In This Issue: Sacred Seed; Library programs for April; Spotted Sandpiper; Swim team; Kaddish; Kudzu; Irish stew; Letters galore; riddles, puns, quotes, and more!





Mattingly wins national championship

Page 16



No excuse to stay home on St. Patrick's Day; other arts

Pages 18 & 19

Vol. 4, # 6

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

March 14, 2007



Coal, a wolf rescued from Idaho. Wolftown

Wolves May Lose Protection

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

Wolftown volunteer Louise Bostock attended the US Fish and Wildlife Service's hearing on March 8 in Spokane on the delisting of the Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

"Based on what I heard at the meeting," Bostock reported, "it seems the US Fish and Wildlife Service wish to hand over the management of the Gray Wolves to the respective states of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and parts of Oregon and Washington."

"At the public input session there were 54 (according to my notes) people making statements either for or against the delisting. Fortunately, although there will NOT be a vote on this issue, 36 of the 54 were opposed to delisting the Wolves at this time."

"We would like to encourage as many people as possible to send in their comments for consideration on this issue. Comments can be mailed to USFWS at 585 Shepard Way, Helena, MT 59604, or sent by email

WesternGrayWolf@fws.gov. All comments will be considered from anywhere in the world as long as they are received no later than close of business May 9, 2007."

Continued on page 8

Introducing Binger

Cartoonist **Ed Frohning** introduces Binger the Moose in this issue (page 'The 17).



goal is to raise awareness and caring for our northern treasures through Binger's personality," Frohning said. "My worst fear is to live on an earth inhabited by nothing but humans."



The Glacier sand and gravel mine on Maury Island would be part of an aquatic reserve in which mining would not be allowed. Loop photo

Aquatic Reserve Bill Passes Senate

If we only pass

-- Sen. Erik Poulsen

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

which mining and mining related permitted under shoreline master activities would not be

allowed, passed in the State Senate by a SB 6011 we will be narrow margin (26 yeas able to save Maury." and 22 nays, and one excused) on Tuesday, March 6.

State Senator Erik Poulsen told *The Loop*, "SB 6010 (allowing King County to veto permits which have been granted to Glacier) is still in the Rules Committee; and SB 6012

Senate Bill 6011, setting up an Glacier's hydraulic permit, as well aquatic reserve on Maury Island in as raising the bar for activities

programs which pertain to islands in Puget Sound) has yet to be scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor. Still, passing one of

these three bills out of the Senate was a big victory for us. It was one of the toughest battles I've faced as a legislator but we got the necessary votes."

"Glacier Northwest is working (which would prevent renewal of very hard to stop all three of these

Continued on page 6



Students in Vashon College's Vashon 101 class discuss map of soils and slide prone areas on the Island. Photo by Susan Wolf

Vashon 101: Geography, Geology, and Tsunamis, Oh My

By Susan Wolf

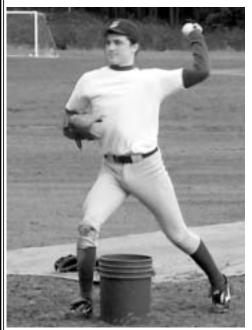
around Vashon? Where could a tsunami do the worst damage? If I own a house here, can I be assured that it is on top of stable soil? Has well-drilling on the island increased in the past 10 to 15 years?

The answers to these and many other questions were answered in

Exactly where are the fault lines Vashon College's "Vashon 101" course. During Session 3, Geologist Tom DeVries explained how an aerial view of the island as seen with new laser technology reveals our Island stripped of vegetation. The map also reveals where the different

Continued on page 8

Pirates Baseball You Don't Need to Go to Peoria



Pirates pitcher Micah Deibell burns one in during Saturday practice. More photos and story on page 14. Photo by Rita Santiago-Allman

First Home Game Friday

It's the time of the year when baseball fans get antsy to hear, "Play ball!"

The crack of the bat, the impossible catch, the double play you talk about all the way home -we're ready for it all to begin again, and March is the month of spring training. But you don't have to go

Continued on page 14



Village on Costa Maya. Photo by Diana Spaulding

Seniors Go Cruisin'

By Diana Spaulding

A group of 29 Vashon savvy senior citizens, their families and friends, escaped our wet, gray, dark winter days for a break in the sun, traveling on a Princess cruise ship on the Western Caribbean recently. The cost for this Senior Center fundraiser was so affordable that

Continued on page 2

Get in The Loop

VashonBePrepared §

Free CERT Training will be starting on March 16th. Classes will be held every Friday until May 4. There will be an all-day training session on Sunday, April 29. Contact: Michael or Catherine Cochrane 463-4558 certvashon@yahoo.com

Green Party Book Club

The next Green Party Book Club is Sunday, March 25, at 2 p.m. at the host an Adopt-A-Cat Day on Vashon Tea Shop. We will be discussing the book *Mountains Beyond* Saturday March 24, from 11 a.m. Mountains by Tracy Kidder. You can pick up the book at either book store to 2 p.m. and Sunday, March 25, on Vashon. This book is the story of Dr. Paul Farmer, who founded Partners in Health in Haiti, and travels around the world being an advocate for health care for the poor. All are welcome to join us- you do not have to join or be a member of the Green Party. Please call Ivy Sacks, 463-9579 for further information.

Climate Project Presentation

Did you see the film An Inconvenient Truth and wonder, "What's next for global climate change?"The Vashon Democratic Club is proud to host a presentation by Island activists Meg Gluckman and Janie Starr who received training at former Vice-President Al Gore's The Climate Project. They will review information from *An Inconvenient Truth*, as well as science updates, and governmental and corporate response. Join us this Saturday, March 17, 7-9 p.m., at the Land Trust Building Meeting info: Gluckman at 463-2916, Starr at starrboogie@earthlink.net, or Club President Roger Fulton at 669-9459.

Work Party at Christensen Pond Bird Preserve

On **Sunday**, **April 22**, the Audubon Society will sponsor a work party to remove invasive fauna around the Christensen Pond Bird Preserve. Volunteers will remove ivy, holly, Scotch broom, and Himalayan blackberries. Meet on Wax Orchards Road SW, north of SW 240, at 9 a.m. that morning. Bring pruning shears, loppers, picks, shovels, and potato forks. Wear heavy gloves, long sleeves, long pants and boots.

LWV Hosts Recycling and Composting Lecture

Learn about recycling and composting on Vashon as well as what to do about handling toxics in your home. Come and learn what can be recycled at your curb side, at the Transfer Station, and what to do with computers, cleaning products and batteries. The League of Women Voters (LWV) will meet on **Thursday, March 15** from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. in the Vashon Library meeting room. You are cordially invited to attend. A Master Recycler Composter volunteer from King County Solid Waste will be the featured speaker. Non-members are always welcome.

Grafting Workshops

Friday, March 16, and Saturday, March 17, Vashon Island Fruit Club is conducting a pair of workshops on grafting fruit trees. The Friday event will be a lecture at 7 p.m. at Courthouse Square on "The Principles of Grafting" by Bill Davis, Master Grafter, Seattle Fruit Society. On Saturday, a hands-on workshop will start at 9 a.m. at Sleeping Eye Nursery (15730 SW 115th Ave). Participants will apply their grafting lessons to actual informational session on **Tuesday**, root stock and take trees to take home for the cost of root stock (\$5). Bring a sharp knife, or sharpen it there. Nonmembers welcome if they sign up Trust Building. The subject will be for a membership at the workshop. For information, contact Mary Ornstead the Forest Stewardship property at 463-0565.

Opportunity Knocks For Island Teens

Teens of Vashon: Do you have a project that needs support? An unfulfilled dream that with some funding could take flight? A project that could help you and your community? Development of Island Teens (DOIT) is offering "Opportunity Knocks" grants of up to \$500 to Island teens with good ideas and good proposals. Check out the DOIT website (www.vashondoit.org) for applications and information. Applications are also available at school counselors' offices, Student Link, the Vashon Library, and Vashon Island Travel. Deadline for submissions is **Monday**, April 23. For more information, call Jean Navarre at 463-4948.

Senior Center Trip to Tacoma Mall

The Tacoma Mall has lots of shops, a food court — and is only a short ride away. Vashon Senior Services is sponsoring a trip there, departing the Senior Center at 9:45 a.m. on **Tuesday**, **March 20**, and returning on the 3:40 p.m. ferry from Pt. Defiance. Cost for SC members is \$5, nonmembers, \$10. Sign up at the Senior Center.

VIPP Spring Garage Sale

Vashon Island Pet Protectors' Spring Garage Sale will be on Saturday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to 3p.m., and Sunday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Firefighter's Association Building on SW Bank Road. Donations will be gratefully accepted Friday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Unfortunately, we're unable to accept the following: large appliances, mattresses, clothes, computers and exercise equipment. For more information please call Victoria 463-5381.

VIPP Adopt-A-Cat Days

Vashon Island Pet Protectors will from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Pandora's Box. Please stop by or call VIPP at 206-389-1085.

Featured Cat



old beautiful medium haired Male, a sweet, playful, kitten with beautiful creamy orange hair. He has brothers and sisters

Arlin is a 6-month-

that he loves to play with as well as other adult cats. He would love to be adopted with a

brother or sister. Who wouldn't? Land Trust Open House

Drop by the Land Trust for our Open House style Annual Meeting 2007 on Wednesday, March 28, between 5 and 8 p.m. Visit with your friends and the Land Trust staff and board members. Browse the displays to learn about current projects and future plans. Admire our new slide show, compiled by Pete Murray, that shows the beauty of the island nature preserves. Meet and vote on new and returning board members. Enjoy a buffet of refreshments and drinks. All Islanders are welcome. Contact the Land Trust for more info at 463-2644 or info@vashonlandtrust.org

Forest Stewardship, **Conservation Programs** Informational Workshop

The Land Trust will host an **April 3,** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Land conservation and tax-incentive program offered through the King County Public Benefit Rating System. This will be a chance for those whose current plans are expiring to determine is needed to re-enroll in the program. Ted Sullivan, Program Coordinator with King County, and Amy Grotta, Program Educator with WSU Extension, will introduce the program, and will work with those already enrolled to update their current plans. See if Forest Stewardship Planning is right for your property and situation. For more info contact the Land Trust at 463-2644

info@vashonlandtrust.org

Help keep our seniors vital!

Vashon-Maury Senior Center is looking for a PT Program Coordinator. Visit us at www.seniorservices.org or call 206.463-5173 for details.



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Conveniently Located inside Pandora's Box



The Granny's Report

By Jeannine Rampe, Board President

The Health Center Volunteers (the folks who operate Granny's Attic Thrift Store) held their monthly Membership Meeting on February 23, 2007. David Sunstrom, presented updates on the activities surrounding the land where Granny's Attic is operated. He expressed the wish to have Granny's Attic and other community members involved in shaping the future of development.

Pacific Northwest Magazine (Sunday Times) had an article about the global nature of used clothing. The average American donated 68 pounds of used clothing last year. The global used clothing business accounts for 17,000 jobs in the US, 100,000 jobs in Africa, and approximately \$1 billion in multinational sales. Most Thrift Store proceeds in the US go to help worthy causes in our communities.

Granny's Attic is proud to help the Vashon Health Center. Keep those donations coming, and we always love to see you shopping with us!

To learn how to volunteer call 463-3161 and talk with Richard Lipke or Dan Richardson. Anyone wishing to donate a vehicle to Granny's Attic should call 1-800-

404-8284. The Vashon Loop

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Troy & Marie **Home Team Realty Properties**



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s .34 Acre

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MLS# 27006933

Bright and Spacious Waterfront

A terraced yard leads to 100 ft of waterfront with a 200 degree view of Commencement Bay, Mt. Rainier, and the picturesque Tahlequah ferry. Light, bright rooms take advantage of the view and southern exposure. The master suite is on the main floor, and the living room features vaulted ceiling, a wall of windows and a cozy built-in pellet stove. Two levels of wrap-around deck add plenty of outdoor living space. Plus, two car-garage with a partially finished workspace and fenced dog run.

\$699,500

9 2580 Sq Ft

9- 2.5 Bath

→ 100' Waterfront

№ .71 Acre

2 Car Garage

Hardwood Floors

Mt Rainer View



23720 97th Avenue SW

Rare Burton Loop

Rare opportunity to own a darling, single level home on Vashon's highly desirable Burton Peninsula. This pristine three-bedroom rambler is bright and airy, yet cozy and comfortable. Imagine curling up in front of the gas fireplace, watching the snow fall on the Burton Marina. In the summer, enjoy the fully fenced and gated yard and its mature and lovely landscaping. Just steps away from the kitchen door are a two-car garage and a spacious workshop/studio with lots of natural light. Hardwood floors, a large inviting kitchen and beautiful details throughout complete the picture of your perfect Island home.

\$629,000



→ 1640 Sq Ft

9∞ .69 Acre

MLS# 27008910

→ 2 Car Garage

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www.yourhtr.com

Other HTR Properties Tramp Harbor Tidelands

Unusual opportunity to own your own tidelands off Tramp Harbor, just north of the fishing pier. This property is tidelands only, not waterfront. \$9,000 Back on Market

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\$649,000 MLS # 26070946

\$649,000 MLS # 26070962

Loop Letters

Public Campaign Financing? **It Might Work**

Editor, *The Loop:*

The concentration of wealth in this country has become so unbelievable that I had to research reliable figures. I got figures extracted from the Congressional Budget Office by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the **Policy** Economic Institute. According to them, as of 2004, the top 1% control 33.4% of the wealth. The top fifth controls 81.7%, leaving 15.3% for the bottom four fifths. That's right, 80% of us have only 15.3% of the wealth in this country! The median income of that top 1%, was \$867,800, up from \$314,000 in 1979. That is an increase of 176% (almost triple for those that don't grok percentages). In contrast, the income of the middle fifth of the population increased from \$39,900 to \$48,400, a 21% increase. The income of the lowest fifth went from \$13,900 to \$14,700, a 6% increase (All figures adjusted to 2004 income distribution in this country is not just badly skewed; it is grotesquely skewed and getting worse every year! A healthy, stable Democracy requires 80% of the income to be in the middle three fifths, not in the top fifth.

Well, how did we end up with an income distribution that would be enviable in Czarist Russia? The largest part is due to tax policies, preferential economic incentives, trade policies, subsidies, etc., i.e., government legislation.

Why would a democratically elected government give so much to so few and leave the crumbs for the vast majority of us? The basic answer is simple: money buys influence. And where does this money enter the system? The principle conduit is election campaign contributions. Candidates require huge amounts of money to run winning campaigns, and they are seldom able to amass that from \$25 and \$50 donations from regular folks like us. The majority of that money comes from large, mostly corporate, special interests, including unions as they try to keep up with the "Corporate Joneses." Union membership has gone from thirty or forty percent of the workforce 50 years ago to single digits today.

What's to be done? We, at Washington Public Campaigns, are promoting the idea of funding campaigns in the State of Washington with public money and prohibiting the use of private contributions. This is a voluntary program that has been operating successfully through four election cycles in Maine and Arizona. They offer public funding to all state level candidates in exchange for stipulating that no private funds may be used. Instead of spending up to half their time, on the public

salary, raising funds for their next election, candidates spend time talking to constituents and doing the people's business. No special interest money, no special influence! Unions in these states find that they are far better off spending their money on organizing, negotiating, and member services. Our ultimate goal is public financing of campaigns at the national level. We are badly outgunned at that level, so we have taken the state by state approach, gathering strength and numbers for final confrontation Washington, D.C. We need to take our country back!

Please check out our website, www.washclean.org, or give me a call, (206) 463-2812 for answers to your questions. Read about the three bills we sponsored in the legislature this session, and how they are doing. Check the website often; we keep a calendar of events and update the news frequently. Most of all, if you like what you see, please join and make a generous donation! We depend entirely on your generosity, and it costs a lot of money to lobby and get the word out across the state. Most of our work is done by volunteers who pay their own expenses.

Come to our fundraiser in dollars). These figures show that our Ballard on Saturday, March 24, at 9 a.m., at the Majestic Bay Theater. 2044 NW Market St. We will be showing the film *Who Killed The* Electric Car? and holding a raffle with valuable prizes. The cost is \$10 general or \$5 for students. I know it is a stretch to leave Vashon early Saturday morning. Think of it as an adventure! I am offering seats in my car for a free ride there and back for the first four, and will try to organize carpooling for the rest of you.

Terry Sullivan

Editor's Note: This letter has been edited for length

There Are Some Things Worth Dying for...

...the soul of Vashon is one

Editor, The Loop:

Recently I had an experience which shook me to the Vashon core soul of me. I made one of my many stops at Calico Flowers in front of Chilkat Trader to pick up yet again an artfully constructed bouquet of beautiful flowers. I noticed a small white board scrawled on with an announcement, in an apologetic tone that soon the slightly crooked and obviously hand made wooden display would soon be replaced with a better display, something more elegant.

Something more elegant! More elegant! What could be more elegant that these flowers and the elegant way they are arranged. What I feared it really meant was actually more upscale, more in keeping up with a phony standard.

No! No! No! My soul screamed in agony, not another assault on what makes Vashon so special so unique, so "weird" or as I prefer "funky"! I won't let it happen, just like the bridge! That will only happen over my dead body.

I do not know what motivated the production of the "Keep Vashon Weird" bumper stickers, but I suspect



that whoever made the noble gesture sensed that Vashon was in danger of losing something very important, its very soul. Its uniqueness, its sacred stamp of being.

So what is soul? Elvis had and still has soul. There will never be another like him. New Orleans, Manhattan, Chicago have soul, LA no. Botox erases soul, McMansions are soulless. The new owners of the Vashon Theater have preserved and been true to the theater's soul. The Fuller Store is more soulful that ever! Thank you owners. Kudos to Eva and her husband Ken who saved and added even more soul to the Coffee

Thank heaven for the very special Highway Haikus at the ferry dock. The carved wooden statues of Gene Amondson are the soul of Vashon's soul. Name any place on the planet which honors one of its more colorful characters with a life size carved wooden statue of a man holding a chainsaw and thumbing for a ride! In fact every artist, musician, dancer or actor on Vashon have so much Vashon soul it brings tears to my eyes. Oh! Oh! I can't forget the deer pond!

The point of all of this is to say that the sacred law of creation is to be unique. Consider this: to duplicate rather than create, to imitate rather than begin at the beginning as did the universe is to invite a certain kind of death and the destruction of our very soul. Please stop the assault on the soul of Vashon. We need to take a stand somewhere before what makes Vashon so special is destroyed bit by bit in the name of "up scale" or "more elegant." For me the stand begins at the creaky, slightly crooked Calico Flower stand.

Since writing this, there is a new stand for Calico Flowers. Heaven be praised! It keeps the soul of Vashon

Jean Navarre

More Letters on Page 19

Chautauqua's Kindergarten Open House and Registration

Come meet the kindergarten team! We are excited to show you the classrooms, answer your questions, give you a tour of a school bus and read kindergarten story. Join us for the fun on Tuesday, **March 27,** 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The registration process will commence with the Open House activities.

Kindergarten registration for the 2007-2008 school year will begin on the evening of Tuesday, March 27 along with all the Open House activities. Early registration will run until Friday, June 1, at the Chautauqua office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. For families who turn in complete registration packets by June 1st we will mail a letter with their classroom teacher and AM/PM confirmation by the end of June. Those who cannot turn it in by June 1st, or it is not complete, will receive that information in August. You will need to include in the registration packet a copy of your child's official birth certificate

Register by June 1st to help us to make starring commitments to ensure smaller class size; establish the dividing line for AM and PM transportation routes (AM = South end of the Island; PM = North end of the Island); and receive your student's classroom placement notification by the end of June.

Living with Diabetes?

Sally Frazee, a Registered Nurse with specialized training as an educator, will lead a discussion on "Making Choices When Living with Diabetes" on Friday, March 30, at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center, While her 30 years in the medical field make her well qualified, it is her personal perspective as a diabetic that will make this discussion meaningful and memorable!

Library Programs in April

Great Books Discussion Group:

Monday, April 2, 7 p.m.

This month's selection is *Boys and* Girls, a short story by Alice Munro about her life growing up on a small farm in rural Ontario in the 1930's. Contact Grace Crecelius at 463-9361 for more information.

Toddler Story Time Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24 10:40am

Ages 21 months to 3 years with an adult. A 20-minute program of stories and songs just right for toddlers. **Lapsit Story Time**

Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25 10:40am

Newborn to 20 months with an adult. A 20-minute program of stories, songs, rhymes and bounces for babies and a caregiver.

Preschool Story Time Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25 11:30 a.m.

Ages 3-5. Join us for 30 minutes of stories, songs and fun!

Tax Assistance from AARP Volunteers on Wednesdays 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

AARP volunteers will provide assistance with electronic filing tax return for those over 60 and/or lowincome individuals in the Vashon area. Bring last year's tax return and information for 2006. Drop in or by appointment. Call the Vashon Senior Center for appointment 206-463-5173.

Friends of the Vashon Library

Meeting

Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m.
The Friends of the Vashon Library is a group of avid bibliophiles who meet four times a year to discuss how to best support the Vashon Library. New members are welcomed with open arms! Light refreshments will be served.

Wind in the Bamboo: Japanese Haiku & Music Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m. Presented by Duo En

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of the shakuhachi bamboo flute and the classical Japanese koto harp in a

people like me, who wouldn't have

been able to go in their lives, could

afford to travel. We went swimming

and snorkeling in the sea and

played with dolphins! We took side

trips to the village of Costa Maya,

places in Honduras, Belize, and

Cozumel to see the beauty of the

rain forests, jungle and The trip had

such an impact on me about how

Senior Cruise

mesmerizing program of music and poetry from Japan. For adults and teens.

SAT Preparation Saturday, April 21, 1-5 p.m.

SAT Practice Test: A practice exam is given. For students in high school who are preparing to take PSAT or SAT tests. Pre-register at 463-2069.

SĂT Preparation Saturday, April 28, 10-11:30

Review: Review test scares, learn test taking tips, and discuss college admissions. For students in high school who are preparing to take PSAT or SAT tests. Pre-register at 463-2069.

Basic Computer Skills, Level 2 Saturday, **April 28, 9 – 10:30**

Practice the skills necessary for using a computer, including using the mouse, selecting items and text, arranging windows, opening menus, and printing items. This is the second in a series. The prerequisite is Basic Computer Skills, Level 1, or some basic knowledge of computers. Registration is required and begins April 7th. Call 463-2069 to register.

LateNight @ the Library: Games

Saturday, **April 28, 6-10 p.m.**Guitar Hero comes to the LateNight for the first time, and Dance Dance Revolution open play will be available as usual. Participate in the Vashon Library Cyber Café and surf the web or play a game! Refreshments! Door prizes! Security will be provided. **Opera Preview:** *La Boheme*

Music by Giacomo Puccini Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica Sunday, April 29, 2:00 p.m. Norm Hollingshead, Lecturer

Join opera expert Norm Hollingshead for a preview of the Seattle Opera Company's next performance. Arguably the world's most popular opera, you'll recognize Puccini's melodies instantly. (It's no wonder he has influenced virtually every Hollywood soundtrack since Hollywood soundtracks began.) This is an exquisite, tuneful story of the young bohemians who sacrifice

everything for love and art.

Continued from page 1

little the people there "have" that I've taken six bags of collectibles antiques that I really love — to Granny's, with many more to go. It's too much for one person. Now others can enjoy those things because they can afford Granny's

trip with so many people to be with Maya. Photo by Diana Spaulding

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Ferry in Yucatan Rain Forest. Photo by Diana Spaulding



It was wonderful to be on the Louella Lodahl and exotic friends, Costa

— or not. There was plenty to do on the ship all day, and you could order room service!

With special thanks to Ellen Trout, designed the voyage, put it together and



Diana Spaulding

watched over us: a bow.



Cruisers, l to r: Carolyn Youngblood, unidentified, Louella Lodahl, another unidentified, and Bob Hallowell, all watched over by a regal guy on the wall. Photo by Diana Spaulding



A couple of locals in the Yucatan Rain Forest. Photo by Diana Spaulding



Spiritual Smart **Aleck**



Pick Up That Guitar and Sing!

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

All God's critters got a place in the choir... — Bill Staines

My friend Joy Goldstein recently gave me a book titled The Tour, by Bill Staines.

Bill Staines is a revered American singer/songwriter who lives in New Hampshire. If you don't know of him, you might have heard his songs, "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir," or "My Sweet Wyoming Home," which is the first song of his that got my attention.

Every October he gets into his van and drives across the country, doing concerts through the Midwest and up and down the West Coast. When he gets to Seattle, he usually flies from here up to Alaska to do a few gigs. Then he flies back to Seattle and drives east again, doing concerts along the way. He's addicted to the road, and makes his living driving around doing concerts and selling his CDs, and this book, apparently, which I notice he has signed on the frontispiece. I am thinking that Joy must have picked it up at a concert in Seattle. I went with her to see him a few years ago, but the book had not been written then.

In between talking about the tour he was making in the book, he talked about his life as a folksinger/ songwriter. He is a couple of years older than I am, and he started out a couple of years before I did, back in the 60s, living the life of a guitar bum, but his heroes and inspirations were a lot of the same people who were my heroes and inspirations: Joan Baez, Richard and Mimi Fariña, Judy Collins, Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton, and Joni Mitchell, to name but a few.

Staines lived in Boston in the 60s, so he was at the heart of the folk music scene of the time. He knew inhabited. It was pretty fascinating to read his remembrance of things, people, and music past.

It almost made me want to do it again. I can only think about that if I block out the memories of getting bookings and creating press packets, having photos taken, the expenses of travel, recording, etc. I didn't like working solo after awhile - I wanted a little company on the road. The company turned out to be Libbie Anthony and Velvet Neifert, and we were Women, Women, and Song for most of the 80s, but then I wanted to come home and watch my kids grow up, and I haven't really pursued the whole guitar bum thing since.

Being a musician is work, and people who haven't been musicians



Rick & Mary Tuel, Strawberry Festival 1979. Photo by Eve Dumovich

do not appreciate that. I think they get fooled because we say that you "play music." Geez, you're getting paid to play! How cool is that?

Most non-musicians have no concept of what goes into playing or singing well. When you see someone do a great performance, you're looking at the end result of their entire life so far: years of practice and dedication, a limited social life, people who don't want to pay them for their work, the peevishness of family and friends who feel neglected, the envy of people who have no idea how hard you had to work and how much you willingly gave up to do what you do, and, of course, the ongoing expenses of supporting your music

I sing in the Church Choir now, and I sing occasionally here and there on the Island. But reading about Bill Staines has made me think of, and long a little, for my original career, traveling up and down the West Coast, singing my songs. You have to be a special bird to enjoy that life, and I think of Malvina Reynolds, who was my mentor (I was one of people whose names were spoken many she encouraged) for the three with quiet awe in the music circles I years before she died back in the 70s. She kept touring, performing, and recording until the day she went into the hospital with her final illness. It makes me think about that life, truly it does.

> I gave you a song for the world to sing along

> Now pick up that guitar, and sing! - Mary Litchfield Tuel യയയ

Aquatic Reserve Bill

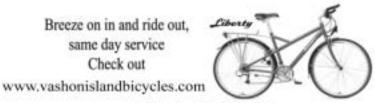
Continued from page 1

bills. That said, I think we have some momentum that could help us now in the House. Today I've met with the Governor, House Speaker Frank Chopp and a couple of other key House members about SB 6011. If we only pass SB 6011 we will be able to save Maury."

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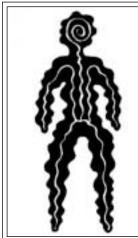
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Bill Defining Ferry Line Infractions Goes to House

Don't block that driveway; Don't cut into that line!

SB 5088, which makes it an infraction to (1) block a residential driveway while in a ferry line, and (2) cut into the ferry line, has passed the Senate 47-0, with one senator absent and one excused. The bill is scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Transportation at 3:30 p.m. on March 15th (subject to change).

"Even though it passed the Senate by a wide margin," said Senator Erik Poulsen, "it still needs to be worked in the House. We can't take it for granted that it will pass. Sometimes good bills run out of time. They don't pass simply because of the sheer number of bills and the limited amount of time in the session. That said, I'm still optimistic that we'll pass this bill into law."

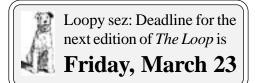
Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

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Don't Forget the Birds

Spotted Sandpipers

By Ed Swan

Spotted Sandpipers, North America's most widespread sandpipers, probably also provide the most interesting shorebird for study on Vashon. So far, sightings for Vashon range across every month except June and July, their breeding season in the Puget Sound area. It's possible that they breed on Vashon, but no one has yet found a nest on the island.

Spotted Sandpipers utilize an unusual reproductive strategy for birds, polyandry. One female attempts to breed with a number of reproductive capacity by competing for as many males as possible. The males take over incubation of the eggs and raising the young. A female lays up to four eggs, each egg weighing one-fifth of its mother. While the females cannot physically pull off more than four eggs per clutch, in the six-seven week laying period, she can produce up to five clutches of four. Females show up first in nesting areas and contend for as many males as possible as they arrive. The competition between females often reaches the point of physical violence.

Nesting in the Puget Sound area occurs mostly in June and July. These

birds might be found breeding from the coast all the way up into the high Cascades. Nests usually are near water, mostly along the shores of freshwater streams, ponds and lakes but occasionally on lagoons opening out to saltwater. Females lay eggs in a slight depression, lightly lined with grass or leaves. They hide the nest in grass or place it by larger objects for protection on the beach. The most likely areas for Vashon would be Fisher's Pond, Fern Cove, Christensen Cove and possibly Green Valley and the cove by the Colvos Apartments. These locations provide the best likelihood of finding the birds at any time of year. For males. The female maximizes her some reason, Spotted Sandpipers themselves most of the year but in range the shores of Colvos Passage more than the east side of Vashon. Ellisport, KVI Beach, Pt. Robinson and Maury Island Regional are the best places after the Colvos side of the Island.

> Spotted Sandpipers sport tannish-gray plumage above and white below and possess yellow legs. They are several inches smaller than the Killdeer that can also be seen here all year round. During the breeding season, the white breast is spotted, giving this sandpiper its name. The most identifiable feature of the species is its behavior; it may often be seen dipping and bobbing its tail up and down as it waddles or so. Andrea Wunschel reported



Spotted Sandpiper. Photo by Jim Rosso

These shorebirds prefer to forage by late summer and fall family groups form and feed along the shoreline. In the fall of 2006, Sherry Hudson and Don Norman saw a group of 13 at Camp Sealth, the largest recorded flock on Vashon.

Other than the singing of our resident birds preparing for the nesting season, bird activity lately has been rather quiet. The most interesting sightings for me lately consist of a flock of about 50 Pine Siskins and another of about 15 Red Crossbills foraging daily in the tree tops for the last month. The numbers of both species have been low across the region for the last year

along the shore or out on a log. the first Rufous Hummingbird February 28 at Camp Sealth for our first spring arrival. If you have an interesting sighting to report, a good Vashon bird photo or a question about local birds, call me at (206) email 463-7976 or edswan@centurytel.net. With spring and summer slowly approaching, if you have visitors to the island interested in seeing Vashon's birds, I am available for guiding tours to the best birding hot spots on the Island or for finding particular species. Give me a call or email. I'm available both during the week and weekends.

> Look round the habitable world! how few Know their own good,

or knowing it, pursue. -- Dryden, translation of Juvenal The Vashon Loop, p. 8 March 14, '07

Garden the World

Safe Seed Pledge

By MEarth

As the season of Spring rolls around and people's thoughts turn to gardening, I thought I would pass on the Safe Seed Pledge, a pledge signed by all organic, sustainable and responsible seed companies in the country. I would not consider buying seed from a company that does not sign this pledge.

"Agriculture and seeds provide the basis upon which our lives depend. We must protect this foundation as a safe and genetically stable source for future

generations. For the benefit of all farmers, gardeners and consumers who want an alternative, we pledge that we do not knowingly buy or sell genetically engineered seeds or plants. The mechanical transfer of genetic material outside of natural reproductive methods and between genera, families or kingdoms, poses great biological risks as well as economic, political, and cultural threats. We feel that genetically engineered varieties have been insufficiently tested prior to public release. More research and testing are necessary to further assess the potential risks of genetically engineered seeds. Further, we wish to support agricultural progress that leads to healthier soils, genetically diverse agricultural ecosystems and ultimately people and communities."

Wolves

Continued from page 1

The statement that Bostock presented at the hearing on behalf of Wolftown said in part, "This is not just about wolves. It is about what we want Washington State to look like in 100 years. The big predators represent the Pacific Northwest and the western way of thinking. They are our symbols, the eagle, the grizzly, the wolf."

"In England they had bear and wolf that are now a dim memory. Once they hunted and denned and made their lives and also their impact both good and frustrating on the people living there. Without them England is quiet and suburban. Will we become like England?"

"Wolftown hopes that all of us look down the road to see how our decisions will affect the people who live here after we are gone."

"Wolftown hopes that we learn a new way of living with wild animals. A way that involves respect and compassion, wisdom and hope and reality. We are all in this together. We at Wolftown are here

to help both the stockman and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. We are here for all of you. Please call us if you need us. Our number is 206-463-9113. Thank extirpated from Washington, you."

has held a series of public meetings and hearings in six states regarding the proposal to delist the Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Washington and receives protection Segment (NRM DPS) of gray wolves, under State law (WAC 232.12.014, which would leave them without RCW 77.15.120). When the wolf is the protection of the Endangered federally delisted, management Species Act.

Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and initiating development of a state parts of Washington, Idaho and Utah is based on the Service's determination that the Northern resolved. Deputy Secretary of the expanding central Idaho federal list of threatened and endangered species. The two

separate actions are being taken in recognition of the success of nationwide gray wolf recovery efforts under the Endangered Species Act.

The gray wolf has been meaning that the species, which The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was native to Washington, is thought to no longer occur here. The gray wolf is also listed as endangered by the State of authority will revert to the State. In The proposal to delist wolves in anticipation of this, the WDFW is wolf conservation and management

Neither the US Fish and Wildlife Rocky Mountain population has Service nor the Washington exceeded recovery goals and all the Department of Fish and Wildlife potential threats to it, except have plans to promote wolf recovery inadequate state regulations in in Washington. However, wolves northwestern Wyoming, have been may move into the State from the Interior Lynn Scarlett also northwestern Montana populations, announced that the Service is or from Canada, and it is removing the western Great Lakes anticipated that packs may become population of gray wolves from the established in Washington in the future.

I'm positive a solution exists, but would be ashamed.



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Patrick Christie, Ph.D. University of Michigan, Assistant Professor School of Marine Affairs at the UW discusses how one's world view affects how the conflict between enviornmentalists and NW Glacier's proposed mining expansion understood. Photo by Susan Wolf

Vashon 101

Continued from page 1

types of soil are located with their varying degrees of stability.

King County Groundwater expert Jim Simmons explained that well-drillers turn in logs to King County showing not only the soil composition of Vashon, but also the water topography. I was interested to know that most wells on Vashon are only 50'-200' deep, but alarmed to learn that since 1990, well-drilling has increased from 20 to 50 or more wells per year.

The finale was a model of a tsunami hitting our Island. We saw a projected 12' wave (lowering to about 3' at KVI beach) hitting, ricocheting and returning - in our case, right into Quartermaster Harbor, where it kept sweeping from side to side. Instructor DeVries pointed out that if people are on the beach they would not be able to survive a "three foot freight train."

During Session 4, Assistant UW Professor of Marine Affairs, Patrick Christie, explained the bones of contention in the controversy between NW Glacier and those Islanders who are concerned about the damage to our delicate shoreline, marine life and Puget Sound water quality. While this controversy has divided our Island, Prof. Christie helped us to see that how our world view makes a difference in how we interpret the conflict and makes it difficult to resolve.

More on the Vashon 101 course to follow in our next edition.

Susan Wolf is an Island writer who is taking the Vashon 101 course as a representative of The Loop, and reporting on what she learns there.



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of The Loop is

Friday, March 23

LoOpEd 2

In My Opinion - The **NW Glacier Conflict**

By Susan Wolf

I haven't been able to stop thinking about this issue since my Vashon 101 class session with controversy, however, is a panel of Professor Patrick Christie. People like me may not understand all the procedures. A panel of experts could implications and issues surrounding meet these concerns and needs (on NW Glacier, its parent company, both sides) by improving King and those environmentalists and citizens of Vashon.

On one side is a company which owns land in a zoned mine, which has been operating for 40 years. We will be experiencing a shortage of sand and gravel for the roads we drive on and the buildings such as schools, hospitals, and malls that our citizens will need by the year 2020. On an Island lacking employers, Glacier feeds families. Having invested millions of dollars in owning the land, operating the mine and enduring a lengthy permitting process, they are being challenged by those who are defending the Longview-Kelso area near Mt. St. marine life in an aquatic reserve, which was authenticated by an impartial, blue ribbon panel. go there. There's half a mountain

Anything that destroys the natural beauty of our unique home is painful to watch. How can we help a Tokyo-based firm with millions behind it (and perhaps their lawful rights as well) understand that there is more to this immense expansion of operations than the bottom line?

What is lacking in this mediators to set state governing County's permitting processes, state courts and legislature in a mutually beneficial way. Without it, all we have is a bitter battle of costly litigation, angry news articles and road signs or bumper stickers. It makes me sad to realize we have so much at stake - more than millions of dollars of profit and more than a ruined ecosystem that backlashes us in extreme and unexpected ways. It's an example of how we as a society are failing to work together for the common good. Our mothers taught us better than this.

Having relatives in the Helens where I often visit, I can't help but think this operation should

of sand and gravel clogging rivers, piled in hills along the freeways and decimating forestlands where excavation, dredging and barging would restore the natural landscape, not ruin it. It's closer to the Columbia where large ships berth and where there is a depressed economy with a surplus of unemployed workers. There has to be a conscientious developer who would purchase Glacier's Vashon land, develop parts of it as 5 acre home sites with greenbelts and parks (reserves) set aside. There could even be a citizen's advisory committee to help guide the developer. I know some of you don't like any further building or development of Vashon, but where else would the money come from? If you don't like that idea, which one - realistically now! - would you

we must be able to see out of each other's eyes and understand each other's hearts in order to solve it. That takes patience, being humble and possessing the courage to try. NW Glacier may be the giant, but are we a righteous David? Until we figure it out, we'll keep arguing and paying attorneys. Our mothers



Kaddish for Seli

A Personal Essay by Alice Orr

Seli Groves was my dear friend, but nobody told me when she died last year on April 2nd, between my trips back east to New York City. I had no way of knowing that the woman who referred to me as her "little sister" was gone.

She hadn't emailed for a while, but that happened occasionally. For years, Seli wrote seven nationally syndicated columns — five on soap operas, one about women's issues and another featuring celebrity interviews. Seli's sincere smile and gentle humor made everybody feel safe talking to her, and she talked to them all, old celebs and new. Once, I mentioned that my husband had a boyhood crush on Dinah Shore. Next time I saw Seli, she had a copy of Dinah's cookbook personally autographed to him. Seli had captivated her as surely as she captivated us all. She was in her seventies and suffered from advancing diabetes. I was surprised when she found time and energy to email at all. What mattered more was that, every time I came to New York, she found time and energy to spend with me.

We'd meet at Artie's Delicatessen on the upper Westside. Artie's is the real thing as delis go lots of racket, helpful but impatient wait staff and a multipage menu of highly indigestible food. We sat in the front window, leaning toward each other across heavy crockery bowls of coleslaw and gigantic dill pickles. We'd talk for hours, sometimes both at once, usually very fast because there was so much to say. Mostly though, I would listen. Seli was wise, knowledgeable and compassionate. I wish I'd written down every word she ever said, but it never occurred to me that one day she would no longer be around to listen to.

When that day arrived, or when I finally realized it had arrived, there was nobody to grieve with. They'd all finished with that by then. I had to find a way to mourn on my own. Seli was a believing Jew, though she embraced my faith with her usual wit. "Jesus was a good Jewish boy," she'd say. "He went to temple and took care of his mother." She'd taught me a lot about Judaism, so I knew about Kaddish but only in a very general way.

I bought a copy of *Kaddish* by Leon Wieseltier. Because of its thickness, I assumed it was a scholarly work, but it was actually much more. The author's father had died. As the son, it was Leon's traditional duty to recite Mourner's Kaddish three times a day at synagogue for eleven months. The book is the author's journal of those months, interspersed with a deeply researched study of the history of this prayer and its interpretation by Talmudic scholars through the ages.



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THANK YOU TO THE VASHON COMMUNITY FOR AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS!

People danced in the aisles to the world music of CHILDREN OF THE REVOLUTION. Vashon Theater was sold out. And Food for Thought, a collaborative project of the Sister Community Network and Vashon Island Rotary, raised more than \$20,000 net to benefit the children of Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, struggling to overcome the devastation of Hurricane Stan. Thank you to all who attended the benefit concert March 3, 2007. Thank you, also, to the many individuals and business that made donations. A huge thank you to the following sponsors who made financial or in-kind donations to underwrite the cost of this benefit:

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Pueblo a Pueblo and The Rotary Foundation are providing matching funds for this event. Food for Thought anticipates that more than \$60,000 may be raised through matching funds. Through the generosity of Vashon Islanders, their friends, and matching funds, Food for Thought is able to help the children of Santiago Atitlan rebuild their lives.

thing. She had a brother but hadn't anyone before. seen him for many years. My phone conversation with him convinced me he wouldn't say Kaddish for Seli either. I was the one she called "little sister." The duty fell to me.

I was an unlikely choice — not a blood relative, a shiksa if you ever saw one, and too uncertain about what I was doing to seek out a synagogue. So I created a ritual of my own. Morning and night, I read the prayer aloud, and at night I read Wieseltier's book also. I did this in Seli's memory, but it turned out to be doing something for me, too. 2nd, one month short of the first

There was nobody to say first stunning shock of losing my **The Testament of You:** Kaddish for Seli. None of her Jewish friend and helped me begin to friends was observant enough to mourn. I don't know exactly when adhere much to tradition. Besides, it was in the following months that Kaddish is supposed to be a family I realized I'd never truly mourned

> I was raised with attitudes that didn't allow for mourning. "Get past it." "Don't dwell on it." "Let the dead bury the dead." Kaddish for Seli changed all that. For the first time I faced a difficult loss by death straight on. I sat with her in my heart, spoke to her, sang for her and kept her totally alive. Not in a maudlin, obsessive way but as a friend whose presence has been a gift to me, during her earthly life and beyond.

According to tradition, on March Saying Kaddish got me through the anniversary of her passing, I had to

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stop saying Mourner's Kaddish for Seli. I thought I would feel bereft again by the sudden absence of this ritual that had become part of the rhythm of my life, but I do not. I only feel closer to Seli, and to God. I thank them both for that. www

The Dorsal Spin

By Orca Annie Stateler

No Dorsal Spin this week due to illness of a family member. We hope to have Annie & orcas back next





Bambi Does Cultural Relativism

By Sarah Blakemore, RQE

The plane is crowded. I've got a coveted window seat in the back of the plane and am hopeful that no one will be sitting in the middle seat. No one had taken the seat as of last night when I booked the ticket. I can ride in peace, read my book and have plenty of elbow room. Use my tray for my laptop, play a few games and use the tray next to me for my drinks and unsalted cashews.

Wait. Here comes some guy. Nooooo. I turn to look at the other seats behind my row. They are all taken. I look at the guy coming towards my row. He's making eye contact. Damn. Eye contact is the dead giveaway. And he looks like a

Eye Contact guy slides past the woman sitting in the aisle seat and plants himself next to me in the middle seat.

Sigh. He immediately puts on his headphones and closes his eyes.

At least he's not a talker I think to myself as I rearrange to give him

The flight is bumpy, filled with turbulence. The pilot informs us that we are catching a tail wind so despite our late leaving we will arrive from New Orleans into New York City's JFK airport on time. Good news.

Another hour of silence and then the dreaded announcement is made, "Uh folks, we've been put into a holding pattern; we expect to circle JFK for approximately 25-30 minutes." The typical groans and moans are released from the crowd, the sort of stuff that seems like it would come from a defective can of whoop-ass; a resigned disagreeable noise rather than shouts of righteous indignation.

Middle Seat Denizen lets out one of these groans.

Something always goes wrong when I travel," he says in a heavily accented Middle Eastern voice.

"Do you travel a lot?" I ask. "For work, all the time," he

explains. "You need to get yourself a new job," I giggle.

He smiles. "But I like my job and they pay me well, so I do not mind so much."

We start chatting. Turns out he is a bond analyst of sorts at Moody's. He was raised in Pakistan and came to the United States a few years ago to complete an MBA program at a University in upstate New York. He is getting married in a few weeks, in Pakistan but will live here with his wife.

I tell him that I'm a stripper, I dance under the name Bambi, I went to school at Marymount Manhattan College and that I have

an undergrad in International Studies. I worked on Wall Street for awhile but I like dancing a lot better. I am not married but have a God Child that I love and adore. I clarify the term God Child for my Muslim seat mate.

We both pause, digesting each other's information.

I look at him. "May I ask you a personal question?"

He smiles. "I think I know what you are going to ask me, but go ahead.

'Is your marriage an arranged marriage? I read that arranged marriages are common where you are from." My feminist sensibilities have perked up.

"That is the first question everyone asks." His accent is pleasantly amused and he is smiling. "No. My marriage is not arranged. I have met my fiancé twice. I will say this also. My parents know me better than anyone else, sometimes better than I know myself. So it is helpful that they are for women is the same as what around on the carousel, I look involved in the selection of a wife. We consider many things to make sure that someone is compatible, age, family background and buddy has now brought the education.'

I think about this. It doesn't sound half bad. There is a certain amount of merit to the idea that our parents might be good at selecting a partner for us; they do know us pretty well and have years of experience at making a relationship work. I notice, however, that her goals are not mentioned, only his. I let this slide.

a personal question?"

Fair is fair. "Sure, what do you want to know?" I'm smiling, knowing that he is going to ask about the stripper thing.

How do you reconcile your Christian responsibilities to your God Child with the nature of your job," he asks sincerely.

I explain to him that I don't attach any morality to the act of sex or sexual behavior. Therefore it does not conflict with my ability to participate in the care and upbringing of my God Child. I explain further that honesty and treating people fairly is really what Christianity is supposed to be about and having been raised in the Episcopal church (not known for being strict moralists...) I feel that I have a achieved a good sense of morality that I would be happy to pass on to my God Child.

He thinks about this. The discussion continues and segues into in the locker room and another man a discussion about premarital sex. We discuss the ramifications of this on the community and society as a whole. It is interesting to me, to listen to this man make clear, intelligent arguments about the pitfalls of loose sexual behavior – i.e. anything that doesn't take place in the dark, behind closed doors between two married heterosexual people.

He is right. Teen pregnancy, AIDS, poverty and abortion can all be consequences of premarital sex.

'Besides, why would a woman want to have sex when she is not married? Wouldn't she feel used?" he asks earnestly.

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I think. Why would women want to have sex outside of marriage? I think about all the things I can say to him about teen pregnancy, AIDS and abortion. And then it dawns on me that he needs a I promise." simple answer.

I look at him, smiling. "Because honestly. women like sex too."

very painful for a woman," he tells

"No, only the first couple of times. Then it is really fun," I inform him, trying to be a grownup and not

"Is that true? I thought that sex Americans call rape," he says thoughtfully.

conversation to a whole new level. I realize that this guy has no idea about consent or why this is important. For all of my rants about feminists being too uptight about sexuality I would never, ever not give credit where credit is due. Thanks to the feminist movement I can be certain in almost every situation that a North American/ European Western 'Now," he says, "May I ask you understands the difference between consensual sex and rape.

> Uh, okay. I need to approach this carefully. I don't want to shame him for not understanding something that I consider so fundamentally important. I want him to come away from this conversation with a better understanding of women, if only in the smallest way.

> Uh, no. Actually there is a big difference. Okay. When sex is consensual, it is sex. When sex is nonconsensual then it is rape. Consent is very important, explain as clearly as I know how.

> He is still confused. I have to remind him that women do willingly agree to have sex because sex is enjoyable for women too. He is still puzzled, not really believing me that this is the case. I've got to make my point some other way.

"Do you go to the gym?" I ask. He nods yes.

"Okay, so if you are at the gym grabbed you between your legs, you would be upset, right?'

'Yes, because I do not like the gays," he tells me.

I let this go. One social lesson at a time.

"All right. But when you go to the doctor, you allow him to touch you between the legs - like a urologist or someone – and that's okay?

Yes, of course," he says.

"Well, there is the difference. The man in the locker room did not have your consent or permission, but the doctor did. That is why one man makes you angry and the other does not," I explain.

He contemplates this. "I see your point," he tells me.

"You know," I say to him, "if you find a way for your wife to enjoy sex you will have a better marriage.

"I will think about this," he says

The plane touches down. He "Really? I have heard that it is gives me his card; I tell him that I would love to have him and his wife over to dinner. We part company as I go off to collect my baggage. I hope that he does come over for dinner and I hope that we can continue this cultural exchange.

As I wait for my bags to come around at the other passengers. I'm at J.F.K., one of the largest Oh. My. God. My Pakistani international airports in the United States. Multiple nationalities are represented in the immediate vicinity, each culture with as radically different beliefs as my new Pakistani friend.

Every time the news comes on we are subjected to more bad news terrorism, crushing poverty, famine and disease in other parts of the world. We listen to these problems and wonder why people can't just stop fighting, hurting women and children, killing each other or coming after us. My conversation on the plane makes me think about how many other nations of people are watching the same news stories in their living rooms. In my mind they sit there wondering why Americans can't understand that they are fighting over important issues or why we can't comprehend the social significance of a woman shaming her family.

Pakistanis are some of the bad guys right now. As a country, we don't like them. They harbor terrorists and bomb the hell out of India, one of our friends. They torch women in honor killings and do not value girl children, only boys. But I am sure my Pakistani friend could have eloquently explained to me why the bombings are justified and why the government harbors men who are fighting for a better world. And why women have the place in Pakistani society that they do. He could do so not because he is a terrorist sympathizer or a bad person, he merely has a radically different perspective on the world.

I am unsure how to finish this story. I can't lie, though; I have to say that I hope my explanation of a woman's sexual enjoyment stays with him and that maybe it makes him look at women a bit differently. What does that leave me with? It leaves me with trying to see what I gave in the conversation and what I took from that conversation; and most of all why that conversation was valuable. Hopefully something you have read in all of this is valuable to you, too.

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A Strange New World. **Could It Happen Here?**

By Rachel Bard

When Kathy H. is thirteen she begins to sense that all is not what it seems at Hailsham School. She has a group of very close friends. The surroundings are idyllic: a secluded spot in the English countryside, with gardens, a pond, secret paths, playing fields, and stately old buildings. She's well cared for and educated, and never wonders why the teachers are called guardians. She's perfectly happy. The school is her family: she and the other children never make reference to parents. She and her best friend Ruth share secrets and have tiffs, like any teenagers. Kathy gets to know Tommy, an insecure lad who needs a friend.

It's Tommy who first gets Kathy wondering about what the future really holds. There've been hints from the guardians, from gossip. The children have been "told and not told." Then one day Tommy tells her about a strange, cryptic remark one of their favorite guardians, Miss Lucy, had made to him.

"She said we weren't being taught enough, something like that."

she thinks we should be studying even harder than we are?"

Never Let Me Go by

Kazuo Ishiguro. Faber &

Faber, 2005, paperback

that. What she was talking about was, you know, about us. What's going to happen to us one day. Donations and all that."

It's a long time before Ishiguro lets the reader understand as clearly as the children do what "donations and all that" really implies. By the time they graduate, they've pretty much put all the hints, all the being "told and not told" together. They know some will be donors of vital organs, while others will be carers for the donors for some time, then become donors themselves. They know that when they go "outside," into the real world, they won't be like other people. They can't choose to be actors or secretaries or lawyers; their fate is predetermined. And though they can have sex, they can't have babies.

Ruth and Tommy become donors, with the certain knowledge that after three or four donations they will reach "completion"death. Kathy becomes a carer.

For the reader, the shadow of inexorable fate that hangs over these young lives when they're outside is painful. Yet Kathy and her friends can't rebel or even question. What would be the point? They cling to each other, tied by their golden memories of life at Hailsham. Once, wistfully, they try to find Ruth's "possible"—the woman whose clone she is. They don't succeed, and resume their resigned, pre-assigned lives.



Rachel Bard

Isabel I a Queen Without a Conscience



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From Vashon author Rachel Bard (Queen Without a Country) comes this story of Isabella of Angouleme, wife of King John of England. Read the spellbinding tale of one of history's most beautiful and controversial women — a queen obsessed with her desire for power and recognition.

\$16.95, available now at your bookstore. e-mail Or medievalqueens@yahoo.com. For more information on Rachel and her queens, go to www.medievalqueens.com.

The melancholic, elegiac "Taught enough? You means atmosphere of so many of Ishiguro's books is dominant in this one, though The Remains of the Day comes "No, I don't think she meant a close second. In the memorable

> Merchant-Ivory movie version of that, his third book, who can forget Anthony Hopkins as the butler Stevens, regretting

when it's too late his lost opportunities to declare his love to the housekeeper Miss Kenton (Emma Thompson)?

A child of Japanese parents who came to England when he was six, Ishiguro has written eloquently about both Japan and England. When We Were Orphans is about a famous English detective who goes to Shanghai to try to solve the mystery of his parents' death there during World War II. In An Artist of the Floating World, the narrator is an aging painter who looks back on a checkered life: prostitution of his art for Japanese militarism, and betrayal of friends. He feels regret but not remorse. In his first book, A Pale View of Hills, a Japanese woman marries an Englishman and like practically everybody in the book makes a hash of her life.

In these and most of his books the sorry fate that overwhelms the characters is at least partly due to their own actions or inactions. Never Let Me Go breaks new ground. Here external forces beyond their control (as in some futuristic sci-fi drama) doom them. It's not too hard to imagine that a future like this could be closer than we think.

Which may be why the London Times called this, "the year's most extraordinary novel."

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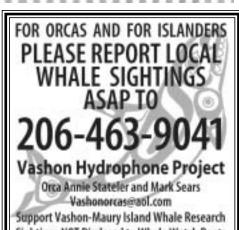
Time for Town Hall Meetings

By Tom Herring

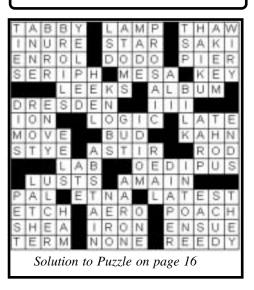
The Vashon-Maury Community Council is more important for our wellbeing than any other comingtogether. This includes religious, social, humane, political, any, all, and all combined: it is the only coming-together that bridges the divides inherent in our tolerance. And today our wellbeing is under assault by a rogue government. The visible signs of unease are the bumper stickers and ribbons on our cars that divide us as neatly as a butcher's cleaver whacking a joint. This is bedroom-community nonsense that weakens Vashon-Maury. It is time for the Community Council to bring the bumper stickers into the courthouse by holding Town Hall meetings.

Vashon-Maury is more potential Eden than bedroom community. Not a tract cut out of stump land with a shopping mall for a center, it has heritage as rich as its septic problems, and per car it has more artists than there are lattés at rush hour. Moreover, standing up for the rest of us there is a hardpan core of individuals doing a host of public services like the Food Bank, affordable housing, and helping what we used to call the nursing home. Any visit to the Community Council makes all these things evident. Why cannot this body also serve as right brain-left brain connector?

Weekly Town Halls seem about right at a time when assaults on our humanity are in the news daily. Just the other day we learned that inmates at Guantanamo are deliberately driven insane using methods developed by government over the past thirty years. And today we learn that a Stryker brigade of our young men is shipping out of Tacoma to fight an insurgency created by government. And, what do we Islanders think of giving Bush a \$100 billion supplement so the war will still be up and running when he bequeaths it to his successor?







Got carried away there; the Town Hall topics can be whatever *The Loop* announces.

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play, bring a friend...if you have one." -- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second...if there is one." -- Winston Churchill, in response

The Vashon Loop, p. 12



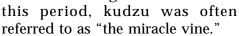
tne Miraci

By Kathy Abascal

I just finished researching and writing a journal article on kudzu. My, what an extraordinary plant!

Kudzu was first introduced to the US at the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Japanese prepared an exhibition garden and kudzu was one of the plants in their garden. Kudzu has large leaves and fragrant flowers, and rapidly

became a popular ornamental garden plant. Its popularity grew when the public discovered that it also was an excellent forage plant for animals. During the depression, the Soil Conservation Unit paid workers and farmers to plant kudzu to stabilize the soil. During



Kudzu

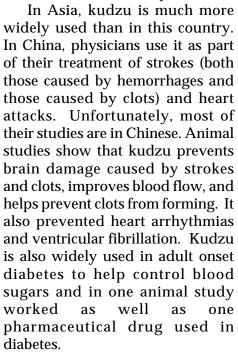
Kudzu, however, grows at a tremendous rate under the right conditions such as the humid southern part of the USA. It can grow a foot a day and up to 60 feet in a year, and as it vines around trees, it prevents them from harvesting sunlight. Due to its rapid growth - and our failure to control the plant by using it as food and medicine - kudzu was declared a weed in 1972. It gained new common names as it grew rampantly: "Mile-a-minute vine," "foot-a-night-vine," and "the vine that ate the South." And it is a vigorous, deep rooted and hard to kill plant. Its root is not affected by most herbicides and thus they often do not eradicate the plant effectively. In fact, one herbicide actually increased its growth. Those herbicides recommended to kill kudzu work slowly and may need to be applied repeatedly over 4 to 10 years to kill the vine. Of course, other plants and organisms are more sensitive to these herbicides and the quest to kill kudzu has resulted in a great deal of environmental pollution.

Recently, people have rediscovered that kudzu is an excellent forage crop for goats who transform it into milk, meat, and wool. So, the proper use of goats may in time control its excessive growth habits without causing environmental degradation.

So what is kudzu good for? In western herbal medicine it is primarily used to help control alcoholism, to minimize hangovers, and to help quiet perimenopausal symptoms. Research tends to support these uses. In a study of chronic drinkers, kudzu caused participants to drink less and drink more slowly. In numerous animal studies (usually in rats raised to be alcoholics), animals on kudzu chose water over alcohol but returned to preferring alcohol when they did not get their kudzu. It also affected enzymes in a way that suggests that its traditional use to prevent headaches and hangovers from excessive alcohol is well founded.

Kudzu contains a number of constituents with strong estrogenic actions and some studies show that it helps quiet hot flashes, night sweats, and perimenopausal brain fog. Of even greater interest is kudzu's effect on bone. In animals,

k u d z u prevented bone loss caused by estrogen deficiency. Moreover, in some studies it actually increased bone formation. This indicates that it may be a highly beneficial herb in menopausal women worried b o u t osteoporosis.



Other studies show that it helps protect the liver and may work as well as milk thistle in this regard. It appears to be especially good at preventing alcohol-induced fatty liver. Kudzu has antioxidant properties, reduces fevers, may be useful in asthma, and is being studied for use in cancer. After reviewing this research, I think kudzu may some day regain its earlier common name: the miracle vine.

Some caution, however, is needed when taking kudzu. It has a complex action and may well



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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 recently started a blog which you can read at www.herbsandinfluenza.com/blog.

You can email her if you have questions about herbs (Anemopsis@yahoo.com) or you can

stop by the Roasterie on Friday afternoons to discuss any aspect of herbal medicine with her in person.

You can buy Kathy Abascal's book Herbs & Influenza – How herbs used in the 1918 flu pandemic can be

effective today at local Vashon stores. For more information on the book and on the 1918 flu pandemic, visit Kathy's website at http://www.HerbsandInfluenza.com.

change the metabolism of many prescription medicines. And, at too high a dose, its estrogenic action can be a problem for younger women and men. Before you decide to take kudzu on a regular basis, you should probably check with your health practitioner. On the other hand, if you are menopausal or just going out for an evening on the town and are not taking prescription medicines, you should feel entirely comfortable giving kudzu a try.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

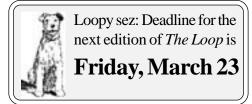
A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.



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Aries (March 20-April 19): Be mindful of the influence you have with your friends. You're perceived as someone with most of the necessary experience, but also a special something else that is not easy to describe, indeed for which there are few words or phrases in our language. That does not diminish awareness of this wordless thing, nor of its usefulness. The perception others have, as well, is that it grants you a measure of freedom that most others lack, but which can be taught or learned. Translating into words will be difficult but it looks like it can actually be done effectively. Don't worry if you try and feel you fall short.

Taurus (April 19-May 20): You have so much going on internally and at the same time you've never been more visible. The gap between the interior you, and the one that people perceive, may have never seemed to be more obviously separate. They not separate, however; perception tends to divide things into categories, and the body's eyes do not see the interior world. Yet in an odd way, the outer world reflects the interior, and you can at the moment make this a conscious process: of feeling, looking, seeing and weaving the layers together.

Gemini (May 20-June 21): Though personal matters have been on your mind, I don't think you've missed the repeated invitations to success, which are now ready to be accepted. I suggest you choose carefully, however, and be sure to defer the ones you like but which are not quite on time to the future. You now need to focus your efforts on two or three of the most vital goals or desires, and be grateful that you are making the progress that you are. One thing you don't need to doubt at all, and in which you can put considerable faith, is the strength and innovation of your ideas. Don't speak loudly — just speak clearly.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Mercury is stationing direct in the angle of your chart where you negotiate arrangements, manage shared resources, and experience

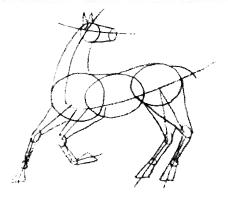
bonding and commitments. A phase of re-evaluation is coming to a close, and a new phase of co-creation is beginning. You will get offers this week; you will see opportunities; you may feel you're unusually blessed beyond your wildest hopes. I must remind you of this: insist on a better deal than you think you deserve. Don't be impressed by first offers, early drafts of plans, or roles in which you are anything less than a fully equal partner. You're the one with most of what it's going to take to create success; make sure you remember.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23): Others are starting to make more sense — to themselves. You have a pulse on the games and the gaming, and you can see the patterns clearly. Despite the best efforts of some individuals to obscure reality, you can gaze through their words. You may be wondering how they could possibly not notice the obvious. Now, this is not truth to be seen for its own sake, but rather for the sake of improved cooperation and focusing of energy. Listen to what people say they want; see where this intersects with your own perspective not only on what you want personally, but what would serve the greatest good for everyone

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): You are on course for a health breakthrough. You've been sitting on the solution all along, though your determination has taken you this far. Yet success will feel like something other than the effort you've been exerting up to this point. It will feel more like turning a key in a lock than it does like knocking down a door. One thing to watch for is language: if people speak your language and feel that you speak theirs, the probability of success is increased exponentially. Too much effort is wasted in miscommunication, which creates the illusion of futility. Forget it. Something a lot better is available.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23): Creative process is essentially a puzzle; only the pieces fit many ways, and the puzzle is the journey into yourself. What you will find as you venture in is something new about who you are,





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were outside yourself. No matter how externally oriented an artist is, what is created is a relationship between the creator and what is made, which has many unexpected developments. Those are likely to be buzzing around your aura, your friendships, your notebook and your computer in these hours and days. Play, explore, create; speak to the universe till you get a response from the universe that changes you a little, or a lot.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): It is a risk feeling safe. Many among us refuse to feel safe, because if they're wrong, the disappointment will be too much to bear. So the supposed answer is to not trust. Well, this doesn't work because a life of disappointment does not save us from disappointment. At the moment, you are able to penetrate this false logic like never before. If you look, you will see the subtle ways you defeat yourself before you say a word, and will be able to turn them around into self-supporting equations and messages that affirm your life and the lives of the people you care about the most. One simple example of happiness and clarity goes a long way in this world

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22): You know this time in your life is about own decisions hinge on those of building deep, not high. You know it's about getting your priorities in order. And most of all, you know it's about taking the experiences of the past on board to the degree where you truly respect what you have learned and can put it to work as a mode of teaching and learning. The awesome blessing of this moment is that of transcendent clarity. It may feel so natural that you may wonder where it was all along. The only thing changing right now is awareness, which some would say is the only thing that can ever change. Trust what you perceive, and the ideas that come out of you. They are lights on your path to the future.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): You hold the key to a political or legal situation. This will come in finding the right language to express the issue.

to which you are able to relate as if it The situation involves group resources of some kind, but which don't appear to be that way; the group itself appears to be someone's property, and the reality that this is a community issue has gotten itself lost in the discussion. You can see through the layers and seeming differences of opinion. You have the ability to translate the truth into a clear set of ideas that anyone can relate to, and from which many will benefit. Make sure you count yourself in.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Mercury has stationed direct in your sign, which is freeing you to see simple issues as simple and complex ones as being well within your ability to solve. Yet you have no need to be oriented on problems or solutions, but rather on progress itself. The astonishing depth of your own experience is becoming apparent to you now, and that is your resource, your property and your gift from which others may benefit. I suggest you follow a bit of sage wisdom that will benefit you in your role as a sage: let them come to you rather than going to them. Respond to a need that is articulated directly to you rather than playing the game of trying to

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): If your others, I suggest you take a wait-andsee approach. It is true that life is full of disappointments, but the winds of fortune are blowing strongly in your favor right now, and you have every reason to place your bets on your own success and happiness rather than on so many of the other possibilities that have shown themselves over the years. What is important now is that you know your heart's desire, and let yourself ring with that tune, that vibration, that simple truth. Feel the beauty of that alone; feel the beauty of clarity, and trust that your awareness of both will lead you somewhere you not only need to be, but want to be.

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



Island Epicure



Eating like St. **Patrick**

By Marj Watkins

To think of St. Patrick and the Irish is to think of potatoes, but he never tasted a spud in his life. Nobody in Ireland planted a potato patch for several centuries after his time. Patrick's stews were closely related to the memorable beef and onion stewed with beer that my husband John, son Steve, and I enjoyed in Flanders a couple of decades ago—and have enjoyed at home ever since.

Patrick, kidnapped from Britain by Irish raiders as a youth and set to herding sheep, probably stewed mutton, onions, and carrots. The Irish of the 4th century would have had no pepper, but seasoned their stew with salt and thyme. Proportions of ingredients were not crucial, but long, slow cooking was (Right, this is slow crockpot, after browning the meat and sauteing the onions).

Across the English Channel from Britain and Ireland, they are still inch dice cooking this superb dish. It seems to have originated in northwestern France or southern Belgium. During the years Patrick spent studying in France, after escape from Ireland, and while working his way up from monk to bishop, he could have eaten enjoyed Carbonnade a la Flamande, too.

Old Style Irish Stew — 4 servings 2 pounds boneless mutton cut in chunks

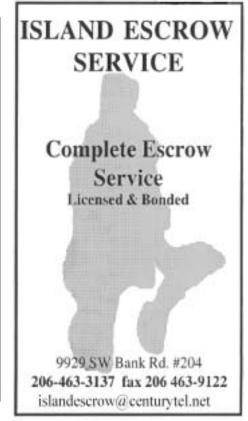
4 long carrots, cut in 1-inch chunks 2 cups coarsely chopped or thickly sliced onions

Handful of parsley tops

2 cups water

Salt to taste

Cut off fat. Render some of it in a large heavy-bottomed pan (cast-iron works well). Brown the meat. Add everything else except the salt. Cover and bring to a simmer. Cook on low heat for about 2 hours, until meat is starting to get tender. Add salt. Cook another half hour or so, until meat is very tender. The onions will practically have disappeared, but their



flavor will permeate and enhance the

Mutton is from an older sheep. It has a stronger flavor than lamb, and is tougher. To make this stew with lamb, you need cook it only about 1

Modern Irish Stew — 4 servings 1 and 1/2 pounds lean beef such as top round cut in 1-inch cubes

1/4 cup flour for dredging

1 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

2 tablespoons canola oil

2 medium-size yellow onions, coarsely chopped

4 potatoes peeled and coarsely diced or sliced

1 teaspoon marjoram

1/4 cup minced fresh parsley or

1 Tablespoon dried parsley

Water to cover

Put the meat chunks into a bag with flour with the salt and pepper. Shake well. Remove the meat pieces with tongs and lay them on a plate. Heat the oil in a large, heavybottomed pan that has a well-fitting

Brown the meat on all sides. Add the remaining ingredients. Bring to a lively simmer, reduce heat to low, cover and cook until meat is tender and potatoes have dissolved and thickened the broth.

Serve with robustly textured wholegrain bread.

Carbonnade de Boeuf a la food. You could probably do it in a Flamande (Flemish Beef Stew) — 4 servings

1/4 cup olive oil

2 lbs. lean beef, cut in 1/2 to 3/4-

1 leek, white and light green parts, cleaned and sliced

1 large onion cut in 1/4-inch

1 Tablespoon fresh thyme leaves or 1 teaspoon dried marjoram

1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley, stems removed

> 1 to 2 Tablespoons dried parsley 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves or 1/3 teaspoon dried thyme leaves

1 (12-ounce) can beer

1 cup beef bouillon

Heat oil. Brown beef. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to low boil. Reduce heat. Cover. Cook on low heat until beef is very tender, about 1 and 1/2 hours.

Serve with buttered noodles or French fries, a tossed salad with vinaigrette or sliced tomatoes strewn with minced parsley, also with vinaigrette, steamed asparagus, and French bread or sourdough bread. Merlot or cabernet or sparkling pomegranate juice make this a festive

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Pirates Baseball

Continued from page 1

to Arizona or Florida for the thrills of baseball. You can get your baseball fix right here at Vashon High School. Varsity and Junior Varsity players have been practicing for weeks, and League Play begins at 4 p.m. this Friday with a game against Seattle Christian at Vashon High School.

Parents and players have been at Thriftway the last few Saturdays selling Pirates t-shirts, passing out Varsity game schedules, and drumming up support for Island baseball.



Tom Schumaker, Chris Allman, & Byron Stuckey sell Pirate t-shirts at Thriftway. Photo by Rita Santiago-Allman



Chris Allman. Photo by Rita Santiago-Allman

Here are a few shots of the kids, at practice and at Thriftway. The question is, do they all really bat lefty? We'll have to go to the games to find Head Coach Steven Hall out. Play ball!



Loop photo



Byron Starkey. Photo by Rita Santiago-Allman



Nathan Ott. Photo by Rita Santiago-Allman



Chris Pietrick. Photo by Rita Santiago-Allman



Pirates have been selling tee shirts at Thriftway every weekend. Photo by Rita Santiago-Allman



Robert McGinnis, stretching on deck. Loop photo



Ristively Speaking

Utopia or Bust??

By Deborah H. Anderson

The little footrest pushed the guitar into hugging position. It allowed him to relax into the music. The left hand, the chording fingers, teased the music out of the strings while the strumming and picking fingers of the right hand commanded them to dance. Ken Jacobsen lead us into the world of Bartok and Satie with passion and grace and deference to all the hours of practice that go into a perfect performance. It was the kind of performance where his own connection to the music was so crystal clear, we could not help but join him there and in that moment accede to transcendence and excellence.

We'd been set up for his leading by a group of musicians who got together and asked the question, "What would happen to jazz standards if you added a didgeridoo?" Swept up in the pulsating rhythm of circular breathing, they leaned to each other and produced a musical experience with depth and mystery like to the sixth dimension. Outback Jazz.

If ever there was a night when I needed to be lost in the musical moments of others, it was that Saturday night at the Blue Heron. With guest appearances by friends of all performers who added vocals, violin and ten string guitar, it was the experience I've been waiting for since I was seventeen and heard the Lessons and Carols at Kings College Chapel in Cambridge England.

I needed to see the top side of the fish that is Vashon; colorful, dashing, dynamic. The previous three weeks were spent looking at the underbelly; white, slimy and lifeless in appearance.

When I first moved to the Island, all I saw was the underbelly. My impression of Vashon was that its spine and heart were drugged out or half-sloshed escape artists with embezzlement, sex and sloth being their prime gifts and talents. The Greek chorus of those not participating in such activities seemed to be "Hear no Evil, See no Evil and for darn sure Speak no Evil." Eventually I met people of integrity and sincerity not much interested in the high drama that

comes with pasty white flesh that never sees sunlight.

I learned to overlook the worst. Newcomers came and shot down the sick fish with new rules and structure and more money.

Years passed. Then my daughter was caught in the change of hands of a business from Island to off-Island ownership. To the person, everyone's last paycheck from the Islanders was shorted fifty to a hundred dollars. I checked with other parents about it. And then I did a terrible thing: NOTHING. I kept quiet. The new owner was wonderful. I spent my energy supporting her supporting him.

I realized I had become an Islander. I felt this vague truth that the underbelly of Vashon just needed to be ignored.

Right now there are dozens of musicians and artists and dancers and educators practicing their hearts out to bring excellence to that which is larger than themselves. There are business owners polishing shelves and stocking goods that are pleasing and affordable paying their workers hours they promised and kept without resentment.

But there are also people cutting corners with permits and cable lines and water supplies and grey dumping and doing drug deals and cheating on their taxes and burning without permission.

Here's the question I don't know the answer to. Can we be a Utopia? Can we be one of the first communities to have a low crime rate because there's little theft not just because contraband can be gotten without crime?

Do we address it? Or do we just do what I have learned: Accentuate the positive, focus on integrity and forget about the subculture of corruption. If not either/or what is the middle ground? And where on earth do we dialogue about it without engendering the cry of personal privacy and choices?

Are we as good as it gets? That's the question.

Love Deborah

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Madame Toujours

Dear Madame Toujours,

I am really *^&^%%&ed off. I am being harassed by this \$%^&** who lives in my neighborhood. She has been telling everybody in town that I slept with her husband. Last week, I applied for a job, but the boss knew this woman, and when she told him that I slept with her husband, he wouldn't hire me. He said a person who would sleep with a married man couldn't be trusted or relied on.

I really needed that job because my last boss fired me when I told her I wouldn't open the shop at nine. I am a night person, and nine a.m. is too early for me. I was perfectly willing to open the store when it was convenient for me, but she was totally unreasonable about it.

Anyway, I was so mad about losing the job I applied for that I went to court to get an injunction against Whatserface, but the judge said that there was nothing I could do to stop her because everything she said about me was true.

This is so unfair. What's her beef with me anyway? I mean, it takes two to tango, and he's the one who actually cheated on her. Shouldn't she be picking on him?

Sincerely,

Slandered

Chere Mlle. Slandered,

Possibly you are not considering the small detail. You are being correct that to be doing the tango is needing the two people, but there is needing only one to say *non. Bien sur, M. Le* Husband is the one who should be telling you to go and entertain yourself, but since he is being the big jackass, it is being up to you to be walking away.



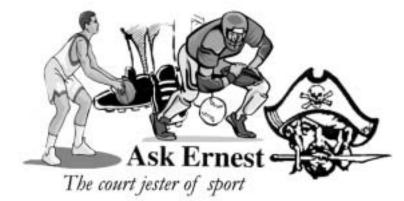
If *Mme.* Whatserface is having the dignities, and it is appearing that she does, she is making sure that M. Le Husband, he is paying for the transgressions without breaking the marriage. Meanwhile, she is having the excellent advantages that she can be exacting the payments from you without any of the guilt. She is only having to tell the truth. She is not even having to be the big gossip. She is only telling everybody about her own personal business. Probably, she is enjoying this very much.

Now, possibly you are thinking that your reputation is safe to be having *les affairs* with the married persons because *Mme*. Whatshername, she is having the shame that the husband, he is straying, and everybody is thinking that she is the inadequate wife. What you forget is that nobody is being perfect. Everybody is knowing that if you are only giving the honesty and faithfulness when they are perfect, then you will always be taking the advantages of them.

Bon Chance, Mlle. Slandered. No doubt if you are staying out of the way and out of the troubles, Mme. Whatserface, she is having the satisfaction and losing the interests in you in perhaps ten or fifteen years.

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?"- Mark Twain

The Vashon Loop, p. 16 March 14, '07



Winter Sports Close Up for the Spring: Results

Girls Basketball Wins Districts! Boys Basketball Wins League for the 3rd Consecutive Year! **Boys Wrestling Finishes 4th in State! Girls Wrestling Finishes 3rd in Districts! Evan "Mad Dogg" Mattingly Wins Junior College Nationals!**

Mad Dogg Mattingly beat #1 seed Jamie Luckett of Alfred State 4-3 to become a Junior College National Champ. Evan entered the tournament as the #5 seed and strategically wore down all his opponents en route to a NATIONAL TITLE! He dedicates his championship to his Dad's "Squeeze" Chant and to his coach's (Pat Whitcomb) win over the Russian in 1986. Evan Mattingly was a 2 time state champion for Vashon Island and became Vashon's 3rd College/University National Champion: previous winners were Per-Lars Blomgren and Mik Abdul-Latif. This is a tribute to Wrestling Community.



Evan Mattingly

Vashon's great

Vashon also boasts 5 other College/University All American finishes.

Introduction to Competitive Swimming Program Begins With A Big Splash!

By Gary R. Gray

Vashon Aquatic Club's newest program started with little fanfare due to weather related difficulties back in January. But that didn't stop families from turning out with there 5-8 year old children to fill our first two-sessions.

Coaches and board members were excited about the support, encouragement and ideas that came from parents, the community, businesses and organizations that made it possible to offer this program to Island youth.

"We are equally thrilled with the excitement and enthusiasm from swimmers and parents who joined up," said Mary Thomson, the club's registrar.

One organization instrumental in helping us bring this much-needed program to fruition. The Vashon Park District agreed to other quality youth sports activities. "The synergy in this relationship is good for Island youth and families," said Meredith Yasui, club president.

VPD's valuable knowledge and success at enabling youth sporting activities on and off-Island, promotion, and other support is a tremendous asset for the Vashon Aquatic Club and the Vashon community.

We are also very happy to announce that a longtime, swim team family committed to help us offer this program. Fred and Carolyn Steen, at Keller Williams Realty, have generously agreed to become a corporate sponsor and provide financial support for this program to every first-time enrollee. This one-time annual benefit will transfer with any swimmer that



Enthusiastic swimmers from Vashon Aquatic Club's Introduction to Competitive Swimming Program wait their turn to practice kickboard techniques. Courtesy

moves to VAC's competitive team during the year.

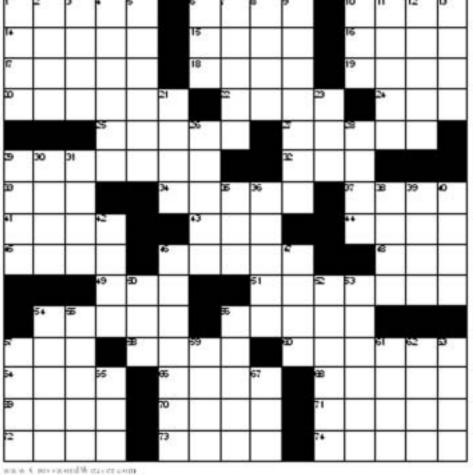
The Steen's will also contribute add our program to their many to our scholarship fund through other means. We are truly grateful for their generosity and support of our club and its mission.

> Other program developments and club activities can be followed online

> www.vashonaquaticclub.org. Even non-swim team families and athletes, you will find helpful links to articles, tips, research and other sites that are useful.

> March 10 and 11 is the swim team's next meet. It's at Foss High School in Tacoma and admission is free. Anyone interested swimming competitive encouraged to come cheer for Vashon's swim team, enjoy the excitement, and learn about the sport.

I hate quotations. -- Ralph Waldo Emerson



- 1 Striped cat
- 6 Furniture
- 10 Unfreeze 14 Accustom
- 15 Heavenly light 16 Rice wine
- 17 Recruit
- 18 Extinct bird 19 Support
- 20 Letter ornament
- 22 Tableland
- 24 Legend
- 25 Onion like vegetables
- 27 Collection
- 29 Fine porcelain
- 32 Roman three
- 33 Charged particle 34 Reasoning
- 37 Slow
- 41 Budge
- 43 Start to develop
- 44 Genghis ___
- 45 Eye infection
- 46 Bustling
- 48 Pole
- 49 Workplace
- 51 Sophocles' doomed protagonist

- 54 Desires
- 56 Forcefully
 - 57 Crony
 - 58 Volcano 60 New
 - 64 Engrave
 - 66 Air (prefix)
 - 68 Hunt illegally
 - 69 Popular stadium
 - 70 Flatten
 - 71 Turn out
 - 72 Time in office
 - 73 Not any
 - 74 Full of swamp grass
 - Down

 - 1 Binds
 - 2 Green Gables dweller
 - 3 Hiker's nemesis
 - 4 Grills
 - 5 Barked in pain 6 Drug
 - 7 Tiny particles
 - 8 Fixed
 - 9 Dull
 - 10 Teaspoon (abbr.)
 - 11 Short poem
 - 12 BB Player Abdul Jabar
 - 13 Thin

 - 21 End of a loaf

- 23 Boxer Muhammad 28 Elude
- 26 Dials
- 29 Fades
- 30 Cheer
- 31 Admire
- 35 __feeling 36 Expression
- 38 Retired persons
- association (abbr.)
- 39 Thousand (abbr.)
- 40 Tails
- 42 Snaky fish
- 46 Voluntarily refrain
- 47 Valid
- 50 Dined 52 What babies need a lot
- 53 Utter melodiously 54 Machine tool
- 55 Stomache sore
- 56 Moses' brother 57 Bug
- 59 Roman emperor
- 61 Soothe
- 62 Scoot
- 63 Those people
- 65 Meat 67 Less than two
- Solution on Page 11

Vashon's Swim Team **Practices Off-Island**

By Gary R. Gray

Once a month the Vashon Aquatic Club takes its entire swim team to the 50-meter, South Kitsap High School Pool for practice. Assistant coach

competitive swimmer Lisa MacLeod says the newest members in the Introduction to Competitive Swimming program get the opportunity to participate. They begin building their confidence in competitive size pool, practice competitive strokes. and learn about relays with the experienced swimmers. They also

have loads of fun. My youngest daughter just joined the Intro program and I like the idea of the entire club practicing and having fun together," says Sonja Sackman, parent of two

swimmers. Most new Intro level kids take to this practice like fish-towater. Many surprise themselves and their parents at how easy it is to overcome anxiety and build their confidence.

"I could not believe how much my son enjoyed his first off-Island practice," says Claudia Gross Shader. "Max was the first to

volunteer to start from the blocks. His selfconfidence and skills in the water are improving so quickly."

After practice swimmers and parents gather to relax, eat pizza and socialize at The Rock. "Many of the younger kids look up to the older, more experienced swimmers as role-models - I don't know of any sport where 5 to 18-year-old athletes sit together and

interact like a 'big family,'" says MacLeod.

More information and pictures from practices can be found of the club's website www.vashonaquaticclub.org.



By Ed Frohning



Nice guys are winners before the game even begins.

If laws could speak for themselves, they'd complain about lawyers.

A Congressman was once asked about his attitude toward whiskey. He said, "If you mean the demon drink that poisons the mind, pollutes the body, desecrates family life, and inflames sinners, then I'm against it. But if you mean the elixir of Christmas cheer, the shield against winter chill, the taxable potion that puts needed funds into public coffers to comfort little crippled children, then I'm for it."

Today is the last day of your life, so far.

Consistency isn't good if you're always wrong.

One Liners

Life is a do-it-yourself project.

If it is ironic, it's possibly true. A pessimist mourns the future.

Impotence: Nature's way of saying, "No hard feelings."

Don't make me use uppercase.

Ideas are great provided they don't degenerate into work.

Any bad habit is easier than the corresponding good habit.

Exaggeration is a million times worse than understatement.

The main trouble with mental notes is the ink fades so fast.

I knew a guy who had to break into song because he didn't have the key.

Problems that go away by themselves usually come back by themselves. I am becoming increasingly worried that there isn't enough anxiety in my life.

Most people don't make the same mistake twice, they make it three or four times.

Election time is that period when politicians get free speech mixed up with cheap talk.

I hate it when my foot falls asleep during the day because that means it's going to be up all night.

)FFSHORE

EVEN EXIST ANYMORE

YEP. GONE

THE LANDMARKS YOU GAVE ME TO FIND THE SCHMITT FARM PONT

Five brothers, born together in Llanpumpsaint, Wales, in the 10th century, are the most remarkable quintuplets in history. Each became a saint.

Ignorance picks-up confidence as it goes along.

A high school teacher has been arrested in Washington D.C. He was in possession of a compass, a protractor, and a straight edge. Officials charge he is a member of the al Gebra movement, a group known for terrorizing students, and was charged with possessing weapons of math instruction.

Argh...

King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan. Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it." "But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!" Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

A man rushed into a busy doctor's office and shouted "Doctor! I think I'm shrinkina!!"

The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

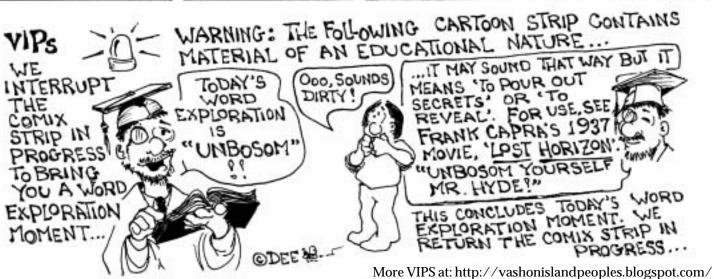
Maybe he doesn't 'act' stupid, maybe it's the real thing.

A man is not measured by how tall he stands but by how often he bends down to help. LOOK MISTER, I'M NEW HERE.













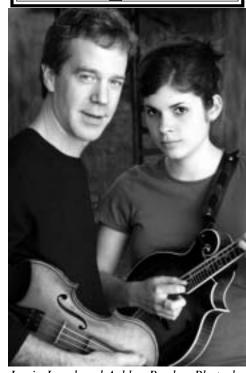








Loop Arts



Jamie Laval and Ashley Broder. Photo by Brad Buckman Photography, Hollywood

Celebrate St. Paddy's at Blue **Heron!**

By Janice Randall

Don't miss a full evening of Jamie Laval, joined by Ashley came to fruition when they opened

Broder mandolin and cello. this Saturday, March 17, 8 p.m., at the Blue Heron Art

Jamie Laval and Ashley Broder Saturday, March 17, 8 p.m. **Blue Heron Art Center Tickets: \$14/\$16**

Center. "A fantastic fiddler...Laval show are available now, \$14 VAA 2002 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Championship, Laval captures the essence of Celtic tradition, from

rousing Celtic jigs to tender, lamenting ballads. Laval and Broder, who now reside in North Carolina, recently released a flaming new CD, Zephyr in the Confetti Factory, which will be available at the VAA hosted show.

From Northwest Folklife Festival to a private appearance for Her Majesty the Queen of England, Laval has left adoring fans clamoring for more and his collaboration with Broder has even further enhanced the Scottish/Irish fiddler's musical prowess. Laval has appeared on film soundtracks for Wild America, Finding Home and the Emmy-nominated theme for TV drama Everwood. He also performed on Dave Matthews' CD, Some Devil. Laval can make the violin sing, no matter the genre. Broder, no slouch in the music business herself, has been playing music since she was able to writer her name. She won the Western Open Master Picker Championship in 2003 and 2004 and has taught for the prestigious Santa Cruz Mandolin Symposium.

Laval and Broder render traditional Scottish, Irish, Bretagne and bluegrass music with hints of classical refinement and world internationally known Celtic fiddler, music. A recent career highlight

for major Irish group, Altan, in Knoxville, TN.

Tickets for this all ages, Vashon Thriftway

captures the essence of Celtic members, seniors and students, \$16 sentiment and yearning," said general admission. Call to reserve, FiddleOn Magazine. Winner of the 463.5131. Come and celebrate St. Paddy's Day with friends and great music!



Snow Tracks; photo by Cassie Bergman

Bergman Photography at Cafe Luna

Photographer Cassie Bergman will have a one-night show at Café Luna on **Thursday**, **March 15**, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. She will be showing and selling her work that evening.

Café Luna Events March 2007

All March: Suely Jorge, Oil and Watercolor Paintings
Thurs 3/15 6pm Cassie Bergman: Photography Show and Sale.
Fri 3/16 7:30pm (Wayne) Roller: Unplugged & Untamed
Sat 3/17 7:30pm Hoppy Hopkins
Sun 3/18 4 to 5 p.m. Ken Larson's class will perform "Rhythms of Life: Eco-inventions" inventions

Fri 3/23 7:30pm The Senate: Acoustic Rock Trio

Sat 3/24 7:30pm Niceol Blue sings red-headed acoustica! Fri 3/30 7:30pm Turner Down: Funk

w/Spunk Sat 3/31 Closed early

www.vashonloop.com



Lucy Lu, by Teresa McFall

Teresa McFall's Art at the YMCA

Stop by the Vashon YMCA to see Teresa McFall's oil paintings of landscapes, still lifes, and portraits! Teresa McFall is fairly new to Vashon, having moved here only eight years ago. Teresa grew up in Port Orchard and lived in Connecticut where she enjoyed painting plein air landscape painting year 'round with Trey Friedman of The Washington Art Association. "We would paint the beautiful fall colors, the rolling hills and fields just after snow fall, and of course the distinctive rock walls of the Litchfield hills." After moving back to the Puget Sound area Teresa has been studying at The Seattle Academy of Fine Art and The Gage Academy of Art, under Joseph Lessor, Michael Stansois, and Suzanne Brooker. "I think one of my favorite paintings right now is a portrait I painted of my dog Lucy, inspired by a portrait Van Gogh did of his friend and postman Joseph Roulin in 1889." Teresa McFall's show will continue through the month of March at the YMCA. She will also show her work at the Barnworks during Vashon's Spring Art Tour in May.

Dinner and a Movie

\$25 every Wednesday night! **Dinner at Sound Food** 5 - 6 p.m.

Movie at the Theater 7:30 p.m. Call Sound Food 463-0888 for reservations

Apocalypto

Breach

March 16-22

Letters from **l**wo **Jima**



March 23-29



Vashon Theatre 463-3232 for more



Or, for show times and info, check www.vashontheater.com

Check the website to find out how to rent the theater for private showings for birthday parties!



Geordie's Byre

Geordie's Byre for St. Patrick's Day

Geordie's Byre will be performing at the Hardware Store Restaurant, on St Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17, from 7 to 10 p.m. Jasper Forrester, Jean Richstad, Mark Wells, Wally Bell, Jeremy Davidson and Dan Brown are the members of Geordie's Byre. A guest cameo performance from

Vashon's own Irish immigrant, Gary Brown, is expected. They'll be singing traditional music from Ireland, Scotland and the British Isles, with Irish specials on the menu. Also appearing again will be the Vashon Hillside Irish Step Dancers, Scoil Rince Slieveloughane, at approximately 8 p.m.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury; David's Triumph was heard throughout the land; and the apostles were all in one





Reilly and Maloney. Courtesy photo

Reilly and Maloney Play Heron

By Janice Randall

Reilly and Maloney will return to the Blue Heron stage, 8 p.m., **Friday, March 23.** For the past 30 years (with a 10-year hiatus in the 1990s) Reilly and Maloney have shared their perfect harmonies, flawless guitar work and upbeat performance style with loyal audiences up and down the West Coast. Working from both original tunes and favorite covers, Reilly and Maloney consistently bring great music to life. They plan to play some brand new music at their upcoming Vashon show (one of their favorite gigs) and are always open to audience requests.

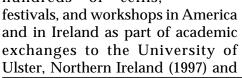
Don't miss this chance to hear Reilly and Maloney. They are guaranteed to make you feel better than when you arrived! This all-ages concert is generously supported by Vashon Thriftway. Tickets are \$12 VAA members, seniors and students/\$14 general admission. Call Blue Heron during business hours to reserve tickets, (206) 463-5131.

St. Patrick's Day Irish Ceili Dance at the Grange Hall

The Vashon Celtic Dance Society and the Vashon Park District will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a community Irish Ceili dance at the Grange Hall on **Saturday, March 17.** The dance will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and will feature live music by The Shy Sundays. Playing wild contra dance tunes mixed with Celtic, bluegrass, swing, klezmer and folk melodies, The Shy Sundays play at events throughout the Puget Sound region, from art gallery openings to country barn dances. The acoustic sound of fiddles, guitar,

mandolin, cello, concertina, viola and four-part vocal harmony inspire dancers and listeners alike.

Alicia Guinn, who teaches sean-nós, set, and céilí dancing throughout the Seattle area, will teach and call all the dances. Alicia is one of only a handful of dancers teaching seannós dancing in America. Alicia has danced at hundreds of céilís,





Shy Sundays will be playing at the Grange Hall this Saturday night



Alicia Guinn teaches ceili dancing

National University of Ireland, Galway (2001). The suggested

The suggested donation is \$8 (\$6 for students and seniors). The Grange Hall is located in the north-end ferry dock parking lot. Ceili dancing is a "barn dance" style accessible to nearly everyone. No partner or experience is required. Photos of past dances can be found at www.hoilands.com. For more information about

the Vashon Celtic Dance Society, or to volunteer, call Shannon Seath Meyer at (206) 774-4047 or Lori Malczyk at (206) 304-1452.

State May Fund Wildlife Rehab

Editor, *The Loop:*

There is an important bill in the Washington State legislature (WA SB 5188) to establish a wildlife rehabilitation program. Most wildlife rehabilitation facilities are totally dependent on donations and operate on a shoestring budget. This bill would provide a source of funding so that they can continue to care for orphaned and injured wildlife. Most of the animals coming in to these facilities have been orphaned or injured because of human activities. This is our opportunity to help give something back to the birds and wildlife that we all love.

PLEASE WRITE AND SUPPORT THIS BILL! Thanks!

T Martino and Wolftown

What's Wrong with Our Library AS IS?

Editor, *The Loop:*

In two years, I've waited for a computer twice at the Vashon Library, I never need to reserve one, I can always find a comfy seat while reading a magazine, and the children's area is equally available. The aisles are open, there's always a librarian who can help us, and the parking lot has been full only once. Printing is quick and FREE! We've got a great library for our size, I think.

Why build for a larger community AND create a bigger energy bill? I've read that it will change the Ober Park area...which I love, as is. Its proximity to the Ober Park playground is great, too! Then, there is the loss of use during construction to consider...all so we

Vashon Bookshop

Meet the Author!

Friday, March 16th at 7:30 p.m. Islander Barry Grosskopf, M.D.

will read from his book *Hidden in Plain Sight: Getting to the Bottom of Puzzling Emotions.* Drawing sensitively from his patients' histories, he shows us how we can all become conscious authors of our own healing history.

Open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (206) 463-2616

17612 Vashon Highway

Loop Letters

Results of New Library Poll

Editor, The Loop:

In January the Sustainable Practices Committee of the Community Council decided to advocate that the new library be green.

The committee drafted a questionnaire. After more than six revisions, working to phrase the questions as neutrally as possible, we printed it. The questionnaire was distributed around town and at the library. The idea was to get as many people as possible to the February 13 meeting and to have some focus on the factors. Design factors were tallied by Hillary Emmer, Julia Lakey, and Barbara Roberts at the March 1 meeting of Sustainable Practices.

What design features are important?

The library design feature that most Islanders (who answered the questionnaire) want is a **community bulletin board**. The score: Very important 36; Important 27; Not important 4. (Net 59)

can have "more?" It sounds like that song by Madonna..."I want more, more, more!" Imagine what other things we need that could be paid for with \$4,000,000! Living within a budget is a skill we need, for today and the future! Maybe a "bigger" library is something we can do without? If you take time to notice how well our library meets our Island's needs, you may be surprised to see what a great library we have already...as is!

March Twisdale

Compassionate Communication Says Thanks

Editor, *The Loop:*

I would like to thank *The Loop* for the support that they gave our Compassionate Communication Workshop last February.

During the 3 days, 30 attendees donated a total of \$1,546 to thirteen of the 27 local nonprofit organizations that participated. These include: Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship (VIUF); Puget Sound Network for Compassionate Communication (PSNCC); DAWN; Wolftown; Little Tree Montessori School; IsleWilde; Vashon Forest Stewards (VFS); VIPP; Wednesday Night Dinner; VIGA; Backbone

Out of 85 Islanders responding, **quiet space** is the most important to 44. Seven cite quiet as important. (Net 51.) No one considers quiet space not important.

Capturing rainwater captured almost as many votes as the bulletin board: 41+19 vs. 6 not important and 4 don't care.

Appearance from outside and view from inside scored least with more opposition: Appearance: Very important, 11; Important, 39, Not important 17 and no opinion 3. View from the windows: Very important 13; Important 21; Not important 32 and no opinion 2.

Vashon documents, natural lighting, permeable surface parking and small rooms scored together in the middle netting 46, 49, 51 and 47 respectively.

Many folks expressed a hope for **more books**. A few want more computers.

The questionnaires will be turned in to Head Librarian Hester Kremer, then forwarded to Adrianne Ralph. Because the site is still uncertain, nothing is certain. Probably we have a year or more for us to insist that the new library be for us, and not based on system policies.

Barbara Roberts

Campaign; VMI Land Trust; and The Worm Guy.

Our thanks also go to Vashon Maury Island Land Trust, who allowed us the use of their building on Sunday.

Our special thanks go to all those who attended and participated in the workshop. Each contributed to its success. Most gave their names to participate in ongoing practice sessions - watch for further notices. Should others wish to join in our practice group, please contact me at (206) 463-2342.

Sincerely
Wendy Wharton

Diabetes Support Group Startup

Editor, The Loop:

Anyone interested in participating in a monthly diabetes support group is invited to call Joy Goldstein at 463-9552.

Joy Goldstein



The Vashon Loop, p. 20 March 14, '07

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RR Ties \$5.00 - \$22.50 ea Vashon p/u 4 Grades 463 5161

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