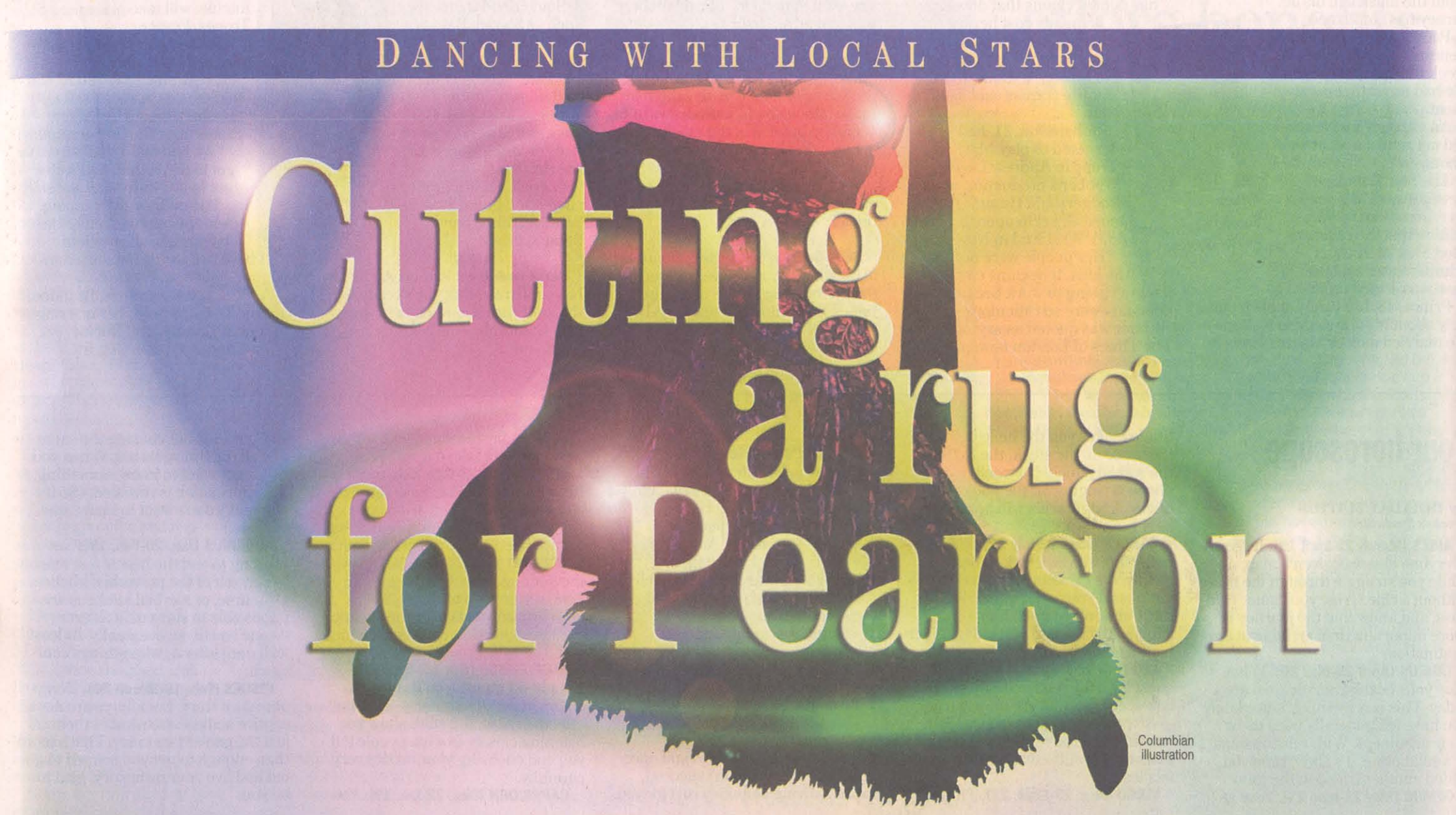


DANCING WITH LOCAL STARS

A woman in a black, patterned dress is dancing, her arms raised. The background is a vibrant, multi-colored gradient of purple, blue, green, and yellow. The title text is overlaid on the image.

Cutting a rug for Pearson

Columbian
illustration

Dean Sutherland

Age: 52.

Celebrity status: Communications manager for Clark Public Utilities and former state senator.

Competitive edge: My dance partner, Rebecca. She makes me look my best.

Your best dance move: The Cuddle.

Previous dance experience: Second grade dancing in class with my teacher. I was her favorite!



By **AMY MCFALL PRINCE**
Columbian staff writer

If you think the only thing better than “TiVoing” ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars” would be watching the competition in person, then slip on your dancing shoes.

The stars of America’s Vancouver will hit the dance floor at Pearson Air Museum on Saturday evening with instructors from Arthur Murray Dance Studios for a Dancing with Local Stars swing contest.

This local version of “Dancing with the Stars” is part of the museum’s annual Hangar Dance fundraiser. The local event will work just like the TV show. The audience will watch the dance pairs perform and then vote on the winners with three celeb judges — in this case Mayor Royce Pollard, philanthropist and wife of Ed Lynch, Dolly Lynch, and co-owner of Design Showroom Terry Murphy — adding commentary for fun. And don’t worry, with The Pranksters’ big band on hand to provide the music, there will be time for you to jitterbug, too.

We couldn’t spot our local stars ourselves, but working with their respective assistants, we managed to track them down via e-mail for some precompetition insights. Here are their answers, which were edited for space.

If you go

■ **What:** Hangar Dance and Dancing with Local Stars competition.

■ **When:** Saturday, 6 to 7 p.m. group dance lesson; 7 to 11 p.m. group dance and competition.

■ **Where:** Pearson Air Museum, 1115 E. Fifth St., Vancouver.

■ **Cost:** \$20, tickets available at the door. No-host food and drinks available.

■ **Information:** 360-694-7026.

Ginger “Queen” Metcalf

Age: Good grief! 63 on last birthday and still doing cartwheels.

Celebrity Status: As above, “Queen.” However, my other official title is executive director for Identity Clark County.

Competitive edge: Again, see above. I can still do cartwheels.

Your best dance move: If I reveal that now, the other dance contestants will steal my show!

Previous dance experience: In my previous life, I was Ginger Rogers. I’ve changed my last name for this competition to fool the other contestants.



Dr. Daniel Kim

Age: I forgot my age, but I am mature enough to dance.

Celebrity status: Singing dentist.

Competitive edge: My graceful dance style, and my admiration and love for the dance.

Your best dance move: The jitterbug.

Previous dance experience: I learned how to dance from a junior officer during the Vietnamese War in my off duty hours in MASH, where I served as a captain in a dental corps.



Jeanne Firstenburg

Age: Pass.

Celebrity status: Chief operating officer of First Independent Bank.

Competitive edge: I am experienced at making a fool out of myself in public for good causes.

Your best dance move: When I move off the dance floor before I hurt someone.

Previous dance experience: Danced barefoot at my wedding. The groom then told me that he would dance to get me, but not dance to keep me.



Bob “Trained Killer” Knight

Age: 49 and counting.

Celebrity status: Vice president of administrative services at Clark College.

Competitive edge: Moves that have never been seen in public.

Your best dance move: The finger snap.

Previous dance experience: The funky chicken.



Jody Campbell

Age: 48.

Celebrity status: Community contributions manager at The Columbian. (I am on the B-list because they couldn’t find anymore A-listers that were willing to do it!)

Competitive edge: My partner, Damion, because he can cover all of my mistakes!

Your best dance move: My best move is if I don’t fall down.

Previous dance experience: No previous dance experience!