

# CHEERS & JEERS

## Clark College harnessing wind, sun; but Clark Park needs signs pointing the way

**C**heers: To Clark College for progress in its ambitious construction of the \$30 million, four-story classroom at Columbia Tech Center in east Vancouver. In particular, Cheers for putting solar panels and wind turbines on the roof.

Oh, we can hear the critics now: "That fancy gadgetry will generate less than half of 1 percent of electricity that the building will need." But that's not the point, and Jeers to the critics. The point is, students at Clark's satellite campus will study renewable science, among many science subjects, and the roof on that building (scheduled for completion in April) will be an accessible laboratory for the high-tech studies.

Look at it this way: Clark College has an outstanding Culinary Arts program, but it doesn't produce every meal consumed at the college. It's a place to study, and whatever the cooking laboratory produces for consumption is gravy, sometimes literally.

**Jeers:** To Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation officials (usually the recipients of compliments from this page) for dragging their feet on properly identifying Capt. William Clark Park.

The 75-acre park at Cottonwood Beach near Washougal has been open for more than a year after extensive upgrades, but there still is no appropriate signage on state Highway 14. Instead, folks looking for the park's great waterfront trails, picnic sites, historic interpretive elements and viewpoints have to do their own research, tote their own maps and embark on their own expeditions.

Parks officials say the signage is coming soon. Very soon, we hope. Until then, be advised: From state Highway 14 in Washougal, take 32nd Street south until a T-intersection at Index Street, and you'll see the parking area. The park is noteworthy as a site where Lewis and Clark camped for six days 203 years ago.

**Cheers:** To state Rep. Sherry

Appleton, D-Poulsbo, for leading the effort in the Legislature this year to require the state Secretary of Health to recommend and later enforce regulations of the body-piercing industry. The Legislature in 2001 approved health standards for tattoo parlors, but body piercing remains unregulated.

Many owners of tattoo and body-piercing shops support precautions for infection control and prevention. Diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, hepatitis B and MRSA can be spread through improperly sterilized equipment used in tattooing and body-piercing. Appleton's HB 1085 makes great sense, and it puts the right authority — the state health department — in the proper regulatory position.

**Jeers:** To state Rep. Jan Angel, R-Port Orchard, who wants to change the name of the Washington State Ferries to — we kid you not — a name that would perplex countless Washingtonians. Most people who ride the ferries, pilot the ferries, wait for the ferries, build the ferries and pass legislation pertaining to the ferries like to refer to the ferries as ferries. Not Angel. The rookie legislator wants to change the name of the agency to the Washington State Marine Highway System. What? Aren't highways on land? Well, yes, usually, but not marine highways, and in Alaska the ferry system is called the Alaska State Marine Highway System.

Angel thinks that's a great idea, thus her HB 2230. "People in Alaska understand the importance of their marine highway in the movement of cars, people and freight," Angel said in a written statement. But Washingtonians don't understand? Angel says her bill "would give credibility and accountability to the importance and function of our state ferries." Notice the last two words of that particular quote. Even Angel refers to the state ferries as state ferries.

Flights of euphemistic fancy won't change reality.