

Thea Schnase is attending University of Washington

Thea Schanse comes from a long line of native Raymondites. She was born in Raymond in 1981 to Ted and Cheryl Schnase. Her father owned Bill and Mary's Bakery in the old Dick's Supermarket for a number of years, and is now retired. Her mother also grew up in Raymond and now works as a nurse for Harbor Home Health. Her grandfather Don Pederson also grew up in Raymond and still lives here. Her sister Melissa Graduated from RHS in 1993 and now lives in Denver, Colorado, with her husband and new son.

Thea graduated from RHS in 1999 with a class of 49 students. She says that she knew many of her classmates, as well as students from the classes above and below her, from as early as preschool and kindergarten on.

Thea says she has an endless supply of memories of growing up in Raymond. "I remember thinking the Riverview School was haunted and being a part of 'The Ghost Club' to investigate. I remember Super Big Deals in the elementary school and getting blizzards from the Dairy Queen and going to the Eight Street Park for the day."

Other memories come back from the high school days. "I remember the smell of the auditorium. I remember the boredom of detentions. I remember not stepping on 'The R'. I remember all the strange things that were thrown out of the Biology/ Zoology lab windows, taking Mr. Newbill's football helmet as a bathroom pass, and finding new excuses to get out of Art classes. I remember Mr. Olsen taking several of us to prom in his RV, and I remember the senior class camping trip the night before our last day of high school."

After graduation from RHS, Thea moved to Seattle where she attends the University of Washington. "After bouncing from Social Work to Women's Studies to Anthropology, I have finally decided to minor in Human Rights and double major in Capital American Ethnic Studies and Community Environmental Planning," said Thea. After graduation Thea plans to spend time traveling and eventually work for an international social justice organization. She has also considered teaching elementary school.

She lives in a cooperatively owned house with thirteen other students from all over the world who share chores, ownership, maintenance, and directorship over the house. She has been involved in activism on campus and within the Seattle area, mostly connected with peace and anti-war efforts, human rights, reproductive freedom, civil liberties, and anti-globalization.

Thea says she loves to travel and has explored Canada and the United States over the last three years. She spent a month this fall traveling through Mexico and will spend Winter Quarter of the 2002-2003 school year in India.

Thea also returns to Raymond about once a month to visit family and friends. She says, "I'm still in regular contact with many of my friends from Raymond some of whom also live in Seattle, some in Olympia, some in Raymond, and many others spread across the West Coast. News about others from Raymond travels surprisingly quickly amongst us, thus we all seem to know in great detail what's going on in the lives of people we may not have spoken to in several years."

When asked what advice she would offer to students at RHS today, Thea replied, "Though I don't exactly feel qualified to give unsolicited advice, I would say to develop yourselves as individuals to discover what you feel passionately about, and then stand up for those beliefs. The pressure to conform can be very strong in a community as small as ours, but finding your own identity is invaluable, and the diversity can only make Raymond more interesting."

She continued, "Don't be afraid speak out about what you believe. Also, keep an open mind, and pay attention to what is going on in the world. Critically analyze your own assumptions and the assumptions you are taught. Question everything you learn, and be aware of your own bias and biases of others. Appreciate and take advantage of the woods surrounding you and the many beautiful and quiet places you can find in Raymond."



RHS Alumnus Thea Schnase, 1999
(shown with her grandparents Don and Lucille Pederson)