

The Columbian Life

Section D

Today's weather picture by Paul Corbin, 10, Battle Ground, Captain Strong Elementary School



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Photos by KRISTINA WRIGHT for The Columbian

Protest quilter and lifelong Republican Roberta Cook was hoping election-night news would inspire a fresh design for her handiwork.

WITNESS TO THE UNRAVELING

GOP hard-liner's quilts usually inspired by politics

Did you know?

This area is home to an active quilting community, including a group called the Clark County Quilters, as well as the author of the nationally distributed book "Quilting for Dummies," Cheryl Fall. Fall, who lives in Brush Prairie, estimates that there are more than 24 million quilters in the United States.

By BRETT OPPEGAARD
Columbian staff writer

The windows of the living room are dark. It's raining. Roberta Cook sits in her rocker with a Christmas tree quilt on her lap and stick pins in the arm of her chair. The 81-year-old is sewing busily but also listening on this Tuesday night to election results presented by the Fox News channel. Roberta is notorious in Clark County quilting circles for incorporating politically racy images onto her quilts. Some people write letters to the newspaper. Some rant to friends. Roberta quilts out her ideas. That provocative work, in turn, has been rejected at times, shunned, and hung in obscure places at various fairs and exhibitions. But she also has a wall in her quilting room filled with more than 100 blue ribbons. Roberta has sewn a teapot with its pants down, representing President Clinton in his tryst with Monica Lewinsky. She made a portrait of Iraq's former leader, which she calls "Sa'damn Insane." She created a quilt in protest of Clark County's sprawl that illustrates the transgression "from trees to sleaze to wheeze." It shows

greedy builders giving bribes, cutting trees and polluting the air but also getting mooned by citizens who are fed up with such antics. Roberta is convinced that her next great idea is going to come tonight. Politics are her muse. She has hopes that John Kerry will make another blunder. She envisions a caricature of him, with garbage spewing out of his mouth. "He's easy to draw," she says, "because he's so ugly." Yet Roberta is open to whatever inspiration might come, just listening to the television and, as she describes it, "waiting for the 'bingo!'" Roberta has been a devoted Republican since she was 16. She replays that defining moment by drawing out Franklin D. Roosevelt's voice, as she remembers it sounding as it came from the radio: "Mothers of Ammerica. I will never send your boys to shed blood on foreign soil again." Her oldest brother, Kenneth, was killed in action 19 days later, one of the first casualties of World War II. Another older brother, Donald, was killed at the end of the war. Roberta was a banker for 30 years. She listens to Rush Limbaugh's radio

"I don't have to listen to this. I have a button to deal with this. Two buttons: mute and off."

Roberta Cook
ON ELECTION NIGHT

The Cooks discuss what they think has gone wrong. Theories include people mindlessly accepting "Democrat lies," Republicans not voting in high enough numbers and the evangelical wing of the party having too much control over the agenda. "I don't have to listen to this," Roberta says about 9 p.m. "I have a button to deal with this. Two buttons: mute and off." She gets a little jolt when commentators mention that Kerry might run for president again. She says, "He's such a dork." Ed finally goes to bed about 11:30 p.m. But Roberta listens until midnight. Nothing has come to her. Even the Kerry quilt doesn't seem that exciting anymore. Roberta puts away her tools. She's done for the night. Roberta solemnly changes the channel. She finds on the Food Network that Rachael Ray and her "Tasty Travels" are visiting Memphis, Tenn. She remarks about how "cheerful" Ray is. She likes that. She's smiling and laughing again. Roberta decides not to turn back to the news.

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1. Brain-bending screenplay

Taking a break from the soporific high jinks of films like "Old School" and "Wedding Crashers," Will Ferrell returns in "Stranger Than Fiction."



In the film, Ferrell is Harold Crick, an Internal Revenue Service auditor who hears his daily life narrated. Eventually, the narration — which only Harold can hear — dominates all areas of his life. Things take a

turn when the narrator — believing Crick to be a fictional character — foreshadows his death. Confused yet? If the possibility of Ferrell as a dramatic lead doesn't interest you, the brain-bending screenplay should.

When: In theaters now.

Where: All Regal theaters in Clark County; Cinetopia, 11700 S.E. Seventh St., Vancouver; Battle Ground Cinema, 1700 S.W. Ninth Ave., Battle Ground.

Admission: Varies by theater.

On the Web: www.fandango.com, www.cinetopiatheaters.com or www.battlegroundcinema.com.

2. Life after punk

Frank Black, founding member and lead singer of legendary rock group the Pixies, stops in Portland for a performance early next week. Before you head to the show (or while you're waiting for the reunited Pixies to record a new album), get acquainted with Black's newest release, "Fast Man Raider Man," in stores now. The laid-back double-disc set finds Black taking his indie



pedigree in new directions, including Americana and alt-country. **When:** 8 p.m. Tuesday. **Where:** Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St., Portland. **Admission:** \$18 through Ticketmaster, 360-573-7700. **Telephone:** 503-284-8686. **On the Web:** www.wonderballroom.com.

3. Martin-spotting

Comedian Demetri Martin will appear at the Aladdin Theater on Sunday. You might recognize Martin from his tongue-in-cheek "Trendspotting" segments on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart." Highlights include Martin's pursuit of the Xbox 360 video-game system after its release last year and a spot on the growing popularity of the social networking site MySpace in which he sang "I Got 9,000 Friends." Martin released a CD-DVD package in September creatively titled "These Are Jokes." **When:** 7 p.m. Sunday. **Where:** 3017 S.E. Milwaukie Ave., Portland. **Admission:** \$29.75 through Ticketmaster, 360-573-7700. **Telephone:** 503-233-1994. **On the Web:** www.aladdin-theater.com.

4. A stroll for the soul

You'll find artwork in unusual places today, which marks the monthly Second

Saturday Art Walk in Vancouver. Download the event map online, then stroll around downtown and uptown, where 16 participants will exhibit artwork. Hungry? Grab a coffee or a bite to eat while perusing art at Caffe Di Lusso or Cafe Al Dente along Main Street and then head to the second-floor gallery at the Hilton Vancouver Washington.

When: Hours vary by business. **Where:** Uptown and downtown Vancouver. **Admission:** Free. **On the Web:** www.artwalkvancouver.com.

5. Hit film takes checkered flag

If rain keeps you indoors this weekend, think about renting Pixar's latest film, "Cars," which follows an up-and-coming race car as it learns to ease up on the gas pedal every once in awhile. Responsible for "Toy Story" and "Finding Nemo," Pixar released the film earlier this year. It features the voice talents of Owen Wilson, Paul Newman and, in a refreshingly tolerable role, Larry the Cable Guy. The film is beautiful, with ambling scenic shots evoking memories of Route 66 and an era in which road trips didn't seem so ridiculously expensive. The computer-generated animated film is fun for the whole family, but at about two hours, it might be a bit long for small children. Rated G.

When: Available now. **On the Web:** disney.go.com/disneyvideos/animatedfilms/cars.

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Turkish man says he is real-life 'Borat,' wants payment

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The inspiration for Sacha Baron Cohen's "Borat" character is seeking an apology and a way to get paid from the film's surprise success.

Mahir Cagri, 44, became a cyber-celebrity after posting a personal Web site in 1999, featuring unintentionally amusing photos such as one of him sunbathing in a skimpy bathing suit. Fans were captivated by his broken English and invitation to women: "Who is want to come TURKEY I can invite. ... She can stay my home." "The world knows he is copying Mahir," Cagri recently told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from his hometown of Izmir.

Cagri, a freelance journalist, hopes to receive an "acknowledgment or an apology" from Baron Cohen. "The bombshell is going to fall," he said. "(Cohen) is making money by using me." The 20th Century Fox movie "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan" took in \$26.5 million in the U.S. its opening weekend, more than any other film.

"I can't remember his name — he was a doctor," Baron Cohen said of his inspiration. "The moment I met him, I was totally crying. He was a hysterically funny guy, albeit totally unintentionally."



Courtesy of Mahir Cagri

Mahir Cagri, 44, of Izmir, Turkey, became a cyber-celebrity after posting a personal Web site.

your Guide:



Music: A quick rise to stardom more likely in today's music world /D3



Oscar-winning actor Jack Palance, known for his roles in 'Shane' and 'City Slickers,' dies /D4

Television: Discovery series ventures to world's highest peak /D5

Religion: Do 'superstar' pastors help or hurt faith communities? /D7

Coming Sunday:

How to get your own sample of outer space /D1