

In This Issue: Holy Week and Easter Services; Darfur, Democrats, Muslims; PTSA Auction; Worms; Moving House and Throwing Up; 8-inch heels; Limericks; Pet Food Update; *Oliver!* And more!



Swan spots sparrows
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Drama Dock Brings *Oliver!* in April; other arts!
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THE VASHON LOOP

Vol. 4, # 7

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM March 28, 2007



Jon Whalen. Loop photo

Protesting Four Years of War

Jon Whalen was one of a few dozen people who kept vigil on the corner of Bank Road and the Main Highway on Monday, March 12, in observance of the fourth anniversary of the United States' invasion of Iraq. "I'd rather celebrate the fourth anniversary of an attack of appendicitis," Whalen wryly observed. Many Islanders honked and waved in support as they drove by.



Aerial view of Glacier site, facing west. Photo by Marnie Jones

SSB 6011 Adds Teeth to Maury Aquatic Reserve!

By Marnie Jones

With SSB 6011, we have a second chance to create a real state aquatic reserve that protects the aquatic lands and the health of Puget Sound for generations to come. We could set an example for this state and even the nation.

The current Reserve on Maury Island was created in 2000 by



Four Generations of the Gene Sherman family share perspectives of growing up on Vashon in different eras with the Vashon 101 class. Tom (63), Jim (40), holding son Emmett (5), and Gene (87), are pictured with Dr. Bruce Haulman, the instructor, in the background. Photo by Susan Wolf.

History Told by Those Who Lived It

By Susan Wolf

How many schools were ever built on Vashon? What is the name of the last representative who lived on Vashon? Where did the Native Americans who lived originally on Vashon and Maury Islands go? From what countries did people come to settle on Vashon? How many docks were used at one time here? What's a Mosquito fleet?

The answers to these and many other questions were satisfied during the past two sessions of Vashon College's Vashon 101 class. Although I missed Dr. Bill Seaburg's Anthropology session due to the flu, Dr. Bruce Haulman's history lesson and the DVD we received more than made up for lost time. Rich with

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What Are They Thinking?

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

The owners of CDX Corporation, the new food purveyors on the Vashon ferries, have not rehired all of the galley workers who were formerly employed on the boats, most notably Charlie Kipp, who has been working in the ferry galleys for 27 years. Many commuters know his smiling face well, and many more people know him as a fine musician whose clarinet stylings have sweetened many an Island concert, show, and jam session.

He is at present volunteering for Mike Scott as a tutor for McMurray band students. "All I want to do is get back to work on the boats, telling my bad jokes," Charlie says.

Another former galley employee, Joe Cunningham, refused to return to work because he thought the new contract was not fair to employees. Some employees who were displaced when Sound Food's contract was terminated in

VSD Board Hears *Riptide* Appeal

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

The Vashon School Board met in a special session on Thursday, March 22, to hear the staff of the *Riptide* appeal the administration's decision not to print an article. Over 100 students, parents, district employees and other interested parties were present.

The young women speaking for the *Riptide* said, "We want to know what was unpublishable...we believe the article was written fairly and in good faith."

Hanson said, "In nine years I have not censored an article. I do not act capriciously or offhandedly. I read the article, decided it was about school personnel, and that the school paper was not the vehicle for such complaints to be addressed. I consulted with our attorney and with (Superintendent) Mimi Walker.

Continued on page 10



Charlie Kipp, whose smiling face has been greeting ferry commuters for 27 years. Loop photo

January have moved on to find other employment. Charlie didn't do that because he thought he'd have a job.

If you would like to help Charlie, call or write to CDX Corporation's owners, Michael and Frances Cho, (425) 710-0406; 5721 93 Place SW, Mukilteo, WA, and tell them how you feel. For more information, see the letter on page 11 written by Charlie's wife, Teri.

Get in The Loop

VashonBePrepared.ORG

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 Cochran 463-4558
certvashon@yahoo.com

Vashon College Announces New Dates for Global Warming Lectures

Vashon College is pleased to announce that its Vashon 101 Alumni Lecture Series opening speaker, Dr. Richard E. Moritz, PhD, will present, “Global Warming: Climate Change on Earth, Pacific Northwest, and Vashon Island” on **Tuesday, April 24**, at 7:00 p.m. at Courthouse Square. All tickets held from the January date will be honored for this lecture and more tickets are still available. A follow-up session focused on response and action, led by Meg Gluckman and Janie Starr, will be on **Tuesday, May 1**, also at Courthouse Square.

Tickets will be on sale at both Island bookstores beginning April 4. Seating is limited, so purchasing tickets in advance is advised. For questions, please call Vashon College at 206-408-8000.

DOIT Board Meets April 5

The next regular board meeting of Development of Island Teens (DOIT) will take place at 6 p.m. on **Thursday, April 5** at the Sunrise Ridge Conference Room at the Voice of Vashon building. Youth and interested adults are welcome! For more information, please see our new web site www.doitvashon.org. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities and directions are available by calling Stephen Silha at 567-4363.

Forest Stewardship Informational Workshop

The Land Trust will host an informational session on **Tuesday, April 3**, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Land Trust Building. The subject will be the Forest Stewardship property 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 what is needed to re-enroll in the program. See if Forest Stewardship Planning is right for your property and situation. For more info contact the Land Trust at 463-2644 or info@vashonlandtrust.org

Chamber of Commerce Spring Fling and Egg Hunt

The annual Chamber of Commerce Spring Fling and Egg Hunt will be **Saturday April 7**. A Bonnet Parade will be lead by the Easter Bunny from the VIGA market to Ober Park. All are encouraged to walk with us-rain or shine! The Bonnet Parade will line up at 11:30 a.m. The hunt starts PROMPTLY at noon. Ober Park will be sectioned off by age groups, all kids in third grade and under are welcome. Music, sponsored by Silverwood Gallery, will be performed by the Garage Boys. Many eggs will have special coupons in them to redeem at Island businesses for prizes. There will be one golden egg in each age group.

Green Party April Events

The Green Party will have their April meeting on **Tuesday, April 10** at 7 p.m. We will meet at the Asher’s home: 15120 Westside Highway. Please call (206) 567-0593 for directions. All are welcome to find out what a third party can do to influence the political process of our country.

The next film in our Progressive Film Series will be *Control Room*, a film about Al-Jazeera and its coverage of the Iraq War. The showing will be **Thursday, April 12**, at 6:45 p.m. at Café Luna. Discussion will follow.

The Green Party Book Club meets on **Sunday, April 22**, from 2-4 p.m. at the Vashon Tea Shop. The subject book is *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A citizen’s guide to hope in a time of fear*, by Paul Loeb. You may buy the book at either Vashon book store, and receive a discount for being in the book club. You do not have to be a Green Party member to be part of the book club. Most of the book selections have a political, social, or environmental component.

Please contact Ivy Sacks at 463-9579, or email to: Ivys@centurytel.net for further information.

Island Tall Tales Fest

Are you loquacious? Verbose? Garrulous? We want you! We will be celebrating the art of storytelling on **Sunday, April 22**, 3-5 p.m., at the Vashon Theater. Come and spin your wildest yarn or just sit back and listen to others’ tales of wonder, woe, and whimsy. Featuring some of our local great storytellers with special guest MC, Steffon Moody. Food, prizes and surprises guaranteed! Tickets: \$7-10 per person or \$15-25 per family, sliding scale. Tickets available at Vashon Bookshop. The fest is a fundraiser for Madrona School. For more information, call Leslie at 567-5748 or Kathryn at 567-5389. The fine print: This is an all-ages event, please plan subject matter accordingly.

Come Bid Sandy Farewell on April 7

Sandy Sheldon has sold Café Luna to Natalie Sheard as of April 1, 2007, and she will be moving on to the next phase of her life. She invites “anyone in the community who would like to come,” to a farewell party at Café Luna on **Saturday, April 7**, after 6:30 p.m. The party will feature live music, and beverages will be provided. Guests can bring potluck dishes if they wish, but, “I don’t want people to feel like they have to bring food to come. I just want them to come,” Sheldon said.

VIPP Bake Sale

Vashon Island Pet Protectors will have their Spring Bake Sale on Saturday, March 31, from 9a.m. to 1p.m., next to Thriftway. Leave the baking to us this year and help VIPP through this important fundraiser. Enjoy freshly made treats from some of the Island’s best bakers. If you’d like to help with the baking, please drop off your tightly wrapped and labeled treats after 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Call Victoria 463-5381 with any questions.

Pet Licenses on the Island

You can obtain pet licenses on the Island at the King County Community Service Center, which is located at the King County Courthouse. The Center is open only on **Tuesdays**, from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m., and from 4 to 7 p.m. You can also apply for marriage licenses and passports, as well as paying your property taxes, and registering to vote. You can check King County job postings, and pick up County job applications.

VIGA Is Back!

The Vashon Farmers Market opens **Saturday, April 7**, with new market hours, 10 a.m. to 2 pm. Farm tables will be overflowing with veggie starts, nursery plants, baked goods, eggs, Island-raised meat, cheeses, wine, over-wintered veggies, crafts and treats.

For more info, contact market manager Joanne Jewell at 463-3518.

Weed and Feed at the Market

Yes, it’s a weed and feed at **Saturday Market on April 7**. The Groundwater Protection Committee invites you to try out some hand weeding tools and support our Island growers by feeding on their delicacies. Paul Motoyoshi says he’ll have hot soup and tea available and I hear there will be some greens ready, too.

The Garden Green – Drink Clean campaign is encouraging alternative weed control strategies to reduce use of herbicides on the Island. Look for our information table at the market and pick up a copy of Washington Toxics Coalition’s grow smart, grow safe booklet and take your chances at winning a hand weeding tool of your choice!

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates about 8 million pounds of 2, 4-D is applied by homeowners on their lawns annually and research indicates that it is likely an endocrine disruptor.

The good news is that 2, 4-D and other pesticides were undetected in the 18 wells and 2 springs on the Island tested by King County between 2001 and 2002. We can continue to keep pesticides out of our water by reducing our use or using alternative products. You can pick up cards at the Garden Green-Drink Clean information booth that show you which low environmental impact products are available on the Island for weed control, insect control, and slug control, as well as fertilizers. Contrary to weather reports, it’s spring! See you at the market.



Kaisha Thomas, left, offers Sandy Sheldon a hug after talking about “life after Luna.” Loop photo

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Holy Week, Easter Services

Vashon Lutheran Church
Palm Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Triduum:
Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.
Good Friday 7 p.m.
Easter Vigil 8 p.m.
Easter Morning April 8 - 10:30 a.m.
Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit
Palm Sunday, 7:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
Monday, 7:30 p.m. Service of Reconciliation
Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Evening Prayer
Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday, 7:30 p.m.
The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday evening, 8 p.m.
Easter services, 7:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
Vashon United Methodist Church
Palm Sunday, 10:25 a.m.
“A Story About Us” Drama of the passion story, written and directed by Deb Pierce.
Maundy Thursday, 8 p.m. Tenebrae service.
Easter Sunday, 10:25 a.m. A joyous, music-filled celebration of the resurrection
All-Merciful Saviour Orthodox Monastery
Great and Holy Monday, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: 6:30 p.m.
Great and Holy Tuesday, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:30 p.m.
Great and Holy Wednesday, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts:6:30 p.m.
Great and Holy Thursday, Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great: 8 a.m.
Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels: 4:30 p.m.
Great and Holy Friday, Royal Hours: 8 a.m.
Vespers and Small Compline: 4:30 p.m.
Great and Holy Saturday, Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great: 12 noon
The Feast of Feasts, Holy Pascha, the Resurrection of Our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ
Great and Holy Saturday Reading - Acts of the Apostles: 9:00 p.m.
The Midnight Office: 11:30 p.m.
Procession and Paschal Matins: 12 Midnight
The Divine Liturgy of the Holy Resurrection: 1 a.m.
Breaking of the Fast: 3 a.m.
Vashon Island Community Church
Easter Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Worship will include special music from Friday, April 6th’s joint Bethel & VICC Easter Cantata program, *For Such A One As This*, along with a message by Pastor Frank Davis.

The Vashon Loop

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Troy & Marie Talk Capital Gains



To paraphrase Benjamin Franklin, the only two things in life that are certain are death and taxes. Off the tops of our heads, we can't think of a good connection between real estate and death, but certainly there is one between real estate and taxes. Rest assured that when you sell your home, Uncle Sam is waiting with his hand out. You may not have to give him more than a high five, though. Read on...

Troy: Marie, since it's just a few weeks until Income Tax D-Day, I thought our readers might appreciate some information about how capital gains taxes are calculated when they sell their homes.

Marie: Is there some sort of sound distortion in here? I could have sworn I just heard you express an interest in talking about taxes. Are you my same husband who claims he'd rather have a root canal than sit through a meeting with an accountant?

Troy: Well, yes. But I am willing to suffer through this for the benefit of our clients.

Marie: Great! There is hope! As the National Association of Realtors explained it in a recent article, the capital gains tax that you have to pay when you sell your home is based on the difference between the price you sell it for and its so-called "cost basis."

Troy: The cost basis is more than just the price you originally paid for the house, right?

Marie: That's right. To calculate the cost basis, you take the purchase price of the house when you bought it, and add in any costs of the purchase – like transfer fees, inspections, and attorney costs.

Troy: Then you add in what it cost you to sell the house. This would include your commission expense and any money you spent to fix up the house before putting it on the market.

Marie: You can also add in any costs you've spent over the years to improve the property, like adding a deck or a new room.

Troy: But you can't add costs for repair and maintenance for things that were already there. For example, you would not be able to add the cost of replacing a roof.

Marie: That's true. A new roof might be an improvement and add to the market value of your home, but the IRS would not consider it part of your cost basis.

Troy: Those guys are just no fun.

Marie: That's for sure. Anyway, your capital gain on the sale is the difference between your selling price and the cost basis of the house. Obviously, the higher your cost basis, the lower your capital gain, and the lower your tax bill.

Troy: Also, we should mention that people can exclude part of the capital gain – up to \$250,000 for a single person or \$500,000 for a married couple. There are some further requirements in the fine print that go along with this generous exclusion. Anyone who is considering selling their home should consult with a tax accountant to fully understand the tax implications.

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

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.**



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\$649,000 **\$649,000**
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Riptide: Hanson and Walker Made the Right Call

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

At the special session of the School Board last Thursday, the staff of the *Riptide*, the high school paper, appealed to the Board to be allowed to publish an article which they said had been censored. What I heard in that discussion was that the students are not responsible for what they write in this school-owned and sponsored publication.

“I can get sued,” said VHS Principal Susan Hanson. “The District can get sued.”

And there you have it, ladies and gentlemen. Hanson saw the article as being libelous, and the District’s attorney confirmed her perceptions by reviewing the article and telling her it contained defamatory statements. Superintendent Mimi Walker read the article (“numerous times”), talked with the attorney, and backed Hanson up.

They did the right thing. The School District and the taxpayers who support it do not need to spend several years’ time and energy and thousands (millions?) of dollars

answering a civil action which in the end would only profit the lawyers. Meanwhile the young people who actually made the defamatory statements would go merrily on their way, with no consequences for their actions. The consequences would be suffered by the District, the individual they attack, the students who enter a financially crippled system, and the taxpayers of Vashon Island.

I can not help but think that the *Riptide* staff and their families might have a different perspective if they were facing the prospect of lawsuits and possibly losing everything they own.

When you have no responsibility, your rights are limited. The *Riptide* staff wants to print defamatory statements, and is wrapping itself in the Constitution to justify its actions. Granted these kids have grown up watching politicians do exactly this and get away with it, but that’s no excuse. We want better than that from our children.

As for freedom of speech – that is well worth fighting for, and those who do fight for it have to face debilitating legal actions; or an armed and trained enemy; or police in riot gear with clubs, guns, tear gas, dogs, and fire hoses. They risk being financially ruined, being wounded or dying, or going to prison. Those are the kinds of responsibilities that go with rights and freedoms. Ponder these things in your hearts.

Make Some Noise for Darfur

By Rosie Daughtry



Rosie Daughtry

Thirteen years ago, the world sat quietly while nearly one million men, women, and children, were slaughtered over the period of one hundred days in the Rwandan genocide. Today the international community faces a similar situation, with similar options before us. We could treat what the United Nations has called “the world’s greatest humanitarian crisis” as we treated the plight of the Tutsis, with silent indifference. Students at Vashon Island High School and across the nation, however, have chosen another option. We’ve chosen to participate in Amnesty International’s annual National Student Week of Action, which focuses this year on the genocide in Sudan. We’ve pledged to help our schools and communities “Make Some Noise for Darfur.”

Many know of the crisis in Darfur, the western province of Sudan, where the Janjaweed, a militia group of nomad Arabs, have taken violent, unthinkable, actions against regional tribes such as the Fur, Zaghawa, and Massaleit. When rebel movements that opposed the Sudanese government began developing within these tribes’ villages in early 2003, officials supplied the Janjaweed with funding, artillery, and technology. They used this to systematically attack and destroy any such ethnicities regardless of their participation in any anti-government events. What resulted was a full blown genocide that has so far claimed the lives of 500,000 people from gunfire, bombs, and arson, millions more of whom survived only to be raped, tortured, and forced to leave what was left of their homes.

National Week of Student Action focuses this year on these very issues in its Make Some Noise for Darfur

campaign. From March 26th to 30th, students across America are joining the international efforts to bring freedom and security to all those who have suffered from this tragedy by raising awareness through different projects. Vashon Island High School’s Amnesty/Interact group has worked all this week to complete the objective in many different ways, from adorning the campus and sidewalks with chalk graffiti to printing t-shirts with Darfur awareness slogans. Our most exciting event takes place on Thursday, March 29. Vashon Island will have the privilege that day of hosting Jen Marlowe, one of three independent film makers and human rights activists who captured the images and stories of Darfur refugees in the documentary and accompanying book *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival*.

Marlowe, along with her companions Aisha Bain and Adam Shapiro, not only interviewed victims of the crisis in the refugee camps in Chad, but actually crossed the border into Sudan on the back of an SLA (Sudan Liberation Army) truck. They visited many different sections of Darfur, yet their cameras caught the same images wherever they went: hasty graves, burned homes, and broken lives. While the stories they brought back are filled with unspeakable atrocities and tremendous pain, many of them also show the perseverance and determination of the displaced people. Marlowe will be presenting an assembly to students during school on Thursday, but you can hear about her experiences at Vashon Book Shop during a book signing at 4:00 or when she screens her film 7:00 p.m. in the high school theater. This issue cries out for our attention and action. Many VHS students are responding; we need you to join us.

Early in life I had noticed that no event is ever correctly reported in a newspaper. – George Orwell

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Democrats are Exploiting Antiwar Sentiment for Political Gain

By Maryrose Asher

In a press release issued March 23, 2007, the Green Party of Washington State condemned the Democratic resolution calling for US troop withdrawal from Iraq by 2008, a “phony anti-war posture to give Democrats an advantage in 2008...if Democrats really oppose the war, they should demand a cutoff of war funding and the immediate return of all US troops.”

By voting for the supplemental funding, the Democrats have now bought the Iraq war. The American people gave the Democrats a mandate to end this war and in return are getting double talk. Here in Washington state, Rep. Jim McDermott’s vote was especially disappointing since he is considered one of the leading liberals in the House. Instead of taking the high road, he allowed the DLC to lead him by the nose. He and fellow Washington state Democrats, Jay Inslee, Brian Baird, Adam Smith, Rick Larsen, and Norm Dicks have done a great disservice to the people they represent.

McDermott said in an interview with Matthew Daly, AP reporter, “What we have before us is the first step. And despite my serious misgivings about it, it is the only step in the right direction, which is out of Iraq.” Is that true?

This is what McDermott, and the other members of the Progressive Caucus who voted for this bill, have given President Bush. The supplemental funding bill (1) provides another \$100 billion to continue the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; (2) does not prevent expansion of the war to Iran; (3) calls for pulling out half the troops from Iraq by August 2008 but exempts whole categories of troops from the withdrawal, for example those troops “training the Iraqi military,” troops engaged in “special operations,” and troops “protecting diplomatic enclaves;” (4) does not require troops

withdrawn from Iraq be sent home, i.e. they can be immediately deployed to Afghanistan, bases in surrounding Arab countries, ships in Persian Gulf, or to attack Iran; (5) includes a waiver for President Bush to simply state his intention to override restrictions in the bill, allowing him to send in as many untrained, badly equipped, and exhausted troops as he wishes; (6) does nothing to close existing permanent US bases in Iraq; (7) allows 90% of the mercenaries who fight alongside the US military to remain in Iraq; (8) does not end the occupation of Iraq; and (9) does not prohibit an unprovoked attack on Iran.

You cannot be against the war and fund the war at the same time. It is disingenuous for our representatives to imply this bill was the best they could do. If Pelosi and other House leaders had put as much energy into de-funding the war as they put into this bill, the outcome may have been different. Certainly, if they know they can “buy” votes by bailing out spinach growers in Rep. Sam Farr’s California district, for example, then obviously they know how to get bills passed—or at least those bills they want to get passed.

Instead, they chose not to fight for de-funding this illegal and immoral war and are now busy giving us the defense that, as lawmakers, they know better than the American voter. By their actions and their rhetoric, they are proving to be part of the same political monster. In spite of their words prior to the election, their actions prove that indeed the monster has two heads.

By taking the stand of opposition to this supplemental funding bill, the Green Party is showing itself to be the true antiwar political party. Now is the time to support the Green Party as a way to end the corruption of this one-party political system. Go to www.wagreens.us to support the Green Party of Washington State. The national website is www.gp.org. Time is running out.

The Faith of a Muslim

By Susan Wolf

Earlier this month, I went to Jamal Jamalrah's (author of *The Fragrances of Faith*) lecture on Islam and the Quran, sponsored by The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal) in Vashon. This church is to be commended for their work with the Wednesday community dinners, for inviting those of differing faiths to share their beliefs and also for their warm welcome when I arrived. I was eager to have my preconceptions challenged, but what I experienced was the gentle, loving persuasion of a truly Godly man.

Mr. Jamalrah's explanations were kind, patient and humorous. In learning that Muslim prayer consists of praise and gratitude, I reflected on the complaining nature of my prayers of late and resolved to pray with more gratitude and faith. He quoted Gandhi, "It is the sacred duty of every individual to have an appreciative understanding of all religions." It was interesting to learn that only about 12% of the world's 1.6 billion Muslims (followers of Islam) are in the Middle East. I was able to confirm at least 48 countries such as Indonesia, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and Africa are predominantly Muslim.

Muslims believe we enter the world with a "good" spirit but then enter into a state of forgetfulness. However, no matter what one's religion, if we have faith in God and do righteous deeds, we will go to

Skyfish Preschool, Child Care, Comes to Town

SkyFish:Children's Learning Center is moving from its original home on the property of owner/founder Jessica Morell to the 1400 sq. ft. Firefighters Association Building located across from the Land Trust Building in downtown Vashon. SkyFish will be expanding its 2007 - 08 program to include a morning preschool, afternoon drop-in care and movement classes for big and little people. "Creating a learning center with a 900 square foot dance floor is the culmination of a lifelong dream," said Morell. "SkyFish's program is based on the Reggio Emilio approach which emphasizes community integration, and this location is the ideal place in which to put theory into practice." Now entering its third year, SkyFish's program focuses on learning through play in a joyful and nurturing environment that includes gentle Spanish immersion. SkyFish will hold an open house in August and is currently accepting students for the 07-08 waiting list. Interested parents and caregivers can reach Jessica Morell, MiT at (206) 463-4494.

By trying we can easily learn to endure adversity. Another man's, I mean. - Mark Twain

God in the hereafter. Mr. Jamalrah explained about the Sunni-Shia conflict (there's an excellent article in the March 5, 2007 *Time* magazine).

He taught us the intent of the Quran regarding women's rights (the Prophet Mohammed was ahead of his time in granting to women property, inheritance and divorce rights). He explained that multiple marriages were discouraged. Jesus Christ is an adored prophet in Islam, a product of a miraculous birth. If a Christian were to make fun of the Prophet Mohammed, no Muslim could make fun of Jesus because that would be against his religion. All prophets are esteemed the same and in fact, Muslims believe that Christ will return as the Messiah some day.

Many of us, I would assume, believe in the Old Testament prophets, their revelations, dreams and writings as scripture. Some of us may also believe that those sacred writings can be subject to errors in translation, misinterpretation or practice that can twist the spirit of the intent. If I lived in a Muslim country, unable to read and without my personal copy of the scriptures, I would depend on what others told me in order to construct my beliefs. What then would I believe?

No one can deny when the Spirit of God confirms in your heart when someone is speaking the truth. That which we have in common is far greater than our differences, I believe, and in upholding one another's faith, we are living what we are - all sons and daughters of that great God who made us.

Qi Gong on Tuesdays

There will be a free qi gong self healing massage and meditation session every Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 2411 SW 248th Street. Please RSVP Katharina at (206) 463-6151.

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SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG DICK

Spiritual Smart Aleck

The Last Voyage of the HMV Oatus

By Mary Litchfield Tuel



Recently we received a form letter from King C o u n t y informing us that we were in violation of something or other, and had to clean up our yard in order to come into compliance with code. What this means is that we finally had to tear down the collapsed woodshed we've been meaning to deconstruct for years, and what it also means is that we have to get rid of Oatus.

Oatus is a 1946 Dodge flatbed truck with a hippie camper on the back. My husband Rick and his friend Chris Howie built the camper back in 1970 when they were planning to leave Marin County for Seattle. Rick was fresh from the Navy, and managed to use ship space-saving techniques to build in skylights, bunks, shelves, a fold-down table, and a galley that jutted out over the back bumper. There was a sliding door from the camper into the cab of the truck which was opened by a ship's wheel, and little stairs descended from the rear of the camper on a rope and pulley arrangement.

A tiny wood stove sat on the galley counter, providing heat ("from the level of the stove up," Rick says) and a cooking surface.

The voyage of the HMV (Hippie Motor Vehicle) Oatus is legend in our families. Rick kept a log of their 30-day trip from Marin to Seattle, and we've had a couple of gatherings so we could listen to him read the log. Years ago he started doing a cartoon version of the journey, which quickly morphed into, well, let us say he did not stick strictly to the narrative. If he ever finishes it, we'll be able to publish it as a graphic novel.

The bulk of the time on the trip in 1970 was spent on the shoulder of Highway 101 north of Crescent City, trying to get Oatus roadworthy enough for the California Highway Patrol to allow them to proceed. The adventure included kindly older Bohemian types who gave Rick and Chris shelter and food on the way; a hitchhiker and her dog; the Devil's Disciples motorcycle gang (Crescent City chapter); and many, many encounters with the law.

Oatus was really past the end of his functioning automotive existence when the trip began, and driving



him brought to light all the weaknesses in his system. Chris made creative repairs to Oatus, using junkyard parts to replace goners on the truck; using epoxy to seal up the head gasket; and hand-carving wooden pegs to replace missing bolts. After one long stop at Patrick Point, south of Orick, California, Oatus made it only a few yards before breaking down again. "Chris and Oatus are not speaking," Rick noted in his log that night.

In 1970 the country was divided over the Vietnam War, and outside of urban areas, long-haired guys could run into deep prejudice against their type. Rick and Chris were both veterans who had served in Vietnam, but that was behind them and now they were guys with pony tails and this huge beast of a thunder truck rolling slowly up rural Highway 101. The locals were not amused.

The guys made it up the coast and across the Columbia River at Astoria, and as far as Federal Way, when Oatus was pulled over again, and they didn't have enough money to pay their fine. A good Samaritan gave them the twenty bucks they needed to continue, and they made it to Seattle, where Oatus gave up his last ghost.

Since then Oatus has been towed from place to place, landing in our yard a few years ago when Chris and his wife moved off the Island. Now the County says Oatus is an "inoperable vehicle" and has to go, unless we want to go through the permitting process and build a garage to store him in. We're hoping to sell up and move in the next year or so, so it seems easier to let him go.

Oatus is a shell now, a link to a time that was and is no more. You can tell that it won't be easy to let him go. We always joked that if we lost the house, we could move in to Oatus, but now I guess we'll have to explore other options.

So. Anyone need a 1946 Dodge flatbed truck, with or without hippie camper? Towable but undriveable; some good parts; lots of soul. Give me a call, (206) 463-3327.

00000

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Maury Aquatic Reserve

Continued from page 1

meetings for public input. Unless 6011 passes, he will get to decide if Glacier gets their lease, which is likely. State Senator Erik Poulsen has given us SSB 6011, which makes the current Reserve a state law, no longer "at the pleasure" of the lands commissioner.

The bill disallows "industrial uses or transportation of materials from mining or other industrial activities, the construction of docks or other improvements associated with these uses." As state law, DNR would have to enforce it.

SSB 6011 would stop Glacier cold and they are fighting it tooth and nail. People for Puget Sound, the Washington Environmental Council, Washington Audubon, Washington Conversation Voters, the League of Women Voters and, of course, Preserve Our Islands, are among the bill's champions.

The Senate passed the bill 26-22. Its companion bill stalled in the House Select Committee on Puget Sound. As of this writing, 6011 is there again and must pass to the floor to survive. Things are hot in Olympia!

The hearing on March 21st drew such a huge crowd on both sides that it was moved to a larger room, with testimony limited to three minutes. A lot of testimony at the hearing was from experts debunking Glacier's misrepresentations and questioning their scientific claims. Other issues included the need for the aggregate and serious concerns over the aquifer.

At the hearing and in the *Beachcomber* last week, Glacier claimed that "all the regulatory agencies have agreed the project does not compromise the environment."

Impacts are clearly reflected in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Glacier also claimed to have all but one permit. They neglected to mention that their County dock

permits are "encumbered" by a stay on construction.

As far as the size of the operation, they presented current plans for one 4,000-6,000 ton barge/day. Historically, plans have been for up to four 10,000 ton barges/day, or the equivalent. Current permits reflect no limits. Glacier has said capacity would depend on "market forces."

Glacier's claim that they will "clean up" the arsenic has Islanders in disbelief. They are concerned the proposed onsite 20-acre toxic berm could break apart in an earthquake or start seeping into our drinking water or Puget Sound.

The number of barge runs and risks from arsenic could both compromise the reserve environment if 6011 goes down to defeat. If 6011 passes, we will have a chance to reevaluate the current Reserve. There is a fiscal note attached to the bill to support the development of a new management plan.

At the hearing, Patrick Christie, U/W Professor and Islander, who works internationally with communities to create reserves, told me, "The current reserve design and management plan are based on a fairly thorough assessment of the ecology, but little meaningful inclusion of the people in the Reserve's governance."

He went on, "In the U.S., we tend to rely on command and control policy making—pass a law, defer to scientific knowledge only, consult people, but stop short of meaningful citizen involvement or conflict resolution."

Marnie Jones is a Board Member of POI and eight-year activist against the mine expansion. You can contact her at: (206) 463-2821/579-8994

On the chest of a barmaid in Sale
Were tattooed the prices of ale,
And on her behind,
For the sake of the blind,
Was the same information --
in Braille.

Loopy Limerick contest!
See page 14!

Don't Forget the Birds

The White-Crowned Sparrow Returns

By Ed Swan

Spring has definitely arrived when the White-crowned Sparrow returns and begins singing on territory. Sibley's Guide to Birds renders the song as "seee zree chidle chidli chi-chi-chi teew." Few written descriptions of bird song really work but that example picks up some of the essence. The singing of White-crowned Sparrows permeates our environment during spring and summer because they turn-up just about everywhere but the deep woods. They hang out at Pt. Robinson and other shoreline areas, throughout the fields and gardens of the Island and in the landscaping of the parking lots in town. They also have a sharp "pink" warning note.



Adult plumage, taken in Mendocino, California. Photo by Jim Rosso

White-crowns begin showing up on Vashon in mid to late March. They breed on the Island, having as many as two broods before the fall. They nest on the ground in deep brush for the most part. Less common nest locations include out in the grass, in landscaping and rarely up in a tree. In 2002, the author saw adults feeding young during the third week in July. An observer noted an adult giving food to a young cowbird in the first week of August. They begin to bunch up around feeders in September as their somewhat larger relative, the Golden-crowned Sparrow, returns from the north. As October progresses, the numbers of White-crowned Sparrows decrease dramatically. It appears that most birds from our area go to central California for the winter. A bird banded on Vashon back in the 1940's showed up in Berkeley. Only a few White-crowns winter on Vashon.

Many of our wintering birds consist of the sub-species *gambelii*. They breed in the central and northern Cascades in the alpine areas and also far to the north of Washington. The sub-specific composition of the winter population of Puget Sound White-crowned Sparrows appears to be changing over the last few decades from mostly *gambelii* to a higher percentage of *pugetensis*. The *pugetensis* sub-species provide the breeding form on Vashon. It appears



Recently fledged White-crowned Sparrow. Photo by Jim Rosso

browner overall and has a bright yellow bill.

Carole Elder heard the first returning *pugetensis* White-crowns at the dump on March 14. Since then they've been seen at Pt. Robinson by Sharon Helmick and at Hogsback Farm by Amy Bogard. Other recent spring migrants returning to Vashon include the Rufous Hummingbirds and Violet-green Swallow. The hummingbirds showed up almost a month ago and can be seen all over now. Firsts reports of Violet-green Swallows came from Steve Caldwell above Tramp Harbor and Brenda Sestrap by Dockton on March 13. Tree Swallows and Northern Rough-winged Swallows and Orange-crowned Warblers should be reported back any day now. If you have an interesting bird to report or a question about local birds, call me at 463-7976 or email at 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.



Adult plumage White-crowned Sparrow with US Fish and Wildlife Band on left leg. Photo by Jim Rosso



PTSA Auction Needs Donations

Editor, *The Loop*:

As we gear up for a great PTSA auction on May 19, we need donations from families who value good education. Whether it's a basket of garden tools,

weeding a garden, two hours of piano playing, a gourmet dinner at your home, or a check, we'd appreciate your donation as soon as possible. The sooner we receive procurement forms, the sooner we can complete our catalog and get it out to buyers. Please take a moment fill out a form today.

Just go to www.vashonptsa.org and click on the Abundanza auction logo. You can also pick up a procurement

form at any of the public schools, or send a check to:

Vashon Community PTSA
PO Box 2364
Vashon WA 98070
Thank you,
Anne Atwell

Auction Chair



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

Friday, April 6

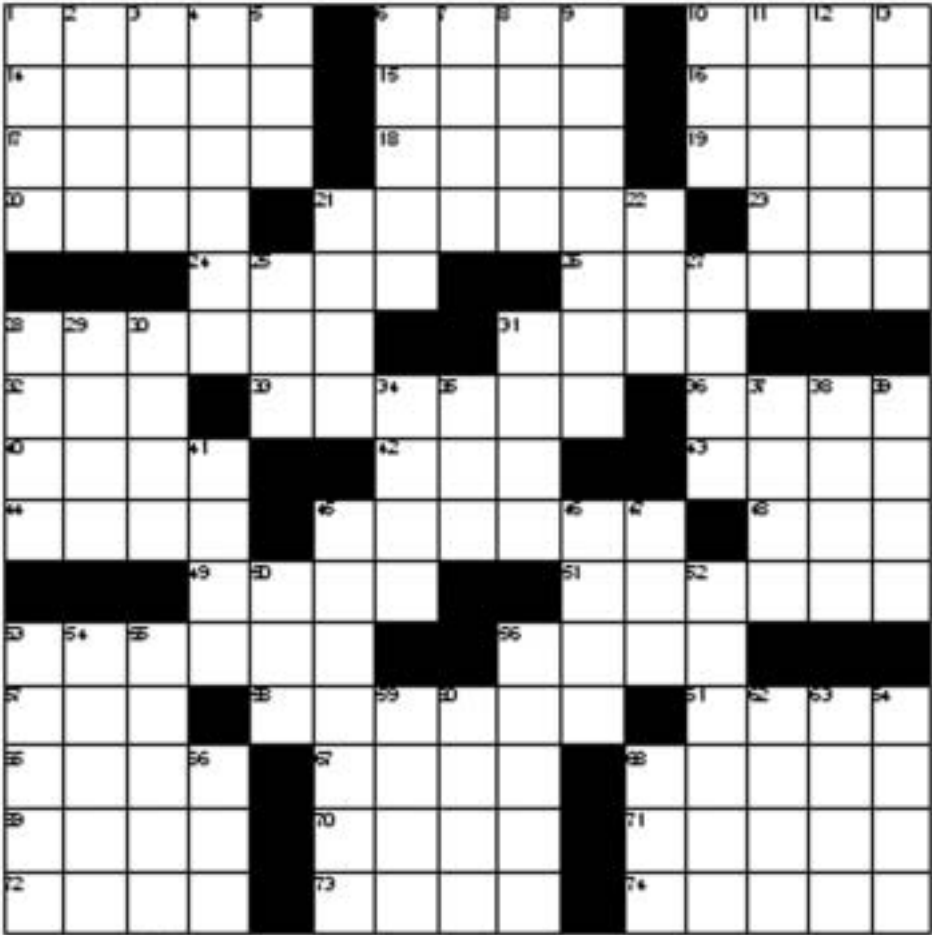
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Across

- 1 Light emitting __
- 6 Hew
- 10 Gets older
- 14 Listing at the back of a book
- 15 Deceiver
- 16 Sailors
- 17 Francis __ Key
- 18 Opposed
- 19 Tropical edible root
- 20 Rabbit
- 21 Harp
- 23 Mr.
- 24 Look at
- 26 Drained the energy
- 28 Brand of sticky notes
- 31 Eye infection
- 32 Tree
- 33 Nothing
- 36 Pros
- 40 Stylish
- 42 Tint
- 43 Paul's former name
- 44 Antelope
- 45 Paved surface for airplanes
- 48 Affirmative
- 49 Thick carpet
- 51 Confer
- 53 Push button pad

- 56 Beef
- 57 Wing
- 58 Deviate
- 61 Chilled
- 65 Belch
- 67 Musical composition
- 68 Struck
- 69 Chances of winning
- 70 Writer Bombeck
- 71 Lone
- 72 Choice
- 73 Colors
- 74 Shiny balloon material

Down

- 1 Satellite receiver
- 2 S.A. Indian
- 3 Aroma
- 4 Loathe
- 5 Extension (abbr.)
- 6 Ask for legally
- 7 Insinuate
- 8 Vow
- 9 Religious men
- 10 Parody
- 11 Fathom
- 12 Strange
- 13 Saber
- 21 Baked pasta dish
- 22 Light

- 25 Family
- 27 Green legumes
- 28 Scar
- 29 Hawaiian island
- 30 Glide
- 31 Sulk
- 34 Train sound
- 35 Attila the __
- 37 Captain (abbr.)
- 38 European monetary unit
- 39 Reduced speed
- 41 Tip
- 45 Signaled by audio
- 46 To incite
- 47 Yes
- 50 Type of meat
- 52 Oozy
- 53 Barbecued stick
- 54 Circumvent
- 55 Several feet
- 56 Permissions to enter foreign countries
- 59 Energetic
- 60 Be angry
- 62 Neat
- 63 Bunsen burner
- 64 Stag
- 66 Clock time
- 68 Surface to air missile

Solution on page 17



Worm Guy Mark Yelken explains earthworms to a rapt audience at the Worm Farm.
Courtesy photo

Eat It Here, Keep It Here, Use It Here

By Rex Morris

Mark Yelken, Vashon Island's own Worm Guy, is still determined that we have the demographics and resources to be an example to the rest of King County, to Washington State, the country and even the world, in how we deal with economic, ecological and environmental problems that confront us all.

His "Eat It Here, Keep It Here, Use It Here" philosophy is the underlying principal of everything he does and everything he is trying to do at the WormFarm, 15824 115th Avenue SW., but he has the feeling that not enough Island people "get it." The Island is a finite and clearly-defined system, with only a certain amount of resources, energy, money, people, land and water. He feels that we are in a perfect position to demonstrate how to do it right, how to use what we have, not just efficiently but abundantly. His vision is to prove that we can not only survive, we can thrive if we do it all well and, once we do, he knows we can show everyone else how.

In pursuit of that vision, Yelken has been steadily expanding his vermicomposting system and now has two flow-through bins that are processing four to five hundred pounds of food scraps daily into high-grade fertilizer in the form of his rich vermicompost. That equates to over two tons of what-would-have-been waste per month that now is not going to the transfer station and on into landfills but rather into Island gardens. The program has enlisted the participation of most Island restaurants, the coffee shops and stands, the Tea Shop, the Food Bank, the Wednesday Night Dinner, and The Vashon Market.

The resultant compost tests as VERY HIGH in all nutrients (including NPK) with at least ten times the nitrogen of another leading commercial compost available elsewhere on the Island and has the added benefits of being made here, being alive, and containing worms and cocoons.

His residential project has been expanding as well in the form of increased participation in his bucket subscription program. For a nominal fee, the 30 or so participants have a place to bring their food scraps and, in return, go home with buckets of vermicompost for their gardens and houseplants. It is a painless way for average householders,

who do not want to be burdened with a home worm box, to insure their food scraps do not contribute to waste-stream problems, and to get valuable fertilizer to boot. He notes there is always room for more subscribers. He also envisions expanding the program to include all green waste on the Island—not just food scraps but clean yard waste as well.

In addition, he has one (and soon two) smaller flow-through bins available for satellite locations to expand the bucket-subscription program and make it easier for residents of the far corners of the Island to take part. He is currently looking for suitable locations and participants. These bins could process 20 to 30 pounds of food scraps a day and Yelken envisions half a dozen or more in various locations with the aim of recycling all the green food scraps we produce on the Island.

He also builds and stocks two or three worm bins—wood or plastic—every month for those adventurous souls who want to take care of their own food scraps at home, produce high quality fertilizer for themselves and feel up to caring for thousands of pet worms. Hint, hint—it's not that hard.

The Worm Farm Garden Patch program, created with an eye to building a community garden devoted to the use of organic and renewable methods, is also expanding. Despite a late start last season, 17 of the 18 plots are now in use and 10 more plots will be available very soon. The Farm Stand is also taking shape and will soon be selling vegetable starts and worm castings and, as the season progresses, trees, vegetables, eggs and fruit.

Yelken's Not-For-Profit status has finally been obtained for the educational and community recycling (vermicomposting) side of his endeavor, which enables him to search for grants and tax-deductible contributions—which he would welcome because, despite the ever-expanding nature of the worm business, it has yet to prove profitable. The success he has had enables him to continue his important educational outreach programs. This includes about one presentation per week in schools, facilities and businesses around King County—and which included a presentation at a Wallingford school the week I spoke with him.

On the business side of the endeavor, Yelken is putting into motion plans to increase the worm and casting production facility with a new structure. Worm casting are always for sale—and test with 10 times the nitrogen content of

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the vermicompost—and a newly-formulated potting soil will soon be available. He also markets worm-bins and the vermicompost.

The Tree People Farm, Brent Millent and Joy Beardsley, are now beginning an organic gardening and orchard project on site, near the vermicompost barn, and the Mathias family has begun a no-till project with a moveable chicken pen in the lower field, with plans to market more of their produce at the Saturday Market again this year.

Possible down-the-road projects include investigating the feasibility of ethanol production, a water retention and management system, and a series of remediation tests to look into the use of earthworms to reclaim damaged and contaminated soils around the Island.

If you feel motivated to participate in any of the above, contact Mark Yelken, the Vashon Worm Guy, at 817-0388 or email him at mark@vashonwormguy.com.

April 14 is Dahlia Day at the VIGA Saturday Market

Island farmers and gardeners have an opportunity to help Hmong flower farmers recover from last November's devastating floods by bringing dahlia tubers to the VIGA Market on **Saturday, April 14**.

Island flower farmer Richard Odell will be collecting dahlia tubers at his Saturday Market booth from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. "What the Hmong farmers need," said Odell, "are tubers of dahlias that make good cut flowers. Please bring tubers that are of high quality, dirt and disease free, preferably with their colors tagged." Both single and clumped bulbs will be accepted.

If you would like more information about the county-wide effort to help the Hmong farmers, contact Karen Kinney, at (206) 263-6429, or email: karen.kinney@metrokc.gov

DIG Spring Workshops

DIG has announced its Spring workshop schedule. All workshops are free unless otherwise noted. Here are workshops for the next couple of weeks:

Reinventing the Garden with Cindy Stockett, **Saturday, March 31**, 1 p.m.

I've Got Five Acres, Where Do I Start? Sylvia Matlock, **Saturday, April 1**, 1 p.m.

It's Easy Being GREEN with Sara Van Fleet, **Saturday, April 7**, 1 p.m.

Lavender & Beyond... with Sylvia Matlock, **Sunday, April 8**, 1 p.m.

Septic Workshop: Planting your drainfield with Ross Johnson and Sylvia Matlock, **Saturday, April 14**, 1 p.m.

Stop by DIG prior to the class and pick up our Landscape Questionnaire.

Pre-registration is required, (206)463-5096. DIG is located at 19028 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon Island; see our website: www.dignursery.com for directions. Please be prompt and wear weather friendly clothing.



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Vashon 101: History

Continued from page 1

maps, old photos and lecture points on the rise and fall of populations, agriculture, forests and buildings, students are beginning to get a sense of the history of Vashon.

Knowing how Native American children, for instance, were taken from their homes as young as eight years old and sent to "Indian Schools" where they were punished for speaking their native tongues is heartbreaking. When Japanese-American citizens were interned during World War II, some went on to join the 442nd Regimental Team and were highly decorated for their valor, including some vashon residents. Would a person these days turn such "lemons" into lemonade?

Hearing Gene Sherman talk about how the Native peoples watched over him and his brother when their parents had to go off shore for days at a time was endearing. Listening to Craig Harmeling, among others, discuss old events and the placement of residences with the four generations of the Sherman family was enlivening. The most recent generations of the Shermans are building a new home on the family property – on which they have lived through seven generations over 140 years.

If knowing history makes us less likely to repeat its mistakes, then knowing Vashon helps us to realize who we are. Honest, hard-working, contributing, gardening and tolerant, the people who came before us leave us a legacy that makes it hard to be anything less. I can hardly wait for the next session.

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Conestoga Time Again

A Personal Essay by Alice Orr

A few years ago, I presented a workshop in Missouri. The good people there wanted to show off their proud heritage so they took me to the spot where the covered wagons traditionally started off for the West. The local historical society had built an arch and put up a plaque, but that wasn't what grabbed my attention and has never let go.

Next to the arch, the plaque and the gaggle of tourists like myself stood a Conestoga Wagon. Up to that moment, as a member of the generation with fond memories of *Wagon Train*, I considered myself familiar with covered wagons. I clearly recall Ward Bond whipping up the team and yelling "Yaa Haa" from the front seat of a vehicle that was long and rather sleek, something like the Cadillacs and Plymouths of that TV era. Sleek lines were probably not a priority for a real-life journey west of the Missouri arch.

That spot would have been little more than a wide space in the road back then, soon narrowing to a barely discernible double-groove track and then to nothing at all. The long, lean wagon of my black-and-white screen imagination would gradually lurch itself apart and maybe even break in two on that tough trail. The compact dimensions of the authentic Conestoga were a much more common sense design.

Still, it wasn't common sense I was thinking of as I stared transfixed at pioneer reality. I was thinking about a family the size of my own — a couple of grandparents, a mom, dad and a couple of kids — packing themselves, their possessions, their entire lives into this small conveyance and trundling toward the unknown. The first parties that heard the cry, "Westward Ho!" and responded, "That sounds like an okay idea," truly did have the unknown ahead of them. They must have been adventurous or desperate to the max or both. The wagon trains that came after that first wave were something else again.

The stories had drifted back by then of unending plains, wild river crossings, parched deserts and daunting mountains. Not to mention cholera, understandably hostile natives and a trail of sun-whitened livestock bones and rough-hewn crosses marking the way as clearly as any stretch of macadam ever

could. Yet they continued to cram their hopes, dreams and fragile human bodies into this small, canvas-covered vehicle and pray — because they tended to be God-fearing folk — that it would carry them to a better future than their pasts had been. They must have been as desperate as those who preceded them, plus maybe a tad insane, but most of all they had to be luminously brave.

Ever since that afternoon in Missouri, I've been enthralled by this luminous image. I've collected journals and diaries of the women who rode in those wagons, sometimes shrouding a pregnant belly with shawls in the meager hope of cushioning the even more fragile human body inside from the jolts and jostles of the hard trail. This image was part of what inspired my own version of "Westward Ho!" six years ago when the mom-dad-two kids part of our family heard that cry and asked Grandpa and me to come along. We could have said, "No, thank you. We're comfortable where we are." My husband, the more practical, less insane member of our partnership, was inclined to do just that. But I had seen the Conestoga Wagon. I knew it could be done.

So we loaded our lives into a professional moving van, a hired car-carrier and the longest Penske truck capable of making the cross-country trek with my husband at the wheel. He had his own trail traumas to traverse. A serious snowstorm howled at his back down the East Coast from New York and across the southern route from Tennessee. He hit California just in time to meet the Santa Ana Winds head-on. He hung a right at LA anyway and kept the radio on. When he heard, "Storm coming," he'd find a cheap motel and hole up until the blow had passed, then get back on the road. Meanwhile, I was back in the empty city apartment we still called home, tying up loose ends and traversing travails of my own. I was also praying — because I'm God-fearing folk myself — that the Penske would make Vashon without lurching apart to leave its own sun-whitened bones somewhere along Interstate 5.

Well, it's déjà vu all over again. The wagon train is forming up — a twenty-five foot Penske this time, a half-ton pickup and my red Wrangler. I'd wrap my teacups in a counterpane, just like those women taking off from the Missouri arch. But I don't have any teacups, and I don't believe I've ever seen a counterpane. Taped-together boxes will have to do as we trek the trail to Ballard and a life phase that will be only one thing for certain — different from the last one. So, please, forgive me for tangling my TV series trivia, but I simply have to say: "Head 'em up! Move 'em out! Rawhide!"

~~~~~



Chautauqua Pre-K students Nick Kraabel (left) and Tomas Tkoch take a moment to admire the monotypes they and their classmates are creating as part of a collage with local Vashon Artist, Mary Margaret Briggs. The collage will be auctioned off at the May 19 PTSA Abudanza Auction. Courtesy photo

The piece, designed by Briggs with prints created by the students and then assembled on a panel, has a string pattern motif, in colors of deep red, brown, tangerine and aqua.

The majority of the funding for Pre-K staff support and curriculum materials

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## We've Got a Lot of Kids Barfing in the Moonlight

By Kevin Pottinger

I don't remember throwing up a lot as a kid. In 1963, rotavirus was mostly unknown (to me anyway), and there were no reports of outbreaks of Norwalk virus in nursing homes or on cruise ships. Infectious gastroenteritis didn't hit schools in waves every winter. My mom, who knows mostly everything, has confirmed this.

Vance Peterson threw up on the school bus in second grade. It was a beautiful early spring day, and the barf sat glinting in the sun in a smelly pool, right in the middle of the aisle halfway back. At each creaking and groaning stop of the bus, the awful pool of barf ebbed and flowed like some foul, toxic tide.

Forty-three years later, the germs have made up for time lost. When December comes along with its stingy, sunless days, we know that eventually, inexorably, during the long winter nights, one or more kids will be up barfing in the moonlight, all over themselves, their bedclothes and the rest of us.

Our family sleeps together in the same room, in a family bed made of five beds all pushed together in the middle of the room. Togetherness at night seems best for us, for the most part. A good example of a part when togetherness at night is not best for us is nocturnal barfing.

It started suddenly one night, several years ago, before the twins were born. One of our children threw up, and soon her brother joined her in a sort of tag-team sympathy-barf, setting off a chain reaction like a ping-pong ball thrown in an otherwise empty room carpeted with thousands of taut mousetraps. Both kids were barfing, then Maria, finally me.

Earlier that day, we had lustily eaten heaping bowls of edamame, soybeans boiled in the shell that we liked to eat with

our fingers. With each wrenching heave I damned the edamame. Even the word took on mythic, hallucinatory qualities, and to this day, I still feel an aura of nausea when I say it. Edamame. But it wasn't edamame, because all of our friends and their kids came down with the same thing, and none of them ate edamame. Our doctor said our distress was most likely caused by a norovirus of some kind, which usually comes in waves every winter.

The horror of our reverse-peristaltic Krystalnacht usually begins with a few quiet whimpers and general restlessness in one of the beds. Maria and I move from a generally vigilant green alert to a more wary yellow alert. After all: it might be just a bad dream. Suddenly a panicked child bolts upright in bed and blurts out "I'm going to throw up!", and Maria and I fumble in the dark, our hearts pounding, urging one another to hurry up! and find the barf bucket under one of the beds and get it under the toddler's blow hole before barf gets sprayed all over everything. There's a lot of struggling and shouting in the dark, and the cries of the afflicted as their bodies firmly reject every ounce of their stomach's contents.

Turning on the bedroom light outlines the full horror of the scene. One night the mess might be confined to the bucket and a pillowcase, another night, utter disaster. Often we have to pull all the sheets and covers off of all the beds, and hose everyone down in the glare of the three a.m. bathroom light.

Every so often, it's just a one-time thing, a piece of cake if you will (but it's not anything resembling cake). We simply wipe the kid down, pull off the sheets from their bed and everyone goes back to sleep. Most other times, the kid will keep throwing up, and one of us will lurch heavily down the hall with the patient, and turn on the TV and sit with the bucket on the battered couch in the TV room, hyper-attendant to every twitch and snot-whistle the sleeping barfer makes. We'll snooze between the heavens in groggy half-hour stints while *Girls Gone Wild* infomercials play over and over on late late night TV. It beats laying awake in the dark, waiting.

~~~~~

comes from the PTSA and PIE. Last year's PTSA funding allowed the class to purchase interactive science curriculum involving plants, growing frogs, and the planets.

"We were also able to purchase a digital camera and a printer dock for the classroom," said Elizabeth Golen-Johnson, Pre-K Teacher. "The students love to have their pictures taken with the projects they're working on, so they can take the picture home and show their parents."

"We are very excited to be able to contribute back to the PTSA in this way," added Golen-Johnson.

Every donation helps. If you would like to contribute to this year's auction with a donation or a check, please go to www.vashonptsa.org or pick up a procurement form at one of the public schools. For more information, contact Anne Atwell at Anneatwell@comcast.net or 463-7429).

Nothing you do for a child is ever wasted. - Garrison Keillor

The Dorsal Spin Luck of the Orca

By Orca Annie Stateler



Transients: the supreme seal hunters. Photo by Mark Sears.

This winter, whale sightings were as scarce as four leaf clovers around here. Happily, that changed with the approach of St. Patrick's Day. Since mid-March, astute observers have reported sightings of Transient killer whales and a humpback whale (most likely) to the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP).

We were sipping, what else, Orca Blend, on my sister's birthday when the phone rang. Julie and Michelle described a breaching, orca-like whale with a distinct dorsal fin cavorting near Point Defiance. Odin and I set out to investigate, thinking we might finally see Foster, the lone false killer whale, since only one whale was spotted.

What a delightful surprise to find six Transients milling off Point Dalco: a symmetrical group of two adult males, two females, and two youngsters! An adult spyhopped before the orcas congregated and entered Colvos Pass. One male routinely traveled about a quarter mile ahead of the others, creating the impression of a solo whale.

This "Shamrock" constellation looked quite similar to the Transient group that tackled a harbor seal for more than two hours off the North End in February 2006. The accompanying photo by Mark Sears shows one of them demonstrating a seal hunting technique. Odin and I recognized the T88 group — slot-finned male T87, female T88, and strong candidate T90, also female — among the Shamrock Six meandering up Colvos Pass.

FOR ORCAS AND FOR ISLANDERS
PLEASE REPORT LOCAL
WHALE SIGHTINGS
ASAP TO
206-463-9041
Vashon Hydrophone Project
Orca Annie Stateler and Mark Sears
Vashonorcas@aol.com
Support Vashon-Maury Island Whale Research
Sightings NOT Disclosed to Whale Watch Boats



Vashon must be on the trap line for T87 and T88. Mark and I have seen them in the Central Sound several times since the mid-90's. For Transients, they are almost semi-regular seasonal guests. I suspect they visit more often than we know. I admire how several tons of apex predator can slink through our waters with such a low profile, virtually unnoticed at times. Surely, that is the sign of a highly skilled hunting culture.

We did not hear a peep from the Shamrock Six on the hydrophone, but boat traffic was heavier than usual. The engine noise could have squelched any faint calls between the orcas. We witnessed the Transients evading curious boaters four times. The orcas' behavior was too choreographed to be random. Ironically, they were not interested in a visit from a boat called "Predator." Remember, mammal-hunting Transients are less tolerant of boat approaches.

Nearly 48 hours later, Dan reported a similar sized group of killer whales traveling north in East Passage, probably the same bunch. Alas, our timing was off and we did not see them that day. My sister lives in Arizona, but she still thought it was cool that orcas were here on her birthday.

It sounds like Tahlequah commuters saw a humpback whale in Dalco Pass a few days after the Transients were here. Kathleen and Lyman gave detailed reports about a large, dark baleen whale with a 25-foot blow and white markings on the tail flukes. We were unable to find this whale, who was probably just passing through. However, should s/he or the Transients reappear...**Please support the work of the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP): Report local whale sightings ASAP to (206) 463-9041.**

Hear, hear, orca-loving people, now is your chance to provide input on issues of vital importance to Puget Sound's killer whales: vessel effects and noise. Of the multiple threats facing our orcas, we could address vessel effects NOW.

PANDORA'S BOX

March - out like a lamb...of course it is.
In honor of April Fool's Day, all food with the label put on upside down will be on sale. Also - thanks for all the questions and concerns regarding then recent pet food recall.

Horus' pick of the week:
The new ruffled frou-frou collars are here!!!!
Get yours now while the selection is good.

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17321 Vashon Hwy. Big Red Building w/Animal Stuff on the porch

Restoring habitat for flourishing salmon runs and mitigating environmental damage from contaminants like PBDEs (flame retardants) are long-term goals that will take decades.

NOAA Fisheries Service announced that it is opening a public comment period on potential regulations to protect killer whales in Washington State from the effects of various vessel activities. See <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Marine-Mammals/Whales-Dolphins-Porpoise/Killer-Whales/ESA-Status/Orca-Vessel-Regs.cfm> for details. Bring your comments to a meeting at the Seattle Aquarium on **Thursday, April 19**, 7 to 9 p.m., or email comments to orca.plan@noaa.gov by June 20.

Our little patient, Miss Stogarita, is in a holding pattern. She has GI distress of unknown origin. To our great relief, she did not eat any toxic food on the recall list. Another trip to the vet is in order. We appreciate the many thoughtful inquiries as to how she is feeling.

Contact Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com

Board Hears *Riptide*

Continued from page 1



Superintendent Mimi Walker agreed with Hanson's decision. Loop photo

Our attorney pointed out that in addition to my concerns, there were possible defamation of character issues. After consulting with our attorney and Dr. Walker, I concluded that the paper was not an appropriate vehicle for the discussion of employee performance, or for defamation of character."

Walker said, "I concurred with Mrs. Hanson's decision. I have read the article numerous times, and have talked with our attorney and the reporter. I felt (the article) was

potentially libelous, with offensive quotes. I stand by my decision."

Board Member Bob Hennessey asked for clarification of Dr. Walker's statement that publishing the article would cause disruption of the District's functioning. Walker said, "I was speaking from my heart, rather than policy."

Board Member Gene Lipitz said, "I was trying to distinguish between school district policy and what is required by the state. With regard to libel, what is the district's liability for defamation when it comes out in a student paper? Are the students responsible, or is it as if we (the Board and District) wrote it?"

Hanson answered, "The students are not responsible. I can be sued. The District can be sued. Yes, the District is responsible as if it authorized the speech." Walker added, "We are the owners of the paper; the RCW is clear about the liabilities of owners."

Lipitz said to the *Riptide* staffers, "I have read the article, and it is negative, an attack. Well written, but it is generally against an individual. What is it about this speech that makes it an exception to our policy of hands off attacking individuals through the School District paper?"

One paper staff member replied, "I believe this article is important because no action was taken and these people (who have complaints about the employee) felt it was a last resort." Another staffer said, "She's a public employee. We were not invading her privacy."

When time was up, Susan Lofland said the Board would consider the information before it and make a decision on whether the article may be published at its next regularly scheduled meeting on April 26.

At that point the crowd exited the high school library, leaving the Board, about twenty school district employees, and two reporters for the regular Board meeting.



More than 100 people attended the hearing. Loop photo



Book Review

Arboricide in the Queen Charlottes

By Rachel Bard

On a moonless, misty night in January 1997 a man slipped into the swiftly flowing Yakoun River on Graham Island, largest of the Queen Charlottes. He swam one-armed, dragging his gear in sealed garbage bags behind him with the other. On the far side he clambered up the steep slippery bank and headed for the trees. He approached a 300-year-old Sitka

The Golden Spruce: A True Story of Myth, Madness, and Greed, by John Vaillant. Norton, 2005.

spruce, tall as a 16-story building, which in the black of night looked as dark as its companions. But he knew that in daylight it would have been like a towering golden candle aglow in the dark-green forest. This was the famed, the unique Golden Spruce, deeply revered by the Haida Nation.

The man unpacked his chainsaw and set to work. For hours the roar and the whine of the saw resounded through the deserted gloomy forest. Skillfully he cut into the trunk so that just enough heartwood remained to keep the tree standing until the next windstorm would topple it. In two days it fell.

The faller, Grant Hadwin, made no secret of what he'd done. He wrote to the newspapers, to Greenpeace and to the Haida, justifying his act as a protest of the logging practices that had ravaged the land. His real target was MacMillan Bloedel, the giant timber company. Having logged much of the Queen Charlottes as well as huge swaths of the mainland, the company recognized the public relations value of preserving the tree with its significance to the Haida and its power as a tourist attraction. They'd set up a protected area so nobody could get closer than within photographic range. But they didn't reckon on Grant Hadwin and the depth of his frustration. In his letter, headed "The Falling of Your 'Pet Plant,'" he accused them of "abominations towards...life on this planet."

Having made his statement, Hadwin headed for Prince Rupert across the strait. Before long the Mounties caught up with him. He was charged with felony criminal mischief. His trial was set for Feb. 22 in Masset on Graham Island — three weeks. But he didn't keep the date.

John Vaillant could have written a straightforward narrative about this unhappy event which would have been of interest to many of us who remembered only the bare facts, and those fuzzily. He could have fictionalized it into an absorbing suspense novel — who killed the Golden Spruce? Did the

Haida capture the perp and hang him from a totem pole? But Vaillant chose to give us much more.

What Hadwin did was inexcusable, but Vaillant makes him understandable. He was a man tortured by his growing awareness of the destructiveness of logging. Tortured—because he made his living in the woods. He was a genius at designing logging roads in difficult terrain and a skilled faller of trees. He was a good family man, and after separating from his wife continued to be a caring father. But incidents of irrational behavior and defiance of society's norms may

have been signs of paranoia. He had medication, but may not have taken it regularly. Eventually he turned his back on his past life and

went to the Queen Charlottes to make his final protest.

Vaillant's book begins long before Hadwin's odyssey and ranges far afield, providing rich context for the story. You'll learn about the long history of the Haida Nation; about the arrival of the "Nor'westmen" (the early white explorers) and their devastating impact on the ancient ways of the native peoples; the even more devastating impact of exploiters of the seemingly inexhaustible forests. "Logging is an industry that, while unseen by most of us, has altered this continent — indeed, all inhabited continents - even more completely than agriculture," says Vaillant.

But you won't learn what finally happened to Grant Hadwin, and that's what gives the book the flavor of a mystery novel. Months after he failed to keep his court date a kayak was found washed ashore on an island beach just north of the Canadian-Alaska border. Scattered on the beach were a cookstove, a sleeping bag, a life jacket, a shaving kit. These proved to be things Hadwin had purchased shortly before his scheduled appearance in court. He'd announced he planned to kayak across treacherous Hecate Strait from the mainland to the Queen Charlottes. He was seen to leave but he never arrived.

There've been sightings, of course: he's in jail in the States; he's trapping in northern B.C.; he's in Alaska, in Siberia; he's vandalizing redwoods in California.

Most of the Haida to whom he dealt such a blow believe he's not dead. Says one, "We all think he's alive, anyone who had anything to do with him. He's a survivor."

And in a way the Golden Spruce might be too. Most of the botanists' efforts to replicate it have failed. But two spindly trees, grafts from the fallen giant, have been planted on Graham Island and show golden needles among the green. So far they're making it, under the watchful eyes of the Haida. **www**

I have always paid income tax. I object only when it reaches a stage when I am threatened with having nothing left for my old age – which is due to start next Tuesday or Wednesday. – Noel Coward

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Loop Letters

Editor, *The Loop*:

CDX Corporation is now taking over the Vashon/Southworth/Fauntleroy run. During the last month of the contract with Sound Foods, the galley workers were under surveillance by an unnamed source hired by CDX. It was also during that time (December 2006) that Charlie happened to see an ad posted on craigslist.org from CDX seeking "galley workers" for the Vashon/Southworth/Fauntleroy run. Charlie called to inquire about the position and an interview resulted. CDX most likely had already made their decisions prior to these interviews. It is not clear whether CDX followed protocol with the Inland Boatman's Union prior to posting these help wanted ads.

Charlie attended all union meetings regarding the new contract with CDX. It was understood that CDX did not have to take all displaced workers due to a Washington State Ferries ruling last fall, upheld by the Washington State Supreme Court, wherein WSF had overturned a ruling that galley workers would be retained when any new company or contract came up. Even so, given the pattern of contract and company changes over the last 27 years, the galley workers did not think this would be a threat to their continued employment.

CDX chose only five of the nine galley workers, based on the reports by the "shopping auditors" as they are referred to in the industry, or "mystery shoppers."

Interestingly, of the four not selected (one of them being Charlie) three had previously found other employment. Of the five selected, one decided not to accept the CDX offer. It was nearly two months before Charlie was to discover through his own actions and inquiries that he was not going to be one of the five workers being retained. No union rep called him, no lawyer called him, no CDX rep called him. When he asked one of the senior galley workers selected if he had heard the reason why he was not chosen he was told this: the shopping auditors reported to CDX that Charlie was "too slow" at the register. He focused on the register "too closely" when ringing sales.

Not a surprise if you know he has impaired and uncorrectable vision in his left eye from birth, a known condition throughout his employment but not one



Charlie and Teri Kipp. Loop photo

he felt required any special accommodations. He contacted CDX on or about March 20 to specifically ask why he was not selected and was told by Frances Cho (one of CDX's owners), "We noticed that the boat was not clean when it was returned to Mukilteo from Vashon."

Part of Charlie's job on the vessel is "utilities," meaning, "sweep and mop (no heavy cleaning)." It was not clear exactly when CDX obtained the vessel in relation to the timeframe when it was last "mopped and swept" by Charlie. He asked politely if somewhere down the line he might be considered for a position and she answered, "No, I'm sorry."

Why not consider Charlie for future employment? He is loyal, dedicated, has a stellar employment record and apparently is very capable of performing his job duties. His tenure validates that. In all reality, CDX's decision to exclude him in their package appears vague if not highly discriminatory over a boat which was allegedly left "unswept"...when he may have been unfairly labeled as "slow." Additionally, it strongly suggests that he himself is being "swept under the rug." Even with his "slowness" he has been known on numerous occasions to ring up over \$1,000 on a Friday afternoon commute shift. Not bad for one eye, eh? "You adapt to it," Charlie explains. One might consider seeking relief under the Americans with Disabilities act.

Vashon commuters have come to know Charlie and consider him a friend and like family, someone who always has a smile along with excellent and timely customer service. Of special note is his treat to his commuters during the holidays when he brings his saxophone onboard to serenade customers and crew with Christmas cheer. A well-liked and well-known musician on the Island, Charlie is the essence of what the Vashon community is all about. He is a friendly face to a tired traveler, knows many commuters on a first name basis, and puts forth every effort to make the customer happy. Many commuters and crewmembers feel outraged that something like this is allowed to legally happen. After 27 years of loyal service to his customers, why is Charlie being shown the gangplank? Something is just not right. One this is certain...he will be sorely missed on the boats. It just won't be the same. -- Teri Kipp



The Reigning Queen of Everything

Bambi Explains

By Sarah Blakemore, RQE

Stripper. It is a loaded word. There are two primary schools of thought regarding this sort of work; those who think that it is banal, unskilled labor that subjugates women into caricatures of commercialized sexuality and those who view it as the ultimate expression of the modern empowered woman who is in control of her sexuality and using it for personal and financial gain. Of course, there are strippers who fall into both of these radically iconic stereotypes, a modern day version of the Madonna/Whore dichotomy thrown about by feminists, but there is one more category that is often left out in all of the politicking.

The ones who like it.

Yup.

Like. It.

In fact, a lot of us love it. Thinking about the feminist perspective on stripping is unavoidable, but we don't spend a lot of time worrying about whether or not we are feminists.

The modern gentleman's club, for those of you who haven't stuck a dollar bill in a stripper's garter recently, is different from most people's expectations. The clubs are managed and owned by men and women. Gone are the days of the mafia joint, despite what television shows like *The Sopranos* and *Law and Order* lead you to believe. There are still a few hold outs in traditionally mafia-run cities like New York and Boston but these days most strip clubs are part of a corporate chain. A few examples you may have heard of: Cheetah, Scarlett's, Déjà vu, Hustler, Little Darlings, Penthouse, Rick's and Spearmint Rhino. These clubs have huge marketing campaigns, multimillion dollar budgets, ultra modern audio visual systems and, not uncommonly, there are four to five star restaurants associated with them. Zagat's Guide rated the steak house at Hustler Club in NYC as one of the top steak houses in the city.

The women who work at these clubs are independent contractors. Like anyone who freelances, we run our own business. We are responsible for our own taxes, we make our own schedules and we choose our own costumes. When we go to work we pay a house fee. The house fee is determined by the club and it is what we have to pay in order to use the space. In return for this fee the club provides a location to perform and security, and it pours countless dollars into attracting

business. The house fee to work at a club varies widely – any where from twenty dollars a night to three hundred dollars a night. After a stripper has paid her house fee any thing else she makes is usually her own. Sometimes clubs will charge a girl a fee per private dance but this is becoming increasingly rare. The club will often give the girls financial incentives to work longer hours, come in at unpopular times (like earlier in the evening) or to perform theme sets. A stripper who manages her time and money wisely is easily able to maximize her profits and eke out a very good living for herself. For most strippers the job is not a last resort but a way to run a business that gives them an autonomous lifestyle.

A stripper makes her money in three different ways. She will receive tips on stage, give private dances for a set amount of money – usually \$20 per song, a song lasting about three and a half minutes – or she will sell her time in increments of a half hour or an hour. The fees for a stripper's time vary widely but the average fee in my experience is \$150 per half hour and \$300 per hour. This is what the stripper receives; it does not include any money that the club charges the customer for champagne or drinks.

With the advent of the corporate club comes better protection in the work place. At every major club I have worked there are notices in the dressing rooms that tell us that sexual harassment in the work place will not be tolerated. Often times there is number for an attorney, hired by the club, whom we can call if we feel that our concerns are not adequately addressed. The corporate clubs also have professionally written contracts that spell out for the entertainers, in plain English, what is expected from both the club and the stripper entering into the agreement.

The reality of a well-run corporate club is far different from the popular stereotype. Stripping is about sexuality. Artificial sexuality, but sexuality none the less. It is easier to make the women who participate in this industry into formulaic victims than to look honestly at the realities of a modern strip club. Stripping isn't for everyone; but neither is being an attorney, teacher or a nurse.

So, do I call myself a feminist?

Yes. But a feminist who takes into account that there are very few situations that warrant a uniform solution for every woman. The sort of feminist I consider myself is the sort who seeks to respect individual choice at all times, and who advocates for a woman to be empowered by her own definition of self, not a definition thrust upon her by the power politics of a social movement.

Now if you'll excuse me, I've got to practice walking in my new 8-inch platform heels.

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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>.

Kathy Abascal is fine, but her computer is sick, so no herbs this week.



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Planet Waves
by Eric Francis <http://www.PlanetWaves.net>



Aries (March 20-April 19): You may have no idea the impression you're making on others, but if you encounter any resistance to your plans this week, let it be an affirmation that you're growing, changing and making a difference in the world. What you need, and what most people lack, is a sharpening stone, and that may come in the form of an encounter with someone you may perceive as an authority figure, perhaps overly self-centered and opinionated. Try to remember this is a microdrama on life's stage, keep your sense of humor, and come up with an original way to figure out that you're the real boss in this scenario. We take creative control of our lives in increments — for you, this is a real one.

Taurus (April 19-May 20): Venus in Taurus, currently a factor in your solar chart, is sometimes said to be promiscuous. The deeper truth is that she never gives her true affections easily, and until then remains the master of all her sensuality and need for contact, free to share what belongs to her. Gradually the moment arrives when there is a need or opportunity for something deeper, and all those layers of self-awareness gained from actual human experience contribute to a sense of what matters more and what matters less; what is real and what is not; and what risk is worth taking consciously, and what risk matters not at all.

Gemini (May 20-June 21): How would your mother be experiencing your life right now, were she dropped into the middle of it, looking just like you? Few people would want to experiment with this, but I suggest you give it a go. You'll bring to consciousness a diversity of emotional responses that are deeply enmeshed in your character. You will, in essence, be able to sort out your reactions from hers; to distinguish your fears from her own. The value of knowing whose is whose and what is what can't be exaggerated: it's about claiming your power, letting go of the past, and affirming your own perceptions as the right ones to live by.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Imagine that everything in your life is based

on an arrangement, an agreement, a negotiated deal or a contract. The more conscious those agreements, the better. Awareness itself may stir up some turbulence, but that's a necessary part of the process, one for which a little courage ought to ease the way. The reason that negotiations are often so difficult is because both parties perceive their own weakness in a situation; at the same time they are reluctant to admit the strength of the other party. Try it this way: feel your own strength, and affirm that it is more or less meaningless without the strength of those close to you. That will make the solution to your current puzzle clear.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23): The simplest facts of life may vibrate with the most cosmic overtones now. One of those is the recognition of how much you have to offer the world, and how capable you are of rising to its demands on you. You have long known that your stability and central location in the scheme of your relationships offers you much protection from the rising and falling fortunes of the world. You've long suspected that you have a gift to express that goes beyond all the petty rules that have been established to make great achievements that much more difficult. The greatest among them is having faith in yourself, which is your true gift to the world.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): Recent events may have focused your awareness on your health, and may be rekindling some prior situation or healing process. The situation seems more complicated than it is. Samuel Hahnemann, the inventor of homeopathy, offered some simple advice, applicable to you now: if something aggravates the situation, remove it. That something may be a someone, it may be a non-human environmental factor such as a chemical, and you may want to guard against overdosing on anything electronic. The chances are something in your environment, or a mental attitude, are the first and most productive places to make your adjustments.



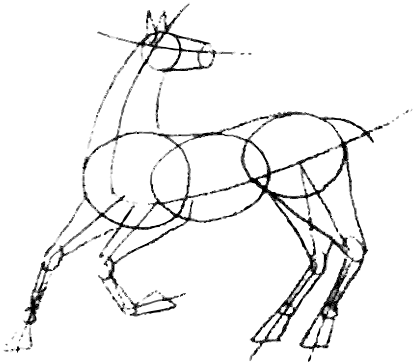
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Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23): The Sun has entered your opposite sign, Aries, accompanied by Ceres, goddess of the Earth and guardian of mothers. This transit is likely to be coming with deep feelings and a profound need to re-evaluate your commitments and your relationship to the children you have, or those you want. You may be wondering about the true nature of the season of your existence: is it autumn for you, or is it spring? Perhaps the depth and urgency of the situation is making itself known; perhaps a sense of loss and longing that is covering over the power of the life you bear within you. Anyway, this is a time of movement, so be moved.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Feeling safe is a decision that we make. Whether it's about feeling safe in your home, in your community, in your country or in your own skin, I have seen that ultimately this is based more on throwing away the evidence than on accepting it; more about throwing away the past than about worshipping it or sitting around expecting it to repeat itself. You are in new emotional and psychological territory. You're likely to discover you're in new territory in many aspects of your life, which is another way of saying that an old story about how threatened you are is giving way to a new story about how safe you are, and how bold.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22): The Sun's ingress into Aries is always one of those glorious moments for you, when you're suddenly freed from your abundant ideas about life and met with opportunities to just simply live. But the adventure of these weeks and this year is not your usual Sagittarian freedom trip. You seem to be carrying something with you, a feeling, an awareness, a deep recognition of some kind, around in the world. Normally you take each step into the future as a step away from the past. Now, you are walking in the present, holding the past and embracing the future in a strange, new kind of consciousness that reflects a deep and unusual change in your character.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): Capricorn has qualities of a watery sign and an earthy sign, as is suggested by that odd fish's tail on the goat that symbolizes you. This is fortunate for you, because so much of your time these past seasons has been spent navigating the tides and rivers of life. You now have a moment on dry land, which is revealing your fiery nature (impulsive rather than stable), your passionate side (rather than your emotional side), and your drive to achieve rather than your impulse to preserve the achievements of the past. Notably, you could make enough money this month to pay for the rest of the year.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): What you may believe or know about yourself takes its potency from action and choice rather than from self-possession. You know who you are; that is compelling you to do something about it. If you arrive at that point in life where you have to risk failure, you can be certain that's the moment when and where you get to be real. There is authentic freedom in risking failure because even if you fail, you are suddenly liberated and free to move on. And if in some way you succeed, whether expected or not, you get to share your success in ways that are both tangible and invisible.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You are born under a water sign, but I assure you that the true nature of Pisces is about fire. Your sensitivity may mask your underlying impetuous nature; your willingness to come last for long periods of time conceals your knowledge that you will someday be able to take leadership. The lesson for Pisces more than all the other signs is about learning to take care of yourself so you can take care of the world — in that order. This would be a mere concept for anyone less concerned about the world, but now is the time to experiment, if you even vaguely suspect it's true.

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




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Island Epicure



What's for (Lenten)
Dinner

By Marj Watkins

Omnivores that we are in our family, comes Lent and we feel an urge to explore Vegan and Vegetarian cuisine. Okay, I confess, we haven't exactly given up animal foods. Jesus ate fish; that's Lenten enough for us. For the sake of vegan readers, whether you've given up meat for Lent, or whether you are a committed year-around vegan, something below may set your taste buds on the alert for nourishing, good eating.

You don't have to be a vegan to enjoy the Italian family favorite, Pasta e Faggioli below. It contains less olive oil than the original Mediterranean dish, but plenty for sautéing.

The vegetarian Shrimp and Soba salad makes a beautiful one-dish meal, appropriate for cool spring weather when served hot, or as a summer dish with the ingredients chilled before arranging.

Pasta e Faggioli — Italian Pasta with Red Beans
4 Servings
1/2 pound macaroni, orzo, rigatoni, ziti
1 (15-ounce) can red kidney beans
1/4 cup olive oil
1/2 cup chopped yellow or white onion
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 green pepper
1 stalk celery
1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes
1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
1 teaspoon ground cumin
Salt and black pepper to taste
Cook the pasta until it is almost al dente, but not yet done. Meanwhile heat the oil in a large saucepan and sauté the onion,

garlic, pepper and celery until onion is shiny and semi-transparent. Add the beans, tomatoes, oregano, cumin, salt and pepper to taste.

Stir in half-done pasta. Cook over low heat until the pasta is done. Turn off the heat and let the dish rest for up to 10 minutes – long enough for flavors to marry, but not long enough to cool.

Insalata di Arance — Salad of Oranges
4 servings
4 oranges
4 slices red onion
1 Tablespoon olive oil
2 teaspoons wine vinegar
Salt and black pepper
Sliced or whole olives
Leaf lettuce
Peel and slice the oranges. Remove seeds with a sharp knife point. Arrange lettuce leaf or leaves on each of 4 salad plates. Arrange orange slices atop lettuce leaves. Separate onion slices into rings; arrange atop orange slices; garnish with sliced or whole olives. Sprinkle salads with vinegar and oil dressing.

Shrimp and Soba Salad
2 servings
30 large frozen cooked shrimp
1/2 pkg. (4.4 ounces) buckwheat soba noodles
1 head broccoli or 1/2 head cauliflower
8 cherry tomatoes, quartered
1 or 2 slices red onion, minced
Salt
Greek vinaigrette*
Immerse the shrimp in boiling water. Turn off heat under them. Let rest until needed. Prepare the vegetables, dividing the broccoli into florets. Boil the broccoli in salted water 3 minutes, no more. Drain and reserve. Boil the noodles 6 minutes. Drain. Divide between two wide flat soup bowls, or 2 salad plates.

Arrange the broccoli in an outer ring around the noodles. Inside that ring, arrange the shrimp. Top the noodles still showing with minced red onion and quartered cherry tomatoes. Serve with vinaigrette.

Greek Vinaigrette
Makes 3/8 cup
1/4 cup virgin olive oil
2 Tablespoons wine vinegar
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt

1/2 teaspoon crumbled dried oregano leaves or Italian herb mix
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
Mix or shake well. Drizzle over salads. ∞∞∞∞

Madame Toujours

Dear *Madame Toujours*,
I am having a problem with my girlfriend. See, back when we met, she was cute and tiny and gorgeous. We have been together for two years now, and she's gotten fat. And not sexy-fat. Just sort of frumpy-fat. She runs and plays tennis and takes aerobics classes, and she eats nothing but lettuce and not much of that. Seriously. She's not sneaking around and binging, and she really does work out, so I don't really care so much about the fat. It's just that she's started to look so dumpy all the time in sloppy tee-shirts and baggy pants and sort of dull-looking clothes, and she's quit wearing makeup.

Is she taking me for granted? Is she thinking there's no point in dolling herself up for me now that she's "got" me? I feel like she doesn't care. I mean, if she loved me, wouldn't she want to turn me on? What can I do?

Sincerely,
Disappointed

Cher M. Disappointed,
Oui, you are discovering the curse of the female persons that they are becoming fat sometimes even when they are not trying. First, I am assuring you that *Mlle.* Disappointed, she is still having the love for you. Possibly, she is forgetting that the masculine persons are liking to see the flirty bosoms and the bouncy bottoms. However, I am thinking it is most likely that she is simply feeling the frustrations and the sadness that she is no longer having the trim waist and the firm fanny, and she is wishing to hide the jiggy parts and avoid calling the attentions to herself so that nobody will be noticing the fatness.

The difficulty for you is that you cannot be calling the attentions to

this because she is then being crushed and insulted that you are having the criticism for her appearance. Possibly you will think that you can be extremely subtle and when you see the voluptuous woman with the attractive clothings, you will look at her and say, "Aha, there is the very sexy fat woman who is attractively dressed."

What are you thinking? Are you having the suicidal impulses? Never notice the other female persons. Even if *Mlle.* Disappointed, she is asking you what you are thinking about the other females, you are never admitting to noticing them.

There is only the one thing that you can do that is not causing the major international incidents. Simply announce to *Mlle.* Disappointed that she is the very attractive woman and you are wishing that she would show off all of the attributes so that you can lord it over all of the other fellows and their unfortunate, skinny girlfriends. Point out that your masculine ego and status are depending on her.

Bon Chance, M. Disappointed, and never forget that if you are wishing for *Mlle.* to feel sexy and attractive, nothing is being more effective than the flowers and the jewels. Unless it is the shoes with the sexy little kitten heels. Possibly with jewels. ∞∞∞∞

Limerick Contest
Said the editor of *The Loop*
"Though always alert for a scoop
News is great but I think
If we print with soy ink
At least we'd make excellent soup."
OK, that's my limerick, fresh this morning. Can you write a better one? Sure, you can. Winners will be printed in the next issue. That's the prize, so don't bug me for anything else.

Deadline: Friday, April 6, 2007.
Ground rules: Must be written in the limerick form, must be non-libelous, and must be clean enough to pass the editor's grossness detector. Extra points for Island references. We get to print it first, and you retain all your rights as author in case you want to send it somewhere else. Get writin' and send your effort to:
editor@vashonloop.com. Put "Limerick" in the subject line.
- Mary Litchfield Tuel, Editor

Joanna Gardiner

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Positively Speaking

The Fluid Life and Good Accessories

By Deborah H. Anderson

Appearances are so time consuming, and yet they separate us from the animals. Actually, many years ago I learned that great truth from the play *Steel Magnolias*, roughly paraphrased, “The only thing that separates us from the animals is the ability to accessorize.”

I know when I’m on my game appearance-wise. The goal is to present a picture the rest of the world can relate to in a heartbeat without any need to interpret or take in depth. More importantly, a visually pleasing appearance gives the impression nothing is wrong.

Take for example Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. Everybody always mentioned how startlingly serene she was in that funeral procession. If I may speak a heresy, she had been practiced the serenity of a woman whose husband cheated on her chronically for years.

Who knows what was going on behind that veil?

When I think of accessories, I think of the people who can’t hide what’s going on. Most of the time, I’m able to hide the foot-drop I have lived with for forty five years. If I’m tired, someone might mention I limp. But it’s not like the people I know with rashes and CP and seizure diseases and wheel chairs and prosthetics and stutters, who use their hands to talk or their fingers to read.

There’s no accessorizing disability. Life becomes living through, despite, around, over and

under whatever isn’t functioning the way it was designed.

Here’s what I’m happy about in the movement of disability laws in the last thirty years. Spurred by the self help movement, people with emotional disabilities (which is all of the planet) began to let go of the need to have outward appearances perfect. That made them more comfortable with people with visible disabilities who needed the physical world arranged more conveniently and accommodatingly.

Finally, disabled peopled began to claim a spot that was above that of second class citizen. The fluid life that is necessary when you are disabled became acceptable and softened the world of those pretending perfection. Oh Joy!!!! Real life for Real People!

If you have not uncovered your disability yet, you are missing out on life. Take joy in the place in your life that is a struggle. Relax in the area where you have to make do. Love the imperfections in your life.

Not that we disabled people stop there. We always try to live one step higher. We just don’t hide the effort. The next time you see a person with a visible disability, smile. Were it not for what they carry and live with, we would all be less real.

See your own life more clearly because there is someone in this world who’s greatest accessory is their Braille dictionary or TTY system or wheelchair. Now THAT’s beautiful.

Love, Deborah

ooooo

No Confirmed Pet Food Illness on Vashon

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

Dr. Don Wolczko of Fair Isle Animal Clinic said on Monday, March 26, that they have seen no confirmed cases of animals affected by tainted pet food on the Island.

“Some people feel their animals have been affected, but not as far as can be proved at this time,” Wolczko said. “One individual called the pet food company to ask about a food brand they had that was on the recall list, but so far the lot numbers (on the Island) have not been among the recalled lots.”

Cheryl Pruett at Pandora’s Box said, “We have a lot of people who

are concerned, of course. The phone has been ringing off the hook. We had none of the specific batch numbers that were recalled on our shelves, and since then we have pulled all chunk and gravy foods from the shelves. The recall is wide and varied, and every day we’re hearing something new.”

A spokesperson at the Vashon Veterinary Clinic confirmed that they have seen no cases of animals sickened by tainted pet food.

Many people have been having their animal companions checked out as a precaution.

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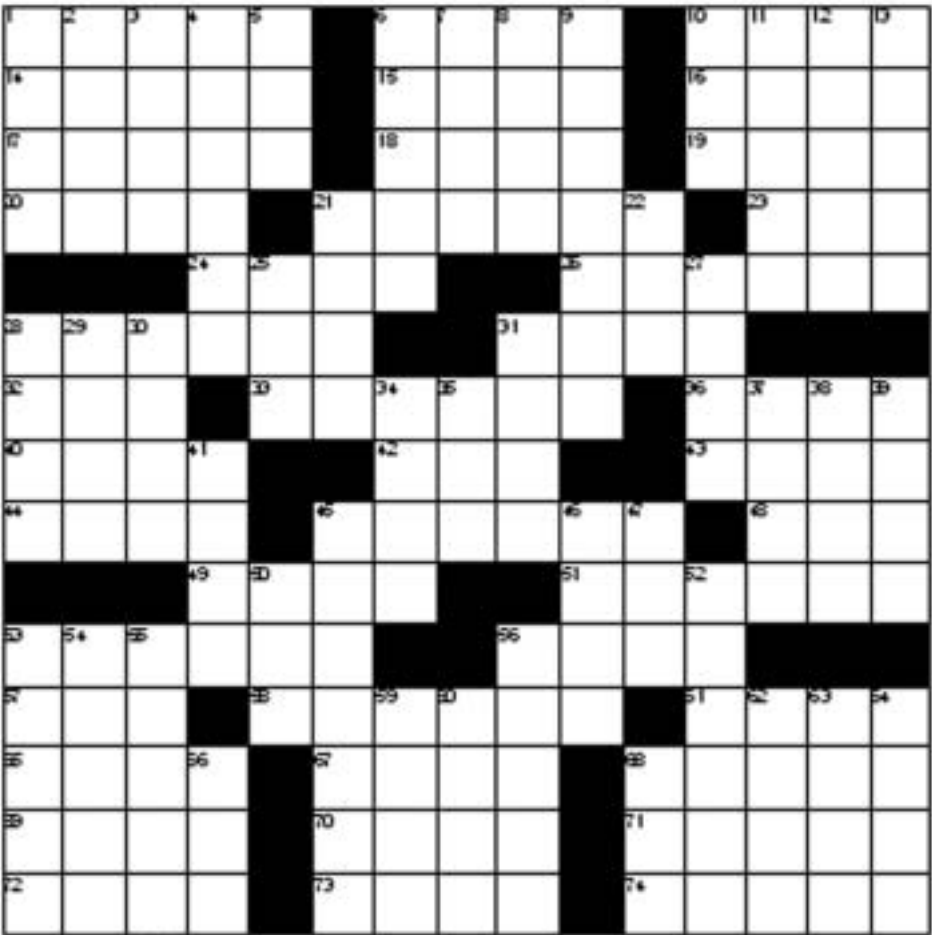
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- Across

1 Light emitting ____

6 Hew

10 Gets older

14 Listing at the back of a book

15 Deceiver

16 Sailors

17 Francis ____ Key

18 Opposed

19 Tropical edible root

20 Rabbit

21 Harp

23 Mr.

24 Look at

26 Drained the energy

28 Brand of sticky notes

31 Eye infection

32 Tree

33 Nothing

36 Pros

40 Stylish

42 Tint

43 Paul’s former name

44 Antelope

45 Paved surface for airplanes

48 Affirmative

49 Thick carpet

51 Confer

53 Push button pad

56 Beef

57 Wing

58 Deviate

61 Chilled
- Down

1 Satellite receiver

2 S.A. Indian

3 Aroma

4 Loathe

5 Extension (abbr.)

6 Ask for legally

7 Insinuate

8 Vow

9 Religious men

10 Parody

11 Fathom

12 Strange

13 Saber

21 Baked pasta dish

22 Light

25 Family

27 Green legumes
- 65 Belch

67 Musical composition

68 Struck

69 Chances of winning

70 Writer Bombeck

71 Lone

72 Choice

73 Colors

74 Shiny balloon material

28 Scar

29 Hawaiian island

30 Glide

31 Sulk

34 Train sound

35 Attila the ____

37 Captain (abbr.)

38 European monetary unit

39 Reduced speed

41 Tip

45 Signaled by audio

46 To incite

47 Yes

50 Type of meat

52 Oozy

53 Barbecued stick

54 Circumvent

55 Several feet

56 Permissions to enter foreign countries

59 Energetic

60 Be angry

62 Neat

63 Bunsen burner

64 Stag

66 Clock time

68 Surface to air missile

Solution on Page 17

Why is it only teeth that decay? You don’t always have to go to the doctor’s to have holes in your arms stopped up, do you? It’s a flaw in the design. – Alan Bennett

Loop Sports



Ernestito,
Why don't you hit us with a rather longer headline article and then some sport shorts, like in the good ol' days? I have a really short attention span, so that format really panders toward my intellectual strength.

Alexander Rudinsky

Okay,
Sir Rudinsky. I'll keep it short. And sweet.

Ernest
Madeleine “Mad Dog” Wolzcko and Jordy Lopez Win Wrestling League Championships!

The 90 pound and 115 pound weight classes were dominated by Vashon Wrestlers at the Olympic League Championships on March 17th on Bainbridge Island.
Mad Dog Wolzcko, competing in the 90 pound weight class, pinned her 1st opponent and beat her next opponent (a tough hombre) from Forks, 14-0 to take home the title. She finished the year with a 10-2 record, including two pins over the highly touted Steven Duckbutter, from North Mason. Mad Dog dedicated her championship to her mom and dad's ferocious backrubs.

Jordy “Mr. Gregarious” Lopez won the 115 pound weight class, pinning his Port Townsend opponent in the finals. Jordy finished the season with a 12-0 record, and 11 of those wins were by pins.



Members of the McMurray Wrestling Team have a flex off with their coach, Zimbabwe Sohl before taking on Hawkins and heading to McDonalds for Big Macs and large Sundaes.

He dominated all his opponents with his unorthodox, go for broke style. “I tried to pin everyone, but that one guy had a good kickstand that kept his back off the mat,” Jordy stated.

“But he's cool. We talked before the match and apparently he likes the Chicken Ranch Sub. That's my favourite, too.”



Olympic League Champions Madeleine “Mad Dog” Wolzcko and Jordy “Mr. Gregarious” Lopez warm up for their finals matches. Both wrestlers dominated their opponents with their relentless, attacking style.



Como? No entiendo? No se? Que es esto?
(Include any phrase in any language that indicates a confused state in the following blank: _____)

Also competing, but not placing were Iris Springs and Russell Hitch. They received valuable mat time and celebrated with large frappuchinos!

Sport Shorts:
— The **VHS Baseball Team** started off the year in style, beating both Chief Sealth and Seattle Christian handily. Highlights of the Seattle Christian win: Justin Calhoun's 5 innings of shutout pitching, including 11 strike-outs. Max Bean and Calhoun were both 2-3 (see related article).

— **Ian “Mad Pup” Mattingly** wins one of his two matches at the Vision Quest Freestyle Tournament.

— **Levi Harrison's Bracket** looks “pretty darn good after Vanderbilt beat those pesky Cougs. Also, I think my pick to have Ohio State in the Final Four could totally pay off,” Prophet Levinson stated after scouring ESPN's website for results.

— Cliff McKinley of Lake Stevens wins the NCAA Wrestling Pool, beating out Barnes and Knutson with his intense grappling knowledge. “As an astute observer of the sport,” Cliff goes on, “I feel like I can predict victories at a higher percentage than the casual wrestling fan.”

—**VHS Boys Soccer** start off the spring in style, winning their first two games of the season.

○○○○○



Russell Hitch, Kevin Thomas, and Cole Deveraux warm up their mouths for their post match dessert. “My match is like my dinner or lunch,” Kevin Thomas says, “so I save my dessert for our trip home to Vashon.”

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Pirates Varsity team, dusty and happy after their shutout win against Seattle Christian on March 16. Photo by Rita Santiago-Allman

Pirates Baseball Recap

By Larry Allman

The Pirates Varsity baseball team played their first game on Tuesday, March 13 with a 9-6 win over the Chief Sealth team from West Seattle. On the following Friday, March 16, a beautiful Spring-like day with the bleachers full of cheering fans, the Pirates of Vashon opened league play with an impressive 11-0 win over the visitors from Seattle Christian. Justin Calhoun pitched all five innings of the game allowing only 3 hits and striking out eleven. Vashon had 11 runs, 8 hits, and 0 errors, while Seattle Christian had 0 runs, 3 hits, and 1 error.

On a very cold first day of Spring, March 21, the VHS Pirate varsity lost their first game of the season to Steilacoom, 3-0. Vashon's only hits were generated by Max Bean, Justin Calhoun, and Tom Schumaker. The Pirates played well defensively as Schumaker threw out another runner trying to steal second base.

Games on Monday, March 19, and Friday, March 23, were postponed due to weather conditions. The Pirates battle Chimacum, last year's league champions, today, Wednesday, March 28, at 4 p.m. at the Vashon High School field.

Upcoming games:
Friday 3/30 Orting 4:00 p.m.
Monday4/2 Eatonville 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday4/4 Fife 4 p.m. (Home Game!)
Friday4/6 Foster 4:00 p.m.

You can read detailed recaps of games and see photos at: <http://vhsbaseball.blogspot.com/index.html>

Remember that as a teenager you are at the last stage in your life when you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you. – Fran Lebowitz

Lopy Laffs

The first Band-Aid Brand Adhesive Bandages were three inches wide and eighteen inches long. You made your own bandage by cutting off as much as you needed.

Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

One Liners

Never say never and always avoid always.
People will believe anything if you whisper it.
Some is good; more is better; too much is just right.
It isn't whether you win, it's how much you win by.
Fame is being known by more people than you know.
Some people not only have bad luck...they're carriers.
Life is seldom as unendurable as it logically ought to be.
Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
Give me the luxuries of life and I'll do without the necessities.
There is nothing like being younger to make you look younger.
Economy means spending your money without getting any fun from it.
Make three correct guesses consecutively and you will be known as an expert.
Definitions would be a good thing if only we did not need words in making them.
Diplomats strive to avert situations that would never occur if there were no diplomats.
In democracies people profess to believe that other people are as good as they say they are.

Some people can trace their family back 300 years, but can't tell you where their children are tonight. — Lawrence Brotherton

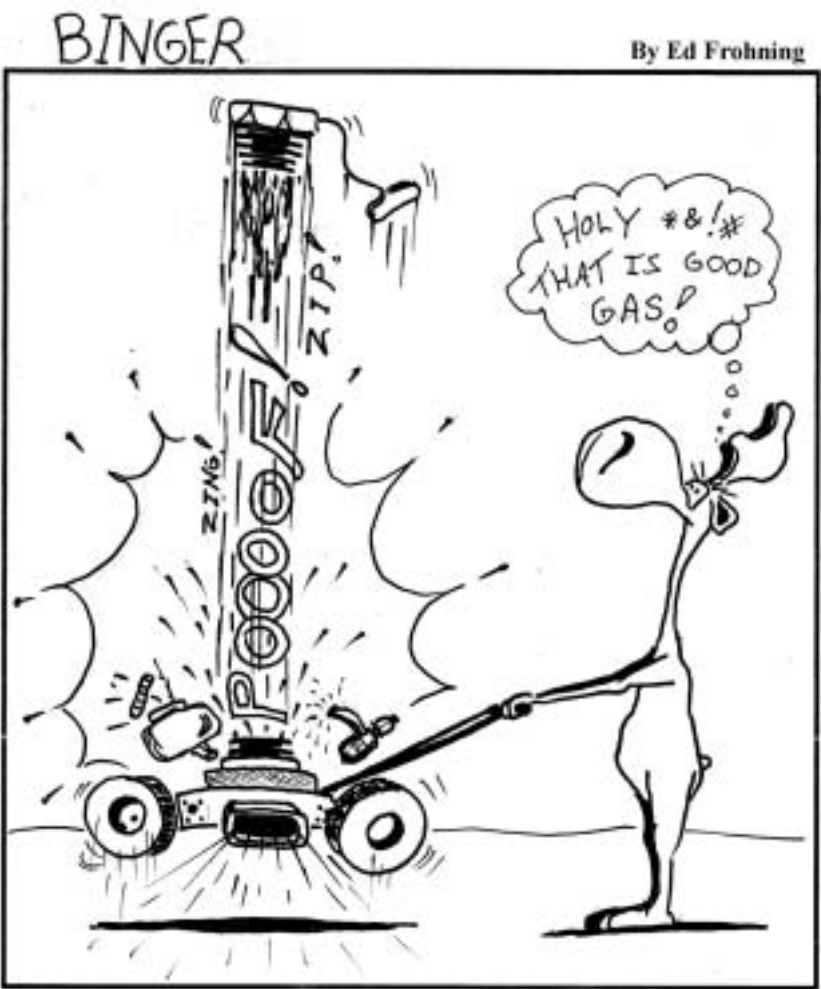
A minister was completing a Temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." With his sermon complete, he sat down. The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River'."

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

While I sat in the reception area of my doctor's office, a woman rolled an elderly man in a wheelchair into the room. As she went to the receptionist's desk, the man just sat there, alone and quiet. Just as I was thinking I should make small talk with him, a little boy slipped off his mother's lap and walked over to the wheelchair. Placing his hand on the man's, he said, "I know how you feel. My mom makes me ride in the stroller too."

It hurts to be on the cutting edge.

To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world.



We can't all be heroes because someone has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by. — Will Rogers

What do you get when you pour the bath water down a bunny hole? Hot cross bunnies.

There are still parts of Wales where the only concession to gaiety is a striped shroud. – Gwyn Thomas

OFFSHORE

What do Eskimos get from sitting on the ice too long? Polaroids.



Solution to puzzle on page 7



More VIPS at: <http://vashonislandpeoples.blogspot.com/>



Loop Arts



Nathan. Courtesy photo

Nathan Plays Bishop’s

The band Nathan is coming to Bishop’s on **Saturday, April 14**, at 9 p.m. Nathan, hailing from Winnipeg, is comprised of Keri Latimer, Shelley Marshall, Devin Latimer, Damon Mitchell, who sing original songs and play guitar, banjo, theremin (think the Beach Boys’ “Good Vibrations”) and accordion, bass and drums, plus a rotating cast of tubas, pedal steels and trumpets. Michael Wrycraft, of CBC Radio, sums up the magic of Nathan perfectly when he says, “If David Lynch had directed *O Brother Where Art Thou?* Nathan’s music would be the soundtrack.”

Tickets are on sale now at Bishop’s and Vashon Island Music, (\$12 advance, \$15 at the door). Come and see Nathan at a small, intimate venue! Hope to see you there. And yes, yes, yes, you can dance! The show is for ages 21 plus.



DeMarco. Courtesy photo

DeMarco Duo Plays at Luna

Flagstaff, AZ based acoustic duo DeMarco brings their original brand of acoustic roots music to Vashon Island on **Saturday, April 21** when they perform at the Cafe Luna. DeMarco, who has opened for such accomplished artists as Taj Mahal, Sam Bush, Joe Ely, Michelle Branch, Peter Rowan and Tony Rice, consists of Brian DeMarco on acoustic guitar and harmonica and Lisa Leanne on rhythm guitar, percussion, harmony vocals, fiddle and inverted kazoo. Their new album, *Angel Face*, is a concept album exploring the idea of the symbolic death, journey, and resurrection of the poet/artist/individual amongst the current homogenized and bottom-line driven landscape. Their performance, both honest and passionate, is reminiscent of Townes Van Zandt, Neil Young, or early Bob Dylan. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. with no cover charge. For more information call the cafe at 206-463-0777 or go to www.cafelunevashon.com. For more information about DeMarco visit them on the web at www.demarcomusic.com.



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is **Friday, April 6**



Sam Metke-Ramsell (*Oliver*) and Sage Everett (*The Artful Dodger*) stick like glue to their buddy Rich Wiley (also known as Fagin). Photo by Hawk Jones/KotaGraph

Drama Dock’s Oliver! Some New Kids and Some Dear Friends

By Lauri Hennessey

Come April 13, Vashon is going to have the chance to see a production to beat all productions. Drama Dock’s version of the beloved musical, *Oliver!* will feature singing and dancing aplenty, and a cast of more than 50 people. The cast and crew have been rehearsing and working behind the scenes for months pulling together the musical production.

For those who aren’t familiar with *Oliver!*, it is based on Charles Dickens’ classic, *Oliver Twist*, and it looks at the plight of a young orphan in 1830s England. Oliver spends much of his life in a workhouse, run by the nasty Bumble. After he escapes, Oliver is helped by his new friend, the Artful Dodger, and is protected by the leader of a gang of street urchins, Fagin. Oliver is befriended by tough Nancy and her sidekick Bet, and has to escape the clutches of Nancy’s lover, the fearful Bill Sykes, and face many other dangers during the story. The musical has been a long-time favorite of community theatre goers everywhere, and was made into the Oscar-winning movie, *Oliver!* in 1968.

Among the popular songs that are familiar from the musical are “Where is Love,” “Consider Yourself,” and “Food, Glorious Food.”

Rich Wiley On Vashon Community Theater

Oliver! Producer Lauri Hennessey decided to take the chance to ask long-time Drama Dock performer Rich Wiley for his perspective on 30 years of community theatre on Vashon.

LH: How has Drama Dock changed over the years?

RW: The great thing is that Drama Dock has endured for 30 years. Like any arts organization, it’s had its great times and its tough times, but Drama Dock is in one of its greatest times right now. For the past three years, I have seen more people and families involved in play production than I can remember. The experience of gathering a group of strangers together under excellent direction to rehearse and produce a dynamite show is remarkable. Vashon productions are remarkable. They seem to embody that home grown flavor while maintaining top notch production values. It’s heart warming!

Director Elizabeth (Libbie) W. Anthony cast Sam Metke-Ramsel in his Drama Dock debut as Oliver. The Artful Dodger is played be Sage Everett, Nancy is played by Adrienne Mildon, and Bet is played by Anna Rose Warren. Bumble is played by David Hackett. One of the big

coups of *Oliver!* was when Anthony chose Louis Mangione, a Drama Dock newcomer, to play the scary Bill Sykes. Many of those at rehearsals are saying that Mangione’s voice will not soon be forgotten.

Of course, the musical rests on the backs of the kids, and the audience won’t be disappointed. Anthony cast an array of boys and girls as the Workhouse Kids and Fagin’s Gang, using kids from the Island who have been cast in musicals, dance performances, choruses and more. All told, there are nearly 30 kids in the musical, ranging from 7 to 17 years old.

And Fagin, the “father” to the street kids? For that part, Anthony went to the Island’s beloved Rich Wiley, who has been part of many Drama Dock productions over the last 30 years.

LH: What do you remember about Drama Dock’s beginnings? Was it tough to get Islanders interested in theatre or were they ready for an organization like this?

RW: I think Vashon was ripe for a chance to put on a show. Their first production was *Plaza Suite* by Neil Simon. It was a romp and Drama Dock was off and running. Sue and I and our kids had moved to the Island in 1971 and we loved attending the productions. Laurel Watt, one of the women that founded DD, called me about trying out for a part. That prospect terrified me, and always does. But I got the part and I’ve been hooked ever since. I think those opportunities are what make theater on the Island so special and what makes Drama Dock so important to Vashon.

LH: Any memorable roles from over the years?

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RW: I have been extremely lucky to have been cast in some great roles. Believe me, the competition today is extreme. I don’t think so many men tried out in the olden days. I’ve played Henry Higgins, Harold Hill, and I guess if they made a musical about Hubert Humphrey, I’d get the part. Being in a show with a lot of kids is great. To see them grow and accomplish what may have been hidden is a treat. I guess that’s why *Music Man*, *King and I*, *Oliver!* and *Sound of Music* have been special shows for me. The talent on this Island is incredibly broad and includes expert directors and production staff. I have learned so much from my directors and fellow cast members and have made lifelong friends in the process.

LH: How is it to be out there with all of those kids as Fagin?

RW: The group of young women and men that has been assembled for this *Oliver!* has blown me away. From the beginning, I was impressed with their voices alone. My gang members are constantly picking my pocket, getting into their cockney identities and generally having a boisterous time with their parts. It’s infectious. I’m sure the hubbub has been trying at times for our director, Libbie Anthony, but she’s pretty boisterous herself! She will lead us to a show you won’t want to miss! She always does. Like I said, Vashon is lucky to have Libbie, Drama Dock and the vast talent that makes our Island so special in so many ways!

The important thing in acting is to be able to laugh and cry. If I have to cry, I think of my sex life. If I have to laugh, I think of my sex life. – Glenda Jackson

Fine Art Gallery Features Dorothy Dolph Jensen in April

Please join us at the Gallery at 17637 Vashon Highway SW on **Friday, April 6**, 6 to 9 p.m., during Vashon Island’s First Friday Gallery Cruise when we host a wine tasting with Stephen McClure’s Vashon Wine Shop.

Painter and printmaker Dorothy Dolph Jensen will be the featured artist at the fine art gallery during the month of April. She was born in Forest Grove, Oregon, to a prominent pioneer family.

Jensen was sent to Europe at the age of twelve and left Europe for Seattle in 1914. Jensen met her husband, Lloyd E. Jensen, while they were working together at the Schneider Art Gallery in Seattle around 1917. He was in the process of becoming the region’s finest frame maker and she was working in the application of gold leaf. They were married in 1919.

Jensen was a founding member of Women Painters of Washington, a charter member of the Northwest Watercolor Society, and a longtime member of and early exhibitor with the Northwest Printmakers Society.

Her exhibition history included shows at the Seattle Art Museum; the Frye Art Museum and the Seattle Fine Arts



The original Methodist Church structure on Vashon. Painting by Dorothy Dolph Jensen

Society; the Northwest Annuals at the Seattle Art Museum; and the Nordic Heritage Museum. She also participated in numerous group exhibitions in Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington D.C.

Jensen’s work is in the permanent collection of the Portland Art Museum; the Jundt Art Museum, Gonzaga University; the Tacoma Art Museum; and the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon.

Thanks to Martin-Zambito Fine Art for Ms. Jensen’s biography. Thanks to Vashon - Maury Island Heritage Association for information regarding the Vashon United Methodist Church.

Gallery hours are Friday and Saturday, 12 to 4:30 p.m., and by appointment.



L-r, Bob Gentzel, Matthew Shorack, Marita Ericksen, and Randy Bruce will be presenting the Easter Cantata For Such a One as This on Good Friday. Courtesy photo.

Easter Cantata Offers Message, Music

Local musicians Marita Ericksen, Randy Bruce and Matthew Shorack and others will present the Cantata, *For Such a One as This*, a musical and drama presentation, on **Friday, April 6**. The cantata will be free to the community and will be presented at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Cantata is hosted by both Bethel Church and the Vashon Island Community Church. Those attending will hear a 32-voice choir, a 15-member orchestra, nine dramatic readers, and a 20-member children’s choir. It will be directed by Ericksen, Bethel’s Director of Worship Arts and Director of the Vashon Island Youth Chorus. Drama is under the direction of Bethel Associate Pastor Matthew Shorack, and Randy Bruce of Vashon Island Community Church is Assistant Music Director.

Dogs in Cars at Two Wall

Rondi Lightmark presents *Dogs in Cars*, her dreamlike black and white photographs at the Two Wall Gallery, April 6 through 29, with an opening reception during the First Friday Gallery Walk, **Friday, April 6**, 6 to 9 p.m.

Lightmark takes the notion of “a picture is worth a thousand words” literally. Rondi will tell two distinct digital tales of Vashon in her show at the Two Wall Gallery this month.



Two Dogs Beach photo by Rondi Lightmark

Vashon Bookshop

Thursday, March 29 ~ Jen Marlowe

Author of *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival*, will be at Vashon Bookshop between 4 and 5 p.m. for an informal book signing. This is a chance to meet and talk about her remarkable work.

Friday, April 6 ~ Chuck Roehm

will perform his original “Cosmic Folk” music at Vashon Bookshop on Friday, April 6th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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Island artist and writer Kara Jones reports: “I’m excited to say that I’ve had confirmation of our peace movement idea reaching far and wide! The ‘Seek Peace’ poster has been picked up in California, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Mexico, Washington, DC, New Zealand! It’s encouraging that the idea is something that translates anywhere! Find your inner peace, and then outer peace can follow!

“We’re into the 100s finally! We’ve got the line drawings everyone’s been seeing here in *The Loop*, but we also have faces on tea cups at the Tea Shop, prints at the Heron’s Nest, a Coloring Book for All Ages online, vinyl stickers, and rubber stamps.”

You can see these items at MotherHenna.Etsy.com.



Meditate on Beauty, © 2007 Kara Jones

For Word Film Series Upcoming Screening *Out of Balance — ExxonMobil’s Impact on Climate Change*

On **Saturday April 7**, at 7:30 p.m., the For Word Film Series will continue with a screening of Tom Jackson’s film *Out of Balance- ExxonMobil’s Impact on Climate Change*. While covering similar ground to Al Gore’s *An Inconvenient Truth*, this film’s science and information is gleaned from a wide range of interviews that look at the scientific cause and effect of the crisis. Jackson also points an accusatory finger at oil giant ExxonMobil and their efforts to discredit well documented research and spread doubt about its authenticity and veracity through a massive media disinformation campaign. Following the film, having recently returned from an Al Gore workshop on spreading the word and updating the science surrounding world climate change, Meg Gluckman



and Janie Starr will lead a discussion and answer questions about the issues and the science discussed in the film. The screening will be at Havurat Ee Shalom at 15401 Westside Hwy. Admission is by donation; \$5.00 suggested. For further info contact Peter Ray at 567-4542 or pgr42@att.net.

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