

The Columbian
Life

Section D

Today's weather picture by Jay Dallum, 9, Battle Ground, Captain Strong Elementary



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Inspiring minds

Local artists share secrets about dwelling on the edge



“The **key** question,”
American psychologist Abraham Maslow writes, “isn’t ‘What fosters creativity?’ But it is **why** in God’s name isn’t **everyone** creative?”

Where was the human potential lost? How was it crippled? Leaders clamor for innovation. Corporations crow “cutting edge,” while the creative class is being enlisted countrywide to save our cities. But Albert Einstein points out an unsettling reality: “The intuitive mind is a sacred gift, and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.”

Think cubicles, which developer Robert Propst acknowledged as **“monolithic insanity.”**

Of being politically correct. About momentum-sapping meetings. Choosing among compromises. Decisions made for efficiency’s sake.

Intellectual fertility instead requires, philosopher Erich Fromm wrote, for people “to be puzzled. To concentrate. To accept conflict and tension. To be born everyday. To feel a sense of self.”

Clark County artists exist on that margin. We wondered what we could learn from them.



Inside

Discover what local artists say about the mysteries of creativity

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For me to stay creative, I have to be inspired by other artists. I have to be learning.”

— **Beau Sem**, Vancouver choreographer, who forges most of his moves on the concrete floor of his unheated garage

STORY BY BRETT OPPEGAARD ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVEN LANE of THE COLUMBIAN

GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS: DAY 4

To help you out with the hunt for the perfect gift, we’re calling upon Clark County people with hobbies and interests to offer suggestions for 12 days.

OK, so we know that the 12 days of Christmas actually start on Christmas and count down to Epiphany.

But the song — a partridge in a pear tree, two turtledoves and all that — inspired us. We promise, no French hens, no calling birds, no geese a-laying or any of that. Just good gift ideas and some special help for the procrastinators among us on Christmas Eve.

— Columbian staff writer Erin Middlewood

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For the runner on your list:

Steve Redman, a 42-year-old Vancouver resident and director of operations for New Edge Networks, didn’t hesitate when asked what he would be happy to find under the tree. “Warm running pants,” he said. Redman organizes New Edge’s Hood to Coast relay team each year and doesn’t let inclement weather keep him from running. He likes Nike’s water-wicking pants.



These \$55 Nike pants for men are made of moisture-wicking fabric. They are available online at www.nike.com.

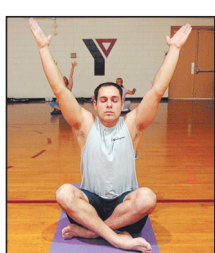
GIFT IDEAS

Day 1, for the crafter: Clover Yarn Cutter Pendant, folding scissors.

Day 2, for the foodie: Sur La Table gift card.

Day 3, for the gardener: Garden gloves.

your
Guide:



Health and fitness: Author shares how yoga can enhance the practice of Catholicism /D3



Plan your outing to see the Christmas Ship Parade with our map /D3

Television: ‘Babel’ leads Golden Globe nominees with seven nods /D9



Coming Saturday: See ‘High School Musical’ through a father’s eyes /D1

Inspiring minds

Insights from those who rely on their creative nature to survive

What's the biggest obstacle to creativity?

♦ "What I spend 90 percent of my time doing — instead of creating music, doing it and performing it — is figuring out a way to pay for it. Raising money, worrying about money, panicking about money. ... It should be 95 percent the other way."

— **Michael Kissinger**, founder and conductor of *Bravo! Vancouver*; also a clarinet player and teacher, a composer and founder of the *Vancouver Wine & Jazz Festival*

♦ "I just don't have the time to get everything out that I want to get out of my head."

— **Bev Jozwiak**, Vancouver painter, whose work twice has been published in books — in 1999 and 2006 — showing the best of the country's watercolor artists

♦ "Having a family and a business to run. ... When you've had to do bookkeeping and deal with people all day, then wiping runny noses and changing diapers. To sit down and feel creative? Sometimes you just want to go to bed."

— **Carla Kendall-Bray**, Vancouver choreographer and artistic director of *Dance Fusion Northwest*; also lead singer of the pop band *Colorfield*



"The number of hats I wear as producer, director and writer. ..."

I get so busy raising money, booking airfares, reserving hotels, hiring a crew. When I get to the point of where I'm finally going to shoot a scene, where I need to be creative, then it can feel like I'm just jumping in."

— **Beth Harrington**, Vancouver filmmaker, with work shown nationally on PBS

What inspires you?

♦ "My dad was a metallurgical engineer, and he would come home every night and paint. ... He was always happiest when he was creating. But there are societal pressures. To get married. To have a family. To have a regular job."

My (life as an artist) comes from seeing my father not take it all the way."

— **Trip Gruver**, Vancouver filmmaker, who co-designed and directed the "Michelin Baby" ads



How do you generate a creative spark?

♦ "I wrote an instrumental piece based on jumping out of an airplane. I just went parachuting that one time in my life. I landed wrong and broke my ankle. ... It is a soaring tune, about my feeling of being in the clouds before the crash."

— **Doug Smith**, Vancouver musician, who won a Grammy Award in 2005 for his work on the album "Henry Mancini: Pink Guitar"

♦ "Taking a camera with me. Just to the park. Or to the river. Just going and tuning out the meaning of things and instead looking at everything in terms of color, light and shadow. Simple things, like a bug crawling across a windshield, can be stunning."

— **Nurmi Husa**, Vancouver visual artist and actor, who also has written a historical novel set in ancient Rome

♦ "I was trying to choreograph 'The Waltz of the Flowers' for 'The Nutcracker,' when I decided to do something different, instead of working in the studio. So I climbed Beacon Rock for the first time. I was by myself. It was a beautiful day. ... On the way down, I was humming parts of the music, choreographing and doing steps. I felt inspired to try different combinations and sequences. Some of them worked well. Some needed refining, and some didn't make it to the bottom of the mountain."

— **Jan Hurst**, choreographer and artistic director of Vancouver's *Columbia Dance*, who spent her \$600,000 inheritance on a permanent home for her company



"It's always an exploration."

It's some kind of experiment that I haven't done before, and it's

usually scary."

— **Sumi Wu**, Vancouver sculptor, who went to Stanford University to become a scientist but left an artist

What do you think keeps others from being more creative?

"Worrying about the bottom line, when 95 percent of all artists can't make a living at it."

— **Karen Kingsbury**, Vancouver author, who has sold more than 5 million books

♦ "A lot of people have been led to believe that when you become a mature individual you have put play behind you."

— **Beth Harrington**, Vancouver filmmaker, creator of such pieces as "The Blinking Madonna and Other Miracles"

♦ "The fear of having your work rejected by others. When you create, it comes from deep within you. ... You're taking something so personal. It's like saying, 'Sure, world. You can read my old love letters from high school.'"

— **Trip Gruver**, Vancouver filmmaker, who created animated shorts for "Sesame Street" and worked on "The Ewok Adventure"

♦ "We've decided as a society that art is for particular people, and everyone else should stay away. Most of us aren't allowed to participate. ... But everybody has in them some need to express who they are. That part just gets ignored."

— **Sumi Wu**, Vancouver metal sculptor, who also worked a dozen years as a potter

♦ "The circumstances of life. Bills, raising kids, trying to climb the corporate ladder, deadlines. People lose focus on their dreams."

— **Beau Sem**, Vancouver choreographer, founder of the *Groove Nation Hip Hop Dance Academy*

What ritual has changed your life?

♦ "Putting on my painter's smock. It's got the remnants of all of the things that I've done."

It's caked with glue and feathers and paint. I only wear it in my studio. ... It's kind of a sacred garment. My mother wore the same kind of smock in her studio. When I put mine on, I have a sense of pride that I'm carrying on the tradition."

— **Angela Haseltine Pozzi**, Vancouver sculptor and painter, whose mother, Maury Haseltine, worked as a painter and printmaker



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVEN LANE OF THE COLUMBIAN

