

Bothell balloon lady and fun specialist wins costume contest

By Jamie Swift
Journal Reporter

BOTHELL. — The fun specialist will see you now.

If you're having trouble turning that frown upside down, your parties are flops or communication in your office isn't what it should be, Jolene Jang is confident she can bring the fun back into your life.

The 26-year-old Jang, a so-called inter-active fun specialist who lives in Bothell, says she's always worked hard to make people feel welcome and comfortable.

"I wouldn't say I have a monopoly," Jang said. "But I definitely have found a niche."

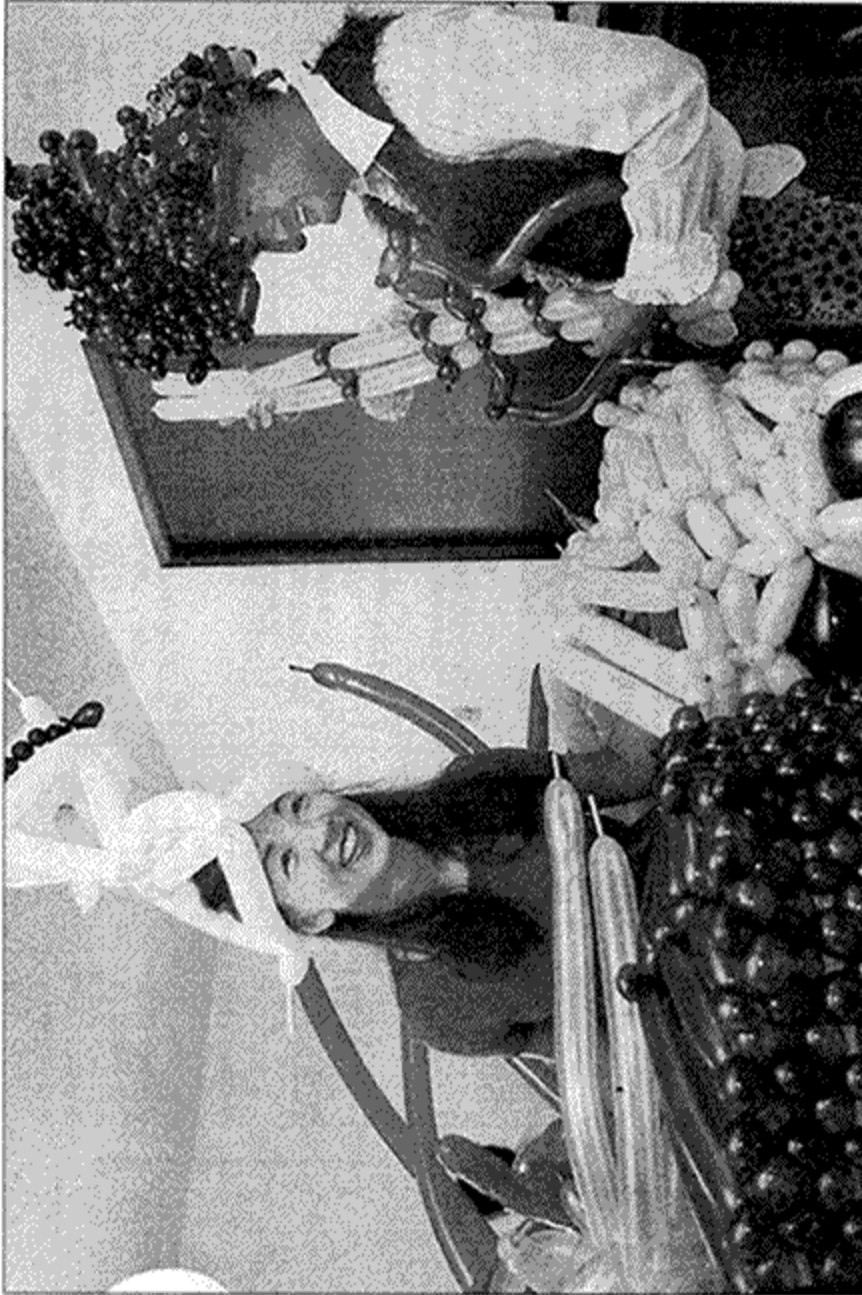
"I've always hosted parties, since the seventh grade," Jang said.

Jang has been a balloon artist for seven years. Yesterday she took first place in the Seafair Torchlight Run costume contest with an uncomfortable costume made of 600 balloons that formed a replica of the Experience Music Project. As part of her costume, her friend Vinh Chung accompanied her dressed as the inspiration for the EMP, Jimi Hendrix.

Jang, who has a degree in business marketing, said she branched out her balloon business so she could start working with adults and develop connections with people she may want to work for should she ever resign as a fun specialist.

So she began doing team building and morale boosting for companies and also working at adult parties as sort of a fun starter.

"It's really working for me," Jang



Christopher A. Stone/Journal

Jolene Jang, left, and Vinh Chung work on her all-balloon creation of the Experience Music Project.

said. "I talk to (human resources) people and (public relations) people. I meet all the people I need to know to get into marketing."

However, she sees herself as a fun business to overcome her fear of loud noises — like balloons popping.

Yesterday, she was dreading going to the parade because she knew those cartoons would be going off.

"I hate it, I hate it. I hate it," she said.

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