Dear reader,

“Jump!” “Do it! Go!” “Jump!”
She jumped.
The river was flowing slowly about 50 feet below.
In the brief instance of free fall before she splashed into the water she was free from all havoc, just herself and the summer breeze.

Then she hit the water, and the rocks just below the surface.

In a jump she had made numerous times before she made one little error and landed in an area quite a bit shallower than the usual splash zone.

Both of her legs broke on impact. Friends were able to pull her from the river. As she was dragged from the water people stared down from Jordan Bridge in Arlington, Wash., which spans the Stillaguamish River, rethinking their next move. Many people before her took the dive and many people continue to do so today.

This is the story of a friend of mine who took a risk with an outcome that was unfavorable, to say the least. She took a risk, as all of us do every day of our lives. That may be a cliché thing to say, but true nonetheless.

Risk is often associated with negative actions, but in this edition of Klipsun we explore the idea of risk in a broad spectrum. We learn what having a medical marijuana license really entails, how bull rider’s lives change eight seconds at a time and we get a detailed look into the life of homeless youth who call downtown Bellingham home.

As you read through this publication think about the risks you take every day, and the risks you didn’t take that could have changed who you are as a person. I know my life is different because of the risks I have taken; calculated and in the heat of the moment. I’ve placed some bad bets but I have also made some excellent investments.

How can we not associate risk with the things we do everyday? Come on, do you always look both ways before you cross the street?
S uncadia, a 2,000-pound bull, runs and bucks in a large circle around the arena as John Jardine, a 165-pound cowboy, careers dangerously to one side of the bull’s head.

The one-ton animal heads for the side of the arena. In a split second Jardine decides he has to bail or be bucked into the metal fence. As he hits the dirt, pain explodes through his left leg as his knee hyper-extends and dislocates. He stands and his calf hangs limp, his knee bent backwards. He hobbles to the edge of the arena, dragging his torn knee and shattered tibia and femur.

“That wasn’t the most gorey [injury],” 31-year-old Jardine says about the spring of 2005 ride. “I’ve definitely been run over and hit by bulls, but that was definitely the most painful.”

Nine months later Jardine, now the bull-riding director of Northwest Professional Rodeo Association, was back on a bull.

It comes with the territory
Tandy Freeman, medical director of the Professional Bull Rider’s sports medicine program, says all bull riders will be hurt at some point in their career.

“Bull riding is an occupation that every time you go to work might be the last time you go to work,” he says.

Freeman says the most common injury in bull riding is a concussion. In Professional Bull Rider’s (PBR) competitions one out of every 15 rides results in a new injury. Riders are required to wear a protective vest to shield the chest and inner organs.

Shane Proctor, 27, originally from Grand Coulee, Wash., has been riding bulls since he was 15. He now makes his living competing and traveling with the PBR. In December 2011, he had two plates and 15 screws placed in his arm when he shattered his humerus after being bucked off a bull.

“The only way to avoid the risks is to not get on,” he says. “Accidents happen. People get killed in this sport.”

As a professional bull rider Proctor says he makes anywhere from $60,000 to $450,000 a year to support himself and his wife. He says he sets money aside to pay his bills in case he is injured and can’t work.

“If you’re injured you’re not providing for yourself or your family,” he says. “There is no security in this sport.”

Brandon Stockhouse, 24, of Grand Round, Ore., has been riding bulls for eight years. He says bull riding is his second job and he makes as much money riding as he does working in logging and carpentry.

In April he entered the Maddog Bull Riding Series finals in Roseburg, Ore. with a sprained ankle. He says he rode with an injury because he was ranked first out of 40 riders fighting for a $3,500 purse. The bull slammed Stockhouse to the ground 7.19 seconds into his ride.

“It’s no pain, no gain,” he says.

The rules of the sport
Jardine says bull riding is a judged event just like gymnastics or diving. A ride is judged on a 100-point scale: 50 for the rider’s performance and 50 for the bull’s.

A rider holds onto the bull with one hand using a rope. He is disqualified if he is bucked off before eight seconds or he touches the bull or himself with his free hand. Proctor says a “rank” bull scores high points because he kicks and spins quickly for the entire eight seconds. A flank strap made of soft cotton is tightened around the bull’s hips to give him the incentive to kick at his belly and move forward.

It costs $100 to $600 to compete in a bullriding event, and out of 25 to 40 riders only the top five to eight riders get paid. Jardine says the winning purse can be anywhere from $500 to $500,000 depending on the level of competition. Once riders win enough money they move up to tougher competition.

If a ride is going well Proctor says the eight seconds go by faster than he can believe. But if he is struggling, it’s the longest eight seconds of his life.

“It’s muscle memory,” he says, “if you’re thinking, you’re a step behind. You just need to shut your brain off. Bull riding is an easy sport if you let it be.”

A bit of an ego trip
Proctor says he imagines bull riding started when two cowboys were hanging out and one said, “Hey, I bet I can ride that bull longer than you!”

“It was an ego trip to begin with and it’s still a little bit of an ego trip,” he says.

Bull riding became the main event of the rodeo in the 1970s. The danger associated with bull riding is obviously the attraction, Jardine says.

In the late 1990s associations such as Professional Bull Riders began to branch away from the rodeo and form bull riding as its own entity by placing it on the same stage as other professional sports.

“From there it’s gone leaps and bounds,” Jardine says. “Now bull riding is a multi-million dollar industry and people make a living from it.”

No Pain, No Gain
Making a living eight seconds at a time

Story by Erin Nash
Photos courtesy of Jack Carnefix
Researchers are working on a male birth control hormone treatment

For some men, a condom can be an annoying rubber tube that makes intercourse uncomfortable and sometimes unbearable. But the fear of fathering a child overcomes their urge for pleasure. If the risk of pregnancy was no longer dependent on just a condom and depended on men’s ability to stop sperm production, would men partake?

The potential for a sexual revolution seems to be in the works with the recent development of male contraceptives. Men and women could share the responsibility of contraception. The University of Washington School of Medicine, along with a dozen other organizations internationally, has been researching the new method of male hormonal contraception since the 1980s. The short-term risks are minute and the long-term risks are unknown.

Researchers at the UW School of Medicine say the male hormonal contraceptive is analogous to female hormonal birth control methods. Testosterone is the main agent for this method. Men are given a slightly higher dose of testosterone and progestin than the body naturally produces. When the brain receives the testosterone it assumes it is coming from the testicles, and the testicles stop producing sperm. This is the most recent reversible male contraceptive method since the condom, which was invented in the 17th century, according to UW researchers.

It takes about 70 days for the dosage to become effective because that is the time it takes sperm to leave the body. Therefore, the sperm in existence when the doses begin must be given at least 70 days to bring the sperm count to zero. The method is reversible by simply discontinuing the doses and allowing the body to restart the natural production of testosterone, says Dr. John Amory, associate professor at the UW School of Medicine.

Researchers have developed a series of hormonal injections that are 95 percent effective and proven safe for use. Amory says drug companies do not buy into the new method because surveys tell them men would not be interested in monthly injections. The survey
conducted by some major drug companies did show men would be interested in a pill form of the method, which Amory is hoping to perfect. Amory and his team are creating a daily contraceptive and a small implant.

The implant is a capsule that systematically releases a steady amount of hormones. It requires a procedure to place into fatty tissue, most likely in the arm, as well as remove. Hormonal implants currently are a contraceptive option for females. Mild short-term side effects have been identified by researchers using a group of 3,000 men who participated in the hormonal treatment through the World Health Organization. One effect was five to 10 pounds of muscle mass gained; others experienced oily skin leading to acne. There was no change in libido; if anything the respondents felt a slight increase in sex drive, according to the study. The test-ticles did shrink by 25 percent, although very few of the men noticed a change in the size.

The undetermined long-term effects are what concern Lucia Hubova and Charles Pope, who have been dating for two years. Hubova, a Western international student, says she wouldn’t want her partner to take birth control because I will be the most affected if I got pregnant,” Hubova says. “It is my body that would go through the pregnancy, not his. I would trust myself more than my partner to remember to take birth control every day.”

An Oxford Journal study conducted in China, South Africa and Scotland on whether women trusted men to remember to take the pill showed women didn’t trust men overall, but trusted their personal partners.

The lack of options for methods of contraception directly ties to the extreme growth of the human population, say researchers at the UW School of Medicine. The need for the new male hormonal contraceptive method is due to the rate of population growth and natural resources becoming depleted. If this technology becomes commercialized, the responsibility of contraception could be equally shared between men and women. Amory and the research team at the UW School of Medicine are finding a way to create an effective reversible contraceptive for men.

The short-term risks have been identified, and the only negative side effect found has been lower levels of good cholesterol. Although the long-term risks seem to be enough to stop some men from being interested in the new family planning technology.
recommendation from their qualified physician. However, if that doctor does not recommend the medicine and the patient still seeks it, he or she can go to a physician specializing in medical marijuana cases, present legitimate records of their condition and, for a fee between $100 and $300, the doctor will grant the recommendation.

Sarich, who runs CannaCare, the largest marijuana patient resource advocacy organization in Washington, says some clinics that specialize in prescribing medical marijuana don't always follow the rules.

"I hate to say this, but there are a lot of 'not-quite-so reputable' clinics that don't require you to have any proof or documentation of a medical condition whatsoever," Sarich says. "If you go to one of those places, you could be charged with three felonies and have no defense."

Sarich uses the example of an individual who does not have a qualifying condition but still applies and receives an authorization from a "not-quite-so reputable" clinic. In Washington, a patient is allowed to possess 24 ounces and 15 plants of cannabis. Say that illegitimate patient is in possession of their legal supply and owns a scale or sandwich baggies, Sarich says if they are arrested and prosecuted for possession of marijuana, their recommendation does not fully protect them. The judge and the prosecutor will still ask that individual for proof of their qualifying condition, and since this individual does not have a qualifying condition, they could be convicted of manufacturing to distribute and sell an illegal substance and felony possession of more than 40 grams of marijuana, Sarich says.

"If you don't have the records, do not sign up for this program," he says. "You may think you've got protection because you've got the piece of paper, but you really have to be a patient in case they question it."

Aaron Pelley, a Seattle-based criminal defense lawyer, adds that regardless of whether someone is a recognized patient, the police can still present a search warrant and raid their house based on the odor of marijuana.

"The police, even if they knew you were a patient, could still essentially get a warrant, kick in your door, hold your family at gunpoint, take all your property and proceed to take that information to the prosecuting attorney," he says. "Which means the only person that protects a medical marijuana patient is a jury."

A recommendation can even jeopardize employment. On Oct. 3, 2006, TeleTech Holdings, Inc. offered Jane Roe, a medical cannabis patient, a position at its Bremerton facility. TeleTech presented Roe with a drug policy requiring all employees to take a drug test. Roe told TeleTech of her use of medical marijuana and offered to show the company her recommendation. TeleTech denied Roe the position.

Roe took the test on Oct. 5 and worked as a customer service representative for TeleTech until Oct. 18, when she was terminated due to her testing positive. In February 2007, Roe sued TeleTech for wrongful termination and claimed TeleTech's acts were in violation of a clear public policy allowing medical marijuana use in compliance with Washington's Medical Use of Marijuana Act.

After Roe's case, the wording in the act was changed to say (changes in italics), “Nothing in this chapter requires any accommodation of any on-site medical use of marijuana in any place of employment, in any school bus or on any school grounds, in any youth center, in any correctional facility, or smoking medical marijuana in any public place as that term is defined in RCW 70.160.020.”

Although the law was more specifically defined, the court still dismissed Roe's case and said Washington's Medical Use of Marijuana Act does not prohibit an employer from terminating an employee for marijuana use.

I-502 is the latest initiative in the effort to legalize the recreational use of marijuana. Its passing would legalize possession of small amounts of regulated marijuana. Unregulated marijuana would still be considered illegal and classified as a schedule one controlled substance under federal law.

This initiative works in favor of recreational cannabis users, however Sarich says the bill will negatively affect those that need marijuana for medication. One of the most controversial topics of the bill is the DUI aspect. Regardless of whether they are a patient or not it would be illegal for an individual to drive with more than five nanograms per milliliter (ng/ml) of active THC, the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis, in their bloodstream. A study done by Dr. Gil Mobley, an MD based in Federal Way, shows most medical marijuana patients seldom fall below 10 ng/ml and are still capable of driving. One of his subjects, whose THC level was upwards of 140 ng/ml was still able to pass a roadside sobriety test and reflex reaction time test.

"I will never have less than 10 ng/ml in my blood," Sarich says. "I will always be over twice the legal limit. Every cop in the state of Washington recognizes my name and all they have to do is sit outside my place and pull me over every time I get into the car."

The attempted burglary accident at Sarich's house occurred on March 15, 2010. Four of the five intruders were charged and sentenced to prison. The fifth intruder, the one shot three times, was sentenced to house arrest after multiple open heart surgeries and having his leg amputated from Sarich's .22-caliber bullet. Through raid, robbery and arrest medical marijuana patients, such as Sarich, are willing to take a risk when it comes to the freedom of using the medication they need.
Brendan Wells tucked his body down as he fell from the 95-foot Abiqua Waterfall near Salem, Ore. He felt the cold water all around him as he glided down until he safely landed.

He watched his brother mimic the same motions until he tucked his body too fast and too soon, he says. That small mistake made the kayak lean forward too much and Wells' brother did not have the safe landing Wells did. The waterfall swallowed his brother into the bubbling water and mist at the bottom. Wells frantically looked around for his brother when he saw his empty kayak pop out of the water. For the next 22 seconds, Wells imagined the worst until his brother finally swam into view.

Wells has been whitewater kayaking since he was 12, when he and his brother decided to teach themselves. Wells has since kayaked in Canada, Uganda, Zambia and Mexico. The 18-year-old has a lot of experience and has never been hurt too badly. The incident with his brother stands out in his mind because it shows how one little mistake can cost a person's life.

Even after seeing the incident with his brother, Wells still pushes himself and does not worry too much about the risks. He likes to take as many risks as he can when he is kayaking because that is how he becomes better, he says.

"It's like the feeling of scoring a soccer goal or making the winning basket in basketball," Wells says. "I think it's much more magnified than that. It's the best feeling in the world."

Don Cheyette is a Western senior who fell in love with kayaking when his mother sent him to a summer camp. Cheyette has now been kayaking for almost 10 years, he says. He recalls the moment when he realized kayaking with a partner is important.

Cheyette caught his breath after being submerged under the 45-degree water and quickly grabbed what he thought was his kayak. When he saw that his shivering hands were holding his paddle instead, he panicked. One moment he was watching the clear water splash on Strawberry Island and the pebbles of water fall down into the surrounding whirlpools. The next, he was stranded with his paddle.

He was shaken up from losing his kayak and having only a paddle. Ahead of him, his more-experienced friend had managed to grab Cheyette's kayak because Cheyette was unable to get it back. After the initial shock, Cheyette got back into his kayak and continued to see what Deception Pass had to offer.

Cheyette does not like to take many risks while kayaking and tries to minimize the ones he does take by being aware of where he paddles, how he paddles side and can flip a boat without any notice, which is why safety gear and preparation are so important to Hutson. The only way a person can get better is to take risks, but to make sure they are capable of taking those risks without endangering their safety too much, he says.

Kayaking can be difficult, but Hutson says having fun is an important part. If a person is not willing to get beat up by waves and have fun with it, they will not like the sport.

Story by Ana Karen Perez Guzman
Photos by David Rzegocki
Western junior Charlotte Alford pretended she was asleep in a Seattle hotel room. She was starting to regret meeting a guy whom she was talking to online for months. She took precautions. She had him meet her mom. She reserved a hotel room with two separate beds for their adventure in the city. She wasn’t there for anything sexual; she just wanted a fun night out with a new friend.

As the night progressed, she grew uncomfortable with his language and sexual innuendos. She pretended to sleep. She heard him going into the bathroom. Suddenly, a tirade of profanity was coming from her online companion. The bathroom door was open and Alford turned to check out the scene.

“He was masturbating,” Alford says as she rolls her eyes. “I thought people were good-hearted and didn’t want to just meet for sex.”

During one encounter, Stone says everything started to go off going great. The guy had cocktails and snacks out. They were having a good conversation.

“Then, every 45 minutes, a new guy would knock on the door,” Stone says holding back laughter. “I bolted, and I should have called the police but I was drinking underage and didn’t know what to do.”

Acknowledging the risk of meeting people from the Web, some sites provide resources to members including if a member’s photo doesn’t match their profile information, or if a member behaves inappropriately report any suspicious or inappropriate behavior. In its application on and off since summer of 2011.

Story by Jeremy Mohn
Photo illustration by Lillian Furlong
TAKING THE DIVE

Safety comes first when jumping from 14,000 feet

T

he wind rushes past her face, whipping her zip-up jacket around like a stray leaf. It whistles loudly past her ears, and she cannot hear her own screaming, she communicates with her friends with only simple hand gestures as they all plummet toward the vast ocean surface. When Western kinesiology major Keshia Rumberger visited Hawaii with a group of friends two summers ago, she wanted to do something crazy. Despite the risks, she decided to try something new – skydiving.

Although considered an extreme sport, skydiving is becoming safer every decade. In the 1970s, the United States Parachute Association recorded 42.5 average skydiving fatalities per year, in the 1980s, 34.1 and in the 1990s, 32.3.

With the average continuing to drop, the United States Parachute Association documented about 25 fatalities per year in the 2000s and 21 in 2010.

But even with the odds of death declining, Rumberger still watched an informational video and signed papers, since accidents can happen. Going up in the plane was nerve-wracking as she looked out the window, she says.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh, this is high enough,'" she says. "But they said [the height of the plane] was only half way." The plane reached an altitude of 14,000 feet. Soaring that high helped her get over her fear of heights.

Looking back on the trip, she says doing the dive was nuts.

I felt like Wile E. Coyote being shot through the clouds.

-Keshia Rumberger, Western Student

 Tyson Harvey, president and operations manager of Skydive Snohomish, got into skydiving after his family became owners of the Snohomish airport and opened up a skydiving center. Now, 12 years later, he has done more than 2,000 jumps and has assisted more than 1,000 people as an instructor.

Harvey says the company staff at Skydive Snohomish value safety in every aspect of skydiving. The program focuses on training and education of students who want to become licensed or experienced jumpers. Skydive Snohomish also holds an annual Safety Day on the second Saturday of March to recognize safety’s importance.

"You can justify the risk if you have the right amount of safety," he says. "Most people have no idea that skydiving is so safety-oriented. There are some companies that are less [safety-oriented], but it’s a belief we have. And the benefits are priceless."

Harvey says all of the accidents in skydiving he has witnessed could have been avoided and were due to poor judgment or awareness. He says people sometimes push themselves too far or are not ready to take the dive. Stressful situations can also cause divers to make wrong decisions.

"You need to prepare for the worst-case scenario every time," he says. "A problem with a parachute should be a minor inconvenience."

While the sport may not be for everyone, Harvey says everyone should experience skydiving at least once, since it feels like flight rather than a bottomless dropping sensation.

Rumberger took safety precautions before jumping. Directly behind her was a guide, strapped close and buckled in tight. She basically sat on her guide’s lap, she says.

As the two reached the opening of the airplane, the guide told Rumberger to put her hands straight back in a Superman position and stay stiff for a short while.

Free falling lasted only 30 seconds. Although short, she says the time length passed slower than imagined, and she was happy it did. Falling through the air felt peaceful and euphoric. "I just wished I had popped my ears on the way down," she says. "You get a massive headache afterwards if you don’t."

Western sophomore Heather Manning went to Skydive Snohomish on a whim at the beginning of April for her friend’s birthday. She wanted to take her first dive.

Once falling through the air, Manning says the toughest part was breathing. The guide told her to breathe through clenched teeth, but it was difficult because of the immense amount of pressure exerted on the body while falling.

Despite her nervousness, she says nothing went wrong. "When you get there you have to sign a waiver with five pages of, ‘You’re probably going to die,’" she says. "But it was actually really safe. It feels way less extreme after you do it."

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Looking back, Manning says she would skydive again if she had the money. The cost to skydive was more than $300, and included a video of the dive and a 30-minute class beforehand.

Rumberger says she might skydive again soon and bring a friend who is afraid of heights along. Although skydiving can have a fatal outcome, Rumberger says it is worth it.
Learning the streets of downtown Bellingham, homeless youth gather in groups smoking Marlboro cigarettes and chatting about a friend who got busted the night before.

“I’m gonna go do a lap. I’ll catch up with you guys later,” says a young man wearing baggy black clothes and a red baseball hat.

The lap he is referring to is what 22-year-old Joshua Young calls the “Rectangle of Doom,” the city block downtown framed by Railroad Avenue, Magnolia Street, Holly Street and Cornwall Avenue. Young knows the “Rectangle of Doom” all too well.

“If you enter it you are going to get trapped,” he says. “You can only go so many miles around that area.”

The night before, Young slept on the steps of a church. He spent two and a half years homeless and living on the streets of downtown Bellingham.

The United States has up to two million runaways and homeless youth living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, in shelters, transitional housing or with friends or strangers, says Heidi Unick, program director of Amy’s Place.

Amy’s Place is a nonprofit in Bellingham helping homeless youth by giving them a safe place to hang out and receive food, clothing and hygiene products.

Chomping on a package of Star Wars fruit snacks, Young says the streets have diverse social network, and relationships are built on the common ground of homelessness. While society may clump all homeless people together, Young says there are different groups. These groups define who you are on the streets. Juggalos, thug-gangster kids, lone wolves who never talk to anybody at all and eccentric people who talk to everyone but are not coherent all wander the streets.

Homelessness becomes your social identity, Young says. “That’s not my whole scene anymore, I got so tired of running around in circles.”

Young was born and raised by his mother in Salinas, Calif., where he led the normal life of a teenager. He went to school, played football and hung out with friends, but something changed. Young’s trouble began when he was 16 years old. He got caught smoking marijuana and spent time in several boot camps, but his bad behavior continued to escalate. After encouraging someone to steal and getting caught, Young was arrested. He continued to escalate. After encouraging someone to steal and getting caught, Young was arrested. He served a two-year sentence, spending his junior and senior years of high school in jail.

“My past is my past,” Young says. “You can’t forget about it. It makes you who you are.”

After being released, Young entered a program helping youth find housing. He ended up living with the program director because it was overcrowded. He began to turn his life around, but it only lasted three months. He was asked to leave when he started smoking pot again and started reverting back to his old ways.

Most homeless youth in Whatcom County do not choose the street lifestyle, and when they do, the reasons usually go unnoticed by those who walk past.

A 14-year-old girl found Northwest Youth Services, another resource for homeless youth in Bellingham, after being sexually abused by her mother’s boyfriend multiple times. After spending much of her life being victimized, she decided it was safer to live on the streets than in her own home. She slept in a field for several days, and never returned home, says Riannon Bardsley, executive director of Northwest Youth service.

Youth find themselves in homeless situations for a variety of reasons, but mostly because they come from families with generational toxic issues such as mental health problems and chemical dependency, Bardsley says.

Like Young, many exit into homelessness after being in juvenile detention. One young man slept in a ditch in Suddenly Valley his first night out, Bardsley says. “There was no where else for him to go.”

Approximately 5,000 runaways and homeless youth die every year from assault, illness and suicide, according to the Amy’s Place website.

Unick says in her opinion, success is not hearing that a young person died on the streets.

She says it is worst when a youth she’s been working with dies. Patrick, one of the first who came to Amy’s Place, died of a heroin overdose almost three years ago.

“It is hard to see that,” she says. “What will it take for [some] to stop and choose life?”

Young once participated in a petty theft that went awry. He was talking to a girl and guy outside of a store. He says the couple ran into the store and stole two cases of beer. They handed one to him and ran off. In his drunken state Young was excited about this random act of kindess, but was later stopped by the police.

“I was just trying to get her number, but I got a misdemeanor,” Young says.

Young says he hopped around California for a while, staying a short time with his dad and sister. Neither situation worked out. He was then, as he says, exiled to Washington to stay with his other sister in Bellingham.

Young no longer wanted to rely on his family or other people, so he took to the streets in search of freedom and independence. For most homeless
Approximately 5,000 runaways and homeless youth die every year nationwide from assault, illness and suicide.

Youth, the street life is all about instant gratification, getting drunk and high, and never worrying about the day to come.

Young says he never saw a future for himself, so he didn’t feel the need to prepare for it.

For a while the homeless lifestyle was exciting and fun, but it got boring, and Young says he began to crave indoor living.

“After a while you just want to take a shower and sleep in your own bed,” he says. “Go in the kitchen and make some noodles, put some Tapatillo and sleep in your own bed.”

Taking a deep breath, Unick quietly speaks about the social networking she sees on the streets.

Unick considers herself a mother figure for many of the youth at Amy’s Place.

Klipsun

Unick says he kept them in a large encampment that he was told was one of the best man-made habitats for wolves, since most owners treat them poorly.

He says people who trap wolves in confined environments, like kennels or small cages, are asking for trouble. Wolves are competitive for food, and will fight each other for it. Odle says one woman who kept 10 wolves in a cramped cage was killed while bringing them bowls of food. The confined quarters made the animals more aggressive.

Nelson Fitzsimmons, companion animal specialist at Petco, says his store sells potentially dangerous animals including the savannah monitor, goliath bird-eating tarantula and the African emperor scorpion.

Fitzsimmons says the key to having tame animals is socializing with them when they are young.

A Savannah Monitor can grow to three feet in length, much longer than some owners expect them to be, says Nelson Fitzsimmons, a companion animal specialist at Petco.
Giving a crap about your food

Knowing where food comes from is essential to analyzing the risk.

Level 4: Unknown origins

Eating a cucumber without knowing its story is like placing a bet before seeing the odds. A person’s desire to learn where their food grows may dictate how dangerously they live.

“It’s all about risk analysis. The highest level of safety is to grow vegetables yourself. There is a small chance your neighbor’s roses interfere a bit, but you still know exactly where it comes from,” says Walter Haugen, owner of F.A. Farm in Ferndale. “The second level is to have someone you know grow it for you. You can talk to this person and still know how it’s grown.”

The third level is to buy from a third party, such as a grocery store.

The fourth level is to not care where food comes from. Although there is less risk eating raw fruits or vegetables than eating raw meat, unwashed produce can make consumers ill if not properly cleaned. Organic vegetables may be as much of a health risk as those raised with pesticides because of the fertilizer made from animal waste often used.

Fertilizer made from organic matter contains whatever the animal came into contact with. Feather meal is found in certified organic fertilizer, and it’s possible for it to have trace levels of arsenic, Haugen says. Although not deadly to humans in such low doses, Haugen believes food should be as natural as possible. He grows his crops using organic fertilizer that is not chemical and does not contain animal waste. It is a mixture of soy meal, lime, gypsum and other mineral-rich ingredients.

Level 3: Third party

Level 2: Neighbor grown

Level 1: Homegrown

Making the grade as an undocumented student

Story by Josh Galassi | Photos by Colin Diltz

As the bus inched closer and closer to the Greyhound station, María Corona’s heart began to race. Reaching down to get her Western ID from her backpack, Corona could feel her hands begin to sweat and her thoughts begin to spin out of control. “What are they doing here?” she thought to herself.

Outside her window Corona could see two officers leaning against a large white truck with green letters on the side that read in bold capital letters, “BORDER PATROL.”

“Just stay calm,” Corona reminded herself. “Speak English. They need to know I’m a Western student and this is my home.”

As Corona stepped off the bus, she scurried past the immigration officers and headed home. That night, she cried alone in her room.

Corona had been traveling from her home in Bellevue to Bellingham when she saw the immigration officers at the bus station, she says. That was the last time Corona, who was an undocumented student at the time, ever rode a Greyhound bus.

“The fear that I carried with me wasn’t right,” she says. “To be undocumented in America felt like living in darkness, like a ghost without a voice.”

“Undocumented students” is the term given to elementary, high school or college students who live in the United States without proper documentation, according to Western’s Student Coalition for Immigration Rights, a club Corona started in 2009.

It is estimated that more than 100 students without documentation attend Western, Janis Farmer, assistant director of the Office of Admissions, says.

Many students without documentation live in constant risk of being deported and jeopardizing the safety of themselves and their families, says Natalie Washington, an admissions counselor and multicultural outreach coordinator at Western.

“Their homes are here, the risk of being deported to a country you’ve never been to and have no ties to; it’s a scary thing,” Washington says. “There’s that constant fear of never knowing what will happen.”

Corona spent her first two years at Western as a student without documentation, she says. She received her papers in 2010.

“Seeing Border Patrol all around, that scared the
crap out of me,” she says. “I’d walk through campus thinking of sneaky ways to go through without getting spotted.”

Corona would even avoid going off campus or going to movies with friends because of the risk of her status being discovered, she says. In his 2008 dissertation about students without documentation, Tom B. Nerini, who worked in Western’s Student Outreach Services at the time, interviewed a Western student who was deported a year before Corona’s freshman year.

The student, who uses the pseudonym Cato, was arrested and deported after his undocumented status was discovered at the Bellingham Greyhound station in 2008.

After getting deported to Mexico, Cato got in touch with some strangers who said they could help him get back into the U.S., he says.

“They put 25 of us into one van and drove us into the desert,” Cato says.

After dropping off, Cato and the others started walking toward the U.S. border in 100-degree weather. Cato only had a gallon of water with him at the time.

“I looked at [my water] bottle and just found my life seriously diminishing,” Cato says. “That was my life in that bottle. I just kept looking at it and thinking, ‘I’m going to die.’”

Cato eventually crossed the border and was able to talk to his parents over the phone for the first time in two weeks, he says.

Jeffrey Jones, a Border Patrol agent for 10 years, says any personal beliefs agents may have about immigrants without documentation are not relevant when performing their jobs.

“Our job as Border Patrol agents is to uphold a set of laws that we have sworn to uphold,” he says. “Processing illegal aliens for removal is part of the job regardless of the underlying circumstances — no one circumstance is easier or harder than the next.”

After crossing the border at the age of 4, Corona and her family lived in Oregon, Utah, California and Seattle before settling in Bellevue.

It was not until high school that Corona started to question her status, and what it meant to be undocumented. While other students were applying to colleges, Corona says she felt hopeless.

“People would ask me what I wanted to do with my future and I couldn’t answer because I knew I didn’t have one,” Corona says. “All I knew was that when I graduated high school I would need to get a job to help my family.”

Eventually Corona’s high school counselor talked her into applying to Western.

Washington is one of 12 states that have laws allowing students without documentation to apply and receive in-state tuition rates at public institutions, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, an organization that specializes in providing research for policymakers.

Sabrina Sanchez, Western freshman, worked with several students without documentation as a mediator at her high school in Arizona. She says many of the students she knew were not looking to “skim the system,” but instead wanted to attend college and get a degree as a means to give back to society.

Students without documentation who apply to Western are not required to put a social security number on their application. Instead, if they have no documentation they must sign an affidavit that certifies they will file an application to become a permanent resident of the U.S. as soon as they are eligible, according to Western’s Registrar’s Office.

During her freshman year, Corona’s fears about being an undocumented student were propelled when 28 workers without documentation were arrested in a raid at a remanufacturing plant in Bellingham, she says.

Afterward, Corona was asked to serve as a translator for a single mother and her three sons, who were affected by the raid.

Corona says the single mother was holding back tears the entire time Corona was talking to her. Corona discovered the family had little food or shelter, aside from some support from a local church, and didn’t feel like they could talk to anyone, she says.

“It really hit me, this notion of silence and how it affects us so much,” Corona says. “Hearing their story, I saw my own family within them and knew I had to do something.”

Despite her undocumented status, Corona took a risk and started the Student Coalition for Immigration Rights.

Corona became a permanent resident of the United States in November of 2010, after a 17-year-long application process. Getting her papers was a huge release.

“At first, I cried of happiness,” she says. “But then I felt this sickening pain, because I knew people who had lived here for 40 years and still didn’t have [documentation].”

Sanchez says it upsets her when U.S. citizens come to Western and waste the opportunities they are given.

“I get upset when I go to class and half the people are missing,” Sanchez says. “People are working so hard to get into school, and [those who skip] are just wasting it. Yet, they deserve more because they were born here?”

Sitting in her dorm room on an unusually sunny April afternoon, Corona holds a small green plastic card in her hands.

On the front, Corona’s full name can be seen, along with her photograph. On the top right part of the card, printed in large black letters, are the words, “PERMANENT RESIDENT.”

With a smile that doesn’t quite reach her eyes, Corona runs her thumb across the glossy card, slowly shaking her head in disapproval.

“It’s really sad that a piece of paper gives you so much more hope, calmness and stability,” Corona continues, flipping the card over.

“Why does this stupid piece of paper mean so much?” she says. “Why doesn’t my fellow friend down the street have one? A lot of people die crossing the border for this. It means so much and so little at the same time. This card should not be more important than me as a physical whole being.”

_natralization_exam_questions

Below are a sample set of questions that could be asked during a naturalization exam. The three categories cover different elements of United States culture.

**U.S. government**

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
3. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
4. What are two rights only for U.S. citizens?

**U.S. history**

5. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
6. Who was the president during WWI?
7. Before he was president, Eisenhower was a general. Which war was he in?

**Integrated civics**

8. Name one of the two longest rivers in the U.S.
9. Why does the flag have 13 stripes and 50 stars?
10. Name one U.S. territory.

7,000-13,000

undocumented students enrolled in college throughout the U.S.

11.2 million

undocumented immigrants of all ages living in the U.S.

More than 100 estimated undocumented students at Western.

Sources: Educators for Fair Consideration fact sheet, Western’s Assistant Director of Admissions Janis Farmer

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-María del Rosario Corona Horta talks during a Western's Student Coalition for Immigration Rights meeting on campus.

-Spring 2012

-25
Western police officer Derek Jones writes a ticket in his patrol car. As a Western student, Jones often works late into the night and sometimes doesn’t have time to sleep before his morning classes.

You come to work and it’s daylight, and you get off work and it’s daylight.

-Derek Jones Western student & campus police officer

While assisting in an afternoon surgery, Dr. Eric Smith fell asleep while standing up and holding a retractor.

“I was asleep for about 15 minutes. But I was so sleep deprived that I could fall asleep just like that,” he says, snapping his fingers.

This happened to Smith, an MD at Whatcom Occupational Health, when he was still a medical student. He recalls spending the previous night drawing blood from patients before assisting in surgery.

Working the graveyard shift can have serious consequences in many occupational fields. People who have not adapted to late nights are more likely to make mistakes than those who work the normal 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Working the nights can also have adverse effects on people’s health, both mentally and physically.

Medical students and interns working shifts longer than 24 hours are more than twice as likely to get into car accidents after leaving the hospital, and five times more likely to get into “near miss” incidents, according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

This is just one potential risk of sleep deprivation after working a graveyard shift, when people work late at night and into the early morning.

Working night shifts can result in acute or chronic sleep deprivation. This happens if people are unable to maintain a regular schedule with sufficient sleep hours, writes Dr. Margaret Mamolen, a staff physician at Western’s Student Health Center, in an email.

Smith also found his personality changed, affecting his relationships with his family, when he was sleep-deprived during his years in medical training.

“I would do an all-night shift, and I would go to the clinic and work,” he says. “And then I would go home and I was just exhausted and I was so cranky that I rewound myself.”

Graveyard shifts also affect the quality of sleep and may cause a condition known as obstructive sleepy apnea, according to a National Institute of Health study. People with sleep apnea experience pauses or decreases in air flow as they breathe while sleeping. Their airways become narrowed, blocked or floppy, according to the NIH.

Derek Jones, Western student and university police officer, finds it hard to sleep after getting back from work, especially during the summer when the daylight lasts later into the evening.

“You come to work and it’s daylight, and you get

off work and it’s daylight,” he says. “It’s hard to

go to sleep.”

He has to black out all his windows with sheets in order to sleep.

Jones also has to work his sleep schedule around the times he goes to class. For instance, when he is on graveyard shift, he gets off work between 4 and 6 a.m. and has to be in class by 11:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Jones splits his sleep by getting a few hours before class starts and a few more hours before going to work.

When dealing with the risks of working graveyard shifts it is a good idea to have a balance of rotating shifts, Smith advises.

“Generally, you roll for three to six weeks day, three to six weeks swing (the shift between day and graveyard), three to six weeks night. That allows enough time to acclimatize yourself to the shift changes,” Smith says.

Jones also says rotating shifts help officers to keep perspective on things.

“If you’re out chasing bad guys all night long, when you get to the day shift, you think everyone is a bad guy, which isn’t true,” he says.

For the body to adapt, Smith’s advice is to push back sleep time later as the night shift date draws closer. To prepare, instead of going to bed at 9:30 p.m., go to bed at 10:30 p.m., he says.

Jones also says to keep a regular workout schedule, even if it’s 30 minutes a day.

“A lot of times officers, and people who work night shifts, can get into the run of eating unhealthy when the only things upon are Wendy’s or Taco Bell. It’s easy to fall into that trap,” he says.

When Smith came around from his sudden nap in surgery, laughter from the residents and the attending physician filled the room.

Medical residents often have to make critical decisions based on inadequate medical information, and doing it while being sleep deprived does not help, Smith says.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has set the maximum length of shifts for medical residents at 30 hours. However, a 2006 survey by the American Medical Association found 67.4 percent of professionals worked shifts longer than the allowable limit.

When people have a good night’s sleep, they are well-rested, more alert, less irritable and more focused, Smith says.
boldly fronted a large sum of his own money to make the show happen. When all was said and done he lost around $1,000.

“That’s when I would have to call a buddy and ask to borrow $5,000 for a few days while I waited for the door money from the show to come in and cover the expenses,” he says.

Carlton Eide, 21, is the talent buyer for The Old Foundry, an all ages venue downtown. He has worked with Santiago before and also experienced the risk of fronting his own money for a show.

For the Kids & Explosions show at The Buff last March, Eide put down a large sum of his own money to book them. He needed money to come through the door with ticket sales. And it being the first big international touring artist he booked, he was putting not only money, but his reputation in the Bellingham music scene, at stake.

Eide says there is this time right before a show called the “throw-up phase” from when the doors open to around 11 p.m., when the venue hasn’t filled yet.

“People in Bellingham don’t buy presale tickets and usually don’t show up until much later in the night, it is something that is unique to Bellingham,” Eide says.

By 1 a.m. Eide had surpassed that throw-up phase. The fans had materialized; dancing wildly to the song mash-ups of Kids & Explosions. Eide says looking over the crowd seeing everyone having the time of their lives, and giving Bellingham a great show, makes all the risks worth it.

Santiago says the music scene in Bellingham is unique and the audience here is focused on the live energy of an artist.

“When people go to a live show they are looking to dance, let loose and enjoy themselves regardless of how much hype an artist has. This fact really changes the type of artists I like to book,” Santiago says.

He has learned this lesson through trial and error. In fall of 2009, Austin booked a prom-themed concert with Fonzworth Bentley, a popular artist who was very expensive to book. But, his performance fell short in the eyes of the Bellingham audience, Santiago says.
“People didn’t care about the buzz he was generating, it was whether or not it was good music,” he says.

At a preshow dinner at Casa Que Pasa, K. Flay’s Kristine Flaherty, and her drummer Nicholas Suhr, discuss their partnership with the guys from Cherub, with whom they are currently touring.

“The people you tour with are going to be with you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And in this industry there are so many shady people that have their own agendas, you really have to be careful who you work with, and know what type of artist they are or else you can end up with a tour that doesn’t mesh well and that can come across to your audience,” Flaherty says.

Around midnight, K. Flay goes on to an energized crowd. Suhr’s drumming is on point and Flaherty’s energy, which just hours before was very subdued, is now in full force.

“Bellingham, you guys are fucking awesome!” she shouts to the crowd as she finishes up her encore.

After a long weekend of working shows he is ready to pay the bands and continue on with his night, he says.

More than 160 people came out for the show; 125 people coming through “The Buff” in the last two nights, Santiago says. “This is what outcome I was expecting; it’s not all about the numbers in the end,” he says.

Santiago is more concerned with the audience’s experience; he likes to make sure he gives Bellingham a pleasant surprise with.

“You can’t expect to make thousands of dollars every night, that’s not how this industry works.”

-Austin Santiago Bellingham talent buyer

profit of $26.89 on the artist, a number that Santiago is pleasantly surprised with.

“This is a success in my mind, with more than 900 people coming through [The Buff] in the last two nights this is what outcome I was expecting; it’s not all about the numbers in the end,” he says.

Santiago is more concerned with the audience’s experience; he likes to make sure he gives Bellingham a show people want to see.

After a long weekend of working shows he is ready to pay the bands and continue on with his night, he slides several hundred dollars into an envelope and sheds a small smile.

“You can’t expect to make thousands of dollars every night, that’s not how this industry works,” Santiago says. “I love this town and this business; every night is something different, every risk is different and when you get a turn out like tonight it reminds me how much I love what I do.”

Santiago walks back into a mostly empty club and turns to someone next to him at the bar saying, “Don’t worry, there is always an after party on nights like tonight.”

“Risk is a game of military strategy. The purpose: conquering the world. The dangers, as well as the rewards, are high, according to the Risk instructions.

The five friends sit together while they scan the board to see where their opponents placed their blocks, to make a plan. “The best part about Risk is to conquer their territory. The game is all about being the first one to conquer everyone on the board, and that’s why it’s so fun,” says Corey Colbo.

More than 100 people came out for the show; 125 people coming through “The Buff” in the last two nights this is what outcome I was expecting; it’s not all about the numbers in the end,” he says.

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“Austin Santiago Bellingham talent buyer.
**KLIPSUN**

is a Chinuk Wawa word meaning sunset.

Western Washington University

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