



MIKE BAILEY
Bits 'n' Pieces

Friday is last day on air for KATU co-host Webb

Another familiar face at KATU-TV is leaving.

Rebecca Webb, co-host of the television station's live morning show for the past five years, said a desire to spend more time with her family led to the decision to quit. Friday will be her last show.

Webb's departure follows that of KATU's news anchor John Marler, who recently stepped down because he also wanted to spend more time with his family.

Webb, who shared the hosting job with Jim Bosley and later Steve Dunn after Bosley retired, will come back as a guest host on occasion, according to station manager Ian Allen.

Prior to her stint on "AM Northwest," Webb was a newscaster for KINKFM (101.9) and KORN-TV.

Local teen shines on stage

The hills are alive this summer for Kasey Christel.

Christel, a senior at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics this fall, is spending the summer acting in Leavenworth, Wash., a Scandinavian-themed community nestled in the Cascade Mountains in central Washington.

It's a dream come true for Christel, who was selected to participate in a program at the Leavenworth Summer Theater. The stage shows are popular among the thousands of tourists who flock to the quaint destination each summer. There are three plays being staged now through Sept. 2, and Christel is featured in two of the three productions.

In the annual presentation of "The Sound of Music," Christel is cast as a nun in some shows and as Liesl, the eldest Von Trapp daughter, in other shows.

In "Fiddler on the Roof," the 16-year-old Christel portrays Chava, the youngest daughter of Tevye.

Christel auditioned to participate in the summer program. She is paid a small stipend for her efforts and is living with a Leavenworth family during her stay.

She is the daughter of David and Kelly Christel of Vancouver.

Planning ahead

Don't panic, but Christmas is just 162 days away. July may be too early for most of us to think of buying Christmas presents, but it's not too early to make plans for one of Portland's most popular holiday traditions.

Oregon Ballet Theatre begins selling tickets today for its Dec. 7-23 production of "The Nutcracker." Tickets also are available for the irreverent takeoff of the classic, "The Nut Has Finally Cracked."

Prices range from \$5.50 to \$87 for "The Nutcracker" and \$5 to \$80 for "The Nut Has Finally Cracked." All performances are in Portland's Keller Auditorium.

You can buy tickets at the OBT box office at 818 S.E. Sixth Ave., Portland, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, or by calling 888-922-5538.

Something to sing about

Organizers of the annual Waterfront Blues Festival in Portland had reason to celebrate last week. When the last of the donations and cans of food had been counted, contributions made during the five-day event at Tom McCall Waterfront Park exceeded \$380,000 and 103,000 pounds of food.

Benefiting from the generosity of the 125,000 people who attended the festival was the Oregon Food Bank. About 10 percent of the food bank's operating budget is raised through the festival, now in its 14th year.

As expected, the big day was July 4, when donations topped a single-day record of \$100,000.

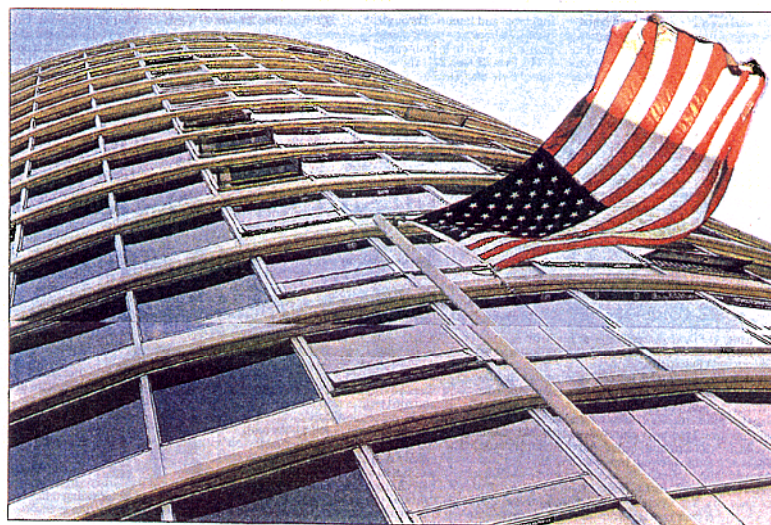
MIKE BAILEY'S column appears Mondays and Wednesdays. If you have an item of interest, call Mike at The Columbian, 360-759-8050, or send a fax to 360-439-6033 or send e-mail to mike.bailey@columbian.com.

Unusual look; unconventional method: Smith Tower was built using the atypical lift-slab technique, in which each floor is formed on the ground level then raised into position, with the top floor leading the way.



Called a 'breakthrough' in the '60s, Smith Tower's beer-can shape now draws criticism

Sins of a cylinder



Still a stand-out: Vancouver's tallest building since it opened 35 years ago, Smith Tower soon will get some company in the sky.

By BRETT OPPEGAARD
 Columbian staff writer

Maybe if it were a few stories taller. Or shorter. Or not quite as wide. Maybe then Smith Tower wouldn't give the impression of a giant beer can in Vancouver's skyline.

As it is, the city's tallest building, the structure that has defined the look of downtown since it opened 35 years ago, also appears to be the world's biggest pop-top.

Construction in the coming years could change its prominence among the skyscrapers, but Smith Tower always will symbolize an era in Vancouver's history, a time when a tall, round and relatively cheap building for low-income senior citizens made perfect sense.

When the 15-story structure first was proposed to city officials in the early 1960s, civic leaders and council members enthusiastically envisioned the cylindrical tower causing a rebirth of downtown, a claim that would become eerily familiar in the following decades.

"If this is approved," said then city manager John Slayton, "I

think we'll look back someday and say this was the breakthrough in revitalizing the entire city."

Instead, many folks today wonder what planners were thinking when they allowed such an oversized and oddly shaped piece. No other structure in Southwest Washington combines such a distinguished appearance with such public derision.

"I've heard some pretty derogatory things about it," local architect Don Nelson acknowledged.

Besides calling Smith Tower a giant beer can, some folks say it looks like a huge wastepaper basket or stack of poker chips or pancakes.

"People just get tired of looking at things after a while," Nelson said. "They might have liked it for a short time, but then it gets obsolete in their minds. ... I think it looks very much like an economy building of the time. I wouldn't criticize architect Henry Greybrook, who designed the structure. He might have reached too far with his budget, and it prob-

ably doesn't enhance Vancouver a whole lot. Yet hindsight is great."

Cylindrical buildings weren't new in 1966, when the \$1.9 million Smith Tower opened. But they were hip, typified by construction of the Capitol Records headquarters in Hollywood about a decade earlier and the opening of Chicago's Marina City "corn cobs" about the time construction on Smith Tower began.

Such designs actually originated in ancient civilizations, though, with some theorizing that the Tower of Babel was a cylindrical shape. Popularity of round towers notably proliferated in the 12th century, particularly in France, as they commonly were used as part of castle defenses, considered trendy at the time and valued highly for their 360-degree views.

Modern architects have been similarly attracted to the shape, with residents of Smith Tower, for example, having prime sightlines of the Columbia River, many of the

CYLINDERS, page D3

OTHER FAMILIAR CYLINDRICAL STRUCTURES

The Leaning Tower of Pisa
 Italy



Marina City towers
 Chicago



Capitol Records Building
 Los Angeles



FILE PHOTOS/The Associated Press

VANCOUVER SYMPHONY 2001-02

City's 'best-kept secret' breaks out into the spotlight

Orchestra will visit new venues, pay all of its musicians

By BRETT OPPEGAARD
 Columbian staff writer

Last season, Vancouver Symphony presented itself as Clark County's "best-kept secret." That slogan — used in print advertisements, radio spots and even as part of Mayor Royce Pollard's opening remarks at various concerts — seemed to help create a rallying cry for some but also seemed to stifle efforts in other instances, supporters say.

In essence, this group no longer wants

to be thought of as obscure or unknown, even in a relative sense. In other words, the secret should be out by now for Clark County's flagship arts organization.

"We expect people to know who we are," marketing director Marla Wood said.

INSIDE

The Vancouver Symphony's 2001-02 schedule and ticket information. page D3

In announcing the group's 2001-02 season, conductor Salvador Brotons' 10th with the group, executive director Jill Botvinik said that for the first time in the organization's history, all of its players will be paid. Plus, Vancouver Symphony's budget will increase significantly for the third consecutive year — topping \$310,000, about \$30,000 more than last year and almost triple the



David Ogden Stiers

SYMPHONY, page D3

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Jackalope aims to play internet music

Service won't violate copyrights, official says

By JOHN M. MORAN

Industry lawyers are cracking down on music copying over the Internet. But what if you could listen to someone else's music without copying it?

That's the concept behind Jackalope Audio, a service of New London, Conn., iQuest Networks that lets people play music over the Internet without downloading or otherwise copying song files.

The Jackalope software allows users to search for song files and play them directly from someone else's hard drive. It's like hooking speakers in your house to your neighbor's stereo so you can hear it, too.

iQuest believes its Jackalope system avoids the copyright pitfalls that have plagued Napster and other file "sharing" systems, thereby opening up a legal method for people to listen to music online.

The idea behind Jackalope Audio is to create a solution to the problem that the music industry has been having with Napster," said Chris Desrosiers, iQuest president.

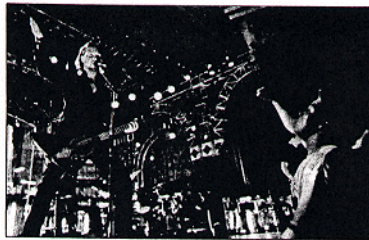
"We feel that there is no way with this service that you're violating copyright laws — in no way at all," he said.

Jackalope Audio is making its debut amid growing consumer interest in digital music. More powerful computers, faster Internet connections and bigger hard drives are making it ever easier to listen to music via personal computers.

But the trend has dismayed the music industry and individual artists, who fear that consumers will stop paying for audio CDs if they can download songs for free. As a result, the industry and artists have launched legal battles against Napster, MP3.com and other Internet sites to halt the music swapping.

iQuest says its approach is different. That's because Jackalope Audio relies on a narrow but accepted legal exemption for "private" performances.

Radio stations and private disc jockeys pay license fees to the music industry when they play recorded music because those are public performances. But private performances, such as playing an audio CD for a friend in a



Sing out: Bands like Metallica, who opposed Napster, may have different thoughts about software by Jackalope Audio, which allows users to play songs directly from someone else's hard drive.

car or living room, are exempt from such payments. Playing music with Jackalope, the company says, is just such a private performance.

"It's not a radio broadcast," Desrosiers said. "It's a series of private broadcasts between users."

Craig Hamilton, president of iNoize.com, whose technology helps run Jackalope Audio, likes the system to a very long wire that extends the reach of stereo speakers.

"We're not the ones playing the music, we're really just providing the long speaker wire," Hamilton said. "We've aimed to provide an infrastructure that allows users to take advantage of

their fair-use rights." Despite the company's confidence, the legal implications of the Jackalope system remain far from clear.

The lack of overt copying of song files, for example, hasn't stopped the music industry from aggressively suing online radio stations. Paul Schiff Berman, an associate professor teaching Internet law at the University of Connecticut Law School, said Jackalope's claims to private performance and fair-use rights are debatable, but the fact that it doesn't involve copying probably helps.

"It's a better argument than Napster, but it's not a slam-dunk," he said.

IN BRIEF

Rare tree uses 'surrogate mother'

One of the world's most endangered trees seems to have developed a clever new way of reproducing, by using a surrogate mother of a closely related species.

The Saharan cypress, Cupressus dupreziana, sends its pollen to be nourished in the seeds of a more common relative. The resulting unfertilized embryo develops from only female cells, and offspring are identical to the rare cypress.

Use of a surrogate mother has never been seen before in plants. French researchers reported last week in the journal Nature.

The scientists, led by Christian Fichol, speculate that the strategy evolved in response to a drastic reduction of the Saharan cypress population. The species, native to Algeria, is on the brink of extinction, with only 251 such trees remaining worldwide.

Stray insects cut into turbine production

Insects caught on the blades of wind turbines can reduce power production by as much as half, scientists say.

Turbines that generate different power output levels at the same wind speed have puzzled

wind farmers. Because insects rarely fly in high winds, they weren't suspected.

New research in the Netherlands found that insects caught on the blades during low wind speeds cause the turbines to produce less power when the wind picks up. The bugs are caught on the front of the blade, where pressure and air speed are crucial to power output during high winds.

The study, by Gustave Corten and Herman Veldhuis, appears in the current issue of Nature.

Researchers find clue to tricking cancer cells

A little bit of RNA can go a long way to halt cancer growth, new research shows.

Cancer cells, both in a dish and in mice, stopped growing and started dying when treated with low levels of a mutant form of RNA, report researchers in the latest issue of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The RNA is part of an enzyme called telomerase that most tumor cells use so they can reproduce indefinitely.

The mutated RNA may trick cells into destroying themselves. The strategy could provide effective gene therapy in human tumors, suggest the study's authors.

—The Dallas Morning News

Symphony

Group will perform with the Vancouver Children's Opera

From page D1

1998-99 budget of \$120,000. Most of the added expense this season comes from the decision to provide at least a stipend to all of the group's 70 musicians, generally \$25 for section players and \$35 for principals per performance.

"This will be a huge stretch for us," Botvink said. "We'll have to work really hard to get there. But we think we need to take this step forward and officially become a professional orchestra. We sincerely hope the community will support us on this."

In addition to increasing professionalism, Vancouver Symphony also will be spreading itself out into new realms.

The group will play its first free concert in the renovated Esther Short Park at 7 p.m. Aug. 29. The two-hour program includes arrangements of James Bond movie music. The symphony also will support the new Vancouver Children's Opera in its debut performances, "Amahl and

VANCOUVER SYMPHONY'S 2001-02 SEASON

Free concert in Esther Short Park, 7 p.m. Aug. 29 in downtown Vancouver, including about two hours of music.

Such selections as Georges Bizet's "L'Arlesienne" and Aram Khachaturian's "Masquerade" suite, plus arrangements of "007 Movie Music" and a "Tribute to Henry Mancini" by Calvin Coster and Duke Ellington Fantasy" by Hugh Hammer.

Opening celebration, 2:30 p.m., Oct. 6 and 7 p.m., Oct. 7 in Skyview High School's auditorium, 1300 N.W. 138th St., featuring actor-conductor David Ogden Stiers, who will conduct and narrate Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf." Program also includes classical guitarist Lily Alshar playing Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez" (not part of the subscription series).

"Czechoslovakia," 2:30 p.m., Nov. 10 and 7 p.m., Nov. 11 at Skyview, featuring guest conductor Travis Horton, artistic administrator of Vancouver Children's Opera and a program of Bedrich Smetana's "Sarka" and Antonin Dvorak's Violin Concerto, Op. 53, and Symphony No. 8, Op. 80.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors," 7:30 p.m., Nov. 20 and Dec. 1 in Hough Elementary's auditorium, 1900 Denwie St. is the debut of Vancouver Children's Opera (not part of Vancouver Symphony's subscription series but available through its box office).

"Ruska," 2:30 p.m., Jan. 18 and 7 p.m., Jan. 20 at Skyview, conductor Salvador Brotons leads a program of Khachaturian's "Masquerade" suite. Danel Broussier's Symphony No. 8 and Harold Miller's Trumpet Concerto, played by Jay Chen, principal trumpet for Portland Opera.

"Young Artists," 8:00 p.m., Feb. 23 and 7 p.m., Feb. 24 at Skyview, featuring guest conductor Marina Mastry, music director and conductor of the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra, and the winners of the 2000 Young Artist Competition.

"Austria," 2:30 p.m., April 20 and 7 p.m., April 21 at Skyview, conductor Salvador Brotons leads a program of Johannes Brahms' "Hungarian" Concerto No. 5, Franz Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's

dren's Opera.

Furthermore, the symphony has scheduled most of its subscription shows in Skyview High School's auditorium, which is about twice as big as its other venue, the Royal Durrat Theatre in the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics.

Vancouver Symphony's season will open with a concert featuring actor-conductor David Ogden Stiers, who co-starred in the "M*A*S*H" television series. He will narrate and lead the orchestra in a rendition of Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf." Other season programs will have mu-

Recital, K 228, accompanied by an 80-piece chorus and four soloists from the Vancouver USA Singers and Touch of Class Chorus. America, 2:30 p.m., June 8 and 7 p.m., June 22 at the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics's Royal Durrat Theatre, 3101 Main St., conductor Salvador Brotons presents a program of Broadway favorites, plus a dramatic opera by local composer Matt Doran.



Cylinders

Smith Tower complains eased after 1999 remodeling

From page D1

Cascade mountains and downtown Vancouver, plus such attractions as Pearson Field, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and Esther Short Park.

"The concept is everybody faces outside," Smith Tower manager Jim Johnson said. "Everybody has a view. The lower floors get the streets. The upper floors get the mountains."

Michael Ernest of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia said, "Buildings that are round have some inherent efficiencies. They are fairly compact. The ratio of surface area to floor space is pretty low, meaning less perimeter for the same floor space and very little in ways of interior corridors and wasted space. Plus, geometrically, they are pretty sound."

Cylindrical buildings aren't problem-free, either, symbolized by the flagship leaning tower in Pisa, Italy. Probably the prime drawback, though, is dividing the space within and then accommodating for it.

Smith Tower, for example, has 13 floors of residents separated into 13 rooms per floor, consisting mainly of studio apartments (plus a few slightly bigger one-bedroom units) for low-income senior citizens. All of the rooms are pie-shaped, with the studios only 380 square feet each.

"There's not a square corner in it," manager Johnson said. "This makes carpeting and materials a bit more costly, takes more labor, and it makes for more waste."

"It gets very difficult to place furniture into pie-shaped or round corners," architect Neilson said. "It's a lot simpler if you're dealing with squares and rectangles."

In addition, "round buildings don't usually fit terribly well anywhere," said Larry Swatosh, a Vancouver architect since 1961. "But it's a pattern that intrigues a lot of people. It can make for an interesting look."

Swatosh said he remembers the fervor around the construction of Smith Tower, which was a marvel to metropolitan-area ar-

chitects because of its unusual lift-slab design.

"I don't think anybody thought of our old town at Vancouver as an old town at that time," he said. "This was a tall building. People thought it looked really nice."

They thought it was a way to put a little town like Vancouver on the map. But when we think back about it now, with all of the restoration in this area, it just doesn't seem to fit in very well."

Vancouver's economic development director, Steve Burdick, acknowledges that the sight of Smith Tower has been a source of contention over the years with prospective downtown developers, adding, "But I don't think it was ever a deal killer with anybody."

Yet since the building's owners, a nonprofit organization called Mid-Columbia Manor, remodeled the exterior in 1999 — tinting windows and changing the base colors from harvest gold and avocado to less conspicuous cream.

Burdick says he rarely hears disparaging remarks about it. He expects Smith Tower to blend even more into the background after the \$95 million Vancouver Center complex, just east of Esther Short Park, starts rising. One of those buildings on the old Lucky Brewery site will be 11 stories, and another will be nine, giving the 150-foot-tall Smith Tower some company on the skyline.

"Since the remodel and with all of the activity downtown, it's a little more like there isn't that common topic to complain about anymore," Burdick said. "With all of the things happening in that area, (Smith Tower) just won't stick out like it has in the past."

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