

The *Loop* Welcomes Subway and congratulates local owners Lea Wilson and Jim & Lynn Wilsonit's a family deal



In This Issue:
Volunteer Opportunities; Un-Mayor's Race; Oh Deer; Red Perl rides again; And much much more

McMurray Mustangs Rock the Rainier Valley League

Page 16



Red Perl rides again

Arts Page 18 & Page 19



The Making of Annie

THE LOOP

Vol. 3 #8

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

April 12, 2006



Child with bricks

Photo by Maridee Bonadea

What are you waiting for?

Volunteer Abroad

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

Ann McLaughlin has always been intensely focused on making this a better world in a "hands-on" rather than a "head in the clouds" way.

Which may explain why she is the owner/operator of nGoAbroad, a unique referral service and clearinghouse that custom-fits peoples' skills, interests and goals with

international humanitarian needs ("NGO" stands for "Non-Government Organization," and is pronounced by saying the letters, "n - g - o").

McLaughlin's enthusiasm as she talks about her work is palpable.

"The emphasis is on service," she began. "I'm a matchmaker. People who want to do humanitarian service email me describing their skill set."

"Then we talk about their international experience, languages they can speak, what they hope to accomplish and what they contribute. The result is a tailored fit of volunteer skills with international need."

So what kind of volunteers, and what kind of volunteer work, are we talking about here?

"For example: a Health Educator from Missoula asked for AIDS work in SE Asia; a New Mexico Social Work student requested resources

Many people have a tremendous yearning to do humanitarian service.

Get Ready to Hula at the Co-op Preschool Auction!

By Ed Swan

Are you ready for some fun? There's no doubt that the Vashon-Maury Cooperative Preschool (VMCP) throws the best parties with their fundraisers. As last year's island luau was so successful, the Coop Preschool decided to do another one, so dig out the grass skirts, coconut bras and loud shirts, and get ready for those famous VMCP "Blue Hawaiians" to get you in the spending mood. The auction takes place at the VFW Hall at **6:00 p.m., Saturday, April 29**. In addition to being fun, the auction provides the fundraiser for the preschool. Other than student tuition, the Coop Preschool forms an independent non-profit with no



Dressed for a luau

Photo courtesy of Cooperative Preschool

further funding. Teacher salaries, the school scholarship fund and supplies all come out of the proceeds of this vital event.

This year the auction holds some extra special meaning for hundreds of parents and youth of the island. Teacher Barb Danforth completes her 17th and farewell year at the preschool. The depth of her wisdom and experience accomplished amazing feats of education for both children and parents. Many parents have remarked on their experiences with Barb. Long-time islander Nancy Silver's children were some of Barb's first students at VMCP. She credits Barb and the preschool

Continued on page 9



Photo Courtesy of Vashon Senior Center

Senior Center Salutes Volunteers

By Deirdre Petree

Vashon Camp Fire Star Flight Group dropped off 90 beautiful and reusable bead napkin rings they made for the Senior Center's annual "Salute to Volunteers" luncheon on **Friday, April 21, at 11 a.m.** at Camp Burton. Everyone's invited to the lunch, and it's free, please call the SC at 463-5173 for reservations. Enjoying the young women's song are SC members Helen Pierce, Marylou Hillendahl, Lorraine Oliver, George Eustice and Luella Lodahl.

"Annie" Opens This Friday, April 14, at the Vashon High School Theater! Curtain up at 8 p.m. Story, page 19



Mt. Tahoma (Rainier) seen from Goat Rocks Wilderness Photo courtesy of PCTA

Volunteer Vacations: Pacific Crest Trail

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

Have you considered a working vacation in the wilderness?

"We can always use more volunteers," said Island resident Mike Dawson, Trail Operations Director for the Pacific Crest Trail. "We need volunteers, from a day to a week. We always have several trips and projects set up on the Trail."

"People who volunteer don't need any particular experience. All tools and instruction are provided. Working on the Trail is a great way to spend your vacation and see what it's all about. Bring what you would take on a regular hike - backpack, clothes, sleeping bag, etc. - and we provide meals, group equipment, and safety gear."

Volunteer Vacation Opportunities:
Visit the Washington Trail Association website: www.wta.org

Volunteers pay a fee of \$125 (\$100 for Washington Trails Association members) for their first volunteer experience, but for second and subsequent volunteer weeks the fee is \$50.

The Pacific Crest Trail is one of eight National Scenic Trails, of which only three are complete, and it is the only one on the West Coast. It runs from Canada to Mexico, a length of about 2,650 miles. It is crossed by public roads and right of ways at many points, so it is easily accessible to the public.

"There's a place north of Snoqualmie that tons of people hike," Dawson said. "The largest percentage of trail use is by day and weekend hikers. Only about three hundred people try to hike the whole trail every year, and many of

Continued on page 5

Continued on page 5

Get in The Loop

VashonBePrepared.ORG

How much water do you need for each person in your household to be ready for a disaster?

- Better than nothing: 3 gallons
- Good: 7 gallons
- Better: 10 gallons
- Best: 14 gallons



Director Tina Parrish and the Vashon Hand Bell Choir at work Courtesy Photo

Hand Bell Concert

By Phyllis Smith

Please join the Vashon Hand Bell Choirs on **Sunday, April 23, at 5:00 p.m.**, for music and sweets by the Vashon Hand Bell Choirs. There will be two choirs, small ensembles and a vocal piece with bells. The choirs, directed by Tina Parrish, will play some contemporary songs, such as *Can You Feel the Love Tonight?* and *Seasons of the Heart*; a selection from the Ring-a-story series entitled *Joseph & the Coat*; and one with vocalists and some sacred pieces. A small group will play *Psalm of Love*. Please join us for dessert followed by the uplifting music.

The Vashon Hand Bell Choirs are open to the community. All are welcome to join us. Phone the Church office at 463-9804 for more information. This is a fundraising event for the maintenance of the hand bells as well as supplies and music.

Women’s Ecumenical Spring Tea

All Island women are invited to The Women’s Ecumenical Spring Tea at the Vashon United Methodist Church on **Saturday, April 22** at 1:00 p.m. There will be fancy sandwiches, cookies and dessert breads served with tea followed by a special program by storyteller Debbie Dimitre as Harriet Beecher Stowe telling her own story and the courageous story of Harriet Tubman and the underground railroad. This annual tea is sponsored by the United Methodist Women organization on the island.

Call Claire Hallowell at 567-4629 by April 17, 2006 for reservations. Act quickly as this is a popular event.

Earth Update at the Community Council

At its next meeting the Vashon-Maury Community Council will observe Earth Day by hearing a State of the Island Environment report from the Sustainability Committee. The committee will talk about local environmental benchmarks and describe the many Vashon environmental projects and successes since last Earth Day. The meeting is 7:30 p.m., **Monday, April 17**, Courthouse Square. The building is open at 7 p.m. for refreshments.

Radio Club Meets

The Vashon-Maury Island Radio Club will meet on **Thursday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Presbyterian Church. Please come meet and greet our new hams (I hope many of you new hams can make it!). Phil W7PDZ will set up and use a Winlink station, sending email via VHF radio — very cool. We’ll have a radio show-and-tell. All you grizzled veterans bring a radio, VHF or HF and show it off, especially to the new hams. New hams are encouraged to bring a radio and the manual or a catalog. Everyone will chip in and assist with programming or selecting a radio to buy. This month is an appetizer potluck. Please bring a plate of something tasty, and your own utensils, or just come and eat stuff. Spouse/partner and family members are welcome! The food is always excellent, the programs are stimulating. For more information, please call Bob N7RDP at 463-7551.

Grief Workshop Series

“Between the Worlds” is a six-week series exploring life after death, dying, grief, and unresolved issues in the family past. Details about content can be found on vashoncalendar.org. The workshop is led by Rondi Lightmark, M.A., a writer and counselor who has published essays and articles on these topics in both academic and mainstream literature. Rondi was a caregiver for four people who died of cancer, including her husband and mother; her website (www.healgrief.com) explores life after death and offers healing tools and excerpts of her writing. The workshop series will take place on **Wednesday evenings** from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. beginning on **April 12** and ending on **May 17**. The cost is sliding scale, from \$60-90 and the location will be determined by the size of the group. For information and to register call 463-0831 or email lightmark@copper.net

Murano Speaks to Dems

The Vashon Democratic Club meets this **Saturday, April 15, at 6 p.m.** This month, our guest speaker will be Nina Murano. Nina will share her experiences and insights into the political and social changes that have recently swept Latin America, especially Venezuela and Bolivia. Come take advantage of this opportunity to learn from someone who has traveled extensively in the area, and not just researched the issue from the comfort of an armchair! We meet in the Land Trust building: potluck social at 6:00 p.m., meeting 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Roger Fulton at 463-5652.

An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her.
-- Agatha Christie

Adopt-A-Cat Day

Vashon Island Pet Protectors will host an Adopt-A-Cat Day on Saturday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Sunday, April 23 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Pandora’s Box. Please stop by or call Vipp 206-389-1085.



They call me, “Cupcake.” You gotta problem with that?

VIPP Plant Sale April 22

Vashon Island Pet Protectors Plant Sale will be on Saturday, April 22nd 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Firefighter’s Association Building. Here’s your opportunity to pick up a few of our Island grown plants or, if you’d like to make a little space in your garden, contribute a few (drop off on Friday, April 21st 9-3p.m.). Call Judy 463-1810 for more information.

- Great Triduum, Easter Services
- Bethel Evangelical Free Church
- Easter Sunday, 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service; 8:45 a.m. Breakfast; 10 a.m. Church Service
- Burton Community Church: 11 a.m. Easter Sunday
- Camp Burton: Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. at the Amphitheater (in the Lodge in case of rain) Coffee & hot cross buns after.
- Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints: 9 a.m. Sunday
- Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit: Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service; Friday, 7:30 p.m., Good Friday Service; Holy Saturday, 8 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter; Easter Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist; 9 a.m., Labyrinth walk with harp accompaniment. Child care and youth activities at all services.
- Lisabeula Cavalry Church: Easter Sunday, 9:15 a.m. Breakfast; 10:30 a.m. Service; 7 p.m. Evening Service.
- St. John Vianney Catholic Church: Holy Thursday Mass, 7:30 p.m.; Good Friday Liturgy, 7:30 p.m.; The Easter Vigil, 5 a.m. Easter morning; Sunday Mass, 10 a.m.
- Vashon Island Community Church: Easter Sunday, Sunday School 9 a.m.; Worship Service 10 a.m., with special Easter music
- Vashon Lutheran Church: Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.; Good Friday, 7 p.m.; Holy Saturday, 8 p.m. Easter Vigil; Easter Sunday, Breakfast, 9 a.m., Service, 10 a.m.
- Vashon Presbyterian Church: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Good Friday, 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross; Easter Sunday, 10 a.m.
- Vashon United Methodist Church: Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Last Supper play; Friday, 7:30 p.m., Taize service of meditation and hymns; Easter Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Joyful celebration! No Sunday School. Children’s Church available. Activities provided for children beginning at 9:45 a.m. Child care provided for all services.

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Transportation Issues At League of Women Voters

Vicki Mercer will be the speaker when The League of Women Voters gathers at the Vashon Public Library **Thursday, April 20, at 2:30 p.m.** Vicki has become one of the foremost Island authorities on our ferry situation. She has worked closely with our legislators and Dow Constantine to give the Ferry System information she and others have developed, and to give voice to our concerns. We will get the latest on where we fit in now with the System’s plans, and what we need to do to have the best possible outcome for Vashon Island. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call Jennie Hodgson, at 463-5408.

The Vashon Loop

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Published every two weeks
by Paradise Valley Press
© April 12, 2006 ~ Volume III, Issue 8

Troy and Marie Invite You For a Cuppa



Spring is here and that means it's Real Estate Season! If you are out enjoying our beautiful Island on Sunday, April 23, we'd love to see you at our Open Houses. We'll be there from 1:00 to 4:00, and it is rumored that there will be treats. (Marie does not bake, but she knows some people who do. Troy does not bake either, but he brews a mean cup of coffee, camp style...) Give us a call if you need directions. 463-LIST (5478).



Off Island Properties



Port Orchard Rambler
Price Reduced!
\$189,500

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You found it!
A completely remodeled four-bedroom home for way under \$200,000. It's one of the most spacious homes in the neighborhood. Bright, brand new kitchen with Pergo-style flooring, full bathroom off the master bedroom, single car garage with new door, separate laundry room, and a fenced back yard with a deck.

Near Port Orchard

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- fenced yard
- new berber carpet



Tacoma Condo with a View
Just Listed!
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Spacious well maintained 3rd floor end unit condo in gated community near Narrows bridge. Beautifully landscaped grounds. Deck overlooks parklike grassy area with gazebo. View of mountains and sound. Amenities include outdoor pool, sportcourt, clubhouse, and exercise room. Easy access to Hwy 16 and I-5. Condo includes 1 year Home Warranty

- 2 bedroom
- 1.75 bath
- 1124 sq ft
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- Sport Court
- Clubhouse
- Exercise room

Contact Listing Agent
Shari Lyons
206-406-6347

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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

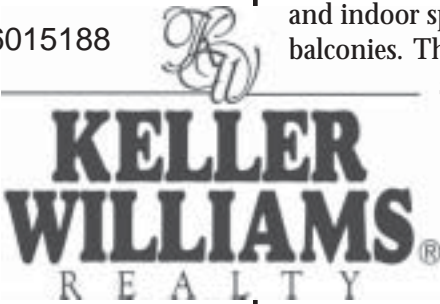
Waterfront! 22908 Vashon Hwy SW

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



Loop Letters

Letters to the Editor: editor@vashonloop.com
Have mercy: keep it to 300 or fewer words. Thanks.

Editor, *The Loop*:
I have tried to stay out of public involvement in the “fire house wars.”

However, I must object to the abuse being heaped onto Gayle Sommers.

This woman has given of herself to the community for many years. She has served as president of the School Board and vice president of the Community Council. In her work at Vashon Youth & Family Services she has been a strong advocate for people in need.

When Gayle ran for fire commissioner, her platform was to open up the Fire Department’s process to the community, and that is exactly what she has done. She has structured meetings and provided information which allow for liberal public participation, much more so than in the past.

It is unreasonable to call a two-minute time limit for speaking “arbitrary.” This is common practice in large public meetings. The process was clearly explained at the beginning of the meeting. Gayle led the April 4th meeting in a calm, professional manner under the most difficult of circumstances.

This is a difficult and painful time for the community. Three new commissioners have been elected by a large margin, Gayle over the incumbent chair. After years of conflict the community has clearly called for change.

We should cease the personal attacks and digging at old wounds.

We need to move on. A threatened recall election would be the most damaging thing that could be done to the community.

Marilyn Omev
463-3259

Editor, *The Loop*:

A big thank you to everyone who gave donations to “Project Beanie Babies”! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Soon all donated beanies will be finding new homes in the hearts and hands of the Iraqi children. Over 200 were collected which my son, Army SPC Kevin Riley, will be distributing to Iraqi children during missions as well as to the local schools in Mosul.

Log onto: “Projectbeaniebabies4iraq.org” for updates and photos coming soon. Many thanks,
Terrie Kipp

Editor, *The Loop*:

The first Vashon Wine Shop closed on Friday, March 31st. I will be re-opening in a space next to Dig. As a new Islander I have felt a very warm welcome here; I’m committed to the Island community and this business and look forward to seeing you in my new location. Thanks so much to each and every one of you for your continued support while the Vashon Wine Shop evolves. I want to express my appreciation for both your interest and friendship.

Stephen McClure

Long Live the Un-Mayor’s Race

By Melinda Sontgerath

I can’t imagine anything more fun than being the Unofficial Mayor of an island — especially since the only instructions state that the Mayor can do whatever she/he wants during the year-long reign.

Being the only election where you can buy a vote (yeah, right), running mates raise a good deal of money for several organizations that depend on this kind of support to stay alive.

Due to the generosity of islanders, the following organizations have received large donation checks: IDVOS, Vashon Food Bank, VYFS, VIPP, YMCA, Senior Center, and PTSA.

The fruits of this whimsical yet important race enhance the lives of children, seniors and pets. My passion as Mayor has lain in bringing people in the community together but every Mayor has a different agenda, which makes it even more fun.

If you’re interested in running, throw your hat in the ring – I promise you’ll have a great time!

Nuts and bolts (votes and bucks):

Contenders can launch their bids at this point by publicizing their intentions to local media (with pertinent candidate contact-

information) and by leaving a copy of the campaign announcement with the Chamber of Commerce.

Bids must include the name of the nonprofit the candidate’s votes will support (organization must be a 501 c 3). Candidates must have permission (from their chosen organization) to participate on that organization’s behalf.

One vote costs one dollar, the candidate with the most dollars/votes triumphs.

Candidates must register donation cans (and other money-making vehicles) with the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber collects the money and records the amounts each candidate has raised.

Voting ends **Saturday, July 8**, at 10 p.m. at the Beer Garden. The Chamber notifies the winner who is then presented to the community on **Sunday, July 9**, at Ober Park. And while the Unofficial Mayor wields no power *per se*, he or she can take pride in making Vashon a better place to live.

Creative fund-raising ideas include strategic placement of donation cans at various Island businesses, making speeches, waving signs at intersections, and whatever will work for you.

Most of all, have fun.

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Here and Now:

Vashon-Maury Island Film at Vashon Theatre

Vashon filmmaker Robert Bornn will launch *Here and Now: Vashon-Maury Island* at The Vashon Theatre on **April 14 and 15**. This nine-minute short is an unconventional view of nature in an artistic, narrative-free, and nonviolent style. Filmed throughout 2005, the film’s ethereal abstracts and naturalism touch on each season on Vashon-Maury.

“I wanted this movie to be about the natural energy of the Pacific Northwest with a timeless theme of cosmic unity,” says Bornn. The film shows evocative natural waterscapes and landscapes on Quartermaster Harbor set to *Discovery Suite*, Robert’s original, improvisational piano medley.



Still from *Here and Now: Vashon-Maury Island*, film by Robert Bornn

Here and Now begins five minutes before *Heart of Gold* on **Friday, April 14** at 5:50 p.m., and **Saturday, April 15** at 6:50 p.m. *Here and Now* will also screen during Island Earth Day Film Festival.

Call Robert at 463-4284 or visit www.seadriftmedia.com, www.bornn.com, and www.coachworth.com for more information.

Progressive/Green Film: Omar and Pete

The Vashon Progressive/Green Party is presenting the film *Omar and Pete*, the first in a series of documentary and dramatic films that confront important contemporary issues and can be used through discussion to better understand complex world problems.

Omar and Pete will be shown at Café Luna on **Thursday, April 13**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Written, produced, and directed by Academy Award® nominated and national Emmy award-winning filmmaker Tod Lending, Omar and Pete shows how challenging life on the outside can be for men who have lived much of their lives behind bars (from www.newvideo.com).

For more information either about this film or about the Progressive/Green Party on Vashon Island, please call Daniel Asher at 567-0593.

Grant Given for Green Films

Sustainable Vashon has awarded Vashon Earth Awareness Coalition (VEAC) a \$250 Green Seed grant to purchase ten films focused on the environment and sustainability.

The First Annual Island Earth Day Film Festival will be held on Vashon Island during Earth Day 2006 weekend, **April 22 and 23, 2006**. Details on these and other excellent films are available at <http://filmfest.islandearthfair.org> and <http://GreenPlanetFilms.org>.

VEAC was formed ten years ago to produce Island Earthfair every August. To celebrate our Ten Year anniversary, VEAC is opening our event calendar early with a film festival promoting sustainability and stewardship of the earth.

For further information visit <http://filmfest.islandearthfair.org>, email: filmfest@islandearthfair.org, or call (206) 779-9459.

Earth Day Film Fest Schedule

Friday Night 7:30 p.m. @ Courthouse Square — VMICC’s Sustainable Practices Committee Presents: *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*

Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. @ the Vashon Island Grower’s Association Pavilion and the Land Trust Building: *French Fries to Go — Stories from the Seventh Fire, Part 1; Stories from the Seventh Fire, Part 2; The Future of Food.*

3 p.m. to 8 p.m. @ Court House Square: *Salmonera*; with post-film discussion; *The Baltic: Sea of Surprises*, with post-film discussion; *Oil on Ice*, with post-film discussion.

Sunday: 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. @ Court House Square: *The Next Industrial Revolution*, with post-film discussion; *Indigenous People: Humane and Environmental Sustainability*, with post-film discussion; *Building With Awareness, or, Architecture to Zucchini*, with post-film discussion.

Volunteer Abroad

Continued from page 1

so that she can do her internship in Brazil; a Hungarian man wanted to work with autistic kids in Malta so he could bring new practices and perspectives home; a Ugandan journalist now in Vancouver asked for inroads into Health Communication, so that he could educate Africans about TB, malaria, polio and AIDS.”

“You see what I mean? Custom-fit to each person’s skills and goals. On the other end of the connection, indigenous organizations in other



Cambodian volleyball team
Photo courtesy standup.org

countries contact me to request volunteers.”

Because she is communicating with NGOs all around the globe every day, McLaughlin has a clear picture of what’s out there.

Some people want to volunteer but don’t have a grasp of what the Third World is like.

“Some people don’t understand that it may take weeks to get an answer to an email because people have to save up money for bus fare and then ride three hours to the internet café to read and answer email; things like pit toilets, no electricity, unclean water, and the lack of money in the Third World can be a tremendous culture shock.”

How did nGoAbroad begin?
“nGoAbroad began with the same passion that I hear in those that contact me,” McLaughlin said. “I did extensive research about international affairs ten years ago. This research proved to be a valuable foundation for nGoAbroad.”

“After I returned from working on a Social Work project in Yugoslavia, people asked, ‘How did you get that job?’ I realized that many people have a tremendous yearning to do humanitarian service; a yearning that they have nurtured for a lifetime.”

For more information about nGoAbroad, check out the nGoAbroad website at www.nGoAbroad.com, or email: info@ngoabroad.com. Briefly state your skills, interests and goals. If you send a resume, put it into the email, don’t send it as an attachment.

For what can war but endless war still breed? -- Milton, *On the Lord General Fairfax*

Pacific Crest Trail

Continued from page 1

them don’t make it all the way, mostly because of weather and snow packs.”

“Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail is one of the greatest adventures in America.”

The Trail is built to equestrian standards, because it is intended for hikers and horses. The Trail is wider than most trails, and is more sturdily built. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the Trail.

“The PCT is easier to hike than the Appalachian Trail,” he said. “The issues are snow, and altitude.”

Dawson has been working for the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) for a little over two years. Previously he worked for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (The PNTA runs east to west, from the Olympic Peninsula to Glacier, Montana), and before that he worked on the Appalachian Trail for twenty-one years. “The PCTA is a major private partner with state and federal agencies. The US Forest Service is the lead agency, and our primary affiliate in Washington is the Washington Trails Association, which works on all non-motorized trails.”

Dawson has hiked many segments of the PCT and works with volunteers to keep the Trail in shape. He hasn’t done the whole trail yet. At this point he’s too busy coordinating Trail maintenance and volunteers, and keeping track of the Trail’s condition. “We had 42,000 volunteer hours last year.” He is on the road about half the time, visiting different parts of the Trail and the Association’s headquarters in Sacramento, California.

“When the PCTA asked me if I’d like to work for them, I said yes, but not in Sacramento!” He had settled on Vashon Island and knew that he wanted to stay here, so he telecommutes when he’s at home. “I couldn’t have done this ten years ago,” he said.

The Association has eight paid staff positions and about two thousand volunteers at any given

Tacoma Condo
with a View

Just Listed!

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time. There are always volunteer opportunities. Interested people can look on the Washington Trails Association website, www.wta.org, to see what’s available.

When asked if he had a personal favorite segment of the trail, he said, “Hart’s Pass, north of the Canadian border, through the North Cascades on the high ground between the Skagit and Methow Valleys.”

Although the Trail is complete from border to border, “We still have about 300 miles we consider unprotected,” Dawson said. “These are places with narrow right-of-ways running through private land. There’s some land south of Snoqualmie Pass we’d like to buy, but we have to come up with the funds.”

Which might be something else you could volunteer.

Visit the Washington Trail Association website: www.wta.org

Did you ever notice that when a politician does get an idea he usually gets it all wrong? -- archy, by Don Marquis

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Spiritual Smart Aleck

by Mary Litchfield Tuel



Not the Done Thing

Islanders are passionate and sometimes polarized on many issues: global warming, George Bush, Hillary Clinton, gravel mines, a Vashon bridge – any of these topics can raise temperatures; however, if there is one issue that tweaks an Islander more than another, it is this: cutting into the ferry line.

A few years ago an Islander ran for political office. He was doing all right until the day he was seen, so the story goes (and I wasn't there so I don't know if it's true), coming out of the side street on the ferry hill, turning left, and getting into line, instead of turning right and driving up the hill to the end of the line.

The word got out. After that the guy couldn't have been elected to bring cupcakes to third grade, at least on Vashon. He claimed on his own behalf that he hadn't seen the line going up the hill and didn't realize he was cutting into line. This is the standard defense for line cutting: "I didn't know."

On March 27, the Tacoma Narrows Bridge was closed. On that fateful day many of the commuters who would normally drive around the Sound decided to take the ferry instead, creating unusually long ferry lines.

I had picked up one of my sons at the airport, and we arrived at Fauntleroy at four. I sighed when I saw that there was already a line. I drove one block, two blocks...man, that line was long. I drove past Lincoln Park and saw the line snaking around by the gas station. There were cars in an unbroken line as far as I could see. It ended up by the intersection of California and Fauntleroy. Cripes. We got in line up by the karaoke club and settled in to wait for as long as it took.

After about thirty or forty minutes we had moved all the way down Fauntleroy to the brick nursing home, and that's when it happened. A woman in a truck came out of the parking lot there. The car in front of me politely stopped to let her through so she could drive away.

But she didn't go through and drive away. She cut into the line.

How can I describe the feeling? The mind rebels, the gorge rises, the spirit cries out, "My God, my God, how could you let this happen?"

The woman in the truck seemed to experience some confusion. She pulled over to the side, and two cars, one of which was mine, pulled around her. Then she pulled back into line, right behind me, and stayed there.

An hour and more later we made it down to the dock. The traffic policeman, we noticed, was talking to people in cars. We saw one driver turn around in his seat and point backwards toward the truck. Ho ho, my son and I said to each other, justice!

When the policeman got to us, he asked, "Did you see the woman in the truck cut into line?" "Oh, yeah!" we both answered. He walked back to the truck and spoke to the woman. There was talk, there were smiles, and he walked away, and she stayed where she was, grinning. I asked the policeman why he hadn't

pulled her out of line. "Oh," he said, "she didn't know..." To be fair to the policeman and the ferry workers, it was an unusually tough day with all the extra commuters. When I stopped to buy a ticket at the booth, the ferry worker told me, "They've been trying to do that all day."

My son and I murmured, in the tradition of the Israelites. Finally I said, "I have my camera. I suppose I could take a picture of the truck and put it in *The Loop*."

"Do it, Mom!" my son said.



I was so ticked, so fried, so insane with the unfairness of it — the rest of us waited our two hours in line – that once on the boat I took my little camera up to where the truck was parked and snapped a couple of pictures. The driver asked me what I was doing. This is when I got in touch with my inner bitch.

"What makes you think you have the right to cut into line?" I demanded. "It isn't *done*," I said, sounding like a superior British Colonial. She followed me back to my car. She asked if I wanted her to brand a letter on her forehead. She asked why I took the pictures of her truck. I told her that I was the editor of *The Loop*.

Then she apologized. To her credit, she apologized to several other drivers as well, and when she came back and told me so, I apologized to her for my behavior, and we shook hands.

I got home at seven, having spent almost three hours to get from California Avenue to our doorstep. I learned that I can go from passive nice person to aggressive maniac in an eye blink — in public. I'm still pondering that.

Here is the unwritten law, children; write it in your hearts and minds: never, never, *never* cut into a ferry line. Especially in front of me.

It simply is not done. ∞∞∞∞

Marita E ricksen



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Don't Forget the Birds



Osprey photos by Jim

Osprey and Blue Jay

The first Osprey of the season returned in the first week of April. I saw one bringing new branches to the nest on top of the cell tower on 188th on April 4 and another sitting on the nest at the cell tower at the golf course on Maury Island on April 5. The nest on 188th has been there for at least six years and this will be the third year for the golf course nest. If you know of any other Osprey nest locations past or present for Vashon or Maury Island please give me a call.

The nests will have young in them in May and by late June and July, they will be starting their first flights around the Island. One of the best ways to find Osprey in July and August is to listen for their high peeping as the young beg for food. They follow the adults as the adults hunt and learn to dive for their fish. Favorite hunting locations for the 188th pair include the Ellisport area and Mukai Pond in the Island Center Forest. What they eat at Mukai Pond, which can't have many fish, I don't know. Osprey eat almost exclusively fish, with 2% or less of their diet coming from frogs, turtles or rodents. Maybe they're catching some bullfrogs. Osprey make very good hunters, with adults attaining higher than 80% success rates in their dives, depending on the prey fish. The young birds face a steep learning curve, in some studies catching their fish only 20-30% of the time. Observers in one study saw a bird catch a fish in each claw during one dive.

In the last century, Osprey experienced some rough times. Like Bald Eagles and many other raptors, they were shot out of hand by anyone with a gun in the first half of the 20th Century. Fishermen especially considered them competition, though often they weren't after the same fish. After they received protection and were recovering by mid-century, DDT use after World War II caused egg thinning that damaged their

By Ed Swan

breeding success. After the DDT period, Osprey numbers have rebounded and they once again can be found in most areas with lakes. They have adapted to using artificial nest platforms which has helped them to some extent. One funny thing I have seen in Eastern Washington is Canada Geese taking over Osprey nesting platforms. I did a double take at Curlew Lake seeing a Canada Goose sitting on a nest 50' high up on a snag.

Many more of our spring birds arrived besides Osprey over the last two weeks. Gary Shugart heard the first Orange-crowned Warbler at his place off Bank Road, Rick Sanders had the first Black-throated Gray Warblers at his house by Fern Cove, Rich Siegrist saw Tree Swallows joining the Violet-green Swallows in the air in the Colvos area and I noticed many Savannah Sparrows calling in the Wax Orchard area fields. Also at Wax Orchards, a Western Scrub-Jay flew across the road in front of me, carrying a big nut. The grounds around the airport look like suitable habitat for it, so it might stick around. Joy Nelsen watched a big flock of Snow Geese returning north over her house, on their way back to the arctic. Marcie Summers was fortunate to get a look at her house of a rare, for Vashon, Northern Harrier passing through. Greater Yellowlegs have already been seen this spring and I saw two more at Portage, an unusual location for them. I was also fortunate to see all three cormorant species in



Scrub Jay photo by Jim

really seen the bright blue iridescence of the Brandt's breeding colors. If you have an interesting sighting or a question about local birds, call me at 463-7976 or email at edswan@centurytel.net.

For more opportunities to learn about birds, join the monthly Audubon on-island field trip meeting **Saturday April 9 at 8 a.m.** at the Ober Park park and ride. An interesting program for making birding more enjoyable will be presented April 12 at the Land Trust building by Amy Huggins demonstrating yoga for bird watchers.

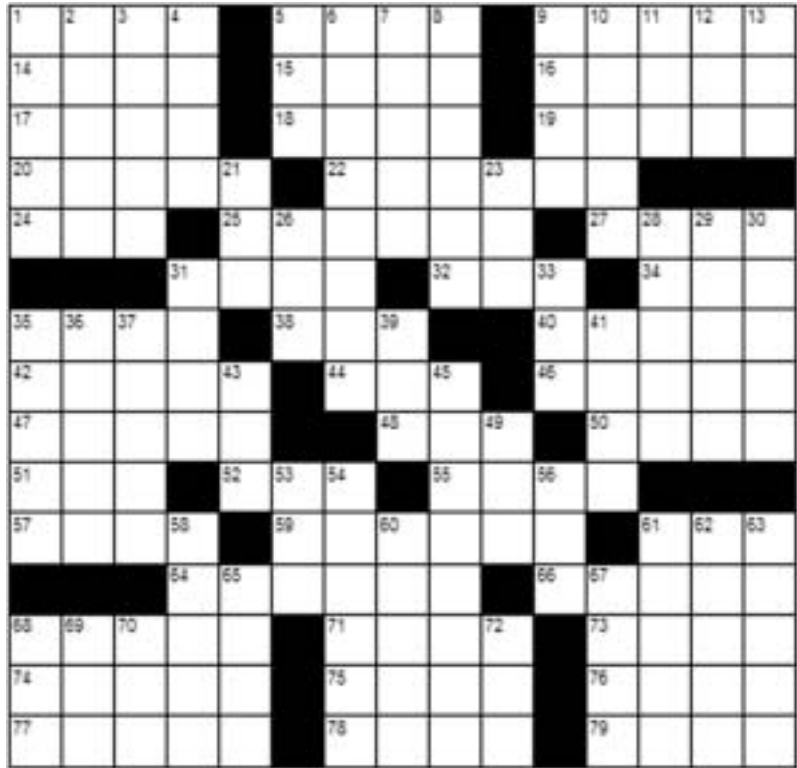
breeding plumage at the dilapidated dock next to the ferry at Tahlequah. It was the first time I have

- Across
- Association (abbr.)
 - Baby's "ball"
 - Lessen
 - South of the border crazy
 - Cain's brother
 - Soap
 - Garden or cemetery ____
 - Part of a semester
 - Boundary
 - Dislikes
 - Garden tool
 - Ornament
 - Considerate
 - Glide
 - ExtravaganA
 - t party
 - Thief's hideout
 - Winter hazard
 - Austen novel
 - Compass point
 - Orb
 - Honeys
 - Twain
 - Forestall
 - Griminess
 - Government agency
 - Time periods

- European sea eagle
 - Sprocket
 - The first garden
 - Colorer
 - Full skirted dress
 - Stood opposite
 - Titania's husband
 - ____-Lay, chip brand
 - Noodles
 - Tints
 - Soon
 - Shelter under branches
 - Young girl
 - Syllables used in songs (2 wds.)
 - Jeers
 - Otherwise
 - Turn over soil
- Down
- Omega's partner
 - Relating to the sun
 - Composer Francis ____ Key
 - Remark
 - Baseball equipment
 - Assist a crime
 - Baseball player Yogi
 - Cream color

- Qualified
- Cooks
- Fortify
- Thai
- Extension (abbr.)
- Her
- Bitty
- Shoshonean
- Tanker
- Sporty car brand
- Takes a break
- Raise crops
- BB association
- Inched forward
- Gala
- Pine Tree State
- Ram's mate
- Baker's need
- Part of a min.
- Frankness
- Sum
- Lyric poem
- Women's undergarment
- Sprite
- Helicopter "wings"
- Imperial
- Moses' mountain
- Coral reef

- Keyed
- Rods
- Flat boat
- Buddy
- Is
- Compass pt.
- Compass pt.



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National Public Radio’s *This I Believe* Series Comes To Vashon

By Rachael Ellison-Taylor

What do YOU believe? Do you have a story to tell? Here is your chance to tell it. In conjunction with Voice of Vashon (VOV) Radio and TV, the Vashon Chamber of Commerce and National Public Radio’s *This I Believe*, we are requesting essays from Vashon Islanders to be produced into a uniquely Vashon radio series to begin airing this June.

This project is inspired by Edward R. Murrow’s popular 1950s *This I Believe* radio series, currently in production again on NPR. The series asked Americans to share their personal philosophies with their countrymen through a brief essay. The result was a collection of thoughtful, moving and inspiring statements of belief from taxi drivers, students, community leaders and celebrated individuals such as Albert Einstein, President Harry S. Truman, dancer Martha Graham and many more.

I would like to similarly encourage our community to share their stories with each other. Essays should be 500 words or less and describe the events or individuals that inspired your beliefs. Essays are not meant to be political or religious credos, rather an affirmative personal story of what matters to YOU. The chosen essays will be produced into approximately 3-minute audio pieces that will air on VOV, one per week for a year. We plan to kick off this series at the June 2nd First Friday Gallery Walk with a multi-venue show featuring selected essays and portrait photographs of the Islanders who contributed them.

Our island is so rich with diverse voices! I believe this series is a fantastic way to build a much deeper understanding of the people who make up this community. These essays will connect people from all age groups, disciplines and walks of life. They will challenge stereotypes.

Quotes from NPR’s This I Believe series:

“Give, give, give – what is the point of having experience, knowledge or talent if I don’t give it away? Of having stories if I don’t tell them to others? Of having wealth if I don’t share it? I don’t intend to be cremated with any of it! It is in giving that I connect with others, with the world and with the divine.” — Novelist Isabel Allende

“I am the equal of the world not because of the car I drive, the size of the TV I own, the weight I can bench press, or the calculus equations I can solve. I am the equal to all I meet because of the kindness in my heart.” — KUOW Listener Sarah Adams

“I believe that our greatest strength in dealing with the world is the openness of our society and the welcoming nature of our people. A good stay in our country is the best public diplomacy tool we have.” — Former Secretary of State Colin Powell

“I soon understood that all succeeding good things merely offset the bad. Worse than normal wouldn’t last long. I am owed and savor the halcyon times. They reinvigorate me for the next nasty surprise and offer assurance that I can thrive.” — KCUR Listener Steve Porter

“I seem most instinctively to believe in the human value of creative writing, whether in the form of verse or fiction, as a mode of truth-telling, self-expression and homage to the twin miracles of creation and consciousness.” — Writer John Updike

“Unless one wants to live a stunningly boring life, one ought to be on good terms with one’s darker side and one’s darker energies. And, above all, that one should learn from turmoil and pain, share one’s joy with those less joyful and encourage passion when it seems likely to promote the common good.” — Psychologist Kay Redfield Jamison

They will show us what we have in common and the beauty of our unique differences. It’s a perfect VOV project, because the power of radio is a natural way to really listen to each other. It’s also an audio time capsule, a wonderful record of who we are at this moment in time. The result of this project can be shared with generations of Islanders to come and will ultimately be submitted to NPR as a snapshot of our community.

I encourage participation from ALL islanders – students, teachers, businesspeople, senior citizens, artists, the self-employed, the unemployed – and everything in between.

So please don’t be shy. We want to hear your voice. The process of exploring the genesis of your own beliefs is a reward in itself. Join those who have participated in the national project in the past year, including Bill Clinton, Isabel Allende, Drew Barrymore and Bill Gates.

If you’re interested in contributing an essay or encouraging participation in your organization, please go to www.voiceofvashon.org/thisibelieve for more information and samples, or e-mail thisibelieve@voiceofvashon.org. You can also pick up guidelines from The Chamber of Commerce office at Courthouse Square, US Bank and Washington Mutual. Hard copies of essays can be sent to VOV c/o the Chamber at P.O. Box 1035, Vashon, WA 98070. Deadline for submission for June is April 30. We look forward to hearing from you!

Rachael Ellison-Taylor is an independent producer whose grandparents moved to Vashon in 1948. A Vashon High School graduate, she returned to the Island two years ago after six years in England.

PANDORA'S BOX

HAPPY EASTER!!!

We'll be closed on Easter Sunday so hop on in early to take advantage of our canned rabbit sale! Don't forget to get an Easter basket for your pet - you know they want one!

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More Choices! Farmers’ Market Open for 2006

The Vashon Farmers Market’s 2006 season has started! Open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Village Green, over 50 families will bring their food and crafts to sell during the season. Over the past winter, Vashon farmers have been working hard to expand their operations to bring even more products to the market. New foods you can expect to see at the market this season include: meat, dairy and cheeses, mushrooms, handmade chocolates and bottled wine. SeaBreeze Farm has just started bringing pasture-raised pork (fresh-frozen) and will soon add chicken and lamb to the mix. A little later we will have certified raw milk as well as farmstead cheeses. In addition, the market is applying for approval for Vashon vintners to be able to sell bottles of wine made from Washington grapes. This has worked successfully at a number of markets around the state. The Liquor Control Board is accepting public comment about the Vashon Farmers Market doing this too. If you have any questions, please contact Market Manager Karen Kinney at (206) 567-5492. In early May, the market will start featuring handmade chocolate truffles. The report from those who have accepted responsibility for testing them is that they are excellent! The market is open to all and is a great place to learn about the seasonality of our food. For more information, visit www.vigavashon.org or call (206) 567-5492.

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“Great Decisions” To Look at Brazil

“Brazil: Invented Past and Hoped-for Futures” is the next discussion topic in the “Great Decisions” series at the Vashon Library at **2 p.m. Tuesday, April 25**. “Since 9/11 the U.S. seems to have paid minimal attention to Brazil. Is a change on the horizon?” is how the Foreign Policy Association describes U.S.-Brazil relations.

A short background video, prepared by the FPA, starts the meeting, followed by group questions and comments.

The series is cosponsored by the Senior Center and the library. A copy of “Great Decisions” background articles is available at the library reference desk.

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Creative Preschool

Continued from page 1

for the great educational start her kids received: “Long before grade school started, we had already laid a strong foundation. Looking back, I think the parents benefited the most...”

Barb will be greatly missed. One of the ways we hope to recognize her will be to emphasize the part of the program called the “Luau Limbo” which raises money for the preschool scholarship fund. One of Barb’s goals has always been creating a preschool environment where children of all income groups could attend.

Now for the incredible line-up of items for the live and silent auctions: great art such as paintings by Pam Ingalls and other local artists; exciting vacation accommodations at Big White and to Denali National Park area in Alaska; tickets to the Oprah Winfrey show including air fare; ever popular and useful local services and memberships like a social membership with country

club and a year’s membership to the YMCA. The selection of tickets to sports events, fine wine, and personal services from massage to professional carpet cleaning contribute to an amazing offering of auction items for every taste. With over 200 goods and services to buy, there is something for any size pocket book.

Dinner, wine and beer will be served and are included free with the purchase of the auction tickets. Zoomies is providing ice-cream deserts.

Registration for next year’s classes for children ages nine months to five years is open right now. Contact the preschool at 463-2779 for information on its classes. As mentioned above, this is the sole fundraiser, making this auction a very good cause to support.

So come out and get your tickets at Books By the Way, the Burton Coffee Shop, Zoomies, at the door, or from preschool families. Tickets are \$20 and include all the food, entertainment and the fun of bidding on those great auction items.

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Before: Tom James in his landscaped yard



After: Tom in his deerscaped yard

Oh Deer

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

When Tom James and his wife Pennie Campbell moved into their house on Spring Beach Road fourteen years ago, they began gardening and landscaping the yard.

“We had it pretty much the way we wanted it by 1998,” Tom says now. They had dozens of the lilies Tom especially loves to cultivate, as well as roses, lupins, columbines, fuschias, rhododendrons, dahlias, vegetables in the summer, apples, apricots, cherries, nectarines, strawberries, and, in a greenhouse, lemon, lime, and orange trees.

“The man loves his plants,” said Pennie’s son, Carl.

At that point they had never had a problem with deer eating their plantings. All that began to change around 1999. They invited me down to have a look at their yard now.

It’s all gone. You might think, well, it’s the end of winter, and that could

account for some of the barren landscape, but it can’t account for all of it.

“Thousands of dollars in plants, all eaten by deer,” said Pennie.

“They tore a hole in the plastic of the greenhouse,” said Tom, “and ate our peppers and oranges, and they pulled out our dahlias and rhodies. They pulled a lemon tree up and didn’t eat it, just dragged it across the yard and left it to die. We had seven apricot trees, and now there is one left alive.”

“We found their hoof prints in the beds right next to the house, and hair on the wall.”

“They’re tame. They don’t leave. We tried every deer repellent on the market,” continued Tom. “We tried fire crackers, birdshot, we put habanera sauce on our plants, and they thought it was salsa.”

Pennie said, “Many of our neighbors have given up gardening.”

Tom went up to the County Precinct and asked officers about shooting the deer on his property, and says he was told that as long as the projectile did not leave the

property, it was legal for him to discharge a firearm.

One morning last summer Tom looked out the dining room window, and saw a deer browsing about fifteen feet away from the house. He’d had it. He went and got his shotgun, opened the sliding door, and, standing inside his dining room, shot and killed the deer. Then he called some friends to come and remove it.

At some point a deer was found dead in the woods. The irony is that that deer was shot with a twenty-two rifle, and when sheriffs asked Tom about it, he said he certainly had not shot that deer, but admitted he’d shot a deer on his own property with a shotgun.

He was then ticketed for illegal hunting of big game out of season.

“Hunting? I was standing inside my own house! The deer came to me!” he said.

His case comes up in the Vashon Court in May. He’s going to fight the charge because he believes it is wrong, and, as Pennie’s son said, the man loves his plants.

Nominate a Grand Marshall

Know someone who contributes to the community in a special and unique way? Nominate that person for Strawberry Festival Grand Marshall. This fun activity recognizes your nominee’s initiative and contributions to the community. Send a description and specific examples of your nominee’s outstanding work.

The Grand Marshall attends both Festival parades in a special Grand Marshall car, attends the Pancake Breakfast, visits the Beer Garden, gets introduced on the Main Stage, gets profiled in the local media including the Voice of Vashon; and the Grand Marshall wears a sash and depending on needs, may have a viewing area set aside for his or her family at the parades.

The 2006 Strawberry Festival will take place **Friday, July 7, Saturday, July 8, and Sunday, July 9.** Send your nominations, no later than **May 15** to: Grand Marshall Nominations, Vashon-Maury Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1035, Vashon, WA 98070 or fax: 206-463-7590. The Festival Committee will choose the Champ. Call 206-463-6217 with questions.

County Surface Water Fees

Islanders will have a chance to learn about and discuss King County surface water management fee revenues and expenditures at the **April 19** meeting of the Vashon Community Council’s Land Use and Natural Resources Committee. The committee meets in the Vashon Library at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Since 2000, Vashon-Maury Island residents have been paying surface water fees. Every year, Island residents are asked for their input on how capital dollars are allocated. The 2007 budget, as in previous years, directs the most money towards the purchase of ecologically sensitive lands for permanent protection, to construct natural drainage projects, and to pay for groundwater scientific modeling.

Local community input is also being solicited to refine the Vashon-Maury Island Conservation Plan. The mapping analysis will guide the conservation strategy to identify crucial open space and resource lands for potential conservation. A model developed by the Trust for Public Lands (GreenPrinting) to identify “hot spots” that merit conservation is being used.

For more information, contact the Chair of the Land Use Committee, Yvonne Kuperberg at 567-4005 or the King County, Vashon Basin Steward, Ray Heller at 296-8391.

Hoytus Interruptus Podcast

Jeff Hoyt has a new podcast up, *The Bald Truth*, about his bald life. Give a listen at his website, www.greaterradio.com.

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- Remodeling ideas and installations

Dig This: Vashon Wine Shop Moves to New Location

The Vashon Wine Shop, formerly located at Center, will reopen in May alongside Madigan’s at 19028 Vashon Highway. Stephen McClure, owner of the Vashon Wine Shop, and the owners of Madigan’s and Dig are creating a unique space that will foster the growth of the wine shop over the years to come. “Community support during the move was great,” said McClure. “Looking forward to seeing everyone at the new shop!”

Deadline for Festival Musicians April 18

The deadline for Musical acts/performers hoping to perform at the 2006 Vashon Island Strawberry Festival has been extended; musicians must submit their promotional materials (including a CD) to Vashon Music Chairman Bill Brown by **April 18**. Due to the high number of applicants, only groups that have been together for at least one year, with several performances to their credit, will be considered. Brown and Co-chair Jim Ferrari will announce the final list of performers on (or around) April 28. Submit materials to: Bill Brown C/O The Brown Agency at the Vashon Village, 17205 Vashon Highway S.W., No. C-2, Vashon, WA, 98070.

If music be the food of love, play on;
Give me excess of it...

-- William Shakespeare

The Dorsal Spin:

by Orca Annie Stateler

The Poop on Saving Our Killer Whales

From April 3rd to the 5th, Mark Sears, Odin, and I attended the 2006 Southern Resident Killer Whale Symposium. We heard about recent research on our endangered orcas. Session topics included genetics, population dynamics, contaminants, prey, energetics, distribution and habitat, vessel interactions, and noise effects.

“Chinook signal” was a buzz phrase of the prey session. Eminent Canadian researcher John Ford’s presentations illustrated that the recent decline in both Southern Resident and Northern Resident orca populations is strongly correlated with dwindling Chinook salmon runs. His studies found that the orcas prefer predominantly Chinook and then chum to other salmonids.

He had the best visual — underwater video of orcas sharing prey, all cuddly-wuddly and rubbing each other. The endearing sight of adult orcas sharing salmon mouth-to-mouth with youngsters elicited “oohs” and “aahs” from the relatively unsentimental, scientific audience.

We particularly enjoyed the energetics presentation by conservation biologist Sam Wasser. In “Non-Invasive Monitoring of Physiological Health of Southern Resident Killer Whales,” he described how feces are loaded with useful information. Chemical, genetic, and hormonal indicators provide clues to pressures on our orcas from stress triggered by noise or boat traffic, toxins, poor nutrition, exposure to pathogens, and diminished reproductive health. While she was still at Vashon, darling Springer contributed a fecal sample for this study.

With the help of poop-sniffing dogs, whale scat can be collected unobtrusively. The technique proved successful in retrieving feces from critically endangered North Atlantic right whales in the Bay of Fundy. When the wind blows the scent, dogs outperform researchers by detecting whale poo up to a nautical mile away.

Maybe dogs are whales’ best friends. Another great visual of the symposium was a sniffer dog hanging over the bow of a research boat. Compulsive dogs with an insatiable drive to fetch a ball make dedicated poop-sniffers. The ball is the reward for locating the scat. Hmm, I know a cute little Jack Russell who has qualifications for this job. My Stogarita, already a canine field assistant, could be an orca poop-sniffer!

Stogarita is photogenic as well as skilled in ball fetching. She is pictured on an ACS/PS brochure. Perhaps she could assume the role of ACS/PS publicist, since we are woefully lacking a famous relative

in the orca biz, or anyone who enjoys touting our accomplishments to the big city media.

Our spokesdog would proudly tell you that three speakers at the symposium received research grants from ACS/PS. Donna Hauser presented her work on the Southern Residents’ summer distribution and habitat. Andrew Foote conducted an acoustic study that found, from 2001 to 2003, J, K, and L Pods increased the duration of their calls in the presence of boat noise. Shannon McCluskey looked at the Southern Residents’ movement patterns in relation to variable salmon abundance. Read more about the research our chapter has funded in the Grants section at www.acspugetsound.org.

Donna Hauser will be the ACS/PS speaker on **April 19 at 7:30 p.m.**, presenting “Where the Whales Are: A Look at Summer Distribution Patterns of Southern Resident Killer Whales,” at the Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. North, Seattle. Check our web site or call 206-734-4737 for directions.

Also not to be missed is our next ACS/PS speaker on **May 17**. Renowned toxins researcher Peter Ross, a symposium presenter for the contaminants session, will give a talk called “Fireproof Killer Whales: Icons of the Northeastern Pacific Ocean are At Risk from Chemical Exposure.”

I have yet to touch on other subjects of keen interest to me, like noise effects and vessel interactions. Not to mention management implications. I am still digesting the plethora of information and plan to write more about the symposium for the next Dorsal Spin. All sessions were highly instructive and many of the studies yielded promising results, yet Mark, Odin, and I were left feeling that much more work needs to be done to safeguard our killer whales.

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

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Loop Travel: Belize

The RQE Lightens Up, Part 2

David and Sarah are vacationing in the village of San Miguel, Belize:

It was about 4 p.m. We swung in the hammocks watching the pigs bathe in the nearby mud hole and chickens run by in droves until a small child showed up around 5:30 to collect us for dinner.

It was exciting, our first trip inside one of the locals’ houses. We were invited into a small thatched hut, a smaller version of our guest house, sans concrete. The floor was made out of dirt, there was a hammock hanging in one end, a couple of glass-less windows and a small mud fire pit at one end. Livestock roamed freely outside.

Maria, Marcos’ wife, invited us to sit down. Her table was of normal height for us, but we would soon discover that the other villagers sit on small stools around a table lower than most western coffee tables. She fed us fresh tomatoes dressed in cilantro, oil and salt, black beans and the freshest corn tortillas I have ever had in my life. They were paper thin, right off the stove. David and I were instantly in love.

The guide book had warned us that the rest of the family would not be eating, but rather going about their business. The warning was with good foundation, as they didn’t really talk to us very much. But, also as the guide book suggested, we took it as an opportunity to observe a traditional family home.

This isn’t to imply that they were anything less than welcoming. Everyone was very, very nice.

We were walked back to our guest house by 6:30 p.m. and left to our own devices. Tired from the day’s activities, we went soundly to sleep under our mosquito netting until a small child collected us for breakfast. Tortillas again. Wheee!

We spent the next four days eating tortillas, rice, beans and various vegetables with different

families. Marcos took us on a tour of a Mayan cave nearby, and then set us up with a guide to canoe back down the river to the village. David saw a large scorpion on the trail to the cave and I came across a small bat hanging from a low part in the ceiling of said cave. That was quite enough wildlife for me.

While the hike and the canoe ride were nice, along with our visit to Mayan ruins, the true value in this experience is spending time with the villagers. They are very kind and with a little initiative on our part were very engaging. On the last night before we left, when everyone had gotten to know us a bit better, we had a great time. The women invited me to help make tortillas (which is really, really hard), we got a good lecture from Marcos about the benefits of sustainable farming, a teacher invited us to visit his classroom (where I gave an impromptu English lesson), and Pablo talked to us about the recent elections and workers’ rights.

Make no First World projections here. These are not ignorant, backward people trying desperately to cling to an old way of life. These people are quite willing to embrace the modern world. They are educating themselves and their children but have managed to retain a sense of community that is clearly key to their success. They may do some things the traditional way but it is usually for practical reasons.

A great example is the central role that the river plays in their daily lives. They all bathe and do the washing in the river despite the fact that most families have a water pump outside their home. If I were to guess I would have thought that they were simply not comfortable with the invention and preferred to do things as their parents did.

And I would be shamefully wrong. When Antonia, one of the village women, gave us the village tour, I asked her about the river and the water pump situation. It is not

Continued on page 12



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Happy Birthday Aries!
Embrace the unknown with a sense of adventure and you will take away any power that it seems to hold over you. You may sense that your life is changing — but you may have no idea quite to what extent. In many ways, the future is in the hands of your higher self. You are making decisions on levels that are not necessarily so obvious, the most important being that you have finally found a way past some kind of paralyzing fear or sense of being overwhelmed that is often so pervasive you don't notice it. The world is big, but not so big your awareness can't handle exactly who and what is around you — or count the unknown as nothing other than potential that you do have the ability to make real.

Aries (March 20-April 19): As the dust settles and you start to wake up and figure out where you are, you're likely to notice it's somewhere quite different than where you were one month ago. There is a good chance you're moving at an ever-increasing speed, and you may want to pause for a reality check. Your intuition has served you quite well up to this point, and despite a real measure of chaos you have made some decisions that are going to work out well in the long-run. But what you need now are tangible facts and a calm, rational assessment, even if you devote fifteen minutes to the project.
Taurus (April 19-May 20): You have seen the dangers of exaggerating your fears, particularly where money is concerned. You seem to be flipping between best-case scenarios and worst-case ones, and the only problems with that are it's burning up your energy and doing a number on the one thing you need right now, which is some consistency. If you can keep your focus on one goal that's genuinely meaningful to you, you will start to make some real progress, and that will help feed your faith and confidence in yourself. You may feel like two conflicting sets of values are important to you, but I assure you, this is not the case. One set belongs to somebody else.
Gemini (May 20-June 21): Mars is still firing its way through your sign, but now that your patron planet Mercury has resumed forward motion, you'll start to feel like you're going that way too. The past few months have given you a tour of your insecurities, which is a subject that most people would rather sweep under the rug. In any case, the time has come to go boldly where you have never gone before, and that is to see yourself as a fully acceptable member of society. In truth there is no such

thing; it's an idea that exists strictly in the imagination of the person who succeeds. But that idea goes a long way in the world.
Cancer (June 21-July 22): Now that you have finally blown through the glass ceiling that was holding you down, it's time to start climbing and get a view of what remains of the roof. The world inside an old system of belief and the world outside an old system of belief are entirely unrelated, except that one seemed to follow the other in time. You can safely figure that all the old rules you believed in for so long, and all their limitations, are a done deal. Work with the idea that everything is negotiable, and then get yourself into the negotiation process. Just remember what you've learned many times: on some issues, there really is no compromising.
Leo (July 22-Aug. 23): Matters involving partnership, commitments and shared finances have been slipping and sliding lately, but over the next couple of weeks I trust you'll see things stabilize. If you look, you'll start to notice everything you've learned in the process. It has become clear that communication really is everything, and at least you've had willing participants, even if they've seemed clueless at times. In the midst of the chaos, it's clear that you had several excellent ideas, and I suggest you give them light and water rather than keeping them in a little box in your mind.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): Anyone who expresses ambition goes through the experience of taking something out on the world, or at least working something out on the world. We could ask what the world is for, if not for this. Gradually, anger gives way to a sense of clarity about one's goals, and past injuries start to be seen and felt in the context of the wisdom they offered you. For you, working and creating in the exterior world is vital to healing a division in your mind that results in an inner struggle that is, despite the challenges, best worked out in physical reality.
Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23): You have managed to duck the big dramas, mainly due to successfully finding vents for your creative energy. True, your life has been like a sailboat ride through the rapids, but you've managed to stay upright and dry. There are rewards for mere survival, and you've done a lot better than that. A financial opportunity that is presenting itself also contains the silver lining of a more advanced creative opportunity than you've had in a while. You've been dreaming, this is true, but there is nothing like an actual physical opportunity to do something real. I don't suggest you let it pass you by, even if it's not perfect.

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Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): You seem to be living between two worlds, and struggling a bit to reconcile them. One is providing you a real measure of emotional satisfaction; the other, the intellectual involvement that you need and which is so often left out of descriptions of your sign. There is no discounting the influence of your relationships here; on one level, it is the people you know who are leaning to one side of this dichotomy or the other, and who require you to change modes like flipping a switch. Your charts say you may soon discover a "third way" of being, which does not involve them; for now, it only involves you.
Sagittarius (Nov. . 22-Dec. 22): Partners or loved ones may seem to be unduly antagonistic these days, and it may not be much consolation that they decide to be sweet and friendly at the end of the discussion when you need them to be that way at the beginning. The issue is really one of honesty. I suggest you insist on this from the first words spoken, and take any hostility as a sign that there may be a deception lurking behind it. You don't need to make accusations, you merely need to be persistent and lead people down the straight road to what they really believe and feel.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): Any feeling of being unsettled that you've experienced or are experiencing is a step on the way to really settling down — at least within your own feelings. You've grown accustomed to making a lot of progress and usually that comes with a sense that you can't quite feel the same in your skin two days in a row. Recent events have served to open up a deeper level of inner experience that will help you pretty well feel like yourself wherever you are, and whatever may be going on. If you can stay in good form psychologically, you'll be able to keep a few steps ahead of the game of life — very helpful at this particular stretch of history.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): It's always amazing when something real happens, isn't it? We live in such a fantasy world, here in the West; images, illusions, magic powers, fantasies and dreams are often the stuff of what we call life. Then, a single event in the tangible world can awaken us to the sensuality and physical beauty of life. Let

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this be a reminder; let it be a beginning. It's not too good to be true; it is actually true.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): I've seen few times in the past decade of tracking astrological history when the theme of personal recreation was more meaningful for Pisces; indeed; I cannot think of one. It's as though the large pieces are finally aligning with the small ones; the finer points of life with the greater ones; the decorating details with the architectural structure. From this point onward, take it slow and steady. You have been through enormous personal renovation work. You have reached places you did not know existed. Relax for a moment and take it all in.

◻◻◻◻

Oh, you hate your job? Why didn't you say so? There's a support group for that. It's called EVERYBODY, and they meet at the bar. -- Drew Carey

LIVING WELL WITH PLANTS

Text and drawings by Kathy Abascal (AHG)



Kathy Abascal is ill with the flu this week, so no Living Well with Plants this time. We miss her and wish her all the best for a speedy recovery! She should be back for the next issue.

Belize

Continued from page 10

that she wouldn't like to use the water pump; it is simply that it is expensive. It can cost up to \$25 Belize dollars a month. (About \$12.50 US). She has a choice. She can go to the river for bathing and to do the washing while using the water from the pump only for drinking or she can spend \$25 Belize dollars a month. If she doesn't spend the \$25 Belize dollars a month she has more money to buy school books and uniforms for her kids.

So it isn't about holding on to tradition, it is about making clear choices for her and her family's future.

On the other side of the gender equation was Marcos. Marcos talked at great length about the benefits of sustainable farming versus the traditional slash and burn farming. He showed us how he planted beans in his corn fields to replace the nitrogen in the soil. He showed us how he planted squash and other ground covering plants to prevent soil erosion. This is a complete departure from the traditional slash and burn agriculture where a farmer would take a machete and clear a field then burn it to make room for his crops.

This man is clearly thinking about his future and has a clear vision for his community. It is easy in our complicated First World lives to project onto indigent people clichéd idealism about the slow pace of their lives. Ah, no cell phones ringing, no appointments to keep, and no difficult financial matters. But after my experience in San Miguel I am forced to remember how condescending that attitude is when tested against reality.

We left on the 1 o'clock bus on Tuesday. We arrived in the Punta Gorda main square less than an hour later — the bus moves more quickly when it is not market day. David stepped off the bus and said, "I miss the village already."

I couldn't agree more. ☹☹☹☹

I am...a mushroom On whom the dew of heaven drops now and then. -- John Ford



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

You can email her at Anemopsis@yahoo.com if you have questions about herbs, call her to schedule a private consultation (463-9211) or stop by The Roasterie to purchase her tinctures.

Remember when? VAA celebrates 40 years

Remember when Vashon Allied Arts was a fledgling group of dedicated volunteers with the great idea to put on a show or two, try a few art classes, and exhibit some paintings? Were you one of the artists or one of the volunteers behind the scenes?

As VAA celebrates 40 years of arts this year, we are asking community members to jot down your story, essay, poem or vignette about VAA. Your memories may be published in future issues of *The Loop* and will be added to the VAA archives. There's no deadline, as long as it's sometime this year and there are no guidelines, as long as it's legible and you are open to gentle edits. Please submit to: Blue Heron Art Center, P.O. Box 576, Vashon, WA 98070. Electronic submissions are welcome also: performingarts@vashonalliedarts.org.

Island Flea Market and Petting Zoo April 29

Vashon Allied Arts is sponsoring a Flea Market and Petting Zoon from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, on the Blue Heron Art Center grounds.

Boy Scouts will provide concessions. Vendor spaces still available, call Joanne 567-5090. Come have some fun! All proceeds support Blue Heron Dance.

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Book Review

by Rachel Bard

Shipwrights in Spite of Themselves

To Build a Ship, by Don Berry. Paperback, Comstock, 1977.

This final book in Don Berry’s groundbreaking trilogy about the Oregon Territory takes place in 1852 — five years after *Trask*,* and a year after *Moontrap*.

At first reading it may seem slighter than the other two. But look again. Possibly Berry deliberately wrote a different kind of book.

Trask is a heroic figure, a former Mountain Man who undertakes and survives a horrendous personal journey, coming to terms with himself and with the Indians whose acceptance he needs. In *Moontrap*, Johnson Monday is no hero but a well-meaning former trapper trying to be a farmer. His adversaries are the U.S. Army and the law in Oregon City: brutal to the Indians, intolerant of any who befriend them. Not only does Monday have no antipathy to the Indians; he’s married to one.

In *To Build a Ship*, on the other hand, the homesteaders have little empathy with the Indians whose lands they’re occupying. Nor do they have epic struggles with fate. It’s a more narrowly focused book than the other two, exploring the ways their obsession with building a ship takes over their whole lives.

We see everything through the eyes of Ben Thaler, a young man from the Willamette Valley who’s sure his future is in the undeveloped lands around Tillamook Bay: “the new Manhattan, free for the taking.” He arrives to find a couple of dozen other homesteaders, batching it and establishing their farms. They have no idea that the Indians tolerate them because their chief, Tilchis, remembers Trask and his promise that any white men who came after him would respect the Indians’ ways (But Trask left and never came back. Why? If only Berry had written just one more book in this series).

The existence of the little settlement depends on the annual arrival of a ship with essentials like flour, sugar, coffee and clothing, which are exchanged for butter, potatoes and salmon. Captain Means gets his salmon from the Indians. Ben the narrator explains drily: “He paid one pint of whiskey for ten salmon, and the whiskey was diluted by half with water. This was

a harmonious combination of good will and good business on the part of the captain. As he said, strong liquor was notoriously damaging to the Indians, and humanitarianism dictated moderation. Then too, water was cheaper than whiskey and bought just as many fish. It was very practical and well thought out, and benefited all.”

When Means dies their lifeline is cut. It’s a disaster. They decide to build their own ship. Ben is delegated to ask Little Sam, a skilled former shipbuilder, to show them how. Sam, a retiring type, unwilling to put himself forward in any group, demurs. Besides, he tells Ben, “You’re crazy. It’s impossible.”

“All right. We’re crazy. Maybe when you want the impossible it’s better to be crazy.”

But Sam agreed.

And being crazy keeps them going all summer on the shores of Tillamook Bay. They salvage iron parts from shipwrecks. They learn, at their peril, how to fell giant firs. They build a blacksmith shop and a kiln. They dig a pit for the whipsaw to shape timbers and planking. Sam shows them how to fashion frames. They become just as finicky as he is about bevels, curvatures, smoothness. They hardly sleep or eat. They’re men possessed. They fall in love with their ship.

“The goddess began to live. Because of us or in spite of us or independent of us, I didn’t know. But she began to live and grow and take shape before our very eyes, and we became a part of her mysteries.”

Then comes a terrible glitch. Shy Little Sam inexplicably falls in love with an Indian woman and becomes crazy in his own dangerous way, losing interest in the ship and alarming the Indians with his stalking. Calamitous complications pile up until the Yam Hill boys — vigilantes from Oregon City — come spoiling for a fight, mistakenly believing there’s been an Indian uprising. There’s a lynching and a hanging.

In time Sam comes to his senses and the shipbuilders persevere, ever more fanatically. Finally their goddess is launched. After jubilation comes emptiness. Ben looks at her in the misty moonlight.

“She took her place in the world, she was a part of it now. She lived and was bathed in the rain and the moon and the Bay and the clouds and streams. She needed me no longer.”

Like the first two books, this one is thoroughly researched, based on the diary of one of the settlers. And here too, Berry leavens his compelling tale with earthy humor and eccentric characters. *To Build a Ship* cements his reputation as one of the best Western writers.

**See review in The Loop, September 14, 2005. Yes, The Loop is archived—go to www.vashonloop.com.*



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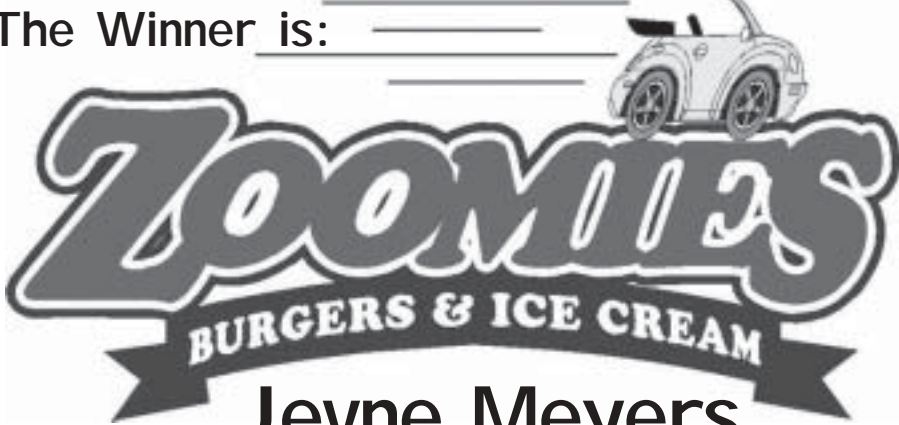


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Irish Ceili Dance and Sean N6s Workshop

On **Saturday, April 22**, the Vashon Celtic Dance Society will host a community Irish Ceili dance at the Grange Hall, preceded by a *sean n6s* step dance workshop. The workshop will run from 3 to 5:30 p.m. and will be taught by Alicia Guinn of Seattle. A suggested donation of \$25 covers the workshop and ceili. Please RSVP to participate in the workshop, which is open to all dancing abilities, age 12+. You'll want to wear comfortable clothing and hard soled shoes (but not tap shoes).The ceili dance will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Kathleen O'Grady-Graham of Seattle will teach and call the dances and live, traditional Irish music will be provided by Town Cryer. A donation of \$8 (\$6 for students and seniors) is suggested for the ceili without the workshop. For more information about the Vashon Celtic Dance Society, or to RSVP for the workshop, call Shannon Seath Meyer at (206) 774-4047 or Lori Malczyk at (206) 463-6917.

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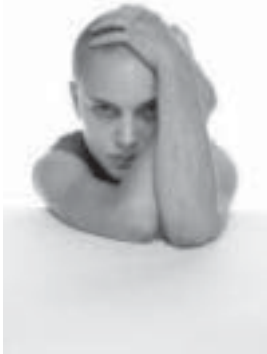
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Island Epicure

by Marj Watkins

What to Do When It Doesn't Pan Out

How do you cope when the gravy or sauce turns lumpy? Or it's greasy. Your Easter eggs crack while boiling. You're one egg short for the cake recipe. Or you had enough eggs but the cake comes out with cracks in its top surface. Worse yet, it rises in the oven, it appears to be done, but when you take it out the top caves in. Your Hollandaise won't thicken.

Cheer up. Even gourmet cooks have culinary catastrophes. They cope. You can, too.

Lumpy sauces: A little spiral wire tool with a handle dances up and down in the sauce pan mashing a lump with every jump. Or transfer the sauce to your food processor and give it a whirl.

Cracking of eggs while boiling: The egg white tends to escape into the water, ruining the symmetry of the shelled product. Make egg salad. Chop the egg and garnish soup or salad with it. Or chop it and stir it into potato salad, homemade or from the deli.

Next time you boil eggs, add a teaspoon of vinegar to the water. Be sure the eggs are at room temperature, and the water not too hot when you start them cooking. The combination of cold egg and hot water causes the cracks.

Rescue the Easter eggs by turning the cracking into a design tool. Reboil those eggs with tea leaves for brown lines on tan eggs.

One egg short for the recipe: For more thickening power, add one teaspoon of cornstarch to dry ingredients. For baked adequate rise, add ½ teaspoon soda if using honey or molasses, buttermilk in the recipe; otherwise, add 1 teaspoon baking powder.

Cracks in top of cake: Don't worry about it. Frosting or whipped cream will cover them up. Next time bake that cake recipe at a slightly lower oven temperature, say 365 instead of 375, or 345 instead of 350

degrees. Check for doneness five minutes sooner than before. It may have just spent too much time in a dry oven and dried out, causing fissures to appear.

Cake's center collapses when taken from oven: Did you beat the eggs when the recipe didn't ask you to? Did you fill the pan too full? No problem. Fill the cavity with frosting.

Too much salt in the soup: Add a handful of dried potato flakes or buds and a little more liquid.

Gravy too greasy: Cool the gravy. Skim off the fat. Or mix a teaspoon of cornstarch with a tablespoon of water and stir it in. Stir-cook until fat is emulsified. Sauce will thicken slightly. Add more stock or water to adjust consistency.

Hollandaise sauce won't thicken: Beat another egg in a separate bowl. Slowly, while beating, pour the failed hollandaise sauce into it. The new egg will emulsify the sauce.

Perfect Boiled Eggs:

Have the eggs at room temperature, about 70 degrees. Put the eggs in a pan of cool or warm water, not boiling. Add 1 teaspoon vinegar. Raise the temperature under the pan to medium high. When the water boils, turn down the heat so the eggs simmer.

Let them cook 17 minutes for hard-boiled. Immediately pour off the water and run cold water over the eggs. This stops the cooking and keeps the yolks from developing green rims.

When the eggs are cool enough to handle, roll one between your palms or on the kitchen counter to make a multitude of cracks. Begin peeling at the large end where the air sac is.

Booking now for summer



Small: Storie-Allen@loosechange.net

Dear *Madame Toujours*,

I am a twenty-five year old hunk, attractive to women and consequently unpopular with men. This is due to the fact that I have made a study of how to please a woman in bed and have trained myself to make love for hours at a time. I have often kept a woman up all night in a marathon of lovemaking.

The thing is, in spite of all my study and training, I can't seem to keep a girlfriend for more than a few weeks. After a few nights of my magical technique, they start saying they want to just talk and to go for long walks and hold hands. I don't get it. Who would want to hold hands and talk when they could be making love? I've tried to hint to some of my girlfriends that they should be open to a threesome. I can easily satisfy two or three women at a time, but they just weren't open to it.

Is there someplace I could go to meet women with the stamina to keep up with me? I would love to meet someone as skilled as I am or who was at least willing to learn.

Sincerely, Don Juan

Cher M. Juan,
Congratulations. The education, she is the wonderful thing, *n'est pas*? But possibly, you are wanting to be considering the many advantages of the well-rounded relationship. Yes, the sex, she is very nice, but mostly, the female types, they are being entirely satisfied with the half hour of the panting and sweating and then they are ready for the chocolate ice-cream and the conversations. If you are interrupting the conversations and the ice-cream for the trivial, unimportant sex, then they are deciding you are the big, obnoxious jerk.

If you are wishing for the female persons to be having the big excitement for the sex with you, then the bedroom

techniques, they are not enough. *Les femmes*, they are enjoying to have *le romance*. This, in itself, is being the important technique for the great lover. Before you are offering the elaborate sexual performances, possibly you are wishing to sweep the lady off the feet with the talents outside of the bedroom.

For you, I am suggesting the dance. This is being the excellent outlet for the self-improvement. There are the techniques to study, the steps to master. Also there are the competitions and the performances which are satisfying for you the need for the approvals and the attentions. Also consider the expenditure of the energies. After you are spending the evening dancing, you are not having the energy for anything more strenuous than the holding hands and the conversation. This is being the big relief for everybody, *non*?

Bon Chance, M. Juan, after you are mastering the arts of *le romance*, then possibly you are qualified for the career as the gigolo entertaining the wealthy, older persons. This is the honorable occupation for the fellow with the excessive sexual drives, and you can be turning your hobby into the lucrative career in the service industry.

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Positively Speaking

By Deborah Anderson

A Love Story

Anticipating and planning for watching *Brokeback Mountain* was like staging a major defense plan. My daughter warned me, knowing I have just finished the only true love story of my life, and will never move on because it brought such exquisite joy. She was deeply concerned about how the movie would affect me.

“You may not call me crying,” she said, despite the fact that not only had she called me crying after her first viewing, but had to watch the movie again a week later to get rid of the lingering memory.

I was braced. I watched it on the little screen, not the big screen. I had popcorn and Trader Joe’s decaf Chai tea at the ready for comfort. The timing was perfect; it was day’s end with a cheery ‘morrow promised.

Hit “play.” Internal dialog begins. “OK....wishing I’d seen this scenery on the big screen after all. Ang Lee is a genius... Wasn’t expecting the pacing to be so slow...ah...the famous sex scene. Hmmm. really can’t connect to this. Popcorn half done. Oh dear — women involved. This is going to get messy...”

Then wham.....it hit me in a place that was so deep, there were no tears. Only a heart that was haunted by the struggle of it all.

Love is complicated. All the Dr. Phil advice and eharmony questionnaires in the world can’t make it simple.

What I had heard was that this was a gay movie. It isn’t, of course. In the same way that *Born Into Brothels* isn’t about kids born into prostitution, *Brokeback Mountain* is indeed a love story.

We all want to believe that life is cause and effect. Do the right things and good will result. It isn’t so. Bad things happen to good people all the time. Marriages made in heaven end

up a living hell. Children die before parents. And so it goes.

Here on the Island we dabble in perfection. I like that about us. I really do. I like neat and tidy, hardworking and rewarding, relaxed and productive.

But the fact remains that the stuff of life that gives us dimension and meaning is the rough and ragged. In the context of the well-oiled culture here on Vashon, it may be hard to heed the reality that gives us depth. Somewhere between trailers and McMansions, latchkey children and househusbands, local businesses and Costco runs, we are offered the possibility to live life as a core experience.

Love is a major disturbance and a life-changing opportunity to slip into imperfection. When your circumstances hit the skids, embrace the authenticity of it. Breathe it in and ride it through with depth and integrity. Like an untimely, inconvenient muscle cramp, love may give you more a sense of being alive than a manicured lawn and congenial encounters.

When life doesn’t make sense, and we can’t fix things easily, we are most assuredly alive. It is only when we try to cover up our disparities we trip ourselves up.

This week Passover and Easter converge. The leap from *Brokeback Mountain* to the Exodus and the Resurrection may seem a bit of a chasm. It is in this...

Do not skip over the times when you have been asked to make more bricks with less straw, or feel that all is lost. We cannot appreciate the Promised Land or Eternal Life unless we always remember the time we were confused, and in the end, love was all that mattered.

Be Blessed.

□□□□

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SHIPLEY REUNION

By Jonathan Shipley

Shipley Movies

Shipleys have had a long and varied history in Tinseltown. Many a Shipley character has graced the silver screen and wowed us with their presence. Who can forget a Shipley character on screen? Very few of us, indeed, because the Shipley panache, the Shipley moxie, if you will, is something not to be taken lightly. Oh no, Shipley characters can hold their own with the likes of Clark Gable, Cary Grant, and Steve McQueen. Let’s take a look, shall we?

1) Dan Shipley (played by Richard Webb) in the John Wayne classic *The Sands of Iwo Jima*. Alone and outnumbered, they had one thing in their favor: the American dream!!!! John Wayne was nominated for an Academy Award for his role as the tough as nails Sergeant Stryker. “Saddle up!”

2) Adam Shipley (played by Luke Wilson) in the forgettable romantic comedy *Alex and Emma*. Is it love...or are they just imagining things?!! Rob Reiner’s movies suck lately. Have you noticed that? The charming Luke Wilson did his best, however, with a God awful script. For instance, he says, “He left like a man on a mission, a man on a mission with hot wet balls.” Shipleys are known, by the way, for their hot well balls.

3) Stuart Shipley (played by John Russell) in the heartwarming basketball/nuclear weapon movie *Amazing Grace and Chuck*. That’s right – the marvel of basketball and, uh, nuclear weapons. Alex English, the NBA great, played Amazing Grace. Gregory Peck was in it, and Jamie Lee Curtis, and Frances Conroy, and yet, with all of these wonderful actors attached to it, it is STILL a movie about basketball and, uh, nuclear weapons.

4) Forgettable? The 1921 comedy *Exit the Vamp*? I think not! The most glorious Shipley movie ever filmed! Directed by Frank Urson (who directed the original 1927 movie *Chicago*) and written by Clara Beranger (who wrote, approximately 2.3 million movies), *Exit the Vamp* has characters with names like Marion Shipley, John Shipley, Junior Shipley and that rascalion Old Man Shipley! Oh, vamp humor and Shipley vamp humor on top of that! Bite me, I’m dreaming!

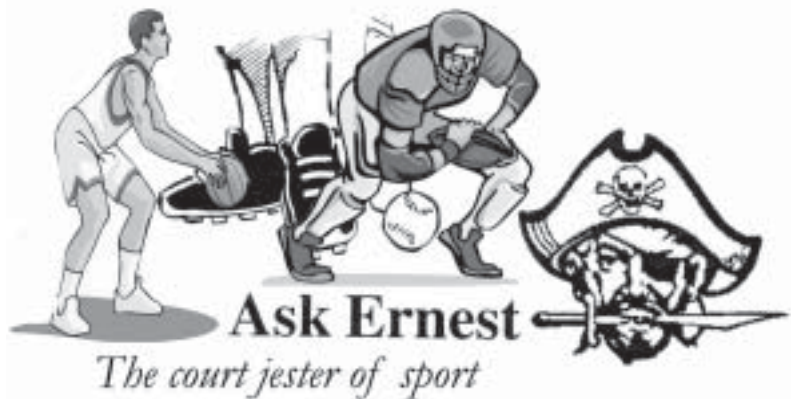
5) Howard Shipley (played by John Alexander) in George Cukor’s “The Marrying Kind.” Starring Judy Holliday as Florrie Keefer, the movie is not only memorable because it has a Shipley in it but because of the uncredited appearance of one of the world’s best actors. In the role of Eddie? Charles Bronson? Don’t like Charles Bronson? What? You have a death wish? He’ll kill you. Oh yes, Bronson will kill you.

6) Bullets whine a message of death as the Mounties patrol the skies!!! A thrilling Mountie movie (one of many, of course) and all the more thrilling in that Warren Hull is playing the role of Bill Shipley! The 1940 movie *Yukon Flight* takes flight like no Shipley Canadian Mountie movie ever!

7) Shipley is John Wayne’s *Rooster Cogburn*. This is, undoubtedly, THE PINNACLE OF SHIPLEY CHARACTERS! Yes, right at the beginning of the movie there’s some cavalry horsing along a river bed. Someone says, “Shipley, go down there and check it out,” or something to that affect. They’re afraid something sinister might be at the water’s edge, i.e. INDIANS! Shipley, faithful soldier, does as he’s told and is immediately KILLED! NO! SHIPLEY! NO!!!

□□□□

Loop ~ Sports



McMurray Mustangs Rock the Rainier Valley League

The MacMurry Mustangs put their hearts and souls and big biceps on the line last weekend at Orting Middle School for the League Championships. All wrestlers showed courage and skill and many of the wrestlers placed. Zimbabwe Sohl and Steve Hall did a great job of coaching these future Pirate Wrestling Stars!

Placements are as follows: 1st Slammin' Sam Chapman. 2nd Mad Dog Wolczko, Kyle Kork York, Uncle Alex Sohl. 3rd Nate Betz, Garen Webb(Master). 4th Augustus Dierks, Daniel Belfrage. Also participating were Graham Britz and Josh "Lance" Canova.

Hello Ernie,

I just wanted to let you know, and I know you know, that the boys basketballers rule! They placed third in



Micah Jordan Sohl and Alex Steamboat Battle in the Cage in Battleground, Washington! The stage was set, or rather the cage was secure, for Steamboat and MJ Sohl to battle against contenders from Oregon, Idaho, Washington and California. The NW Regionals of Cage Fighting! Neither participant placed but both learned important techniques in the art of cage fighting.

the entire state and that's the best any Pirate hoops team has ever done. I went and watched them over the weekend and couldn't believe it. There were thousands of fans and it was nuts. People were everywhere: they were yelling and screaming, and acting all crazy, like they knew everything and had just chugged a dozen energy drinks or something. I am sure you know, but I just wanted to let your wonderful readers know, if they didn't know. Thanks a bundle, and I'm a big fan, by the way. Sincerely,

Gregory Martin

Hey Greg:

Thanks for the firewood. Also: I knew about the hoopers, but I should have let everyone know earlier. They rule! They were so fun to watch all year that I can barely contain myself. The best thing, though, is that they are gonna be really good next year as well, with most of their stars coming back. Congrats, guys, and we can't wait to watch y'all next year. Thanks for the bundle,

Ernie

2006 Bocce Drafts

1. Lisabeula Loggers — Tom DeVries. The loggers, as we know, need a left-handed late-rolling specialist, and Mister Devries fits perfectly.

2. Burton Bongo Drums — Beck E. Shigley. The Drums need character, and Beck should fill this void since Mickey Guglomo jumped ship to the Tahlequah Tideflats.

3. Dilworth Dimbats — Nance E. Katica. Dilworth, as usual, is looking for leadership. Nance, with her unflappable confidence and goofy antics, should fit in just fine.

4. Dockton Posse — Bev Ur Li Skeffington. Dockton, trying to bolster their fan support, picks a hometown hero, who will no doubt excite the Posse.

5. Manzanita Men — Craven Martin. The Men from Manzanita, in a surprise move, sign Martin to bolster their already solid late-game strategists. **oooo**



Having just heard that Chris Pieterick pitched a complete game, even the wall-walkers in Diyarbakir stopped to admire the JV hurler's feat. The fact that he struck out of five of the last six batters led to speculation about his use of dulce de leche.



McMurray's Dustin Watts, Alex Wegner and John Gage helped HYPE sweep its first two AAU spring league games on Saturday, April 2. Derek Wegner recently joined the team as Assistant Coach.

HYPE Team League Champs

West Seattle's AAU HYPE (Helping Youth Pursue Excellence) is now infused with a strong Vashon presence. Derek Wegner recently joined the team as Assistant Coach, and on Saturday, April 2, the team swept its first two spring league games.

Although a relatively new team, HYPE walked away league Champions in AAU's President Day Tournament. HYPE is set to travel to Reno to compete in the AAU Memorial Day Tournament.

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Loopy Laffs

The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up.—Mark Twain

Lawyers and computers have both been proliferating since 1970. Unfortunately, lawyers, unlike computers, have not gotten twice as smart and half as expensive every 18 months.

One-Liners

I plead contemporary insanity.
Allow me to introduce my selves.
Is there a metaphor for using metaphors?
Make yourself at home—clean my kitchen.
Shouldn't it be 'Some things in moderation?'
I have never had premonitions but one day I think I will.
I'm not crazy—I've just been in a very bad mood for 30 years.
If you can't find the time to do it right, when will you find the time to do it over?
For every judge operating in an official capacity, there are 10 who are self-appointed.
Money can't buy happiness, but it can help you look for it quicker and in a convertible.
Technology is a way of organizing the universe so that man doesn't have to experience it.

The part of a map is that says YOU ARE HERE is the called the "ideo locator."

An American and his wife were driving in Canada and got lost.
Finally they came into a city.
They saw a man on the sidewalk, so they pulled up to the curb, and the lady let down her window and asked: "Excuse me, sir. Where are we?"
The man replied, "Saskatoon, Saskatchewan."
The lady rolled up the window, turned to her husband and said, "We really are lost. They don't even speak English here!"

A dyslexic man walks into a bra...
I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

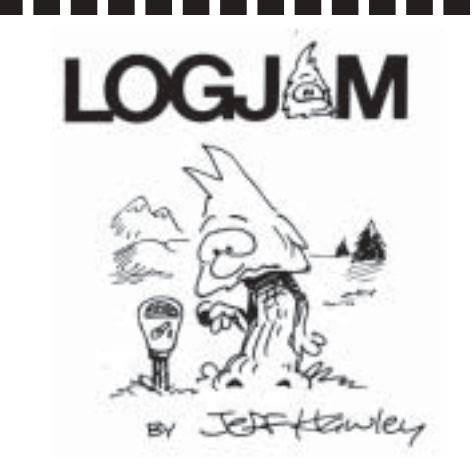
Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.



A mother may hope that her daughter will get a better husband that she did, but she knows her son will never get as good a wife as his father did.



OFFSHORE



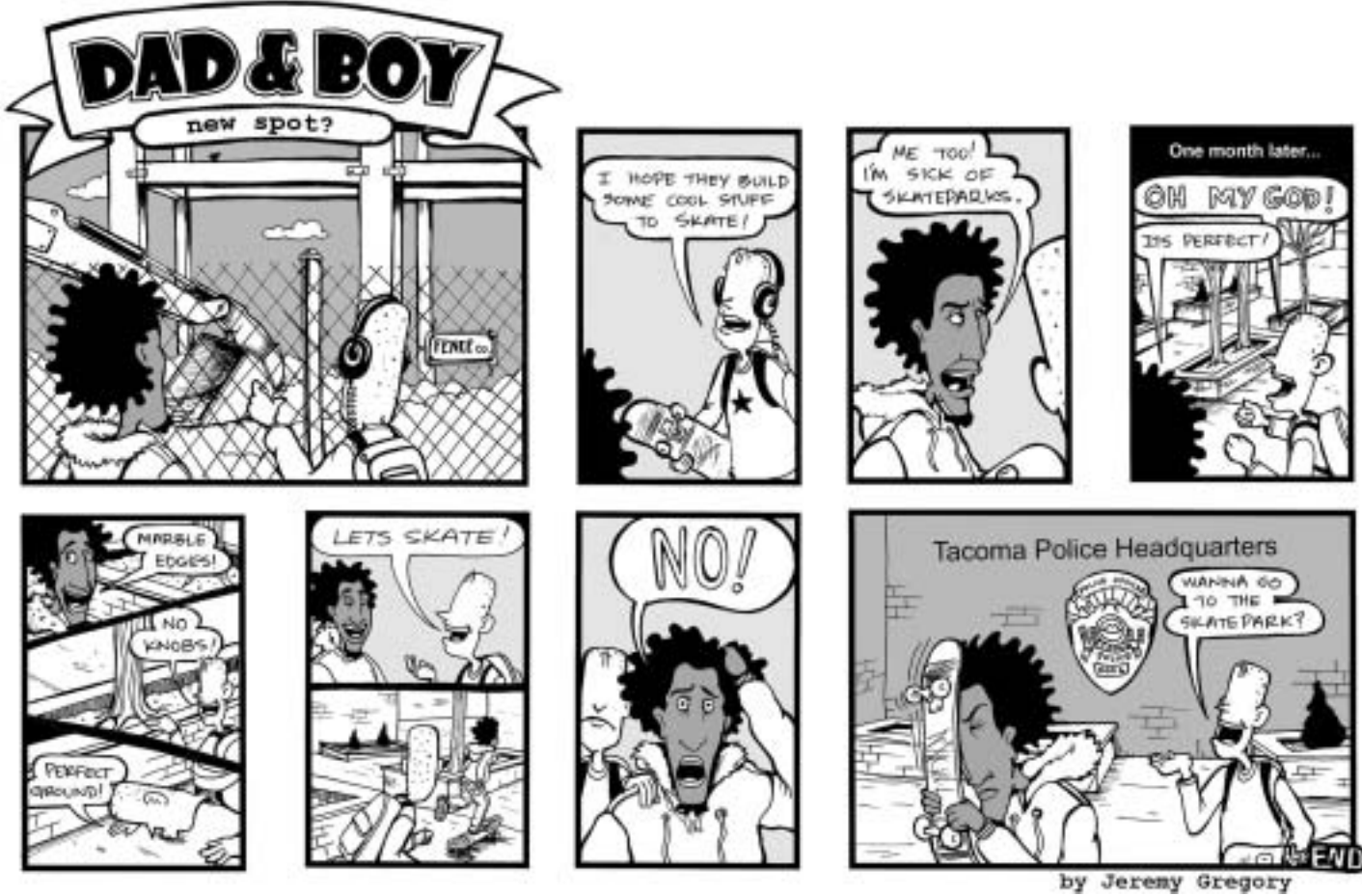
In a recent speech, President Bush told the Iraqi people to 'get governin'. Then he introduced his new speech writer, Larry the Cable Guy." —Conan O'Brien

Two antennas meet on a roof, fall in love and get married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at, either.

A man complains, "Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'"
"That's the Tom Jones Syndrome," explains the doc.
"Is it common?" asks the man.
"It's Not Unusual," says the doc.

I went to a seafood disco last week and pulled a mussel.



Loop Arts



Margrit Eichler Courtesy Photo

True Margrit at Luna

San Francisco piano-pop trio True Margrit returns to Vashon Island to play at Café Luna on **Thursday, April 20** from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Based in San Francisco, the piano-pop trio is fronted by singer/songwriter/piano-player Margrit Eichler. Says Eichler: “We had such a great time at Vashon last September, we thought we’d drop by again and play y’all some more tunes!”

True Margrit’s song-driven sound is fueled by Eichler’s husky, sweet alto, and her formidable piano-playing. She is accompanied by the muscular, dynamic rhythm section of Gary Hobish on bass and Andrew Bacon on drums. The band has been touring in Washington, Oregon, and California (and is soon to hit the East coast) in nightclub, radio, television and in-store engagements. True Margrit has released four recordings: *Peut-Etre la Fenetre*, *Sympathetic Magic*, *Deceptively True*, and the latest, *Seaworthy*.

Amelia’s Only Daughters opens the show with a short set.



Patrick Désaunay

Viva la France!

Experience a taste of music and food of the French countryside, in *A French Soirée*, **Saturday, April 29, 8 p.m.**, when guitarist and singer Patrick Désaunay, who lives in the Loire Valley, brings his intricate guitar work and his compositions to Blue Heron Art Center. From jazz-tinged café music to exciting, East European-influenced dance tunes, Désaunay will be accompanied by two top musicians, Seattle violinist Ruthie Dornfeld and Bellingham’s, favorite bassist and vocalist Ginny Snowe. The trio will perform Désaunay’s original compositions and songs, Parisian waltz musettes, bourrées from the Auvergne region. Vashon’s own Chef Wally Bell will provide tasty French treats to savor before the show and during intermission. Tickets are \$12 VAA members, seniors, students/\$15 general admission.



Michael Dickes: My Guitar, My Best Friend

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

Michael Dickes, Leavenworth-based singer/songwriter, will be playing at Café Luna accompanied by violinist John Weeks this **Friday, April 14**, at 7:30 p.m. Speaking for himself: “I can definitely see a reason for how my life is laid out. When I was a kid, coming up on my ninth birthday, my dad asked me what I wanted, and there was this bike, but I saw a cool guitar in a pawn shop, and I said, ‘Dad, I’d like to have this guitar,’ so my dad got the guitar, and it became my best friend.”

“I listened to Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Robert Earl Keene, Lyle Lovett, Joe Ely...these are people who take a simple chord progression and some simple, well thought-out words, and really connect with people.”

“I started playing professionally just before I turned 18, sneaking into bars slightly illegally. We played mostly cover tunes and for me that was a waste of time. My love was writing songs, even if nobody ever heard them. I started my own band performing my own songs and we toured in Europe for about a five-year period.”

“Then I put together a different band, toured the Northwest and down the coast in Oregon and California, and built up a pretty good following here. Then one day my wife said, ‘We’re pregnant.’”

“The guys in the band said, ‘You’re doomed, it’s over.’ I said, ‘No problem! I’ll keep touring!’ Eli was born, and pretty soon I realized it wasn’t worth it. I love my wife, I’m devoted to my kids, so I came home. I continued to write, record, and produce, and worked as a radio program director.”

“I loved radio, but it’s a full time committed gig. I needed a way to get back in connection with writing and performing. I bought my own roofing business. It’s flexible enough that I can do what is most important to me, writing and singing.”

For more information about Michael, visit his website: www.michaeldickes.net, and come out to hear him on Friday at Café Luna.

Désaunay, well-known throughout France, has been instrumental in the revival of French folk music and may be heard on more than twenty recordings. Founding member of band, *La Chiffonie*, he also performs as a duet with his brother, a noted accordionist. The two albums released by *Les Frères Désaunay*, *Après La Pluie* and *Le Beau Temps*, are regarded as milestones in French folk music, profoundly influencing whole generations of folk musicians.

Désaunay, a prolific composer, is as adept at playing traditional French and Irish music as gypsy jazz. He has performed with French singer-songwriters including Graeme Allwright, Luc Romann, Gérard Pierron and Marc Robine.

Versatile Seattle fiddler Ruthie Dornfeld’s vibrant, expressive playing is voiced in a wide range of traditional fiddle styles, from Celtic, old-time American, to Scandinavian and Eastern European. She has performed



Ruthie Dornfeld

Red Perl Is Back!

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

Sitting down to talk with Darryl Redeker and Sarah Perlman, the performers who collaborate as Red Perl, is kind of like watching a lightning ping pong match, only the play is between Darryl’s outgoing goofiness and Sarah’s serene, quiet goofiness.

The two are playing their first concert in over a year at the end of April, and the first question was: why have you been away for performing for so long?

Darryl: “We had been playing for five years and had a lot of songs we liked, but felt we were doing the same thing over and over, and purposely decided to stop and write. So we took a year off.”

Sarah: “And we have two new songs.”

They both break up laughing and say together, “Just kidding!”

Sarah: “Before Darryl was accompanying my violin melodies with chords on the guitar, and what we’re doing now is more contrapuntal. We write together now (After running home and checking my dictionary, I can tell you that “contrapuntal” means, in music, the interweaving of different melodies).”

Darryl: “It was scary to quit for a year. We had momentum. We’ve kept about 20% of the old Red Perl material. We distanced ourselves from the old tunes and now they’re fresh again.”

“Sarah brings a tune in and we work with it and it becomes a Red Perl tune.”

Sarah: “We have different kinds of styles, (Eastern) Indian influences from Darryl, Spanish, klezmer, swing, folk, jazz, blues — kinda what we did before, but we tried not to write ‘Son of Red Perl.’”

Darryl: “We start with a root, and then turn it into a nectarine! Like combining two fruits (*waving his hands in a combining motion*), and making a whole new fruit!”

Sarah (laughing): “Make it sound better than that!”

Darryl: “We’re doing some standards. ‘Harvest Moon,’ ‘How High the Moon.’ We took ‘Somewhere’ by Leonard Bernstein and turned it into a reggae.”

Sarah: “Some of our original titles are, ‘Swing Set,’ a tune of mine, and ‘Textures of the Highway...’”

Darryl: “...which captures the feeling of going down the street, driving. Sarah wrote a song when my mom died, called, ‘Morty’s Waltz.’”



Red Perl is Sarah Perlman, left, and Darryl Redeker, right

Red Perl in Concert
Saturday, April 29, 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 30, 3 p.m.
At the Havurah
15401 Westside Highway SW

Sarah: “I can’t say, ‘Darryl’s mom died,’ I have to write a tune.”

Darryl: “It’s glorious, a sweet tune, a letting go, not heavy.”

Sarah: “Bittersweet.”

We discuss briefly our mothers and their passing. Then:

Darryl: “I want to be able to play for students – walk the talk.”

Sarah: “It’s huge. Students get so much out of it, hearing the person teaching them play. The show we’re doing on Sunday at 3 p.m. is for parents who want to bring kids. It’s good for the parents to hear the music, too. They’re paying for the lessons!”

Darryl: “We haven’t done this material on stage and we don’t know how it’s going to go. When you do a show, it develops in ways you don’t expect, then you have to improvise, which is scary, but great when it works We have fun playing together and we have a high musical energy bordering on, well, lunacy. What I like is when we do something in a song that we’ve never done before and we both do it at the same time. Over the years our music has changed and our partnership has deepened. It took us a year and a half to get into our first fight.”

Sarah: “We are very different people, with different backgrounds, and that is part of what makes the partnership work. If we tape these concerts it will be interesting to hear. This is the point where I start to panic and Darryl says, ‘This is going to be great!’”

“Music is a mystery. Sometimes you ask, ‘Why are we doing this?’ Well, it’s my life, but sometimes someone will write a poem, or let you know in some other way that you music affected them and had meaning, and it’s nice to know we have impacted someone in a positive way.”

Swing Week, accompanying Frankie Manning’s Lindy Hop classes, and has worked with such nationally-known musicians as Peter Ostrushko, Brooks Tegner, Marc and Anne Savoy, and Dewey Balfa. Her notable vocal talent has of late been heard in the Bossa Nova and Samba repertoire of such Brazilian greats as Antonio Carlos Jobim, Carlos Lyra, and Dori Caymmi as well as many American jazz standards.

Benefit for K-Jo Farm

On **April 21 at 7:00 p.m.** Cafe Luna will host an evening benefit concert with Turner Down for K-Jo Farms here on Vashon Island. The goats at the Farm were attacked on April 1 by loose dogs on the Island. K-Jo suffered significant financial and emotional loss due to these uncontrolled pets. This attack is not the first occurrence of its kind on the island. We in Turner Down ask pet owners to leash their dogs, and respectfully request the King County Sheriff’s Office to respond to Islanders.

Vashon residents can also make a donation at US Bank in town (ask to donate to K-Jo Farm).

and taught at festivals, schools, music and dance camps throughout U.S., Europe, Russia, and Brazil. Dornfeld attended Berklee College of Music, was a member of a twin fiddle stringband, bluegrass band Boston City Limits and Hungarian band The Pulis. Dornfield has been a mainstay on the contradance circuit, and toured Europe multiple times with tapdancer Ira Bernstein and with Copenhagen-based group The American Cafe Orchestra. She returned to the Northwest a decade ago and currently performs with guitar master John Miller and in French cabaret group, *Rouge*.

Ginny Snowe, well-known Bellingham-based bassist, has played as a charter member of such bands as Uncle Gizmo, the R e c k l e s s Ramblers and Funhouse. Snowe has also performed and taught at Centrum’s Fiddletunes Festival and Smithsonian’s Folklife Festival. For many years she performed at the Augusta



Ginny Snowe

Blackberry Bear and the Adventures of Huckleberry Hollow

©Becky and Maggie Bumgarner
© Illustrations by Maggie Bumgarner



St. Patrick's Day at Tooley's

Part 1: The Green Bracelet

One morning Maggie and Ratty knocked on the door of Wizzy's cave. Ratty leaned in the door, calling, "Ah, and a good morning' to you Blackberry. 'Tis I...Ratty O'. Are you ready for the party? Maggie and I have come to pick you up."

"I'm all set Ratty...let's go," Blackberry said as he came out of his room.

"Wait a minute, Blackberry. I thought I explained about St. Patrick's Day to you. You'll need to wear something green."

"Oh, I forgot. I'll just take a look in Wizzy's trunk." Blackberry began digging through the trunk. "I'm sure he'll have something green in there. Ho



hum...here it is! A neat green bracelet. I'll just try it on. Hey Ratty, what do you think? Looks kind of neat, doesn't it?"

"Blackberry...where did you go?" "I'm right here in front of you, Ratty." "Huh? I can hear you, but where are you?"

"Right here Ratty. In front of you!!!" "No, you're not!" "Yes, I am!" "No, you're not!" "See the bracelet? Isn't it cool?!"

"No." "You don't like the bracelet?" "What bracelet?! Where *are* you?" "I keep telling you, I'm right here." "Just a minute Blackberry, I'll go and get Maggie," Ratty said, running out the door. Maggie was waiting for them outside, practicing her ballet positions in her red tennis shoes. "One...two...three...what's taking so long Ratty?"

"Come quick, Maggie! I've got a problem with Blackberry. He keeps talking, but he's not there." "Hey, Blackberry, let's go!" Maggie yelled to the back of the cave.

"OK, Maggie," came Blackberry's voice from just beside her. "What do you think of this cool green bracelet? Doesn't it sparkle?"

"OK, Blackberry, quit the hiding," Maggie said. "Where are you? We'll be late for the party."

"But Maggie, I'm right in front of you! Can't you see me?" pleaded Blackberry.

"No," Maggie replied. Then she had a thought. "Hey, where did you get that bracelet?"

"Out of Wizzy's trunk. Isn't it neat?" "I think it's a lot more than that, Blackberry. I think it's one of Wizzy's special pieces of jewelry, and it causes its wearer to disappear. Take it off for a moment."

"OK..." came Blackberry's voice. POOF! "...see?" he said, holding out the bracelet.

"Yep. I see you now, and it is a pretty neat bracelet, all right. You'll need to be careful with that! Now go put on your green shirt for the party. You can put the bracelet into your pocket for emergencies."

"OK," Blackberry said. "Anyway. It's off to the party," Maggie said, and the three friends set off for Tooley's.

To Be Continued

The Making of Annie My First Community Theater Experience

By Susan Wolf

I never lived through the Depression — today's world is depressing enough for me. My high school drama days have long since passed and until now, I've never had the opportunity to participate in a community theater event.

When I auditioned for *Annie*, I had no idea what to expect. Would I be great and win a lead role, or would I be laughed at and quickly shown the door? Libbie Anthony, Kathy Bonner and Marita Ericksen made it a positive experience for every man, woman and kid that showed up. Each person's effort was applauded and complimented. Smiles filled the room.

After seeing the awesome talent of my fellow Vashonites, some of whom had participated in other performances, I realized I'd be lucky if I made the chorus. And the kids' talents blew me away. As another auditioner said to me after Megan Hackett sang, "Thank God SHE isn't trying out for Miss Hannigan!"

I was tickled to death to win a small part. First we learned the songs, then the dances, and began our speaking our parts. Suddenly we were all awful! Standing like sticks on stage, stumbling through songs and squawking our lines, I was thankful opening night was months away. But as we kept at it we got better and better. And then Libbie's genius became apparent. She'd run us through

a scene, then tweak our placement, explain our emotion, our interaction with each other. We'd run through it again and again, until at the end of the evening, we couldn't believe how much better it got.



As the little girls belted out those positive songs enthusiastically and little Megan Hackett would bring a tear to our eyes or make us grin ear to ear, the Magic began. Those kids can out-sing, out-act and out-dance any one of the adults and that somehow lit a fire in each of us. We fell into our characters and the scenes began to take on a realism that had those of us on the sidelines laughing hysterically at each others' performances. People blossomed.

My first little theater experience has turned out to be one of the most joyous events of my life. If you don't come to see what all the fuss is about, well, you deserve to live through the Depression all over again!

Annie opens this Friday,
April 14, at the Vashon High
School Theater at 8 p.m.

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What's Happening at Vashon Bookshop?

By Devon Atkins

Even More Poetry!

So, I know you're all excited to know that we are entering the second half of April/National Poetry Month, and where else would you want to be for this exceptional month than word and poet-loving Vashon?!

I spent last week at the Poetry Salon, that Every First Thursday gathering of folks who idle in and out of the Bookshop, discussing ideas about poetry. We talked about classic structure and the joy of breaking structure, and I looked around and thought, "Wow. This is always such great conversation!" I look at the group and I see several artists, a science teacher, a freelance politician, a writer, an actress, a gardener, an attorney, and an editor. No wonder there are so many ideas generated!

Just before I left, I spent some time with a precocious nine-year-old who was waiting for her mother. We talked about books and she told me about a friend of hers who sent each of her classmates a Haiku for Valentines Day. There's no doubt in my mind, that a lot of the coolest people on Vashon are children! And, speaking of Haiku, don't miss **Thursday, April 20, 7 p.m.**, when the Island's Haiku/Hiku group hosts an evening of Haiku discussion, readings, and Japanese flower arrangement at our own County Library.

And, then a week later, on **Thursday, April 27, 7 p.m.**, the Bookshop hosts the Second Annual WORDS Community Poetry Open Mic. If you know that fourth grader who sent her classmates Haikus, let her know. In fact, let all those kids know. This will be a night when anyone who wants to read poetry (their own or anyone's) or talk about poetry should make their way to the Bookshop. Sign up

to read, by calling me or emailing me (oyuijf@aol.com or 567-4886), or just show up. You can sign up anytime between now and then, by phone, or in the Bookshop that week or that night.

And, speaking of signing up, I'm looking for a few brave men and women who are willing to try something just a little bit daring. A couple of weeks ago, local poets Merna Hecht, Harris Levinson, Julian Park, Michael Hood and I created conversation with poetry at the Blue Heron. Armed with at least a dozen poems each, chosen without the prior knowledge of the others, we read in an always-changing order while choosing poems on the spot to respond to each other's poems. All five of us were intimidated, but were delightfully challenged by the conversations we created with out poetry, as was our terrific audience. Don't understand or want to know more? Give me a call. I think it will be great fun to do this again, but with different poets and different poetry.

And, then, there's always the Bookshop's Book Group that meets **Thursday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.**, to discuss Carlos Ruiz Zafon's *Shadow of the Wind*. Of course the biggest news is that the Bookshop has a new and especially charming neighbor. Kronos has moved next door!

Which only goes to prove, once again, that there is much more to Vashon Bookshop than just books!

www

**Vashon Haiku:
Oscar night in town
From out of our best dresses
we pluck alfafa
- Sally Leonhardt**

Nan Leiter at Two Wall Gallery in April

By Ben Meeker

We are pleased to announce an exhibit of large scale narrative oil paintings by Nan Leiter at the Two Wall Gallery **April 7 through April 28**. There will be an opening reception on **Friday April 7**, during the First Friday Gallery Cruise, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Nan Leiter is a painter with the compositional sensibilities and personal history of a sculptor. She is a collagist who creates her own collage elements derived from art history; childhood experiences; Vashon life; familiar landscapes; and commercial illustration.

Leiter is a typical Vashon artist with a studio on-Island and a job off. She has shown her assemblage sculptures and paintings on Vashon and around the Puget Sound. Many will be familiar with her carved and constructed wall-mounted sculptures. This exhibit will feature her paintings that are composed in much the same manner as her sculptures.

A prototypical Nan Leiter painting would feature Manet's *Olympia* with a

yellow smiley face, reclined on a bed of Hokusai's waves, as she considers Dr. Seuss' red fish that floats above the waves. A big part of viewing this work is decoding the assembled images to figure out the stories that she is telling. Sometimes the stories are a record of her personal experiences. Sometimes they are the story of Vashon. Sometimes they define an American woman. Sometimes they are paintings about art. And sometimes they are just about popular culture icons, Kansas, light on water, freeways, life and paint.

Hopefully as you read these words you are forming pictures in your head. The previous non-sequiturs were assembled much the same way that Nan creates her paintings: neatly, eclectically, insightfully, and with a touch of humor and poetry. Where words fail the paintings begin. We hope that you will enjoy Nan's painted poetry at the Two Wall Gallery through the month of April.

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