



"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." • Margaret Atwood, *Bluebeard's Egg*



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FOLLOWING THURSDAY ISSUE**



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*The opinions expressed herein do not
necessarily reflect the views of the
Publisher.*

DICES News **W**ANT to March 2 know what By DICES we do and how you can help your

COMMUNITY INFO

community and the Denman Island Community Education Society? Read this!

Food Bank

Our food bank is in need of the following items:

- Dog Food
- Fresh vegetables
- Protein (canned tuna, etc.)

Come down to the Hub (aka. old preschool) and check out the new space!
Food can be dropped off during Food Bank hours, Thursday's 4pm-7pm.

Community Programs:

The school is closed during spring break, which means your DICES team will be on holiday as well - there will be no community programs until after Easter.

Unfortunately, we did not receive the funds we had hoped for to put on Spring Break Camps. We will be back with more to offer for the summer. Stay tuned!

Big Thank You

This month's big thank you goes to all our amazing After-school program volunteers:
Shel, Trevor, Ember, Margie, Michelle and Lena !

We are very thankful for all the things you do for us and your community!
Keep up the great work!

Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

We are in need of a volunteer to help our amazing Vero with her Parent & Tot program on Friday mornings, 9am -12pm. The group is getting big! If this sounds like fun to you, send us an email.

If you would like to volunteer your time for anything else and/or have amazing skills to share with kids or adults, feel free to email us at: dices.communityprograms@gmail.com

You can also send donations directly to us via cheque, cash or e-transfer or through CanadaHelps! 🍷

SPECIAL INTEREST

Phoenix **F**URTHER to the Riting! conversation on STVRs, after By Phoenix Bee talking to people

and reading some conversations online, I'd like to restate my position on the issue. It is true that home sharing provides an important source of income for many islanders. We do need tourists and visitors to sustain our economy; for better or for worse, that is the economy we have. At the same time, we absolutely need to cap the numbers to sustain a reasonable flow, but that is very different from closing the gates entirely.

Home sharing is the practice where locals either move out of their primary dwelling temporarily to accommodate short term renters or else provide a separate space for renters. In my opinion, this practice should continue; it is a win for everyone. We need visitors; visitors need accommodation. Home sharing is the perfect way to integrate visitors into our community and to allow islanders to supplement their own incomes and meet new people. Let's support this practice, assuming basic standards are in place so individual properties are not overcrowded or burdening the water supply.

What we need to stop is the practice of investment properties dedicated solely to STVRs, whether or not there is an intention to 'someday move here' on the part of the property owner. That is not home sharing, and those benefiting are not locals. Yes, they bring tourist dollars, but benefit to our local economy should be prioritized, along with environmental protections and individual and social good. We need to feed the health of our community at all levels, including the economics, but also including factors such as sustainability and infrastructure capabilities. We need to strike a balance. In my opinion, let us allow resident homeowners to share their own homes to accommodate valued visitors, but disallow the creation of new STVRs by absentee landlords. I strongly believe we must limit all new usages very strictly. We are collectively reaching the point where limits must be acknowledged and respected.

Some have said, "I was able to retire to Hornby only because I was able to use my place as an STVR for a few years beforehand." Good for them, there was an opening and they took advantage of it, and we benefit from their presence here now. However, that doesn't mean we must or can continue to allow that practice which skews the population toward more and more retirees. A healthy community needs a wider demographic, including more families with children and youth. Let's look at how we can create or encourage a year-round economy here and shift our focus from viewing ourselves as a tourist/retirement community only.

I hope it is obvious that STVRs and home sharing are two completely different practices. Home sharing benefits the community and visitors alike. STVRs sit empty except when occupied by weekly renters, who may spend money here but contribute little on a personal level to neighbourhood or community. Such 'motel' style rentals add to the crush and chaos of too-many-humans in the summer while remaining more or less anonymous. These STVR renters do not have a relationship with the homeowner, whom it is likely they never meet.

Our visitors are welcome, but the crowds lately need a little thinning. Let's relax a bit. Let those who live here take advantage of the opportunity to accommodate a need and provide a service, if they are so moved. And close the door to investment opportunists from outside. People who live here, full or part time, become a part of the community. That's how communities work. Even if a visitor comes only for a couple of weeks a year, but gets to know the community and their accommodation provider, may belong here. But those who purchase property to manage it from a distance do not join. Their properties become void places, holes: here but not a part of here.

Personally, I would like to see locals allowed in the right circumstances to provide limited tenting in their backyard for visitors, with support in setting up proper facilities. This might encourage visitors to rough it, which means minimal water usage. Camping with a composting outdoor toilet and swimming in the ocean is surely lower impact than renting a house with a flush toilet and daily showers all around.

I have heard that experiences with bad renters have frightened off some landowners from choosing to rent their homes to locals. We need a renter's registry, where good renters can receive recommendations and prospective landlords can find a good match. Something else to think about!

That's what I think. What do you think? email me at phoenixonhornby@gmail.com 🍷

Green Wizardries, Preparing the Soil

By Maxine Rogers

SPECIAL INTEREST

I am writing this on the first day of Spring and it is mild and lovely on our enchanted islands; however, chaos reigns in the world at large. Four US Banks have gone up in smoke this month and Credit Suisse, one of the largest and most important banks in Europe is having a huge, disguised, Government bailout. The United States and Russia grow daily closer to open warfare. None of this bodes well for our relaxed middle-class lifestyles.

So, I suggest we all get with the program and start Victory Gardens, or even Defeat Gardens. It doesn't matter what we call them, only that we start being a bit more self sufficient because I think we just might be glad we did.

I was talking to a friend who had been to the Warming Shelter in Courtenay which is right by the City Hall. He said it looked like a war-zone hospital with men lying on the floor on mats and others standing around demoralized. He counted about 40 men there and told me that was a small number of the hundreds of homeless people in Courtenay now. He said that before Covid, the shelter would cater to 3 or 4 people a day.

TIDE TABLE		
• Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove • • Source: tides.gc.ca •		
2023-03-23 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
01:20	1.8	5.8
07:28	4.8	15.9
14:03	1.4	4.6
20:15	4.5	14.7
2023-03-24 (Fri)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
02:02	2.2	7.4
07:56	4.8	15.6
14:44	1.2	3.8
21:16	4.5	14.7
2023-03-25 (Sat)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
02:46	2.7	8.9
08:24	4.6	15.2
15:25	1	3.4
22:19	4.4	14.6
2023-03-26 (Sun)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
03:34	3.1	10.3
08:51	4.4	14.6
16:07	1.1	3.5
23:27	4.4	14.4
2023-03-27 (Mon)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
04:33	3.5	11.4
09:16	4.2	13.8
16:52	1.2	3.9
2023-03-28 (Tue)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
00:42	4.4	14.3
05:59	3.7	12.1
09:37	3.9	13
17:44	1.4	4.6
2023-03-29 (Wed)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
02:04	4.4	14.3
08:22	3.7	12.1
09:38	3.7	12.1
18:45	1.6	5.3
2023-03-30 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
03:17	4.4	14.4
19:54	1.7	5.7

continued on P.4...

...continued from P.3 My friend told me the homeless people live in tents on the street, in tree houses and under bridges. He said that most of them had jobs and places to live before Covid came along. They lost their jobs due to the Covid lock downs and some of them lost their places to live when the rents were doubled.

What has this got to do with you gardening? Well, gardening and producing nutrient-rich fruit, vegetables and herbs is a way to insulate yourself from rising prices, keep yourself and your family healthy, and distract your mind from problematic events you cannot control.

I am telling you about the startling increase in poverty and homelessness so you will get the idea that we are in a pretty serious, downwardly-mobile, kind of time. I hope you will not become a victim of events.

It is not really time yet to plant any seeds. I have one bed planted to lettuce, kale, mustard greens and pac choi. You can also plant broad beans now. But the real job before us is to get the beds ready for planting.

If you missed the opportunity to mulch your garden beds last fall, you may have a lot of weeds now. I just dug up a bucket of lovely, sweet carrots today from a bed that I had mulched with maple leaves last fall. I did this to prevent frost damage on the carrots but also to keep the weeds down. There were very few weeds, only some lanky buttercups that came out quite easily. Mulching in the fall conditions and protects soil over the winter. Soil organisms feed on the mulch so your soil is in better condition come spring.

My soil is quite a heavy clay but you should see the success I had with carrots in it! When I have a moment, I am going to screen the rocks out of some of the sand we had delivered and apply it to the now dug-over carrot beds with some compost and a thick application of lime.

I cannot say enough good things about heavy applications of lime in our area. All the soils here are quite acid and the lime brings them closer to neutral. If your soil is too acid, the bacteria that assist plants to take up nutrients cannot thrive.



This means you can be adding manure and the plants will still not thrive so buying lime is an absolute necessity.

If you are on sand, one thing you can do to get some organic matter in the soil is to sow a mixture of grass seeds, legumes such as hairy vetch and field peas and give it some synthetic fertilizer if you have no composted manure. You should use 7 to 12 different plant seeds as this is a great benefit to the soil.

The roots of the grasses will be as deep as the grass is tall so let the grass grow and this will improve your sandy soil a lot because the roots of grasses are organic matter. The legumes will catch nitrogen out of the air and share it with the grasses.

The best thing to do with such a stand of forage would be to graze it with some ruminants such as goats, cows or sheep. One of the stomachs of a ruminant acts as an accelerator for soil fungus which is what really makes soils work. A couple of years of growing and grazing forages will put the land into good heart and you will be able to establish gardens and orchards on it.

If you have no grazing animals, you will just have to keep weeding and applying compost and lime. It really is that simple.



March 7, 2007 *Point. Counterpoint*

ARTS&LIT

By CS#05943451

TONY leaves tomorrow. A reserved, polite East Indian fellow who is in for drinking and driving. 100 days for him are up. We've had numerous chats over time. Nothing too deep yet not merely tipping the hat either. He speaks of respect from the perspective of his culture. It's significance and the pressures to live and uphold it. I can say during his time here in Campbell House, he's never once uttered an off

word about anyone or anything. So much so that you'd barely know he's here at times. I was aware his discharge was fast approaching so queried this evening how few days were left for him and he told me he's out tomorrow. Just like I said, reserved. He hasn't been going around lauding his imminent release as most everyone does, and is understandably entitled to. Had I not asked him when I did, he would've been gone in the morning and I question if it wouldn't have taken me a few days to notice. He is that quiet. For that, I'm glad I recognized enough to update myself on his status. He's a good heart. If only there were a few more guys like him here.

But then it probably wouldn't seem like jail then now, would it? I'm glad to have met his acquaintance and as he goes back to his life in Surrey and working towards regaining the respect of his father, I wish him all the best. Way to go Tony!

As a counterpoint to Tony there is Sean Miller. Big Dawg! The psycho man-child



who carries on in the most incredibly schizoid way. One day he's threatening me, and the next, he's confiding to me his thoughts as though I'm supposed to care. Almost as though he has no recollection of how boorish he was previously. He's some piece of work, and most here feel similarly. His sheer size and temperament assures that most everyone keeps those feelings safely to

themselves though. After all, we do have to live and survive together. Well it's worth noting all the same that on this day, Mar.7th 2007, a new arrival has come into this world courtesy of his crazy sperm. A girl is born! God knows what this little bundle is in for in life owing to such a father, but a birth is news worth mentioning from within these walls. The thing that I find curious is that only three days ago, Big Dawg was abusing everyone's sense of space, going around griping at the top of his lungs about that 'no good expectant mother' for missing a scheduled visitation (anticipated package drop) and how he'd broke up with her as a result. On her due date of all times! That'll teach her for going into labour! Still, jail life being a bizarre take on impending fatherhood, I suppose I'll cut him some slack as he is now running around in proud father mode, sans cigars. A baby girl with his ex-girlfriend/girlfriend to go along with a boy from a previous relationship. It sounds as though it could be far less messy but for Big Dawg, I kinda doubt it. So I'll go on record in these pages as wishing him good luck. Lord knows he and his spawn will need all they can get. 🍷



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Corlan Vineyard is open for Lunches again!
Mon - Fri, take out picnic lunches charcuterie style
on Sat and Sun. Hours are 11 - 2 Monday to Friday
for restaurant service, Saturday and Sunday normal
winery hours for box lunches.

Denman WORKS!

*Economic Enhancement
Society*

BC Society Registration No: S0058326

Notice of Special Resolution at AGM

March 30, 2023

7:00 PM by Zoom

**The following modification
to Denman Works bylaws is
proposed:**

*That, at the pleasure of the Board,
a director fulfilling the role of
Chair may be permitted to serve
for additional terms of one year
beyond the four-year maximum for
directors.*

Anyone wishing to attend the
meeting call Tony Gregson
at 778-838-7110 or email
denmanresource@gmail.com

Denman WORKS!

*Economic Enhancement
Society*

BC Society Registration No:
S0058326

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 30th 2023, 7:00 PM

The meeting will be held by ZOOM

*All Denman residents age 19 or over are eligible to attend including
property owners who may not reside on island.*

If you would like to attend, please send an e-mail to
denmanresource@gmail.com or call
Tony Gregson, Chair 778-838-7110

Equinox Equations

OPINIONS

By Eartha Muirhead

LAST spring, when I sifted through the compost bin, I remembered my vow to never compost squash, because there were hundreds of bouncing baby squash plants, determined to take over the world. Since they were from all different varieties, I knew they would end up growing into the lowest common denominator. Some ended up in the garden and I bravely pulled them all out. In the wild, they could be food for animals, but in the garden, not so helpful. My untamed mind is often full of unruly seeds that will take root if I am not paying attention. If I want to be happy, I have to pluck out unskillful feelings and thoughts and create space for untangled, unconditioned awareness to arise.

Today I cut open a squash and amidst the orange flesh were many many seeds and some were actually sprouting. I have been eating 2 or 3 squash a week all fall and winter and I always forget that in the springtime, these powerful energy storehouses wake up and take action. This action of germination reveals a sensitivity to changing conditions of time, temperature and maybe even light, although these squash are stored away from any light source. The wisdom of plants is revealed in a myriad of ways; one is to produce a vast number of seeds. Our unexamined thoughts and feelings are like squash seeds. They can lay dormant inside a dark place and eventually they will sprout; even if there is

no soil, no light, no water, no obvious light or heat source. Cultivating skillful mind states can seem unnatural, as if we are fighting against our wild instincts. Training the mind means unlearning homophobia, racism, classism, sexism, ageism and ableism. Waking up to seeing my ingrained cultural conditioning requires cultivation, discernment, courage and honesty.

Returning birds are arriving to eat the tiny seeds from fir and alder cones. Beneath the leaf mulch in the garden beds lie sleeping snakes and newts, sprouting maple seeds and overwintering new plant babies. These natural cycles inspire me to slow down and carefully pause before taking up space, before speaking, before judging, before taking more than I need, before trying to fix myself or others, before believing in my comfortable old belief patterns. At Spring Equinox, we are re-minded to balance the equation of our lives; allowing deep roots to form from selected seeds and weeding out the wanton seedy seeds of injustice, greed, hatred and delusion.

The Mutual Aid Collective is up and running and we are meeting every Saturday from 1 until 3 at each other's gardens. And I am on a mission to stop BC Timber Sales from auctioning off Old-Growth cutblocks on Vancouver Island, now that the two year deferrals are being lifted. Even if you do not have any extra time, please lend a hand! You can find me at ejmuirhead4@gmail.com. 🍷

Bring Us a Higher Love

OPINIONS

By Jane Masutani

AND an amen to that. I am taking liberties with song lyrics here. The title is "Bring me..." but I think it's a collective higher love that we're in desperate need of. I want to direct you to a beautiful rendition of this old song by a man named James Vincent McMorrow. Music is magical isn't it? It's spiritual enhancement. Can music save us? Can this song? It just might. And why not? Apparently, the sound we'll hear upon entering heaven is B sharp. That's what the choir of angels is singing. It might as well be true. So many horrible lies are being told to us right now to be taken as gospel. So, why not B sharp in heaven?

Either we all die together in an orgasm of destruction or we die alone one by one as per usual, but we're certainly all going to die. It's not like we're going to live. We should be filling each day with joy, just in case tomorrow's the day. We need a higher love.

In the meantime, It's spring and each moment is heightened by warmth, sunshine and the deep, life-enhancing aroma of nature bouncing back to life. Like we knew it would. A promise kept. That's magic too. And beauty is everywhere. Love and beauty is what we want. It's what I want, anyway. Give me love, give me love, give me... peace on earth. Even without family and children there are so many people to love in this world. I want to throw every poetic life-affirming cliché at you. Don't let them tell you this world is dark. **DON'T LET THEM!**

I can't pick up a newspaper anymore or listen to Global News, CNN or any of it. They're leading us on a path of anger,

jealousy, racism, and mostly all of the other so-called deadly sins. They've lost their collective shit. Let's not lose ours. We need a higher love.

Our collective thoughts shape the world. Dark, miserable frightened thoughts equals a dark, miserable scary world. And we heavily outnumber the warmongers. We need a higher love.

Sitting in an Indian cafe on Fraser St. yesterday I could hardly stop looking at the happy, beautiful couple in front of me. They weren't in the first blush of youth, perhaps early 30s. He was Chinese and handsome and she was Indian and pretty. They both had glossy black hair. She had big loopy curls down to her waist. They were obviously in love. Behind them on a large screen, frenetic bollywood dancing was happening. The hefty first and second male leads could barely keep up the pace. I could feel their exertion. They added unintentional humour to the pheromone-laden room. "The force that through the green fuse drives the flower drives my green age." The couple filled the room with joy.

There are so few inter-racial couples. We were told in the 70s that the future world would see a melting pot of races producing brown-toned people the world over. That hasn't exactly happened. It's been derailed along with all the other shining promises of my youth: a cleaner, plastic-free world, world peace, wanting to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony, and drinking coke together. We were responsible for the environmental protection agency, Roe VS Wade, equal pay for equal work, and tons of other forward-thinking initiatives. The suits have been attacking us, fighting back, for 50 yrs. And that's a fact, for all you young people out there that don't know the score. It's been dismal on all fronts, culminating in this absolute shit show of decadence,

told all our lives, where there's smoke there's fire. But no, it's just a bunch of lies that've been repeated twenty thousand times.

I am breaking my own rule here. I said we need to elevate the tone and not fight fire with fire and here I am, fighting fire with fire. The media, all of it, is just so outrageously full of bald-faced lies that I don't see the point in not fighting back. I guess the point is, it's become dangerous to fight back. (If we still have relatives living in the upper Volta we should reconsider our position). Lies told thousands of times become accepted truths. People can't accept that it's ALL just a pack of lies repeated ad infinitum. After all, as we've been

We white people are not a sports team. The whole world is the team or there is no team at all. Bring us a higher love.

WHAT does this actually mean? Naturally I am curious, being part of the generation that learned from the likes of Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Angela Davis. Feminism at that point meant full equality with men. To me, there is

By Sally Campbell

Today 50% of students in law are women; I credit feminism for changing attitudes and opening doors. Now, intersectionality, awareness of white privilege & institutionalized racism, gender fluidity, the big work of reconciliation with indigenous peoples everywhere – all these societal changes are taking us to a place where equality, justice and freedom are the expected entitlement of all humanity.

So I became curious when Trudeau's government in 2017 adopted a "Feminist Foreign Policy" for Canada. Does that mean we're going to become more focused on inequities whose impacts are particularly felt by women and children of the world? That we're going to make sure the poor have access to the resources the rest of us have? That our devastating mining practices in other countries will be more equitable in terms of profit sharing? That we're going to take a "Gaia" approach to our environmental footprint? That we will focus less on our military "readiness for war" and more on healing divisive relationships with other countries, acceptance of difference, sending food not missiles?... actually, no.

continued on P.8...



Come and write Premier David Eby and other government members to tell them what B.C. needs to do to meet its climate change goals.

As well we need some young people, and old, to help paint
a banner for Frack Free B.C.

We will have everything you need to write your letter including envelopes and stamps. We just need you to help us swamp them with letters.

IS 5G SAFE?

...continued from P.7 My first inkling of what a “Feminist Foreign Policy” would mean for Canada was a webinar a couple years ago with our newly appointed “Ambassador for Women, Peace & Security”, Jacqueline O’Neill. It turns out the idea is mainly about gender equity. (I see I was rather naive in my thinking.) For example, it’s about getting more women in leadership roles in the military, not reducing military spending or promoting peace. We can now observe several women in key leadership roles in Canada’s government and see what our “Feminist Foreign Policy” actually looks like. Chrystia Freeland, our Minister of Finance & Deputy Prime Minister, is one of the most hawkish of all in calling for escalation of the War in Ukraine, declaring: “Everything is on the table when it comes to supporting Ukraine”. In the same breath, she said:

“...I really believe that a clear strategically viable and stable victory this year would be a big boost for the global economy and a big boost for Canada.” (Globalnews.ca, 24th January, 2023)

Pardon me? Did she not hear US Chair of Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley call this an “unwinnable war”? (BBCNews, November, 2022)

Then there’s Anita Anand, our Minister of Defense, on March 16, 2023: “China is an increasingly disruptive global power. It increasingly disrupts international rules and norms...” (Globalnews.ca) I wonder what she makes of China’s brokering a peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia last week. Not worth mentioning?

ICC Arrest Warrant on Putin

OPINIONS

By Gwynne Dyer · OP March 19, 2023

ALTHOUGH the arrest warrant issued on Russian President Vladimir Putin by the International Criminal Court last week was welcome, there was a certain puzzlement about the actual crime he is being charged with.

This is a man who launched an unprovoked invasion of a neighbouring country, Ukraine. He declares that the country should not even exist, and denies that there is a valid Ukrainian identity. Those Ukrainians who believe they are not Russians are ‘Nazis’ who must be ‘re-educated’ or destroyed. That alone qualifies Putin for a charge of genocide.

An estimated 120,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed or wounded in the fighting in the past year, together with many thousands of Ukrainian civilians. That exposes Putin to the charge of waging aggressive war.

Some of the soldiers under his command have committed well-documented massacres of Ukrainian civilians and committed various other atrocities against them. As the supreme commander ultimately responsible for their actions, Putin is also liable to indictment on a wide variety of war crimes charges.

And Melanie Joly, our Minister of Foreign Affairs, just stated at a news conference that “regime change” in Russia is indeed the point of sanctions. “The goal is definitely to do that, is to weaken Russia’s ability to launch very difficult attacks against Ukraine” (CTVNews, 10th March, 2023). These women currently hold immense power in our government; not one of them advocates for diplomacy and negotiation on the world stage. They seemingly sharpened their chops at the Margaret Thatcher school of governance. Spare us such blind and arrogant “feminists”.

Here’s a warning from Indi Samrajiva, Sri Lankan commentator on international affairs. It applies directly to **Canada’s current approach to foreign policy** as espoused by these leaders (ie., promoting continued US world hegemony).

“If Westerners start talking about ‘liberating’ your country and start waving your flag, fucking run... Flooding a warzone with more weapons, more propaganda, more conflict, all under the guise of ‘helping’. Like they helped Afghanistan, like they helped Iraq, like they helped Vietnam, in truth like they wrecked countless nations for countless years. If a Westerner tries to help you, fucking run. Their arms dealers help themselves and leave your country in ruins.” (From Helena Cobban, *Globalities.org*, 17th March, 2023)

Is this what we want for Ukraine?

Part 2 next week. 🍷

So why did the International Criminal Court charge him only with the crime of deporting Ukrainian children into Russia, placing them in the care of Russian families as if they were orphaned refugees, and blocking them from contact with their real families?

There is no doubt that this is happening. The United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine says there is evidence of the illegal transfer of hundreds of Ukrainian children to Russia, and the Ukrainian government says that the real number is at least 16,221.

This phenomenon is a particularly shameful aspect of President Putin’s obsessive campaign to erase Ukrainian identity. However, with so many larger crimes to choose from, why did the ICC limit itself to what is essentially a charge of mass kidnapping?

The answer was visible last Wednesday at an event in the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas, where the former US president ‘misspoke’ yet again. He meant to condemn Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, but he actually denounced “the decision of one man to launch a wholly unjustified and brutal invasion of Iraq... I mean of Ukraine.”

Realising his blunder, Bush muttered “Iraq too” and then excused himself on the grounds of age: “I’m 75”. It got a laugh

and it was certainly a slip of the tongue, but it might have been a Freudian slip.

Could it be that Bush secretly realises that he committed not only a great blunder but also a great crime when he invaded Iraq? That would be nice, although it's too late to apologise for the lies, the hundreds of thousands of lives lost, and the ruin of Iraq. However, the real point lies elsewhere.

The two invasions are linked. Bush's wholly unjustified and brutal invasion of Iraq broke the key law on which we built the post-1945 'rule of law' in international affairs. Putin's did it again.

The victors of the Second World War knew they might not survive a third, so they made attacking another country illegal. (It never was before.) The new rule, embedded in the United Nations Charter, is that borders, fair or not, must never be changed by force. From now on, only voluntary, negotiated changes are legal..

In an era of nuclear weapons, that is not just a good idea; it is essential for our long-term survival. And to a surprising extent, the new rule has been obeyed.

The world is still littered with civil wars, 'wars of liberation', and other traditional side-shows, but full-on military invasions by great powers without the blessing of the UN

Security Council have been very scarce in the past seventy years. In fact, only two come to mind: the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine last year.

The difficulty in condemning Putin now is that George Bush and his British sidekick, former prime minister Tony Blair, are still walking around free and unpunished.

The fact that they invaded the wrong country is irrelevant. (Iraq and Saddam Hussein had nothing whatever to do with the 9/11 attacks.) Their crime was simply to invade another country. That doesn't just cause a lot of death and destruction; it undermines the basic law that keeps great wars at bay.

It would be blatant hypocrisy for the ICC to indict Vladimir Putin for the usual range of war crimes when Bush and his pals committed them in Iraq and got away with it, so what's left?

Well, Russian forces have been kidnapping Ukrainian children and raising them as Russians, which is a form of ethnic cleansing forbidden by international law. So far as anybody knows, Bush didn't kidnap Iraqi children. So that's the charge we can use for Putin.

Not that we actually expect to bring him to trial.



Stash It! Don't Trash It...

PRESS RELEASE

By Cumberland Community Schools Society

Save the date for the first annual Cumberland Repair Café!

Do you have items that you have been meaning to fix, but don't know how? The Cumberland Repair Café is here to help.

Cumberland Community Schools Society (CCSS) is hosting a Repair Café at Cumberland Community School on Saturday, April 29th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This community event provides an alternative for household items destined for the landfill to be repaired and reused for free.

"We are excited to be partnering with the Comox Strathcona Waste Management to help in their goal of biannual Repair Cafes in the Comox Valley," says Kate Ashton, Program Coordinator for CCSS, "and having the community become accustomed to holding on to their broken items and attending Repair Cafes, rather than throwing these items out."

Lindsay Eason and Tina Willard-Stepan, educators for Comox Strathcona Waste Management, are excited to support this community initiative, which tackles waste diversion through public education. "Repairing items is an essential part of keeping products in use, rather than immediately recycling them or throwing them out when something goes wrong," says Eason. "Learning how to repair your own stuff can build lifelong skills that save money and reduce waste."

The Cumberland Repair Café is currently looking for volunteers for this event. If you have expertise in fixing items such as jewelry, small appliances, toys, or clothing, please email us at ccss.youthcoordinator@gmail.com to sign up as a volunteer.

CCSS is a registered charity that works to strengthen our community by improving access to healthy food, recreation, lifelong learning and a network of support. FMI on the Repair Cafe and other CCSS programs and events visit www.cumberlandcommunityschools.com

For more information contact:

Kate Ashton, CCSS Program Coordinator
250-650-8305 ccss.youthcoordinator@gmail.com



B.C. LAND SURVEYOR

PETER T. MASON

P: 250-757-8788

surveyor-ark@uniserve.com

Old Words

by Thomas Provençal

People say that Jesus loves me
but, I must believe.
If I'm stuck in indecision
there is no reprieve.
He's only for the faithful
who learn to heed the call.
As the creed is not my mead
I don't call at all.
A story bound around the need
for love can steal the heart.
Without love you're left in fear
and then you fall apart.
But when that love is predicated
merely on a myth
written in some ancient text,
perhaps a hieroglyph,
I wonder if the reason
is mere manipulation.
Words passed down millennia
can change interpretation.

So now we're left with Jesus
who died so long ago.
With no one to replace him,
his star won't cease to glow.
Don't get me wrong, I love the guy.
His message is endearing:
Love thy neighbour as thyself.
Waste no time on fearing.
Mutated by religions
who focus on enforcement,
their message of the lamb of god
sidesteps my endorsement.
They say an everlasting hell
is waiting for your pain.
Millions of muslims
chant a similar refrain.
And so the bulk of humankind
believes what we are told
despite the contradictions
in religions getting old.

The truth

by Helen Grond

There are many kinds of truth

Truth by facts, truth by belief
Truth by news, truth by science
Political truth, religious truth
Historical truth, future truth

Truth by precedent
Truth by consensus
Truth by evidence
Truth by celebrity

A generational truth
A cultural truth
A convenient truth
An inconvenient truth

Truth by words, truth by
knowing
A partial truth, a half truth
My truth, your truth
The whole truth and nothing
but the truth

And then there are lies.





250-335-9143

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

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All prices include GST

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additional 30 words*

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DEADLINE MIDNIGHT MONDAYS FOR THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY ISSUE

THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE EDITORIAL POLICIES

Whether covering events that entertain us, presenting issues that concern and affect us or highlighting the many interesting and gifted people we call neighbour, the Grapevine celebrates the diversity and inclusivity of our shared island life. The following is our policy on content:

- Profiles of individuals, history, reviews and op ed are published free of charge.
- Literary content including poetry, stories, belle lettres are published free of charge.
- Promotional content for products, services, programs, and events will be published at going advertising rates.
- Public service announcements, notices of meetings, and news releases will be published for a fee. Exceptions will be made for emergencies where the public is immediately endangered.
- With regret, no exceptions can be made for non-profit status.
- Letters to the Editor are published free of charge.

The Grapevine is happy to provide an open, public forum for all islanders to speak and be heard. We are steadfast in our commitment to uphold freedom of expression. Opinions expressed in the Grapevine do not necessarily reflect that of the Publisher.

As the record of our times, every issue of the Grapevine is a compilation of that week's submissions. We do not editorialize content, nor do we censor. We ask that writers moderate their own content. The Grapevine reserves the right to edit for brevity. Inciting violence, hate speech and pejorative language will not be tolerated.

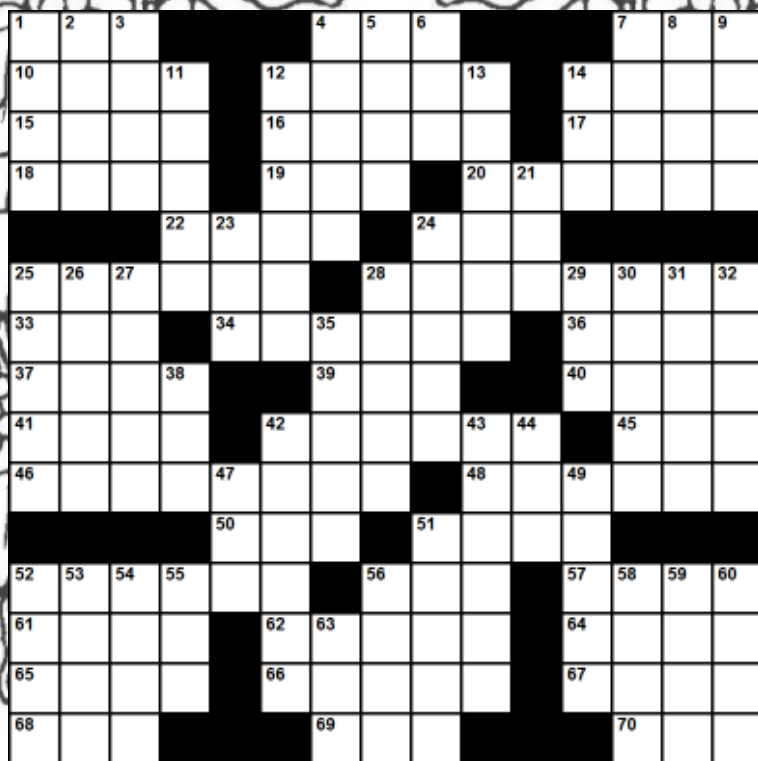
We are open to contributions from all Denman & Hornby Islanders. If you've something to say, send it our way! No copy and paste submissions. In your own words, please!



250-335-9143

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Cry out loud
4. Band aid
7. Assistance
10. Decorate the tree
12. Heartbreak
14. Actress Magnani
15. Cornell or Pound
16. Court call
17. Craving
18. Threadbare
19. Japanese pond fish
20. Rooftop sights
22. Go soft
24. Moonshine container
25. Garage job
28. Most short and plump
33. Angry state
34. Boat sections
36. Old World duck
37. Card of a sort
39. Mark in the margin
40. Colts' mom
41. Draw on glass
42. Threaten
45. Common contraction
46. Chinese food condiment
48. Low sock

50. Come down

51. Broad
52. Exertions
56. Basketball hoop
57. Currency of China
61. A Met score
62. Dern of films
64. As a result
65. Cry like a cat
66. Norwegian dramatist
67. Accomplishment
68. Approx.
69. Above, in poems
70. Ninny

• DOWN •

1. Boil slowly
2. Type of pasta
3. Whirring sound
4. Cupid's missile
5. French region
6. Carolina river, --- Dee
7. Against, prefix
8. Ancient empire
9. Author of "Gremlins"
11. Marine rays
12. Type of race car
13. Deceptions
14. Affected manner
21. Batter ingredient
23. Possessive noun
24. Government group
25. Liturgies
26. Keats's muse
27. Shelly or Faith
28. Lying down
29. Ending for belief
30. Contact, in a way
31. Act the waiter
32. Bird call
35. Thrust out
38. Mild interjections
42. Granola's kin
43. Alligator kin
44. Author's last word
47. Aquarius, e.g.
49. Entered data
51. Electrician, at times
52. Glory
53. Copper or iron
54. Civil unrest
55. Corvine sound
56. Tricky scheme
58. Type of organic compound
59. Becomes gray
60. Auction bids
63. Blood system group

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

2		1		4		5		8
						4	2	
	8	4	9					
	7	8	3					
			2		4			
					9	1	8	
					3	2	6	
	6	9						
4		7		6		3		9

8	2	9	7	4	3	5	1	6
5	7	4	6	2	1	9	8	3
3	6	1	8	5	9	7	2	4
2	4	8	9	1	5	6	3	7
7	9	3	4	6	8	2	5	1
6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4	9
4	8	2	1	9	6	3	7	5
1	3	6	5	8	7	4	9	2
9	5	7	2	3	4	1	6	8

Grumpism



"I watched two silk worms having a race. Ended in a tie."

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

M	A	T	E		F	I	E		L	I	N	A	G	E
A	D	O	S		O	L	D		A	N	A	D	E	M
D	I	N	S		S	K	I		C	D	R	O	M	S
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M	U	E	S	L	I				O	D	E		F	L
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O	C	C	U	R		I	T	S				A	X	E
H	A	U	N	T		S	H	E			S	I	E	G
B	I	R	D			T	O	N			A	D	D	E
O	R	E	O	S		E	S	S	A	Y				
Y	O	D			T	E	N				T	S	H	I
					P	E	R	D	U		T	O	U	C
B	O	L	E	R	O		G	O	A		R	E	I	N
A	B	A	S	E	D		L	A	C		T	U	N	E
T	I	P	T	O	E		I	R	K		S	P	O	T

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

• SERVICES •



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holes, lev-

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Mary Gillian Vellet - rental

space on Denman Wed's

10:30 - 5:30 pm -

Bookings: Text:

250 202 1268 or Email:

marygillianvellet@gmail.com

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contact Kevin at 250 335 1986 or cell
at 250 667 3233. Serving All Areas.

**MAGNIFICENT TOPSOIL, (Serving
Denman & Hornby since 1988) Bark
Mulch, all gravels, Bison compost,
Treework, site clean up, fir mill end
firewood, roof tear off, demolition.
High grade lumber. 35 years local
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APPLIANCES FOR SALE. Ranges,
washers, dryers, fridges, dishwash-
ers, gas/electric range. All fully
restored and come with a full six
month warranty. Call
Rick Graham 335-0954.

WAGNER FIREWOOD. 2 cords to
Denman, \$680 plus GST. Hornby,
\$720 plus GST. Text or call Scott at
250-334-7323

• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

COMOX VALLEY TRANSITION
SOCIETY EMERGENCY CRISIS LINE:
250-338-1227 or Text: 250-218-4034
For more info visit <https://cvts.ca>

COMMUNITY SERVICES FROM DEN-
MAN WORKS Projector and screen:
Book with Abraxas Books and Gifts
250-335-2731 abraxas9@telus.net
Zoom meetings (unlimited time
and free recording): See [denman-
works.wordpress.com/contact/](https://denman-works.wordpress.com/contact/)

• LOST & FOUND •

LOST - 1-10qt aluminum pressure
cooker. Can't remember to whom I
loaned it to. Please return to Jackson
Steen.

• EMPLOYMENT •

FARMERS' MARKET COORDINATOR
The Denman Farmer's Market
Committee is looking for the next
Farmers' Market Coordinator (to
follow on from Lorraine and Laura

who were both wonderful). The
coordinator is responsible for the
organization/running of the weekly
Saturday Farmers' Markets, helping
to get the market up and running
and then being on site from approx.
8.15am - 1.15pm weekly from May
6th - Sept 4th (can miss up to three
markets). Hourly rate is \$23.00/
hour for 175 hours over the season.
Skills required: organization, pub-
lic relations, problem-solving, site
management, handling of money.
For the job description or expression
of interest, email [denmanmarket@
gmail.com](mailto:denmanmarket@gmail.com). Interviews start: Mon-
day, April 3.

**BLACKBERRY LANE CHILDREN'S
CENTER** seeks a caring and fun
loving individual to join the caregiver's
team on a part time or occasional
basis. Working together to care for
young children is highly rewarding.
We provide competitive wages and
training support in an inclusive, non-
profit environment. Wage starts at
\$20/h based on experience and edu-
cation. Please send resume to [black-
berrylanecentre@yahoo.com](mailto:blackberrylanecentre@yahoo.com)

**HORNBY ISLAND BUS ON HORNBY
ISLAND,** BC is hiring drivers with
a Class 4 unrestricted license for
the summer of 2023 to drive a 24
passenger bus. This is a community
operated initiative. We offer com-
petitive rates and support to the
successful candidates. Enjoy the
sandy beaches, the ocean, awesome
mountain biking and a cultural scene
that comes alive every summer. Call
John 604-938-8090 or send a
resume to stars@nemy.com. Drop
off a resume at the HICEEC office on
Hornby Island. Web Site: [https://
hornbybus.com](https://hornbybus.com)

• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

• (H) Hornby • (D) Denman • (UB) Union Bay •
• (FB) Fanny Bay • (C) Courtenay/Comox •

• ACCOMMODATIONS & RENTALS •

- Denman Activity Centre (Seniors) Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)
- Denman Community Hall Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)
2 halls, commercial kitchen, new sound system
suitable for concerts, plays, meetings, weddings, etc.

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

- Bente Pilgaard, RE/MAX The Islands 250-792-0128 (H/D)
- Donna & Jenessa Tuele • Royal LePage Hornby 335-1720 (D/H)

• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

- Aquarian Systems • Water Cisterns • Ed Hoeppner 335-2037 (D/H)
- Roc-Isle Drywall, Harvey Hodgins • 35 yrs exp. 'certified' 334-4776 (D/H)
- Seaside Electric • LEL0207455 • 702-0570 (D/H)
- Shel Brodsgaard • Excavation & Services • 250-703-3898 (D/H)
- Excavator/Backhoe/Tandem Gravel Truck • Kenny Mather •
250-703-6512 (All) • John Isbister • 250-335-2565 (D)
- Ray Ulovec • Backhoe/Excavator Septic Installation • 335-3145 (D/H)
- DB Excavations • Dorianbaker56@gmail.com • 250-465-1889 (D/H)
- Tree Service • Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)
- Cal's Bobcat Services • Auger, Grapple, Rake • 613-447-8873 (All)
- Steve Isaak • Bobcat & Compact Excavator • 250-335-1853 (All)
- Water Cisterns • Steve Isaak • 250-335-1853 (All)

• SERVICES •

- Denman Works! • Tony Gregson 250-335-0287 denmanresource@gmail.com (D)
- Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Able & Ready Septic Pumping Service • 250-338-8822 (D/H)
- Bottled Water Delivery • DenmanWater.ca • 250-228-7161 (D/H)
- Florist-Keep Floral (Emma) • 250-335-2746 (D)
- Home Town Shredders • Document Shredding • 334-7111 (D/H)

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

- Acupuncture • Margot Davey, R.Ac. • 778-992-0165 (D)
- Registered Massage Therapist • Mary G Vellet • 11100 Dusty Rd •
250-202-1268 (D)
- Physiotherapist • Acupuncturist • TCM Herbs • Carmen RPT, RTCMP •
335-2260 (D/H)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac • 250-508-8160
• www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)
- Jessi Schlegel • Personal Training & Fitness Classes • 604-329-3466 •
online & in-person (D/H)

Meanwhile in an alternate Universe...



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FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 23

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 4:30pm-6pm

FRIDAY 24

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

SATURDAY 25

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- JOHN REISCHMAN & THE JAYBIRDS
Concerts Denman Community Hall 7pm
- DICAN Event see ad p.7

SUNDAY 26

- AL-ANON United Church 7pm

MONDAY 27

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

TUESDAY 28

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

WEDNESDAY 29

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

THURSDAY 30

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 4:30-6pm
- DENMAN WORKS! AGM Zoom 7pm

FRIDAY 31

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

SATURDAY 1

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

SUNDAY 2

- AL-ANON United Church 7pm

MONDAY 3

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

TUESDAY 4

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- DILTC Zoom meeting 10am

WEDNESDAY 5

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

THURSDAY 6

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 4:30pm-6pm

Addiction Support in Our Communities

“The opposite of addiction is connection”- Johann Hari

Where to get help for someone who wants help...

- **Mental Health & Substance Use Services 250-331-8524**
They can help with accessing counselling, detox, and treatment.
- **Hornby Denman Health**
Call Jen Scott at 778-585-4585 for local, on-island, free and confidential support and referral.
- **Hornby/Denman Clinic and the Primary Care Network**
Call your local clinic to set up an appointment with a doctor, counsellor or social worker.
- **Find a local AA/NA Group**
Hornby AA Wednesdays and Saturdays 7pm at the Health Care Society office.
Hornby Women's 12 Step Mondays at 7pm at the Health Care Society office.
Hornby Men's 12 Step Mondays at 7pm at New Horizons.
Denman AA Fridays at 7pm at the United Church.

What can you do when a friend or loved one refuses help?

- **Stay connected.** Show support in ways that feel safe and manageable. Remember that small acts of caring and connection can make a big difference.
- **Take care of yourself.** Support or counselling for yourself and family members can be very helpful, find an Al-Anon group.
- **Its OK to take breaks and set boundaries.**
- **Educate yourself about addiction.** The more you know the easier you can understand and support with confidence and love.
- **Have realistic expectations:** Recovery is a life-long journey with many ups and downs for everyone involved.
- **Don't try to rescue** or force someone to get help who doesn't want it.
- **Advocate for your loved one.** Even if a friend or family member doesn't want help, connection supports healing, both directly and indirectly.

(Adapted from trihealth.com)

Addiction is a very real part of our communities. Please know that you are not alone. For more information, guidance and support please contact Jen Scott at 778-585-4585 or jen@hornbydenmanhealth.com



HORNBY & DENMAN
COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SOCIETY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Youth Outreach Worker

Hornby Denman Health seeks an energetic and resourceful Youth Outreach Worker to provide support, education, advocacy and outreach to youth and their families on Denman and Hornby Islands. Working as a member of the Child, Youth and Family team in a variety of settings in the community, our Youth Outreach Workers provide group facilitation, solution-focused supports and harm reduction services to youth that may include strengthening family and peer relationships, substance abuse intervention strategies, healthy lifestyle choices, and life skills development.

The position starts immediately and extends to March 31, 2024, with the possibility of renewal. A full job description with qualifications and further details is available by emailing meredith@hornbydenmanhealth.com or searching the posting on [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com).

Interested applicants are invited to email their resume and covering letter to:
Meredith McEvoy, Child, Youth and Family Services Program Manager at
meredith@hornbydenmanhealth.com

Closing date for applications is April 24, 2023



HORNBY & DENMAN
COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SOCIETY