well as got me to thinking that perhaps this might be a good topic for a column. What he said to me was this: “The reason people aren’t calling on the ad is because they don’t know what you do.”

This did not make a lot of sense at first, since “garden design” seems to be a fairly self-explanatory term. It is, however, something that can be rather broadly defined. I tend to have a hard time with this personal horn-blowing stuff, and I wasn’t sure how it would tie in with my postcard theme for the year, but it so happens that one of the photos fit in with the one thousand word thing without my realizing it until after I had taken it.

Generally, my photos are compositions of found objects as they were found. My favorite photography teacher used to use Marcel Duchamp to describe many photographs. This seemed a little odd since that is the way of most photo making - we capture something that is already there. As it was, she did a lot of work with highly manipulated photos and collage work, so the standard photo to her had to have an extra element of surprise, mystery or the look of having been manipulated in order to avoid getting the ready-made stamp. Chance and serendipity and luck play a large role in this process, which actually doesn’t translate well into the realm of garden photography.

This is the one place that I make the exception to the manipulation rule, and is how the first photo here came to be.

As I was walking through one of my greenhouses I saw a small native fireweed plant growing as a weed out of one of the pots. It hadn’t made it to the flowering stage, but was already in the process of turning an intense mix of orange-red and yellow. Not too far away I noticed

another plant, a small start of the Parasol Tree, *Firmiana simplex*, that had taken on a very peculiar Fall coloring of yellow with green veining. I thought that the combining of the textures of the long and narrow leaves of the fireweed with the broad, steroidal maple leaf-like form of the *Firmiana* would be a good juxtaposition of shape, and the complementary colors of red and green would all mix well to make an intriguing composition. This is how I work in designing landscapes, both on the basic level of creating weaves of texture through shape and color, and by using both native plants and exotics that have proven to do well in our temperate, marine climate. This was kind of an extreme example, since *Firmiana* is one of those plants that tread on the edge of hardness and might be lost in a stretch of the worst thing that Winter might throw at us. But it is also part of what makes for surprise, mystery and interest in the garden — something beyond the bark and bush ready-made.

There is a growing interest out there in planting natives in the landscape and this is mostly a good thing. They are, after all, the plants that have proven themselves the longest in this area. What I have come to dislike is the zealotry that accompanies this trend, which translates into the exclusion of all but native plants from a garden or landscape. There is a certain degree of hypocrisy in this approach. We drink coffee (try growing, let alone harvesting a crop in the Cascades), drive Japanese cars, watch French films. Why, if a plant is drought tolerant, is not invasive and offers a different texture, color, form and/or fragrance for the garden, should it not be as welcome as one of our natives? We could spiral off from here into sustainability, bio-regionalism, and political correctness

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and things would get very complicated.

To simplify matters and bring things back to thoughts of design, we will refer to the project I recently completed for Vashon Household. What they wanted was an entrance garden for their Roseballen housing project west of town near Co-Housing. The soil was mostly construction site scrapings and sand, so I amended with Island Spring okara, the nitrogen-rich by-product from the tofu making process, and bark compost from Dennis Didricksen’s Dirt Yard, made entirely from yard waste grindings that were collected and shredded at their location across the street from LS Cedar, next to Central Storage. The overriding concern was drought tolerance and low maintenance. To reiterate a point that continues to be mostly ignored, there is no such



thing as a maintenance-free garden, especially in the Pacific Northwest. In a play on the word rose (Rose Ballen was one of the founders of Vashon Household) I decided to use roses, most of which were natives, rockroses and rosemary, with a few other things with rose in the cultivar name thrown in as well. And since the project has land connections with the former Mukai Fruit Company, two kinds of spreading, native strawberries were used as groundcover. Mixed in with these were more natives and exotics for a variety of colors, forms and fragrances for year-round interest.

There is no watering system here. I hand-watered everything through the heat of Summer either once or twice a week and only lost two plants for unknown reasons — the plants recently lost to theft are another story covered elsewhere in this paper. Ideally, planting is best done in the Fall. Plants establish better when they are put in the ground this time of year for a number of reasons. The soil is still warm, the cooler temperatures aren’t as stressful on

new plantings and the Fall rains cut down on the amount of water needed from aquifer, pipe and hose. In general I have found that things planted in the Fall will put on sometimes double the growth of similar plants put in the following Spring. Plus, since they have already established a network of feeder roots, Fall-planted things require less watering the next year than do Spring planted ones. In a more water-wise future, underscoring the advantages of Fall planting in the area of water conservation might translate into mandates rather than mild suggestions.

Hopefully this answers my friend’s question, and anyone else’s that might be interested in a new or revitalized garden. Until recently, my primary interest has been in ornamentals, but with a common sense increase in concern over sustainability and self-reliance, the need for edibles in the landscape has caught my attention as well. I prefer to build what I design, since site idiosyncrasies often dictate where a design should go, above and beyond what paper drawings might try to impose on the land. Instead of an overall design, perhaps a consultation is all you need to figure out a way to deal with that problem area. Either

way, if you would like to take advantage of planting now during the best time of year, let me know at 567-4542 or at pgr42@att.net

*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 stamped and sent through the mail as individual postcards, or get them in a packet to send out yourself. Make sure you include your mailing address. Send all requests to 10322 SW 165 St., Vashon Island, WA 98070.*

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Garden Design  
by  
Peter Ray

~ Consultation  
~ Installation

567-4542

pgr42@worldnet.att.net





# The Film Thing

By Peter Ray    pgr42@worldnet.att.net

## The Indifference of Nature

A film came home with Wendy a short while back — a suggested viewing by a co-worker. Not long after plugging it into the player, she fell asleep, leaving me to be reminded why the “educational films” of my school days had left a bad taste on my still undeveloped cinematic palette. The hour-long show was titled *Alone in the Wilderness*, and featured the mostly tripod supported imagery and droning narration of one Dick Proenneke, and was the visual summation



of his thirty years in the Alaska outback. It started with his building a cabin and went on into some of his observations about life in the wild. It is undeniable that what we are shown here is an example of practical ingenuity and focused perseverance. But it is also undeniably boring, and it took most of my no walk-out/ ignore the eject button ethic and a better part of a bottle of wine to make it to the end.

The same cannot be said of our feature for this time, *Grizzly Man*. This is because where *Alone in the Wilderness* seeks to be a sort how-to guide to living in the wilds, *Grizzly Man* jumps back and forth between the shoulds and the should nots of life out in Nature, with the result being a greater, and on-going, mystery to deal with than what we had before we walked into the theater. German director Werner Herzog presents us here with a slice of the one hundred hours of video that Timothy Treadwell shot over the course of the last five of thirteen summers he spent living in grizzly territory in Alaska’s Katmai National Park. In doing the Google thing on Katmai, I find the first thing I see is an offer to go Alaska bear viewing, starting at \$499. This is a part of why Timothy Treadwell spent his summers with the grizzlies — to protect them from intruders. But as anyone who has heard of Treadwell’s story knows, the bears can do a pretty good job of fending for themselves.

This leads one to wonder why Treadwell was there in the first place — if you are looking for that answer, then this film will be a disappointment. Sure, we are told that it was alcohol and drugs that were ruining Treadwell’s life and that his work with the bears (and don’t forget the foxes) allowed him to cleanse himself of these destructive vices.

But there is a gaping void in the information column about how he made the leap from failed Hollywood actor to both a gentle and a ranting grizzly bear advocate. What Herzog seems to be saying in his selection of tape footage, his interpretive narration and in the interviews that are conducted with Treadwell’s friends, acquaintances and detractors, is that the big “Why” here doesn’t matter. In speaking of Treadwell’s naïve genius with the video camera, Herzog appears to be

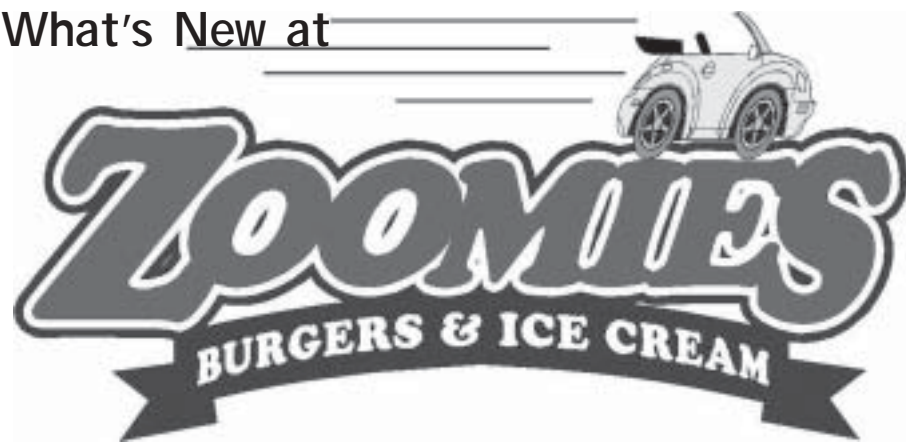
asking us to forget about the big question and to see Treadwell’s work as a melding of life and art.

There is some amazing footage here, both intended and from happenstance. Of the interviews conducted, all contain an element of raw emotion, either out front or just below the surface. But the most memorable of Herzog’s subjects was the coroner Franc Fallico, who performed the autopsy on the collective remains of Treadwell and his girlfriend Amy Huguenard, after the fatal bear attack that took both their lives in 2003. Fallico gets wildly expressive in both his facial contortions and his gesticulations in describing what he thought had happened during the attack from how the remains were torn and mangled. And then when he is done, he steps back and shuts down like a spent animatronic figure, and Herzog holds the shot a bit longer than needed, perhaps looking for some sign of residual emotion that just doesn’t seem to be forthcoming,



and we are left with a portrait of perfect coroner’s detachment.

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In a final blurring of the lines between life and art, we are shown some of the last footage Treadwell shot of himself just hours before the fatal attack. It is a low angle shot with the camera facing up into a blustery and wet wind. Raindrops splatter the lens, blurring parts of the scene, and with the skies darkening and the wind tossing the nearby grasses around, he gives his expedition farewell speech in what mostly resembles some kind of dream sequence with bucket loads of foreboding. It was a dark and stormy night out in the Katmai, but it had been thirteen years since Treadwell had left the “Do Not Attempt” signs of a different kind shining brightly from every window at home in California. One can only wonder whether the edge he left behind or the one he lived on among the bears was the less risky of the two. 000000

Women who seek  
to be equal with  
men lack ambition.  
—Timothy Leary

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#### Vashon Loop Staff

Writers: Kathy Abascal, Deborah Anderson, Marie Browne, Eric Francis, Jeff Hoyt, Troy Kindred, Melissa McCann, Orca Annie, Rex Morris, Jessie Preste, Peter Ray, Jonathan Shipley, Ed Swan, Mary L. Tuel

Guest writers: Mark A. Goldman, Rachel Bard, Kevin Pottinger

Photographers: T Kindred, P Ray

Original art, comics, cartoons: Richard Carson, Ed Frohning, Rick Tuel, Jeremy Gregory, Jeff Hawley

Ad sales and design: Troy Kindred and Marie Browne; ads@vashonloop.com; (206) 463-9207.

Editor: Mary L. Tuel  
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editor@vashonloop.com;  
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# Loop

## Letters From the Edge

### Southworth Loading Needs Change

Editor, *The Loop*:  
The current policy for Southworth loading for Vashon bound vehicles on a mixed-load to Fauntleroy requires Vashon drivers to be present at least FIVE MINUTES prior to departure. If a car bound for Vashon arrives within that five minute time limitation, the car will be denied the opportunity of loading for that particular sailing, in spite of the fact that the vessel is frequently well under capacity, with sufficient time to load additional vehicles. This ruling strands Vashon drivers for up to one and a half hours waiting for the next ferry.

Due to combination destinations, Vashon-bound vehicles must be loaded in facing the opposite direction. If a vehicle is over-height or in combination with a trailer, the driver must load by backing onto the ferry. Vashon vehicles are loaded first, then Fauntleroy vehicles, and then finally, the backwards loading Vashon vehicles. If Fauntleroy loading has begun, any Vashon bound vehicles arriving at the gate within the time limitation will also be required to back onto the ferry.

Information from Captain Williams of the Washington State Ferry system reveals that the ruling was created in 1996-1997 by the terminal manager Doug Schlieff. Mr. Schlieff says that the ruling was in direct response to their inability to maintain scheduled sailings with the high numbers of Vashon bound traffic arriving within minutes of sailing, along with combination vehicles creating delays in departure. The terminal managers govern their own docks but are under the obligation of the Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) rulings. According to Mr. Schlieff, this ruling for the 5 minute lead time requirement was never presented to the FAC.

Changes in activity since then include the closing of K2 manufacturing on Vashon and reduction of the associated traffic. Additionally, the changes in sailings for direct routes to Fauntleroy in the afternoons have greatly reduced traffic for Vashon bound ferries, thus rendering this policy obsolete. My experience is that the number of cars bound for Vashon averages 5-20 on the busiest afternoon sailings. Trailer combinations and over height vehicles no longer exceeds 2-3 on any given sailing. Nonetheless, cars are fairly consistently left behind.

I have used this ferry system for over ten years and this dock is the only one with a 5 minute loading rule. Even docks with a 2 minute rule do not enforce it as stringently as Southworth. Captain Williams has shared with me that he has asked the Southworth dock workers to load the Vashon bound vehicles, but his request was denied. After speaking with Mike Sudduth, the Vashon representative and Co-chair for the FAC, he has added this issue to the agenda for the next meeting and would like to know how many islanders are affected by this ruling or would stand in support for lifting the 5 minute rule and replacing it with sound judgment in loading the combination vehicles in such a manner as to prevent delays for departure.

If you wish to be represented, please contact me immediately with your perspective at [angelaweiss@comcast.net](mailto:angelaweiss@comcast.net) and put “ferry” in the subject heading.

Angela Weiss Kappy

### Garden Theft

*Continued from page 1*


In speaking with other gardeners, I find that I am not alone in the ranks of plant theft victims — this is actually the second time I have had plants taken from a public garden that I’ve planted. I know that plants have been removed from the flowerbeds at the library. Seventy-five newly planted plants were taken from the beds at Parker Plaza. Shrubs were taken from the front of Fair Isle Veterinary. Geraniums were taken from in front of Essentials 4. These are not all recent events, but instances that have taken place over the past three or four years. The most troubling theft experienced by gardener Becky Bumgarner was the discovery that the new planting she had done at the cemetery had been rifled through, with all the flowering plants being taken and the remaining ones rearranged to make it look as though nothing was missing.

Besides being disheartening, the end result of these thefts is a dumbing down of public plantings.

Nobody wants to put in a good plant only to have it whisked off in the middle of the night by some petty crook. In the same vein, having parts of a well thought out landscape carted off is a bit like tagging a painting or breaking an arm or a piece off a sculpture. In my two cases, the person(s) have known what they were taking, which in another world would mean that, being gardeners, they should know better than to be taking them in the first place.

As far as the farmers go, the recent theft was from Kurtwood Farm’s stand. A cash box that had been bolted to one of the porch posts was ripped off with a crowbar, taking part of the post with it. In speaking with owner






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Editor, *The Loop*:  
Hawe! Friends of Wolftown,

Thank you so much for making Wolftown’s first annual membership drive a success! The donations received were needed and very generous. The sweet notes that accompanied the donations are so heartening to the staff and me. The staff members at Wolftown are all volunteers and getting these notes from you really helps us do this difficult and needed work! If my staff or I have forgotten to thank you, please forgive us. We are often overwhelmed with work and rescued animals but we do think about you and cannot do this work without you! THANK YOU!

Again thank you for being there for Wolftown!  
Sincerely, T Martino

Editor, *The Loop*:  
Some of you have helped my mom to start rebuilding her home/healing center, on the Gulf Coast, after the hurricane. Others of you have joined my family every autumn, and packed gift-filled shoeboxes for needy children around the world. There are a million ways to help someone else — these are just two of them.

And to those of you who wanted to “pack a shoebox with love,” but didn’t, because they are shipped and delivered through a “Christian” organization, Samaritan’s Purse, I understand. I truly believe all faiths and spiritual beliefs have much goodness in them. We have so much to learn from those who are different from ourselves.

When our daughters were little, and we were trying to teach them to help others, we found out about the gift-filled shoeboxes. Grace and Sophie had so much fun choosing a stuffed animal, art supplies, a toothbrush and toothpaste, and writing a letter to pack in a shoebox, to send to another child somewhere, who had less than they did. This is why we still collect gift-filled shoeboxes every autumn, because it’s been a very real, hands-on way for our children to help other children.

If this is a way you’d like to help another child this autumn, you can pick up a brochure in town — at Thriftway, the Vashon Pharmacy, or the Little House. We will have a mini-collection area outside our home, where you can pick up brightly-colored empty shoeboxes and/or drop off gift-filled shoeboxes. If you have a group, packing shoeboxes, I’ll be glad to pick them up. We’ll be collecting your gift-filled shoeboxes through Friday, November 18th.

However you help someone else - thank you - you’re making a difference.  
Nannette Cotton Pawlowski

Kurt Timmermeister I found that this was his third experience with farm-related theft. His first was with a roadside table he had set up to sell honey. It was vandalized within three hours of when he first put it out. Not really understanding what had happened, he set everything back up, only to return and find that the table had been destroyed. His cash box was taken from the stand back in May, which led to the bolting of the moneybox to the farmstand post. In the email

discussion that followed Timmermeister’s initial farmstand query, it was noted that only one other instance of vandalism and theft of this nature had occurred in the past few years on the Island.

But I also heard in talking with Saturday Market farmers that some were having second thoughts about setting up self-serve farmstands and inviting that kind of potential trouble. In recalling a recent trip to Salt Spring Island up in the Canadian San Juans, Timmermeister had noted dozens of farmstands along the roadsides, suggesting that perhaps they did not have the same problem with farmland security up there. The question came up in all of these conversations as to why this was happening on Vashon. No good answers were immediately forthcoming.

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by Eric Francis

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**Aries (March 20-April 19):** There are certain processes in life and in growth that go on for a long time before they show any progress. Something you’ve been working at for quite a while, perhaps a year or more, is about to show you some inner results. The emotional realms of a human being are among the most mysterious and difficult to navigate, and often, the best progress we make comes when we were least expecting it, in ways we could not have planned for. You seem to be approaching such a moment, as you experience a new level of maturity and self-understanding you’ve been reaching toward for a long time.

**Taurus (April 19-May 20):** A meeting or encounter has had a more profound effect on you than you first recognized. It helps that you are in a particularly aware state of mind and are willing to be fully honest with yourself. The unusual mix of elements is leading you to a state of being where you are feeling both passionate and mature, which most people would claim cannot actually happen. While all things in life are transient, what you are experiencing is touching you on a deep level, at the core of your being and in the cells of your body. You may have thought that such experiences were either lost in the past or floating in the future. But in truth, there’s nothing like now.

**Gemini (May 20-June 21):** Please don’t be deterred by an unexpected challenge or turning point. Change is still very much in the air, particularly when you remember that we are in the weeks between two eclipses. Remember that your learning curve right now involves taking the most creative possible approach to any new situations that arise in your life — not a logical approach, but a sensible creative angle on your situations that allows you to see them mainly for their potential, rather than for their ability to alter your plans. It may be that you’ve cut your cloth to fit an entirely different pattern, but starting over is not as complicated as you may feel, or fear.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** This week’s eclipse of the Moon reaches across the most ambitious angle of your chart. We cannot really say this is a time to take initiative — you’ve done plenty of that, and the eclipse points to something outside your immediate control or awareness. But the implication is that you are going through a significant development in your professional life, but once you’re aware of what it is, it won’t surprise you and you’re very unlikely to be disappointed. But life is worthless if you don’t feel grounded, content and in your case, engaged in something meaningful and a little risky. Soon enough.

**Leo (July 22-Aug. 23):** Someone is struggling to be more like you. In particular, your ability to stay centered in the present and not let the past bear down on your life is a quality they are attempting to learn. The present is an easy place to find as long as someone shows you where it is. You did not get to this space accidentally; it’s taken you years of learning and practice. But this is time that others don’t have available at this phase in history, as things are moving way too fast. Therefore, hold up the light where others can see it. Direct everyone around you toward the Here and Now.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22):** Generally, right and wrong are clear to you, based on a mental assessment and the systematic use of logic. At the moment, you’re being called to judge the veracity of a person or situation based on your intuition alone, and this is proving to be difficult. One the one hand, you’ve taken the viewpoint of an intelligent person under advisement. This is someone who clearly seems to be on your side, and is speaking from experience. On the other hand, your doubts are still nagging you. There is another way to see this situation, if you can acknowledge that a past hurt is biasing your perspective. Once you can do that, everything else will come into focus.

**Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23):** Nobody is expecting you to act like you don’t have an opinion of your own. All you need to do is use the some friendly packaging to express your most innovative idea. Human nature, which tends to fear its own shadow, will respond well to a slightly measured approach to what is in truth a solution or approach that gets to the soul of the matter. You may think that others have worked it out far better than you have. But a recent insight, idea or revelation has compelled you to look at the situation differently, and this is exactly what you need to present to someone you may feel knows better than you.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22):** You’re making progress. True, it’s not the progress you had anticipated, but left and right are relative terms, as are up and down. As you work your way through a series of personal improvements, you may finally conclude that your ideas about life have indeed been a bit inside-out and upside-down. What matters more than anything is that you take one step at a time and persist in your new habit of seeing everything from the viewpoint of those who are close to you. I’m not saying you need to live your life for them, or through them. But they know something that you do not. You’re well on the way to figuring it out for yourself.

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**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22):** The most revolutionary ideas often are the simplest, much as the observations of children tend to go right past the self-defeating, over-educated logic of adults. Your emotions are currently clouding a situation that would seem a lot clearer if you approached it with your usual devil-be-damned tilt on life. But it may in fact be someone much younger than you who points you right in the direction of your highest personal truth. This child or much younger person may need your advocacy or assistance in some other way. It will be a healthy exchange of their wisdom for your strength.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20):** Acknowledging equality is not a matter of everyone being the same, or even having the same potential. It is more a matter of people agreeing just how the chessboard of life is set up. A knight is not a rook, and you are not a pawn. While it may be to the chagrin of certain people around you, you are finding your voice, your sense of authority and more than anything, your sense of direction. In truth, to the extent that jealousy is a factor in the situation, the reason is because you are willing to forego elements of emotional security that they are not.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19):** You can count on the truth that people learn from their mistakes. Sadly, humans don’t seem to learn from much else, and usually those mistakes are pretty serious. But for a while you’ll need to play along with the fact that certain individuals around you may not be noticing how their own process works, and may in fact be feeling like you’re the one whose hard knocks have finally got your attention. One thing is true — you are learning to throw the past away. You are learning more from letting go of your errors than you ever learned from the mistakes themselves.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** Next week’s eclipse of the Moon touches the ultra-sensitive self-esteem angle of your solar chart, and you may be feeling your doubts about something in yourself. Rather than accept this as a final judgment, I suggest you take the next week or so and pay attention to your sense of being injured, and notice how this has shaped your perceptions and attitude toward life. There really were two ways you could have gone, but a long time ago you chose one path and not the other. Okay, you feel hurt. And you’ve come a long way in a positive direction. Focus on healing, and you’ll have it soon enough.

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# LIVING WELL WITH PLANTS

Text and drawings by Kathy Abascal (AHG)



## Dealing with Earaches

Earaches are a common childhood experience, and they are the reason why many children end up at the doctor’s office. They are also a common reason antibiotics are given. This may be unnecessary as earaches can usually be treated successfully at home, and in addition, ear infections can be viral and not respond to antibiotics in any event.

Aviva Romm, a midwife-herbalist and mother of four children, explains that parents need not panic when their children have an ear infection. An occasional earache rarely leads to hearing loss and chronic ear inflammation usually takes months to cause permanent hearing loss. She explains that even a ruptured eardrum rarely causes hearing loss. Of course, they can be excruciatingly painful and should be avoided at all cost but Aviva’s point is simply that parents can treat an ear infection at home as long as they are aware of symptoms that dictate a visit to the doctor.


Earaches usually respond rapidly to herbs, and within a day, the severe discomfort and signs of infection should have passed. If there are no signs of improvement, if the infection seems worse or if you suspect something more complex than a simple ear infection, medical attention is needed. If fluid is draining from the ear, the ear drum may have ruptured and a consultation is necessary.

Signs of an ear infection are fairly obvious. Children who cannot talk will be irritable, scream or cry suddenly, and pull on their ears. Older children usually tell you their ear hurts. If the ear is red and the lobe is very tender to the touch, you are probably dealing with an outer-ear infection. This is commonly called swimmer’s ear because it frequently results from getting water into the ear while swimming. You can prevent these by putting a few drops of white

vinegar in each ear after swimming to kill microbes and dry out the ear canal. Once it has occurred, swimmer’s ear should be treated as any other ear infection to prevent it from spreading to the middle and inner ear. If your child is having trouble hearing but is not showing other signs of ear infection, an inspection with an otoscope (if you have one) may show cloudiness, fluid or pus in the ear. This too is treated as any ear infection.

The treatment involves applying heat and inserting herbal ear drops into the ear. A hot water bottle, wrapped in a towel to prevent burns, is held over the sore ear(s) for 5 to 10 minutes (or as long as the child wants) to soothe the pain. Do this 2 or 3 times a day. In addition, you should put ear drops in the ear several times a day and gently hold the ear closed for a short moment. Herbal ear drops frequently combine garlic, mullein flowers and St John’s wort extracted in olive oil. Garlic has many antibacterial qualities. Mullein flowers have long been used to relax bronchial spasms and as a mild sedative to the lungs. Research shows that it is antiviral. As an ear oil, mullein flowers are gentle and non-irritating. St. John’s wort is an anti-inflammatory and often soothes nerve pain when applied topically. You can make herbal oils at home but I recommend buying herbal ear drops. Oils can make a good home for bacteria and I worry about possibly introducing additional bacteria into the ear.

When the infection does not quickly resolve with this treatment, it is probably because of the difficulty in getting the medicine to an infection that has settled on the inner side of the tympanic membrane. The volatiles in the herbal ear drops will permeate that membrane to some extent but sometimes not enough. It appears that essential oils may help solve this problem. In one study, two drops of essential oil were put on cotton wool and placed in the ears of rats with inner ear infections. The essential oil quickly cured the



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infections but in some rats the essential oil (held in place for ½ to 1 hour) irritated and inflamed the outer ear. Aromatherapists recommend applying a few (2 or 3 drops) of oil to a warm compress and holding it gently against the ear for 5 minutes at a time, watching carefully for signs of skin irritation from the oil. Thyme or oregano oil, both strongly antimicrobial, are likely to be very helpful as part of a treatment for ear infections if applied carefully or gently. Lavender might also be a good choice; they used basil oil in the rat study. Of course, under no circumstances should the oil be applied directly to, or in, the ear. Finally, the child should take Echinacea or elderberry and eat plenty of warming, vitamin-rich foods to boost their immune response to the infection. If your child suffers from recurrent ear



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

infections, these remedies will continue to work but you should look into whether food sensitivities, poor diet, pacifiers or the habit of drinking from sippy cups or bottles while lying down are causing the recurrent problem.

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Book Review

Of Woodpeckers, Heath Hens, and Other Extinct Friends

by Rachel Bard

“Isn’t it great, this news about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker?” I asked my luncheon companion. She’s one of the most intelligent people I know, with an inquiring mind and wide interests. We talk about a lot of things, but I guess we’d never talked about birds.

“What news is that?”

“Why, they think they’ve found one down in Arkansas, after believing it was extinct all these years. You mean you haven’t read about it?”

“My dear, don’t you realize there’s a whole world of us out here that wouldn’t know a woodpecker from a hummingbird, and what’s more don’t care?”

The exchange stunned me, but you’re in luck, gentle readers. It impelled me to spread the word about a wonderful book I’ve just read. Birders or not, you’ll find it absorbing reading just for the stories.

*Hope Is the Thing with Feathers* by Christopher Cokinos (Warner Books, 2001) takes its name from the Emily Dickinson poem. It’s a sobering account of the extinction of six once flourishing North American birds, including the Ivory-bill. (Since he wrote the book hope has sprouted a few new feathers.) He calls it, “a personal chronicle of vanished birds.” The others are the Carolina Parakeet, the Passenger Pigeon, the Heath Hen, the Great Auk and the Labrador Duck.

Cokinos spent ten years researching the birds’ melancholy histories, but the book is no downer. His curiosity is infectious, his zeal for tracking down a source or a fact would do credit to Sherlock Holmes, and he writes like a poet—which he happens to be. He takes us into the woods, the marshes, the prairies, the forests, where he recreates the world these vanished species inhabited. We meet men with a passion to hunt, to kill; those with a passion to collect birds, dead or alive; others bent on clearing, building and farming — draining marshes, cutting down forests, covering the landscape with asphalt, devil take the birds and beasts. We also meet the dedicated people who tried desperately to save the displaced creatures. They’re the ones who give us hope.

And to be sure, we meet the birds themselves. On finishing the book you’ll feel you’ve lost six beloved family members.

The Heath Hen, for example. These plump grouse-like birds, cousins to the Prairie Chicken of the Great Plains, were once abundant all up and down the East Coast. The first white settlers found them a handy source of food (though hardly a gastronomic treat: the meat was dark and gamy). During the 19th century the numbers began to decline. They were easy prey for unskilled hunters, a cheap food

source, and tempting to dealers in feathers to adorn ladies’ hats. They were irresistible to museum collectors whose idea of saving a species was to shoot the last few survivors, stuff them and put them on public display. Their curious habit of strutting and “booming” during the courtship dance got them more attention than they needed, making them desirable trophies for amateur naturalists.

By the end of the century their last holdout was on Martha’s Vineyard. Despite a ban on hunting, creation of a refuge, and winter feeding, their numbers declined from thousands, to hundreds, to thirty, then to one. Though seldom seen, this involuntary bachelor kept up the annual courtship ritual and earned the name “Booming Ben.”

Things didn’t reach this sorry pass without heroic efforts by a small army of would-be saviors. The account of their persistence and ingenuity is an object lesson in activism. The Massachusetts Fisheries & Game Division, legislators, educators, Audubon, farmers, sportsmen and a dogged ornithologist called Alfred Gross gave the struggle their all. They squabbled about tactics (what dogooders don’t?), stumbled, went off on divergent paths, agonized about declines in the annual census, tried everything from captive breeding to shooting rats and hawks that preyed on the birds. They had one thing in common: in spite of disagreements and setbacks they never gave up hope.

Neither did Booming Ben. One of his last observed acts, in the spring of 1929, was totally unprecedented. Instead of performing the booming ritual on the ground, he flew to the very top of an oak tree. There he “bobbed his head,...inflated the air sac, spread and pressed his wings against his body, lifted his tail and boomed. Far from the ground on which his companions once had walked, the world’s last Heath Hen displayed his valiance and desire from on high, the sound of the moaning boom sliding downward to the drumming field... The Heath Hen boomed and boomed from the top from the tree, and no kin answered. When a hawk flew over...the Heath Hen pivoted down in flight and flew away to hide.”

After 1932 nobody saw Ben again.

At the end of the book Cokinos, no mawkish mourner, discusses practical actions concerned citizens can take. “Contemplation that does not foster action is no better than a broken wing,” he counsels. If you’re eager to keep hope from losing more feathers look up [www.stopextinction.org](http://www.stopextinction.org). And join Audubon.

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We’ve Got A Lot of Kids

by Kevin Pottinger

Read, Dad

We have several hundred thousand little kid’s books. We have every one ever made.

My wife gets them, in bulk, from garage sales, eBay and Granny’s. They come into the house in boxes, loose or packed tight in shipping crates, sometimes hand-delivered by friends at birthdays. I’ve read each of them aloud several times (not counting this week’s shipment). I’ve read a couple in particular, *Go Dog Go* and *Hooper Humperdink ...? Not Him!* several times, every night, for months.

Ike and Izzy, Lester, Luke and Lum, Do you like my hat? No, I do not like your hat. These phrases occupy my subconscious, they are in the air I breathe and the water I bathe in. Surprisingly, I’ve found I don’t mind reading the same two books over and over, I’ve come to like it. With mind-numbing repetition these two books have sunk deeply in my psyche, allegories of the nature of good and evil infused with classic wisdom. My wife thinks I’m “one toke over the line, Sweet Jesus”, and wants to take over reading the bedtime stories for a while.

The kid’s books I’m not so fond of are the newer books with overly correct themes, about sharing and feelings and healthy self-esteem. There is plenty that is right with those lessons, but for entertainment value, give me books with lines like, “Humperdink’s a party pooper!” or “You’re not my mother! You are a snort!” Little kids have no manners whatever, and these books fit them perfectly: a version of the truth, plainly stated, without finish or adornment.

In our house, any adult sitting down is an easy mark for roaming squads of dirty-faced kids with a couple of books in their grimy hands. “Read, Dad.” They patrol the living room and dining room like flies waiting for a carcass to drop. Maria and I can only stand so long before we eventually drop, into a chair. “Read, Mom.”

My wife favors the books with the sing-songs and clap-hands and

rub-heads stuff. As I’m quite stuffy , I can’t make myself do that, so I avoid them. Maria is far more fun than me and she is really good at it. She’s every kid’s dreamy Camp Counselor. She knows all the sing-along campfire songs by heart, plus she knows all the fun stomping and clapping games.

I like the books with lots of different voices and high drama, like *The Three Little Pigs* or *Green Eggs and Ham*. I pay finicky attention to pronunciation, and I imagine myself a great reader, a master storyteller on a darkened stage with a hushed audience, with several CDs for sale in Wal-Marts across the country. I exaggerate the melodies of the sentences, using different voices for each character, and push and pull the rhythm of the words artfully. Yet more often than not, my best story reading is answered with small dry snores, and I realize that if I had been mumbling the letters and numbers from a brightly colored electric motor schematic, with gay pictures of dogs and cats on some of the pages, it would have been exactly the same. If I had read the clap-hands rub-heads book, they’d have been ecstatic. So perhaps that’s why Maria lets me do the bedtime reading.

I love reading to our kids, but I love more what comes after, when the kids are asleep: an hour or two before bed when Maria and I can eat a lot of snacks and collapse on the couch watching reruns of *CSI*. Sometimes we have special treats that Maria has hidden in the cupboard. (Hey you babies! By the time you learn how to read, all those treats will be long gone!). We don’t waste time discussing anything important, or waste the precious minutes on affection; we find our pleasure in Clairol commercials and a box of Ho-hos.

Lots of people insist all that can be known is written in books, so reading books is clearly good. We hope as the kids grow up that they’ll not outgrow their love of books in favor of Xbox or the WB channel or some intricate role-playing card game. I can attest that in reading books to my kids I have learned an immense amount, especially the epistemological significance of *Go Dog Go*, and have deepened my faith with the anagogical allegory “*Hooper Humperdink ...? Not Him!*”

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**Subway Going Up**

Ron Adams, masonry contractor for Cascade Construction, dropped by the site of the new Subway going being built in uptown Vashon. He and Project Superintendent George Taitano guessed that the sandwich shop would open sometime after the holidays.



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*Madame Toujours*

Dear Madame Toujourns,

I am an attractive woman, 32, with excellent taste in fashion. I really like to cut a swathe wherever I go. My best feature is my boobs. They're all natural (unlike my nose, lips and cheekbones), stunningly shaped, and startlingly firm for their size.

The problem is my husband Harvey. When we were dating, Harvey loved the way I dressed, but after we got married, he changed.

For example, shortly after the wedding, we were invited for drinks with the senior partners at Harvey's firm. I came downstairs wearing a stunning, little black dress. It was perfectly modest, very expensive and thoroughly tasteful. Harvey wanted me to wear, if you can believe it, a beige button down blouse with a big, droopy bow in front with taupe slacks and jacket. I refused to wear the ridiculous getup, went to the party in my black dress, flirted with the senior partners, and Harvey got a big promotion the next day.

Since then, though, Harvey has gotten much worse. He rants and raves and sulks until I don't dare let him catch me going out to the grocery store in a tight knit shirt, he pitches such a fit. He says the way I dress reflects on him, but how does it hurt him for people to see that he's got a really sexy wife with great taste. What gives?

Sincerely, Bombshell

*Chere Mme. Bombshell,*  
When *M. Bombshell*, he is saying that the clothings are reflecting on


him, he is meaning that when people are seeing that you are having the attractive bosoms, they are expecting *M. Bombshell* to be having the sort of qualities that are worthy of such remarkable features. For example, possibly *M. Bombshell* is being the sexual dynamo that he is satisfying for you all the desires. Possibly they are secretly hoping that *M. Bombshell*, he is not the sexual dynamo, and perhaps they will have the opportunities to have the sex with you themselves.

All of this is being perfectly harmless. Unfortunately, it is all being too much of the challenge for the fellow who is not having the big maturity. Since you are already investing the community properties in the insecure fellow, perhaps you can be applying the tasteful fashion sense to wearing the most embarrassingly frumpy clothings you can find at the thrift stores. Wear the clothes that are making you to look fat and blotchy. Only wear these outfits where you will be meeting the persons who are very important to the advancement of *M. Bombshell's* career. Soon the senior partners are remarking on the extremely bad taste of the wife. Either *M. Bombshell* is being shamed into encouraging you to wear the attractive clothings again, or he is leaving you for the younger woman with the artificial bosoms.

*Bon Chance, Mme. Bombshell*, and if *M. Bombshell* is not learning to appreciate you, crush him publicly, marry one of the senior partners and see to that *M. Bombshell* is being fired from the company.



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# Positively Speaking

By Deborah H. Anderson

## The Bliss of Fantasyland

As I reached for the handle of the door, a whoosh came over me. I can only explain it as a whoosh. A flood of energy that made me feel like I was going to explode. I was heading into the music department at the University of Washington. I was going to ask permission to enter the choral conducting program.

I remember the moment I knew I was a conductor. I was standing in front of a group of musicians preparing to lift the baton as we began a rehearsal for a major sacred work. The instrumentalists and the singers all looked at me expectantly. I raised my hand, and in that moment, had one of the truest senses of who I was I've ever had before or since. It was as if all that I was or could be was integrated in that one moment.

Another time of blissful definition came as I stood behind a closed set door waiting to enter in a Blue Heron play. Suddenly I felt a heaviness come over me and had the thought, "I'm not large enough for this moment." But faced with the possibility of public humiliation if I entered out of the darkness into the light with any timidity, I surrendered that fear and stepped forward into the glaring light with abandon.

Turned out not to be practical to follow the conducting route. My daughter had just entered McMurray and needed more support than I would have been able to offer her if I was following my bliss at the U learning how to divide beats so voices would follow. But I've always known if I lifted that baton again, I would have that incredible sense of self return without any effort on my part.

It's a shame that who we are is so frequently not available to us on a daily basis. We squeeze it in between jobs we don't care about or suffer through or only marginally use our skills and walk through a haze. Or maybe we get to do what we love but have to work so hard at it to make a living that we almost resent getting to do

it. About the only people who have it easy that way are people whose bliss is making money. Donald Trump looks happy all the time.

We can't forget what makes us live connected to ourselves. We can't give up being in touch with our most precious gifts and talents. Those of you who have managed to be able to combine life and bliss know that integration brings delight and joy and a willingness to be fully alive. Here on this Island, there are many who have sacrificed other earthly delights for the chance to live in the present with personal presence. You encourage us all.

I decided recently to list all the things I felt gave me the truest sense of joy and self in doing them. It's time to eat dessert first. My stepfather used to say, "Find something you love to do and find a way to make money at it." It seems to me those were wise words. It seems to me, I do not want to waste one hour of life not filled with excruciating pleasure in being alive.

I guess you can tell how old I am now. We do eventually reach the point where striving is replaced by desire; where the need for a smile on one's face is outweighed by the need to change the world; when the knowledge that a smile on one's face IS what changes the world.

We have a lot of material opportunities in this country. Most of us aren't scraping through the day trying to bring water to the hut. It's good we help others. But another way to add to the world is take that bliss and live in the Fantasyland of doing something for the sake of the pleasure it brings.

I keep my King David baton on my dressing table. Someday, I'll take all the theory and repertoire I need to be fully competent. Until that time, it reminds me Fantasyland looks better and better as time goes by.

Remember the dream, live the bliss, smile because you are you!

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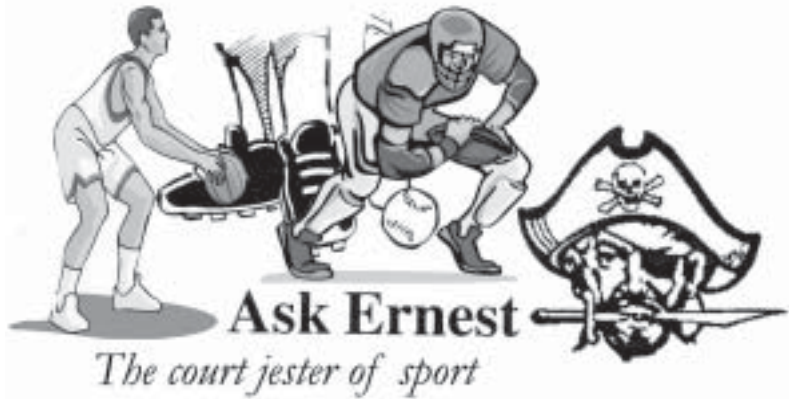
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27 years of research by a handful around the world established the three requirements, that if operating simultaneously, provide perfect functioning with anything alive, which the brain can never do .If this continues always when in the presence of Life, you then perform as did Lord Krishna, G. Buddha and J. Christ. But that is much more demanding. This also provides all the *breakthroughs* presented to Einstein, Newton, Galileo, others and Leonardo da Vinci in his 3 fields. We now too noisy to receive this and brain developing a myriad of programs to try to deal with Life, prevents this. Wild animals and birds depend on this for survival when food covered by snow for too many days, or at the recent Tsunami when almost all of them, but only a few handfuls of humans survived, because had 5 minutes warning to go seaward or to high ground. The Discovery Research Foundation which must do charitable works will be presenting at the Institute of Noetic Sciences meeting at 7 PM, Wednesday, October 26 at the Vashon Library. Our research findings and everything else is provided at no cost.



# Loop ~ Sports



We have a new photographer in *The Loop Sports*! He is obviously very talented and thoughtful with his pictures and captions and original text.

Here is an interview between Ernest, the writer, and Scratchy Lens (aka DJ Snap Dogg, aka F4TLS), the photographer.

E: How did you get so GOOD?

SL: Yes, I get this question a lot. My mother did all our food shopping in the Village. She brought home Cheerios boxes with Weegee photos on them instead of a pole vaulting Bruce Jenner. My birthday parties were at The Factory because Uncle Andy had the best toys. You sleep in goodness and when you wake it is stuck all over.

E: What is your favorite picture ever in the world?

SL: Here you want to know about my inspiration and my process, and this is the soul of an artist wrapped in a steely mesh that even Skip Green's sawzall refuses to tooth. How dare you?

E: Why do you like sports so much?

SL: There were three of us under the age of four. Weaning was a hard fought internecine battle.

E: Who is the best baseball player in the world?

SL: Freddie Douglas, hands down. Douglas is a 17 y.o. batsman for Shrewsbury who splits his time between Crickhowell, South Wales, and Santorini, but is destined for the bigs. He has already had a game in which he took 5 wickets, including a hat trick, and scored a half century all the while having both his two front teeth smashed out by a bouncer which caught a top edge...and left the ball in his mouth. This is baseball.

E: Why is Vashon so cool?

SL: Once you get away from the water it's not so bad.

E: What is it like to cook your cabbage over a barbecue pit with real coals?

SL: I think I know what you mean, E., and you are right to ask. Perhaps this photo will speak directly to your concern — vertical rotisserie.

E: I greet you at the beginning of a great career.

PS: Check out the longest PS in the world, written by none other than the Little Leprechaun, Ben Staadecker. (It may not be about sports, but at least it's about breaking records!) The PS is too long for *Loop*



Restrictions. It is actually 500 single spaced pages on Microsoft Word, and he even used small 39 point Font.

The basic premise of the PS: Ben tries to hook up with Mariela, a very cute Puerto Rican.

Here's what he says in the end of the message (He's also a cutting edge poet who doesn't need to use capital letters):

ben  
p.p.s. that was the longest p.s. message i have ever written.

p.p.p.s. who do you think wrote the longest p.s. message ever?

Congrats, Ben, on an exceptionally cool and long PS.

## Guglomo Honored

The Washington State Wrestling Coaches Association will be honoring three coaches as they are inducted into the WSWCA Hall of Fame on November 12, 2005. The ceremony will be held in Tacoma, WA at Pacific Lutheran University's Chris Knutzen Hall.

Mike Carr of Medical Lake, Paul Greeley of the Bethel School District, and **Mick Guglomo of Vashon Island** have been elected to the Hall of Fame as the Class of 2005. With the induction of these four coaches, the WSWCA Hall of Fame will have 89 members.

The WSWCA also honors those who have significantly contributed to wrestling in Washington State with the Joe Babbitt Contributors Award. Mat Classic Scoreboard group of Dave Balkwill, Diane Beauchamp and Venne Beauchamp will be honored for their contributions.



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## Broke and Broken

*Continued from page 1*

many years into thinking that capitalism is equivalent to democracy. It is not. Capitalism is an economic system and democracy is a political system. If you look at China and how it is transforming itself into a real powerhouse, you can begin to understand that totalitarianism and capitalism can coexist very nicely.

Corporations are not democratic institutions and when corporate power marries political and military power, what you invite is fascism...which seems to be the path we are on now. And there is a cost to all of this that those who are drunk with power don't understand or care about. Their drunken stupor can persist long enough to destroy an entire civilization if we let them.

Real wealth is that which adds to the quality of life. Clean air, clean water, a warm place to sleep, having food on the table, and being in touch with loved ones are aspects of real wealth...and so is freedom from avoidable diseases, unnecessary stress, crime and insecurity. In other words, those things that provide human beings with a true sense of security and well-being are the main substance of real wealth.

So how are your government and the global economy affecting your real wealth? Well some of the choices being made on your behalf can add to your wealth in one context and destroy it in another. For example, spend money on some

weapons and they might offer insurance against an enemy attack. Spend money on weapons we will never need or use in order to provide jobs or to pay off political debts and it will rob those who pay taxes, those who get the jobs, and those who might have received something of value had the money been spent on something else.

Well you might ask, how can having a job rob someone? It can by having that person waste all those hours doing something meaningless when they could have been doing something useful with their time instead. This robs them of their dignity and the experience they might have had if, in those same hours, they had been employed adding something meaningful to life. Dignity is not an economic term and you won't see it listed on a balance sheet even though it is an attribute of real wealth.

Contributing to a corporation's profits, say by allowing that corporation to postpone the installation of anti-pollution devices, might contribute to corporate profits, but it is also likely to diminish the wealth of everyone who lives downstream. The added profits will show up as positive numbers on the company's balance sheet and on the government's GDP report. But the real costs will not be measured or show up on any official document of either institution.

*Look for Part 2 in the next issue of The Vashon Loop, on newsstands October 26.*

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# Lo<sup>0</sup>py Laffs

If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

Living is easy. It's cleaning up the mess that's the problem.

# OneLiners

(more or less)

Yesterday's stress is past tense.

Relax—the oak tree was once a nut like you.

Before I can retaliate, does someone first have to taliate?

A family getaway is a great idea. When can I get away from mine?

I've changed my mind a dozen times. It seems to work better now.

Middle age is when you know your way around but don't feel like going!

When a man wants to believe something, it doesn't take much to convince him.

You have to take the bad with the good, but you can gripe about the proportions.

The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when he fills out a job application.

Used to be that my true love brought me chocolate. Now my true love IS chocolate.

One great thing about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else probably does.

You can't please everyone—but it is possible to make 'em all mad at the same time.

The ancient Mayans of Central America made rubber out of natural latex 3500 years before the modern process of vulcanization was invented. They played games with rubber balls and used rubber bands to attach axe heads to their handles.

**“So,”** the woman asked the detective she had hired, “did you trail my husband?”

“Yes ma’am. I did. I followed him to a bar, to an out-of-the-way restaurant and then to an apartment.

A big smile crossed the woman's face. "Aha!! Then I've got him!" she said, gloating. "Is there any doubt what he was doing?"

"No ma'am." replied the sleuth, "It's pretty clear that he was following you!"



Why do bands have bass players?  
To explain things to the drummer.

*If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.*

*Be modest. A lot was accomplished  
before you were born.*

Don't worry about tomorrow.  
Today will probably do you in.

**Some are born great,  
Some achieve greatness,  
Some have greatness thrust  
upon them.  
Most of us just read about it.**



## OFFSHORE



**LOGJAM**





# Loop Arts

## Drama Dock Auditions Oct. 29 & 30

Drama Dock, in conjunction with Vashon Allied Arts, is putting on *Same Time, Next Year*, a romantic comedy coming to the Blue Heron Theatre in January, and we're having auditions! The award-winning comedy by Bernard Slade tells the tale of a couple who meet on the same weekend annually for twenty five years, tracking their lives and their relationships. Auditions will be held **October 29 and 30** at the Blue Heron from 1 to 3 p.m. One male and one female are needed — aged late 20s to early 40s. Under the direction of Megan Hastings, graduate of Stella Adler School of Acting, rehearsals will begin November 14. Drama Dock is also looking for a producer, a stage manager, and people to assist with make up and hair design. Mark it on your calendars — October 29th and 30th. Audition and have a great time with great local theater. -- Jonathan Shipley

### I slewilde Halloween Bash

Looking for a way to celebrate Halloween? Come shake your bones at Bishop's **Saturday October 29** for a Halloween costume party with live music that will keep you groovin' all night! The band *Picoso* radiates raw energy! Prizes awarded for the best costumes and other surprises! Costume party starts at 8 p.m., music begins at 9 p.m. Admission \$10 adults. Call 463-0785 for tickets or info.

## Music & More

@

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**I slewilde Halloween Bash**  
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## Scary Stories Play Reading

"It was a dark and stormy night..." Actually, it's a dark and stormy Irish night at the local pub as four of the regulars gather to share true and scary ghost stories and to impress the newcomer, a young woman from Dublin named Valerie. But the men are not quite prepared when Valerie has her own story to tell. What follows is the heart and soul of Conor McPherson's award-winning play *The Weir*, which will be presented as a staged reading on **Saturday, October 29** at 8:00 p.m. at the Blue Heron Art Center as a fundraiser for Vashon Allied Arts. *The Weir* won the Olivier Award for Best Play in London in 1997 and the New York production was a Tony nominee for best play as well. Tickets for the October 29th performance of *The Weir* are available at the door for \$10.00 general admission and \$7.00 for VAA members, seniors, and students. Due to the mature language (It is set in a pub, for Pete's sake!), *The Weir* is not recommended for children under 13. For everyone else, *The Weir* will be a funny, scary, and moving evening of theater.

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## Gallery Cruise: Photography Feast

*Continued from page 1*

ordinary things and show them in close detail, such as the fire station sign with a Christmas star hung on it, as well as panoramic views of Dockton taken from Camp Burton and the Shawnee hill. Check it out to see things you've never seen before in places you've seen a zillion times.

Café Luna has a show of the photography of Jeanne Robinson. Robinson said, "A couple of years ago I got a digital cameral, and photography ignited for me. When I see things, I have to stop and photograph them." She mentioned that her family has been very tolerant.

She credits Hawk Jones with teaching her the basics of the Photoshop program, and she has her prints done by an online company which uses the metallic papers that give many of her prints such a distinctive "pop." My two favorites: "Romanesque Broccoli and Eggs," and "Cohousing in Winter."

Heading south again, at The Hardware Store there were lovely



Cynthia and Jeffrey Zheutlin

paintings, but on the far side of booths where people were enjoying their meals, so I moved on.

At the Terence McBride Gallery are pastels by both Cynthia and Jeffrey Zheutlin, as well as furniture by Richard Beck and glass art by Bill Akers.

Pastels are not an easy or forgiving medium, but Cynthia Zheutlin has a dab hand with them. Her cat portrait meows, her landscapes are tranquil and lively at the same time, realism with a zing. Her husband's work is of abstract people and full of hot, passionate colors. Zhouee.

The furniture of Richard Beck is beautiful in its simplicity, and it's too bad there isn't more of it. Bill Akers' glassware combines classical forms with whimsical shapes and bright colors, sort of a "I had a proper upbringing but then I went kinda wild" sensibility.

At Gallery 070 you will find the fine photography of John Anderson. His black and white renderings of the rippled shore are serene, and his study of an ancient stump is straight out of the work of Ansel Adams, but the ones that really knocked my socks off were portraits of mountains and clouds and water – the titles that stick with me are "Gathering Storm," "Alpenglow," and "Pond." John Anderson has the art and the craft combined, a real class act.

So that's what you can see up on the walls in downtown Vashon this month. Take a walk, take a look.



John Anderson



# The Dorsal Spin: Culture of Strife

by Orca Annie Stateler



Do salmon read scripture? “Listen to the message of God’s servants...the Lord is my shepherd,” intoned our hydrophone one morning recently. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and now evangelical admonishments emanating from the drink — is the end near?

“Electromagnetism is weird,” explained my colleague Joe, the physics major, one day while he was here working on the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP). The hydrophone is within range of a radio tower and a cable crossing. Sometimes it picks up radio signals, but usually not this strong.

We are currently in a period of intense solar storms, with aurora visible in many places. The cable TV is on the fritz, so perhaps the hydrophone is affected as well. The visual of sermonizing salmon, however, is more entertaining, made more surreal by the backdrop of boat noise.

A few Cohos have been finning the surface and splashing about the VHP site. The time approaches for our killer whale friends to return, so **please report local whale sightings ASAP to 463-9041.** Amen.

Disasters inevitably bring forth sobering reflection. Many proverbial elephants in America’s living room floated out of New Orleans. In this column are my impressions as an animal-loving citizen of Native ancestry. My views are not representative of any organization.

We hear the phrase “culture of life” bandied about by the administration and its supporters, yet I have witnessed blatant disregard for many lives since Katrina hit. Traditional Native values encompass respect for elders, high regard for non-human life, and compassion for the poor or disadvantaged. I think the post-Katrina evacuation would have looked far different if it had been from, say, a Hopi mesa.

Why were frail elders left to drown in a nursing home, or to perish on a bus stuck in traffic? Where was their airlift?

Dubya chose an ironic location, Jackson Square, to deliver his September 15 speech about our country’s race and class inequities and how the federal government proposes to help hurricane victims. The policies of belligerent 7th president Andrew Jackson aggravated racial inequality in the developing United States.

Jackson, the “Indian fighter,” perpetrated the Trails of Tears, deadly forced removals of Southeastern Natives to what is now Oklahoma. Pesky Natives, such as the Choctaw and other Five “Civilized” Tribes (my peeps), were evicted from coveted land in Southern states to make way for slave-owning European settlers.

Jackson is to Five Tribes peoples what Custer is to Plains peoples. The Cherokee Trail of Tears is well known, but the Choctaw were forced out first in 1838. Some Natives hid and successfully evaded removal, so Southeastern bands of Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole still exist today. Eastern Cherokee live in North Carolina.

To deny that race is a factor in what we see post-Katrina is to deny the obvious. Denial impedes healing. Five hundred and thirteen years after Columbus, the colonizers ought to acknowledge and accept that the oppressed, displaced, and once enslaved people of color on this continent feel race is still an issue. Let’s work from there.

Absent from the incessant hurricane news coverage has been any mention of the devastation in Gulf Coast Native communities. I suggest a visit to <http://indiancountry.com> for Indigenous perspective about the hurricanes’ impact on thousands of Native peoples. Tribes that are not federally recognized have thus far been ignored in organized relief efforts.

The Houma Nation ([www.unitedhoumanation.org](http://www.unitedhoumanation.org)) in Louisiana was hit especially hard. The National Congress of American Indians ([www.NCAI.org](http://www.NCAI.org)) and the National Indian Gaming Association have vowed to help Native hurricane victims, federally recognized or not. I sent money to NCAI to help my peeps.

Not without our critters! If you read my last column, you know I could never leave my fur baby Stogarita behind. It is unnecessarily traumatic and inefficient to prohibit people from evacuating with their companion animals in an emergency. The scarce resources and skilled labor of human and animal rescuers are wasted on redundant trips to search for survivors in a disaster zone. Abandoned animals compound risks to humans. Even guide dogs and other service animals were separated from their humans during evacuation. Stop the insanity!

The Humane Society, [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org), has a way for you to express your concern about this misguided policy to elected officials. Check also the web sites of other fine animal welfare groups that are participating in Katrina and Rita rescue and relief: Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, International Fund for Animal Welfare, United Animal Nations, numerous SPCA and Humane Society chapters, our local Pasado’s Safe Haven, and Petfinder.com, to name a few. Many are cross-linked. They need our support to help thousands of vulnerable animals, who do not have a voice and do not vote red or blue.

Contact Orca Annie at [Vashonorcas@aol.com](mailto:Vashonorcas@aol.com) or 463-9041.

## Vashon Bookshop

overheard by the pumpkins at Saturday Market....

“You going to that cool Day of the Dead Festival?”

“On my way there now - at the Bookshop, at 11 o’clock!”

---

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## Gift of the Wild

*Continued from page 1*

An established wolf pack may range up to 70 to 100 square miles. If they are protected it protects every species in their territory as well.

But when I asked my interns about their childhood wanderings in the woods they told me they had never experienced anything like this. So I planned a day trip and we went out early on a Saturday morning to Rainier.

We started out very early, and reached the mountain in good time. Our hike in was up a narrow dirt access road that is closed to vehicles. The interns swung on their packs like pros. I made them take packs and certain supplies in case of emergency because that was what I was taught.

They were talkative and happy, breathing in the sweet air and looking in admiration at the big old trees.

Soon I had to encourage them a bit: “We are halfway there.” “It gets less steep in a bit.”

Old Pop’s advice, forty years old rang in my head, “If you are tired, rest. Take time to drink and you can walk further.”

They are tough after a month’s toil at Wolftown and never complain.

We looked at sign, tracks that once held the paws or hooves of recent travelers. This deer was running. This skunk jumped down off that rock. We collected scat to do fecal samples for parasites.

I smiled when they marveled at all the berries. Thimbleberries, perfect red drops of blood. Blueberry bushes abounded. But I would not let them taste.

We came to an open area and I stopped and handed them my Pop’s binoculars and above us were Mountain Goats. White as the glaciers with kids that followed them lazily on the fractured and crumbling cliffs. It will soon be rut. One Billy was thinking this as he came into view carefully following his mates. I saw him take a deep breath as he trailed them. Not yet though.

I left the trail and followed an elk highway that wanders down to the childhood rush of the Puyallup River from the glaciers. The roar and gush of the water leaping young and raw in the afternoon light fills our ears. The water is steel gray from silt and ancient ash thrown up by Tahoma.

I spot a cloud hanging and twisting down one side of the mountain and train my binoculars there. I quickly hand them over to the interns who watch open-eyed as a landslide smokes down a ravine. We move back up hill so as to be out of the way of that unknown and find a mountain lion did the same a while before.

We sit on the hillside and wait. Then we go on up the trail. I watch the berry bushes and smell a musky dark scent. I say nothing, wondering on what my interns reaction will be. We stop under a fir tree that seems as old as the Mountain and one tiny cone drops almost onto my feet. I pull out a few of my grey hairs and leave them.

We walk on. I pause and search with my eyes but my ears and nose are better than my sight now. And there he was.

A black bear. Not 120 feet from us, moving his head from side to side snacking on blueberries. Chloe in a whisper cries, “T, a Bear!”

“Yes.” I answer. “A black bear. An old one.”

The bear is above us below a high cliff face and he looks up and takes a breath and holds it. The wind sends him our message. He returns to his food and takes several steps closer.

The interns take a few pictures. And then we leave him and walk back down the trail. The interns walk slowly as they had been taught.

We stop a ways from him.

I say to them, “If we had needed to continue that way we would have waited for him to pass as he was above us. If he had been below we could have moved by. But it is bad to disturb him as he needs to build up his fat for winter. Energy, calories in Nature are precious and not to be wasted, and always to be respected. But now we need to walk out and go home.”

The interns reluctantly agreed.

We walked back and in those hours there was more silence than talk. Except for one intern asking where the most wilderness was left in the world.

I told her. Here in North America. We have the most wild land left on Earth. More than Africa. And it must be shown subtly to young people. And it must be not only protected but respected.

The breath taken in, held and savored, then released.

*(Wolftown is a wolf/wildlife sanctuary on Vashon that also has a small horse rescue and mentors young people. We are a 501c3 non-profit. There is no paid staff. The senior staff of Wolftown do this work because we share a common love of wild things and wild places. We teach compassion and empathy and preservation of Habitat. If you wish to help Wolftown with our continuing efforts, become a member for \$25. We also need help getting winter camping gear, tents, back packs, snow shoes, woolen clothing, donated. And we need supplies for our wildlife rehab project. Towels, pillow cases, aquarium, a microscope, lumber.)*



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