

In this issue: Evensong, Awards, Books, Why Didn't Someone Tell Me How to Be a Parent? Immune Tonics, Holiday Tonics, a Bad Week, A Beautiful Baby, and more!



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more than just
another pretty face
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Photo is fine;
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**Andromeda
& Kissmequick;**
other arts!
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THE LOOP

Vol. 3, # 26

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

December 20, 2006



Larry Flynn at his post outside Thriftway on Care to Shop Saturday. Loop photo.

Larry Flynn: Care To Shop

by Allison Arthur

Islander Larry Flynn will brave whatever Mother Nature and life hand him to stand at the doors at Thriftway and ask Islanders to shop for food for the Lifelong AIDS Alliance.

"I do it in the snow and in the sweltering heat. People will tell me, 'You're always here,' and I think to myself, 'They still need to eat today.' You never go to the gym once and are an Adonis forever," says Flynn of the need to do the Care to Shop drive monthly.

A King County Metro bus driver most Islanders know simply as "Larry, the driver," Flynn might also have to overcome his own health issues to be there.

Because like the people he's trying to help, Flynn has AIDS.

"I have to look at my watch because I don't have a hunger any more ... I haven't had a decent appetite since 1991," says the man who brought the food drive to Vashon in 1998 and who struggles to remember to eat. "And my teeth are so sensitive to cold now, and

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POI Seeks Full Disclosure

Preserve Our Islands has filed a complaint in the Federal District Court for the Western District of Washington seeking a court order requiring that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers promptly release copies of reports prepared by Northwest Aggregates/Glacier Northwest in support of its application for a Corps' permit for its proposed barge loading facility.

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"We're All Punting Right Now"



Downed trees and utility lines were common sights on the Island last Friday morning. These are the two trees, and their root systems, that fell on Steve Owen's home, causing major damage to the structure. Loop photo.

Island Picks Up After Worst Wind Storm in Years

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

We all know what the story was last Friday morning: Wind, and lots of it, and trees, lots of them, fallen on wires, roads, and houses. Power was out Island-wide for the first day, and by Sunday evening power had been restored only to some neighborhoods. Telephone service was erratic in some parts of the Island.

Island residents who had flashlights, candles, batteries, water, wood or gas stoves, blankets to bundle in, or generators to keep our lights on, had a fairly comfortable disaster. There was a Red Cross night time shelter at the Fire Station in Vashon for those who did not have those things.

On Friday morning, it was impossible for many people to get to work, but later in the day when some of the tree trunks and debris had been cleared, the Island went to Thriftway. The store was jammed with people laughing and talking about what had happened at their houses, sharing their storm stories. There was an almost festive quality of community in this disaster.

Rumors flew in the aisles: no power in town for three days! In fact Vashon town was up and running on Saturday. God bless you, Thriftway and True Value people for showing up for us. God bless you, Asplundh tree cutters and Puget Sound Energy utility workers. And let's throw in a few "God bless yous" for the Centurytel people

Continued on page 10



Camp Burton dining hall was packed for the annual Kiwanis Christmas dinner. Loop photo

Kiwanis Club Serves Annual Christmas Dinner

On Sunday, December 10, the Vashon Kiwanis served up their annual free Christmas dinner for seniors in the Camp Burton dining hall. Head chef George Baxter showed up in chef whites and the crew put a grand turkey dinner on the tables, served by high school and middle school students, as well as a couple of Baxter grand children. The dinner ended with a Christmas carol singalong and a visit (and dance) from Santa.



Santa Claus listens to a small admirer. Loop photo

Islanders Try Ranked Choice Voting

By Jay Becker

Some 858 Islanders can claim a head start on most of the rest of the nation as they used "ranked choice voting" to elect nine citizens to the board of the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council Nov. 7.

Simplistically, when you vote this way for two or more candidates you rank them in order of your choice, 1,2,3, etc. As soon as one or more candidates win enough votes

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Get in The Loop

VashonBePrepared.ORG

"Using the "Island Channel" is a way for islanders to communicate with each other in an emergency. Cut out this card for your bulletin board, refrigerator, or wallet and make copies for friends and family."

And put the VashonBePrepared site URL on there somewhere, too. That is:
www.VashonBePrepared.org

ISLAND CHANNEL

- Citizen's Band - Channel 2
- Marine VHF - Channel 71
- FRS/GMRS - Channel 2
(462.5875 MHz - turn Privacy Codes OFF)
- Are your batteries fully charged?

The "Island Channel" is a common channel number on CB, Marine, and "walkabout" Family Radio Service (FRS) and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radios. Use the Island Channel year-round. When emergencies occur you'll know where to listen and how to use your radio.

Note 1 - Using an FRS/GMRS radio on the GMRS channels requires an FCC license.

Note 2 - Use marine channel 71 only as a "go to" channel. Monitor channel 16 at all other times. Use Marine VHF only for ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications.

Note 3 - Not all FRS/GMRS radios assign Channel 2 to the same frequency. Check your radio's manual for the frequencies assigned to each channel.



House Wanted

Home is wanted on Vashon (\$400,000 to \$600,000) for my personal residence. Undeveloped property is a possibility. Flexible closing date. No agents please. Reply with interest to vashonsearch@hotmail.com

2007 VIPP Calendar Now Available!

The Vashon Island Pet Protectors 2007 Pet Calendar is now available for \$15 at the following locations: The Vashon Bookshop, Fair Isle Animal Clinic, Pandora's Box, The Burton Store & Books by the Way. The Vipp 2007 Calendar is sponsored by: Susan Carrette-Windermere Realtor, Dee Weedin, Reliable Wines, The Old Fuller Store (Macrina Bakery & Francisco's Barbershop), Pandora's Box & Amiad & Associates Real Estate.

VIPP has many animals ready to be adopted into their forever home!

Fruit Preservation Club Meeting Postponed

March Twisdale was called away due to a sudden family emergency and was unable to lead the Fruit Preservation Club meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 5. She extends her apologies to all who showed up. Please call March Twisdale at (206) 463-0870 if you remain interested. Another Meeting will be held in 2007; date, time, and location to be announced.

Green Party January Meeting

Vashon Maury Island Green Party will hold their next meeting on **Tuesday, January 16**, at 7 p.m. We will meet at the Havurat Ee Shalom, 15401 Westside Highway SW. All interested people are welcome to attend and learn more about an alternative to the current two party system. We will have a discussion about "strategies behind running a third party candidate" based on essays from the book *Independent Politics: The Green Party Strategy Debate*, by Howie Hawkins. For a copy of the essays please contact Maryrose Asher at dmasher@comcast.net. For further information or directions to the meeting, please call Ivy Sacks at 463-9579.

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but she couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy replied, "No ma'am. They're dead."



Mark your calendar for:
New Years Eve
December 31st
9:00 pm
Vashon
Sportsmen's Club

Evensong for Holy Innocents

The holidays can be a time of great rejoicing, but can also be a time of severe difficulty and pain for many. The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit is holding a healing service on the evening of the Feast of the Holy Innocents, **Thursday, December 28**, at 7:30 p.m.

Holy Innocents is set aside on the worldwide Church calendar as a time to honor the children murdered by order of King Herod in his attempt to eliminate Jesus, and all innocent victims. It is an appropriate time to seek God's healing touch in our lives for any hurt we carry. Although this service is offered in a Christian setting, all are welcome to attend and participate as they feel comfortable.

New Helmets Available

Ski and Snowboarding helmets are now available at Vashon Island Fire & Rescue, in their business office at 10020 SW Bank Rd. A large variety of types, colors and sizes are kept in stock. There are the ski and snowboard helmets (\$17); bike helmets (\$8); multi-sport (\$10); and equestrian (\$20). The helmets are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and would make great gifts. Call the business office at 463-2405, if you have questions.

www.vashonloop.com

Christmas and New Year Ferry Schedules

There will be **no Seattle Vashon passenger-only** service on Monday, December 25, 2006 or Monday, January 1, 2007.

Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth

On Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 22, the 124-car M/V Issaquah will switch to the number 1 position in the evening to assist in carrying late night traffic. On Sunday, December 24, this route will operate on a Sunday schedule and on Monday, Christmas Day this route will be on a Monday schedule. However, extra service mid-day may occur if traffic is heavy.

On Sunday, December 31, 2006, the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth route will be on a Sunday schedule and on Monday, January 1, 2007, this route will operate on a regular Monday schedule.

Point Defiance/Tahlequah

On both December 24 and December 25, this route will operate on a holiday schedule.



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is Friday, December 29

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Christmas Season Schedule

- Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit (across from the Vashon Care Center)
- Saturday, Dec 23: 10 a.m. Greening of the Church
- Sunday, Dec 24: 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9 a.m. Education for all
- 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 7 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- Monday, Dec 25: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- Thursday, Dec 28th, 7:30 p.m. Feast of the Holy Innocents: Healing Service
- Sunday, Dec 31: 5-7 p.m. New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk
- Saturday, January 6, 5 p.m. Epiphany Evensong Service, bonfire of the greens, & potluck
- ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Vashon Loop

- Writers: Kathy Abascal, Deborah Anderson, Rachel Bard, Marie Browne, MEarth, Eric Francis, Troy Kindred, Melissa McCann, Orca Annie, Kevin Pottinger, Rex Morris, Weslie Rodgers, Jonathan Shipley, Ed Swan, Mary L. Tuel, Marj Watkins
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- PO Box 253, Vashon, WA 98070
- Paid advertisements in *The Vashon Loop* in no way express the opinions of the publisher, editor, or staff. We reserve the right to edit or not even print stuff. Deal with it.
- Published every two weeks by Paradise Valley Press
- © Dec. 20, 2006 - Volume III, Issue 26
- Don't miss an issue! Subscribe to *The Loop*!
- \$50 a year gets *The Loop* delivered to your mailbox every two weeks. Call (463-3327) or write (PO Box 253, Vashon) or email editor@vashonloop.com!



Troy and Marie Are Blown Away

Wow! What an endurance test this windstorm has been. Our hearts went out to all those poor people in the espresso line at Thriftway. We had less sympathy for the ones who were looking for matches, candles, and batteries. Seriously, people. Stock up on that stuff! As Joe Ulatoski, Vashon's Neighborhood Emergency Response Organization coordinator said, "This storm should be good for business." If you haven't yet organized your neighborhood, call Joe at 463-1321. On a brighter note, we were glad to see that our town Christmas tree withstood the wind. Sort of.



Marie: Troy, we never had a chance to thank all the people who helped move our community Christmas tree to Ober Park. Maybe we should tell the story of how it came about.

Troy: Sure. Do you want me to start with the first plan involving a chain saw, the cover of darkness, and a defense attorney?

Marie: Well, no. That plan was pretty much anarchy and I'm glad we refrained.

Troy: You're right. It was a better idea to work with the Chamber of Commerce to get the tree moved. Most people agreed that the tree by Santa's Cottage was kind of sad and pathetic. It was never a good Christmas tree, not even in a Charlie Brown way. So, we volunteered to look for a more suitable tree that was ready for lights.

Marie: And we did have lights, thanks to Lee Ockinga and K2, who graciously agreed to donate their old lights. We spent the better part of a Saturday testing the strands and replacing the red, white and blue bulbs with multicolored bulbs. (Apologies to anyone who tried to buy green bulbs at True Value that day. We hogged them all.) Next, we went to Wendy Braicks at the Parks District. She was overwhelmingly supportive of the idea of moving the tree to Ober Park. We agreed that the biggest, tallest tree right in the middle of the park would be perfect.

If you are thinking of selling this spring, now is the time to call us. We would love to work for you! Do you just want to know how much your house is worth? Give us a call for a free comparative market analysis. 206.463-LIST

Congratulations to Jackie Mollison, the newest agent to join Home Team Realty!

Happy Birthday to Troy!

Troy: Until we learned that the biggest, tallest tree was too tall for any truck on Vashon, including the fire department's ladder truck and Ed Palmer's boom truck. So we settled on the second biggest tree in the park. Ed Palmer donated his truck, and Jeff Roberts, Jason Hardman, and Mark Donner spent an icy day hoisting the lights up and securing them. Even though they took a beating in the storm, the lights are still up, for the most part. Those guys know how to tie 'em down! They also got the star as high as they could reach. It was fully re-wired, thanks to Doug Snyder.

Marie: Tim Lafferty, the Park District maintenance man, wired the lights to the power at Ober Park, and Nathan Green from True Value made a pretend "switch" for one of the third graders to throw during the tree lighting ceremony.

Troy: Despite all these elaborate preparations, the actual lighting was still very much a Vashon affair. Only two strands lit up at first. It was a little anti-climatic.

Marie: That's true. I was personally very disappointed. But as some generously spirited people said, it could have been interpreted as a reminder to conserve energy. As I think back on the evening, I'm remembering it with fondness. We helped make something positive happen, and we had a wonderful Open House with friends and neighbors.

Troy: Next year will be even better. The fire department wants to help, and we'll have the whole summer to raise money for commercial grade lights. Maybe we should donate part of our commissions to the cause. What do you think?

Marie: That's a great idea. Consider it done. Here's wishing everyone a joyous, peaceful holiday season and healthy and happy 2007.

Visit www.kwvashon.com for lots of great real estate info

Check Out These Deals

On Island Properties

Lavender Duck



This is a beautiful 1900 vintage farm home that is currently being operated as a Bed and Breakfast on Vashon Island. This beautiful Inn consists of 5 suites; 4 in the main house and 1 in the cottage. Each suite has a private bath and a sitting area. The cottage is steps from the main home and has 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. If you love lavender this beautiful Inn has a beautiful lavender field in the back. **\$ 525,000.**

16503 Vashon Hwy SW

MLS# 26187933

- ☛ 3.25 bath
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Stacie A Balelo

**Listing Agent
(206) 819-4560**

Off Island Properties

New Construction

New homes from Starbow Builders are finished. Move in before Christmas! Live in charming downtown Issaquah within walking distance of shops, restaurants, galleries – and yet be just minutes from 190. Great 2338 square foot floorplan includes four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Master suite includes dual sinks and corner soaking tub. Granite countertops in kitchen, hardwood floors downstairs, carpeting upstairs. Gas fireplace, high tech wiring throughout, lots of beautiful quality details. Landscaped generously sized front and back yards complete the picture of these quality built Eastside homes. **\$649,000.**



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Issaquah, WA 98027

Sarah can be reached direct at (206) 550-8975 or call any team member at (206) 463-LIST (5478)

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- ☛ 4 bedrooms
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Listing Agent

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LoOp-Ed

Does Israel Have the Right to Exist?

By Mark Goldman

The simple answer to this question is "No." Israel does not have a right to exist. But then again neither does the United States have a right to exist, at least not a moral right. In fact, no country has a "right to exist" except to the extent to which you can identify some universal value that gives a nation the right to exist, and even then only to the extent that you can verify that that nation qualifies as having such a right under your universal value system.

So let me suggest such a value system:

"No government or nation has a right to exist unless that government and its people are striving to adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights...and that includes:

- 1). a willingness to announce to the world and to their own people that that's what their goal is, and
- 2). substantial evidence, according to some reasonable standard, that that's what they are, in fact, striving to do."

Israel became a nation with the support of many countries, but in becoming a country Israel acquired land that was already occupied by people living there — people who had been living there for a very long time...people who had no say in whether or not they wanted to give up their homes, their livelihood and their land so that Jews might start a new country at their expense. The only right Israel had in taking over the land was the right of force or power...power granted them by the United States and others for the sake of expediency.

And if you review history you will see that the borders of all nations evolved in roughly the same way. Each nation had to fight (and in Israel's case the fight was aided by powerful allies) to occupy the land

until they could establish for themselves over time that this was their land; and since no one could take it away from them, that was that. Then tradition became the right. And then nations formally agreed on paper to abide by those traditions. The victors in war almost always became land owners and the vanquished became the underclass. If this is what you mean when you say that Israel has a right to exist, then Israel has a right to exist. But there is no moral right that can legitimately be claimed here.

And what of the United States? By what moral right does our country exist? By right of genocide through the extermination of the indigenous people who were already living here when our ancestors arrived?

The difference between the United States and Israel is that much of the world sympathizes with the plight of the Palestinian people. Many identify with them because they share a common ethnic background and/or religion; so many people around the world are not disinterested. This makes victory or genocide not so easy to accomplish. Here you have a significant fight on your hands.

It was easier for our country to exterminate the people who occupied what is now the continental United States because the indigenous natives who lived here had no powerful allies, and they, without support, lacked sufficient technology to defend themselves. Our ancestors justified their behavior by calling American Indians "savages." But American Indians were not savages. We were the savages. We broke every agreement we ever made with them. We did every dishonorable thing one group of people could do to another. We had no moral right to do what we did.

So...will there be peace in the Middle East in our lifetime? It depends on what you call peace. But in terms of what I call peace, there will be none until the truth is acknowledged and told by all the



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parties who were and are responsible, and surely not until some honorable arrangements, including reparations, are made to those who were cheated.

As for us and our children, and as for them and their children, we have all been cheated. And as for those of us who call ourselves citizens, most of us are cheaters as well as having been cheated. For we fail in our obligation as human beings to acknowledge the truth, because we don't like what the truth sounds like or what the implications might be if we did tell the truth.

Many of us are simply uninformed, uneducated, brainwashed, and/or oblivious, and for that we have ourselves, our government, and each other to blame. No one is absolved. There is no honor in silence, ignorance, or cowardice...and no peace either.

Loop Letters

Even More on The War Plays

(The War Plays is a trilogy: One, a chronicle of life destroyed. Two, inheritors of the ravaged earth rationalize an existence predicated on death. Three, a post-apocalyptic Mother Courage survives by schizoid suffering. Edward Bond's plays finally got to be too much for his native Britain, but he is revered on the Continent.)

Editor, *The Loop*:

The War Plays debate in the nearly Pearl Harbor issue of *The Loop* concerns a play staged nearly on Veteran's Day. But the coincidence that matters is with the recent December 10th, International Human Rights Day, as demonstrations across the country protested America's slide into a police state. *The Loop* articles illuminate a deep divide between

the high school and veterans speaking on behalf of the American Legion. This is the same divide that has rendered America powerless to end the ill-conceived "war on terror." A conflict of values, the divide has been used by this administration to support a war presidency. Like a bad breath the divide has suffused our Island with conflict. Yet by forcing us to examine our beliefs *The War Plays* could heal, not worsen, this conflict. By examining one's own belief a person may come to understand the belief of the person on the other side, and in this way build one end of a bridge across. But exactly what value or values constitute this divide?

Neither differing intelligence nor knowledge can explain its depth. I used to think the opposite — that, on the whole, "Support our Troops" sign displayers were unread and not very bright. No longer. The vestige was torn away yesterday when I chanced on a discussion of the day's demonstration at Westlake on behalf of three soldiers up for courts martial on refusal to serve in Iraq. In this talk, a highly respected man who stands firmly against the war spoke against the demonstration. His reason was that these soldiers had promised to obey. Therefore they should do these horrible things? Yes, sadly, but that is the "fault of congress which approved the war." Keeping one's word is a higher goal than mercy?

When a first-rate reporter like the P-I's Jamieson puts down Cindy Sheehan does this cast a shadow over past calls that establish him as a person of reason and accurate perception? Or does it cast a shadow over my values?

Is it a religious divide? The tenacity of faith in the military is suggestive, as for example in the

Great Vashon Christmas Gift!

The Ballad of Nancy Tyler Reed

by Fred Schlick



Give the booklover and historian on your list their own copy of *The Ballad of Nancy Tyler Reed*, a book of poetry and musings by the late Fred Schlick, Vashon's iconoclastic writer, lawyer, gardener and activist. Limited quantities are available, only \$10. Call Marie Schlick at 567.4030.

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Vashon Library January 2007 Programs

Opera Preview:

Don Giovanni

Sunday, January 7, 2 p.m.

Join opera lecturer Norm Hollingshead as he previews "the greatest opera ever written," Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, one of many operas based on the legend of Don Juan. Music samples will be played and discussed.

**Great Books Discussion Group
Monday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.**

The Great Books Discussion Group has been meeting at the Vashon Library for 30 years! The

idea of small groups meeting to discuss great literature was started by the University of Chicago and groups now meet in hundreds of cities around the country. Our book group meets on the first Monday of each month and our discussions include all types of great literature, from ancient to modern times. Please join us January 8th when we will be reading a selection from Thorstein Veblen's *The Theory of the Leisure Class*. The topic is conspicuous consumption from chapters 1 and 4.

**Toddler Story Time
Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30
10:40 a.m.**

Ages 21 months to 3 years with an adult

A 20-minute program of stories and songs just right for toddlers. No registration required.

Lapsit Story Time

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, 10:40 a.m.

Newborn to 20 months with an adult

A 20-minute program of stories, songs, rhymes and bounces for babies and a caregiver. No registration required.

Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, 11:30 a.m.

Ages 3-5

Join us for 30 minutes of stories, songs and fun! No registration required.

**Friends of the Vashon Library
Annual Meeting**

Saturday, January 13, 10 a.m.

The Friends of the Vashon Library is a group of avid bibliophiles who meet four times a year to discuss how to best support the Vashon Library. The Friends sell donated books in the library lobby, and funds collected are used to sponsor programs for all ages. Our annual meeting includes election of officers. New members are welcomed with open arms!

Light refreshments will be served.

Microsoft Word, Level 1

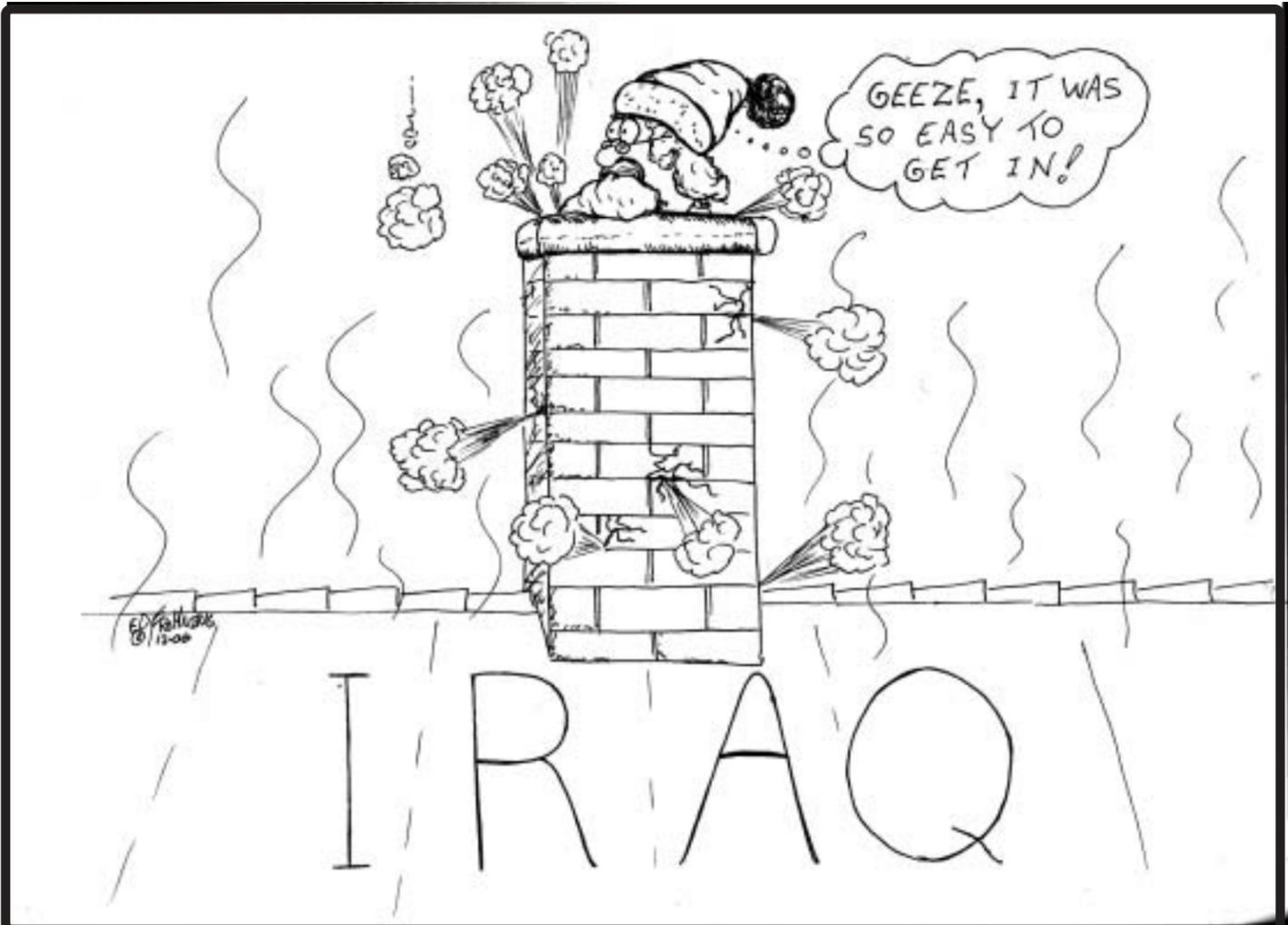
**Saturday, January 27,
9-10:30 a.m.**

This class is an overview of Word, Microsoft's popular program designed for typing and word processing. Registration is required and begins January 2nd. Call 463-2069 to register.

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Spiritual Smart Aleck

More Power to You

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

I had a my column for this issue done by last Thursday. It was about power outages.

Then came Thursday night, and Friday morning, and you all know what happened then — a windstorm that was as bad as the weather prognosticators said it would be. Wowsers. We ended up without power, and for a time without telephone. I wondered all day Friday how I was going to finish the paper if I couldn't fire up my computer.

Still, we have a wood stove, so we were warm. We haven't used it for years. By Saturday we were standing arm in arm, looking at it and saying, gee, we're glad we didn't get rid of that because we never use it.

We lost everything in the freezer and the refrigerator, and I rediscovered the joys of peanut butter, usually in conjunction with banana. Canned soup tasted pretty good, too, and saltines. I guess being satisfied with the options you have is one of the keys to happiness.

When I saw how giddy everyone was at Thriftway on Friday — I have never seen so much laughing, talking, and clear comradeship over the poinsettias — I thought, gee, maybe we should do this every year, have a "no power day," when we all turn off everything and fall back on our resources, our chief resource being each other. Then I thought, nah, no one would go for that, and you can't fake this kind of bonding, anyway.

In church on Sunday we all sat bundled up and watched our breath turn white in the chilly air. I haven't seen that many hats in church since the last time we had a service using the original prayer book and were all asked to dress like it was 1963.

What I like best about power outages is the absolute silence. The only sounds in our house are the ticking of battery clocks (installed so that I would know what time it is during power outages); the sounds our dog, Jive, makes, as he walks, scratches, eats, growls, and sighs; and the soft sound of the pen on paper as I write. I'm writing with pen and paper because the power is out.

I can't do the dishes, at least not until I heat some water on the woodstove, and I can't heat water until I build a fire. I won't do the laundry because even if I do heat water I do not wish to do laundry by hand. I'm trusting the power will come back on soon enough that I won't have to take my underwear down to the creek and pound it on the rocks.

The refrigerator does not come on. The computer fan is still. The light bulbs don't buzz and the CD player does not hum.

There is an inner silence that goes with the outer silence. The utter stillness feels so peaceful, so right — isn't this the way we lived up until the last couple of centuries? Candles and ink pens and silence.

That's what I like about power outages.

What I like the least about power outages is that my husband, Rick, will be at work until the power comes back on. He left around four this morning, and there's no telling when he'll be back.

He's a water guy. Most of us take water pretty much for granted as long as it comes out of the tap when you turn it on. Water guys and gals spend their working lives keeping the water running so that you don't have to think about it, and they do it by being available day and night. When something goes wrong, they have to go take care of it.

Like other utility workers, they are usually called out in the worst weather conditions, and usually at night. They will be out there until the power is back on, and the water is running, and — oh glory be! — cable and internet service are restored.

My husband will come home exhausted, and we will hope that he can get dry, and warm, and can grab some sleep, before the pager goes off again.

As I have been writing this, by silent candlelight, there has been a torrential rainfall, followed by a brief blip of sunshine, which is now fading to gray. I look at the candle flame, I feel the chill, I get up to go put more wood in the woodstove.

I hope my husband is warm and dry somewhere although I know that's not likely. I enjoy the silence of this unelectric reality while thinking of him, and the people like him, out working in the wind and rain to restore everything back to noisy normal.

I wouldn't enjoy power outages so much if I wasn't sure that the power was going to come back on. As I drive down the rubble-strewn roads and pass the workers who have been out fixing things for days now, I roll down the window and yell, "Thank you!" I don't know if they hear me; but I say it anyway.

Thank you. ○○○○

Anyone who is capable of getting themselves into a position of power should on no account be allowed to do the job. — Douglas Adams

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DOIT Board Announces "Opportunity Knocks" Winners

By Stephen Silha

Opportunity Knocks, the grant program offered by Development of Island Teens (DOIT), received a number of great proposals from teenagers this fall. The board is proud to announce the winners:

Samantha Garrett will continue her horseback riding lessons so she can give lessons to other Vashon kids who can't afford them;

Audrey Kellogg will create a holiday gift store (similar to one that was created last year by Lara Yelkin) that will allow Chautauqua Elementary School students to buy presents for their families;

Annie Wigley will continue her VW Microbus project and will teach young Islanders to change tires;

Jake Hyde will repair his vehicle so he can drive to Vashon parks where he does volunteer cleanup;

Cyrus Morosoff will upgrade his recording studio so that he can allow local bands to record their own CDs for free;

Max Wigley will restore his Corvair and give clinics on auto repair;

Greg Pendergast will complete his Eagle Scout project, restoring the meditation trail at the Episcopal Church;

Samantha Vaughan will publish a book of her poetry, after receiving instruction from Devon Atkins.

Development of Island Teens (DOIT) is an Island nonprofit catalyst that supports and develops unique potential and contributions of Vashon Island youth through funding of activities by and for youth, educating the community about youth empowerment, and advocating on behalf of youth. www.vashondoit.org

Tax-deductible year-end contributions to DOIT can be made by sending a check to Development of Island Teens, P.O. Box 2278, Vashon, WA 98070.

Loop Letters

How to Do Good and Have a Good Read

Editor, *The Loop*:

Besides supporting the many environmental, community, and farming organizations on Vashon, have you ever wondered what else you could do to help solve some of our environmental and social problems?

Have you thought that you could do more than reduce your car use, buy locally grown food, and use

energy and water more efficiently at home?

Maybe you saw Al Gore's movie and are thinking, "Now what?"

I encourage you to take a look at the book, *WorldChanging*, written mostly by younger people but for all ages of people. It opens with a direct explanation of why our old models of development won't continue to work for the developed world and can't work for all of the developing countries of the world. We don't have enough resources in the world to support that approach much longer. Thankfully there is a

Continued on page 7

Wolftown!

There is a place on an island that does something wonderful, and people like you make it all possible!

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A place where the education of the land is taught to young people from all over the world.

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A place where we work on the honor system so everyone can participate.



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Wolftown needs your help now!

We sustained heavy damage in last week's windstorm and are in dire, immediate need of volunteer help to rebuild fences and repair structures! All of our buildings and two of our vehicles were struck by falling trees! We also need assistance with wildlife rescue.

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Don't Forget the Birds

By Ed Swan No internet; no Ed.

Even More on War Plays

Continued from page 4

way the military handles mistakes. Take the case of the carrier that in early 1945 was sent without destroyer escort into a Japanese submarine zone. The carrier was sunk. Days passed before a chance over-flight by a reconnaissance plane spotted the men in the water. The captain and some of the crew survived. The Navy court-martialed the captain for not zig-zagging. The Navy never explained why no action was taken when the carrier was overdue. I think the higher-ups judged that faith in the very real nobility of the American military would carry the day and convict the scapegoat.

Or is the divide based on the Code of the West, every tenderfoot a Lord Jim, Eastern liberal tree-hugger vs. high rigger? I took a deferment and later realized I would be a better person had I not. At VFW parties I remain sitting when Olde John asks the veterans to stand. Is it a bravery divide?

What I come down to is that the difference between a person who is repelled by the play and a person who accepts the challenge of the play is degree of comfort with authority. And just as the *The War Plays* urges examination of belief, the American Legion should examine its belief.

Tom Herring

VFW Announces Essay Award Winners

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2826 thanks the following leaders of our wonderful Vashon Community for judging 106 Essays on November 15, 2006. The Essays were submitted from Students from the Chautauqua Elementary School, McMurray Middle School and the Vashon High School. The dedicated judges are Kevin Britz, Wally May, Patrice Vogel, Carla Fuller, Burdell Hollis, Tommy Lorantzen, Dick Franklin, John and Marj. Watkins, and Tom Langland. You folks make a difference.

An Awards Banquet, to honor students that participated in the VFW sponsored Essay Contest, will be conducted at the Veterans Hall on **Saturday, January 6, 2007**, starting at 1 p.m. Every student will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment. The first, second and third place winners in each grade that participated in the Contest, will receive a framed certificate and cash. The VFW Post 2826 desires to give the 1st place winners \$100, 2nd place winners \$75 and 3rd place winners \$50. This would cost \$1075. Contributions would be greatly appreciated to help the VFW to award the students reasonable awards. The Teachers, Judges of the Essays, and Community members that helped

with the Essay Contest will receive recognition. The VFW encourages the students to bring family and friends to the Banquet and all that helped with the Banquet are invited. Beverage and desert will be served. We hope to see you all there at the Veterans Hall. If you have questions, please call Olde John Croan, 463-2852.

Good Read

Continued from page 6

smarter, less wasteful, and ultimately more profitable model that is beginning to work for the environment, communities, and businesses. *WorldChanging* has more current information on this newer more sustainable model and more information on the detailed solutions than any book I have seen.

The book was written by over 60 people from all over the world. It includes good examples from Europe and Asia that will likely be helpful for North America. In a book like this there is the danger that the "experts" will claim to have all the answers and encourage us to follow them religiously. Early on the editor says that they do not claim to have all the answers in this book. He asks us to come up with better ideas and share them. Also the editor says, "Changing the world is a team sport, and there's a spot on that team for every person on the planet, though finding our spot can be damn hard...In these times, the question 'What will I do?' is one of the toughest we may ever ask ourselves." I'll bet looking at this book will help you answer that question for yourself.

***WorldChanging: A User's Guide for the 21st Century*, edited by Alex Steffen, Abrams, 596 pp., \$37.50**

The book makes a point that made me think of some of the challenges here on Vashon. It explains in a number of ways, with examples from around the world, that implementing sustainability is not just a matter of taking great ideas and repeating them everywhere. The best solutions are crafted with a deep respect and understanding for the culture, people, and environment of each place.

The Future of Food, Picking Green Materials, Nanotechnology, Green Remodeling, Thinking Differently About Water, Healing Polluted Land, Place-Making, Leapfrogging, Social Entrepreneurship, Creating Business Value from Sustainability, Connecting With Others, and A Personal Action Plan are just a few

of the topics that the writers cover. Some people may complain that the book does not go into enough depth. If this book had gone into much more depth its 600 pages would have ended up being 1,200 pages or more. I think it provides enough information on most topics to provide a good introduction without oversimplifying the subjects. Yet it also provides examples of what you can do now and where you can go for more information.

The book is not cheap, so you might want to share it with friends or ask for it at the library, although it is not the kind of book you will want to blow through quickly and never return to. With its hip photos, clear explanations of many issues, and practical solutions you will likely want to return to it many times. There is also a web site that you can go to, <http://worldchanging.com/>, to get updates on many off the topics in the book.

Michael Laurie

Larry Flynn

Continued from page 1

sugar, damn it. What do you mean I can't have 72 cookies?"

Suddenly the 50-something athletic-built balding man with a graying goatee bursts into a healthy rat-a-tat-tat laugh and looks around a very busy Café Luna to see if anyone notices he's having a good time talking about this disease called AIDS and what he's doing about it.

He's doing a lot.

The Care To Shop food drive he brought to Vashon has been lauded for gathering the most amount of food at one time for the Lifelong AIDS Alliance. Islanders donated some 1,200 pounds one day out of the 2,500 pounds collected countywide, Flynn notes. And that's typical for Vashon.

"It's an incredible amount of food. I've always been amazed at Vashon's generosity," he says remembering how one Islander one year handed him a fistful of cash during the holiday season and told him it wasn't enough after Flynn explained what he was doing. The man went to the bank to get more money. Flynn says the Islander—whose name he does know, but won't reveal—handed him some \$300 that day.

In earlier years, Flynn also did the AIDS Walk. One year he raised \$2,500 on his own. True to form, when offered his choice of prizes for going above and beyond, Flynn said he didn't want anything, wasn't doing it for the prizes. "But all right, I'll take a radio...and a shirt," he says, having another laugh at himself.

Flynn also has brought Seattle's Total Experience Gospel Choir for an evening concert on Vashon to help raise funds for the Bailey Boushay House in Seattle.

The Bailey Boushay House offers residential care and day health programs for people living with AIDS. The concert in September raised some \$1,600. It's an annual concert that Flynn stages almost single-handedly.

And when he introduces the group, Flynn takes the opportunity to talk about his past, the choices he's made, and the choices he hopes young people today avoid.

Indeed, concertgoers and Islanders should be forewarned: Flynn might spice up the welcome with humor, but he might also ask one of every five people in the audience to raise their hand as a way of showing that only a handful of AIDS victims can take the drugs that he takes to stay alive.

It is the humor that seems to fuel his fight against AIDS perhaps better than have food and the cocktail of some 30 pills a day he takes.

There's the humor, for example, that when he was a young, bar-hopping gay man in the 1980s, it would have been no big deal for him to plop down on someone's sofa for the night instead of heading home. But after having dinner in Seattle and coming home late recently, a friend invited Flynn to crash at his

house for the night and Flynn couldn't because he hadn't brought his medicine.

"My pills that give no thrills," Flynn jokes.

But then there's the reality of it all and a sad story.

He remembers how he was collecting for the cause one year when he noticed an Islander seeming to understand the issue too well. Asked why he was touched by the cause, the man told Flynn of a young Islander who had graduated from Vashon High School in the 1990s who had returned to the Island, with AIDS, and who had started sleeping with girls to infect them because "he didn't want to be alone," Flynn says the Islander told him.

"Once you have AIDS, you have a friend for life," Flynn says pensively, the smile caving in to a sunken look that Flynn has when humor fails ever so briefly.

"If I had life to life over, I'd go slower, I'd hope I would try to be smart enough to avoid the fast track and savor life more. I would like to avoid things that could kill me. I drank like a fish for 25 years," he says.

Actually, Flynn admits to anyone interested that he did way more than drink and do drugs in his youth. Way more.

Flynn remembers how one day 21 years ago he realized how many risk factors he had for AIDS. Drug use. Check. Promiscuous. Check.

"In 1985 I was curious about my health status and found out I was positive for AIDS," he said of deciding to be tested.

After discovering he had AIDS, he says he spent four years juggling disbelief, depression, anger and



Larry Flynn and a few members of his Care to Shop posse. They stand at the doors of Thriftway passing out flyers encouraging you to Care to Shop. Loop photo.

denial. A longtime friend who had introduced him to Vashon died in 1989.

And Flynn says he came to a realization that he needed to be celibate, and that he needed to advocate for AIDS sufferers.

Flynn uses the annual concert as a podium to challenge young people to lead monogamous lives.

"The way AIDS can find our children today is amazing," Flynn says of his concern for children,

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children he wishes he could have had.

There are Web sites that offer to help people acquire the dreaded disease so that they can be eligible for free state and federal health services for life, Flynn says.

"People are saying it's manageable. It's a stupid game to play," he says of such talk.

"Manageable? For those of us who saw the devastation in the 1980s and who are living with this, we are seeing benefits from the medicines...All that Dark Ages stuff is gone. But only one out of five people can take the drugs," he says.

And there are side-effects of the drugs and issues that Flynn says don't fit the manageable label.

"My feet are either too hot or too cold...they don't fit my shoes. They

As a Metro driver, he's known for getting to know people. And maybe stopping to pick up litter that's in the roadway.

"I try to lend a shoulder, and I'm always looking for one to lean on...And a hug," he says.

Flynn jokes that inside, he's still really that young man who wants to stay up all night, eat what he wants, go where he wants with whomever he wants.

But now, he's also that 50-year-old who is living with the consequences of the decisions he made in his 20s—and coping with a disease that was unknown to people back then. He's hoping to help those in need now and he's aiming to stop others from needing food and shelter because AIDS has drained their energy and their resources.

"When I was 20, 50 was old or dying. Now that I'm 50, 20-year olds don't know jack and 50 rocks."

"One should be ashamed to live without leaving a positive mark on humanity," is a saying Flynn picked up from an episode of Twilight Zone once. And it's how he's living the rest of his life.

It's what motivates him to bring a concert to Vashon once a year to raise funds for the Bailey Boushay House.

It's what keeps him standing outside of Vashon Thriftway once a month, come rain or shine and sometimes even illness, to collect food people he'll never meet but whose lives he understands oh too well.

This article was written by Allison Arthur, who can be reached at allisonarthur@yahoo.com

Who: The Chicken Soup Brigade collects high-protein food for the Lifelong AIDS Alliance in Seattle. The Care to Shop drive was brought to Vashon by Islander Larry Flynn in 1998.

When: Volunteers with the brigade collect food every third Saturday of the month in front of Thriftway from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What is needed: High-protein foods such as tuna fish, peanut butter and other foods with high calories. People who have AIDS need all the calories they can get, Flynn says. So no low-fat foods, please. Personal hygiene and household items such as paper towels and shampoo also are appreciated.

How to help: To volunteer, contact Flynn at 463-5286. Cash donations are also welcome, especially at this time of the year.

feel swollen...like they are over-inflated. And sometimes when I brush my teeth I cough up bile. That's not manageable to me."

But Flynn has overcome a lot; he hasn't let AIDS stop him from living a textured life.

He's built two houses. He's been a "world-famous" waiter at Sound Food. He has a garden. He's planning to create jewelry and do glassblowing and make pottery. He has a piano. He can play the clarinet.



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**Essay:
 Instructional
 Manual Not
 Included**

By Alice Orr

The best thing about becoming a mom in my twenties was that I didn't have a clue what was going on. Ignorance is bliss. The worst thing about becoming a mom in my twenties was that I didn't have a clue what was going on. Ignorance is scary. During the gestation part, I simply pretended it wasn't happening. The nausea should have been a tip-off on its own, but it was my nose that finally did me in. Certain smells, especially dishwater, sent me reeling. I'd heard that when the vomit urge struck, elevating the feet might help. The prospect of doing dishes with my feet over my head broke the back of my denial at last. I was pregnant for sure.

From then on, I worried about labor pains. "How will I know when I'm having one?" I asked every mother I knew. They each said the same thing. "You'll know." I was skeptical all the same. What if I mistook labor for indigestion? I'd be chewing Tums when I should grab my overnight bag and dash for the maternity ward. That overnight bag was another perplexing issue. What should I pack? I was a college kid in sloppy bum-arounds when this adventure started, but bum-arounds didn't strike me as correct couture for a new mom carrying home her bundle of baby for the first time. I

packed the bag, unpacked, repacked at least once a week, wondering if anything would ever look good on me again anyway. My waist had expanded, my ankles were swollen and I searched my thighs nightly for varicose veins.

Nonetheless, I managed to hang on to some of my denial. I bought no baby paraphernalia, stashed out of sight the gifts from the baby shower I almost didn't attend and cancelled obstetric appointments right and left. All to cover up my total, complete, irrevocable terror — the same terror that proved entirely justified when I went into labor (and I did recognize it immediately) earlier than predicted. I was crushed when no one at the hospital acted alarmed by my calendar's faulty timing. What did cause a tizzy at the admitting desk, however, was my revelation that I had somehow made it from conception to labor without telling anyone I planned on natural childbirth.

"Have you taken the classes?" the admitting nurse asked.

Classes? Didn't natural mean it came naturally? Why would I need classes? Lamaze was not a word that came up in campus lounge conversation, and my husband never mentioned it either. He was behaving the way expectant fathers tended to behave in those days, as if none of this had much to do with him. Meanwhile, I was realizing why I shouldn't have missed so many doctor appointments. Fortunately, the nursing staff knew

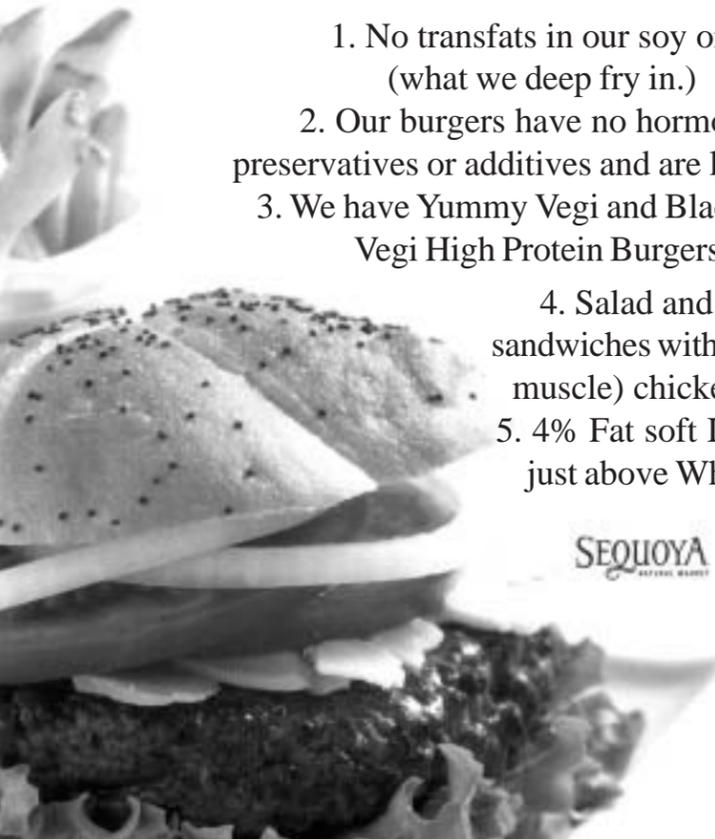
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SEQUOYA

what to do. I was assigned a private birthing room and given a crash course in breathing techniques. Unfortunately, those breathing tips fell straight out of my head when the real deal began. Soon I'd forgotten all about natural childbirth as well and was pleading for pharmaceutical intervention.

"What do you mean it's too late?" I shouted.

The nurses giggled. There I was in pigtails reminiscent of Pippy Longstocking to keep my college-girl's long hair out of my face, with a bright red adolescent pimple flaming at the end of my nose. Who wouldn't be inspired to laugh? Thank heaven, they medicated me anyway. So much so that my next clear recollection is of the following morning and a nurse putting my newborn son literally into my hands, laying him across my extended palms to be exact.

Mercifully, she closed the privacy curtains around my bed after that and hurried away. I didn't want witnesses. I did want to know what to do now. I had to get this completely swathed infant from arm's length in front of me to bottle feeding position. The baby was restless, perhaps sensing the precariousness of his perch. I had to act. I took a deep breath then curved my arms slowly and let the bundle that was my son — consigned by the universe to me for safekeeping — advance at a gradual roll, side over side, downward into my arms.

The next day, I turned twenty plus one month. These days, it is the fashion to postpone motherhood until a bit more maturity has set in. I can come down on either side of that debate. Still, were you to ask me what it was like becoming a

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mom so young, I would probably think about that tiny bundle rolling what felt like forever down my arms, and say, "I could have used an instruction manual."

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The reports, called biological evaluations, are required in order for the Corps of Engineers and the National Marine Fisheries Service to evaluate the impacts of Glacier's proposal on endangered salmon and endangered killer whales.

Preserve Our Islands requested these documents in early October, 2006 under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). The Corps acknowledged the existence of the documents but refused disclosure. The Corps' refusal is

The Dorsal Spin

Alas, no Dorsal Spin this issue, due to storm electrical/internet outages.

By Orca Annie Stateler



We're All Punting

Continued from page 1

and the Comcast people who have been here for days without much sleep.

A drive around the Island on Friday was an adventure in trees across roads and power lines, power and utility lines on the ground and in the road, shattered trunks, broken branches, piles of evergreen branches and other wind-fractured vegetation, not to mention all those utility workers in cherry pickers, cutting up trees or repairing lines.

There was a remarkable lack of notice of Vashon on the part of Puget Sound media. A map in a city newspaper showing communities affected managed to point out several towns around the Sound that were out of power and out of luck, but not a word about Vashon. In good times, we like it that people forget we're here. At times like this we realize that we really do need to be able to take care of ourselves.

Was it as bad as other storms? Who knows? There are more houses in the woods now than in



Tired utility pole resting on power lines on the Main Highway. Loop photo

the past, and more people living in them. It was bad enough.

"We're all punting right now," said Loop columnist Deborah Anderson, and indeed, many of us were making do and carrying on regardless of circumstances. We all learned a lot from this experience, and we know now that the disaster preparedness people are not kidding. Now get out there and stock up on batteries and drinking water. You might not need them for years, but you know now that when you need them, it's good to have them.

The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office. - Robert Frost



Asplundh crew at work on Friday. Loop photo

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PANDORA'S BOX

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Madame Toujours

Dear Madame Toujours,

I need help. Christmas is coming again, and something has got to be done about my husband Orville. Year after year, he buys me whatever strange and inappropriate object catches his eye. One year, I dropped hints for months about a new watch I wanted because my old one kept making me late for appointments. He bought me an electric rotisserie oven with wiener roasting attachment. The next year, I thought I needed to be more precise, so I gave him a list of gift suggestions from the Victoria's Secret catalog. He bought me half a pig and a chest freezer to keep it in. It went great with the rotisserie oven.

Last year, I tried getting my sister to hint really strongly that I might like a cashmere sweater. She even offered to pick it out and let him pay her back. He said he had it covered, and bought me a canvas slip cover for my car. Get it? "Covered." What a card.

I'm not any better at figuring out what he wants, but at least if he suggests something I can afford and recognize the name of, I try to get it for him. Is there some kind of guide to help people buy gifts for that difficult but special someone?

Sincerely,
Shoppin' for the Holidays

Chere Mme. Shoppin'

Ah the merry holiday seasons with the stresses and the conflicts and the wondering what the other person is thinking that they are giving you the ridiculous gifts. Many of the self-important persons, they are saying you should be thinking about the spiritual things and about how the

thoughts, they are more important than the gift. Possibly these persons are making you to feel guilty and inadequate by volunteering at the homeless shelters and the hospitals with the little childrens.

Faugh. This is the big silliness. Now is the season of the darkness and the dreariness. You are not being interested in the charitable virtues. You are wanting to have the stimulations from the bright colors and the shiny trinkets, the sugary treats and the spicy odors.

The trouble you are having is that M. Oliver, he is wishing to have for you the element of the surprises. He is not liking for you to tell him what to give you because this is spoiling the surprise. Also, you must be forgiving M. Oliver for the selection of the gifts. He is like the mighty hunter dragging home the mastodon and storing it in the chest freezer to demonstrate his prowess as the protector and provider for the lusty cavewoman. This is the exciting sexual fantasy, *n'est pas?*

Fortunately, there is the one simple rule for the giving of the pleasing holiday gifts: Bright colors, shiny objects, sweet and spicy treats. Select for Madame or Monsieur the shiny, red rotisserie oven, and it becomes the desirable holiday gift. Wrap the pork products individually in the shiny cellophane and the pretty bows, and it becomes the romantic Christmas delight.

Bon Chance, Mme. Shoppin', and now that you are receiving the charming Christmas gifts, possibly you can be sparing the little thought for the holiday spirits and the charitable virtues.

OOOO

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates. "In honor of this holy season" Saint Peter said, "You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven." The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle", he said. "You may pass through the pearly gates" Saint Peter said. The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells." Saint Peter said "You may pass through the pearly gates". The third man started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties. St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolize?" The man replied, "These are Carol's."



Book Review

Snow 2

and

One Man's Road to the Supreme Court

By Rachel Bard

First, some unfinished business. In the last *Loop* I confessed I hadn't been sufficiently captivated by Nobelist Orhan Pamuk's *Snow* to finish it. I promised if I did so, I'd report and repent.

Here's the report, but no repentance. I continued to find it ponderous, confusing and with a fuzzy plot as hard to grasp as the snowflakes that fall throughout the book.

Nevertheless, for anyone curious about modern Turkey and where it's going, it's a valuable work. A serious work. Just don't read it for laughs.

And yet, a faint suspicion. Could Pamuk possibly have meant this as a comic novel? Ka behaves so ludicrously sometimes that laughter is a reasonable response. *E.g.*, when he feels a poem coming on, no matter where he is he must rush to the nearest tearoom to sit down at a table and write it out before he loses it (unfortunately, I couldn't help comparing these compulsions to those of a person in urgent need of a bathroom). He managed to write 19 poems during his few days in Kars. Their titles are listed at the end of the book but we never get to read so much as a line.

Oh well. So much for Pamuk's murky modern Turkey. Let's move half a world and half a century away, to meet a stalwart fighter for justice and liberty, both as a lawyer and as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1916 to 1939.

Louis D. Brandeis came to be known as "The People's Lawyer" during his years in private practice in Boston. Often without pay, he represented consumers, laborers and small stockholders vs. large corporations. He made enemies in high places. In 1916 Woodrow Wilson appointed him to the Supreme Court, the first Jew to be so honored.

This book is about what happened next.

And if you think today's Senate hearings are often impolite, starkly partisan, and drawn out, you should have been there from January 28 to May 24, 1916. That was how long it took a subcommittee and then the full Judiciary Committee to vote, on partisan lines, to confirm Brandeis. It must have been one of the longest and most acrimonious confirmation hearings in our history.

Todd's narrative is detailed, yet full of suspense. Who will bring up what new charge? How will the committee counsel refute it? (Brandeis himself never was called

to testify.) He had powerful opponents. They included former President Theodore Roosevelt (who sympathized with many of Brandeis's progressive views, but was hoping to snag the 1916 Republican presidential nomination); former President William Howard Taft, who had hoped for a Supreme Court nomination for himself; President Lowell of Harvard, who proclaimed to his fellow New Englanders that Brandeis was undependable if not sneaky; President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University; and the elder statesman of the Senate, Henry Cabot Lodge. Not to mention the *New York Times*.

Todd is skilled at bringing these long-gone figures out of musty history tomes and onto the brilliantly lit stage of his book. Here's Lodge:

"He was a reserved man, proud and aloof, aware that he had read more books, and written more, and spoke a finer English than

most other men in America. The sweeping gray whiskers, the erect bearing, the cane and the swinging pace as Lodge walked confidently down Massachusetts Avenue combined to give him that look of distinction expected of the patrician born to wisdom and leadership."

The nominee's Jewishness never came up in the hearings, but it was a behind-the-scenes factor. A nephew of Lodge's hoped to influence his uncle with this oblique support of Brandeis's professional ethics:

"In the main his ideas of right and wrong are those of the rest of us, but he is a Hebrew and, therefore, of Occidental race and his mind is an Oriental mind, and I think it very probable that some of his ideas of what were fair might not be the same as those of a man possessing an Anglo-Saxon mind."

The hearings dragged on, with wheeling and dealing and attempts by the Republicans to dredge up evidence of Brandeis's unsuitability. The public grew impatient, as did Wilson. Eventually though, the committee voted on party lines for confirmation; the matter went to the full Senate which, again on party lines, voted for confirmation on June 1, 1916.

Leaving to other historians the chronicle of Brandeis's long career on the court, Todd gives us in this excellent book a tale that holds the interest while introducing us to a giant of American jurisprudence.

Justice on Trial, by A. L. Todd. McGraw-Hill, 1964.



Louis D. Brandeis

□□□□

Happy Birthday Marie



You are many things to many poeple. Thank you for the things you are to me. My wife, my partner, my friend, my confidant, and my soulmate. Have a great birthday! I love you

Loop Letters

Administration Lied

Editor, *The Loop*:

I did not see the play in question (*Ed. Note: The War Plays, done by Vashon High School Drama II in early November*) but I stand firmly behind the rights of the high school to put it on. I'm sick and tired of hearing "Let's support our troops in Iraq." Our young men and women in Iraq have been sold a bill of goods by a twisted, perverse administration. They've been lied to, misled into throwing their lives away in order to maim and destroy innocent civilians, and reduce an already-crippled nation to a wasteland of amputees and orphans.

Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with 911. He had no weapons to threaten the U.S. He was trained in the arts of destruction by the CIA. We made him what he was! But it's his former subjects who are paying for what Osama bin Laden

did. The chief terrorist in the world is the US government. If we want to stop terror we must return our country to a state of democracy rather than fascism. If we want to create a safe world we have to stop murdering thousands of helpless civilians. The right to torture and kill is nothing to be proud of. It is not something that makes us safer - it destroys our safety and well-being, and turns thousands against us. I support our troops to stop fighting, disobey their commanding officers, and come home.

Mark Borax

A war hasn't been fought this badly since Olaf the Hairy, chief of all the Vikings, accidentally ordered 8,000 battle helmets with the horns on the inside --Edmund Blackadder (Rowan Atkinson), *BlackAdder Goes Forth*

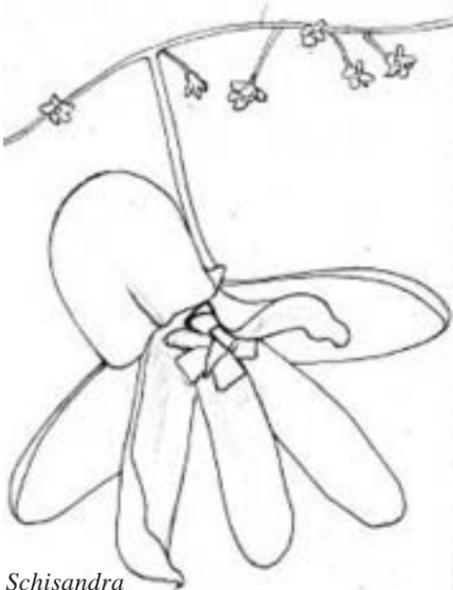


Immune Tonics and Immune Stimulants

By Kathy Abascal

I keep getting asked questions that tell me that many people are confused about the difference between an immune tonic and an immune stimulant. It is an important topic, especially as we head into the thick of cold and flu season and one worthy of a certain amount of repeating, so here goes.

We use certain herbs to help us achieve a better immune balance, that is, an immune system that is able to handle whatever comes its way without overreacting. These herbs tonify the immune system and help it maintain the strength and agility to handle immune challenges appropriately and well. They are great herbs for most of us because our daily lives,



Schisandra

filled with stress, poor food choices, lack of exercise, poor sleep, etc., wear us down and diminish our ability to mount an appropriate response when we encounter a cold or flu virus. In some cases, our immune system becomes quite imbalanced and we develop allergies and asthma that make us much more prone to respiratory infections. People who suffer frequent colds and sore throats definitely need to strengthen and balance their immune system.

We use other herbs to stimulate our immune system. When we are exposed to a respiratory virus, we need to mount a quick but reasonable response to the invading virus. We need to check its ability to replicate but we do not want to overproduce inflammatory compounds that will cause us unnecessary symptoms. Our own immune system, if it gets carried

away, can produce too much mucus, too many aches, and too high of a fever.

When we are not fighting off a virus or bacteria, we do not need immune stimulation. Michael Moore, my teacher, likened certain immune cells to the riot squad. They can be useful in a full fledged riot but they are not something you want running around your neighborhood on a daily basis. It follows that you do not want to use echinacea (*Echinacea spp.*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), Western cedar (*Thuja plicata*) or usnea (*Usnea spp.*) to "build" your immune system. These are herbs to take when you are actually getting sick.

When you want to build your immune system for challenges that lie ahead, you should turn to adaptogenic herbs, medicinal mushrooms or an herb like astragalus (*Astragalus membranaceus*). Adaptogenic herbs are the great builders. They modify our stress response at a very deep level and help us become much more able to deal appropriately with the stress that cold and flu viruses can cause. Adaptogens include the various

types of ginseng (*Panax spp.*), eleuthero (*Eleutherococcus senticosus*), rhodiola (*Rhodiola rosea*) and schisandra (*Schisandra chinensis*). Medicinal mushrooms, especially in those prone to allergies, shift the immune system into a state that is more

alert to the presence of viruses and bacteria and less prone to overreact to basically innocuous compounds. Astragalus is not an adaptogen but is a gentle herb that works to strengthen the immune system specifically. It is a sweet tasting root that can be added to soups, stews, and broths. It can also be taken as a tincture or a capsule. The adaptogens and mushrooms are quite slow acting, and are usually most helpful if taken a month or so before cold and flu season starts. Astragalus works a little more quickly but not quickly enough to be of much use in an acute infection.

So which herbs should you take if you find yourself coming down with a cold or flu? There are many, many good choices, and it is impossible to say unequivocally that one is better than the other. For the very early stages of infection, say when you are flying or are around people



Kathy Abascal's New Book Now Available!

Kathy Abascal's New Book Now Available! You can now buy her 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 a professional member of the American Herbalists Guild and is certified by Michael Moore of the Southwest School of Botanical Medicine. She co-authored the book *Clinical Botanical Medicine*.

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

who are sick, I recommend a combination of echinacea, elderberry and schisandra. The schisandra is an adaptogen and I use it because many times you may not actually be infected but just have been stressed out by travel. If you were actually exposed, the elderberry will prevent viral attachment, a necessity for flu or colds to take hold. Echinacea stimulates the immune system but does not pack a wallop. The formula tastes good and is easy to take frequently.

If I am feeling that I may have ignored the early symptoms but I do not yet have full blown cold symptoms, I switch to echinacea and elderberry. At this point, if you are fond of Western cedar you could add it instead of echinacea. The antiviral aspects of elderberry are still useful. And, if you were not paying attention and you have a real cold, I would turn to a formula that has some herbs that have a history of preventing lung inflammation such as Osha

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(*Ligusticum porterii*) or pleurisy root (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

So, build your immune system while you are still healthy. Stimulate your immune system when you are getting sick or are sick. And if you are impressed by traditional wisdom, do not confuse the two. According to many traditions, you should avoid stimulants in health and tonics when you are sick. ☺☺☺☺

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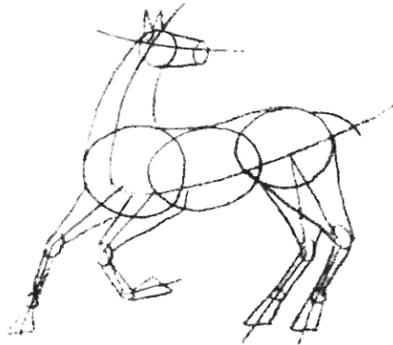
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Planet Waves



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

Aries (March 20-April 19): Perhaps the surprise of the year was how much you have to share with others, and how much others are willing to share with you. We live in a time when private interests dominate everything, and where for the most part our homes have become so isolated that we tend to forget that they are designed to facilitate not only solitude, but also community. There is something to be said for sharing your washing machine with a neighbor. Live human voices are riskier than the television, because people have needs. But it's good to be in contact with the pleasure of helping others find fulfillment.

Taurus (April 19-May 20): Home is where the front door closes and locks. Home is where you are the boss. Many people pay rent but don't know the power of that lock; many more still feel like they live in their parents' place, or must follow the rules of phantom authority figures in their minds who seem to know what is best, having nothing to do with what feels right, or what you want, or what you need, for that matter. Times are changing fast. There was an element of deception you needed to penetrate; there was a door you needed to walk through. Remember how you did it, because you may need to do it again.

Gemini (May 20-June 21): There can be no doubt: if you don't feel right, you're not where you belong. This may pertain to a relationship or to a physical space; it may refer to the work you do or the city or town you call home. Once feelings enter the picture, however, it becomes more difficult to deny them, which is why it's so darned popular to get rid of them. For you, there is no turning back. This is a lifetime like no other, a moment in your personal history that has no valid comparison, and you are discovering

yourself (mainly by feeling) someone you never expected to become.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Every impulse in your body has said the same thing: you need to have more fun. The thing is, fun can be serious business. Satisfying pleasure takes effort, particularly when you're intimately aware of the implications of your choices. So, this year has been something of a balancing act, or maybe you've had the feeling of treading on the surface of water like a bug. If you're not plunging to the bottom of the lake, you're doing a fine job holding your own walking all the way out to the center. Now that you're there, what do you plan to do? Of course, remember why you came.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23): Jupiter and so much other activity in Scorpio pretty much assure that you're living in a better space, a better place, and a better way of life. But the question is: do you feel safer? Why or why not? If you set your mind to it, you'll feel a lot more secure, but this exists more as a potential than as a hard and fast reality. Conflicting signals the past month have raised your doubts, but at this point you are solid enough with the world and yourself to dare some new experiments in family, art and the art of living.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): Your ideas keep changing and growing, and in many ways have run apace of your physical reality. You know what it means to feel good, yet have a long way to go getting there. You've experienced many improvements in your private space, which seem to have come on the heels of so much change and disruption. But you've yet to set about the real business of bringing these ideas to full fruition. The winds of change have begun to blow: you now know your home is an international place of some kind, be it in theme or actual location on the ground.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23): What do you consider your home? Does it extend

beyond the four walls you occupy, into the surrounding community? Now you will see why this way of defining your living space is so obvious, necessary and helpful. By denying that home is also a common space, and a shared idea, we constrain ourselves to isolation and cut ourselves off from resources and support. Over the next few weeks you seem poised to blaze out with a message of hope and unity. Speak loudly, and clearly, because many are waiting for information on just this topic.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): All these irritating qualities you keep discovering about where you live have, at least, given you endless opportunities to make improvements. This seems to be a process you've settled into willingly and even happily, particularly when you compare it to the five years or so before you made your really big changes through 2005. When does it end? Well, not as long as you keep going, but you do have some power to spare: your profound ability to solve, resolve, repair and renovate is a great gift to your friends, family and neighbors.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22): You have, by some grace, miracle or heavenly karma, been able to soothe over tensions at home, and in truth, begun the process of emotional healing that you have so long sought. You're more realistic than most people give you credit for, at least in your insistence that people are people and entitled to their misgivings and trespasses. Rare is the chance to go deep beneath the surface of these little waves and find a place of solace. You will soon see, however, that peace of mind is the most powerful force in the universe — second only to the persistent restlessness for which you are so deservedly famous.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): These days it seems your physical setting verges on irrelevant; your inner world is so illuminated, you could light the way

through a deep forest on a rainy night. You bring your home with you, wherever you go, and people can feel it. I suggest you take it with you consciously, wherever you may go this month — and by every indication, you long to travel far and wide, but it's all the same place. The words of the poet John Gardner come to mind: "If my heart lies here, within my breast, light it up! / And I'll invite you in as my first guest."

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Aquarius is the sign of friends, and this is a rare season of companionship for you. At this point, nothing can work against you: no distractions turn to productive exchanges; casual discussions turn to visionary journeys of the mind. Put up your Christmas lights early, and tell the world your doors are open. Offer your best food and drink, and welcome those people you love, and those you do not know. Miracles are in the air, particularly your kitchen and living room.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): One problem that many of the most successful people have is staying grounded. Somehow, the solid foundations that success is standing on end up being far below the levels where the breakthroughs occur. Pisces is the sign of the feet. Keep them on the ground, and keep hot food on the stove as the enormous changes of this month send their tidings of the future: tidings of progress, honor and the only success that deserves the name — that which heals the world, and heals you at the same time.

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

Due to time constraints from now until January the horoscope will be shorter than usual. The regular length will resume in January.

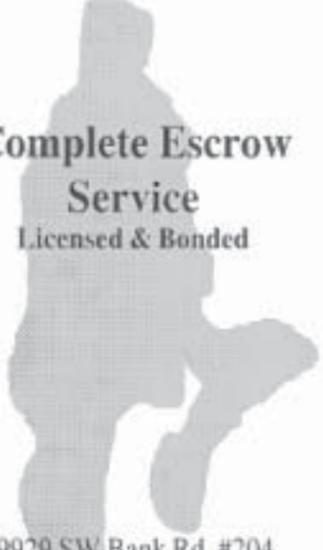


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Island Epicure



The Cup That Cheers

By Marj Watkins

Glad Yule, Feliz Navidad, Mele Kalikamaka, and Merry Christmas!

I write this column ten days before Christmas Eve, in the midst of gift selection, Christmas card sending and getting, and with a downpour of rain on the roof making staying indoors quite pleasant. It's a day for hot tea, chocolate, or coffee Vienna, or a latte.

So many people asked for the recipe for the pink punch we served at the Kiwanis dinner for seniors December 10th, that I said I'd put it in *The Loop*. Unless you're serving enough people to drink 50 cups, this particular punch recipe may need considerable adapting. We made 150 cups, but 100 might have been enough. Last year 150 were too few. This year's crowd was larger but less thirsty. Leftover punch can be refrigerated in glass jars, tightly covered, for several days.

Kiwanis Pink Punch
 1(12-ounce) can frozen lemonade concentrate
 1 (12-ounce) can, or 2 (6-ounce) cans frozen limeade
 3 (12-ounce) cans frozen cranberry juice concentrate
 1 (12-ounce) can pineapple juice concentrate
 18 (12-ounce) cans water
 Decant all the juices into a very large stockpot.
 Add 1/3 to 1/2 of the water. Stir to dissolve all the concentrates. Add the rest of the

water. Stir. Transfer to pitchers with ice cubes, or vast punchbowl with ice cubes or ice ring. Ladle into 5-ounce plastic cups.

Ice Ring — Makes 1 (12-inch) ice ring
 Orange slices
 Cranberries
 Camellia leaves
 Water

Pour a little water into the ice ring and freeze it. Arrange fruits and leaves decoratively on the ice. Gently, so as not to disturb your design, add water up to about 1-inch from the rim. Freeze it on a very flat, level surface.

To unmold, immerse almost up to the rim in a basin or sink of very hot water for a few seconds. Top with a plate larger than the ring mold. Invert. Lift off the mold. Transfer ring carefully—don't splash—into your punchbowl.

Several guests asked if the Kiwanis punch contained any alcohol. No. But if you prefer a punch with punch, here is an old Dutch one that serves a smaller group. Why they call it "Bishop," I don't know, unless it was first introduced at a Christmas celebration a Bishop gave for a few special friends. Made with Bordeaux wine, it's an Archbishop; with champagne, a Cardinal; with Burgundy, a Pope. You may want to preheat the mugs by pouring boiling or very hot water into them, then pouring it out.

Bishop — Makes 12 drinks in mugs
 2 oranges, each studded with 10 to 12 whole cloves
 12 cubes sugar
 1 lemon
 3 bottles ruby port
 Freshly grated nutmeg
 Roast oranges in preheated 400 degree oven 30 minutes. Rub sugar cubes into lemon's skin. Quarter oranges. Place in saucepan with the sugar and the juice of the lemon. Add wine. Heat to boiling, stirring to melt sugar.

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Solution to Puzzle on page 16

Simmer 2 minutes. Serve in warmed mugs. Sprinkle with nutmeg.

Café Vienna — Makes 1/2 cup mix (9 tablespoons), enough for 12 cups of Café Vienna

Combine:
 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
 1/4 cup instant coffee
 1/4 cup sugar, Splenda®, or Sugar Twin®

Pour boiling water into 2 slightly rounded teaspoons of

mix. Stir. Pour in milk to taste. Serve with whipped cream, or without.

□□□□

It was mealtime during a flight. "Would you like dinner?" the flight attendant asked Ralph, seated in front. "What are my choices?" Ralph asked. "Yes or no," she replied.



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Positively Speaking

Eternally Grateful

By Deborah Anderson

There was a wonderful copy of this column written by flashlight as I rode the storm out. Yikes! Scary, scary, scary.

But in the light of day it appeared ardent and strident and clearly reflected the stress I was feeling as I huddled in my bed listening to the old school metal carport creak on the property behind us; praying it wouldn't come apart and start flying.

So I scrapped it.

I decided to answer a serious question in a detailed way. I may only do this once so, be forewarned, it's long. My passion excels seven hundred to nine hundred words.

Someone asked me what Christmas meant to me. If you these words regularly you know I come from a Judeo Christian tradition. I try not to use lingo, because it only makes sense if you're in the club.

For the first time in several years, ten to be exact. I had a truly stressful and awful week, day after day, after day, after day.

I always feel blessed to travel by ferry and am more than forgiving and uncomplaining. But when the second boat of the day, 6:25 a.m., WAS LATE BY HALF AN HOUR????????!!!!!!! Personally I think the Issaquah has been given all the chances it should be given. Especially when I carrying hot brunch for six in the car.

Sunday I wasted about eight hours just sitting around waiting. This time of year, that just adds stress. Especially when I discover my knitting was not at home, but in the car slipped behind the front seat.

Monday I was a turquoise and teal snowflake in the middle of the black lagoon. I stood out like a sore thumb in a rock club waiting on a stool till midnight to see a friend perform. The management was unyielding about my daughter being in the bar area. So I kept her company by the open front door where...everyone put their drinks on the counter in front of her and asked her to watch them while they went outside for a smoke!

When we arrived home, we found two pit bull mixes guarding our house as if it was there. Getting the cops to help was an event in itself. The 911 dispatch told me it didn't sound like I was trying. I explained when I got out of the car, they growled at me and now were circling the porch. She told me it was an animal control issue. Folks...I have a fuse a mile long. It takes a whole lot of stuff to happen before I raise my voice or assert myself. But the words that followed were, "Look. This is Vashon. It's 3 a.m. We only ever have two cops on duty. The bars are closed and everyone else is asleep. I guarantee they're looking for something to do!" And what is her response? "M'am. You don't have to tell me about Vashon. Great. I have man eaters circling my abode and she wants to bring up the dispatch issue!"

Tuesday brought a friend's brush with possible cancer. Too personal to detail.

Wednesday my back went out because you can't act like you're thirty unless you work out like you're thirty. Annoyed with

myself, I moved like I was walking to my own funeral.

Thursday was spent in the tension of the storm preparation...and walking like the cripple I am.

Friday's big mistake was thinking going to Tacoma to watch *Apocalypto* while we got gas was a good cathartic move.

And let us not forget the bank account mess with the postdated check I forgot and the deposit that didn't get posted right away. More annoyance at myself.

Lastly, color in the overarching wash of not one night of lengthy or restful sleep.

Here's why the story of Jesus' birth and the rest of the story mean something to me. It means this life is not all there is. The antsyness that comes with a trying week (which old time Christians call 'getting up in your flesh') is replaced by a supernatural ability to be centered in love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self control.

The stuff this week was small potatoes. A whole bag of it, but small potatoes nonetheless. Yet we all know it's the small stuff that gets us. Big stuff somebody else rides alongside. It's our nature to reach out and to receive during the big stuff.

Because of my faith his birth means...

I stop and remind myself the ferry worker didn't personally break the boat.

I remember hours spent waiting in pleasant conversation with those who are also waiting are the core of life.

I look at people with studs and tattoos and black leather and pink hair as people who also celebrate the holidays and wonder if anyone has told them God loves them.

I see what was in front of my face all the time and open myself up to receive as a gift even if I am unsure or feel afraid.

I know God rescues me. God will give me the words to ask for help or send someone without asking.

When a bullet is dodged, I know somehow God was behind it all restoring the brokenness of life.

When I take a wrong turn and go along with the crowd, God will cause my feet to walk to a new place where hope and happiness (sic.....you have to see the movie "In Pursuit of.....") reign supreme.

It means when the waitress at Sheri's brings me a meal forty five minutes after I've ordered it that is only half there and isn't really what I ordered, I smile and offer her encouragement and leave a tip anyway.

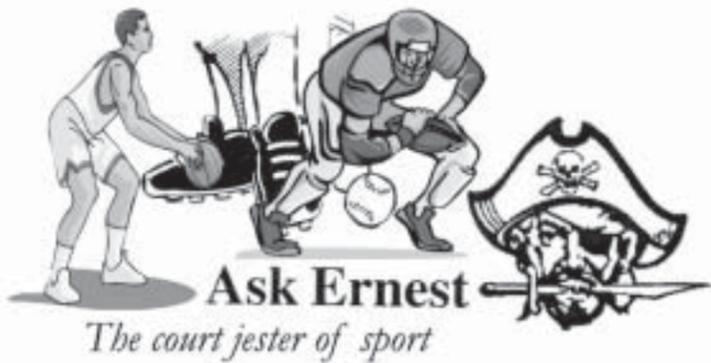
Jesus eventually said, "I have come to bring you life and bring it to the fullest...that my Joy might be in you."

That's what it means.

Merry Christmas.

Love

Deborah



This picture symbolizes youth. The young girl in the picture is actually 34 years old, but, in the picture, she appears to be just a baby. Crazy. Long live Piper Grace and the Hendrix Family!

Dear Ernie,

I recently saw *Stranger than Fiction* and I found it to be very deep and symbolic. The wristwatch was his demise (ultimately=time) and the guitar represented Harold's freedom. It made me think of the holidays. Our family celebrates the holidays the morning after Smackdown. I wake up in the morning after a big big time wrestling match to find some gift in a stocking above one of our four family microwaves. Sometimes it's something delicious like a tube of cheese whiz and sometimes there's a really sentimental gift in my stocking, like a can of frank and beans or a Poison tape. Anyhow, can you put some really symbolic pictures in there this time, and please let the readers know what they mean!



Jaron Webbhoffer poses with just a few of his MANY ferry schedules. The schedules represent his daily activities— his life is ruled by the ferries and his bathroom breaks. Also, Jaron is switching to water after a brief addiction to Powerade and bananas without the peels. "I can't believe most people eat bananas with the peels," JW said in an interview, "because to me it tastes a lot better when you peel it first."

Come to the Rock Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, December 30 at the Vashon High School Gymnasium. All Day! Watch many of the top 1A and 2A teams in the state go at it.



Trial Version! This picture represents the Vashon Wrestling Team at the trial version of the Blaine Wrestling Tournament. This tournament took place only on the internet. It's crazy how real looking things can appear as trial versions on that new thing called the internet.

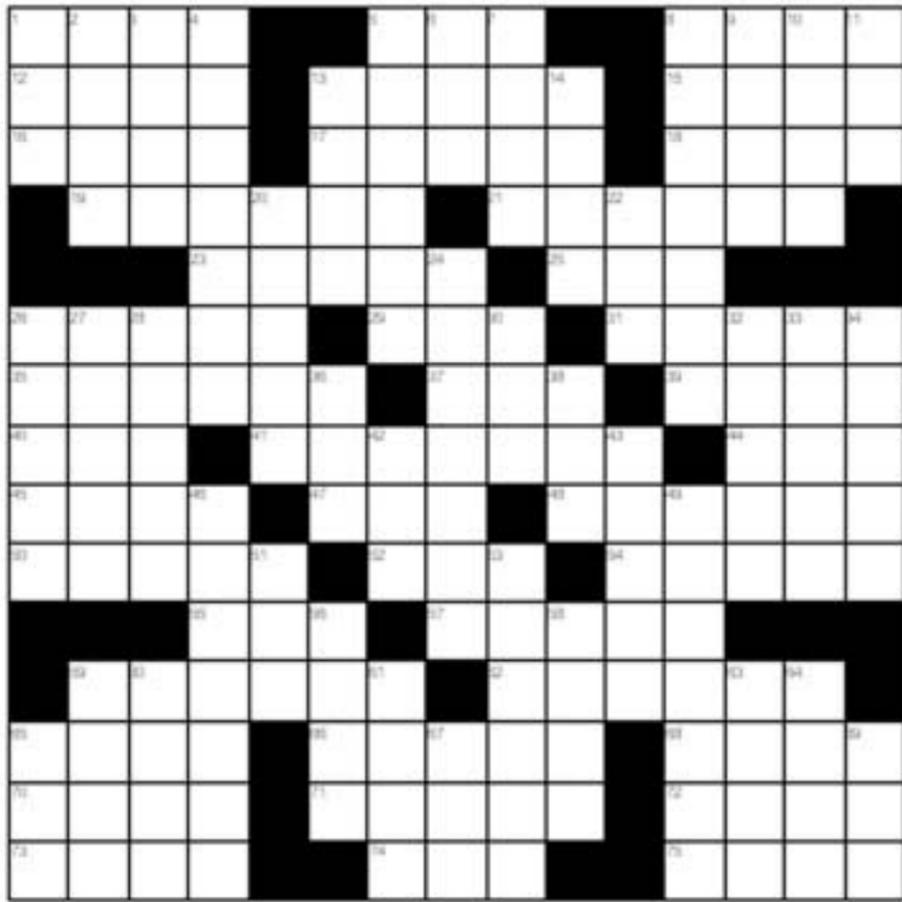
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Across

- 1 Run easily
- 5 Wonder
- 8 Clasp
- 12 Charge card
- 13 Aromas
- 15 On the ____ of Capri
- 16 Platter
- 17 Beach
- 18 Ham
- 19 Dishevel
- 21 Teeter totter
- 23 Save for later
- 25 Opp. Of NNE
- 26 Afloat (2 wds.)
- 29 Flightless bird
- 31 Ecto ____
- 35 Food storage place
- 37 Finale
- 39 Bloodsucking bug
- 40 Second day of the wk.
- 41 Muscle builder
- 44 Licensed practical nurse
- 45 Omelette basic
- 47 Wheel tooth
- 48 Cringe
- 50 *Gone With the Wind's* Mr. Butler
- 52 Part of a min.
- 54 Road
- 55 Three
- 57 Style of Greek column
- 59 Christmas drink
- 62 Rock group __ Crue
- 65 Pacific island
- 66 Indian pole
- 68 Iraq's neighbor
- 70 Writer Bombeck
- 71 Having wings
- 72 Father
- 73 What kids want
- 74 M/Sgt.
- 75 Cabana

Down

- 1 Young man
- 2 Leave out
- 3 Dinero
- 4 Exempted
- 5 Stick
- 6 Court
- 7 Goofs
- 8 Herself opposite
- 9 Sailing
- 10 Cabbage Salad
- 11 Cat
- 13 Norwegian capital
- 14 Observes with eye
- 20 Goes out solo
- 22 Clairvoyance
- 24 Arose
- 26 Not before
- 27 Verity
- 28 Military attack
- 30 Card game
- 32 Grant
- 33 Reddish brown
- 34 Masculine
- 36 And so forth
- 38 Director (abbr.)
- 42 Goddess
- 43 Charge
- 46 Marks of disgrace
- 49 Lance Armstrong
- 51 Container
- 53 Celestial bodies
- 56 Small particle
- 58 Italian capital
- 59 European monetary unit
- 60 A little too ripe
- 61 Jewelry metal
- 63 Canal
- 64 Thread
- 65 Understand
- 67 __ chi chuan
- 69 Profit less expenses

Solution on page 14

They think that whenever anyone in the White House now tells a lie, I get a royalty.
- Richard Nixon

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Lopy Laffs

Since people with dyslexia have trouble reading, why isn't dyslexia easier to spell?

One Liners

History does not repeat itself, historians do.
 I've had amnesia for as long as I can remember.
 It's not hard to meet expenses, they're everywhere.
 I'm a light eater. As soon as it's light, I start to eat.
 Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which you can die.
 When you get done smelling the roses, braise them in butter & garlic.
 Put cheese on your hamburger. No point in using only part of the cow.

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

There's room for all God's creatures—right next to the mashed potatoes.

I assume full responsibility for my actions, except the ones that are someone else's fault.

Parents work hard to give their children a better life than they had and then complain about how easy the kids have it.

How come you never see Cupid with a girl?

I don't care how much you and your cat love each other, if you were one inch smaller than the sweet little kitty, he'd eat you in a heartbeat. —Tom Gard

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

My wife dresses to kill. She cooks the same way. —Henny Youngman

An enlisted man in the Army was applying for a job for after his term was up. He was confronted by the question, "How long has your present employer been in business?" He thought for a moment, then wrote, "Since 1776."



Children are natural mimics - they act like their parents in spite of every attempt to teach them good manners.

Chaos Theory is a new theory invented by scientists panicked by the thought that the public were beginning to understand the old ones.

I think that someone must have surveillance equipment set up in my living room, because every once in a while, someone on the TV will tell me what channel I'm watching. That really freaks me out, you know? —Pam Stewart

Let your mind be as a floating cloud. Let your stillness be as the wooded glen. And sit up straight. You'll never meet the Buddha with posture like that.

Crossword Solution Can Be Found on Page 14



LOGJAM



Dear Comics Readers,
Comics have been affected by the storm and power and internet outages along with everything else. Offshore and Logjam are reruns; VIPS I captured from the website. Because there were specific seasonal cartoons trapped in my home desktop, we may observe Orthodox Christmas in the next issue, January 3, 2007. Sometimes an editor's life is not an 'appy one.



Loop Arts



Camille Coldeen and Halley Pearson
Courtesy Photo

Andromeda and Kissmequick at Café Luna this Saturday

Andromeda & Kissmequick (a musical group, not a law firm) will be playing a show at Cafe Luna on December 23 at 7:30 p.m. The group is comprised of Halley Pearson on drums, Kyle Pringle on guitar, and Camille Coldeen on keyboard. The group's repertoire is mostly original songs written by Pearson and Coldeen.

Camille Coldeen was formerly a member of "The Brazen Intellectuals," and Halley Pearson is a percussionist in the High School band.

New Year's Eve Irish Ceili Dance and Music Session at the Grange Hall

Pipe in the New Year with the Vashon Celtic Dance Society at the Grange Hall! From 8 p.m. until 2007 we'll host a community Irish Ceili dance with ample breaks for Irish session musicians to jam. The Irish dance band Gold Ring will anchor the evening and Kathleen O'Grady-Graham will teach and call the dances. The regular suggested donation is \$8 (\$6 for students and seniors). Bring an instrument and participate for a reduced suggested donation of only \$5! The Grange Hall is located in the north-end ferry dock parking lot (upper lot). Ceili dancing is a "barn dance" style accessible to nearly everyone. No partner or experience is required. Photos of past dances can be found at www.hoilands.com. For more information about the Vashon Celtic Dance Society, call Shannon Seath Meyer at (206) 774-4047 or Lori Malczyk at (206) 304-1452.



Author Judi Blaze courtesy photo

Judi Blaze Reading and Book Signing

Vashon author Judi Blaze will be doing a reading and book signing of her latest novel, *Beach People*, at Café Luna on **Thursday, December 28**, at 7 p.m.

A combination of mystery, suspense and romance, *Beach People* takes place on the Oregon coast where fishermen, loggers and artists make up the population of three villages.

Beach People is Blaze's third novel, following her award-winning novel, *On Indian Time*, and *Riding on a Rainbow*. As a former journalist, her articles and short stories have appeared in a variety of newspapers and magazines.

The characters are rich and sharply drawn — rugged, gentle Monty, brilliant but tortured Pepper, Larry, a sociopath parasite snared by his own duplicity, the mad-hatter Marco, and Barb, the seductress, whose arrival changes the town forever.

Beach People is currently available at Old & Funqui, The Vashon Bookshop, and Books by the Way, as well as at www.buybooksontheweb.com and various other websites.

Wayne Roller Promises to Rock Café Luna

Wayne Roller has just released his debut solo CD, and will be appearing at Café Luna on **Saturday, January 6** to sing his songs for you. He is a singer/songwriter who has performed as a comic, a dancer, and whatever else could get him on stage. He was vaccinated with a hambone. You can learn more about Wayne Roller and download music for free at: www.myspace.com/therealroller.



Wayne Roller, workin' that Bob Dylan-Phil Ochs-Richard Farina mojo. Courtesy photo.

Oliver! Auditions



Gretchen Neffenger leads a roomful of young hopefuls in a skip around Lewis Hall at auditions for *Oliver*, the Drama Dock spring 2007 musical, directed by Elizabeth W. Anthony and starring many of your relatives. Rehearsals begin after the New Year. Loop photo



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Loopy sez: Deadline for the
next edition of *The Loop* is
Friday, December 29

Ranked Choice Voting

Continued from page 1

to be elected, a portion of his or her remaining votes, called "surplus" by the stv.sourceforge.net people, are allotted to other candidates. These transferable votes are allocated by algorithms that take into account ranking by each voter.

All "1" or first choice votes are added up for each candidate in the first tabulation. Anyone getting 86 or more was elected Nov. 7. The decision as to how many votes it takes to be elected is made by election officials based mostly on the number of valid votes and number of positions to be filled.

"Choice voting" is similar to "Open Single Transferable Vote" which people at stv.sourceforge.net call a "Customizable Fractional Single Transferable Vote" (STV). The method used here, with an Island innovation, is based on a British Columbia originated STV. There seem to be many varieties of STV since it was introduced in 1870. Roberts Rules of Order, adopted by the VMICC, discusses a kind of IRV.

Proponents call the process fairer for all because fewer votes are "wasted" as they would be if a very popular candidate were elected. And ties are easier to resolve because the computer can process data so much faster than people with pencils and adding machines.

Another benefit is that representation may more accurately reflect interest groups with candidates in the race. Outcomes are proportional to votes. In other words, if there are nine positions to be filled and your group can muster 10 percent of the first place votes for your candidate, your group can elect her. You have to guess how many valid votes will be cast so you can know how many supporters to get to the polls.

Your voting is most powerful if you rank every candidate.

Ranked choice voting "... eliminates the so-called spoiler effect and wasted vote effect (of ordinary plurality and run off elections) and gives voters a more democratic set of choices" according to David Cobb, Patrick Barrett, and Caleb Kleppner writing for the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy.

They argue that ranked choice voting gives voters more choice, frees major party candidates from the fear that a third party candidate would spoil their election, (by luring away party votes) and better respects the will of the majority. This "strengthen(s) the mandate" of the winner.

In partisan elections choice voting can save taxpayers the cost and time of a primary election. Thus ranked choice voting might make it more attractive to vote, Cobb and others suggest. Voters are less apt to skip voting in the second or runoff elections as many do now in general elections.

Some election officials say the cost of changing to ranked choice elections is too high compared to keeping the present plurality-winner-takes-all voting.

Whatever the reasons for opposing ranked choice voting some major party politicians support ranked choice voting. Senator John McCain and Howard Dean are examples.

Islander Dan Scheuler, computer consultant, (dans@islandimage.net), wrote a program to make it easy for ordinary laymen to type into an ordinary desktop computer what those 858 folks put on their ballot. It took six volunteers about three hours to open the ballot boxes, smooth out the ballots, and double check them.

A major part of the head start for Islanders is that the volunteers running the election learned how to do it better next time and faster for voters, faster for volunteers.

For example, it's clear that someone should be standing beside each ballot box to answer voter questions about the ranking ballot. Written instructions could be clearer. As it was, only 29

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votes were considered invalid because the voter's intent was not understandable. Voter intention is one of the decisions Roberts Rules calls for when there's a question about a ballot.

Some voters weakened their ballot by not making all 10 choices. This suggests offering more information about candidates before the election.

Some folks have worried that not enough folks voted. But since so many voters on the Island vote by absentee ballot and the VMICC absentee ballot availability was not thoroughly advertised the total seems reasonable. Based on what was learned this time absentee ballots might be announced much sooner next time and promoted more.

The committee also determined that candidate biographies or statements might be improved.

The November 7 election found IRV on the ballot in four places in America. All voted to use it, Pierce County by 53 to 47 percent.

Mathematician Melvin Mackey explained the choice voting method to the Nov. 20 Community Council meeting. Then and during planning for the election he regularly reminded volunteers that "no voting system is perfect."

An associate professor of sociology and political economy at the University of Puget Sound noted another expected benefit of instant runoff voting. Richard Anderson-Connolly said in the PI recently that our current voting system allows vote splitting and minority winners at

both the primary and general election levels, but instant runoff voting "eliminates the lesser of two evils approach to voting." It also reduced mud slinging smears of the other guy San Francisco voters noticed.

Washington state citizens enjoyed open primaries. You could vote for candidates across party lines. Then party insiders convinced judges this freedom harmed parties' rights to free association. Ranked choice satisfies supports both freedoms.

What's next? Professor Richardson-Connolly wrote that "there is nothing to prevent King County from following the lead of Pierce County by adopting instant runoff voting for county elections."

It is clear from the VMICC election that we could have people putting their choices directly into a computer at home. For under 76 cents per voter one firm offers to let Islanders vote from home on their computer. They could do this while watching a live broadcast of a Community Council meeting on Comcast cable channel 21. More? Try wikipedia.org in your web browser or www.instanrunoff.com or www.fairvote.com, or Types of Voting Systems at www.mtholyoke.edu.



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is Friday, December 29

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