



THE LOOP

Vol. 2 #4

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

February 23, 2005

Negotiation: Our Terms or Glacier's?

by Marnie Jones, member of
the POI Board of Directors

Negotiate. It sounds innocent enough. However, contrary to what Matt Bergman (*Beachcomber*, February 16, page 5) has claimed, any negotiation between Glacier and Preserve Our Islands would require our acceptance of the barging dock and thus the super mine. (See sidebar same page).

We were not invited to negotiate whether or not our fresh water source would be in danger, or whether the closest neighbors to the mine site have to listen to tugboat engines or look out on an

Continued on page 6

Raising Grandkids?

by Susan Wolf

On a recent Monday, I found myself at a meeting at Vashon Youth and Family Service I never would have guessed I would be attending: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. While I hope my situation is temporary, I expected to pick up a few tips at navigating state agencies. I also expected a few people to be there. What I didn't expect was to learn that 35,000 children in Washington State are being raised by relatives other than their parents. In fact, of the 2.3 million children nationwide who are being raised by someone other than their parents, 70% are being raised by their grandparents.

Continued on page 10

Check Out New
Comic Strip

LOGJAM



by Jeff Hawley

Lopy Laps page 20



WSF Says: Bite Me

by Peter Ray

There was a peculiar familiarity to the feelings running through the commons room at McMurray School on Tuesday night, February 8th. What had been set up as an informal information meeting around easels and charts filled with numbers and costs and ridership projections, was turned into a heated, on stage question and answer session between concerned Islanders who basically wanted to know why they hadn't been included in a planning process that seems poised to change lives and Island demographics and some of the ferry system planners who had apparently made all the key decisions for us. This meeting bore a striking similarity to the one held many years ago where the representatives from the ferry system came to the Island to "seek input" about a foot passenger only ferry service that was being "proposed." At the meeting, we learned then that the "proposed" ferries had already been purchased and built, and the construction of the dock they were to land at was just months



Jimmy Olson, cub reporter, asking the tough questions

away. Welcome to the democratic process.

What attendees heard at the February 8th meeting about the "New Fare Proposal," in spite of the fact that the pamphlet handed out at the door detailing the "proposed" changes stated that "The Tariff Committee & WSF want to hear from you," was that the changes are essentially a done deal. While it was stated more than once by audience members that fare increases were not the issue here, what seemed to not sink in among the ferry system employees who were there to "listen" was that there was almost universal opposition to the

Continued on page 12

Fight WSF Fare Changes!

by Marie Browne

Ferry riders! Do your part! Submit your comments on WSF's proposed fare changes by their deadline, March 2nd. Get a comment form at the Vashon Library, Thriftway, or on line at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/fares/2005, or email tariff@wsdot.wa.gov. Call them at 1-888-808-7977. Fax them at 206-515-3773. Don't let them get away with this!

If we ferry riders manage to change Washington State Ferries' minds about their onerous proposed fare and frequent user changes, we will owe much of our success to the work of Marilyn Omev, Vashon Island activist who has been working tenaciously to spread the word about the Machiavellian (my word, not hers) ferry system and its most recent plans.

In case you've somehow missed it, WSF is proposing to raise rates 5% on May 1st. That's business as usual, and maybe even understandable in light of surging fuel prices. (Hey, how's your Halliburton stock?) The more unpalatable part of their plan is their proposal to replace existing 20% discounted frequent user books with two kinds of electronic swipe cards: Commuter Cards with the same 20% discount, but with an expiration date of 30 days rather than 90, and Convenience Cards with five round trips at a 15% discount (to be lowered to 10% in 2006) and a 60 day expiration.

Continued on page 12

Clean Up Your Mess!



This is the junk car that was towed onto 204th Street on Valentine's Day, stuffed full of garbage. It's still there.



This is the house it came from. (We hope this was unintentional and will be dealt with by the responsible person.)

Fun with water
balloon candles

See Among Our Piers, page 15.



Get in The Loop

VIGA Looking for New Market Vendors

VIGA, the Vashon Island Growers Association, is looking for new vendors for the 2005 Farmer’s Market. Baked goods, additional value-added products like jams and pickles, prepared foods and ready-to-eat items as well as more hand-crafted work would be great new additions to the market. We also welcome backyard gardeners with surplus who’d like to come to the market on an occasional basis.

To learn more about becoming a market vendor, please come to one of the following workshops to be held Saturday, March 12th, from 9 - 10:30 am and Monday evening, March 14th, from 7 - 8:30 pm. Both workshops will be held at Vashon Co-Housing’s Common House, 10421 SW Bank Road. On hand will be Jasper Koster, VIGA President, and other experienced market vendors to provide important information about food preparation requirements, and market how-to’s. For more information, please call Margaret Hoeffel at 463-1224.

Million Dollar Year

The Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation and the **Vashon Theatre** are having a fundraiser on **February 26** at the Vashon Theatre. Before the movie, (*Sideways*) Ron Irvine from Vashon Winery will host a **wine tasting** featuring three pinot noirs. The movie is about two guys on a self discovery (and wine discovery) tour of the Napa Valley. Pinot Noir is the sought after wine. Vashon Winery will be offering the very same Pinot Noir that was featured in the movie from Sanford Winery; the second wine will be from Territorial Winery in Eugene, Oregon, and the third from a Washington state winery, Salishan. The wine will be accompanied by snacks prepared by the Foundation’s members. The tasting is at 6 pm, the movie at 7 pm. The cost is \$25 per person.

The money raised will go to support the graduating seniors from the Vashon School District in their efforts to further their education. (Know any of those kids?) This is the Foundation’s million dollar year—the year they will have contributed one million dollars to post high school education.

(Ed: Yeah, I know a Senior or two. Sounds like a fun time for a great cause.)

Broken Limbs

Sunday, March 6th, at 2 PM, see the award winning documentary film *Broken Limbs: Apples, Agriculture and the New American Farmer* at the Vashon Theatre. Admission is by a suggested donation of \$2.00. Film makers Guy Evans and Jamie Howell will introduce the film and facilitate a post-film discussion. For more information, please call Merrilee Runyan, 463-6647. This event is cosponsored by Sustainable Vashon, VIGA, the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust, the Vashon Fruit Club and the Forest Stewards.

Music and Ice Cream

“The Pops Concert and Ice Cream Social” will be presented on **Thursday, March 3 at 7:00 pm** at the VHS Gym. This unique fundraising concert features the VHS and McMurray Bands, the Jazz Band, and the VHS Choir. Adult tickets are \$ 7 and student tickets are \$ 5. Included in the price is two hours of popular musical selections, ice cream, popcorn and a chance to win several door prices.

New Website for Island Musicians

by Joel Veatch

C h e c k out www.vashonmusic.net. The goal was to create a site that people can visit to learn about—and hear music by—the diverse and talented musicians residing on our little rock. The result is a simple and free utility for an artist or band to create a link to their own website, post an artist bio, maintain a news/blog and gig-calendar, add pictures, upload music, and even build a PayPal-enabled storefront. It’s musician friendly and will always be free.

VashonMusic.Net is just starting, and all Island musicians are invited to help test-drive the site. Create an artist account, verify the email confirmation, log in, and upload away! Go to www.vashonmusic.net/music to get started.

If you wish to maintain several artist pages from one account, let me know, and I can add as many “artists” to your primary account as you wish.

Feedback is welcome. I hope you’ll visit and help bring this idea to life!

Vashon Library March Calendar

Tuesday, March 1 7-8:30pm
Talk Time – First 2005 Meeting
Practice speaking English in a relaxed setting. Parents are welcome to bring children. All nationalities and skill levels are welcome. The group will discuss the best time of day and week for future sessions. New Talk Time volunteer hosts are Susan Keatts, Patricia Koncsek, and Rosemarie Heard. No registration required.

Thursday, March 3 7:00-7:45pm
Family Story Time
This cozy evening Story Time includes stories, songs and a simple craft for children and parents to enjoy together. For ages birth-6. No registration required.

Saturday, March 12 1-5pm
SAT Preparation, presented by staff from The Princeton Review
Prepare for taking the SAT or the PSAT test. A practice exam is given on one Saturday, then a scoreback session is scheduled for review of scores, to learn test taking tips and to discuss college admissions. For juniors and seniors in high school. Please pre-register at 463-2069. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.

Monday, March 14, 2:00 pm
Great Decisions: Putin’s Second Term: A Scorecard for Russia
Great Decisions is the Foreign Policy Association’s forum for thought provoking presentations of issues impacting the world in which we live. Outstanding speakers present the issues (through video production) and provide analysis of the “great decisions” facing the United States policy makers and the general public. This is a unique experience in which you have the opportunity to sharpen critical thinking and analysis of global developments and policy making. The Great Decisions Program offers you the opportunity to become informed and to express your opinion on the issues. There is a study book is on reserve at the Vashon Library, if you would like to read up on the issue before the group meeting. No registration necessary. Sponsored by King County Library System and the Vashon Senior Center.

Tuesdays, March 15, 22, 29 10:40am-11am
Toddler Story Time
A 20-minute program of stories and songs just right for toddlers. For ages 21 months to 3 years with an adult. No registration required.

Wednesdays, March 16, 23, 30 10:40am-11am
Lapsit Story Time
A 20-minute program of stories, songs, rhymes and bounces for babies and a caregiver. For ages birth to 20 months, with an adult. No registration required.

Wednesdays, March 16, 23, 30 11:30am
Preschool Story Time
Join us for 30 minutes of stories, songs and fun! For ages 3-5. No registration required.


Saturday, March 19, 9-10:30am
Basic Computer, Level 1
This class is a basic introduction to understanding what a computer is and how it works. Registration is required and begins March 1st; please call 463-2069.

Saturday, March 19, 1-3pm.
Spring Watercolor Nature Journal, Molly Hashimoto, Instructor
Learn how to sketch and paint nature’s finest offerings in spring. We’ll look at flowering trees and plants and try various techniques to represent them, including pen and watercolor, pencil and watercolor, watercolor pencils and sumi-influenced quick sketches in watercolor alone. This workshop will enhance your appreciation of the wonderful season ahead. Registration is required and begins March 1st; please call 463-2069. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.

Saturday, March 19 10-11:30am
SAT Review, presented by staff from The Princeton Review
This session provides a review of scores from the March 12 practice exam, and teaches test taking tips and college admissions information. For juniors and seniors in high school. Please pre-register at 463-2069. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.

Saturday, March 26, 9-10:30am
Basic E-Mail, Level 1
This class provides practice in sending email and replying to email using practice accounts. It prepares you for later getting your own email account. Registration is required and begins March 1st; please call 463-2069.

Monday, March 28 7pm-8:15pm
Young Writer’s Rendezvous
Come be a part of this on-going group and experience writing for fun in a social atmosphere. Pizza will be served! For ages 10-14. No registration required, just come when you can. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.



Want to be a Volunteer EMT?

Vashon Island Fire & Rescue is accepting applications for volunteer EMTs. Deadline is March 15; class starts April 16th. Minimum requirements: 18 years of age and valid Washington Driver’s License. Call (206) 463-4466 to request an application.



Fire District Memory Books

Vashon's Fire History Memory workbook will arrive Saturday, March 5th. Call Susan Wolf at 567-5255 for your free copy. In it will be some interesting photos, probing questions and plenty of space to write. **A FREE writing workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 12th from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm** in the small classroom of the Penny Farcy Training Center. Cathy Fulton, an experienced Memory Book Project publisher from will be instructing us. (Learn more about her business at www.capturingmemories.com.) Anyone may attend, but former

and current members are especially encouraged as the class will be focused on fire history.

Each participant who contributes a memory story or information will receive their own back. A copy of each book will be donated to the Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association for research and posterity. Call today and leave your name and phone number to reserve your copy. Fire District members are invited to contribute their positive experiences and memories of times and personnel from times past.

Irish Ceili Dance at the Grange!

Come try some easy-to-learn traditional Irish dances and enjoy excellent, live, traditional Irish music on **Saturday, February 26th**. The Irish know how to have fun and ceili dances give a glimpse of their legendary sense of a good party! Writing for the *Vashon Loop*, Jessie Preste called the November 2004 ceili "...the most dang fun I've had in AGES." Dance with your neighbors and some great folks from Seattle, Tacoma, and as far away as Portland. Vashon's dances are the only regular ceilis in the Seattle area and people come from far and wide to attend. The dance starts at 7:30 pm at the Grange Hall located in the north end ferry dock parking lot. Don't worry if you've never danced a step in your life—you don't need any experience to have a great time at a ceili dance. You don't even need a partner. A professional caller will teach and call all the dances. Live music will be provided by Lark in the Dark. The suggested donation to participate in the dance is \$8 (\$6 seniors and students), and the dances are suited to adults and children over 12. Photos of past dances can be found at www.hoilands.com. For more information about the Vashon Celtic Dance Society, or to volunteer, call Shannon Seath Meyer at (206) 774-4047 or Lori Malczyk at (206) 463-6917.

KC Seeks Groundwater Volunteers

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks is soliciting volunteers to serve on the Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Committee. This committee is responsible for implementing the Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Management Plan and advising King County on its Vashon Water Resources Evaluation project. The committee currently has two vacancies.

To fill these vacancies King County is seeking two individuals interested in groundwater who meet one of the following criteria: 1) a community member who represents a local water purveyor, or 2) a community member who represents a sewer and/or water association or utility. Volunteers should be familiar with the Island and local water resources issues. This is a volunteer position requiring attendance at quarterly evening meetings and some subcommittee work. Interested persons should call 206-296-6519 to request an application package. Applications must be postmarked by March 12, 2005.

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Dems Hold Issues Fair

The 34th District Democrats will present their first "Issues Fair" at the March meeting on **Wednesday March 9**, at the Hall at Fauntleroy, 9131 California Avenue S.W.

Social time begins at 6:30 pm. Call to order and Flag salute will be at 7 pm, after which the Issues Fair will commence. Drinks will be provided. Please bring potluck food to share.

Representatives from a wide variety of groups will attend to bring information and interact with members.

Here's the current lineup and agenda. This will be updated prior to the meeting.

Health Care:

State Representative Eileen Cody's office will represent HCRA (HB1702) and state health care legislation,

Lauri Whittaker, MD and 34th member, will represent U.S. Representative Jim McDermott and federal health care legislation.

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Ron Sterling, MD, a psychiatrist, Seattle WAMI member, heavily involved as a mental health advocate and also a 34th PCO, is also attending.

Social Security:

We have invited Alliance for Retired Americans and Economic Opportunity Institute's Marilyn Watkins, Ph.D.

Steve Dzielak, Alliance for Retired Americans and 34th District PCO

Election Reform:

(Tentative) League of Women Voters

(Tentative) Terry Sullivan, Vashon Islander on the board of Clean Washington

(Tentative) Linda Franz of Black Box voting,

John Gideon of Voters Unite.

Climate change, environmental action, global warming

Three or four groups to attend.

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Loop

Letters From the Edge

Editor,
Randy and Jolene Lamb are two of the most caring people that I know in this community. During the years between 2002 and 2004, I had some problems which required an ambulance. Each time, they conducted their service in a prompt, professional and compassionate manner.

When I was released from a hospital in December 2003, Jolene spent half a day with me, encouraging me and walking with me to the pharmacy to make sure my prescriptions were filled. She even left her phone number in case I might need anything later. She seemed like an angel of mercy to me that day.

When any one of us is in crisis, we feel shattered and worthless. I will never forget her kindness to me on that bleak, pre-Christmas morning. She reassured me that even though pieces of my life seemed hopelessly irretrievable, they would actually come back together again.

She was right. And now when I see those two in town, I feel a surge of gratitude. I feel relief that I no longer am so needful, and that their kind of support is there for anyone who does have the need. We would all lose out if they were no longer allowed to continue their service, so please let's try to not let that happen. ~ *Sherry Moe*

Editor,
The discount we get on the commuter books is because we are paying for 10 car and driver, or 10 passenger trips up front, and the ferry system is getting that money for free, and saving a lot of wear and tear on its resources in the bargain.

It has nothing to do with tariff legislation. It has nothing to do with "what is a commuter?" It has nothing to do with "frequency." In fact, it has nothing to do with anything Susan Harris-Huether says, anytime. It has everything to do with convenience—for us,

sure. But WSF benefits from selling us 10 trips at a time a hell of a lot more than we do.

Under the present system, imagine the scene at Fauntleroy if no one bought commuter books. Everyone would have to stop at the booth to buy a ticket. This way we just drive down the dock and hand the ticket-taker our prepaid ticket before or as we board. Is that inefficient? Maybe it is for some big bank. But this is not some big bank. This is our ferry system, which we own and which we are paying for.

So now what do they propose? Swiping a card in a slot? Brilliant! That will sure help load the ferries more quickly. That will sure make the lines up Fauntleroy Way shorter and faster-moving. The guys who drive the 18-wheelers who supply our Island businesses will just love climbing down from their rigs to swipe their cards. And bus passengers?!? Whoo-ee, won't THAT be fun?

They have no reason to squeeze us on this with any tighter time limit than we presently enjoy. In fact, there's no reason for ANY time limit anymore. They are trying it because they think they can get away with it.

It is adding insult to injury. The fare increases I can tolerate. But not only is a shorter time limit for using discount tickets intolerable, the limit should be made even longer, or, better yet, eliminated altogether. What does WSF care *when* we use them? Why should they? They have the money already. Why punish us for paying in advance for using their service, and preventing longer lines and load times along the way, when they should be rewarding us?

Once again, it has nothing to do with "frequency." They're getting our money up front, people, and they're getting it for free, and they are trying to screw us anyway. Don't let them get away with it.—*Ivan Weiss*

Loop

Opinion

Liberate Our Politicians from a Broken System

by Terry Sullivan

Our politicians spent almost a billion dollars in the 2004 election! By far the greatest part of that money came from special interests, even though the McCain-Feingold campaign reform bill was intended to severely limit large contributions. Large donors set the agenda in the U.S. As former Senator Alan Simpson once said, "Who, after all, can seriously contend that a \$100,000 donation does not alter the way one thinks about—and quite possibly votes on—an issue?"

If you were a candidate running for office needing the increasingly vast sums of money to win, whom would you be most apt to listen to, the drug company that gives you \$30,000 or the person who can afford only to give you \$10? According to *The Tacoma News Tribune* of July 2, 2003, an Associated Press analysis shows that officials voted 5 out of 6 times in favor of the groups that donated the most money to them. For example (at the Federal level), Senators John Kerry and John McCain were stunned when their efforts to increase fuel-efficiency standards failed 62 to 38—with the average 'no' vote getting

\$18,000 in donations from auto companies and the average 'yes' vote only \$6,000.

Not only does the big money of special interests introduce undue and undemocratic influence into the political process. Big money produces other problems: it undermines citizens' motivation to vote; it deters potentially strong candidates from running when they don't have an inside track to special interest money; it forces candidates to spend more time raising money and less time getting out to meet the voters; it fuels the public perception of corruption and conflict of interest and, last, but not least, more and more positions for public office are uncontested because the incumbent has amassed more money and favors than any opponent could possibly match.

Do you want your elected state officials to listen to you as much as to the big and powerful? I know that I do. And I was elated to find that there is a revolution that began in Maine and Arizona! In the late 90's, both states passed "Clean Money, Clean Elections" initiatives instituting public campaign

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Continued from page 4

financing at the state level. They have each run three elections with this system and have enjoyed broad and increasing participation by members of all parties equally. This is not a partisan issue!

If you opt to run on public money, you must promise not to use you own or anybody else’s money. When you qualify, the state will provide funding adequate to run a competitive campaign; if your opponent spends more, your funding will be increased. In Maine and Arizona, the entire program has cost less than \$1.50/person!

In Maine, a whopping 83% of the state senate and 77% of the house are made up of legislators who ran “clean.” This is an increase from 2002, when 77% of the senate and 55% of the house were elected with public money. Both major parties are heavily represented in this group: among Democrats, 15 incoming senators and 70 incoming house members ran “clean”; among Republicans, 14 incoming senators, and 42 incoming house members ran “clean.”

In Arizona, 58% percent of the members of the Arizona state house and 23% of the state senate) ran “clean.” In both cases, this is an increase from 2002. Ten of eleven of Arizona’s statewide elected officials, including its governor, attorney general and treasurer, ran with public money only!

Would you like to see a system like this in Washington State? I have been working for two years now with a group called Washington Public Campaigns and our sole purpose is to get a public campaign financing law passed here. We have been endorsed by the Washington League of Women Voters, The Washington Democratic Party and the Green Party, and we are hoping to get the Republicans to sign on as well. We are working with Senator Kastama, Representative Miloscia, and

Representative Dunshee on introducing bills this session, but are a long way from having the mandate we need to pass a law, let alone run an initiative campaign, if necessary.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We need money and we need more volunteers. If you have time, we are looking for highly motivated people to help coordinate our campaign at the board level, to get the word out, and to fundraise. We need to reach 5 million people and the printing costs alone are enormous. We need to be able to hire our campaign director full time so we can really go to town on this! Remember, this is the reform that makes all other reforms possible. When our elected officials are beholden only to you, things begin to happen! I will be calling some of you soon!

Want to know more? Check out our website: www.washclean.org , call me at 463-2812, or email: turlough@earthlink.net.



5 Alarm News

Islanders for Representative Fire Leadership

PO Box 1531
Vashon, Wa. 98070
463-IRFL (4735)

irfl.org

jwade@irfl.org
rickf@irfl.org
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Spiritual Smart Aleck



by Mary Litchfield Tuel

Hagi

The graveside service of Tokio “Tok” Otsuka was held at the Vashon Cemetery a couple of weeks ago. Tok was 81, and he died following an accident on his farm. He was born and raised here on Vashon.

He was a farmer, and in the summer we pulled in at his place to buy fresh corn and in the winter we walked out behind his house and cut our Christmas tree.

He was born and raised on Vashon, and lived here until World War II began, when, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order #9066. By April, 1942, all Japanese living on the West Coast were removed to internment camps for the duration of the war. Vashon residents were sent to Camp Minidoka in Idaho.

At first Japanese men were classified by the Selective Service as “4-C,” enemy aliens. Later in the war, they were allowed to enlist, and Tok Otsuka was one of many who joined.

He was in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a fighting unit of Japanese who were out to prove their loyalty to America. Their motto was, “Go for broke.” Give it your all. They were sent into some of the worst fighting of the war, sustaining heavy casualties and winning many awards for bravery.

As I walked around the cemetery, I saw the grieving faces of Tok’s contemporaries, many of them Nisei who lived through the

internment as he had, some of them his comrades in arms in the 442nd, and I pondered what has been a mystery to me for many years: I grew up in Watsonville, California, a West Coast farming community like Vashon. I went to school with many Japanese students. Why didn’t I hear about the internment of the Japanese during World War II until 1975, when the news came as a complete shock to me?



So I wrote to Mas Hashimoto, who was a teacher at Watsonville High School from 1960 to 1996, and asked him, why did no one talk about it?

He replied, “For the first years of teaching, I barely mentioned ‘camp.’ Why not? It wasn’t in the curriculum. After the success of ‘Farewell to Manzanar’ (the made for TV movie) in the mid-1970s, coupled with the Civil Rights movement,

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several educators in the National Japanese American Citizens League petitioned the California State Board of Education for a new Social Studies curriculum that included the denial of our rights during WW II. It took over ten years but we finally got it into the State curriculum...Once, we had two paragraphs about the internment and the 442nd RCT. Now we have four pages...”

“Presently, there is an ongoing attempt to remove the story of the Japanese Americans from the history textbooks by...people (who) don’t think it glorifies the true history of the United States.”

“*Hagi* – don’t bring shame to the family – is an important daily teaching among Japanese American families, even today. In the 1940s through the 1980s we didn’t talk about our ‘shame,’ not even to our younger generations. Finally, the Sansei and Yonsei (3rd and 4th generations) began to ask questions. Issei and Nisei (1st and 2nd generations) often have difficulties articulating their feelings into words.”

Shame is why silence was kept about what happened to Japanese American citizens during World War

II, shame felt by white Americans for doing what they knew was wrong, and shame felt by Japanese families because of what had been done to them.

At Vashon High School there are framed photos of graduating classes. As you walk around the commons/lunch room, you can look up and see that the Japanese were a big part of the student community until 1941. After that, there are no more Japanese graduates for many years.

It happened here. It happened to Tok Otsuka. It happened to his family, and his friends. They came home after the war and picked up their lives, many starting over with less than nothing, and were remarkable for their lack of reproach to their white neighbors. That graciousness hid a hurt and anger that is still there for many.

Hagi. Let us not bring shame upon ourselves by pretending it did not happen. Let us tell the stories. Let us make sure that it never happens again.

Thanks and a tip o’ the hat to Mas Hashimoto for his generous help. You can learn more about Executive Order #9066, the internment, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion, online or at the library.

Negotiation:

Continued from page 1

industrial scene in the middle of that beautiful, unspoiled shoreline.

Here is what Glacier said would be negotiable: Hours and size of the mine. So far, the hours have been set by the Shorelines Board at 7am to 7pm, Monday through Friday. However, because Glacier would be allowed to ask King County for expanded hours for big projects, the neighbors wouldn’t be assured of their quiet—ever! By the way, this only represents the hours of the barging, not the mining. That is still an open question.

Negotiating the size of the mine needs to be separate from the dock because the uplands issues are quite complex and dicey in their own right: How close to the aquifer they can mine, how wide the buffers with adjoining properties, and the toxic berm are still open questions.

Now it is time for a reality check. If Judge Sharon Armstrong is correct, we have a good chance of beating the dock in court. We might speculate why Mr. Bergman thought it was time to accept Glacier’s terms when this approach would only benefit Glacier. Why would

we ever want to do this? To save the costs of going to court?

That is entirely bogus as an argument, especially if you live on the edge of the site and stand to lose 15-25% of the value of your home. Or, if the aquifer is damaged and we are left with the bill, because state law holds them unaccountable.

Each of the seven board members (minus Mr. Bergman) took a week to consider negotiation deeply in all its ramifications. We all came back with a strong unanimity against it. There was no doubt, only strength. If Mr. Bergman or anyone else considers this “reckless”, so be it. Unity of purpose means that we see a future without a dock. Period.

In this soul searching, we even questioned what our authority is to negotiate. Through a FOIA request, we discovered that last summer, Glacier made a proposal to the head of the King County Council: Let us mine and we will help create the Maury Marine Park and then the County can buy the property with the hole in it—bigger hole, less price. It appears they were denied.

Without the appeals by POI and the County, Glacier would have their permits, so legally, we have every right to negotiate or not. On behalf of the community, do we have a moral

authority? None of us could imagine giving up on our neighbors and our island.

Do we really lose anything by not negotiating now, should we lose the court battle? That too is an open question, but with our chances as good as they are, none of us were for “caving”.

If anyone has a crystal ball and knows how to use it, let us know. We of the POI Board listen to our attorney. We eat, sleep and dream the issue. We take time away from our kids and livelihoods to reason, discuss and read. We strategize, promote, and fundraise. And the bottom line is that we listen to our hearts and guts as we pray that special place will be protected for our grandchildren. **www**

VMICC Meeting Report

by Marie Browne

About 35 people gathered on February 21st at the old Courthouse, the new location for Vashon-Maury’s monthly Community Council meeting.

As always, the meeting was informative and at times amusing. (Jim English should not give up his day job to become a sound guy.)

Lack of space prevents me from reporting on the whole meeting, so I’ll just hit on guardrails.

Matthew Nolan from King County explained the County’s plans for installing guardrails on the Island. In a nutshell, they will be focusing on the roadway between Burton and Tahlequah. (Note: KC might want to set aside some money to replace the one on the corner of 204th and 111th; it gets whacked regularly.) Several people asked why the County was putting up more guardrails on our rural island. The short answer is that Big Brother is taking care of our safety and covering their liable behinds.

These meetings are informative, and to hold them is one of our rights as members of a free, democratic society. People are dying in Iraq right now for those rights. Hmmm... Hope to see you on March 21st at 7:30 in the old Courthouse. **www**

Don't Forget the Birds

By Ed Swan

Great Tit at Pt. Robinson

One of the most exciting sightings I've seen in a long time came to my attention recently: a Great Tit at Pt. Robinson. You can all now insert whatever jokes and giggles that you like but I really saw a Great Tit. Tits in Europe and Asia correspond to the Chickadee family in North America. A Great Tit looks like a very large Black-capped Chickadee but instead possesses a black stripe leading down from its black chin across a yellow breast and belly. The wings and tail appear similar to our chickadee's grey plumage. Overall, it makes for a very colorful bird. Other birds in the family over there include the Bearded Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Penduline Tit, Blue Tit and Crested Tit to name just a few. Talking to some of our Brit islanders, I understand 'tit' has the same connotation there as it does here. Who thought of these names for birds anyway?

I watched the bird in the alders by the lighthouse, simultaneously excited and somewhat chagrined. The disappointment came from realizing that the bird almost undoubtedly escaped from someone's cage. Chickadees don't migrate, so there's virtually no way this bird zipped over from Britain or Siberia. The excitement resulted from seeing a new bird and hoping maybe, just maybe this could be the real deal.

So I sped home, looked in my bird books, saw some pictures confirming my identification and figured if it wasn't an escapee, this was a first North American record. For a birder, that's like finding the Holy Grail. I quickly alerted our island birders and then began the process of calling the Grand Poo Bahs of the Washington State birding world to get a read on the bird. After awhile, I got a call back with the news that another Great Tit, probably the same bird, was seen in Normandy Park in January, just three miles or so over

the water from Pt. Robinson. The bird had been determined to be almost certainly an escapee rather than a true, wild bird.

Now if the experts said this was a wild bird, then the island would have been in for some excitement. In December, a thrush from Eurasia known as a Redwing, was found in the backyard of a birder in Olympia. Redwings usually migrate in winter to southern Europe and northern Africa. This one made a big mistake and flew across the Pacific or possibly across and down from Alaska. The bird represents the first West Coast sighting ever of a Redwing and I believe there are less than a dozen records all told for North America. Over 1500 birders descended upon Olympia over the next few months and some are still arriving as the Redwing is yet being seen. People from all over the country have flown to Washington to rent a car and hop down to Olympia for that vagrant thrush. It probably has meant a big pick-up in some of the local businesses there.

Birding is a major sport for some people. A rarity like the Redwing or the Great Tit might have been is worth a several thousand dollar trip just to "tick" or "twitch," as the Brits call it, the check mark next to the bird's name on their North American list. A slew of books have been written about the drive to be the birder with the most birds on their North American "life" list, their total over their birding career. Others try to get the most species across the continent in a given year. The birding community is divided between "listers" and those that just like to look at whatever they happen to see.

I'm sort of a moderate lister and went down to Olympia to see the Redwing myself. Of course I had the excuse that I was actually visiting my parents there, I wasn't really chasing the bird, right? I know of at least six others from Vashon that were among the thousands to go down and see it. When I went there, the usual location was staked out by about a



Great Tit photo courtesy Peter Bagnall



Great Tit photo courtesy Peter Bagnall

twenty people with spotting scopes. It wasn't present, so my father and I went around the

neighborhood looking for it. We came back after an hour, my allotted time to look. All of a sudden, people were scrambling.


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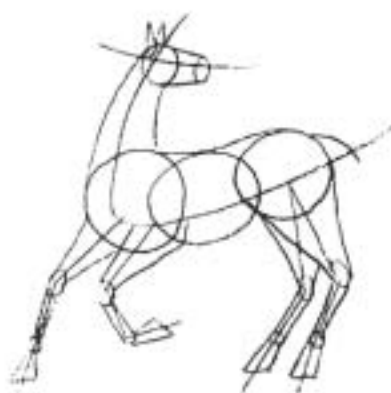
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Equipped with cell phones and FRS radios, they had got a call saying the bird was about four blocks away. As we were standing next to my truck, we just jumped in and rushed over. When I got out and saw the bird giving an excellent pose, I then turned around to see an amazing sight. Running to the intersection, from several directions, were upwards of fifty people bundled in their winter clothes. Almost all were men in the forties or fifties or older, huffing and puffing, encumbered with cameras and spotting scopes on tripods. Birding can be pretty amusing at times.

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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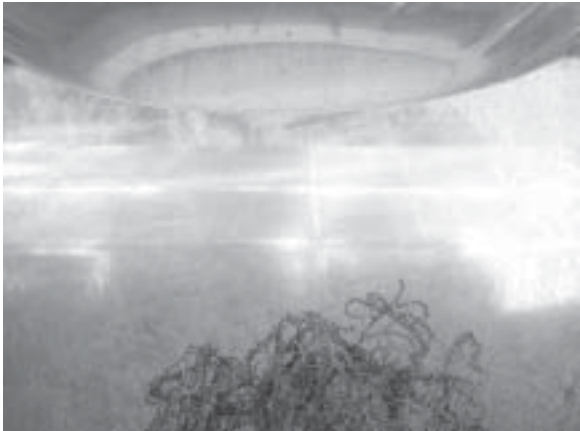
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Island Life

Text & photos by *Peter Ray*

See Through

There once was this argument about a word. It was a disagreement with a friend who was editing a piece I had written about plants. The specimen in question was fairly new on the scene at the time and was valued for its long and sturdy stems that were mostly leafless and bore, at the top, packed clusters of small, lavender/purple flowers. The plant, *Verbena bonariensis*, might be considered a pest these days, partly because of overuse through popularity, and partly because it



The Big Bubble

seeds itself around, sometimes popping up in places where it was uninvited and perhaps unwelcome. I still like the plant, although I haven't had the occasion to use it very much. I find it fascinating, not only because of its gravity defying balancing act of purple blobs held aloft by deceptively slender stems, but also because of what I argued at the time was its quality of transparency.

I don't remember if I reached for the Webster's to defend my position, but if I had—as I just did—it might have helped my case move through the system more smoothly. The point I was trying to make about this *Verbena* was that in spite of its relatively large size, some three to five feet high depending upon conditions, it can be used at the back of a border as an accent, somewhere in the middle as a mixer, or out at the front where, because of its “transparency” it can visually mix with other plants without seriously blocking what is growing in the border behind it. What the Dictionary of the American Language does say is that something might be considered transparent if it is “...so fine in texture or open in mesh that objects on the other side may be easily understood.” I suppose that one could argue that this might only apply to some kind of fabric, but if one were to start waving a copy of Beth Chatto's ‘The Green Tapestry’ around one could close the case fairly simply and quickly. Perhaps this whole disagreement might have been completely avoided if I had

only opted for the synonym diaphanous, which would have been right at home in the gooey, gushy world of garden writing vernacular. I still like transparent.

There is of course a difference between like and need. While I like the idea of the transparency of plants, the plants themselves are starting to stir in their greenhouse homes in response to the time of year, which in many cases is earlier than they think. Stuff is popping, and even though many plants are pretty happy with this sunlight bonanza of late, I'm looking at the plastic on the houses and thinking that here is a really good reason for the that claim: “I don't do windows.” It is an abundance of plant happiness that we are seeking here, however, so the hose and the long poled scrub brush are the two instruments of choice toward this end. One is reminded of that first wholesale nursery job way back then, and the ravine where the greenhouse


poly went to be buried when it got to this state. This was cost effective. It was not necessarily good land stewardship, but then again, large scale growing operations of any kind have yet to become realms where ecological sensitivity is something that is considered before the maintenance of the bottom line.

There is something strangely satisfying about washing a greenhouse roof. What one gains is higher light levels, not necessarily greater clarity. It is always slightly amazing to scrub away the pollen and algae and grime from a few sections of roof, and then go inside to experience the difference. I've always wanted to find a meter that



Shadow Puppets

measures light in foot candles to register in numbers the change that has taken place. Instead, it is enough to see that the new plants growing up underneath are not reaching and stretching for what filtered light the old muck would allow through. And there is a bit of fleeting clarity achieved in this process. Even when it is new, greenhouse poly is more translucent than transparent. But during the washing process, when both the inside and the outside has



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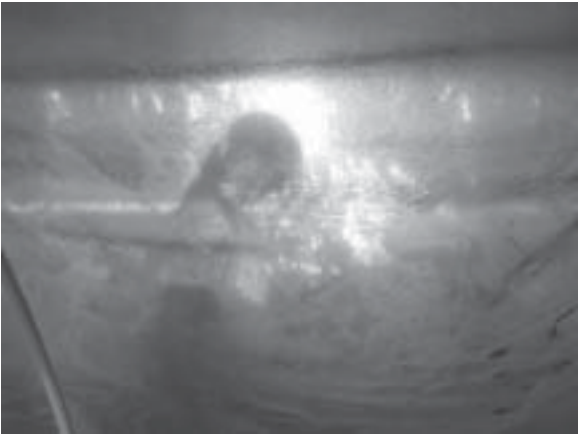
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been scrubbed and thoroughly wetted down, the poly takes on the quality of antique window glass with all its imperfections from manufacture and slow, downward gravitational flow from aging. It is then that I think of the original glass greenhouses of yesterday and all their glistening glory. With the hose and the brush in hand, another thought comes to mind. People in glass houses shouldn't throw rocks, and they HAVE to do windows.

While the plant approval rating is higher with clean and well-maintained greenhouses, the camera and lens find interest in the mess of things. Light does have a harder time passing through dirty poly, but on dry and bright sunny days the walls and roofs turn into glowing, muted screens which act as giant shadow puppet murals as the light shifts and silhouettes whatever might be in the way on the outside. And then there are the vignettes through almost transparent sections where scenes on the outside take on the look of a time worn Daguerreotype. And in the “I'll get to that soon” category, there was that section of roof where a batten had given way and the rain water (back when it was raining) had accumulated rather disturbingly in a downward trending bubble. Sometimes I guess it's okay to not “do windows”, since it might just force, or allow, you to see something in a completely different light.

Yes, as Spring approaches (no, it is not here yet) I am still looking for landscape work (see ad). But the postcard project continues. Three dollars will get you all the postcards in this week's mailing,



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The Film Thing

By Peter Ray pgr42@worldnet.att.net

Apple Press

Even though it is less than an hour long, I found myself almost walking out of a screening of ***Broken Limbs- Apples, Agriculture and the New American Farmer***. Since I was watching it at home and in bed, taking a hike was not an option. The reason for this attack of cinematic flight syndrome was not that it was crap. Quite to the contrary, the message of ***Broken Limbs*** was strong and direct and perhaps hit a little too close to home for comfort. What filmmakers Guy Evans and Jamie Howell are showing us in the opening scenes is a documentation of the decline and fall of an empire—specifically that of Wenatchee and the surrounding areas as the Apple Capital of the World as they once were known. We are also witness here to yet another example of the end of the small farmer and the rise of consolidation, agribusiness and the far reaching influences of the global market place. If that is not enough, we get to watch as chainsaws, bulldozers and excavators turn once thriving and productive orchards into stripped land dotted with massive tree funeral pyres. One general scene of the valley in its orchard-razed state reminded me of some Desert Storm news footage where the horizon was broken by oil well fires and smoke. That, and the rest of it, is why I almost walked out.

The thing is though, that there is one good reason to see this film all the way through, and that is simply summed up in one word—hope. What Evans and

Howell show us throughout the rest of ***Broken Limbs*** is that the small farm is not dead and that there are a number of examples of farmers turning things around, even in the face of big box store mentalities and globalization. Both of the filmmakers grew up in Wenatchee and Evans' dad is a third generation Wenatchee farmer and one of the small apple growers being affected and challenged by this current market shift. Part of the film focuses on his economic struggles as well as the changes he is forced to make in order to adapt to the current shifts in the apple industry. We



Sustainable in Leavenworth

also get to see how other growers in the area are surviving by growing organically and establishing niche markets in specialty apple varieties and other fruits and vegetables, all as part of what is becoming known more commonly as sustainable agriculture. In spite of earlier urges to walk out, the directions that we soon see these new American farmers taking more than make up for all the bad news we see at the beginning of the film.

You are being offered the opportunity to see ***Broken Limbs*** at the Vashon Theatre on Sunday March 6th at 2pm. This screening

is being co-sponsored by Sustainable Vashon, The Vashon Island Fruit Growing Club, VIGA, the Land Trust and the Vashon Forest Stewards. There will be a two dollar donation for admission. There will also be a question and answer session following the screening with both



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Guy Evans and Jamie Howell who will be traveling from Wenatchee to be here for this presentation. Whether you are a student and steward of the land, or just one of those people who has to eat something every day, there are important ideas and concepts this film has to offer for everyone- don't miss it. More information about the film can be found at their website, www.brokenlimbs.org.

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Dating on an Island

by Jessie Preste



Recycling, Probability, Quantum Mechanics, and Frogs

For those of you who say, “You are going to the Dark Side, Luke,” what with talking about noxious hosebeasts and whatnot, there are always different sides to everything; two opposing sides, sides besides sides, and sometimes even multi-dimensional sides. Since, in my free time, I bang around on the computer, I occasionally have email conversations like this: (hence the subtitle):

BL: You know, Jessie, about the column you wrote about the six degrees of separation? On the island, the separation is one. Have you had any statistic classes? Know about the concept of “degrees of freedom?” Interesting interrelationship and it might have some journalistic relevance. And how about a column on recycling in a small community.....recycling available partners.....there aren’t many compatible. And realizing that maybe those persons who lead multiple partners into temporary relationships, while implying long term, should have some sort of community score card.... And those who want temporary should be very happy there. And only those serious about...how is it...LTR can go into the other room. Then there is another community score card for the LTR sorts. Vashon has always had its Peyton Place gossip. Why not make it reliable?

JP: Hmmm...interesting. Well, we’ve already got a fairly good community score card (bet some of you didn’t know THAT, did you?), but its pretty selective – not everybody’s on it and it comes back to the idea that you’ll hear something about that person, but what is really the truth? The logistics of that endeavor also would be enormous! So, what about the degrees of freedom you mentioned?

BL: Degrees of freedom has to do with choices in closed systems. If 10 things are going to happen, after 9 have occurred, you know the outcome of the last, even before it occurs. There is no freedom left in the system. Will have to get a statistics text and get a better explanation.

JP: When you mention “statistics”, I get a brain freeze, kind of like when I eat ice cream too fast. It all goes back to those math word problems in grade school.

BL: OK, look at it this way. Take 2 marbles, blue and green. Place them in a box with no other marbles. Close eyes, pick 1 marble. You have 50/50 or ½ chance for either color. Open eyes...blue. There is no freedom left in the system. Other marble is green. Again, pick 1st marble, Don’t look at it. Have friend pick 2nd marble. Odds are the same, ½ for both of you, but

your friend’s marble has already been determined by your choice. Just that neither of you has information about it yet. Now have your friend look at the marble...blue. That determines, after you made your choice, that your marble is green.

JP: Like Schrodinger’s Cat? (a hypothetical experiment researching if the outcome of a circumstance is presently unknown, and by observing the circumstance, you will disrupt it, then it exists in all possible states simultaneously; i.e.: hypothetical cat in a box with a possibly decaying radioactive atom which may or may not cause cat to croak. Therefore, before you open the box, this cat must be both alive and dead at the same, according to quantum mechanics anyway.)

BL: Exactly. Probability theory redux. Start with a closed system; a box. Take 14,000 marbles, you might want a big box...and in go the marbles. You want to find a very select few that have the perfect colors to find just 1 marble to keep. Say you like only the ones with some blue in them. So now, there are about 6800. And say you want some green in with the blue. Maybe turquoise...2400 in there now. And say no hints of red...wow. Now there are 600 you might like. But you don’t have all new marbles and some have huge chips or will shatter the first time something touches them. 200 then... 200/14000 or 1 in 70 of finding your marble.....better than 1/14000. but still not real encouraging. And I didn’t get picky on what makes a perfect marble. But with careful selection, your chances get better. Kinda like a relationship search on the Island. And just like the cat, some are both alive and dead at the same time and you won’t know till you look. And just like the uncertainty thing, you can’t know where/what at the same time, even after you look. And just like degrees of freedom, the more choices made, the fewer the options.

JP: What if, after following this twisty trail, one finds that one has lost one’s marbles?

BL: Then I guess kissing frogs in search of finding something other than fly-breath might be an option.

JP: So, if you have 14000 frogs in a box, pushing the cat to one side, of course.....

BL: Yeah. Now some frogs you just KNOW you don’t want to kiss; therefore, it is intuitively obvious that the cat is napping in the sun and doesn’t care if you don’t know if/ where/when/why it is or isn’t. And that’s a big box of frogs.

Whew. As far as this author knows, neither of us was on drugs at the time...Join us for more

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See page 4

Raising Grandkids?

Continued from page 1

I was happy to see Robyn Stover, the social worker from the Senior Center there. I drop in with Robyn whenever I join the seniors for lunch. There I find ladies from my church and glory in being the youngest person there. I’ve gleaned two recipes for favorite cakes and made new friends. It makes me grateful, too, for simple things and it makes me better prepared for the future.

Although more than half of my life has been spent working in the public sector, dealing with agencies as a parent in your 50’s is a whole new ball game. Poor as we were when my own kids were growing up, applying for medical coupons, daycare subsidies and Social Security benefits are things I had never done. The bureaucratic buck passing and documentation is phenomenal. Once your own children are out of the house finally, after boomeranging back and forth a couple times, you never dream that you’ll be wiping little bottoms and noses again. The friendship factor has become more important than ever for encouragement, support and occasional babysitting when the kids are too sick to go to daycare and your sick leave is exhausted.

We listened to Allison Feher from Senior Rights Assistance. She’s an attorney who gave us a rundown on situations that some of us seniors have found ourselves in and how to navigate the red tape. She talked about parenting arrangements and how formal or informal, agreed or

contested they can be. Log onto seniorservices.org or call them at 206-448-5720 to learn more.

She gave us pamphlets, a book of resources and a list of things to do to take good care of ourselves during this time. The one that popped out at me? “Don’t waste energy wondering where you went wrong. You were the best parent you knew how to be.” Someone who knew me must have snuck that one in.

Being a parent is hard. Being the parent of a struggling parent is even harder in a way because where do you draw the line between helping and enabling? Between giving feedback and butting in? Between gentle correction and gigantic nagging? There’s one thing I hope both my children and my grandchildren know, and that is, while I may have an irreverent sense of humor, there is nothing irreverent about my faith. I have faith in God, that we are loved and here for a purpose; faith in my children, in their abilities; that they will figure it out, learn to ask for help and get on the right track. Faith that what we can not teach or tell, we can communicate through love, patience, hope and acceptance—acceptance of people as themselves—people of worth, with divine attributes and the capacity to correct mistakes; to pick themselves up, dust themselves off and keep on keeping on. Because a happy, loving child is worth all the energy, love, pain, deprivation, hard work and confusion. So here’s to grandkids, parents and the best of all—the grandparents that raise them!

☺☺☺

Positively Speaking

By Deborah H. Anderson

A Death in the Family

There is a moment in grief where the tears will not stop. If you think with all your heart, “I can make them stop,” you cannot. It feels as if the sadness will break you. You can be thinking mundane thoughts about the need to put gas in the car, or choosing a vegetable for dinner, and liquid sorrow runs over your eyelids, pouring onto your cheeks, your nose running faster than you can wipe and eventually stopping you from breathing out of it.

When I first heard the news of Connie’s death, I couldn’t get a good signal. It didn’t matter. For her husband, Dave, to be calling me on my cell at 7:00 AM meant only one thing: Connie was no longer in pain, and we were all very, very sad.

The drive to cure cancer must increase. We MUST find a cure for all the variations of this dreadful disease. Ultimately, though, it was not the cancer that killed her, it was the chemo. Her body was ravaged by too much, too late. The only one that really was working was the cocktail that made her blind. She didn’t want that. We’re talking quality of life.

Death has stalked me since I was a child. When I was nine, we were hit by a drunk driver doing ninety. I was in the back seat of a Renault at a stop sign. My next door neighbor friend Susie was with me. Her family was perfect, mine was not. As part of the imperfect family, ever exuberant me, eager to get to our ballroom dancing class, had dashed on ahead of her and into the back seat first. Scolded for my rudeness, I apologized. Twenty minutes later I held her comatose head in mine, stroking her hair trying to tell her it was all going to be all right. I was very polite for many years, and spent my time living two lives to make up for my rudeness.

When my father died, I didn’t get back to see him in time. “Why, God,” I cried out “do I have to live in this god forsaken tundra and miss saying good bye?” There had been some other deaths I had missed. So, when my stepfather George was dying of emphysema, and I went back to care for him during my mom’s radiation for breast cancer, it was a gift to sit up during the night watching old Nick at Night shows and talking about it. “Can’t you last just a few more years for us?” I asked gently. “I can’t,” he said. And it was good to have the words said face to face. The day before he died, I found out I was pregnant with my youngest daughter. We figure they passed in heaven.

So too, God arranged a final visit with Connie. Last October I swung by on one of the Michigan trips and had yet another lovely lunch. Our

family always seemed to arrive at mealtime thanks to the airline schedules. Stouffer’s macaroni and cheese and a garden salad with the last vegetables of the season filled our tummies. I pretended not to notice the stools placed all around the house for her to stop and perch when she was tired after a few steps. She didn’t bother putting on her wig; just a purple bandana. I felt honored. My dear sweet cousin, who kept us cousins all together, who first hosted me when I was in the third grade and she was a student at the Parson School of Design in Manhattan , back in the days when we wore hats and gloves, talked frankly about the progression of the disease. “I mean,” she had whispered to me earlier at a concert we were attending, “You’ll do anything to stay alive!”


But Connie, my sweet, I have not. Once I forgave myself for Susie’s death, I let my grip slip a bit. I have not done everything I could to stay alive. I have many times taken life for granted for hours on end. I have overeaten and underexercised. I have let impatience and boredom, bitterness and resentment creep in at times, wearing away at my body. What can I do to honor how you fought to stay alive, Connie? I can fight too. I can remember every minute of life is a gift and do only that which affirms.

Mary Fran stepped in to care for my daughter at the memorial when my daughter arrived with her dorm counselor, who had driven her down to the service from school. She’s the second in command as cousins go. She will continue the line of caring. But the legacy of Connie’s fight will be upon us all. The only thing I can do to ease my sorrow is to grab hold of the opportunities to live.


When I turned forty, I had a t-shirt made up that said, “Choose Life.” My son chided me that people would think I was addressing the abortion issue. Actually it’s from Deuteronomy. “I have set before you life and death, ...therefore choose life.” I’m wearing that t-shirt on my heart everyday. My days are numbered...and so are yours. Let us treat them accordingly. ☺☺☺

A black and white advertisement for garden services. On the left is a stylized illustration of a flowering branch. To the right, the text reads: "Garden Cleanup", "Planting and Maintenance", "Jen Wade", and "206 714-6539".

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What’s Really Important? Youth-Adult Dialogues Scheduled for March 15 and May 3

By Stephen Silha

“What are you afraid of?” asked one Island teen of a group of adults, while describing how she didn’t understand why she is ignored or avoided on Vashon Island.

“What are you afraid of?” asked an adult who said he didn’t understand when teens never pay any attention to him.

Generational differences are not new, but some adults and youth on Vashon realize that when communication happens, everyone’s life improves. That’s why two more evenings of “amazing feats of communication,” building on the success of last year’s dialogues, are planned for Tuesday, March 15 and Tuesday, May 3 at the community room of the Presbyterian Church, across the street from the Vashon Theatre. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., and the dialogue goes to 8:30 p.m.

These sessions will explore and assess needs and interactions of both youth and adults in this community. It’s a two-way process.

“Different age groups on the Island don’t have a stable means of communication, and there aren’t enough activities that encompass various age groups,” said Cosmo Harrigan, one of the youth facilitators.

The dialogue, which will include various fun communication-focused activities, will be facilitated by youth and adults. Among the questions to be considered:

(for adults) How can you honor your child’s unique path of growth while also protecting his or her well-being?

(for youth) How can you protect your unique path of growth while also respecting and responding to your parents’ concern for your well-being?

The dialogue is sponsored by the Prevention/Intervention Team (PIT), a coalition of youth-serving groups, and DOIT, Development of Island Teens. We need volunteers to bring food for the potluck dinner and to help with set-up. So if you can help, or have questions, call Bridgid Normand at 463-6234. ☺☺☺

New Island Business Launches Website

Vashon Trading announced today the launch of its new corporate website at www.vashontrading.com.

“Vashontrading.com is the ideal internet spot to choose unique gift arrangements for relatives, friends, business associates, and children” said President Billie Hendrix.

Hendrix said Vashon Trading searches the globe for unique items to create timeless gifts for any occasion. The gifts are arranged in a colorful box, basket, or tray and then wrapped in Vashon Trading’s branded burlap bag.

“We have stuffed animals from Sri Lanka, linens from France, and gift containers from the Philippines, China, and India. We’ll soon offer hand painted candles from Africa and children’s items from Germany,” Hendrix said.

WSF Says: Bite Me

Continued from page 1

change from coupon books to a “Smart Card” system of electronically registering payment for riding the ferries. Citing studies that indicated fraud and revenue loss from the misuse of the current ticket book system (although exact lost revenue numbers were unavailable), ferry system representatives were in universal agreement that the Smart Card system, which is already in use at Disneyland and elsewhere, is in our not too distant future if, in venturing from the Island for any reason, we just might want to get home again.

While current ticket books are labeled in generic and egalitarian terms like “Passenger”, “Motorcycle Incl.Driver” and “Vehicle Under 20’ incl. Driver”, the ferry system has decided that social profiling is also a part of our boating future. Once the new pricing structure is in place and the coupon books are replaced with Smart Cards— supposedly some time in the Fall of this year, the cheapest fare will go to the Commuter. The Commuter is deemed anyone who can use ten rides in thirty days, in contrast with the old ninety day limit on our current coupon books. There will be a “time chip” in passenger cards allowing only one use every forty five minutes. This means that on a family trip to a Mariners game, either everyone in the car will need their own Smart Card to get home, or else you can pay the full fare for the unfortunate cardless amongst you at the toll booth. Smart Cards will be available on line or at kiosks; a five percent surcharge will be added to any Smart Cards purchased at the toll booth. If you want to avoid that charge as you rush to the boat, you need to get out of your car and make your way to the ferry terminal and the kiosk inside. Don’t forget your credit card— it won’t accept cash or checks.

A lawyer friend made the point during the presentation that she thought a court challenge could be brought under the Constitution’s Fourteenth Amendment provision for a citizen’s right to equal protection under the law. On a different track, in thinking back to the last anti-bridge battle, the acronym WSDOT resurfaced in this reporter’s memory. The reason one sees WSDOT next to the ferry system logo is that the ferries are a part of the Washington State highway system. In 1991, the State Legislature passed the Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Law and made that law a part of the Washington Clean Air Act. The stated goals of the CTR are: “...to reduce traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and petroleum consumption through employer-based programs that decrease the number of commute trips made by people driving alone.” By granting the Commuter most favored status in its pricing structure and encouraging

more trips per month by its thirty day limit in usage, it would seem that WSF is not only engaging in profiling of its ridership, but is also in direct violation of the CTR by encouraging more driving among commuters, not less. One could get into the social engineering aspects of all of this, especially in conjunction with the proposed rerouting of car ferries to downtown Seattle and how this could turn Vashon into Bainbridge II, but that’s all for another time.

It is true—there is another option being offered to non-commuters that does not involve paying the full fare. A ferry rider can purchase a “Convenience” Smart Card that will be good for five trips with a sixty day limit of usage. But while the Commuter card offers a twenty percent discount from the full fare price, the Convenience card will only give a fifteen percent discount per ride, and that discount will be reduced to ten percent by 2006. A fairly quick but careful read-through of all the literature available at the meeting as handouts revealed no information regarding bicycle use, an omission that seems to be in line with WSDOT’s continuing refusal to recognize the bicycle as a viable transportation alternative. I was told by one of the presenters, Ray Deardorf, that there will be no increase in the bicycle surcharge. I didn’t think to ask if those surcharge tickets will still be available in ticket book form or if they too will be replaced by Smart Cards, or if there will be any changes in the yearly bike pass program. There is one case in which fares on the ferry system are slated to go down, although we won’t see it here since it only applies to international runs. It is interesting to note, however, that as stated in the meeting handout: **“The new promotional fare will eliminate the overweight charge for oversize recreational vehicles and buses (more than 20 feet in length and taller than 7’6”), effectively cutting the fare for these vehicles in half.”**

If any of this bothers you just a little, then perhaps you might want to join in the grassroots movement called for at the meeting. In talking with the person who made this call, it turns out he is unable to lead any effort at this time. Anyone willing to get involve with ferry issues can contact Vickie Mercer, the chair of the Community Council Transportation Committee, at vashontransport@centurytel.net , or Dan Schueler with Save Our Ships (SOS) at dans@islandimage.net . You can get all the details of this proposal at **www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/fares/2005**. Comments can be directed to the Tariff Policy Committee email at **tariff@wsdot.wa.gov**, by phone at 1-888-808-7977 or fax at 206-515-3773. You might also want to keep the 23rd of March open, since that is the day the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) hears public comment about this proposal in downtown Seattle on the fifth floor of 1011 Western Avenue from 10 am till noon. ☹



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Fight WSF Fare Changes!

Continued from page 1

Furthermore, every ferry rider will need his or her own card; no longer will mom and dad be able to tear out a handful of yellow tickets to pay for all the kids in the backseat (except the one hiding under the blanket). Each card will be usable by only one rider, and will only be swipe-able one time every 45 minutes.

On February 16th, Ome y addressed the State Transportation Commission, telling them that Vashon is not happy with their community outreach process (do they really care what we think when they’ve already set an implementation date?), and that the shortened expiration dates are simply a hidden fare increase on top of the 5% “hard” increase.

Commission chair Dale Stedman defended the Tariff Policy Committee’s methods, and pointed out that ferry users (e.g. Islanders Mike Sudduth and Sally Fox) have been included as members of the committee. He also said that the Commission is getting a lot of correspondence on the proposal, and that public comment is being considered.

Ome y reminded the commissioners that the ferries are part of the state highway system, and encouraged them to re-examine the plan for 100% fare box recovery. Commissioner Edward Barnes said eventually Washington will have to move towards toll roads and other user fees. Commented Ome y, “I hope Washington voters will have better sense than that and vote to fund adequate transportation.”

(Editor: For more in-depth coverage of this critical issue, including the social engineering and legal aspects, read Peter Ray’s story “WSF Says Bite Me.” Also see Ivan Weiss’s letter on page 4 for another perspective on the nature of the discount.)



Garden the World

by MEarth

Tom Brown Becomes Invisible

My beloved wife and I were at the Bear Tribe’s first Medicine Wheel Gathering in 1980, held at the White River Camp Ground in the Cascade Mountains. On the morning and at the time stated for the start of the building of the Medicine Wheel, I went to the appointed area, about an acre of open ground.

Of course, there was no one there.

The building of the wheel, a ceremony, was going to happen in Indian Time.

Actually, there was someone there—someone besides me, that is. Tom Brown stood there, to the north of the circle, as I recall. He is the author of several books on the outdoors and if you have not read his work, I again recommend it highly.

He had been there since before I arrived and he had a stone in his hands. He was obviously awaiting the building of the wheel. I don’t know how long he had been standing there but he held the stone—roundish, about the size of a volley ball—out in front of him with his elbows against his stomach for stability. He was not moving and he could have been standing there all night from what I could tell.

There were other people beginning to gather some distance away and they were generally moving towards the place the wheel was going to be built, but none were really there yet. I saw Sun Bear, a Native leader often vilified for his willingness to work with non-Indians, approach with some people and I wandered up in his direction. He clearly had some business to take care of; from the look of it, someone needed to be cleaned up before he could take part in the ceremony and Sun Bear was working him over pretty heavily.

Then he encountered a sweet little old lady who had not read her information packet, which included the admonition “no pictures.” She was wandering around with a bright look on her face, camera at the ready, happily snapping away. Sun Bear spoke to her in a gentle tone, but when she put her camera away she was in tears. Later in the week, he honored her by asking her to perform an important function during one of the ceremonies and

that woman left those grounds changed forever.

At any rate, the bulk of the functionaries finally got down to the place the wheel was going to be built and the other attendees began to gather. I could not help but notice that Tom Brown had not moved in all that time. I had read *The Tracker* so I knew a little about him. I watched him pretty closely. He was breathing so slowly it was imperceptible and he had not even blinked. It was, by then, probably half an hour since I’d first seen him.

More and more people gathered around the circle. Some of the people moved in immediately around Brown and one or two glanced at him with a question on their face. Finally Sun Bear and his people were ready to begin.

Brown had still not moved a muscle.

There were probably about 300 people around and we all crowded in to the edge of what would be the circle. Sun Bear took a buffalo skull out to the center and consecrated the ground with an offering as he placed it. He smoked his pipe, made a prayer and began his welcoming talk.


He explained what we were going to do and then he began to get ready to do it. There were several distinguished guests who had been invited to the gathering to place key stones that would form the basis of the wheel and he called for the first one.

The ceremony had begun. I think Brown was about the third or fourth person called to place a stone. I was across the circle from him and felt like I was the only one who had noticed what he had been doing. I was stunned at his endurance.

When Sun Bear called his name, Brown moved for the first time since I had first seen him, nearly an hour before. The people who had been standing around him jumped like they had suddenly seen a tree walk and I knew that he had remained motionless so perfectly that he had become invisible to them.

Invisible is a relative thing. Some say that it is not possible for physical things, “real” things, to become invisible. Yet, many real things do become invisible. Spider webs are a good example. If you have the right light, they are perfectly visible but we run into them all the time because, in the “wrong” light, they are perfectly invisible as well. Sliding glass doors are another example.

Tom Brown wasn’t invisible because no one could see him, he was invisible because no one did see him or, more precisely, they saw him but they didn’t notice him, much as a deer will not notice



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a motionless stalker even 10 feet away. Since Brown was in such a state of perfect stillness—a state that has the outer component of motionlessness but also has an inner component—he had become part of the natural landscape, like a tree or a rock, so they were surprised when he moved.

As I later told someone, I knew he was invisible because I saw people not see him.



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Text and drawings by Kathy Abascal (AHG)



Fish or Flax Oil

People frequently ask me whether flax or fish oil is the better supplement. It is a complex issue, and it is hard to say with certainty that one is better than the other. Nonetheless, I favor flax oil.

First, flax is a beautiful little plant with a nice blue flower that has had a place in man's life for a very long time. We eat its seeds, enjoy its flowers, and use the plant to make textiles. That lovely, smooth fabric that wrinkles so well, linen, is made from flax. Flax can easily be grown organically. It is an herb, and as an herbalist, I am in favor of herbs.

Second, flax seed is cheap and readily available. If you get a small coffee grinder, you can grind up one or two tablespoons to mix in a smoothie or sprinkle on your granola, or salad. That amount is said to provide enough essential fatty acids to keep you healthy. If you don't like grinding seed, you can get flax oil that is kept in dark bottles in the fridge to prevent the oil from oxidizing before it is put to work in your body. Of course, the oil costs quite a bit more than the seed. It is also possible to find pre-ground flax meal and flax oil capsules. I am much less fond of these forms of flax because I think it is likely that, especially in the capsules, the flax oils may have had too many opportunities to be damaged by light, moisture, heat, and oxygen.

Third, flax contains short fat chains (ALA) that the body combines into longer fat chains (EPA and DHA). EPA/DHA are very health protective fats, and can be of great benefit in many chronic ailments (such as high cholesterol, heart problems, arthritis, skin ailments, etc.) Fish

oil fans disagree with me on this point. They argue that the body is not able to make much EPA/DHA from ALA. They insist that a person who wants the benefits of EPA/DHA must either eat fish daily or take fish oil as a supplement.

In truth, this bioavailability issue is very murky. The flax seed purveyors analyze studies and plug in numbers that show that a few tablespoons of flax will provide all the EPA/DHA your body needs. The fish oil purveyors cite studies and plug in numbers to show that flax will not. Besides, they argue, fish oil has readymade EPA and DHA, so it is the most available source of those compounds. The problem is that



both sides have fish to fry, so to speak and it is hard to get a real grasp on the numbers they use. Certainly, however, fish oil is a ready made and therefore easy source of EPA/DHA. But I remain in favor of flax because there are other problems with fish oil.

Fish do not live in pristine, clean environments. As a result, they concentrate heavy metals, pesticides, and flame retardants in their oils. Many of these compounds are overtly toxic, such as mercury. Others, like flame retardants, are hormone disruptors, and we are just beginning to understand how bad those are for us.

Of course, almost all fish oil manufacturers remove heavy metals as well as PCBs from their oils. They cannot yet detect the flame retardants but they are probably removed along with the PCBs. This requires a lot of

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processing. We are told that this is done without chemical solvents and heat but I seriously doubt that such a highly reactive antioxidant can be subjected to that much clean-up without losing some of its antioxidant characteristics.

Furthermore, most fish oil is not manufactured and handled as carefully as is the flax oil. It does not come in black bottles that shield it from light. It is not packaged in nitrogen to avoid exposure to oxygen. Most of it comes in clear or brown jars, is shipped un-refrigerated and is usually stored that way as well. I think most fish oil supplements may be a bit rancid. That's why the capsules give people "fishy" burps. Some fish oil manufacturers are specific about where their fish was caught and what type of fish it was. Usually, they come from far away and some time ago. Fresh fish goes bad after only a few days, even if refrigerated. How do they manage to get salmon oil from Norwegian salmon into capsules and bottles and then get it fresh and healthy to the shelf in your store? Why can't you keep your salmon filet that long?

Finally, our fisheries are not being managed in an



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

environmentally conscious or sustainable way. There is no eco-friendly, certified fish oil brand on the market, as far as I know. Consequently, you simply cannot measure the environmental impact you have when you take fish oil capsules.

We are omnivores who used to eat a lot more seed than we do today. I think we have evolved the ability to process the fatty acids in seeds. So, I usually recommend that people grind their own flax seed because it is fresh, organic, and inexpensive and skip the fish oil because it is not.



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Among Our Piers:

By Jonathan Shipley

Terry Sutton

If the power goes out on Vashon, as it is wont to do, Terry Sutton won't have a problem. You see, she makes candles. More than that, she's made candle making her business. I sat down with Terry to talk about candle making, its history, and how does one make candles smell so good.

Loop: What got you into candle making?

Terry: I was participating with the Children's Harvest Fair and I held a candle making booth with the children making chunk candles. It was great fun.

Loop: What made you want to start your own candle making business? Is it your full time job?

Terry: The opportunity to do something profitable with a craft presented itself to me when I "did the math" after having the candle workshop. The children made on average 150 candles in a 3 hour period. No, this is not my full time job. I own Terrapin Tile, a tile and stone installation service.

Loop: Are there any skills in candle making that you can translate into your life?

Terry: Yes. Candle making is like cooking, one must follow "recipes". You always use the same ingredients and when using something new you have to "try" it before you let someone buy it. In food, you always sample your recipe before serving. In candles one must test burn every recipe to insure you have the right ingredients.

Loop: For the layman, how do you make a candle?

Terry: Melt your wax and ingredients in a double boiler with a thermometer to watch the temperature. While it's melting prepare your mold by wicking it. When the recipe reaches 180-190 Fahrenheit, remove the wax from the water, let it stand for one minute, and then pour it into your mold. Save some wax, as the poured wax will shrink while cooling. After the surface forms a skin, poke relief holes around the wick and allow it to cool. The wax will shrink forming a well. Melt the saved wax and fill the candle to the top of the first pour. Allow it to cool. Remove from mold, trim if needed, and cure it for 24 hours before burning.

Loop: How do you make a candle smell?

Terry: By adding special scents made to bind with the wax molecules.

Loop: Is candle making easy to do? Can children do it?

Terry: Yes. It can be as easy or as difficult as you want it to be. For a pictorial presentation of the children's candle making workshop, go to www.Terryleecraft.com and click on the kids' photo.

Loop: What are some of the more unusual candles you've made?

Terry: The water balloon candles are not commonly found in the stores and are fun to make.

Loop: Is there an interesting history in regards to candle making?

Terry: Yes. Before the industrial revolution and the introduction of petroleum, candles were made from either tallow (processed animal fat) or beeswax. Tallow candles smelled bad when burning and made for a lot of soot. The soot would damage walls



and art in the places where they were burned. Beeswax burned clean AND smelled good! For this reason the Catholic Church proclaimed that only beeswax candles were to be burned in their churches. Today we have many varieties of waxes to choose from but beware, not all waxes are good for you.

Loop: Do you teach candle making? If so, when and where?

Terry: Yes. I offer the water balloon candle making workshop. This workshop arrives to your door and can be scheduled for parties and gatherings.



Loop: Where can Vashonites find your candles?

Terry: At Minglement we are offering our line of unique beeswax candles. Stop by and ask to see our fruit and vegetable candles as well as our rainbow bears.

Loop: How long have you lived on Vashon? Why do you like it here? Why did you start your business here?

Terry: I have lived on Vashon for 18+ years. I enjoy most of all the community and the serenity of island life. I started my business here because this is my home and always will be. I hope to one day be able to participate in sustaining Vashon by offering employment, and as the company grows, to continue to give back to the community. Thank you Vashon! ☺



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by Richard Carson

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M1	I2	E3	U4	P5		F6	B7	N8		E9	K10		E11	C12	A13	B14		C15	R16	H17	M18	J19
S20		F21	J22	B23	H24		M25	I26		Q27	E28	G29	R30	C31	V32		D33	T34	Q35	C36	O37	
U38	B39	K40	F41	C42	Q43	S44		I45	P46	U47	H48		U49	J50		U51	I52	S53	B54	K55	P56	
R57	C58	K59	G60		J61	D62	C63	T64		D65	J66	K67	A68	F69		S70	I71	K72	J73		V74	K75
	B76	H77	F78	J79	A80		R81	F82	G83	H84	N85		G86	M87	V88	D89	J90		R91	Q92	P93	
A94	L95		I96	L97	E98	M99	O100	N101		Q102	U103	T104	V105	S106	L107	D108		P109	E110		R111	O112
M113	Q114	V115	L116	A117		T118	L119	Q120	F121		H122	N123	O124	D125	T126	I127		T128	O129	L130		G131
V132	A133	N134	D135	H136	J137	U138	F139	C140	T141	I142		R143	E144	J145	K146	B147	I148	U149	D150	A151		

- A. — souls

80 94 13 117 133 68 151

B. Smoking accessory

23 54 39 76 7 147 14

C. In the future

63 58 36 31 15 42 12 140

D. Actress Margaret

33 150 89 108 62 125 135 65

E. Huge

11 28 110 9 144 98 3

F. Newspaper item

41 82 78 21 139 6 69 121

G. Mist or smoke

29 86 131 83 60

H. Panama, e.g.

17 122 24 77 48 84 136

I. April observance

26 52 148 45 2 127 71 142

J. Fortify

145 61 50 137 79 19 73 22 66 90

K. Cursory look

10 72 146 55 — 75 67 59 40

L. Fig —

95 116 119 130 97 107

M. Sudden pain

1 25 99 18 87 113

N. Prohibit

8 101 85 123 134

O. Seduced

112 129 124 100 37

P. Archie's wife

5 56 109 93 46

Q. Singer Sarah

35 114 92 43 27 120 102

R. — Crane

30 111 16 81 91 57 143

S. Rustling sound

20 70 106 53 44

T. Burn to death

34 64 96 128 141 118 104 126

U. Selected

49 51 38 47 149 138 103 4

V. Zero

115 88 132 32 105 74

Madame Toujours

Dear Madame Toujours,
I read your last column, and I think I might have been sexually harassed last week in my tenth grade trigonometry class. See, I was sitting with my friends Heather and Jennifer. We were starting our homework so we could get done early and go to the mall after school.

Ernie Codswallop and Court Plumber were sitting in the next row talking about superheroes. They are kind of nerds, and they are always talking about something boring like that and trying to get Heather and Jennifer and me to talk about boring stuff, too. I don't want to be rude and hurt their feelings, so I mostly pretend I don't hear them which would be rude and mean if it were anybody else, but Ernie and Court seem to think it means I really like them a lot. Maybe because the popular kids are really mean to them, so being ignored actually seems nice.

The thing is, they got to talking about superheroes and, you know, sex, and how different superheroes...well, it was kind of gross, and it made me feel uncomfortable, and Jennifer and Heather were giggling which just encouraged them, and I kept kicking Heather under her chair and whispering for her to stop encouraging them, but she kept giggling only she had this kind of desperate look in her eyes like a rabbit in the headlights of a car.

Ernie and Court kept trying to get my attention, but I just kept ignoring them and taking deep breaths so I wouldn't blush so much.

Is this sexual harassment, and what should I have done about it?
Sincerely, Exasperated

Chere Mlle. Exasperated,
Possibly, *Mssrs.* Ernie and Court are only being the big nerds and thinking that everybody is being very amused by the talking about the superheroes.

The correct thing is to say gently, "*Mssrs.*, that is being the very distasteful subject, and I am trying to do the homeworks." If they are only the big nerds, they will make the few jokes to save the faces, and then they will desist in the obnoxiousness. If they are continuing with the offensiveness, then they are the big, obnoxious jerks, and you may be referring to the previous column for the correct procedures.

You are correct to observe that the unfortunate giggling of the friends is encouraging the nerd persons to continue with the distasteful remarks. However, this is possibly not to mean they are enjoying the talking about the sexual habits of the superheroes. Very many times, the young female persons, they are having the giggling when they are uncomfortable. This is not as sensible as firmly explaining to the offensive persons that the obnoxious behaviors are being very distasteful, or even as sensible as smacking the offensive persons very sharply on the back of the head, but clearly *Mlles.* Heather and Jennifer are not having the self-possession that you are enjoying.

Bon Chance, Mlle. Exasperated, and possibly you are wishing to consider the sedatives for the friends before you are going to the classes. **0000**

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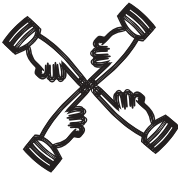
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Solutions on page 18



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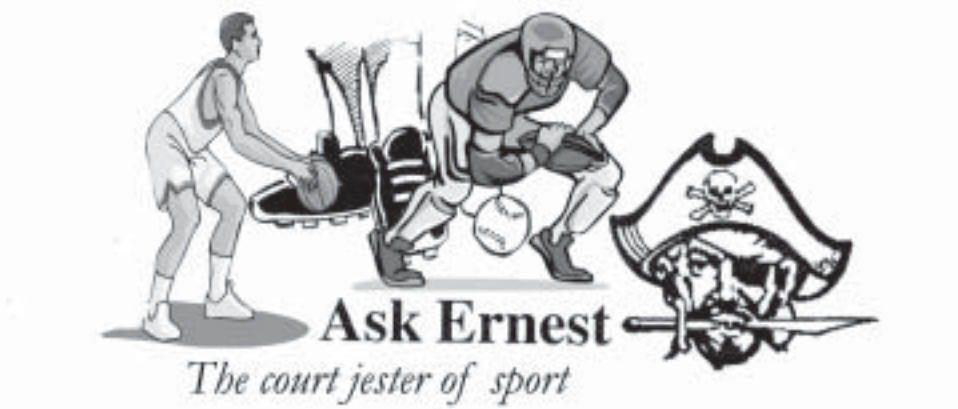
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KATHY'S CORNER

Spring is on its way!?!?!
What with beautiful days & freezing nights it might make one wonder, but I see it as a sure sign. The leaves are starting to show on many plants. Many of us have had to haul the lawn mower out. It is almost time to fertilize for the first time. (March 1st is a great target date for most stuff)
We have thousands of plants growing for you. Hundreds of exciting new varieties, & thousand of old standbys and your year in year out favorites. Plants that we don't grow here are beginning to arrive and by the time you read this we will be starting to receive new plants every few days for you to choose from. We have so many new exciting things happening this year. Mary Marth will be joining us. She will helping with design & gardening consulting, as well as teaching many of our seminars.
She is well know in the gardening community & we believe will be a wonderful addition to our team. We have wanted to 'teach' practical gardening & well as many other gardening related subjects and Mary is excited, as am I, about sharing our knowledge with you, our customers....stay tuned for more... and talking about more.....
We also will be expanding our 'gift' & 'nice type' pot inventory a lot. Lisa did a bit with this last year and your response was terrific and so will will be expanding this significantly over the next few months. and more.....Paul our 'Vashon' concrete stepping stone man, has added a ton of new products & colors to his product mix. These stones are made here on Vashon, each one is unique & they are VERY affordable. If you haven't see these please stop by & take a look. they are nice!
& more.....more.....HOUSEPLANTS.....
Everyone loves Loyd's Jades & Cacti & so he is expanding his mix & in the very near future he will have many many more choices for you.
Have I missed anything..yes Next door to the south of us is Kevin Bergin's new home, rocks, soil & more soon I'm told....more info when I have it on all of the above.

Loop ~ Sports



So, Ernie, I wanna hear some real good news from ya. I just got back from the dentist and my mouth kinda hurts, but tell me something more than just your Free Running Championship! I don't really think that F.R.ing is even a sport, really. Just give me some of that sweet writing that smells like watermelon bubblegum drenched in goat sauce.
Merry Death Prestonelli
ps. I used to be a Wrestling Cheerleader and the biggest B-Ball fan!

Hey,
Timely letter, but I gotta Run, I mean really run to the Free Running Championships in Belize. They are having the Pan Am Games of F.R.ing on the ancient Mayan Ruins in Xunantunich. I can't wait, but I also don't have much time. Time is so irrelevant when you are a champion F.R.er anyways, but really I got a plane to catch and an Emergen C to drink. Check it out, in Bold, Big Font and Double Space!
(p.s. What the heck is Goat Sauce?)
E.

The Island Sports News

The **Boys Basketball Team won the League Championship** by beating Steilacoom on Saturday,

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February 12. They finish the regular season with a 15-3 record and the #1 Seed at the District Tournament.
(All League Selections were: 1st team: Shane Davis, 2nd Team: Brian Amstrup, and Honorable Mention (for some honorable guys): Kevin Sontgerath, Clay Gleb and Zach Andrus. Also, of course, coach Andy Soapbox Sears won the Nisqually League Coach of the Year honors.)

The **Pirate Wrestling Team placed 2nd in the Region and 1st in the Districts.** They qualified a school record 10 State Participants to wrestle in the Tacoma Dome. Here they are (Regional Placements in parenthesis): Freight Train Gateman (2nd), Gettin' his Groove on Gateman (2nd), Steamboat Stermer (4th), Wile E. Volker (5th), Tech Fall Phillips (3rd), Will Olsen (alternate), Micah Air Jordan Sohl (3rd), Dominator Wolzcko (1st), Stephe Wolzcko (4th), Tie em up Twietmeister (3rd), and Half Man Half Mayshark (1st).
Also, of course, **Per-Lars Blomgren was voted the Regional Assistant Coach of the Year.**

That's all I got, Mon, as I'm off to Xunantunich..... ☺☺☺

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VAC February Meet Results

The Vashon Aquatic Club fielded nine swimmers at the Pacific Northwest Swimming February Challenge meet held at Evergreen State College. All swimmers did well and improved their times. Team highlights included Jeremy Basurto Cowen's 1st place sweep of the 100 free, 200 IM and 100 back, Tazi Flory 1st place in the 50 back and 100 breast and 2nd place 200 free, and Jesse Hazzard's 1st in the 50 fly and 100 free. Swimmer Nick Wiesnet's times qualified him for the Northwest Sectional multi-state meet in March.

Other swimmers who also made a strong showing were Amanda Ohmert (5th:100 free, 100 back and 50 fly) Avalon Koenig (9th: 50 breast) June Landenburger (3rd: 200 breast, 4th:50 back, 5th:100 breast) Niki Affolter (3rd: 50 free, 4th: 200 breast and 200 IM) and Zoe Mestre (12th:100 back).



Chief Instructor Darren McKee throws a student at the dojo. Check out the **West Seattle Aikikai** ad across from this page for adult and youth class information. And check out the very cool website at www.westseattleaikikai.com.

Solution to Double Crostic

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. KINDRED | I. EARTH DAY Q. VAUGHAN |
| B. ASHTRAY | J. STRENGTHEN R. ICHABOD |
| C. EVENTUALK. ONCE-OVER | S. SWISH |
| D. LEIGHTON | L. NEWTON T. IMMOLATE |
| E. MASSIVE | M. TWINGE U. OPTED FOR |
| F. OBITUARY | N. ESTOP V. NAUGHT |
| G. VAPOR | O. LURED |
| H. ISTHMUS | P. EDITH |

There are so many things that we, having lived through them, or passed over them, never want to think about again. But in movies nothing is cleaned away, sorted out, purposefully discarded. [Pauline] Kael, "Movies on Television"

THE DORSAL SPIN:
What's Your Ecotype?



By Orca Annie Stateler, VHP Coordinator

Orcas have been scarce lately in Colvos Pass, but we have enjoyed the dramatic sight of Steller sea lions making sushi out of octopus. Evidently, it takes much longer to finish off an octopus than a salmon. Eagles are often drawn to the commotion.

My last column prompted a call from a reader who told me that dog doo is also a problem at the Burton boat launch at Jensen Point. Tsk, tsk, park users. Quartermaster Harbor is not a toilet. Consider this your poop PSA.

Well, I am lacking a graceful transition here, so PLEASE REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS ASAP TO 463-9041. The Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) appreciates your support. This time of year, we might get a few gray whales in local waters, and you never know when Transients might appear.

The February 13 edition of the *Tacoma News Tribune* featured “Gravel mine would add to pressure on Puget Sound orcas,” an eloquent, thoughtful commentary by Dr. David Bain. Some nuggets of wisdom to pique your curiosity: “New studies have shown orcas are significantly affected by vessel traffic, and noise can exclude them from parts of their range.”

“The proposed gravel mine expansion on Maury Island is one example of the Sound’s festering wounds.” Go to www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/columnists/story/4556544p-4267872c.htm to read the full article.

Dave is one of our most accessible ACS/PS science advisors. His acoustics knowledge and research background are invaluable to the VHP. Opponents of Glacier’s expansion are truly fortunate to have someone of his caliber willing to provide expertise on the issue.

At the Seattle Aquarium meetings about the proposed listing of Southern Resident killer whales (J, K, and L Pods) as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Dave posed excellent questions regarding interagency coordination between NOAA Fisheries and the Army Corps of Engineers in an effort to designate the travel routes off Maury Island as critical habitat for our orcas.

Many more questions were raised than answered at the ESA listing meeting. For example, why not go for “endangered” instead of just “threatened,” since the Southern Residents seem to meet the criteria? Below is a sample of other subjects addressed.

During the research review, we learned that the latest “toxin

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du jour,” PBDEs, are present in alarming levels in Chinook salmon, important prey for the Southern Residents. PBDEs are flame retardants, ubiquitous in our environment. Like PCBs, PBDEs bioaccumulate and “may induce . . . immune dysfunction, liver toxicity, and thyroid disruption (de Wit, 2002).”

That quote comes from p. 36 of the 2004 Status Review of Southern Resident Killer Whales (*Orcinus orca*) under the Endangered Species Act, NOAA Tech Memo NMFS-NWFSC-62, by M. M. Krahn, et al. Fellow armchair wonks can find it at www.nwfsc.noaa.gov.

Visit the Washington Toxics Coalition web site at www.watoxics.org to learn more about PBDEs.

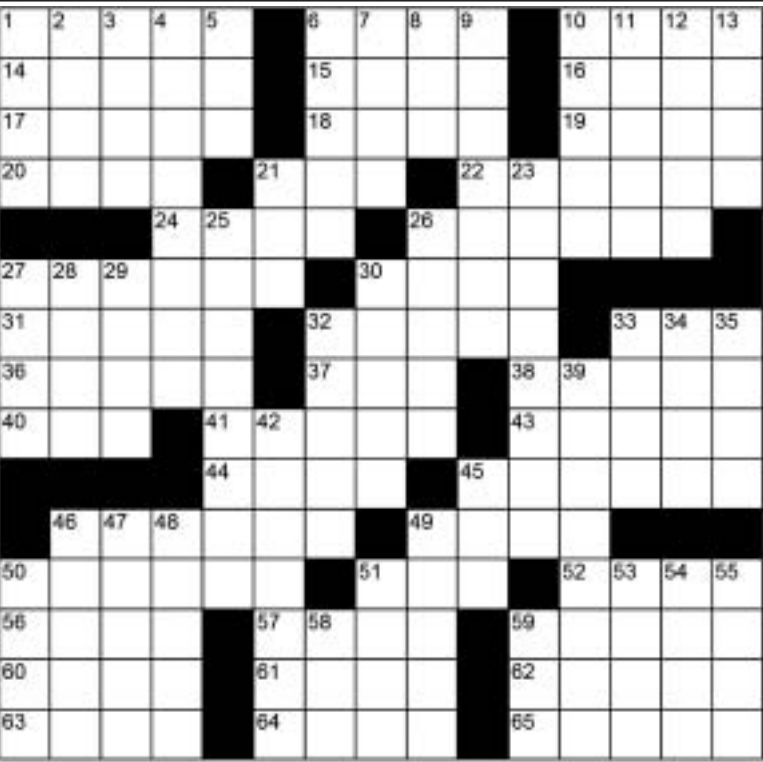
We further learned that, though still a decade away from full implementation, ship quieting technology (to reduce

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underwater noise) is gradually being adapted for the shipping industry. For obvious reasons, the US Navy already utilizes such technology and is a major proponent of expanding its use.

Odin and I enjoyed chatting with a Tulalip Fisheries and Natural Resources liaison. Tribal fisheries representatives have been conspicuously absent at previous orca recovery meetings. We were pleased to hear that the tribe submitted comments in support of the ESA listing, explaining the killer whale’s significance in Tulalip culture.

Oh, and the three ecotypes of killer whales that inhabit the North Pacific are Residents, Transients, and Offshores. Contact Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com or 463-9041.



Down

- 1. Very large truck
- 2. Chopped
- 3. Tardy
- 4. Jumble
- 5. Snacked
- 6. Suggests
- 7. Discount
- 8. Pride
- 9. Trash
- 10. Gladiator people
- 11. Pointed out
- 12. Country estate
- 13. What peas come in

- 21. Twisted
- 23. Keying again
- 25. Leaves
- 26. View
- 27. Beat it!
- 28. Angel’s head ring
- 29. Unite
- 30. Lucky
- 32. Horses
- 33. Attract
- 34. Exhort
- 35. Tinter
- 39. Gathering
- 42. Horrid
- 45. Ruby
- 46. Bungle

- 47. Outside layer
- 48. Drug doers
- 49. Smooth tightly twisted thread
- 50. Caused
- 51. Cluster
- 53. Above
- 54. Stadium
- 55. Eye infection
- 58. Pressure unit
- 59. Legume

Across

- 1. Popular condiment
- 6. Consumer
- 10. Please respond
- 14. Correct
- 15. Prego’s competition
- 16. American river
- 17. Metric linear unit

- 18. Lump
- 19. Sculpt
- 20. Whim
- 21. Teensy
- 22. Fights
- 24. Red planet
- 26. National capital
- 27. Trashy
- 30. Clenched hand

- 31. Lilly-like plant
- 32. Snazzy
- 33. Misfire
- 36. Actor Alda
- 37. Extinguished
- 38. Evade
- 40. Ball
- 41. Capital of Bangladesh
- 43. Effigy

- 44. Fatty
- 45. Rodent
- 46. Leaps
- 49. Body appendages
- 50. Pudding
- 51. Dickens’Tiny —
- 52. Turfs
- 56. Parlay
- 57. Musical composition
- 59. Turn
- 60. Elk’s cousin

- 61. Football league
- 62. Opposite of ally
- 63. Goofs
- 64. Building lot
- 65. Go together



Lopy Laffs

Ever notice...

- that food with half the calories costs twice as much?
- that the only vacant parking space is always on the other side of the street?
- that there are always more last-minute details than there are last minutes?
- that as soon as you make your mark in the world, someone shows up with an eraser?

It is a profitable thing if one is wise to seem foolish. ~Aeschylus
Fear is that little darkroom where negatives are developed.
~ Michael Pritchard

OneLiners
(more or less)

How is playing the bagpipes like throwing a javelin blindfolded?
You don't have to be good to get everyone's attention.

- Think "honk" if you're telepathic.
- It is always duller just before the yawn.
- Cupid's dart hurt more coming out than it did going in.
- Money brings only misery, but with money you can afford it.
- A pessimist complains about the noise made when opportunity knocks.
- What do you get when you cross an attorney with an alligator? A litigator.
- Money can't buy happiness, but it can buy ice cream, and that's close enough.
- Too many people work up a head of steam before they find out what's cooking.
- The first man to make a mountain out of a molehill was probably a real estate agent.
- America still has more marriages than divorces, proving that preachers can still out-talk lawyers.
- George Washington is the only president who couldn't blame his troubles on the previous administration.

When someone hurts me, forgiveness is cheaper than a lawsuit. But not nearly as gratifying.

S	A	L	S	A		U	S	E	R		R	S	V	P	
E	X	A	C	T		R	A	G	U		O	H	I	O	
M	E	T	R	E		G	L	O	B		M	O	L	D	
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C	A	L	L	A		F	L	S	H	Y		D	U	D	
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M	O	U	S	S	E		T	I	M		S	O	D	S	
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E	R	R	S		S	I	T	E		A	G	R	E	E	

OFFSHORE

Meanwhile, back onshore...

HEY, AIN'T THERE S'POSED T' BE A FERRY DOCK HERE?

NOT ANY MORE, SIR.

FINKTER'S EXPORTS

IT'S APPARENTLY BEEN TOTALLY REMOLISHED.

I GOT ME A BIG DELIVERY T' MAKE SOMEWHERE OFFSHORE!

SHOOT!

MAY I ASK WHAT YOU'RE EXPORTING, SIR?

FINKTER

MOSTLY WHITE COLLARS, THIS TRIP...

BAM! BAM!

HELP! LET ME OUT!

EXPORTS

...SOME OF 'EM ARE STILL ATTACHED.

I SEE...

I.N.S.

R2LO

LOGJAM

PINE TREES
PINE TREES
PINE TREES!
EVERYWHERE
YOU LOOK...

HOW DO YOU
STAND THE
MONOTONY?

MUSS
MUSS
MUSS

I'M A CLOSET
CACTUS

BY JEFF HAWLEY

NOT
ALL
THERE
by
Tristan
Davis

I'VE HAD THIS GREAT IDEA. WE COULD GET A BUNCH OF FAT, LIELY PEOPLE TO GO TO ABERCROMBIE AND FITCH AND SHOP THERE ALL THE TIME. IT WOULD COMPLETELY DESTROY THEIR TRENDY PREPPY IMAGE, AND WE COULD KILL THEIR BRAND RIGHT OFF. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

KISH! CLANG!

CLANG! KISH! CLANG!

I THINK YOU HAVE FAR, FAR TOO MUCH FREE TIME ON YOUR HANDS.

©2005 Tristan Davis thewrongband.keenspace.com

Lucky Guy

Roy Dikkers was on board a tanker in December 1943 when three torpedoes struck. The first jammed the door to his quarters; the second broke it open. He reached the deck to find himself surrounded by burning oil. There seemed no hope until the third torpedo blew him into the water and clear of the fire, right next to a life raft. After drifting for 3 days, he was rescued by a Norwegian ship.

Brave Elephant

Kubadar Moll, an elephant used to transport cannons in the Battle of Lucknow, India, in 1858, took a torch from a wounded gunner and fired one of the cannons. The elephant’s action held up the enemy long enough for reinforcements to arrive.

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Happy Birthday, Pisces!

It's been a long time since you could view life with unmitigated optimism, but then, you're not feeling very much yourself lately. Yet you are getting accustomed to the new energy that is filling you up and very likely overflowing into the world around you. Just be sure you remember that this is all different, and it's supposed to be. If you recognize just how different, I could see you having some concern that the spell will break, though the contrary seems to be true: whatever strength or energy has found its way to you is not getting anything except stronger. Rise to the occasion; match the investment the universe is making in you and the results will be fabulous.

Aries (March 20-April 19)

This week's Virgo Full Moon may have sent a few shockwaves through your work environment, but they were the kind of waves everyone needs. In fact, if you watch carefully for the next week, you'll see that all kinds of problems find innovative solutions, including the kind of solution that turns a former problem into an asset. I suggest you ride the energy while it's here to ride—and start thinking of all potential problems or tricky situations in this way. A spirit of invention is in the air and we are in one of those moments where the unlikely is probable — a good time to work the territory.

Taurus (April 19-May 20)

The Sun in Pisces is doing little other than supporting your most cherished goals, and from the look of your charts, a few dreams you had abandoned are once again arising before your eyes. This must be a refreshing change from conditions that have followed you for a while and which are finally beginning to give way to a more flexible reality. One thing you never have to worry about is having your feet on the ground; you can now use your rare power of manifestation to solidify what you want and need the most. Till now, the most important ingredient missing was imagination.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)

You may finally be seeing a way to develop professional plans that before seemed merely like wild fantasies. The concept to edit from your perception of reality is 'merely'. Everything on this Earth starts as an idea. What you are developing is respect for ideas, which is a tangible step toward the process of creation. People know you are good for your word; you can and must bank on your reputation if you want to go to the next step. This has material value, but it also has practical value. Intelligent, experienced people respect those who can get the job done. You are rare enough to find.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

I hope this week's Full Moon brought the relief you deserve from what has been an unusually intense life in recent months. Part of why Cancerians must be so strong is that the Moon is constantly cycling at a brisk pace, so you need to do what most people do worst: change all the time. Yet the pattern of your life is neither as uncertain nor as unpredictable as you may have thought. If Saturn in your sign is doing one thing, it's holding the ground steady to walk on. However, you may feel like you're walking with a backpack full of rocks on. Try setting it down and see how you feel.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)

Money, commitments and ideas may be flying around your head like 737s circling Heathrow. Let them come in for a landing one at a time. Each represents a step in a process. For now, most of them can take care of themselves, and the shrouds and veils of mystery that have surrounded certain aspects of your life are beginning to lift. There is also sex news—good sex news. Anyone who was interested in you yesterday will be more interested in you today. Anyone else is likely to show noteworthy interest if you so much as make eye contact, so look around and pick your favorite color.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)

I trust you've broken free of the confines of your own mind the past few days or perhaps in the past few hours. You're the type who usually needs to go into overload before you go to the next level; you are a bit of a quantum creature and you like to take those leaps. More than anything they are leaps of belief. Belief is on one level pure vapor. On another level it's what we cling to for our understanding of what is possible. The clinging is more solid than the vapor; so if you let go of your reality and rearrange your ideas, you will see you can defy gravity.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)

Chiron, newly arrived in Aquarius, is reminding you of your raging child

According to legend, cats were created when Noah's ark became infested with rats. Noah commanded the lion to sneeze, and out came a cat.



spirit. Remember that the rage is different than the spirit; anger leftover from childhood needs to be expressed and processed in an adult way. But the leftover drives and needs that are the direct result of a childhood where you actually didn't get to be much of a child can also be expressed in an adult way. Most of what adults lack is the motivation to have fun. True, it's usually swallowed whole by disappointment and responsibility. Suddenly you are bigger than all of that— in fact, too big to swallow.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

The pulses of energy currently rolling through Pisces are reminding you that you live in a large world with many possibilities. It's also a world where you can create possibilities, and it seems like friends and close associates in recent days have been instrumental in helping you do just that. These will work for you in the long run, but through the weekend you can make some decisions about what works for you and what doesn't, and perhaps experiment with how one particularly daring idea feels. It's time to move from principles to proposals. No talking without a pen and a notebook!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)

There is no resisting certain changes on the home front, but neither is there a need to. You may not have even been aware of certain situations that are suddenly being exposed and will, just as fast, be resolved. It's important that you not get yourself wrapped up or hung up in what's going on — but you can afford to take an arm's length view and study the psychology of what's going on around you. The whole situation is developing rather quickly and will change in the time it takes you to walk around the house once. So, when things get odd, step out the door and take a stroll.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

You are being presented with a great opportunity to make many reassessments of what is important to you. Any look at cash or other financial resources would best be considered in the context of your family, friends, or social network. There is something about becoming aware of and seeing the value of what happens when people pool what they have. Leadership is always an issue, and you're the one poised to do that. It would help if you believed in yourself, but this will provide you with an opportunity to do just that.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

You are living a new life in a new world. How long it takes you to figure this out has a lot to do with your perceptive abilities, but more to do with your willingness to be aware. All the old rules have changed; there is no part of your past identity to which you need cling. And a great deal that, in the past, you viewed as a liability is suddenly, obviously, going to work for you brilliantly. You know what your true motives are. What you are about to see is what awesome power they have to inspire the people around you — because you are capable of ideas and notions that would never occur to them.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Innovations in marriage and relationships are all over your chart now. But how we relate to others is an extension of how we relate to ourselves. Since the Sun entered Pisces a few days ago you've probably noticed a few things that you'd like to change — and you have the power to do so. Normally, reality is not as flexible as it is today. Yet you are now in a position to state your needs, desires and intentions for yourself and have the statement move energy and what seems like immobile objects and beliefs. Please don't wait for proof; get clear about your desires and be declarative.

Eric Francis PlanetWaves.net.

Loop Arts

Another Expression of Beauty Portraits by Richard Waits

Beauty has such a wonderful, fleeting quality. It's hard to put into words but we all have a very deep sense of what it is. Think about the times you've experienced a beautiful moment in your life. Or the time you've been in awe at a beautiful sunset. How would you feel if you asked a friend how she was and she replied that she felt absolutely beautiful that day? It would uplift your spirits wouldn't it? Beauty is contagious. Beauty grows and flows, moves and dances. It changes with the light and mood. It brings you to the source of your divinity.

Physicists and mathematicians understand that beauty is a guide. When an equation begins to be beautiful they know they are near the truth. An artist expresses beauty through their work as a means of transformation, as if to move the true essence of what they're painting into you. A musician taps into a universe of sounds to convey beauty and tonality, to shade ones life with emotion. A writer expresses beauty with their words that echo

the truth. A photographer uses light to bring form and substance to a state of awareness for others to appreciate.


As a photographer, I'm becoming keenly aware of how light and shadow meld to convey a sense of beauty. This is the central theme that permeates all of the many facets of my work. No matter what the subject, if I experience a sense of beauty looking at one of my photos, I know that I'm conveying the inner truth of what I photographed. Like the mathematician, beauty has become my guide to the truth.

During the month of March at Café Luna, I'll be exploring this concept of beauty with a show of black and white portraiture. All the people in this show bring beauty to others by being themselves, and it is my hope that you will come and experience their wisdom, their truth and their beauty.

The show opens March 4th at 7:00 pm during the art walk and will continue until the beginning of April.

An Evening of Acoustic Music

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Emily, Again, Emily Again

If you missed Emily, Emily the first weekend it was presented at the Blue Heron, now you've got another chance, as Vashon Allied Arts presents an encore of the show in a one-time-only performance at 8PM on **Friday, February 25**. Or, even if you were part of our sold-out houses last time, maybe you'd like to savor the show again and bring a friend. No question about it, Emily Dickinson is Vashon's Belle of the Hour, a beloved and eccentric American Icon who always manages to stir up excitement wherever she goes. Now you can find out for yourself what all the fuss is about—or, as Emily says, "you can fly again". I'll be there too; be sure to say "hi" after the show. ~ *Bill Wood*

Drama Dock Looking for Help

The hills will be alive this spring with Drama Dock's production of *The Sound of Music*. Care to help out? Drama Dock is in need of a Props Manager, Costume Manager, and Publicity Coordinator, as well as Set Painters, Dressers, Costume Assistants and Seamstresses. Interested or want to learn more? Contact producer Nancy Bachant at 463-6276 or via email at nancybachant@comcast.net. The show opens April 15th and runs for three weekends ending on May 1st. Thanks in advance for helping Drama Dock "Climb Every Mountain."

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Plays for Backbone

The Backbone Campaign and United Sheep are proud to present another Backbone Concert Series performance, featuring political songwriter **David Rovics** and very special guest, famed British singer-songwriter **Robb Johnson** in his first American tour. The benefit performance will be at **Bishop’s Café & Lounge** and starts at 7:30pm on **Monday, February 28th**. Tickets can be purchased at Vashon Island Music and at the door the night of the show.

David Rovics has spent most of his time since the mid-90’s on tour, playing concerts around the US, Canada and various countries in Europe and the middle east, including numerous performances at rallies and protests. He performed at the Backbone Campaign’s Rally in Washington D.C., just before the procession to the D.N.C. headquarters, and also performed at the Boston Commons protest during the Democratic Convention where the giant Backbone made one of its many appearances during that fun-filled week.

Rovics has shared the stage with the likes of Amy Goodman, Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky, Ralph Nader, Cynthia McKinney, Dennis Kucinich, Barbara Lee, Danny Glover, Desmond Tutu, Michael Moore, Susan Sarandon, Jello Biafra, Dead Prez, Pete Seeger, Billy Bragg, Bruce Cockburn, the Indigo Girls, Steve Earle and many others.

Here’s what some of the movers and shakers say about Rovics: “Listen to David Rovics...” Pete Seeger. “David Rovics is the musical version of Democracy Now!” Amy Goodman, host, Democracy Now! “If Alternative Radio had a musical voice, it would be David Rovics. He will tell the people.” David Barsamian, host, Alternative Radio.

Robb Johnson is doing his first U.S tour, after having great acclaim in England and Europe. Called “One of Britain’s most challenging songwriters” by the *Daily Telegraph*, Johnson’s music swings from touching love songs to sharply political. “He reinforces the notion that the Left still has the best tunes.” His album *Clockwork Music* is described as “an immaculately recorded album of rich textures and subtle harmonic surprises.”

Johnson’s latest release is titled ‘Tony Blair - My Part In His Downfall’. It deals with subjects as diverse as the death of Princess Di, September 11th, the war against Iraq and the “state visit” of Dubya. His political material has often drawn comparison to American songwriter Rovics, and paved the way for their eventual meeting and this tour.

The Backbone Concert Series is a four-part fundraiser series that brings ‘legend in their own time’ internationally touring performers to Vashon island. The first featured artist was Dana Lyons. Future artists include Dan Bern and Chris Chandler. **0000**



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What’s Happening at Vashon Bookshop!?

by Devon Atkins

So, here’s we are, coming up on the end of February; winter’s doing a tandem of cold and sun, and we hope that spring is quickly on its way. Springtime at the Bookshop is full of communications of all kinds: word-lovers talking poetry, kids talking books, a whirlwind of art, and even a little bit of magic along the airwaves!

Our Poetry Salon attracts an eclectic gathering of folks, and never exactly the same ones. The draw is poetry, and intelligent talk about words and their power. We bring poetry of our own and others to share, and it’s most often terrifically stimulating in the best possible way. We always have a Featured Poet, and March features one of the Island’s best, Ann Spiers. Ann is a gracious and intriguing woman, whose poetry is just like that. She is a working writer and environmentalist, and what she does and what she writes are closely linked. You won’t want to miss hearing Ann’s poetry, and the rich conversation that is sure to follow.

Then, there’s the Original Kids Book Group, a bunch of Island kids, ages 10-13 (give or take) who come to the Bookshop once a month, on the first Saturday, to discuss books and eat doughnuts. They spend most of the time discussing which book will be the chosen one for the next month, pulling a myriad of novels from the shelves, and lobbying and voting with fervor. Like the Poetry Salon, the flavor is usually consistent from month to month, though the exact

participants never are. It never seems to matter, though; it’s always fun.

And, then there’s art! Carolyn Buehl of Chautauqua Elementary is showing off her students’ work this month, and all I’ve got to say is, come in and take a look. Every time I look, there’s always at least one I want to take home and frame. Color is the name of this game.... And, then there’s Greg Burnham whose multimedia collages and outrageous paintings have certainly found a home in the Bookshop. If you haven’t seen Greg’s work, you’ll find that when you do, you’ve been touched visually, intellectually, and emotionally. Greg’s stuff is just plain (gotta say it~>) **UNIQUE!**

And, finally, each month the Bookshop features one Island author at the “Author’s Table.” This month, the author is Ward Silver, an engineer turned writer-teacher, who just happens to have a thing for Ham Radio-ing. (Is that how you say it, Ward?) Ward’s written a book called, *Ham Radios for Dummies*; and, I think that just about says it all. **0000**

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