

whatcom Independent

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FREE EVERY THURSDAY

But what if I want to sell?

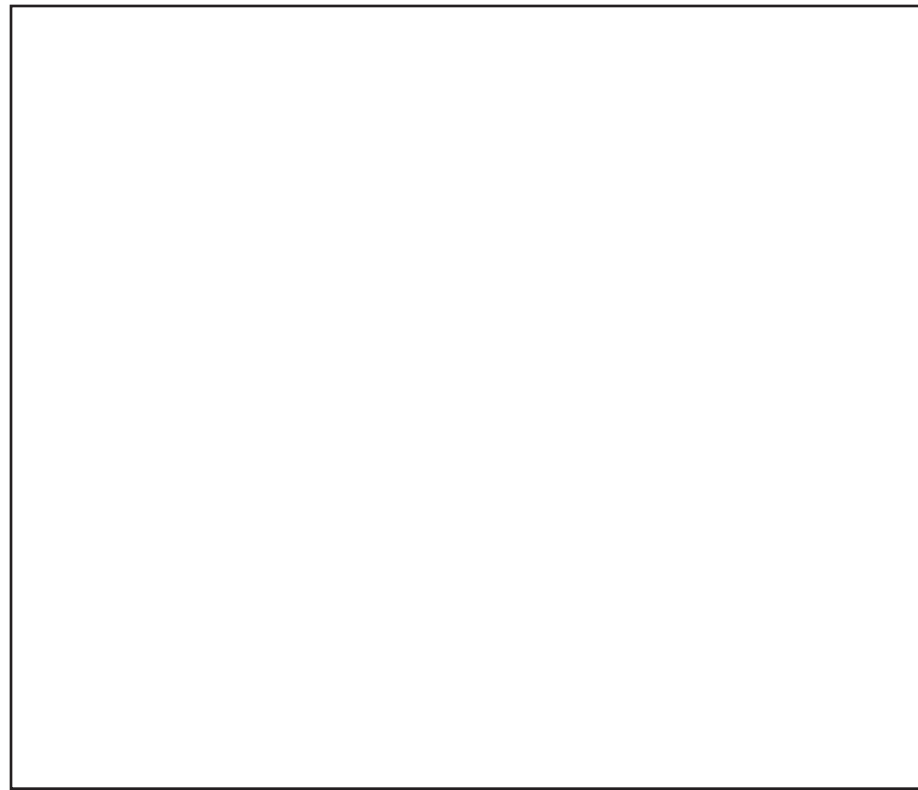
■ *Affordable Housing, Part III; What type of housing is the best long-term investment?*

by **TOM OLSEN & MARILYN OLSEN**
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COUNTY – In parts I and II of our series on affordable housing, the WI has explored what types of housing are available to median income families. Since a home is generally considered the largest single purchase a family will ever make, in this part of our series we'll examine which type of housing would provide the best long-term investment. We'll look at what the investment value of various options would be if home values continue to rise at three different rates:

- a recessionary two percent per year;
- a five percent rate slightly above long-term inflation; and
- an aggressive 10 percent per year "boom" scenario.

see **HOUSING** page 6



A house may be a home, but it is also most people's major investment. What will the property be worth years from now? In this issue, we explore the impact of financing on this question..

Staff photo and graphics

Fishing for the future

■ *"When the tide was out, our table was set."*
Lummi Elder tribal saying.

by **HELEN SOLEM**
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LUMMI NATION - "Now we have to diversify in order to be self-supporting, just to put food on our tables," said Randy Kinley, former Chairman of the Lummi Fisheries Commission and current Endangered Species Act (ESA) policy negotiator.

The Lummi Nation, the largest fishing tribe in the United States, takes sustainable fisheries management seriously. Their community of just under 500 fishermen is trying to make at least a minimum economic livelihood from the fishery resources in their traditional fishing grounds, reaching from the environs of Seattle to the Canadian border.

A member of the Lummi Department of

Natural Resources (LDNR), who spoke with us on the condition of anonymity, noted that there are not plenty of resources out there, yet the native fishermen want to base their "economic livelihood" on the resources of the sea.

A key expectation from the 1855 treaty reserved the right to harvest the fishery resource "in perpetuity." For decades, the Lummi people stood outside the door of fisheries management. This position countered the "Schelangan," their way of life, where fishing is an essential part of their social and economic well-being.

The Native American had no say in resource management except on the reservations typically located at the mouth of rivers. Elsewhere in Puget Sound, salmon stock were harvested in those areas that produced the best quality fish, taken most economically, without regard to which particular population they came from.

see **FISHERIES** page 7

NEWS AT A GLANCE



Photo by Sara L. Geballe

Gardening with gramps

LUMMI NATION – A multigenerational effort puts in a garden for use by the Lummi Elders, with help from 3-year-old Kenneth Cooper. Students from the Northwest Indian College and Western Washington University have volunteered to plant and maintain the garden throughout the season. (More on page 12)

Prospects good for Bells season

BELLINGHAM – Parks and Recreation representative Gina Lobo assured a meeting of the Puget Neighborhood Association that the city is on track to get Civic Field in shape for the Bellingham Bells first home game on June 14. The Bells have dropped their suit against the city. The group also heard from WWU on the proposal for the Lincoln Street Park and Ride, and some changes to Fraser Street. (See page 4)

Bellingham to seek more land

BELLINGHAM – Is there, or is there not enough land for the city's projected growth? City Council decided to take the path of annexing more land, and relying on the growth assumptions put forward by staff. Next step: the county planners and council. (See page 3)



Gas prices driven by demand

BELLINGHAM – Are you wondering why gas prices in Whatcom County are only a few pennies lower than the highest in the nation, which are in Honolulu? Gas prices seem to be driven by what the market will bear. (See page 13)

Secret Harbor seeks approval in Welcome

WELCOME/ACME – Secret Harbor, a residential program for delinquent boys, made its first move for approval of a new site on Mosquito Lake Road. County planning is currently reviewing the legality of the proposed use for that area. (See page 3)

whatcom
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BIKE TO WORK page 5

CHINA COMMUNIQUE page 7

BAR SCENE page 10-11

The China Communique

Chinese university students – some ideas and opinions

Whereas the first question seemed to reveal a certain amount of “free” thinking – the second question had all the earmarks of “educational propaganda.”

Earlier this year, 2004 Congressional Candidate Larry Klepinger moved to Fujian province in China and accepted a teaching position at Fuzhou University. The WI has invited him to write a series of articles communicating what is really happening in China—through the eyes of a casual observer – without the major media spin. You can contact Larry via email at larry@larryklepinger.com. Or visit his website www.larryklepinger.com for more information

A colleague suggested I take a poll of my students and print my findings in this article. It sounded like an interesting idea, so I set up some questions, trying to keep them as direct as possible in hopes of getting candid responses in return. What I came up with was culturally enlightening indeed.

Test parameters were as follows: participants were first-year university students, male 51 percent, female 49 percent, 101 individuals, 17 to 20 years old, and totally anonymous (no names or student numbers). Responses to the questionnaire were in writing, and there were 10 general questions in both fill-in and multiple-choice format.

I hope you appreciate their ideas and opinions as much as I did.

Questions 1 through 5

1. What country do you think is the best friend of China?

- Russia, 23 percent,
- France, 16 percent,
- North Korea 7 percent,
- Germany 6 percent, and
- 12 other countries rounding out the scoring.

2. What country do you think is the worst enemy of China?

- Japan 69 percent,
- US 31 percent.

It is very interesting to note that on the “friendship” question there was a wide range of opinions, signifying an open approach to this vein of thinking. However, on the “enemy” question it was so cut and dried as to be startling. Whereas the first question seemed to reveal a certain amount of “free” thinking – the second question had all the earmarks of “educational propaganda.” On the one hand, this shows the deep-seated resentment the Chinese still hold for the Japanese and the unmitigated atrocities they committed during World War II. The Nanjing Massacre (300,000 civilians murdered within a month) and the infamous Japanese Biological Warfare Unit 731 (a secret military unit engaged in human experimentation of the most unimaginable kind) immediately come to mind. It is somewhat disheartening that the students hold America in almost the same light – when, in fact, the US helped China defeat the Japanese with the Flying Tigers led by none other than legendary “colonel” Claire Lee Chennault

(1893-1958). I have a sneaking suspicion this has been deleted from Chinese textbooks, although I don’t have any academic proof of this.

3. How much do you love your parents?

The overwhelming response was “Very much,” 95 percent, with “Somewhat” garnering 5 percent. The last two choices of “Not very much” and “I don’t love my parents” got no marks whatsoever.

This is a serious testament as to how much the family really means in China – and how it has endured as one of the strongest threads in the fiber of Chinese society. And the kids really mean it. I’ve asked a lot of my students what they would do if they ever became rich. Most students said they would either buy their parents a home or repay them the money they spent bringing them up. How many American parents wouldn’t give their left arm to get this kind of response from their children? Then again, divorce is not over 50 percent in China – as it is in America.

4. If you found 10,000 Yuan (US=\$1,250) in an unmarked envelope what would you do with it?

On this one, 65 percent said they would “Take it to the police station,” 7 percent said they would “Keep half and return the rest to the police,” 25 percent replied that they would “Keep all the money” and 3 percent said they “Would leave it where it was.”

With America now housing the largest percentage – in the industrialized world – of its population in prison, I would hate to venture a guess as to how this question would be answered in the US. Suffice it to say the Chinese, in general, seem to be fairly honest – at least the younger generation. When compared to the average income of workers in China of only 1,000 Yuan a month, the students’ responses are all that more impressive.

5. What is the most important factor when considering marriage?

The answer “Love” wound up with a whopping 86 percent, “Social status” got 8 percent, “Physical appearance” pulled in 3 percent and “Money” brought up the rear with 2 percent.

This is the question that threw me the most – in a very positive way. The reason I was so happily surprised is that the average Chinese person tends to be very business oriented – yet when confronted with this type of question, the students voted with their hearts rather than their pocketbooks. Maybe I am being naïve, but it gave me a sense of hope for the future of China. The desire to marry for love, coupled with a keen reverence for strong family values, tends to bode well for the future of this country.

It might be in order for America to learn a lesson or two from its older Asian cousin.

Next time, I will cover the answers to questions six thru ten.

Until then, Zaijian (good-bye) from China ■WI

FISHERIES

from page 1

Following numerous court challenges to seasonal limits, state licensing and access to traditional fishing places, in 1979 the US Supreme Court finally ruled definitively in favor of the plaintiffs in the controversial Boldt decision of 1974. This ensured the tribe’s ability to continue the treaty fishery rights as they were understood at the time of the treaty. In 1995, Judge Rafeedie ruled, “shellfish are fish,” and expanded tribal co-management to shellfish resources.

Following the Supreme Court affirmation of Boldt in 1979, the tribes of the Pacific Northwest assembled a staff of top-level scientists and managers thereby becoming co-managers of the fishery resources.

“Based on the best available science, adequate escapement was achieved to ensure sustainable harvests,” said the LDNR representative.

The Lummi Fisheries and Natural Resources Commissions, through the LDNR, received the responsibility to manage the treaty-reserved fishing rights in their area. Their mission is to sustain sufficiency to meet the needs of the community.

When fish, primarily salmon, management was tied to the “stock by stock” analysis required by the Boldt Decision, the focus of management changed. Biologists could now understand how fish stocks were doing within each watershed.

Elden Hillaire, Lummi Treasurer and Chairman of the Lummi Fisheries Commission, cell phone pressed to his ear, communicates, negotiates and responds to complex changes in harvest numbers on a minute-to-minute basis. In 2005, Lummi fishermen looked at a six-hour window to “get their quota” of the shrimp harvest.

“We fish from our hearts. We are a fishing people. This is what makes us Lummi,” Hillaire said.

The Fraser River sockeye used to provide up to a million fish per year for the Lummi harvest. However, the fish now enter through a northern approach rather than passing through US waters. The Canadian management strategies, as well as Canadian agreements with the US government, have reduced the number of harvestable sockeye to several hundred thousand per year. Expenses, however, have increased.

Negotiations are conducted in a

number of concentric circles, each incorporating a larger group. The first level of agreement is with other tribes that share access to the same resources. Then, agreement with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife needs to be achieved. In the case of oceanic fisheries, agreement with the Federal Pacific Fisheries Management Council must also be attained. With salmon, international agreement is reached with the Pacific Salmon Commission.

“You have to realize, the management of salmon is based on only 20 percent of what the numbers used to be,” said Kinley. The large decrease in salmon runs pushed tribal fishermen into harvesting other marine resources.

“There are not enough salmon resources to support the tribe,” said the member of LDNR. “We have had to concentrate on fisheries that used to be for the table in order to provide the income lost from the salmon fishery. Year-round effort, rather than the seasonal effort is required to survive.”

Fortunately, while the salmon fishing opportunity was diminishing through international treaties and habitat degradation, opportunities in non-salmon fisheries became available. Lummi fishermen now depend upon the harvest of steamer clams from reservation beaches. Crab, shrimp, sea cucumbers and halibut are also fished from traditional areas.

While participating as co-managers of the fisheries resources, the tribes do not have a place at the table to decide on environmental protection, which is imperative for a sustainable harvest. The Puget Sound uplands have been developed to profit the economy, but conversely, have diminished the tribal share of treaty-reserved resources. Capacity and productivity of the salmon stocks, once a tribal resource, is vastly diminished. The health of this resource depends on an intact ecosystem and properly functioning habitat conditions. The Bull Trout (native char) and Puget Sound Chinook have been listed as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act; adverse habitat factors have been cited as the primary cause.

Seven generations, according to Lummi tradition, must be considered in decisions of today. Those who plan today hold the responsibility for the generations to come. In all negotiations, the tribal position upholds this concept. ■WI

Life is full of questions. We can help you find the answers.

Is there any hope?

Why do I do what I don't want to do?

WHAT ABOUT ME?



Change of Heart

CAN I EVER TRUST AGAIN?

Am I OK?

Who Am I?

How can I ever forgive them?

Transforming Relationships with God, yourself, & others
More info available at www.changeofheart.info, by calling 360-312-1633 or e-mailing us at ChangeofHeart@att.net