

In This Issue:

Protecting Us from the Homeless on The Village Green, Computer Tips, Tribute to the Doily Brothers, Green Party Par-tays, Salads, Kisses, Houses, and Much much More!

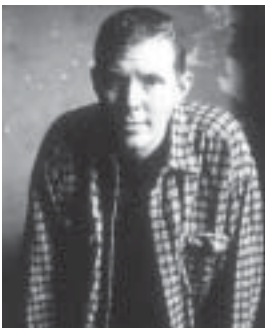


Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore!" Page 7

Robbie Fulks and Danny Barnes at Bishop's

Fans of high-octane American music, rejoice!

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Annie Photo Album; After the Show Wraps; More Arts and Music!

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THE VASHON LOOP

Vol. 3, # 10

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

May 10, 2006



Madrona students Lily Robinthal and Rody Farr Madrona School Photo

Madrona School Family Activity Day

By Kim Thal
The Madrona School invites the Vashon Community to a day of fun: Family Activity Day! Free fun for the whole family. There will be Tractor Rides, Bagel Baking, Acrobalance fun, Crafts Table, Games, and Live Music with Shy Sundays. Come and play on **Saturday, May 20**, 1 to 4 p.m., at the school. Story on page 5, as well as information about The Madrona School's new CD release, *Water Songs*.



Dylan Creedon, Simon Perrin, and Haven Chamberlain (left to right) having a great summer day at Dockton. Photo courtesy of YMCA.

YMCA Provides Summer Activities for Children

By Lindsay Aikin, Program Director
As the lazy, hazy days of summer approach, so does the question of what activities to choose for the kids. The YMCA Summer Enrichment program provides nine weeks of camps filled with hands-on activities, learning, play, and field trips. Each week focuses on a new

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A sea star at low tide

Low Tide Festival Coming Saturday May 27

By Rayna Holtz
When the tide goes out to minus three feet on **Saturday, May 27**, there'll be a party at Pt. Robinson to greet the crabs and blennies, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beach naturalists, a geologist, birding guides, artists, scuba divers, native plant experts, and others will be on hand to welcome families and show them who is living along the shoreline. For some it may be the first opportunity to peer under rocks with knowledgeable guides, but this party is based on a long-time Vashon tradition of low tide beach walks started by Sandy Noel 23 years ago. Sandy had just moved to the Island after earning her BA in Marine Biology at Western Washington University. She led the first of about 20

Continued on page 2

Vashon Blogs: Welcome to CyberIsland

By Heidi Witherspoon
There's a parallel universe of Vashonites just waiting to be discovered online. I have discovered this universe, and it's been a joyride through cyberspace ever since. Just two years into Island residency, I've done well developing a solid network of Island friends, my "rock mafia," as I call it. But it's tough to socialize when working full time and raising two boys. To that end, I recently took Vashon networking to the fast lane by a means I had no idea would result so fruitfully, by blogging. Blog. Say it with me: Blah-guh. The word is odd, but a blog is a "web log." In simplest terms, think of an online diary that anyone can read on the World Wide Web, with little sidebar links to all of your favorite fellow bloggers and Web sites of your preference. You can post pictures and images, stream in sound, and of course whine, amuse, enlighten or pontificate like there's no tomorrow.



Heidi Witherspoon

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Julia Ward Howe

Be Part of the Mother's Day Parade, Festival

By Lesley Reed and Stacy Carkonen
"Arise, arise, all women who have hearts!" begins the original Mother's Day Proclamation, written by Julia Ward Howe in 1870. Far from sending mothers to bed for breakfast, Howe went on to call for a day of counsel of women in the pursuit of "the means whereby the great human family can live in peace."

For the last four years, women on Vashon and all over the country have been answering the call. This year, Mother's Day parades and festivals are being held in cities as varied as Nashville, the Bronx and Vashon Island, and anyone who has ever had a mother is invited to participate!

Vashon's event begins at 12:30 p.m. on **Mother's Day, May 14**, with a lively parade from the Village Green to Ober Park. Islanders are invited to dress up and march or just watch the exuberant event (past years have seen kids on stilts, outlandish costumes, wild hats, giant puppets and signs expressing hopes for the children of the world).

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We are mothers, sisters, family; wrapped in different cloth, standing under the same wide sky. And we've come to the very end of our silence. Together we've found our voice and it is loud and it is beautiful and it sings a love song for our children.
— Mothers Acting Up, 2006

Get in The Loop

Help Wanted Emergency Operations Center Volunteer Staff

STARTING PAY:

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UPSIDE POTENTIAL:

The satisfaction of helping your community survive a devastating crisis

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Training begins immediately

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

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- Self starter
- Methodical approach to following procedures

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Call Vashon Disaster Preparedness Coalition
to set up an interview
Ask for Mary at **463-3545** or
Kate at **463-5117**

VashonBePrepared
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Master Gardener Clinics in May

Gardeners seeking information to resolve plant related problems will find WSU trained Vashon Island Master Gardeners available to answer your garden questions, diagnose plant problems and provide horticultural information at the Master Gardener Clinic every **Friday and Saturday** through the month of May. The Clinic is located in the breezeway between True Value and Thriftway. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring cuttings or plant samples to assist with identification of specific plant problems.

Help is available outside of Vashon Master Gardener Clinic hours through a master gardener help-line from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 296-3440 or online at gardening.wsu.edu.

The clinic is part of the Washington State University King County Extension Program serving gardeners in Western Washington with science based horticultural information.

Loving Your Child

We spend a lot of time supporting our children's cognitive and physical development, but what about love? Isn't love what makes the difference? How do you express your love for your child? How does your child recognize and live to receive love? What's love got to do with guiding children into adulthood? Is the connection between loving yourself and loving your child a deal breaker? A class for garden variety, special needs, or highly capable children, from birth through young adulthood will be offered **Saturday May 20**, from 1 to 4 p.m. The presenter is Deborah Anderson. Deborah has parented birth, foster and adoptive children under a variety of circumstances. Her graduate degree specializes in the connection between emotional development and spiritual development. Teaching experience includes many years as a teacher through North Seattle Co-op Program at Ingraham High School and an equal number of years in youth ministry. Call 463-4630 for registration information. The cost is \$75 but no one should be deterred because of tuition needs.

Gentlemen may prefer blondes
- but who says that blondes
prefer gentlemen? —Mae West

VMICC Discusses Land Use Priorities

The VMICC Land Use and Natural Resources Committee will meet **Wednesday, May 17**, at 7:00 p.m. at the McMurray Library. The discussion will center on establishing priorities for committee projects for the rest of the year.



Farah and Aaron Dixon, and their beautiful baby. Photo courtesy of the Aaron Dixon Campaign

Dixon Visits Vashon

Vashon-Maury Islanders are invited to a House Party with Aaron Dixon, the Green Party Candidate for United States Senate, on **Thursday, May 18**, at 6:30 p.m. He will be accompanied by his wife, Farah, and members of his staff. Dixon will speak at 7:30 p.m., and then will answer questions from those attending. Dixon believes incumbent Maria Cantwell's positions and votes on crucial issues do not represent the majority of Washington State residents and should be challenged.

Who should attend: Aaron Dixon supporters; undecided voters; Maria Cantwell, Mike McGavick, and Mark Wilson supporters. You are especially invited to come and ask the hard questions. This event will take place at the home of Melvin and Margaret Mackey, 24430 Old Mill Road SW. RSVP/Directions/Questions: (206) 463-3468.

Please bring hors d'oeuvres (finger food) or beverage of your choice. Non-alcoholic punch provided. Contributions to "Aaron Dixon for U.S. Senate" welcome. For more information about the Aaron Dixon campaign, see www.aarondixon.org.

Low Tide Festival

Continued from page 1

annual beach walks on the north end near the ferry dock in 1983. Within a few years, Wally Fox joined her, having been a volunteer at Seattle Aquarium. In the first years there were 10 to 20 people, but then attendance swelled to about 100 and other biologists began to help. Even after Wally Fox passed away, the walk continued — as "The Wally Fox Memorial Beach Walk."

The walks stopped just a few years ago, but local interest is greater than ever, especially since the Washington Department of Natural Resources designated Quatermaster Harbor and the Maury Island shoreline as an Aquatic Reserve. So this year Sandy Noel will be back, along with Ann Spiers, Barbara and Rick Gustafson, Pam Weiss, and Beth Lolley to lead beach walks at Pt. Robinson. People for Puget Sound will have a booth with touch tanks for parents and children to make close acquaintance with hermit crabs, starfish and other salty critters. DNR will provide information about Aquatic Reserves and marine life at their booth. Keepers of Pt. Robinson will lead tours of the lighthouse. Boy Scouts will sell hot dogs. Vashon Audubon will lead bird walks and provide information about Quatermaster Harbor's status as an Important Bird Area. The first trip will start at 7:30 a.m., the best time for birding. To register for this one, call trip leader Sue Trevathan at 463-1484.

Darsie Beck's Nature Journaling Workshop also offers advance registration. He will begin with "the zen of seeing/drawing." According to Darsie, "essentially we will be creating a nature journal with drawings and notations of our discoveries." Register in advance with Rayna Holtz at 463-3153, and buy your materials kit at Essentials 4 for \$15.

Deadline
for the next issue of
The Loop: May 19

Psychotherapist Offers Free Presentation

Nan Joy, MA, of SoulWork Counseling, is pleased to announce that she is making available a free presentation on the subject of Emotional Intelligence.

Joy, a psychotherapist and public speaker, is offering to speak for any school or organization on this important topic at no charge. She has already done a presentation for Vashon Rotary.

Emotional Intelligence is the way we interact in the world of people. If you have a high score on your Emotional Intelligence, then you are good at listening, negotiating, and being assertive. If not, you may struggle when communicating with the people in your life.

The good news is that Emotional Intelligence can be learned. Joy presents five steps you can take to begin to learn communication skill. For information or to schedule her presentation, you can reach her at 206-579-6494.

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Adopt-A-Cat Day

Vashon Island Pet Protectors will host an Adopt-A-Cat Day **Saturday, May 13** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pandora's Box. This is the last Adopt-A-Cat Day in May. If it is not convenient for you to come & meet the cats awaiting adoption on the 13th, please email VIPP at cats@vipp.org or call 463-1979 and a VIPP volunteer will schedule an appointment for you.

2007 VIPP Calendar

Be part of Vashon Island Pet Protectors 2007 Pet Calendar and make your pet a star. All are welcome — cats, dogs, pigs, goats! Don't delay! Photos must be received by July 15th! For more information please call Kathy 463-9203.

Health Care Conversation

Please come to the first public meeting to discuss health care on the Island on **Wednesday, May 24**, at 7 p.m. at Court House Square.

The Hospital District Levy failed, but a good conversation was started about Health Care for Islanders. Do we have access to health care? Are health insurance rates too high? Are we not able to get health insurance? Are health care professionals on this Island providing services that they can not get paid for? These are just some of the questions that were touched upon during the candidates' open forums.

The group that put the levy on the ballot has disbanded. Now is the time for the discussion of where we go from here. Hillary Emmer has volunteered to moderate this meeting.

The Vashon Loop

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Troy and Marie Hire a Contractor

We are frequently asked to recommend contractors for various jobs. The reasons vary: sometimes home sellers need to fix something before putting their house on the market, sometimes buyers purchase a house with a known problem that they want to fix, sometimes homeowners just want something spruced up. Regardless of the reasons, there are some steps you can take to make sure your job is smooth sailing and that you stay out of court!



Troy: Marie, I found some good tips in *Realtor Magazine* that our readers might find useful when hiring a contractor.

Marie: I knew leaving that magazine in the bathroom was a good idea. Let's hear them.

Troy: Some are common sense, and pretty basic. For example, you should get three written estimates before hiring someone, especially for a major job. Also, you should check with the Better Business Bureau, and also check past client references on anyone you are considering hiring.

Marie: It's amazing how many people feel that checking references is somehow insulting to the contractor. But if you think about it, any contractor who is reputable and capable will be *proud* of his or her references – and *proud* of his or her work! So go ahead and ask to see some examples

Troy: Exactly. Less obvious, but equally important, is to get a written contract that states exactly what the scope of work is that needs to be done, when it should be completed, what materials will be used, and whether subcontractors will be doing any of the work.

Marie: Good point. You may think it goes without saying that the deck you want built should be made of recycled barn siding, should include a wrought iron railing, and should be completed in time for your Fourth of July party, but the contractor might have a different idea. A detailed written contract eliminates misunderstandings and hard feelings.

Troy: And maybe even a lawsuit. And speaking of lawsuits, the article suggested that you ask the contractor – in writing - to indemnify you if the work does not meet building code, and that the contractor agrees to clean up after the job, and that he or she take responsibility for any damage. You should also be sure the contractor has the necessary permits, licenses and insurance to legally do the job.

Marie: Fair enough. What about paying for the job?

Troy: The article suggested making as small a downpayment as possible, so that in the unlikely case the contractor fails to do the job, you are not out a lot of money. Also, don't make final payment until you are satisfied that the work has been completed.

Marie: But what if the job has changed since you started? It does not seem fair to hold back payment if your job started with replacing a kitchen sink but then grew to a complete kitchen remodel.

Troy: You are so subtle. I know you still think we need to remodel our kitchen. But if we wait long enough, gold flecked Formica will be back in style!

Marie: I await the day with bated breath. Anyway, it seems to me that it would be fair to pay the contractor for the original job, then hold back the money until the rest of it is completed.

Troy: I agree. But you should get the modified agreement in writing. And a handshake never hurts. Whether choosing a contractor – or any other person you will be hiring - you're always better off doing business with people you know, like, and trust.

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

Your Home Team Realty

On Island Properties

(206) 463-LIST (5478)

Cottage Charmer! 13513 SW 170th Street

Darling updated Beulah Park cottage at a very affordable price! Hardwood and Pergo flooring throughout, stainless appliances, stacking W/D, jetted tub, newer roof, and a mature and charming garden complete the very functional two level floorplan. **\$295,000**



MLS 26044175

- ☛ 2 BR
 - ☛ 1 bath
 - ☛ 840 sq ft
 - ☛ Built in 1926
- ☛ On sewer
 - ☛ Beulah Pk Water
 - ☛ Two Level
 - ☛ Taxes \$1,999

View Home! 9225 SW 274th Street



- ☛ 1946 Sq Ft
- ☛ 3 bedrooms
- ☛ 3.75 bath
- ☛ Breathtaking View

Come home to a completely remodeled spacious and serene home with a stunning view of that famous mountain and an easy-to-care-for landscaped yard. Everything is updated and fresh throughout, with your comfort and easy living in mind - Viking stove, Bosch dishwasher, new refrigerator and trash compactor, new cabinets, new bathroom fixtures, tiled floors with in-floor heating in the bath, fully wired for cable and home networking, whisper quiet automatic garage door, propane fireplace insert, and much, much more. **\$610,000**
MLS 26034820

Check out the virtual tours of these properties at www.kwvashon.com

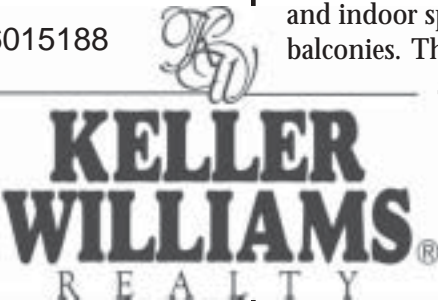
Waterfront! 22908 Vashon Hwy SW

This retro chic house calls for clambakes, cocktails, and cabin cruisers! It's 3200 square feet of living space on 75 feet of low bank inner Quartermaster Harbor waterfront. It's picture windows from the floor to the high ceiling to take full advantage of the light and the view of the busy harbor. It's a home for entertaining guests and family, with two large decks practically over the water, plenty of bedrooms and bathrooms, and a separate guest cabin. **\$999,000.**



MLS 26015188

- ☛ 3240 Sq Ft
- ☛ 3 bedrooms
- ☛ 2.5 bath
- ☛ 75 feet of low bank waterfront



Fairy Tale Charm 17921 Westside Hwy SW

Fairy tale charm abounds in this Tudor-style home on a shy three acres of Vashon's highly desirable sunny Westside with a view of Colvos Passage. Inside, the well-thought out floor plan allows for plenty of private and communal space in beamed high ceiling rooms that blend outdoor and indoor spaces with French doors and balconies. The grounds include a willow-surrounded pond, cottage garden flower beds, a fenced vegetable garden, paddocks, and a separate garage and workshop with guest quarters. **\$689,000**



MLS 26047640

LoOpEd

Editorials and Letters to the Editor: We welcome your contributions! Submit them by email to: editor@vashonloop.com

The Village Gray

By Seven Dunsmore

I am trying to think of how the homeless folk at The Village Green have harmed me and my luxurious Vashon lifestyle. Is it their wardrobe? Is it their seeming disregard for the trappings of modern consumer culture?

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for the sacred institution of one's right to citizenship being commensurate with one's ability to purchase product and to work in indentured servitude to the robber barons of our currently collapsing industrial age. For what purpose do we serve here, if not to work and to let others earn money off of our labor? If no one can manipulate us, WHAT REASON DO WE HAVE TO EVEN EXIST, much less to walk around where we want and to hang out in public areas? THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW...oh. They just made one in Vashon, at the Village Green. And to show they mean business, our Einsteinian overlords took out the Sanikan.

The homeless should get their shit together and get HOMES. Why? Because without their homes they can't pay taxes, which in turn will pay for all of the glamorous and useful things to which we have become accustomed — things like cement for the roadways which sing us happily to our jobs in our beautiful SUVs — so we can pay taxes. But of course it also pays for the infrastructure which frames our little polis, including our sheriff, who can then pull us over and give us a \$200 ticket for going 38 in a 25 — the same sheriff who has no moral compunction about racing through my neighborhood at close to 50 mph on a Sunday morning in his Jeep Cherokee.

And of course the sheriff has other duties as well, including the policing of people who are standing in a park talking, hanging out, and chilling. I wonder how the homeless folk might avoid this unprovoked scrutiny — perhaps if they had cars, elegant watches and ironed pants, if they were pushing a pram instead of a shopping cart — what are the criteria, exactly, for having fewer rights than others? I sincerely want to know. I might dress a little sloppily one day, or have some just-picked lavender in an old paper bag on my arm, my grandpa's hat on, or some clown shoes I just picked up at Granny's Attic — I swing that way, I'm an artist and I might just be out lazing around! — and I could be mistaken for a homeless person and kicked out of the park for good. How could I explain this to visiting guests? "Uh, I'm sorry but I can't go to The Village Green for arugula. You'll have to go yourselves...can you pick me up some, but not tell anyone who you're buying it for? I mean it! It sounds crazy, but last week I had my cowgirl outfit on and there were some sticks in my hair because I had been climbing a tree — I'm a taxpayer! This shouldn't have happened!!! — but the sheriff mistook me for a homeless person and I, I..." and here is where I look at the ground, "I have been banned for life from frequenting the park. I have to walk around back behind Thriftway now to get my groceries."

Enough already. Surely I digress. Because I don't actually believe that the homeless folk should be barred from hanging out on The Village Green even though I do pay taxes and they might not — I don't believe they have to do anything to earn this privilege.

I expect this kind of ridiculous nonsense in places like the gated community of Broadmoor in Seattle,

where guards keep the un-rich from despoiling the pretend-hygienic world of the piggy rich — where people who don't have enough are kept away from the people who have too much. These people SHOULD hide behind iron gates (I like to think of it as a kind of jail), because they should be ashamed of themselves for their excessive hoarding and OCD-driven lawn practices. I don't expect this kind of phony construct to appear in beautiful, wild-child Vashon Island, a community defined by freaks, hippies, farmers, good folk and outsider artists. I remember when this pernicious trend started on Capitol Hill nearly twenty years ago, and it seems to be a particular phenomenon of unplanned urban sprawl. The outsiders — the gays, alternatypes, radicals, people who are victimized by various -isms, are pushed into a *faubourg* of the city, which they then turn into a gorgeous and cleverly-designed community. The creeping catfish of the middle class seize upon it — what is it they hope to capture? Something of creative originality, or soulfulness — and then these lamprey spread into the community like Ivy or zombies, viewing the earth as an investment vehicle, gobbling up all the cute little houses and buildings and raising the rents. As the poor move out, the SUVs move in — and what made the community so desirable and walkable and interesting is gone. "What happened to that dear little part of town?" Visitors ask, and then go elsewhere...

But again, I digress. What I have loved about Vashon is that the people are friendly. The people are open and accepting. The art is exceptional, even when it's bad. Artists can live in little yurts or trailers here and make art, and that makes the town appealing and beautiful, and that brings the tourists here. Without the farmers and the awesome alternate service people and the artists, Vashon would be Federal Way. And we don't really know the current homeless folk and what their lives are about, do we? We don't know what they might contribute or what they might inspire. But if we let people who think like robots make decisions about the kind of people who are "allowed" in Vashon, we begin social eugenics, we begin to mimic the Nazi ideal of the beautiful. And let's be frank, lets be Anne Frank, in fact — that may lead to a very grim trend indeed.

P.S. I believe I have come up with a solution for the sheriff and for the dogs of Vashon which will please everyone, and no, I can't accept money for this, I'm just a conduit or a channel if you will...Why not rescind the No Pets policy at the Village Greenback, and put the sheriff on poop patrol? He can tiptoe between trees (I am thinking of Huckleberry Hound, but many readers will be too young to get this reference) videotape irresponsible dog owners walking away from their dog's poop without picking it up — and then he can write them a ticket. This will allow animals to be a part of the Village Grab-bag activities, and all animals won't be penalized for the bad behavior of a few dog-owners.

In service to my community, over and out.

Enough paper is recycled in the USA every day, that a 15 mile long train of boxcars could be filled up with it.

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The Lone Protestor

By Mark Goldman

Last week my picture was on the front page of this newspaper. I am the lone protestor. At least I was that morning. Standing on the corner with my "PROTEST" sign, people gave me this quizzical look as if to say, "Duh, don't you think it would make more sense to say what it is you're protesting?" Others came right out and asked. Finally, I was able to shorten my answer to one word: "Apathy." In other words, I was protesting you...on Easter Sunday and during Passover.

"Well, what can I do?" doesn't cut it anymore. Silence is not an excuse. Silence is not neutral. Silence is betrayal. I was protesting because you aren't; because you don't feel responsible for the injustice...enough to care.

"Oh, but I do care!"

Oh, but you don't care!

Last year I tried to have the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council endorse a resolution demanding the impeachment of Bush and his Bush league players. I was denied the right even to have the resolution put up for a vote (www.gpln.com/resolution.htm). I was given reasons why it was inappropriate for the VMICC to allow it. I was told that the VMICC has no authority; is here only to make recommendations; is missing the by-laws. Cute. Where were you?

Recently two state legislatures (not city, not county), submitted resolutions to the U.S. House of Representatives demanding Bush's impeachment. And on Vashon Island there is still silence. Are you waiting for me to offer up the resolution again? Me? What about you (www.gpln.com/constitutionincrisis.htm)?

This is not just about war. It is about injustice, though, and the destruction of the rule of law. It's about negligence, incompetence, and malfeasance, the destruction and disintegration of a way of life...a disintegration that has already found its way into your life even if you can't see it...yet.

The truth is I don't want you to protest on a street corner. I want you to protest in your heart. I want you to open the space for other people to protest. I want you to want people to protest. I want you to want ideas about what you can do...enough to become honestly informed. I want you to acknowledge the hypocrisy and the injustice and I want the hypocrisy and injustice to disturb your life. What hypocrisy and injustice? Look at the pictures...read the commentary...the hypocrisy and injustice you refuse to know about or acknowledge because you're afraid to look for it—or at it—even though people are screaming in your ear to look.

One young person said to me as I was standing on the corner, "It's hopeless." It was an intelligent and honest thing he said to me. He felt the hopelessness, and he acknowledged the despair...because he was coming awake. It takes courage. One woman came up to tell me she was afraid...Why should these beautiful people have to experience that kind of hopelessness or fear—in America?

Well, is it hopeless? It's your call. Think of yourself as an American Indian in the early days. It was hopeless...and all the fighting and the sorrow and the tears could not hold back the tide. Or think of yourself as an African recently caught in a net, now tied and bound for shipment in the belly of a boat. If you think that the bitterness and tears that followed in the footsteps of that Indian or that African has wiped out the scourge of hypocrisy and injustice in your homeland...well, just you wait. What goes around, comes around. What are you going to say when your child or grandchild gets his or her notice that they want to put a gun in those hands to be sent off to kill? You will worry and the tears will come.

The tears will come.

Mark A. Goldman has written several books of political commentary. You can visit him at www.gpln.com

Speaker at VMICC: What to Do When We Get the Flu

On **Monday, May 15**, at 7:30 p.m. the Vashon Maury Island Community Council (VMICC) will welcome Caren Adams as the featured speaker. Caren is the regional Health Educator for South King County for Community Based Public Health.


Her presentation, titled *How to Prepare for the Avian Influenza Pandemic* will cover the history of pandemics, the current Avian Influenza outbreak, the potential impact of a pandemic here and preparedness strategies. There will be ample time for questions. Caren is an excellent and knowledgeable speaker who can separate fact from fiction. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. The VMICC meeting will be held at Courthouse Square on the Vashon Highway.

For more information, contact board member May Gerstle at 463-0974.

Senior Center Spring Tea and Style Show

The Senior Center's annual Tea and Style Show at will begin at 1 p.m. on **Thursday, May 18**, and will feature some very elegant men and women modeling fashions from Luna Bella, Wendy's Weathered Wear and Granny's Attic, according to Diana Spalding, who is in charge of the models.

Very fancy tea sandwiches will be served, with assorted fruit, tea and homemade cookies. Tickets cost \$7 and may be purchased ahead at the SC. All proceeds benefit the Senior Center.



Family Activity Day at The Madrona School

By Lynann Politte

The Madrona School invites Vashon families to a day of kid fun. All activities are free and appropriate for children of all ages. Family Activity Day is **Saturday, May 20** from 1 to 4 p.m. at the school, 12130 SW Wesleyan Way, 1.8 miles south of Burton off Vashon Highway.

Activities include tractor trailer rides, storytelling, craft, bagel baking, kids yoga and Acrobalance classes, games, live music and much more.

Tractor trailer rides were a big hit at last year's event, so they are back again for rockin' rollicking rides. Our captivating story-teller, Steve Jones, is known to enchant local children with wonderful original tales. The children first must search the forest to find him, and once they do they will be delighted with a whimsical magical story of lore. Lynelle Sjoberg will lead little ones (ages 2-5) in some outdoor yoga, and then another yoga class for older children to warm-up for "Acrobalancing" with aerial artist and UMO member Esther Edelman.

Our Bagel Baking Chefs will guide children in baking bagels, a favorite edible "craft." Yummy batches of hot steamy bagels will be shared by all. A season craft table will also be there for parents and children alike. No fun day would be complete without music in the air. Come hear great folk music from "Shy Sundays" as the kids make monstrous bubbles or play parachute games.

The Madrona School is an alternative school and community where emotional growth and well-being are valued as much as intellectual achievement. Its nurturing teaching style helps children choose and follow their own pathways to learning, with plenty of support to expand academic and social skills. Call (206) 463-7899 for information and details about Activity Day or next year school enrollment.



Lily and Rody welcome you to The Madrona School



Forest Dempsey

The Madrona School

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(Watch for the signs!)

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www.madronaprimary.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call 463-7899

The Madrona School Releases Second CD

By Kim Thal

Water Songs!

The public is invited to celebrate the release of The Madrona School's new CD, *Water Songs*, on **Thursday, May 11**, 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. at The Homegrown Café. Join this exciting culmination of months of preparation both singing and learning about the various forms and functions of water. The free event will feature the children singing live



Madrona teacher, CD music director and accompanist, Maren Metke



a selection of songs from the recording. Appetizers and drinks will be served. The CD makes a great gift for kids and adults, and is just in time for Mother's Day. *Water Songs* pays tribute to water with traditional songs that are fun to sing along — lyrics are included. Featuring the keyboard talents of Madrona teacher Maren

Read The Loop Online:
www.vashonloop.com

Metke, the kids sing songs including "Erie Canal," "Shenandoah," "Rolling Home," and "The Merman." It'll be a music and fun-filled evening. Hope to see you there! The CDs are \$20 each, with proceeds benefiting Madrona School academic programs. For more information, call The Madrona School at 206-463-7899.



Students rehearsing for their CD recording session Front row: Isabella Eliot, Dixon Politte, Alex True Koriath, Gabie Freeman-Sheehan. Second row: Amelia Prince, Audrey Szala, Forest Dempsey, Lily Robinthal, Sequoia Perpetua-Lowry Back row: Ross Wheeler, Genevieve Payne,

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Vashon Disaster Preparedness Coalition Needs Volunteers



Emergency shelter and food workers who will help out during a disaster are being sought. Sign up immediately and receive training from the Island Red Cross. We are looking for persons who have the ability to fit into an existing team of high energy passionate volunteers; who have a methodical approach to following procedures, with a friendly, helpful, and calm demeanor in a crisis.

If you fit this description and want to get involved, call Mary, 463-3545 or Kate, 463-5117 for an interview or check our website: www.VashonBePrepared.org



Spiritual Smart Aleck

Welcome to the End of My Rope, Part 2

by Mary Litchfield Tuel

Beloved, I have spent the last few weeks in Computer Heck. My trusty old Dell laptop developed an internal electrical short, and it is still in the shop. Unfortunately, my *Loop* address book is inside the Dell, so I'm hoping that the *Loop* contributors send their columns in out of habit, because I was unable to send a deadline reminder (*Note: they did. Whew*).

In my last column I asked for suggestions on what sort of computer to buy. A couple of *Loop* writers responded.

Here is what I heard, from "We Have a Lot of Kids" columnist Kevin Pottinger: "You could try the Dell laptops, they're cheap and pretty good, I think they have one for as low as 5 bills on dell.com (*note: upon checking Dell, the lowest priced laptop runs around six hundred dollars, which isn't so bad*), or Fry's has good deals on Toshibas and Fujitsus, etc., also. They're in Renton. I'm sure you've seen their circulars in the Sunday paper."

"The Macs are usually pretty pricey, but as you say, they may be a little better for layout and graphics, but I think the gap has narrowed over the years, where PCs can pretty much hold their own in that regard. Macs are pretty bulletproof, maybe a used one?"

Yes, Macs are wonderful. Rex Morris, *Loop* contributor, wrote in, "I am a Mac junkie, so that's what I'd recommend."

I used Macs for years, and still have a functional G3 iBook. Mostly my grand daughter uses it to play games at PBSkids.org. *Loop* publisher Marie Browne gave me the word, though: "No Macs! We don't want to deal with cross-platform issues." Then I remembered that I started using a PC in order to write for *The Ticket* and then *The Loop*, which were and are PC-centric. So I stopped looking at the G5 desktop, wiped the drool off my chin, and went back to PC perusal.

An employee at Seattle Laptop recommended IBM Laptops. Apparently IBMs don't break as easily as Dells. Good to know, because I tend to drop them. I've also heard somewhere, some time, that Panasonic laptops are built to take blows.



Another Seattle Laptop employee pointed me toward a store farther up Aurora that could custom build a screamer (translation for Luddites: "really powerful fast computer") desktop for around \$1200.

I went shopping at a couple of big box stores at Southcenter: CompUSA was noisy and I could feel the energy draining out of me as soon as I walked in the door. The sales kid was nice, though, a tall longhaired young man named Leroy. I didn't know anyone named kids Leroy anymore.

From there I went over to Office Depot, which was quiet and air conditioned, and no sales person showed up while I strolled the computer aisle. I almost bought an HP desktop and a flat monitor, but the hands-off sales style extended all the way to no one having time to bring the product out of the back room, so I reconsidered and came home to think about it some more.

Then *Loop* publisher Troy Kindred called and said, "I found a computer for you!" Wow! Where? "On craigslist."

Now, I am not the sort of person who can find deals online, but Troy is, and a few phone calls, a ferry trip, and less than \$500 later I had a PC desktop with a 250G hard drive, 19-inch flat monitor, and more bells and whistles than I'll ever use or even know exist. It was built by the guy selling it, and so far it works fine.

JWade Michaelis (User Friendly Tech), who keeps my computers running, recommends that if you buy a used computer you wipe the hard drive first thing. I didn't do that because I didn't know, but am soldiering womanfully on.

This is not my familiar laptop, and it does have its tricks and manners and it doesn't have all my files or my address book and it won't until my laptop comes home. Laptop, come home! What is it, Laptop? Has Timmy fallen in the well? Show us, Laptop!

OK, now I'm just riffing and I haven't even had breakfast yet. That's it for computer news, I hope. Now I can get back to saving the world, one smart aleck remark at a time.

◻◻◻◻◻

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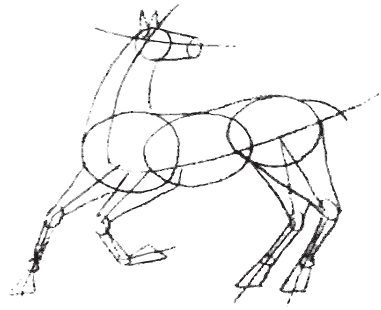
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Don't Forget the Birds

Wilson's Warbler



Wilson's Warbler photo by Jim Russo

The season with all of the little yellow-green birds continues to grow with the arrival of Wilson's Warblers on April 26. Brenda Sestrap noticed the first Wilson's Warbler for the Island this spring in a typical setting for the species: her large water feature/bird bath. Warblers in general tend to be hard to attract because their diet consists almost entirely of small bugs of various kinds. Putting out bird seed or suet won't do the trick. However, bird baths and water features with running or dripping water provide a favorite location for many warblers, especially Wilson's.

Wilson's Warblers inhabit any forested area with brushy edges or significant small clearings with thickets. They also utilize forests where the canopy remains open enough to allow a varied understory. The best way to entice these birds to your property involves leaving as many trees on your land as possible and growing a brushy border on the edge of the trees.

Male Wilson's Warblers are one of the easier yellow-green warblers to tell apart. While their back is a rather non-descript olive, their underparts show a brighter yellow than other warblers and they have a conspicuous round black cap at the top of their head. Females are similar without the black cap.

Besides Wilson's Warbler, spring brought in another whole batch of birds in late April. I spotted the spring wave of Least Sandpipers arriving and the second record for Vashon of a Black-bellied Plover at KVI beach. Don Norman and Sherry Hudson saw a number of first of season birds on their research surveys: a Northern Harrier April

By Ed Swan
23, Wilson's Warbler April 26 and Western Tanager April 28. In Paradise Valley, Sue Trevathan heard Warbling Vireos May 4 and Yellow Warbler on May 1. The Birding By Ear class heard the first Common Yellowthroat May 20. Ron Simons racked up another record for the rare Townsend's Solitaire on April 28 south of Wax Orchards. Karen Fevold found a flock of Least Sandpipers and a Dunlin, rare for Vashon, at Dockton May 4. If you have an interesting sighting or question about local birds call me 463-7976 or email at edswan@centurytel.net. If you haven't bought a copy of my book, *The Birds of Vashon Island*, May or possibly June will be your last chance. There are less than 50 copies left in my personal supply or stores around the island. I'm unlikely to reprint this year and may not get to it next year.

Audubon Speaker: The local Audubon chapter succeeded in inviting *In the Company of Crows and*



Raven photo by Jim Russo
Come to the Audubon program on Ravens presented by John Marzluff, at the Fire Fighters Association Building.

Ravens author **John Marzluff** to come talk **May 24** at 7 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Association Building, across the street from the usual Land Trust building location. Marzluff is known around the world as an expert on corvids. He currently teaches at the University of Washington.

Other Audubon events include the monthly on-island field trip on **Saturday, May 13** meeting at the

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Ober Park park and ride at 8 a.m. and going until 10 a.m. A Yakima River birding/rafting trip for the same day is full but check your calendars for **September 30**. Sherry Bottoms, the Audubon field trip chair, organized a pelagic birding trip to find birds out in the Pacific, leaving out of Westport. Call Sherry at 463-1312 for more information and to sign up. September is the best time to see birds that never come in sight of land except to nest on islands far across the ocean.

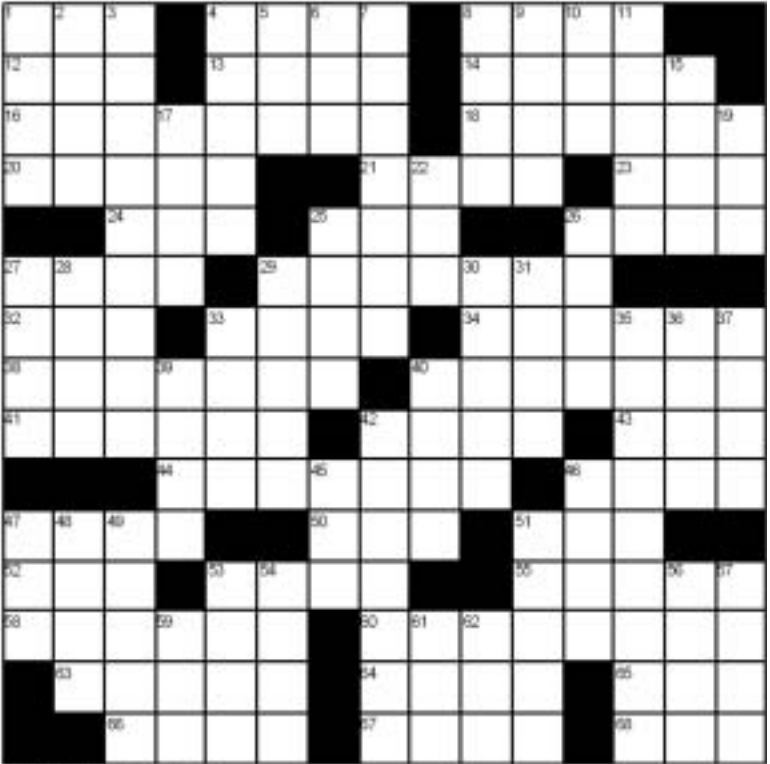
Last but not least, the **Audubon Spring Road Clean-up** meets at

9:30 a.m. **May 21** along the road between the Methodist Church and the funeral home. Teams will pick up litter between there and Sound Food. You never know what we'll find. One year we found a bird nest of chestnut-colored horse hair and I found two great CDs in perfect condition that I still play. Call Ellen Kritzmann at 567-4837 for more information or just show up. ☺☺☺

For more opportunities to learn about birds, join the next monthly Audubon on-Island field trip meeting Saturday May 13 at 8 a.m. at the Ober Park park and ride.

ACROSS		
1 Airport abbr.	26 Court	50 Boat
4 Pine	27 Told	51 Mayan language
8 Brews	29 Sub's weapon	52 Buddy
12 Goof	32 Football assoc.	53 Dada
13 Put down	33 Makes hot cereal	55 Repent
14 Broken bone coverings	34 Really messy room	58 Lozenge
16 Super Bowl trophy name	38 City New____	60 Math term for in the same plane
18 Bright	40 Green olive inside	63 Seat
20 Step	41 Gives a lift	64 Opp. of early
21 Go	42 Spray weapon	65 Caesar's three
23 Palter	43 Compass point	66 Skillfully
24 Dull	44 Science field	67 Extremely long time periods
25 Water closet	46 Plural	68 Lager
47 Asian nation		

DOWN		
1 Snaky fish	17 Jay	39 Sports channel
2 Ride a horse	19 Ball holder	40 Bundle
3 Mammal with armor-like plate covering	22 Skip	42 What prayers often seek
4 Wing shaped	25 Tons	45 Tree gum
5 Cab	26 Former magistrate of Venice	46 Input
6 Lurked	27 Stuck up person	47 Choose
7 Newspaper revisers	28 Hairdo	48 Artist Chagall
8 American Civil Liberties Union (abbr.)	29 Bitter herb	49 Hawaiian 'hello'
9 Extol	30 Tales	51 Men
10 Escudo	31 Ten cents	53 Mr. Donahue
11 Inscribed pillar	33 Curse	54 Airy
15 Vexation	35 Lung disease	56 Finger part
	36 Volcano	57 Canal
	37 Carol	



59 Fare's ride
61 Rowing device
62 School group

Solution on Page 17

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Vashon Blogs

Continued from page 1

It's free to blog (as long as you've got an Internet connection), simple to set up with many ready-to-go templates, and it's fun if you love to share information.

In this writer's case, my blog is comprised equally of capsules on what Island life is like, being a copywriter in public relations, fun with my boys, silly confessionals and moments of "keyboard catharsis" following a painful divorce (boy I'm not alone, I found!). You can set up a blog to receive comments and email, or be as anonymous as you like.

Islander Darryl Caldwell got me going on blogs after he, non-profit expert Patricia Birgen-Redwolf, and I conducted a Non Profit Toolbox seminar last summer in Bellevue. Caldwell combined his tech talent with his passion for helping non-profits communicate in the wired world, and blogs, he says, are an essential part of that.

"Any group, organization, etc., that hopes to gain support and a dedicated audience should be blogging," Caldwell says. "School administrators, religious leaders, heads of non-profits, parks and recreation, should be blogging, creating a report with their communities."

Steve Allen is the man behind Vashon Pages, the online Web cache of pretty much everything you need on the rock. He's taken that approach interactive now, by fostering a community forum in which any resident can simply chime in, comment, post an activity, or give other Islanders a heads up (such as a ferry fare increase, again!) on <http://VashonBlog.com>.

Log on and start checking around. Whether the interest is music, fine arts, athletics, cooking, wine, fashion, our ferry future, hot button politics, family or steamy topics, baby, it lives online, and somebody on Vashon has an opinion to share in his or her blog. The more the merrier, so what are you waiting for?

Politicians: people who, before election, promise a car to every garage and, after election, get busy putting up parking meters.

Granny's Attic

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Some Vashon Blogs to check out:

<http://www.vashonblog.com> (Steve Allen's community forum blog)

<http://vashonblog.blogspot.com> (Carl's blog of Island life and politics)

<http://artistdogboy.blogspot.com> (Artist Dog Boy's strange facts and observations)

<http://yousoufian.blogspot.com> (Armen Yousoufian's blog)

<http://bodanzarama.blogspot.com> (About VIGA)

<http://BlueMonkey.tribe.net> (Blue Monkey's Blog)

<http://islandwestalpacos.blogspot.com/> (Your local Alpaca folks)

Getting started:

<http://www.blogger.com>

<http://360.yahoo.com/>

<http://www.myspace.com/>

Learning curve:

Some good listening related to blogging:

<http://www.itconversations.com/shows/detail847.html>

What other pundits are saying about blogging:

<http://www.itconversations.com/series/blogging.html>

About Heidi Witherspoon: Heidi is a mom, prolific copywriter, and Vashonite living on the Westside. If you're feeling spunky, read her blog: <http://heidewitherspoon.blogspot.com>

Master Gardener Clinics in May

Gardeners seeking information to resolve plant related problems will find WSU trained Vashon Island Master Gardeners available to answer your garden questions, diagnose plant problems and provide horticultural information at the Master Gardener Clinic every **Friday and Saturday** through the month of May. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Clinic is located between True Value and Thriftway. Bring cuttings or plant samples to assist with identification of specific plant problems.

PANDORA'S BOX

What's new at Pandora's? An ark full of animals, and gutters getting fixed...hmmmm...does Marge know something we don't?

As May marches on, so do the fleas. Stop in for the treatment of your choice; BioSpot, Advantage, Frontline Plus, Flea Away and Natur-Vet.

Horus' pick of the week:

The pulled pork burrito at Thriftway. Oh, and he likes the Nature's Variety frozen chicken medallions. Yum.

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Help is available outside of Vashon Master Gardener Clinic hours through a master gardener help-line from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 296-3440 or online at gardening.wsu.edu.

The clinic is part of the Washington State University King County Extension Program serving gardeners in Western Washington with science based horticultural information.

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Garden the World

By MEarth

Organic Bytes

A Mouthful of Money: The Corporate Takeover of Organic Foods

Kraft Foods bought small natural cereals producer Back to Nature in 2004. The company is a subsidiary of Altria Group, which also owns Phillip Morris Companies Inc., one of the largest cigarette makers in the world. Kraft also owns Boca Burger Inc.

Odwalla Inc., which produces natural and organic fruit juices, was purchased by Coca-Cola in 2001.

Dean Foods Co., the largest dairy company in the U.S., bought out Horizon Organic in 2003, in addition to Silk soymilk and White Wave tofu.

Kellogg's has acquired several natural and organic brands: Kashi Cereal and Morningstar Farms.

General Mills purchased Cascadian Farm, in 2000. The brand consists of items such as frozen fruit, vegetables, granola bars and fruit spreads. General Mills also bought out Muir Glen, which produces ketchup, tomato sauce, and salsa.

Unilever bought out Ben & Jerry's for \$326 million.

Colgate-Palmolive Co. is purchasing Tom's of Maine, which specializes in natural oral and personal care products.

How To Be an Environmental: Gotta Get A Green Thumb

If you don't have one already, there's no better time than the present to start your own vegetable garden, whether it's on your own land or in a local community plot. According to the latest data from the US Department of Agriculture, the level of home food production is at its lowest point in US history. With the average food traveling more than 1500 miles from farm to fork, the environmental impact of big agribusiness foods is at an all time high. Concerned about global warming and peak oil? Consider the fact that it takes 400 calories of fossil fuels to transport a single 5 calorie strawberry from California to East Coast supermarkets. What's more, that flavorless non-organic strawberry was grown with methyl bromide, a carcinogenic and ozone depleting pesticide. In contrast, a perennial patch of strawberries in your yard grows back on its own every year, requires no fossil fuels and no pesticides,

and tastes a whole lot better. The environmental benefits of growing some of your own food are staggering. The Organic Consumers Association is developing a new campaign to help turn every thumb into a Green thumb.

Superweeds Spreading in Genetically Engineered Cotton Fields

Pesticide resistant weeds are introducing a new problem to cotton farmers. Traditionally, herbicide resistance is dealt with by simply changing the herbicide. But according to North Carolina State weed scientist Alan York, farmers are running out of options: there are no more effective pesticides to switch to. The majority of farmers in the Cotton Belt are now growing Monsanto's genetically engineered Roundup Ready cotton, which is resistant to glyphosate pesticides. As a result of the heavy use of glyphosate in the area, varieties of pigweed have developed an immunity to it. Tests at the University of Georgia showed that the pigweed *Palmer Amaranth* has developed amazing resistance to glyphosate. Scientists doused the weeds three times with a quadruple concentrated dose of glyphosate, but the pigweed continued to grow and multiply.

"If you grow cotton in the Southeast, and you have Palmer amaranth in your fields, looking at side-by-side comparisons of resistant and non-resistant pigweed should scare you to death," York says.

European Leader says Biotech Corporations Provide Biased Research

Europe's environment chief has announced that more studies on long term impacts of genetically engineered (GE) crops must be implemented before any new GE crops can be approved. Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said that too many of the current GE regulatory decisions are based on biased data provided by the biotech industry, which put GE crops in a biased positive light. "Applications for cultivation of GMO products raise a whole new series of possible risks to the environment, notably potential longer-term effects that could impact on biodiversity," he said.

All of Poland's 16 agricultural regions, representing over two million family farmers, have officially declared themselves free of genetically engineered crops. The Polish government recently said that it is opposed to the production of genetically modified crops and would only allow food with genetically



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The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy has released a new study revealing arsenic is present in most non-organic chicken products. Testing of 155 samples from supermarket chicken products found 55 percent carried detectable levels of arsenic, a highly toxic carcinogen. All 90 fast food chicken products contained arsenic. The toxin levels are due to the industry practice of adding arsenic to chicken feed with the goal of killing parasites and promoting growth. Arsenic is not allowed in organic chicken feed.

Quebec has passed the toughest rules in North America regarding common gardening pesticides. In a move that has thrilled environmentalists and health advocates, the provincial government has asked its citizens to go back to the traditional ways of gardening and has banned 210 lawn and chemical products from store shelves. "This bold action sets a standard for excellence that other governments ignore at their peril," said Warren Bell, an association board member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

A couple with their four-year-old son was dining at one of San Francisco's sophisticated restaurants. "What do you suggest for a little boy who likes nothing but hamburgers, hot dogs, and tacos?" asked the mother. "Los Angeles or San Diego," sniffed the waiter.

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Chuck Roehm

Roehm Brings Cosmic Folk to Luna

Chuck Roehm will provide a solo performance at Café Luna, **Friday, May 19**, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Chuck calls his music and song writing style "Cosmic Folk."

Chuck has played old-time country, rock, and blues. His own songs incorporate inspiration from spirit and nature. This performance will feature songs he has written during the past year, plus some popular requests from his CD *Spirit's Call*, and a few of his favorite songs by the Moody Blues, Tom Dundee, and Neil Hagberg.

The Dorsal Spin:

Green Around the Gills

by Orca Annie Stateler

On Earth Day, I was sickly like our planet. I had a butt-kicking cold that sidelined me for the last half of April. My sinus misery darkened my mood. Even though I read green news daily, I found the Earth Week torrent of articles and programs about global warming and the sixth extinction dispiriting.

The World Conservation Union, or IUCN, recently announced that 16,000 species may disappear because of climate change, poaching, unsustainable fishing methods, and other human threats. Global warming could wipe out polar bears in our lifetime because their critical habitat is melting. Polar bears are already drowning in attempts to swim insurmountable distances between ice floes. A world without polar bears is a depressing prospect.

With my half-drained glass of glacial meltwater, I watched HBO’s documentary, Too Hot Not to Handle, in which scientists and researchers from various academic disciplines describe current and impending effects of global warming. This program should be shown in classrooms. Climate change is occurring now, but future generations must endure the brunt of its consequences.

Speaking of the next generation, Odin and I attended a lecture at the Vashon High School about climate change in the Pacific Northwest. Lara Whitely Binder of the UW’s Climate Impacts Group explained the implications of rising temperatures in our region. Forests will be more vulnerable to drought and pine beetle infestations. Salmon will be stressed by lower stream flows in summer and flooding in winter that will scour out their redds (redds are the nests salmon build out of stream gravel for their eggs. It’s impressive to see the mounds that the females dig and shape with their tails).

Several talking points really struck me, such as: “...a broad reorganization of systems has been observed with subtle changes in natural variability.” One degree of warming in the water may not sound like much, but it has a profound

influence on marine life. Warmer water affects the distribution of species throughout the North Pacific. If climate impacts cannot be mitigated, the outlook is dim for wild salmon and, by extension, Resident killer whales who rely on salmon.

Global warming was mentioned in passing at the Southern Resident Killer Whale Symposium. The same week as the orca symposium, local oceanographers reported that the North Pacific is becoming more acidic due to increased carbon dioxide concentrations from the burning of fossil fuels. The change in ocean chemistry is harmful to the plankton that salmon eat. The Pacific Northwest without wild salmon is inconceivable.

Some Earth Day commentaries expressed hope, since America’s air and water generally became cleaner during the past thirty years and rivers are no longer aflame. A few species, like the bald eagle, have rebounded. Certainly, we have made progress, but I think Iron Eyes Cody would still shed a tear over our habitual trashing of Mother Earth. We lapse into denial and complacency at our peril. Earth Day cannot be the only time we highlight environmental issues with the attention they deserve.

Don’t miss the free ACS/PS talk on Fireproof Killer Whales, May 17 at the Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. North, Seattle. Toxicologist Peter Ross is an excellent speaker. Check www.acspugetsound.org or call 206-734-4737 for more information.

OK, the glum conservationist has spoken. On a completely different, frivolous note, my little angel Stogarita, who does not poop in Vashon’s parks or menace livestock, was “interviewed,” via her daddy Odin, for the summer issue of City Dog magazine. We can hardly wait to see it in June.

Please support the eco-friendly work of the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) by reporting local whale sightings ASAP to 463-9041. Contact Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com.

members to get to know each other while discussing progressive book selections. Green Party membership is not a requirement. This month’s selection is *An Ordinary Person’s Guide to Empire* by Indian essayist and novelist Arundhati Roy. Through a series of essays and speeches, Roy defines “Empire” and draws the parallels between globalization in India, the devastation in Iraq, and the structural racism faced by many African Americans in the United States. Although critical of the American government in its quest for Empire, she congratulates Americans for standing up to their government and suggests non-violent solutions—boycotts, protests and open discussion. *Ordinary Person’s Guide to Empire* is available at Vashon bookstores and a discount is offered to book club participants. For more information, call Maryrose Asher at 567-0593 or e-mail dmasher@comcast.net.

We had our monthly meeting a week early this month. Please contact Ivy Sacks, 463-9579 for June’s meeting date and place. For further information regarding the Green Party or any of these events, please contact Ivy Sacks, 463-9579 or Ivys@centurytel.net.

It’s always darkest before Daylight Saving Time.

Green Party events in May, 2006

Progressive Film Series
Thursday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Café Luna — free admission


Rabbit Proof Fence PG-13 (93 minutes)
At a time when it was Australian government policy to train aboriginal children as domestic workers, young Molly Craig decides to lead her little sister and cousin in a daring escape from their internment camp. Molly and the girls must then elude the authorities on a dangerous 1,500-mile adventure along the rabbit-proof fence that bisects the continent and will lead them home. A true story.

Meet Aaron Dixon
Thursday, May 18, 6:30 p.m. at Melvin and Margaret Mackey’s home.

Aaron Dixon, Green Party candidate for US Senator, will be on Vashon Island to tell us about his campaign for US senate. Come and find out what he is standing for (and what he is against). Please call 463-3468 for directions.

Progressive Book Club
Sunday, May 28, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Vashon Tea Shop

The Vashon-Maury Island Green Party’s Progressive Book Club meeting is a social event designed for book club




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LifeSense: Living Green on Vashon – Maury Island

By Laura Worth

The nonprofit incorporation of LifeSense Institute has been announced by founders Robert Bornn and Laura Worth. LifeSense Institute has launched two projects: Vashon Energy Project (with its Project Solar Harvest) and BuildingCircles community development.

“Project Solar Harvest, “explained Bornn, “will demonstrate an innovation in solar energy use that has shown success in several northern latitude countries. Simply put, we will collect the heat from this summer’s sun and store it in the ground for use next winter.”

“If this solar technology is as useful as we think it will be, we would like to see Vashon play a leading role in introducing it in the Pacific Northwest.”

The BuildingCircles Project will facilitate the emergence of adult co-housing communities that are affordable, ultra-green, and nature-integrated.

“A good number of people I’ve talked with on Vashon like the idea of developing intentional adult communities for support as they get older,” says Laura Worth. “Our role is to facilitate people coming together to define goals and act on them cooperatively. A few neighbors may just wish to create small mutual support systems for things like cooperative grocery shopping.”

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Said Bornn, “Some people may want to collaborate with each other on more ambitious structural improvements like access ramps or raised beds for gardening. The goal is communities for independent living that are ultra-energy efficient, low-maintenance, affordable, and integrated into nature in a way that preserves our Island’s rural character. It just takes motivated people and community support.”

LifeSense Institute is available for consultation. It is also building an advisory board, fundraising, and developing collaborative relationships with other Island groups and individuals. Contact them at www.buildingcircles.org, and send CVs and resumes to robert@buildingcircles.org or laura@buildingcircles.org.

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Happy Birthday Taurus!
The arrival of Mercury in your sign so close to your birthday says that you are finding yourself in some unusual and meaningful way. It's as if you've been struggling to find the words for how you feel, what you think and what you want — and this has been slowing you down. You have not been lacking for ideas, but ideas are not enough. Words are not enough. What you need — and what you are getting — is a clear sense of who you are, which will give you the focus and clarity to express that in the world.

Aries (March 20-April 19): There are some moments when you can get a sense of your true direction. It's as if you look at the cosmic compass and discover what way you're headed, and find your location on the map. When you do that, you'll see that you are in a truly challenging situation, and you may not know exactly what to do. You may not understand this strange, intense mission you seem to be on. It may seem too intense or uncertain for you to handle — but I assure you, you can. Remember, nothing can stop you from doing what you need to do.

Taurus (April 19-May 20): There are two potent influences working in your solar chart this week. One is giving you a profound sense of certainty; the other, a troubling sense of doubt. You may wonder how these two factors can coexist. You may wonder which to listen to; indeed, which is the truth. But I suggest you not rush or push for an answer. You need to look at the alternatives you face, but moreover, you need to understand the source of your doubts about yourself. When you catch a glimpse of that factor, a lot of things will make a lot more sense.

Gemini (May 20-June 21): What is normally intangible, lacking form or a clear idea to define its reality, is suddenly taking shape even as you sit here reading. Remember that this “something” is subject to change, and you'd be wise to consider any plans, ambitions or ideas to be works in progress rather than representing a fixed goal or necessity. You're starting to get a picture, and at the same time, there's a great deal yet to be revealed. You're also starting to understand something deeply personal about yourself, and as you express it, this will change. That's the whole point.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Trust your friends and use your allies. Pay attention to who has a reputation for what in your

life, and make your choices appropriately. The world is offering you significant support right now, and if there's an Achilles heel to the whole situation, it's simply the fact that you might fail to use your judgment exactly when you need it the very most. Remember, it's never too late to change your mind, but then, it's never too early to be proactive. Know where everyone stands in your life. Remember history. Seek to understand what is motivating the people around you, and use that information

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23): For such a passionate person, you're wise to prefer solid accomplishments and tangible goals rather than quick successes that don't really last. You know that most real genuine successes grow like trees: slowly, and by investing as much energy into pushing upwards toward the sky as they do reaching downwards toward the center of the Earth. The news you receive this week pertaining to some kind of success or accomplishment is actually a clue that something deeper and stronger is taking root in your life. You can welcome the news, but remember to welcome what it signifies for you.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): You're not a person who likes to live your life on hopes and wishes. You're more the type who would prefer to invest in solid real estate, or stick to buying stock in the old stalwart companies rather than the new and unusual ones. On the other hand, you, yourself, are the source of many new ideas in the world — and you have some astonishing ones now yearning for expression. Let me be blunt: your ideas are worth money; they serve the function of making life easier; they are worth the time and effort you're putting into them. Remember that.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23): So who are you, really? And who is this other person, really? What do you have in common and what are you saying to one another? Why does everything seem so fated, and like you have so little choice? Could you be experiencing the unfolding of a plan you created long ago, or living out an agreement you made in another lifetime? Even if the past is involved, you need to address the present moment exactly as it is, and with the awareness that relationships change us. This encounter is changing you, and if you want, it can help you set yourself free of an old idea about yourself that you've been trying to let go of for many moons.

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Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Loved ones or close partners may seem to be saying one thing and doing another. As the week goes on, the contradiction may deepen. It's always frustrating when people get like this — or when you perceive them like this. You need to be careful that you don't decide something exists that does not exist; it's crucial that you not make up stories about what you *think* is motivating others. Hunches usually count, particularly for a Scorpio, but at the moment, your intuition demands not just second-guessing but tangible facts that don't contradict. When in doubt, don't judge — ask.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22): News about a health issue should ease your mind, but then, be prepared for a few days of low energy as the Sun makes a series of challenging aspects. Actually, you don't have so much to do that you need to stay busy every moment of your day, and I assure you there's an easy solution to any task or puzzle you may face. Therefore, take the easy way rather than the hard one; the more energy you exert, the more likely you are to get caught in a bog. Let as many things take care of themselves as possible. This week, they really will.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): It could be worse, right? Well that's not exactly optimistic, but it does sometimes help to look at all the things that didn't go wrong, because after all, so many can. Is it any surprise that what has saved you, once again, is a creative solution to a problem that nobody else noticed? Is it stunning that an old idea worked better than a new one? Now, see if you can take things a step further: from solving a problem to creating a lasting method, process or system that will save work and prevent things from going wrong in the future.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Your mind may be going from light to dark to gray to light again this week, but I suggest you remember that the weather changes, the world turns, and your life goes on. Take it all in stride. You have certain definite strengths working for you, and you need to notice what they are — and

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then use them. This is a week when logic may fail, but the power of persuasion will win the day. At this point, you should have clear ideas about what is right and wrong for you, and you need to remember those morning, noon and night.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to fall back on some old talents, skills and resources this week. You have plenty of those, it's just that you tend to forget about them on a regular basis. While you're at it, remember all the times where you did, in fact, define the terms of your own reality. This is a moment in your life when, astrologically, you're crossing a stream. There are rocks that go all the way across, and you can walk on them. But you need to use the ones that are not slippery, and remember, it's always better to get your feet wet than it is to fall into the water.

Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

 **Book Review**

By guest reviewer Richard Bard
Rachel Bard is busy preparing a book for publication and has asked her son to fill in for her.

An Opportunity for Brain Enhancement

If you had a teaspoon full of the stuff that’s in the middle of a collapsed neutron star, it would weigh 200 billion pounds (not counting the spoon).

If you’re thinking, “Wow, that’s heavy,” well, so are a lot of the other facts found in *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. At 478 pages (not counting the footnotes) it’ll take up a fair chunk of this month’s bedside reading, but it’ll be worth it. Take notes, and you’ll be able to impress your family and friends with your smarts for the rest of the year.

Atoms alone might last you into July. We’re generally aware that in outer space, there’s a lot of nothing in between the interesting stuff, but who knew the same thing is true inside the atom? If the outer electron band of an atom was as far across as, say, McMurray, the nucleus would be way in at the center of the school, about the size of a potato bug. But wait, there’s more: a molecule is made of multiple atoms, right, and in just one cubic centimeter of air (size of a sugar cube), you’ll find 45 billion billion molecules. Or maybe someone with more sensitive equipment will...the point is, there’s a lot of these little guys around, and when Bryson’s scientists consider that they exist almost forever, they calculate that what with recycling and all, we might each be using a billion of the same atoms that once filled out William Shakespeare (I had a feeling about this), and the same from any other historical personality you can think of.

As for personalities, *A Short History* is long on them, for sure. In a way, the book reads like a mystery in which we learn as much about the many detectives — astronomers, chemists, geologists, and a whole raft of other “ists” who are tracking down clues as to the nature of life and the universe — as we do about their findings. And what we learn goes beyond dates and accomplishments into human character. Marie Curie, we find, despite winning two Nobel Prizes for her early work on radiation, was never elected to the Academy of Sciences by her scandal-sensitive peers because she’d been getting it on indiscreetly with another married physicist. She was as unaware as everyone else then was of how dangerous were the materials she worked with (radioactive thorium was commonly used in toothpaste and even laxatives) and died of leukemia — eighty years later, her papers are still dangerously contaminated. And what about Karl Scheele, the Swedish pharmacist who identified nitrogen, oxygen, chlorine, and a bunch of other useful elements and compounds? His approach was to

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taste what he was working with; consequently at age 43 he “...was found dead at his workbench surrounded by an array of toxic chemicals, any one of which could have accounted for the stunned and terminal look on his face.”

***A Short History of Nearly Everything*, by Bill Bryson. Paperback, Broadway Books, 2003, \$15.95.**

But enough of the Dr. Phil approach; let’s look at the big picture. Want to feel better about global warming? Ordinarily, what keeps the planet from turning into a big hothouse with no snow or ice and your basement full of water are huge numbers of little sea critters that take the carbon out of atmospheric carbon dioxide (the notorious greenhouse gas) when it’s transported to the ocean’s surface in rain, and lock it up in their shells. Eventually, these shells aggregate and form limestone, which in turn gets vaporized in volcanoes and blasted back into the air as carbon dioxide.

This long term carbon cycle isn’t perfectly regular, but overall it works pretty well as a temperature buffer. Compared to natural releases of carbon from volcanic action and plant decay, the human contribution is just a fraction. But what appears to be happening now is our factory and auto emissions are adding just enough to the normal levels to unbalance the system. If we keep up all this industrial farting and temperatures continue to rise, it’s possible a lot of trees and other plants will begin to die off, releasing even more carbon and accelerating the process.

The good news is that catastrophic swings have happened before, and it’s probable the earth will return to a stable state, although, as the book points out, it could take sixty thousand years...whoa, that’s a long time, maybe I’d better buy that Sportster and enjoy life while I’ve got the chance...but then again, motorcycles have notoriously high emissions...what time is Dr. Phil on again?

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YMCA Summer

Continued from page 1

theme providing the creativity and structure to keep children engaged. In June, kids explore the richness and diversity of ancient civilizations through games, music, food, and art. The following week you can choose to immerse your child in the world of music and sound through song, and unique instrument making. There is an art week devoted to creating with different mediums, and one dedicated to pirates, kings and castles. Whether it’s Pacific Coast Native Americans, outer space, or animals from around the world, each week takes the kids on an adventure making their summer a memorable one.



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Island Epicure

by Marj Watkins

Salad Days

Hooray! It’s May! A month when our lovely Island basks in more sunshine than we’ve had all winter. We usually get a mini-heat wave right about now. Oven meals — forget them; heating up the kitchen with an oven isn’t on our want-to-do list. Get out the barbecue grill and enjoy a salad on the side.

This is also the month when we think seriously about fitting into our swimsuits and looking good in shorts. Maybe you’re already counting calories and carbs and checking the glycemic index.

Think main dish salads, cool and easy to make, low on the glycemic index, and imminently satisfying on a warm day or evening.

Vegetables and fruits bursting with vitamins, minerals, and refreshing flavors combine well with no-carb cooked meats, low-carb beans and cheeses. Think about contrasting colors and textures, too. Eye-appeal contributes to eating pleasure; when you enjoy seeing and eating your food, you actually get more nourishment from it.

My basic formula for late spring and summer salads: Choose something from each group as desired.

Greens: dark green or red leaf lettuce, arugala, baby spinach, bok choy leaves, watercress, red chard, tiny wild plantain leaves or chickweed or tender dandelion leaves (zero glycemic load — read ‘no fattening carbohydrates’), torn, shredded or chopped.

Red or yellow vegetables — halved, cherry or grape tomatoes, slivered or chopped red or yellow bell peppers, julienned carrots, sliced or slivered red onions or red cabbage; shredded raw beets, carrots.

White vegetables: daikon, sliced cucumber, sliced red radishes.

Fruits: diced fresh oranges, apples, or pears; pineapple, mango, kiwifruit.

Protein: shredded, shaved, or crumbled cheese (fresh parmesan, gorgonzola, blue cheese or feta; drained canned red kidney beans, great northern beans, or black beans; julienned thinly sliced ham, chicken or turkey; sliced grilled chicken breast; white tuna, or red salmon mixed with mayonnaise and pickle relish; boiled egg, sliced, wedge-cut, or small-diced; or sliced or chopped nuts. Garnishes: olives, whole or sliced; drained capers; chopped cilantro; yellow

dandelion petals; pale lavender violet or viola blossoms; white clusters of watercress blossom, mustard blossoms; sweet pickle slices or sticks.

Arrange a salad mandala thus:
Cretan Salata Horiataki — 4 servings
4 large dark green leaves of romaine or green leaf lettuce
1/2 English cucumber
2 red ripe tomatoes, well washed and diced
1 shallot or 1 or 2 slices red onion, chopped
1/2 bell pepper, any color, chopped, optional
1/4 lb. feta, diced
Kalimata olives or black California olives
2 eggs, boiled, small-diced, optional
Wash the lettuce leaves well. Pat dry with clean dishtowel or paper towels. Cut in 1/2-inch wide shreds. Arrange a layer on a plate or platter. Make a ring of cucumber slices. Inside that, pile or make a circle of diced tomato. In the center, put the diced feta. If using boiled egg, put the feta around the outside of the tomato ring and the egg in the center.

Garnish with olives and/or bell pepper. Pass a dressing of olive oil and lemon vinaigrette.

Lemon Vinaigrette
1/3 cup virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
Black pepper to taste
Place all ingredients in a small glass bowl or jar. Add a spoon. Let each diner stir well before spooning over individual serving.

Spinach and Strawberry Salad — 4 servings
1 package pre-washed baby spinach
1 cup sliced strawberries
2 Tablespoons pine nuts, sliced almonds, or roasted pumpkin or sunflower seeds, or glazed walnuts or pecans
Arrange spinach on salad plate or plates. Top with strawberries and nuts or seeds.
Serve with raspberry balsamic vinaigrette.

Strawberry Festival week includes festival rides with your Y friends, as well as making a colorful, energetic splash in the Kid’s Parade. On- and off-Island field trips, daily outside activities, biking, and swimming ensure full use of the summer sun and warmth.

After four years of working together, Dalinda Vivero, program supervisor, and Jean Murphy, lead teacher, have created a happy, well organized, creative context for all kids. Their capacity to welcome new kids, enlist veteran campers’ help, and create a community of learning and play is a hallmark of their teamwork. Each year returning and new summer staff enhance the program. This summer Island artist Donna Romero will be assisting in implementing the creative projects.

The home base of the camps is Chautauqua Elementary with regular and extended hours Monday through Friday, providing

convenient and flexible options for parents. Children must be entering first grade through sixth grade. The YMCA strives to make this opportunity affordable at \$160/week for full time enrollment, with part time and daily options as well. Financial aid is available, to the extent possible. Brochures and registration forms can be picked up at the Vashon YMCA on Gorsuch Road, or at the YMCA School Age Childcare at Chautauqua. After reading the brochure, you can register at the Y, or online at www.seattleyymca.org/summer. If you have questions, call Dalinda Vivero at 930-2592.

For an Island-grown, active, and engaging camp experience, the YMCA Summer Enrichment program is sure to be a highlight of your child’s summer. Just look at those smiles!

Chere Mlle. Bride, *Bien sur*, the wedding kiss, it is being the exceedingly important business. You will be in front of the crowd of people all watching critically and judging your performance on the basis of the style, the creativity and the conviction. Everybody is noticing the slightest awkwardness and shaking the heads with the disapproval.

Fortunately, this is being the very little matter to overcome. First, it is mostly not mattering what kind of the kiss you are selecting. The chaste peck, it is tasteful and elegant, and it is not offending even the most prudish of the old grannies. This was being very popular when everybody was liking to pretend that the bride, she was very romantic and virginal and that the babies were mostly being left by the fairies under the cabbage leaves like the snails.

The slow, soft romantic kiss is being very popular now that generally everybody is supposing that even if you were not having the sex before, you will almost certainly be doing it now that you are married to each other.

Whatever kiss you are selecting, the important thing is that you and *M.* Elwood are selecting the same one. You are not wanting to be going for the discreet peck while *M.* Elwood, he is coming for you with the tongue dangling.

Also, the practice, she is very important. You are not wanting to risk *M.* Elwood becoming nervous and forgetting which kiss he is supposed to be performing. If you are practicing before the ceremony, you can be smacking him very firmly on the head every time he is doing it wrong until he is thoroughly conditioned.

Bon Chance, Mlle. Bride, and remember: the only kiss which is entirely inappropriate is involving the lustful gropings and slobberings. What are you thinking? There are the children watching you.



Madame Toujours

Wedding Kiss

Dear *Madame Toujours*,


I am getting married in two weeks to my boyfriend Elwood. I have been planning this wedding for two years. I had to quit my job as a teller at the bank three months ago because the wedding was taking up so much of my time, and you wouldn’t believe how expensive everything is, although I am saving almost five hundred dollars on flowers by buying a vacant lot and planting a flower garden in it.

Anyway, I thought I had everything under control until my aunt Gerta asked me, “Now honey, what are you doing about the kiss?”

The kiss? I thought at least we had that covered. I mean, Elwood and I have been kissing regularly now for almost three years. Is there some kind of special wedding kiss we’re supposed to know about? Is it supposed to be open-mouth? Closed mouth? Wet? Dry? What do you advise?

Sincerely,
Frazzled Bride

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Positively Speaking

By Deborah Anderson

\$16.5 Million or Bust!

Please know that I am completely aware of how enormously political incorrect it is for me to do a column on this subject. And that's my point.

I have been trying, for the last two days, to figure out how I feel about knowing that there is a house that could be on the market for 16.5 million dollars. My first reaction is a desire to own it. See, I have these all these kids in our family, and they're going to be having kids soon. We've lived in too small places for too long. I mean, somebody always sleeping on a couch if we are all home at once.

We downsized. The last house we lived in before moving to Vashon was a 3500 square foot craftsman wonder in the Wallingford district. It was purchased in 1989 for \$119,000 . The last time we drove by I took a looky loo sheet it was going for \$385,000. Not bad for the old investment program. We've been trying to offload the extra stuff ever since.

Owning a house is the only way to achieve financial independence in America. We don't own on Vashon. The kids know if we ever do, they are never ever ever ever to let it pass out of the family. My aunt and I are forever regretting that the family cottage on Twin Lakes in Muskegon Michigan was sold out of the family.

The new project that VashonHousehold is doing is going to help some people own their own home. The idea of sweat equity is definitely a bonding issue. There is no sweeter joy than puttering around on the old Ponderosa. I had an interesting conversation with a theologian named Leonard Sweet one time, in which he expounded that most people had a better relationship with their lawns than they did with the people who lived in their houses.

Most of us are constantly working towards improving the places in which we live. One of my true moments of personal victory was putting together two wall mounted cabinets, one for each bathroom, in the place in which our family lives. Every time I open and close those doors I rejoice in having taken the time to make the incremental adjustments to the hinges that made it possible.

I guess with a 14,000 square foot house you're going to have to have some help...or more children. That nine hundred feet of waterfront will need to be mowed. The lovely banister in that spiral staircase will have to be polished.

I suppose some people will be grossed out by a house that large and expensive on Vashon. But you know why I think it's great?

Hospitality. I was just telling someone about learning the difference between hospitality and entertainment. Entertainment is about showing off. Hospitality is about making the guest's

needs more important that the environment.

Hospitality means that grandkids and their friends can slide down that wonderful banister. A person could have endless barbecues and parties in the summer to share that 900 feet of waterfront. You could bring all your friends who have to live in too small places for overnights and pamper them silly.

There's a lot of conversation about housing on Vashon right now. I think it's important to discuss affordable housing. Certainly I am working hard on owning my own place someday. But I have discovered through being a renter that what is equally important, or perhaps more important, is what goes on inside those houses. How is the house used? Does it offer shelter and comfort and encouragement? Does it bring joy to the inhabitants? Are the relationships with the people more important than the relationships with the lawn and gardens?

I support the philosophy, "live simply so others may simply live." Nonetheless, if I had a chance to grab that house I would because of what you could do for others with it.

My wish for you is that your house is a home. I hope when you walk in the doors you feel loved and cared for and excited about loving and caring for others. Whatever size or style, I hope your home is filled with heart. If not, figure out how to make it live in new ways. What will keep Vashon, Vashon is homes with heart. Let us encourage each other in that.

~~~~~

## Robyn Stover Leaves Senior Center

Editor, *The Loop*:

Robyn Stover, MSW, has over the past 13 years worn many hats while working for Vashon-Maury Social Services at the Senior Center. As our social worker, Robyn was highly engaged with "Time Out" (adult day care) and later added social work hours with Senior Services here, facilitating programs such as "Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions" and, more recently, "Enhanced Wellness." Robyn also took on program coordination for the SC during the past six years.

As growth and change are inevitable, Robyn has decided it is time to move on. She has accepted increased responsibilities with Providence Hospice. The island will be fortunate to benefit from her wealth of experience and professionalism, gained from a career of working with adults 50 and better. Please join me in bidding Robyn a fulfilling life as she reaches for new horizons!

Senior Services, a private agency which funded her position, will not fill

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## Mother's Day Parade, Festival

*Continued from page 1*

The festival begins at 1:00 pm at Ober Park with music and activities for young and old. We'll have a visit from our very own 21st century Julia Ward Howe, Janet McAlpin on her mighty stilts. The third annual Julia Ward Howe award will be presented to an Island mover and shaker. There will a number of political actions people can take, kids' activities, including a crafts table, face painting and balloon twisting with Michael and Miriam FitzPatrick and pie, cookies and other snacks.

The event is sponsored by Global Links (a subgroup of Vashon Islanders for Peace) in collaboration with Mothers Acting Up, an organization dedicated to mobilizing the gigantic political strength of women, and CAPE, Community Arts and Political Expression.

Mother's Day was originally envisioned by Julia Ward Howe (who also wrote the Battle Hymn of the Republic) as a day for mothers to unite to protect the lives of children. Modern Mother's Day events are celebrations of the desire and ability of mothers (and all who care for children) to protect our most vulnerable children. This doesn't simply mean making sure our children eat a healthy lunch and look both ways before

crossing the street—it means recognizing that our children's lives are interconnected with children all over the world. It means reaching out to Mothers Beyond Borders, the theme of this year's events.

Individually and collectively we must begin to measure the true impact of our actions—our consumption, health, energy and trade policies, and national security strategies—not only by how they affect our children, but children everywhere.

The responsibility implicit in this can seem overwhelming. But when we each start reaching out—through our daily choices and political voices, what we buy, how we vote, what programs we support—together we weave a fabric strong enough to sustain our children's future.

Join mothers and others all over the world this Mother's Day: inspiring each other in our daily lives, educating ourselves about how to engaging our communities in taking action to benefit our children and children everywhere.

For more information, call Stacy Carkonen at 463-9946 or visit the Mothers Acting Up Web site at [www.mothersactingup.org](http://www.mothersactingup.org).

this vacancy due to funding limitations. Vashon-Maury Senior Center is hoping to find one or more volunteers willing to facilitate quarterly support group meetings for Parkinson's, diabetes and stroke groups. Experience in facilitating support groups and a social work background are highly desirable. Program coordination has been handled by Mary Ellen Trout, SC board member.

Over the years as our social worker, Robyn has assisted individuals and families facing transitional issues. Susan Nyman, SC administrative assistant, and I will direct people toward resources when feasible. Senior Services Information and Assistance or Senior Services Senior Rights Assistance staff in Seattle can also help with transportation, housing, legal issues or other needs; call 448-3110 or check out the Senior Services website at [www.seniorservices.org](http://www.seniorservices.org).

Abbie Nielsen  
Director  
Vashon-Maury Senior Center

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you cry and you have to blow your nose.

Sarah Browne



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# Loop ~ Sports



Shadow puppets took over the VHS Theater last Friday; now they have metamorphosed into three dimensions, taken to the streets, and control our population.

Sporting News: Ernest is out of town so I'm covering this section for the Vashon Island community. I'm nervous but Ernie said I don't need to say much. He just wanted me to send a few pictures and to tell you that the Vashon High Soccer and Baseball Team will soon be playing for the district playoffs. The baseball team is fresh off a swisher shweet win over Steilacoom in Nisqually League play. Check out these pictures and enhance your mind, man.

Just Keepin' it real,  
Josh Wojcikowski (Ernie's oh so capable replacement)



Wrestling Coach Per-Lars Bloooooomgren spends off season bonding time with his good buddy, OJ Simpson, the bald, white ref from Belfair. They went for coffee and discussed various subjects such as the novel The Brothers Karamazov and how the movie "Shopgirl" differed from its source, Steve Martin's master novella. Who says that refs can't wax philosophic? Not me, said the little flea hiding on the top left corner of PL Blomgren's huge back.

At one Army base, the annual trip to the rifle range had been canceled for the second year in a row, but the semi-annual physical fitness test was still on, as planned. One soldier mused, "Does it bother anyone else that the Army doesn't seem to care how well we can shoot, but they are extremely interested in how fast we can run?"



Incurable romantics. Now that Zach and Dave have seen the Pirates play baseball, they can't stop writing love paeans to those of fields of green.



Hoops season over, Aubrey can now concentrate on her art. Here she shows off a piece inspired by Liam Rockwell's unstoppable pursuit of freedom on the racetrack.



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Loopy Laffs

A *gephyrophobic* is someone who is afraid of crossing bridges over water (Hmm...so could you say we are an Island of *gephyrophobics*?)

One (or more) Liners

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.  
Make God laugh—tell Him your plans.  
If your pushing 60 that’s exercise enough!  
A woman’s place is in the House—or the Senate.  
Lawyers’ job is to make used car salesmen look good.  
Dyslexia means never having to say that you’re yrrros.  
I know you are nobody’s fool, but maybe somebody will adopt you.  
Some people practice what they preach, others just practice preaching.  
I had some words with my wife, and she had some paragraphs with me.

Q: - What’s the difference between God and a doctor?  
A: - God doesn’t think he is a doctor.  
  
There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist. – Mark Twain

A priest was preparing a man for his long day’s journey into night. Whispering firmly, the priest said, “Renounce the devil! Let him know how little you think of his evil!” The dying man said nothing. The priest repeated his order. Still the dying man said nothing. The priest asked, “Why do you refuse to renounce the devil and his evil?” The dying man said, “Until I know where I’m heading, I don’t think I ought to aggravate anybody.”

A British company is developing computer chips that store music in women’s breast implants. This is a major breakthrough. Women are always complaining about men staring at their breasts and not listening to them.



Vacation Stories:

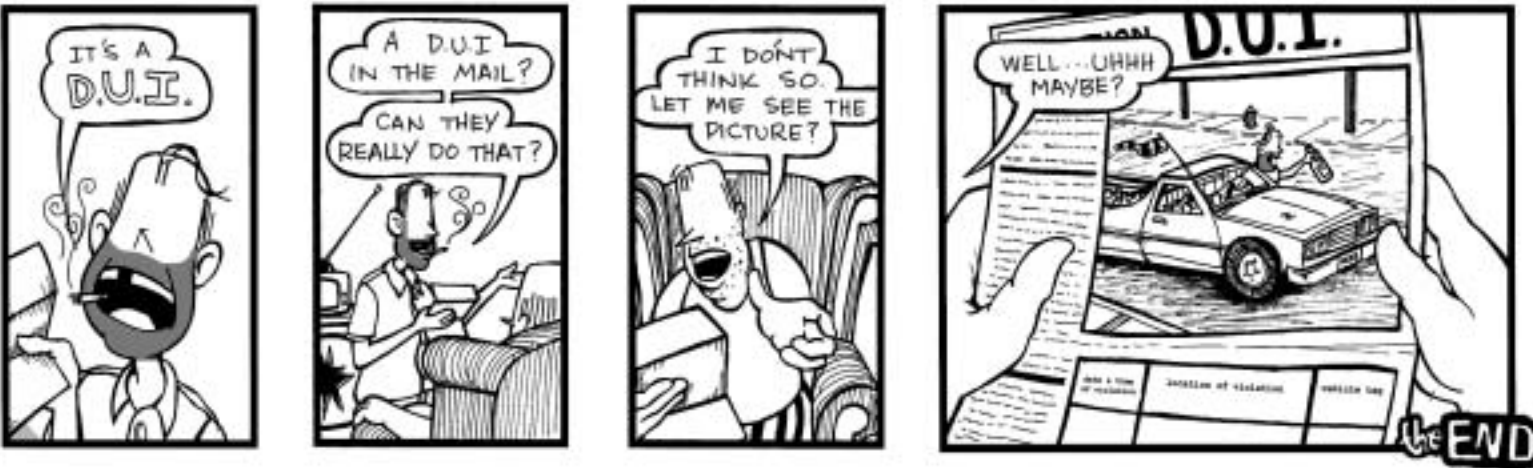
1. On vacation in Hawaii, my step mom Sandy called a café to make reservations for 7 p.m. Checking her book, the cheery hostess said, “I’m sorry, but all we have is 6:45. Would you like that?” “That’s fine,” Sandy said. “Okay,” the woman confirmed. Then she added, “Just be advised that you may have to wait 15 minutes for your table.”
2. A man and his wife went to a Dude Ranch in Texas. The cowboy preparing the horses asked the woman if she wanted a Western or English saddle, and she asked what the difference was. He told her one had a horn and one didn’t, she replied, “The one without the horn is fine. I don’t expect we’ll run into too much traffic.”



OFFSHORE



This is a “classic” Logjam from about a year ago. Jeff Hawley, please email me! - Editor@vashonloop.com



Loop Arts



Lee Tyler Post Courtesy Photo

Lee Tyler Post w/  
Angela Reed

Lee Tyler Post and his special guest Angela Reed will be performing at Cafe Luna on **Saturday, May 13**, 7:30 to 10 p.m. Post is a singer/songwriter whose style ranges from Acoustic Soul, to Roots Rock, to Folk Blues, with a splash of Adult Alternative. His lyrics convey stories of everyday people. He calls it Rock ‘N’ Soul. “Post’s sound is as much Springsteen and Van Morrison as it is Otis Redding and Al Green: blue-collar heartland grit mixed with Motor City soul...” The San Diego Troubadour

American Dreamz

May 10 & 11

Poseidon Adventure

May 12 -- May 25

Tsoti

May 16, 17, 18

Friends with Money

May 23, 24, 25

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www.vashontheater.com  
for times

A woman was telling her friend, “It is I who made my husband a millionaire.” “And what was he before you married him?” asked the friend. The woman replied, “A billionaire.”



Five Elements by Ann Leda Shapiro

Ann Leda Shapiro’s *Visual Case Studies*  
Exhibit at Two Wall Gallery This Month

*Visual Case Studies* is an exhibit of systemically anatomical paintings and drawings by Vashon artist and acupuncturist Ann Leda. Leda’s paintings come from a deep knowledge of the physical and spiritual body. If you look at a person as an interconnected system of energetic, structural, emotional, and fluid processes, a whole person, instead of the appearance of a person, they look different. Her fluid drawings float and pulse across her compositions. The figures occupy ornate spaces decorated with her impressions of traditional Chinese design and atmospheric anomalies. Ann’s exhibit at the Two Wall Gallery will be defined in two bodies of work. *The Five Elements* are shaped paintings on cut paper that depict the distilled elements of the human body. *Visual Case Studies* are large paintings and small drawings that deal more with the person and the therapeutic process. Leda Shapiro’s exhibit will float around the walls of the Two Wall Gallery from **May 4 through May 28**. If you have any questions about art or acupuncture, call Ann Leda Shapiro, L.Ac. at (206) 463-3967.1

Robbie Fulks and Danny Barnes at Bishop’s  
Powerhouse Show by Two Local Stars

Fans of high-octane American music, rejoice!

Robbie Fulks and Danny Barnes are returning to Bishop’s Cafe and Lounge, on **Tuesday, May 16**, at 8 p.m. to treat islanders to a rollicking night of mind-boggling musical prowess. “Barnes and Fulks are both beloved visitors on Vashon Island, having performed here separately on several notable occasions,” says Liz Shepherd, an Islander who is organizing the concert. “Last July, Danny joined Robbie’s band at Bishop’s and played several songs, to the delight of a sold-out, cheering crowd. I’m just thrilled that they are coming back now to do an entire show together. This will be a real double dose of tour-de-force musicianship.” Danny Barnes, singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, has been thrilling Northwest music lovers since he relocated to Port Townsend from Austin, Texas in 1997. He was the driving force behind the genre-hopping band Bad Livers. Recently he has released several critically acclaimed albums, including *Get Myself Together* and *Dirt on the Angel*. In his solo work and with such bands as Thee Old Codgers and MyLab, he has collaborated with such artists as Wayne Horvitz, Bill Frisell, Robin Holcomb, Robert Earl Keen and Tim O’Brien. Robbie Fulks says of his collaboration with Barnes, “Danny and I have enjoyed a friendship of many years based largely, at least from my own vantage point, on the grounds that his erudition and breadth and freakish musical ability make him useful company to have around.” Fulks, an imposing 6 foot 5 inch stage presence who hails from Chicago, is known for his elegant, sophisticated songwriting, masterful crooning and flat-pick guitar wizardry. Fulks has released seven critically acclaimed albums including *Georgia Hard*, which made many of last year’s top ten country music lists. Robbie has appeared on the *Grand Ole Opry*, *Austin City Limits*, and countless honkytonks across the United States. He is the host of *Robbie’s Secret Country*, a radio program (broadcast on XM Radio) on which he has hosted and performed with such iconic guests as Ray Price, Connie Smith, Billy Joe Shaver, Marty Stuart, Otis Clay, Bill Frisell, Wayne Hancock, Al Anderson, Buddy Miller, Guy Clark, Terry Allen, Bill Kirchen, Phil Lee, Redd Volkaert, Dallas Wayne, and others. On May 16 at Bishops, Barnes and Fulks can be expected to whip it out in bluegrass, power-pop, southern rock, country, jazz, or whatever other musical genre strikes their ample whimsy at the time.

May 10, 06

Blackberry Bear  
and the  
Huckleberry  
Hollow Tales

St. Patrick’s Day at Tooley’s Part 3

When Blackberry got a little ways out into the woods, he sat down by a tree and called:

“Ho sharee! Ho sharoo! Leprechaun, Leprechaun, I’ll catch you!”

For that was what all good Leprechaun Hunters were supposed to say as they waited. Blackberry began to snooze off and in a moment he heard something rustling in his gunny sack. He snatched it up quickly and yelled out, “Now I’ve got you, you little Leprechaun!”

Needless to say there was quite a commotion in the bag, and Blackberry was most amazed when he herad his name yelled out from inside the bag.

“Blackberry! Blackberry! Put me down! It’s me, Ratty!”

“Ratty? Whatever were you doing in my gunny sack?”

“Your gunny sack? Oops...I just smelled the cookies and started to eat them. They sure are good, too!” said Ratty as he licked his paws. “Got anymore?”

“Ratty, they were supposed to be the bait for the Leprechaun! Now get out of my sack so I can refill it!”

Ratty looked thoughtful. “Hey, Blackberry, don’t you think the Leprechaun might see you and figure it out?” Then quick as quick Ratty stood up straight and said, “Well, anyway, good luck! I’m going back to the party for more of these cookies.”

“You know, he’s right,” thought Blackberry as Ratty slipped away through the forest. “The Leprechaun will see me...hum...but what if I put on Wizzy’s magic bracelet?”

So Blackberry put on the bracelet, and POOF! disappeared! He sat down and waited.

Not far away, “Begorrah, but I do smell something delightful in the air,” said Shamus the Leprechaun as he walked along the woodland path. “Where is it comin’ from, I wonder?”

Now, Leprechauns have very good noses and it didn’t take him long to start eating those delicious peanut butter cookies. Blackberry had been patiently watching the whole thing, and once Shamus was completely inside the gunny sack, Blackberry snatched it up!

“Ah hah! Now I’ve got you!” shouted Blackberry. “That wasn’t so hard! Don’t know what everyone’s fuss was about...just set out a few peanut butter cookies, and, *hey presto!* You have a Leprechaun in your bag!”

The bag was dangling this way and that, and you can be sure old Shamus was doing quite a jig in that sack trying to figure out just who had him and how to get out of there.

“Hey, who are you and what gives? Let me out to have a peek!” yelled Shamus from inside the sack.

“OK, but only half way,” said Blackberry, as he loosened the end of the sack.

“So just where are you?” called out Shamus, “And who are you?”

“*I’m Blackberry Bear and I live in the woods over there*,” Blackberry sang. “*I’ve got fuzzy furry...*”

“Give me another clue!” interrupted Shamus.

“*...cheeks, and I’m ever so debonair...*” continued Blackberry. “*I’m Blackberry, ever so debonairly, Blackberry Bear!* Nice to make your acquaintance.”

“This isn’t funny!” said Shamus. “You can see me but I can’t see you!”

“Yep, that’s about it,” chuckled Blackberry.

“And I certainly don’t see any bear!” said Shamus. “Now who are you, really?”

To Be Continued





Photos by Hawk Jones

# The Making of Annie: Wrap-Up

By Susan Wolf

The theater is dark now, the stage has been struck. Gone are the props, the New York City mansion backdrop, bunks and drapes. The dressing rooms, which had been stuffed for weeks with hats, dresses, feather dusters and character shoes, are bare and silent. The bathrooms have been scrubbed and the carpet vacuumed. Desks shoved to one wall are now neatly lined up in rows. The students that pour into the school on Monday will never know we were there at all.

No more songs rehearsals at the Burton church hall, no more dances at the Blue Heron. The strike party, which was filled with people, food, laughter, animated chatter and kids playing on the lawn, is over. I quietly collect my souvenirs, wait for photos, and plan my scrapbook pages.

During the rehearsals and performances of Annie, I missed my mother-in-law's 80th birthday; my granddaughter's sixth birthday; and my estranged son's impromptu visit home before leaving for his new civilian job in Iraq (Young men, take note: if you really want to see a relative, PLEASE call first!). Bags of recycling have collected, bathrooms are unscrubbed, and my desk cluttered. The family has eaten more than its fair share of frozen dinners.

The memories are vivid now of my one-legged hop out of the way of the opening dressing room door while my pantyhose were looped around one ankle in the mad scramble into my next costume change. I can still see Marita's smiling eyes and quick hands coaxing the correct notes from our throats, Kathy Bonner's playful figure joining the French Maids' leggy dance and Libbie Anthony's unconventional humor directing our acting. I wasn't prepared for the overwhelming love.



Photo by Hawk Jones

Coming from the stress of work with its varying attitudes and deadlines into a group of strange people with friendly smiles happily learning something new, it was impossible to miss the joy with which each approached the task. To be a part of a group so excited to be there, so focused on succeeding at their work, felt



Photo by Hawk Jones

as if I had slipped into an alternative universe where things only seemed the same on the surface.

I'll miss Elaine's asking people to zip her up, Susan's quiet smile, Phyllis' chuckle, Megan's hair mascara, Vassa's youthful complements, Joan's genius at portraying different characters and the orphan's grins and ragged dusters. I'll remember the stifled hysterical laughter backstage at our valiant band's occasional horn squeaks and off-key strings (who knew the music was printed wrong?). The friendly support from every man, woman and child was so prevalent that any cast member who dared to be cranky, competitive or critical was quickly shunned.

I finally reached my bed that last night exhausted and happy to have been a part of such a wildly successful Drama Dock production (8 out of 9 sold-out houses). I said to my husband, "It was great, but I'm sure glad it's over."

To my surprise, he said, "Well, maybe you'll get a chance to do something like that again sometime."

Still worn out, my feet smarting, I bluntly asked, "Why?" only half joking.

"Because," he said quietly, "you became a better person."



Photo by Hawk Jones

Look for an Annie retrospective book, published by Kota Press and featuring the photography of Hawk Jones, coming soon!

## Vashon Bookshop

Two women at the corner of Bank and Highway...  
"So...where should we go?"  
"How 'bout the Bookshop! Kronos is right there, and then we can go to the Tea Shop!  
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## What's Happening at Vashon Bookshop?

By Devon Atkins

Summer begins almost opening a window -- my daughter leaves to catch a bus at six,

the neighbor dog whines for company. I pull on shoes and sweats, walk to the corner

where a man in a big hat shrugs and trusts unruly cars to crash into his flat fernald yard.

I head down 156th to the tom that strolls the street tail high to greet me. (Sometimes it seems like hunger,

sometimes like spilt milk.) At first I stop, then take a left around the Point where a goat, a rooster and a pig, I think,

remind me of a picture book, of reading in the Bookshop, of listening next door to women drinking Tea, to delight

stacked high in Kronos. Tomorrow I'll open the window, decide to believe in fairy tales, and remember it's a goat, a sheep, and a pig

like promises made in every children's book, or lost poems I feel but don't remember, like the sky when the moon is missing.

(Which only goes to prove, once again, that there is more to Vashon Bookshop than just books.)

~~~~~

Anna Rose Steps Up

The first weekend of Annie's the show's Annie, Megan Hackett, became ill and was unable to do the Sunday matinee. Anna Rose Warren was called to fill in, and she did. Photographer Hawk Jones photographed the morning's rehearsal and preparation and the show, and sent some photos with his remarks.

"I have never seen a group of people band together like this to help a young actor prepare for a performance," Hawk begins. "I have also never seen an actor assume a role as quickly as Anna Rose. It was a magic day that truly demonstrated the spirit of community theater."



Photo by Hawk Jones

what will probably amount to only one performance?



Photo by Hawk Jones

am as cast members streamed in to help Anna Rose learn her lines, songs, and dance routines. As a side note, Anna Rose



Photo by Hawk Jones

was fully prepared to have Henna applied to her hair, thus turning it red until it grows out. Since time would not permit the Henna application red hair mascara was used instead...you just have to see the back stage scramble to get the hair mascara applied.



Photo by Hawk Jones

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