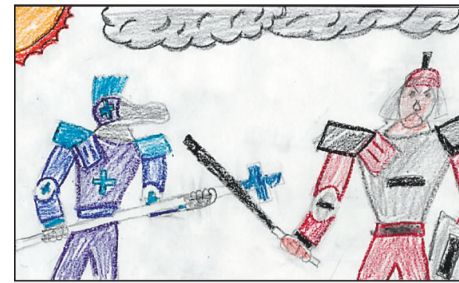


The Columbian Life

Section D

Today's weather picture by Gavin M. Cayan, 9, Vancouver, Eisenhower Elementary School



THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007

Wine's role in dinner celebrated

By ERIN MIDDLEWOOD
Columbian staff writer

Twenty years ago, Steve Runyan put together his first dinner to showcase wines produced by his friend Hubert Trimbach's family in the Alsace region of France. He staged the dinner for 80 in the other Vancouver.

Runyan has hosted a number of dinners with Trimbach in this Vancouver since then. In that time, things have changed. Runyan retired from the family jewelry business, and Vancouver evolved from a place where you could only find wine at a grocery or state liquor store.

Clark County is catching up with wine connoisseurs like Runyan, a member of the international Chaine des Rôtisseurs. These days, it's not hard to find a wine tasting in Southwest Washington, and you don't have to be one of Runyan's friends to find a dinner that pairs wine with each course. Increasingly, restaurants offer semiregular wine dinners.

Runyan has invited Trimbach back for a special dinner at Vesta Restaurant on Sunday.

Although many people sit down to sip a glass of wine much like they would a martini, Runyan sees wine as a part of a meal.

"When you find a food and a wine that go together, it makes that course a complete happening," he said.

Joellen Fixel, owner of Acorn Deli, Wine and Catering in downtown Vancouver, shares that philosophy. Her love of food and wine motivated her to offer casual monthly wine dinners at her restaurant.

"There are many wines that are not particularly wonderful for sipping. I'd say half the wines out there aren't that great for sitting around and drinking, but they really come alive when tasted with food," Fixel said. She will host a dinner Friday featuring San Francisco-area cuisine and moderately priced wines from Red Truck of Sonoma Valley.

At the fancier Vesta dinner, six Trimbach wines will be served with a five-course meal prepared by Chef Morris Fenton. The meal will include lobster, mussels, veal, foie gras and salmon, and will finish with smoked cheeses selected by Maitre Fromager Nathan Poppelreiter.

Trimbach will speak about his family's winery, established in 1626. By volume, it's one of the smallest wineries in the Alsace region, but it holds 35 percent of the market share in the United States. Decanter Magazine named Trimbach's nephew, Pierre Trimbach, one of the world's top 10 white winemakers in 2006.

Each table will have an extra seat so Trimbach can make the rounds to visit with guests.

If you go

■ **What:** Winemaker dinner with Hubert Trimbach of France's Maison Trimbach.

■ **When:** 5 p.m. Sunday.

■ **Where:** Vesta Restaurant and Wine, 14387 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd.

■ **Cost:** \$125 per person; reservations and advance payment required.

■ **Info:** Dianna Fenton, 360-450-9473, for reservations.

Julie Rupert, left, as Annie Oakley, and Drew Harper, right, as Frank Butler, run through a scene of "Annie Get Your Gun" with drama teacher Margit Moe observing.

STEVEN LANE/The Columbian



Mt. View star ponders his next act

Cost derails Drew Harper's dream of NYU

By BRETT OPPEGAARD
Columbian staff writer

When Drew Harper was 5 years old, he informed his parents that he needed an agent. By 7, he was starring in community theater musicals. The tenor has been picked for prominent roles the past four years in Mountain View High School's stage shows, including the lead part of Frank Butler in "Annie Get Your Gun," which continues through Saturday.

To go beyond high school and community theater, though, Harper is starting to learn how much more of him it is going to take.

Harper thought he had done it all. He earned a perfect score on the verbal part of the SAT. He learned Spanish, French and Arabic. He was a merit winner in musical theater as picked by the National Foundation of Advancement in the Arts.

His work and accomplishments paid off when he received an acceptance letter from New York University's prestigious musical theater program. Then, he learned, as much as he was willing to sign a Faustian deal to get the money, the 18-year-old didn't have the bank credit to get the student loans on his own, and his parents, both teachers, feel they can't afford to send him.

Harper's disappointment became sealed about two weeks ago, during the final rehearsals for his last show at Mountain View. He was going with his parents, Brad and Robin Harper, from a voice lesson to dinner. They wanted to talk more about the college plans. It was an emotional discussion. They decided to stay in the car in the parking lot. A couple of hours passed before anyone emerged.

"The hardest moment was looking at him and asking him to be realistic," Brad Harper said. "Drew has dreamed of going to New York since he was a little kid. I've always wanted to be supportive of that dream. ... He was very heartbro-

HARPER, Page D5

If you go

■ **What:** "Annie Get Your Gun," a musical by Irving Berlin, performed by Mountain View High School's drama department.

■ **When:** 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

■ **Where:** Mountain View High School, 1500 S.E. Blairmont Drive, Vancouver.

■ **Cost:** \$9, \$5 students and seniors.

■ **Information:** 360-604-6100. On the Web: mtv.egreen.wednet.edu.

With New York University turning out not to be an option financially, Harper, a senior, still doesn't know where he's going to college next year.



WINE DINNERS

■ **Acorn Deli** — 6 p.m. Friday, A Taste of San Francisco four-course dinner with Red Truck wines from Sonoma. Reservations required. 360-696-8550. 210 W. Evergreen Blvd., Vancouver.

■ **Salut! Camas Bistro** — 7 p.m. June 9, Erin Glenn wines. \$45 meal, \$20 wine flight. Reservations required. 360-833-9429. 212 N.E. Fourth St., Camas.

■ **The Restaurant at the Historic Reserve** — 7 p.m. every third Thursday of the month. \$75. 360-906-1101. 1101 Officers Row, Vancouver.

Dress for success — and running errands

Variety, versatility put women in dresses again

By HARRIETT HENDREN
McClatchy-Tribune

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Although not entirely forgotten, the dress took a back seat in recent years to skirts and pants when it came to day-to-day wear for office and evening.

But after gaining ground the past few seasons, the dress is saturating the spring market in bold prints and an array of styles.

"They've just been kind of building in popularity," said Lori Houlihan, owner of the boutique Isle of You in Lexington, Ky.

"For so many years there, people were doing jeans with stilettos," she said. "I think everybody kind of got bored with their jeans."

Back in the heyday of the dress, through the 1950s and much of the '60s, women filled their wardrobes with dresses for special occasions but also for times as mundane as running errands.

Now women are again searching for that kind of everyday elegance, said Mary Waiwood, a division merchandise manager for dresses,

suits and coats at Dillard's.

"They're into that Jackie O, 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' look, where you look more dressed up," she said. "The big thing is that there are so many silhouettes — sheaths, trapeze, baby-doll dresses. Something we haven't seen in a long time."

Waiwood, based in the St. Louis division, oversees buyers for stores in eight states, including Kentucky, where she has noted "a ladylike influence."

But far from being prim and fussy, the latest designs seem



More fashion stories, D3

This cotton baby-doll dress is \$29.50 at Old Navy.

MARK CORNELISON/
Lexington Herald-Leader

DRESSES, Page D5

your Guide:



Fashion: Hot designer's make-do approach inspired by his mother /D3



Play our sudoku puzzle /D3

Tips for finding a flattering swimsuit /D4

Television: CBS tries adventurous new schedule, cancels 'Jericho' /D7

Coming Friday:

Exhibit takes on misogyny /D1

OUT OF SEASON



The Columbian files

We were wondering, what's Santa thinking about this time of year? Submit your caption to saywhat@columbian.com (write "Summer Santa" in the subject line), or mail it to: Say What? caption contest, P.O. Box 180, Vancouver, WA 98666-0180. Please include your name, phone number and city of residence. Deadline is June 7. We'll pick the top responses and run them June 21. The winner gets two movie tickets.



Harper:

From Page D1

ken. A little angry, angry why it would work out this way. We all cried. We all got through it."

The Harpers, like many other families, are scrambling to find a way to pay for college. Chelinda Dettorre, a counselor for Evergreen Public Schools, said high-achieving kids interested in a technical background often can get companies, such as Microsoft Corp. or Hewlett-Packard Co., to invest in them and their education. But in Drew Harper's case, even though he would be highly employable in his field with a degree from NYU, it's such a narrow niche of an industry that community resources aren't as plentiful.

"Unlike in the medical field, for example, nobody's going to say to him come back and act for us for four years, and we'll pay off your debt," Dettorre said. "It's like he's getting in the doors of the college, but he can't even go down the hall. He's stopped at the point of:

Sign here on the check."

NYU costs \$50,000 a year, including room and board. Harper said the school offered him \$9,000 a year in scholarships and \$6,000 in work study. The other \$35,000 a year would have to come from another source, which for Harper means loans.

Brad Harper said he and his wife are unwilling to take on that amount of debt, in part because they have two younger children — Breegan, 15, and Corey, 12 — who also will want to go to college. Given the cost, the Harpers aren't even sure they can afford to send their oldest son to a state school outside of this metropolitan area.

Drew Harper said he's planning to work two jobs this summer, landscaping and busing tables, to earn as much money as he can toward his education. Maybe in a year or two, he said, he will be able to transfer to NYU.

"It's not the road I wanted," Harper said. "I hang out with the (Advanced Placement program) kids, who are getting into Stanford, Harvard, Cal-Berkeley. They are all going to the schools

that they want to go to. I've always had dreams just as big or bigger than my friends. ... I feel alone and left behind."

That frustration is shared in the Mountain View High School community among the teachers who have worked with Harper and see his potential.

Jeanette James, musical director at Mountain View, met Harper when he was 13. She has been working with him since.

She said in 40 years of teaching music, "I've never had a student like him, ever, in terms of raw talent. ... I've also never had a student with the aspirations like Drew has. We've talked a lot about that this year, to never let the dream diminish. To keep the passion, even if you have to take a little different pathway to get there."

Harper said, "To know this struggle might just be something that I can use to my advantage. ... I'm going into a life of pink slips. I'm going into a life of a thousand nos to every one yes. But it only takes that one yes to give you the break you need. Ultimately, it comes down to how hard I want to work."

Dresses:

From Page D1

made for easy summer days, with flowing shapes and easy-to-care-for cottons.

If there is a standout silhouette, it might be the baby doll, but it's not the only look out there.

Hems fall everywhere, from above-the-knee shifts to ankle-dusting maxis.

The collection of billowy designs at Old Navy, for instance, includes short, breezy styles that can be worn with leggings or jeans, as well as hippie-ish long, flowing maxis.

And the dynamic hues and bold prints are not to be ignored.

"Color is huge," said Elizabeth Shipley, manager and buyer at Worlds Apart, in Lexington, Ky. Her store carries dresses sporting vintage prints from Vera, a '60s staple.

"We typically don't seem to have much print and we have a lot of print, a lot of color," she said.

Such bold colors and interesting shapes make this year's dress its own wearable work of art. So accents in the way of jewelry need not be elaborate; a chunky cuff or simple hoop earrings will do.

"If I was doing a really bold print, I'd go simpler with the jewelry," said Isle of You's Houlihan, who suggested maybe a single strand of big beads.

A silky dress with a scarflike print (\$59 at Dillard's) can take you from work to evening. Braided wedge sandals are from Marshalls (\$39.99).

MARK CORNELISON/
Lexington Herald-Leader

"I wouldn't let there be lot of action with my jewelry."

Used to mixing it up with combinations of skirts and pants and an assortment of tops, buyers might balk at laying down money for a single garment such as a dress.

But thanks to the incredible range of heel heights this season (ranging from ballet flats to lofty wedges and platform sandals) and belts and other accessories, there are many looks to be mined from the same piece.

"You can belt them with a big, wide belt. You can put leggings on underneath," Shipley said. "You're getting more out of your dress than just one look."

Because it's been away so long, our relationship with the dress just might take some getting used to.

But dazzled by the amazing colors and variety of styles in comfortable fabrics, customers are willing to give dresses another try, said Waiwood, the Dillard's buyer.

"I think women are understanding them again," she said, "and they feel good in them again."



Local farms and stands wanted for annual guide

The Columbian's Clark County Farm Fresh Guide will be published in June. The guide includes a map to area farms and stands that sell homegrown produce.

If you were included last year, you will be this year. If you weren't, we want to hear from you. Or if you have changes from last year's guide, let us know. We need to hear from you by 5 p.m. May 18.

We want your farm or stand's location, phone number, e-mail address (if you want to include it), hours, what you grow and sell, as well as festivals or events at your farm. Your farm or stand must be open to the public to be included.

Please send e-mail to farmfresh@columbian.com, or write to Farm Fresh Guide, Features Department, The Columbian, P.O. Box 180, Vancouver, WA 98666. If you prefer, you can drop off the information at the front desk of The Columbian, 701 W. Eighth St., Vancouver, or you can fax the information to the Features Department at 360-699-6033.

Please put "Farm Fresh Guide" in the subject lines of e-mail and faxes. Include your name, address, phone number and e-mail, so we can reach you.

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