
Brian Corey
Western Washington University

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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 starred 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?

brian Corey

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MULTIMEDIA
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KLIPSUN
AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT PUBLICATION OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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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.

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!”

“A bit of an ego trip,” 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.

John 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 his belly and move forward.

It costs $100 to $600 to compete in a bull riding 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.”

If you're going to quit every time you get hurt then it won't take you very long to be done.

- John Jardine, professional bull rider
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 testicles 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 the contraceptive if it became commercialized because of the unknown long-term effects; there are too many risks. Pope was also very hesitant to the new method, but for other reasons.

“Men in our society have enough testosterone in their systems, we don’t need anymore,” Pope says. “Men aren’t going to be going around punching cars because of the testosterone doses,” Amory says.

Amory says the Federal Drug Administration is hesitant in approving the new contraceptive because of the risks of the long-term effects. But Amory is very trusting of the method and would absolutely partake in it.

“I feel I have more incentive, as a woman, to be in charge of 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 patients, 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). The psychoactive ingredient in cannabis, THC, makes it a very potent drug.

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,” says (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 medical 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 patients that need marijuana for medication.

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 incident 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 he 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.

Right: First-time patient forms hang on the wall of the Joint Cooperative, in Seattle. Wash. Medical marijuana patients can receive cannabis, also known as medication, at the Joint Cooperative. To become a member a patient has to present a valid Washington ID and a medical marijuana recommendation when they visit the first time.

Below: Patients can choose from a variety of different cannabis forms including cloned plants. Patients make suggested donations with either cash or credit cards depending on the type of clone.

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.”

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 of 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 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
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 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 and who he paddles with. Cheyette says his gear is also important, he feels naked and uncomfortable without it.

“I always wear my lifejacket,” Cheyette says. “It’s basic stuff but I am trying to maximize the amount of fun I can have in a risky situation.”

Kenny Hutson is a Western graduate student who says safety is a priority even before his paddle hits the water.

“I like to believe I would be ready in any emergency,” Hutson says.

Hutson learned from experience how important a paddle is. He was enjoying a whitewater kayaking trip with friends when one of their paddles broke. Without a paddle, it is almost impossible to go anywhere, he says. They were close enough to the road on shore that his friend could jump out and swim to dry land.

“Some of the biggest safety gear is the people you are paddling with,” Hutson says.

Hutson is not one to take many risks, but when he does, he makes sure he is not alone. Rivers are powerful; they push kayaks from side to 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.

Kayak instructor John Janney paddles his kayak out to a lesson on Lake Whatcom.
The other side of the screen

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 the guy whom she was talking to online. The bathroom door was open and Alford turned to check out the scene.

“He was masturbating,” Alford says as she rolls her eyes. “I was naïve,” Stone says about one of the first guys he met online. “I thought people were good-hearted and didn’t just want to meet for sex.”

“Then, every 45 minutes, a new guy would knock on the door,” Stone says holding back laughter. “After some drinks and making out, Stone grew uncomfortable with the way things were heading as his relationship status, occupation, religion and even what kind of pets they have. You certainly don’t know as much about the guy you meet at a bar, Stone says.

Unfortunately, all of the information contained in an online profile doesn’t reveal what kind of person is going to show up. Stone describes his experiences as a “mixed bag.”

During one encounter, Stone says everything started 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. “After a while, the guy I came to see was making out with her most of her friends. She turned to chat rooms to meet new people.

“I just wanted friendship,” Alford says. “I’ve never been much of a social butterfly and when you don’t drink it’s hard to meet people.”

Western senior Peter Stone started using online sites when he was 19 to meet more gay people.

“It’s convenient. When you go into any bar in Bell- ingham as a straight guy, you can 90 percent tell who is attracted to you or not,” Stone says. “When you’re gay, even at gay bars like Rumors, you can’t always tell.”

Through online dating, Stone found a forum where he could identify who is gay and who is not. In addition, finding people online provides information about their relationship status, occupation, religion and even what kind of pets they have. You certainly don’t know much information about a random guy you meet at a bar, Stone says.

Alford says she was starting to regret being on a blind date or meeting a stranger at a club.

“I was naïve,” Stone says. “I thought people were good-hearted and didn’t just want to meet for sex.”

After some drinks and making out, Stone grew uncomfortable with the way things were heading as his date became more aggressive.

“It got to the point of non-consensual,” Stone says. “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 who have bad experiences. Match.com offers a link to information, or if a member behaves inappropriately after meeting in person. The offender can potentially be banned from using the site.

Despite Alford’s experience, she still believes in connecting with people online. She has developed friendships with people that have lasted for years, she says.

To some, meeting people online is still taboo, however many don’t see it as much different than being set up on a blind date or meeting a stranger at a club.

Despite Alford and Stone’s scary experiences, they still believe meeting people anywhere else is just as dangerous as meeting online.
TAKING THE DIVE

Safety comes first when jumping from 14,000 feet.

Story by Sarah Beaulieu
Photos by David Rzegocki

The 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 halfway.”

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,” she says. “When you go through the clouds, you can see water molecules rush past you in an instant.”

Tyon 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.”

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.
In 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 do 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 running or with friends or strangers, says Heidi Unick, program director of Amy’s Place.

“Most homeless youth in Whatcom County do not choose the street lifestyle, and when they do, they 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 Rhannon Bardsley, executive director of Northwest Youth services.

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 Sudden 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 kindness, 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.

Left: A make-shift homeless camp can be seen underneath the bridge at East Chestnut Street. Right: Josh Young, a former homeless youth, holds a gallon of apple juice in his tattooed hands outside of the Bellingham public library near Barkley Village.

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.” He says he didn’t feel the need to prepare for it.

Sooner or later, Young says, the street life has on these kids, she says.

Every kid has a completely different story, Bardsley says.

Young detached himself from most of the people who stay on the streets because they continue to repeat the cycle he escaped. When you no longer participate in the same activities there is no commonality between you, and eventually you drift apart, Young says.

Young is now off the streets, sober, living with his sister and two nieces and attends Bellingham Technical College pursuing a degree in applied science.

Although his wolves were not aggressive, Odle 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. Many animals not socialized properly will become nervous and revert to primary instincts, especially when seeing a hand and associating it with either food or a threat.

He says a person who is thinking about getting a risky pet needs to make sure it is the right decision for them and the animal, and make sure the person can take care of the animal properly.
Giving a crap about your food

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

Story by Alexandra Kock
Illustration by Nicole Strep

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.

“E. coli is difficult to remove from fragile and convoluted leaves such as lettuce,” Kunesh says. “The best defense is not let it get contaminated in the first place.”

Knowing where and how produce is grown can help people choose how risky they want to eat.

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, Maria 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.

“T...
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. "I was thinking of sneaky ways to go through without crap out of me," she says. "I'd walk through campus thinking of sneaky ways to go through without getting spotted."

"They put 25 of us into one van and drove us into the desert," Cato says. After getting dropped 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 Students without documentation who apply to Western and waste the opportunities they are given.

"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.

"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."

More than 11,2 million undocumented immigrants of all ages living in the U.S.

More than 7,000-13,000 undocumented students enrolled in college throughout the U.S.

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

**Natralization exam questions**

Below are a sample set of questions that could be asked during a natralization 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?
5. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
6. Who was the president during WW1?
7. Before he was president, Eisenhower was a general. Which war was he in?
8. Name one of the two longest rivers in the U.S.
9. Why does the flag have 13 stripes and 50 stars are for each state. 10. Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam the stars are for each state. 10. Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam

**U.S. history**

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
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**Integrated civics**

8. Name one of the two longest rivers in the U.S.
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**Sources**

Maria del Rosario Corona Horta talks during a Western’s Student Coalition for Immigration Rights meeting on campus.
Western police officer Derek Jones writes a ticket in his patrol car. At 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

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.

Dr. Eric Smith fell asleep while standing up and holding a retractor. He recalls spending the previous night drawing blood from patients before assisting in surgery.

Graveyard shifts also affect the quality of sleep a physician filled the room. “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.

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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.

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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 treated myself.

Graveyard shifts also affect the quality of sleep and may cause a condition known as obstructive sleep 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 open 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.

Talent Buyer Austin Santiago calls an office. Twenty-seven-year-old Santiago is in charge of coordinating with musical artists and their agents to put on concerts at Glow Nightclub, The Wild Buffalo and other venues in town, as well as running his own promotion company, BuildStrong Productions.

With his MacBook Pro perched on top of one of the bar tables, he scrolls through the contract for tonight’s show with K. Flay, an electro power hip-hop artist and Cherub, an electro pop duo from Lincoln, Neb. Santiago says he is unsure of the audience turnout for the night’s show, since the last three nights The Buff has been at capacity and K. Flay has never performed in Bellingham before.

“In a college town like Bellingham, having a packed weekend of three big shows can mean a smaller turn out for the last show. People are pretty spent and might not have the energy or money to come out again, but that’s a risk you take,” Santiago says.

To combat a low turn out, Santiago likes to switch up the music and book performers from different genres to draw a crowd at each show. For this particular concert he hopes the costs of the show are covered, and isn’t planning on making a large profit.

Santiago moved to Bellingham in 2003 and quickly fell in love with the music scene. He wanted to be more than just one in the crowd so he began to help artists and venues hang fliers for local shows, which he calls the “street-level” music industry.

After helping put together small concerts, Santiago was asked to help a friend out with an event where he

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

“It’s 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 turns to someone next to him at the bar saying, “Don’t worry, there is always an after party on nights like tonight.”

By Ana Karen Perez Guzman

Photos by Colin Diltz

With a blink of an eye, the board is covered with Corey’s pink blocks, surrounding Ledbetter’s troops in the Congo. Ledbetter is left with a few green blocks and with a simple roll of a die, Ledbetter loses her last troop and Corey has taken over the world in a matter of two hours.

The alliance between Alice and Cameron has ended, and the game is now between Corey and Alice. With a final no messages appear on their cell phones minutes later. As the game slows down and the territory has been taken over, Alice and Cameron smile at each other, giving silent high-fives.

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 own territories, to make plans and to attack. Risk is like a game of chess, but it is much more fun.

“With a click of an eye, the board is covered with Corey’s pink blocks, surrounding Alice’s troops in the Congo. Alice is left with a few green blocks and with a simple roll of a die, Alice loses her last troop and Corey has taken over the world in a matter of two hours.”

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-Austin Santiago Bellingham talent buyer
KLIPSUN
is a Chinuk Wawa word meaning sunset.
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