Spring 2014


Genevieve Iverson
Western Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: https://cedar.wwu.edu/klipsun_magazine

Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Journalism Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
https://cedar.wwu.edu/klipsun_magazine/180

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Student Publications at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Klipsun Magazine by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact westerncedar@wwu.edu.
As a child, I spent my summers at the family pond, learning to swim and exploring the shoreline armed with rainbow goggles and a shrimp net. While I loved the fluorescent wings of the blue and red dragonflies resting on the cattails, I preferred to inspect their green larvae counterparts clinging to the dock pilings beneath the surface of the water. They looked like sleeping insects incased in murky, underwater cocoons. As the summer progressed, the larvae climbed up the pilings into the sun-light. A dragonfly would crawl out, stretching its new wings and fanning them in the air.

The dragonflies taught me the process of metamorphosis, emerging and breaking through several surfaces in a matter of minutes. And after they warmed their wings, they flew to the cattails, leaving a dried skin of another life behind.

For this issue, our staff and writers came together to decide what “surface” means to us. We were struck by the different definitions and interpretations of the word. As you read, we hope you consider what it means to you as well.

What exists on a surface may not be an accurate representation of what lies beneath. Read on and travel into caves with Washington state spelunkers, see a criminal strip club through the eyes of an undercover cop and dive into the depths of Puget Sound in search of lost ship-wrecks. Our writers bring you stories of all kinds of surfaces, both literal and figurative. Take this copy of Klipsun home and indulge yourself in the stories printed on the pages to come.
HIDDEN AGENDAS

Undercover cops blend in to bring criminals down
JACK PARKS HIS CAR OUTSIDE A strip club in the slums of Seattle. Before going inside, he uses some of his Costco-sized hand sanitizer, tucks his three shirts into his pants and tightens his belt to the very last hole — tight enough so that none of the women could stick their hand down his pants, but not so tight that he feels like he will explode.

After a deep breath, Jack enters the building. This isn’t a normal strip club, however. It’s one of many that belong to a criminal organization that profits from prostituting women.

Jack isn’t a customer, but he pretends to be. He’s an undercover cop.

Jack, a Western alumnus, whose real name will remain anonymous, worked for the Seattle Police Department’s Organized Crime Regional Task Force until 2010. He was appointed to a team assigned to gather evidence on the owners of a criminal organization that claimed to run strip clubs.

These strip clubs were actually brothels housing women forced into a life of prostitution to feed drug addictions paid for by the club owners, Jack says.

Jack’s job was to infiltrate the organization and gather evidence of criminal activity against the owners.

“The clubs were really disgusting,” Jack says. “People did a lot of sex acts there — often out in the open. There were a lot of bodily fluids and used condoms where you were supposed to be sitting. It’s not the strip clubs you see on TV and not what you see in Vegas. These are brothels, essentially. Gross and sad.”

A self-proclaimed “germaphobe,” Jack was disgusted by the idea of prostitution, but while he was undercover he had to pretend he was in the club for a good time, he says.

“I had really long hair and these women would want to sit on my lap and run their fingers through my hair, which is gross because I knew what they were just doing to other people,” Jack says.

Law enforcement officers like Jack work with programs such as Seattle Against Slavery, an organization that helps prevent human trafficking in King County. Based on the information gathered from undercover investigations, the organization develops advocacy strategies, says Robert Beiser, the executive director of Seattle Against Slavery.

The organization also connects the public with law enforcement and survivors of sex trafficking in order to end criminal enterprises profiting from commercial sexual exploitation.

“Communication from law enforcement leads to the type of trafficking prevention that wouldn’t be available if we weren’t able to partner with them,” Beiser says.

Mark Jamieson, a former Western student, has been with the Seattle Police Department for 21 years working as a detective and a public information officer. Jamieson’s experience with undercover police work involves street-corner drug deals — the average type of undercover assignments a Seattle police officer engages in, he says.

Before an officer is selected for an undercover assignment, they must go through department training. Seattle Police Department officers are required to complete a two-week-long training course in which officers learn the dos and don’ts of undercover work and participate in role-playing scenarios.

Jack was once assigned to buy drugs on Broadway in Seattle — an area where meth and heroin sales were common among young people living on the streets. Jack would shop at Value Village and dress down to fit in, wearing old shirts, jeans that were full of holes and dirty, worn shoes. He would throw a rope around his dog’s neck and bring him along as a prop to help him blend in, he says.

Jack walked down Broadway, socializing with the people on the streets. He quickly caught a vibe of who was who in the drug-selling world, he says. After approaching a dealer, Jack would buy drugs and walk away casually, signaling to a nearby uniformed officer who would then make the arrest.

Although there are risks associated with undercover work, Jack says the only time he was ever in danger was during general, everyday police work, such as enforcing search warrants or working on patrol.

“You’re much more likely to get hurt or attacked in a traffic stop or something like that then you are in an undercover operation,” Jack says.

Jack never found himself in any dangerous situations while undercover. At any point during an investigation, 10 people from his unit waited ready to step in if anything went wrong. Situations were controlled and monitored, Jack says. He always felt safe. Safety precautions are always a priority, Jack says.

After a day of pretending to be someone else, undercover officers return home and slip back into their normal life.
PET ACUPUNCTURE
Alternative medicine benefits family cats

WITH TWO CAT CARRIERS IN HAND,
Lynn Graham steps into Donna Kelleher’s office at Whole Pet Vet in Bellingham for her cats’ bi-monthly appointment. Kelleher places Graham’s eldest cat, 19-year-old Shadow, on the carpeted table in her office, greeting her with a generous pet-down before she begins the treatment. She then inserts one tiny needle at a time into Shadow’s dark, striped fur.

Shadow, along with Graham’s other feline companion, 16-year-old white-furred Frank, has received acupuncture treatments from Kelleher since 2009. Concerned with her cats’ declining health, Graham brought Shadow and Frank to Kelleher in hopes that holistic medicine might help treat symptoms of their old age and suspected reactions to vaccines, Graham says.

Holistic medicine is the process of using low side-effect methods such as herbal supplements, dietary changes and acupuncture to provide a better quality of life for the patient. Acupuncture can be equally as beneficial for pets as it can be for people, Kelleher says.

The American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture, created in 1998 as a response to a growing number of licensed pet acupuncturists, currently has 1,010 practicing members, says Associate Director Amanda Hauserman. Kelleher has written two books about holistic veterinary medicine, and has been practicing this form of animal healing since 1994.

While veterinary acupuncture can also be practiced on larger animals such as horses, Kelleher focuses on cats and dogs. Veterinary acupuncture focuses on improving the animal’s parasympathetic nervous system — the same effect acupuncture has on humans. The parasympathetic nervous system is responsible for adrenal and endocrine strength, digestive processes and controlling sleep, Kelleher says, and autoimmune diseases can impair its functions in dogs and cats.

Liver, kidney, stomach and lung diseases can also be improved or cured using this method of healing, according to Whole Pet Vet’s website. In addition, acupuncture can increase endorphins in animals, causing physiological changes such as increased appetite and an improved mood.

Acupuncture can require a greater degree of trust between animal and doctor than traditional vaccinations, Kelleher says.

“I have an office that’s not conventional,” Kelleher says. “I don’t have any animals in the back being hospitalized, or any forms of conventional medicine or alcohols because [the animals] have associations, like we do, with those smells.”

Kelleher meets with animals and their caretakers before performing any treatments to ensure the animals can bond with her, noting the importance of relaxation during treatment.

“I stay with [the animals] the whole time. We have an unspoken agreement: if they have a problem with a needle, I’m going to take it right out,” Kelleher says. “[The animals] go ‘Oh, I get it! If I wiggle this foot and tell you this needle is bugging me, you’re...
going to respond to that.”

Some dog breeds struggle with the relaxation portion of acupuncture, Kelleher says. Shepherds and other protective breeds feel the need to keep their eyes on their owners, which conflicts with their body’s desire to rest during the process, Kelleher says. Despite these breed exceptions, she says most of her four-legged patients fully relax during the procedures, needle insertion and all.

“We see nose-dripping and an increase of heart rate and respiration, but the animal is totally asleep,” Kelleher says. “It’s like this active, almost REM kind of deep sleep.”

Graham first took her cat Frank to Kelleher in hopes of curing his hypothyroidism and allergies. Due to suspected reactions from past vaccines, Frank has only one working kidney, Graham says.

Both Frank and Shadow have bonded with Kelleher during the last five years, allowing Kelleher to place the acupuncture needles all over their bodies. During one of Shadow’s first treatments, she relaxed so much her eyes drooped shut for half an hour, Graham says.

“[Since beginning acupuncture], there is a marked improvement in everything from them,” Graham says. “They both are more energetic, more playful, their appetites are better and their bowel movements are fine. For old cats, that is really amazing.”

“IT’S OPENING [OWNERS’] MINDS TO THINGS YOU CAN’T NECESSARILY EXPLAIN FULLY.”

Kelleher has close relationships with her animal patients, which she sees as a vital step in the acupuncture process. Her favorite part of the process is a change that happens outside the animal, she says.

“It’s opening [owners’] minds to things you can’t necessarily explain fully,” Kelleher says. “We want to know the gene sequence responsible for this cancer and that, but our [holistic] world is saying if you just support this process we can’t put our finger on, the body’s vital energy, the body will heal itself.”

Pet acupuncture success stories have no age restriction. Although some of the most powerful improvements are seen in older pets, pet acupuncture can be just as effective on younger pets, Kelleher says. Acupuncture harnesses an internal energy to improve health conditions in multiple species, she says.

“When you get told by four different vets your dog won’t get better, and [it] gets better by supporting this vital force, you now have a different frame of reference for when something happens in your life,” Kelleher says.

By exposing pet owners to this alternative form of medicine, Kelleher hopes to open their minds to the holistic healing methods that are available for themselves.
OFF THE GRID

The movement toward self-sustainable construction
DIARY HANDS GRIP HAMMERS AS
a ragtag group of men pound fresh earth into salvaged tires. Old steel is cut and warped while wood planks are nailed together to form frames. Bins of recycled bottles sit aside, waiting to be set into a window wall of cob and glass. While the cold Canadian air blows, Mark Fleischhaker wipes his brow and stands before his creation: a self-sustaining and cost-free building. They are creating an Earthship.

An Earthship is a form of housing that, through carefully orchestrated design, functions in a completely self-sustaining manner. Earthships are designed with six key principles in mind: sustainable materials, electricity, sewage, heating, water and food — all of which can be maintained internally by the residents.

Similar developments are resonating across the globe, and Earthships are now being constructed worldwide for everything from disaster-relief to luxury getaways. The movement has taken root, and local activists and organizations are pushing to bring these buildings to the Pacific Northwest.

"In theory, you could survive without ever going outside," says Florian Becquereau, founder of Earthship Seattle. "It means you’re not dependent on anything else."

Coined by its creator as a "radically sustainable building," Michael Reynolds first theorized the Earthship in 1969. He sought to alleviate garbage and affordable housing issues by building a home that could function completely 'off the grid,' according to the Earthship Biotecture website.

Following in the green footsteps of Reynolds, Fleischhaker and the Living Solutions Group, located in Vancouver, B.C., came together with the goal of revolutionizing the world of sustainable architecture.

Their first project began as a Craigslist request for construction of an Earthship, and they have been working since August 2013, Fleischhaker says. Completed without any budget, the structure is built by hand and constructed solely from recycled material found on the property.

"I've been a big advocate for true sustainable design — things that embody a bit more autonomy off-grid, and building with what you have," Fleischhaker says. "I think Earthships are one excellent form of doing that."

A structural engineer interested in sustainability, Fleischhaker says Earthships proved to be a perfect blend of his skills and interests. The multi-faceted process has attracted people from all walks of life, including artists, teachers and horticulturalists. Fleischhaker says he couldn’t be happier with the unification Earthships provide.

"We've basically created a space where people can come out and learn and get their hands dirty," Fleischhaker says. "It's been really special to see people leaving here feeling like they've gained from it. We're building a little bit of a community."

Sharing in this dream of progressive architecture, Huxley College junior Adrienne Chambers is in the process of creating a similar project by starting an Earthship class at Western.

Building an Earthship on the school grounds would act as an example of how Earthships function, and Chambers says this creative endeavor would foster an interactive and collaborative community at Western.

Chambers has garnered support from Huxley College of the Environment, as well as from dozens of students and faculty members. She plans to sell the idea by adding the Earthship to Western's collection of campus sculptures, where she says it would fit right in as a piece of usable artwork.

"They're gorgeous in and of themselves," Chambers says. "It could be something the college could brag about."

Although students have warmly responded to the idea, Chambers says she must obtain the Dean of Students' approval before the project begins. In her experience, obtaining permits can prove difficult — but she is not deterred.

"When it comes to American government, there are 72 individuals to go through just within Washington before a bill even gets to the federal level," Chambers says. "I feel really confident because I don't have 72 hurdles; I've got one, and that's the dean saying 'No.'"

Because of the grassroots nature of the Earthship movement, a strong connection exists between many of those involved. Chambers says he is excited about opportunities to collaborate with other organizations in the Northwest.

Earthship Seattle is one such organization, and although fairly new, it has been making large strides since it was established in 2012. Becquereau says he
was drawn to Earthships as a way to live without being tied to the economy.

“I didn’t want my sustenance or my survival to depend on working for someone,” Becquereau says. “Leaving the current system means not being dependent on the current economy, which permeates almost all aspects of life. The conclusion is to build something better, different and not dependent on the current system. This way, even if the current system collapses, your alternative system is still functioning.”

To accomplish this, Becquereau has been constructing an Earthship in the Seattle area. The organization consistently meets with city officials to get required permission, but due to space and permitting issues, Becquereau says it may be wiser to start in more open areas of the Pacific Northwest.

“Building inside the city would be much more constrained,” Becquereau says. “You would need to be connected to sewage and water, but an Earthship is supposed to be disconnected, so it doesn’t make sense to pay for it. We’d just have bills of nothing.”

A few interested parties have volunteered their land and time to the cause. Hoping to set an example, Florian says he will start with a small experimental home and build his way up.

“If people can see it, it can be a precedent to test in this climate,” Becquereau says. “We can have a real structure to show how it looks instead of a conceptual idea.”

The project by Living Solutions has accomplished this goal — a true Earthship standing tall against the stark blue Canadian sky, acting as an example for Earthship functionality in the Pacific Northwest.

Glancing at the blueprint near his toolbox, Fleischhaker cannot help but feel proud. What began as simple lines on paper has grown to the physical structure standing before him. Mirroring the progress of the Earthship movement itself, this development is one of the first in a green revolution, and with the help of fellow activists, it won’t be the last.

“I’VE BEEN A BIG ADVOCATE FOR TRUE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN — THINGS THAT EMBODY A BIT MORE AUTONOMY OFF-GRID, AND BUILDING WITH WHAT YOU HAVE. I THINK EARTHSHIPS ARE ONE EXCELLENT FORM OF DOING THAT.”
STREAMS OF WATER BLAST OUT OF A HOSE and strike the blue hull of David Behrens’ 28-foot Bayliner. Barnacles lose the fight to cling to the boat’s underside, falling to the pavement below and erasing all signs that the now smooth surface of the boat had once been a jagged mountain range of the tiny organisms.

“To a barnacle, a clean boat hull is available real estate,” Behrens says.

In search of a place to call home, barnacles settle on all kinds of available surfaces in Puget Sound, including boats, Behrens says. The accumulation of barnacles costs boat owners thousands of dollars each year, which has led many boaters to coat their vessels in a toxic, copper-based paint that deters barnacles but also causes harmful effects to the surrounding marine ecosystem, he says.

Last year Behrens spent $2,000 on rid-ding his boat of barnacles, a process necessary to prevent the animals from disturbing depth finders and speedometers and invading the boat’s rudder, which compromises steering, Behrens says.

Despite the economic burden, Behrens believes the price of cleaning is better than the cost marine animals have to pay for copper leaching into their environment.

Recent studies by Sean Craig, marine ecology professor at Humboldt State University, show copper is poisonous for many marine animals.

“If you take a petri dish and paint it with a fresh coat of copper paint, and then you start putting barnacles in, it will kill most of them very quickly,” Craig says.

Although the copper paint is less toxic to most marine life than the previously used tin paint, it enables invasive species with a higher resistance to copper to attach to the boats and thrive, Craig says.

Species such as Watersipora, an organism with capabilities similar to barnacles, are more likely to settle in areas with low doses of copper.

“It seems that we are selecting for specific species now in bays and harbors by using these copper paints,” Craig says.

As summer approaches, boat owners will prepare for another battle with the tiny marine invertebrates, as they do every season.

Pulling his boat out of the water, Behrens gets ready to power wash and scrape the cobalt hull free of barnacles once again. Although he knows it will cost him, he believes preserving life in the inner tidal zone is far more valuable.
PULLING OUT HER PEN, WESTERN

student Katy Sharp makes her mark on the bathroom stall wall for the first time. Her pen leaves a trail of black letters, her very own addition to the already ink-covered surface. As she exits the stall, the hinges swing shut behind her, closing the door on what some see as art and what others view as a crime.

"I get excited when I write on [the wall],” Sharp says. “It’s like almost being truly anonymous.”

While Sharp’s wall writing occurred four years ago, writing on stall walls remains a common pastime for other students; however, this activity can also have a high cost for schools. Every year, Western plans to spend $25,000 on cleaning graffiti around campus, including off bathroom stalls. Despite the facilities maintenance crew’s cleaning efforts, many students continue to write on the walls.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Stall graffiti across campus takes many different forms. Bathrooms have different personalities based on the types of commentary people write on the walls, Sharp says.

Sharp vividly remembers her first encounter with one of the most notorious stalls on Western’s campus: the Harry Potter stall. Tucked away in the back corner of the women’s restroom in Haggard Hall stands a stall covered in quotes, pictures and conversations about the world of wizards created by author J.K. Rowling.

At other campus locations such as Arntzen Hall and the Viking Union, students have inscribed grout-focused puns into the white spaces surrounding the tiles. One grout pun urges students using the stall to “Grout it out.” Another exclaims, “You’re grout of control.”

“Graffiti does not equal vandalism – it’s social commentary,” says one marking etched in red pen in the basement bathroom of Arntzen Hall.

After maintenance workers paint over the messages, new quotes and sayings quickly reappear, Sharp says.

MALICIOUS MISCHIEF

Washington State Law classifies graffiti as a misdemeanor under the title, "malicious mischief in the third degree.” The law applies to any person who knowingly and maliciously causes physical damage to someone else’s property by writing, painting or drawing anything on a public or private structure, according to Washington State Legislature.

Paul Cocke, director of communication at Western, compares graffiti around campus to the act of someone painting on another’s car or house.

“It is important to realize that in these tight budget times, adding to the workload of an already hard-working Western
maintenance staff is both unnecessary and irresponsible,” Cocke says.

Western’s Facilities Maintenance Department, specifically the Paint Shop, cleans the graffiti off many stalls on campus. Dan Norsby, the Paint Shop’s supervisor, recalls spending two days of work cleaning just two stalls in Haggard Hall.

“I have zero tolerance [for graffiti],” Norsby says. “It is destruction of state property. It’s not just jotting on a wall — it is vandalism.”

A KIND REMINDER

The writing that Western student Sarah Bollard sees on almost every bathroom stall does not bother her because she does not view it as vandalism, she says.

“I don’t necessarily think it shows a bad face of our school just because there are things written on a bathroom wall,” Bollard says.

Bollard does not write on stalls, but instead uses Post-it notes to remind people that they are loved, beautiful and important as part of a campaign she created to combat bullying. Bollard began writing compliments on Post-it notes and placing them at eye-level in stalls after personal experiences with bullying.

“I feel like putting a Post-it note up is kinder to a janitor,” Bollard says. “They can just throw it away if they want it gone.”

Despite the school’s efforts against stall graffiti, Bollard believes students will continue to write on bathroom stall walls, just as she will continue to use Post-it notes to spread positivity.

CAUTION: WET PAINT

Dressed in white from head to toe, a facilities maintenance worker walks into a heavily marked bathroom stall. He takes out a brush, dips it into his paint bucket and systematically begins the task of covering the quotes, drawings and conversations that blacken the walls.

Once finished, the only evidence that the four walls had once been ink-covered is a small note taped to the door, warning bathroom-goers of wet paint. ✗
ON A MORNING LIKE ANY OTHER, SARAH Mansfield steps in front of the mirror to do her hair before leaving for class. She brushes back the long strands into a ponytail, revealing a spot of white scalp. Resting just above the left side of her forehead, the spot makes its presence clear against her dark hair. She pushes her hair gently over the spot and secures it with a headband to ensure no one will see it during the day — no matter how windy it is.

Mansfield, a Western senior, has alopecia areata, a form of hair loss caused by an autoimmune skin disorder. Alopecia affects only 2 percent of the United States population, according to the National Alopecia Areata Foundation. The spot — roughly the size of a baseball — is her third and largest bald spot since her first one appeared in fourth grade.

Her first patch appeared just above the nape of her neck and was about the size of a quarter. Despite its positioning, fourth-grade Mansfield insisted on wearing a ponytail — her favorite hairstyle.

“People were like, ‘Oh my God, can I touch it?’” Mansfield says with a laugh.

The hair grew back, and neither she nor her family thought much of it until her senior year of high school when Mansfield started losing hair right before prom. She was upset about the timing and confused that the seemingly random phenomenon had reappeared after eight years. That’s when a dermatologist diagnosed her with alopecia areata.

“By [high school], girls are a lot more con-
conscious about how they look,” says Bette Mansfield, Sarah’s mother. “She wanted to make sure that it was covered.”

Over time, Mansfield began accepting alopecia areata as part of her life, and tries to not let the disorder bother her.

“My friends named [the spot] Waldo the Baldo,” she says.

Mansfield is treated every six weeks by a dermatologist who administers painful shots of cortisone into her scalp to keep the spot from expanding while also encouraging hair growth.

Her hair grew back after treatment, but during the summer of 2013 a new spot formed and has put up more of a fight than the others, she says.

“It’s like I have a crop circle on my head,” she says.

In some cases, the hair does not grow back, making alopecia areata an unpredictable disorder. It can potentially progress to complete hair loss on the scalp, which sometimes leads to alopecia universalis – total hair loss on every part of the body.

Roger Payne, co-owner of Special FX, a salon in downtown Bellingham specializing in non-surgical hair replacements, has seen few cases of alopecia universalis in about 25 years of business.

One day, a woman in her early 20s came into the salon.

“She looked like some sort of alien or ghost,” he says. “She was a beautiful girl, but I have never seen anything like that before.”

The woman woke up a few days prior to discover all the hair on her body, including her full head of long blond hair, had completely fallen out.

Payne used hair samples to identify the woman’s hair color, created a mold of her head shape and sent the mold and hair sample to a hair prosthetics institute in Salt Lake City, Utah.

After six weeks, a custom prosthetic mold arrived at Special FX.

“It feels good to be able to do something for someone,” Payne says. “[We] help them become happy and feel great again.”

Mansfield says she would consider a prosthetic if she lost a substantial amount of hair. For now, she tries not to let the unknown scare her and tells herself that the spot will go away, like the others.

Despite striving for positivity, her feelings toward her disorder fluctuate.

“I don’t want people to focus on [the disorder],” she says. “If I saw someone with a bald spot on their head, I’d probably stare at it.”

“I DON’T WANT PEOPLE TO FOCUS ON [THE DISORDER].” SHE SAYS. “IF I SAW SOMEONE WITH A BALD SPOT ON THEIR HEAD, I’D PROBABLY STARE AT IT.”

As Mansfield walks between classes, she wishes it wasn’t so windy. This time, she went against her normal routine and wore her hair down. Feeling uneasy about the breeze blowing her hair upward to reveal her spot, she holds the strands down until she gets inside. In the bathroom, she readjusts and reminds herself that no one can judge her for something skin deep.

With a burst of confidence, she continues to her accounting class – smiling as her hair waves freely.
STORY AND PHOTOS BY
EVAN ABELL

Spelunkers explore the depths of the earth

INTO THE
Spelunkers
James Mooreshire, right, leads a beginner’s caving expedition into Lake Cave near Cougar, Wash.
Spelunkers, also known as cavers, are people who recreationally explore and study caves. Some approach spelunking scientifically, while others treat it like an extreme sport.

Mooreshire, chairperson of Seattle-based caving club Cascade Grotto, was in his mid-20s when he fell in love with the underground.

“I think above ground we become used to what things look like,” Mooreshire says. “Underground, the spaces that you’ll encounter and the forms that you’ll encounter are just so unique, it’s quite joyous when I see something that I never would’ve expected to see.”

Mooreshire’s favorite cave in Washington is called Hell Hole. The remote marble cave is located in the Cascade Mountain Range and is only accessible a couple months out of the year due to severe avalanche danger. Hell Hole is complex and features a large room with several tunnels of varying sizes leading in different directions.

Mooreshire recalls a time when he brought a friend to Hell Hole who had never visited the cave before.

“I took them into it thinking, ‘I’m going to show them this cave’ and they ended up pointing to a hole up on a wall and we climbed up and in through it and on the other side were these beautiful formations covering the walls,” Mooreshire says. “Everything was sort of beautiful blue and white. It’s that sort of surprise. I love that.”

Oregon Grotto member Chris Molyneux has found and mapped 15 caves in Washington. He likes exploring caves both known and unknown, but feels added excitement in finding a new cave.

“Sometimes you get to go where no one else has been before,” Molyneux says.

Exploring caves can be risky. Several years ago, Molyneux was camping with his family and went to explore a cave by himself. After some exploration, Molyneux attempted to return to the surface but could not find his way out. What was supposed to be a quick peek into the cave turned into a stressful four and half hours searching for an exit. Molyneux eventually found his way out, and now suggests caving groups should include at least three people for safety.

Mooreshire has had his own scary moments while spelunking. He and a friend were negotiating a crevice in a cave in Pennsylvania when his friend slipped and fell.

“He sort of hit the right ledges on the way down to not receive any serious injuries,” Mooreshire says. “There I was, still climbing, and I had just seen my friend disappear into the dark.”

Mooreshire’s friend escaped the cave with bruises. Since then, Mooreshire has made sure to always be attached to a rope when exposed to a significant height, he says.

The intense camaraderie between cavers is what makes spelunking so enjoyable for Western geology professor and avid spelunker Tom Evans.

“Sometimes you get to go where no one else has been before,” Molyneux says.

Exploring caves can be risky. Several years ago, Molyneux was camping with his family and went to explore a cave by himself. After some exploration, Molyneux attempted to return to the surface but could not find his way out. What was supposed to be a quick peek into the cave turned into a stressful four and half hours searching for an exit. Molyneux eventually found his way out, and now suggests caving groups should include at least three people for safety.

Mooreshire has had his own scary moments while spelunking. He and a friend were negotiating a crevice in a cave in Pennsylvania when his friend slipped and fell.

“He sort of hit the right ledges on the way down to not receive any serious injuries,” Mooreshire says. “There I was, still climbing, and I had just seen my friend disappear into the dark.”

Mooreshire’s friend escaped the cave with bruises. Since then, Mooreshire has made sure to always be attached to a rope when exposed to a significant height, he says.

The intense camaraderie between cavers is what makes spelunking so enjoyable for Western geology professor and avid spelunker Tom Evans.

“As soon as you enter that family, you’ve got a place to stay anywhere you want in the continent,” Evans says. “It’s a really cool group of people.”

In addition to being a geology professor at Western, Evans is a member of the National Speleological Society, and a search and rescue volunteer for the National Cave Rescue Commission. It took three years before Evans’ fellow cavers let him enter what is now his favorite cave, Newton Cave, because they said he wasn’t ready.

“They were totally right,” Evans says. “I did nearly die the first time I went in.”

Evans describes Newton Cave as a big, scary hole in the ground. He was moving through a narrow passage that spelunkers often refer to as a “squeeze” when he found himself stuck and unable to move.

“I would exhale and try to move forward and I just couldn’t move,” Evans says. “I had to have my friends pull me out of that hole.”

Despite the risks associated with caving, caving accidents are rare, due in part to the cautious nature of the spelunking community, Evans says.

“We pretty much self-police,” Evans says.
“We make sure people have the skill sets before they go underground so that they can fix their own problems.”

**“THERE I WAS STILL CLIMBING AND I HAD JUST SEEN MY FRIEND DISAPPEAR INTO THE DARK.”**

While the amount of caves in Washington is currently unknown, at least 800 have been discovered, Evans says. Almost all of those caves are lava tubes created by underground lava flows. The others are made from limestone or marble that has been dissolved over time.

With increasing numbers of cave locations being posted on the Internet, more and more inexperienced cavers are able to find entrances to caves they’re not yet ready for, Evans says. He recalls an expedition where he was entering a cave with some friends when four people passed them wearing only shorts and t-shirts. They had left their helmets and lights at the entrance.

“The cave is called ‘Danger Cave.’ Why wouldn’t you want a helmet?” Evans says. “They were young individuals that had the equipment necessary but didn’t think ahead to actually use it appropriately and that’s what we want to try to avoid.”

One of the primary functions of the Cascade Grotto and other National Speleological Society affiliates is to educate people on the fragile state of caves.

“People aren’t going to protect [caves] if they have never seen them,” Mooreshire says. “I’m eager to take people underground because I think it’s the only way they’ll know these places are important.”

While large-scale building projects and water contamination can cause damage to caves, the actions of individuals pose the biggest threat, Mooreshire says.

“People hear about formations growing inside of caves and a lot of the time they assume they can break off a pointy stalactite or stalagmite and take it home as a souvenir and it will regrow,” Mooreshire says. “The fact is that it grew but it took tens of thousands, if not a hundred thousand years to do so.”

The most at-risk element of caves is the animals and organisms that live inside, Mooreshire says. Because caves are isolated underground, the environments tend to be stable and unchanging.

“If we do something to alter the temperature or humidity levels it could kill off an entire species,” Mooreshire says. “Sometimes you get species that spend so long in one cave that they become endemic. They evolve in a unique way and they’re only found inside that cave.”

An endemic species is a living organism that is unique to a specific area.

The Cascade Grotto consults biologists before entering caves where they know endemic species exist to help reduce risk. Most spelunkers do their part to protect caves, Evans says. Many of them carry garbage bags while caving so they can remove any man-made debris they find.

A couple hours into an expedition, members of Mooreshire’s party stop to have a snack. They turn off their headlamps and light candles to preserve battery life. The flickering flames provide just enough light for the group to admire nearby formations. Once the snack is finished, they press onward. There are always more caves to be seen.
CARY THOMAS’ HANDS QUIVER slightly as she feels energy vibrating between her palms. One rests lightly on her patient’s chest while the other presses gently between the shoulder blades.

“The word that keeps coming to me is resilience,” Thomas says.

A few tears spill down the sides of the patient’s face, wetting her chestnut hair at the temples.

“People keep telling me that,” the patient says. “It gives me confidence.”

Carol Ozmer is at her first session as a patient at Integrative Polarity — a one-woman therapy practice in Bellingham, which opened in January. Filled with constant stress about her ongoing divorce, Ozmer turned to Thomas for help.

Polarity therapy works with the body’s energy field. Every living thing has energy — a frequency, a vibration, Thomas says. When stress, anxiety or any negative emotion builds up, muscles become tense. This can affect the natural flow of energy as stress physically manifests in the body, causing anything from poor posture to a diseased organ, Thomas says.

An alternative form of medicine, polarity can help at any stage of illness, but Thomas considers it as mainly preventative.

Thirty-eight percent of adults in the United States use some form of complimentary or alternative medicine, according to the most recent National Health Interview Survey. In 2007, alternative practices and products raked in $33.9 billion in out-of-pocket spending, according to the survey. Today, scattered around Bellingham, a range of alternative medicine practices can be found.

“I don’t want to force [polarity therapy] on people,” Thomas says. “It isn’t popping a pill, it isn’t saying, ‘This will fix you.’ It’s saying, ‘Here are some tools that can help you in your process.’”

Thomas starts the session by inviting Ozmer to take off her shoes and lie fully dressed and face up on a massage table. She extends her right hand and hovers it over Ozmer, starting above the hips and slowly moving up.

Thomas says the body has five main centers of energy, or energy currents, each relating to one of the five elements: ether, air, fire, water and earth. Her hand can feel the pace of each vibration, she says. The earth current is a slow, rolling vibration of energy, while the ether current feels faster and warmer.

“I’ll feel vibrations, heat, cold or more abstract things, like sometimes a spot will just pull me in,” Thomas says. “Unless you get it, it sounds like I could be making it up.”

On the table, Thomas guides Ozmer through the session.

“Take a few deep breaths and bring your focus to these two contact points,” Thomas says as she puts gentle pressure on Ozmer’s chest and back. “I’m starting to feel a lot of vibration.”

After Thomas shifts focus to the neck, Ozmer is overwhelmed by a wave of emotion.

“I don’t know where that came from,” she says, wiping tears from her face.

Several years ago, Ozmer had a miscarriage. She held the emotion and trauma inside for a long time, she says.
"When [emotions] don't get let go, they get more solid and get trapped in the body," Thomas says. "That’s where we get that connection [with polarity] when someone touches into something [they] don’t know is there but [they’ve] been holding on to.”

Polarity deals with the positive and negative poles of the body, like a battery, Bellingham massage therapist and polarity practitioner Nancy Canyon says. The head is the positive end, and the feet are the negative end.

“A battery has a positive and negative side and you don’t want to connect the wires wrong," Canyon says. "Sometimes our bodies get kind of miswired, and we have to correct that so the energy is flowing correctly.”

For a patient with shoulder tension, Thomas would associate that discomfort with the air current. By finding a point in the shoulder and matching it with a point in the ankle, Thomas can focus on the body’s two opposite poles, allowing her into the emotions associated with that energy block, she says. The air current is associated with relationships, so she might ask the patient about any related problems.

During training, polarity therapists..."
Polarity therapist Cary Thomas begins a session by sensing the energy of patient Carol Ozmer.

 develop a way to physically sense energy with their hands, Thomas says. One training exercise involves rubbing the hands together as if to warm them, then slowly pulling them apart. The energy caused by the friction is palpable, she says.

“POLARITY DEALS WITH THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE POLES OF THE BODY, LIKE A BATTERY.”

After two levels of training — associate and registered polarity practitioner — in addition to more than 800 hours of practice and a board certification, Thomas was prepared to start her own business. The intensity of the training is similar to that of massage therapy and acupuncture, she says.

Sometimes during a session, Thomas feels a twinge in one of her own muscles or hears a word repeated in her head — in Ozmer’s case, “resilience.”

“It seems like you’ve been hitting walls [in your divorce] for so long that you’re just ready to take a chainsaw and carve out a door if that’s what it takes,” Thomas says. “You have hope and drive and you can do this.”

Near the end of the session, Thomas moves back to Ozmer’s neck – a major area of tension for her.

Soreness in the neck often means a block in the ether current, which is related to expressing oneself, Thomas says.

“I can feel down into the muscle now,” she says. “Before it was just armor.”

Removing that “armor” can take time, but Ozmer says she now has the tools to move forward because of the polarity therapy.
A REFRIGERATOR OPENS AND a soil-covered hand pulls a jar from the top shelf. A pair of lips obscured by facial hair press against the rim.

“I slurp it up,” says Western senior Chris Taber as he takes a sip, leaving his moustache laden with bits of sedimentary slime.

Although Kombucha tea is available in supermarkets, Taber prefers to brew Kombucha at home.

“I think it’s one of those things that promotes the idea and knowledge about where your food comes from,” Taber says. “I think that’s really something people have lost.”

Home-brewers are not only saving money — Kombucha can cost $3-$5 per sixteen ounce bottle — but enjoy learning the process of fermentation.

Home-brewing has become popular because the SCOBY “mother,” which ferments the tea, can be cut to share among brewers, Taber says. The SCOBY, a symbiotic colony of bacteria and yeast, is a living organism that sits on the surface of the tea, feeding off of the sugar.

The SCOBY sitting at the top of the jar of fermenting Kombucha resembles a gelatinous mass of brown, slimy rubber.

“It looks like an alien in a jar,” says Jordi Johnson, Western senior and Kombucha brewer.

After one solution is made, the same SCOBY is transferred to a new batch along with some of the previous Kombucha fluid to avoid shocking the chemical balance of the SCOBY.

“It’s kind of like transferring fish into a new fish tank,” Taber says.

People drink Kombucha to enjoy the taste of the tea and strengthen their immune system. Some cancer patients have turned to Kombucha for its natural antioxidants, says owner of Kombucha Town, Chris McCoy.

Antioxidants form when the probiotics consume the sugar. The probiotics, a species of bacteria that turbocharge digestion by breaking down the food, ferment the tea and ultimately allow nutrients to be absorbed, McCoy says.

“You can feel it go down your system, scraping and gurgling in your stomach,” Taber says. “Your gut is like, ‘Oh, thank you.’”

Johnson says he likes to watch the SCOBY “creature” grow within the container as it feeds on the sugar.

Sometimes a SCOBY will grow to the point that brewers do not know what to do with the excess, Taber says.

Some brewers decide to fry the gelatinous mass and eat it, whereas others make vegan leather by tanning the SCOBY in the sun and molding it to fit a specific shape.

In the future, Taber plans to continue brewing his Kombucha and even hopes to craft a SCOBY hat.
OFF THE SHORES OF VASHON

Island, Wash., a lonely fishing boat known as the Quartermaster rests quietly on the ocean floor. Its wooden hull has been long forgotten by those above the surface, remembered only by the rockfish darting between its now-rotting beams. The Quartermaster once roamed Puget Sound, its crisp white paint reflecting the sunlight, and the red bottom cutting through the water.

Now, the wood is slowly decomposing, losing its protection from the paint that once coated the vessel. Diver Scott Boyd stumbled upon the shipwreck years ago.

"Every place I go, I find wrecks that nobody knows are there," Boyd says. "I love exploration and that feeling of finding something that nobody’s ever seen."

The Pacific Northwest is home to many shipwrecks that lie beneath the surface of the water, waiting to be found. More than 2,000 ships have wrecked in Washington’s waters, says James Delgado, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s director of maritime heritage. Only a few explorers, including Boyd, are searching for the wrecks to once again make them known to the world above water.
Most wrecks tend to cluster around Cape Disappointment and Cape Flattery, and are typically caused by bad weather combined with the rocky coastline in high-traffic areas, Delgado says.

"The situation is analogous to freeway wrecks," Delgado says. "Harbor entrances, straits and ocean turning points are the focal points for most wrecks."

The Puget Sound is typically not a hot spot for wrecks, Delgado says, but Boyd's discovery of the Quartermaster signals that wrecks can still occur in Puget Sound under the right conditions.

Boyd calls his first discovery, the Quartermaster, "pure, dumb luck."

On a calm weekend at sea with his wife, Boyd was steering his boat across Quartermaster Harbor when he noticed a black spot on his newly purchased sonar. It was easily recognizable as a shipwreck.

"You didn’t bring your dive gear, did you?" his wife asked.

Because he was an avid diver, he had. The discovery was the first of many. Boyd, who has discovered more than 300 wrecks, has become one of the premier shipwreck explorers in the Pacific Northwest. Sifting along the bottom of the ocean has been his passion for more than a decade.

Finding a piece of history hundreds of feet below the surface with no visibility and limited oxygen supply, however, can be a scary thing, Boyd says.

The wrecks are usually in strong current areas, and the ships are covered in silt and rust that will rain down upon anyone who enters the artifacts. Boyd says divers will often get "silted out," or lose all visibility upon venturing into an old shipwreck.

"You turn right, bam, there’s a wall. You turn right, bam, there’s a wall. You turn right, bam, there’s a wall," Boyd says. "You’re like, ‘Oh shit. How did I get in here?’"

Boyd says he first became enamored with the history of a wreck while diving in a Japanese merchant shipwreck from World War II.

"You go into an old hull and there’s still diesel floating inside the ribs," Boyd says. "There might be a merchant seaman’s boots floating there. You’re like, ‘Man, some dude was wearing these when this thing sank.’"

Although Boyd has discovered hundreds of wrecks, sometimes up to five in one day, many remain hidden inside their watery graves.

One large wreck, the SS Pacific, has yet to be found.

The SS Pacific was a steamship used to ferry miners during the gold rush. In 1875, the Pacific crashed into another boat, sinking to the bottom of the sea and sparing only two of its 275 passengers.

"Very few of the lost ships have been found," Delgado says. "Significant wrecks such as the SS Pacific remain to be discovered."

Maybe someday Boyd will stumble upon the SS Pacific. Until then, he plans to continue living his dream as he dives into the blue depths to discover what new sunken treasures the ocean has to offer.
SEXUAL HEALING
Exploring sensuality through Tantra

DEVI WARD BEGINS BY CREATING a relaxing environment, lighting incense and candles, pouring a glass of wine and spreading fresh bed sheets. Soft music whispers from the stereo in the background.

The use of each product creates a balance of the five senses: taste, touch, sight, smell and sound. Harmonizing the body and mind with the environment is the first step to Tantric sex, Ward says.

“Set aside an hour for when you’re not going to be disturbed,” she says.

Ward teaches Tantric sex in workshops and in couples therapy out of Bellingham. At a very basic function, it is sex education, she says.
Once the environment has been set, both partners begin by harmonizing their breathing. As the breathing synchronizes, so do their heartbeats. After finding a synchronicity, they begin a sensual massage—more specifically, a genital massage. With heterosexual couples, Ward says this process is aimed at stimulating the female while the male retains his semen. Sexual intercourse does not occur until both partners are on the same level of arousal; however, that level is just one of many peaks an experienced Tantric practitioner, or Tantrika, can reach during sex.

"In Tantra, it’s all about learning to relax at these high peaks of pleasure. You obtain peak, you relax, you obtain a peak, you relax," Ward says. "Instead of sex lasting two minutes or ten minutes, sex lasts several hours."

The process of Tantric sex can be altered depending on the experience levels of each partner, Ward says. Tantric sex is less about reaching the top of the mountain and more about the experience once you get there, she says.

"It’s gourmet sex," Ward says. It cuts through the static of everyday life and brings people closer to God, Ward says. At its core, Tantra has always been a connection to the divine.

"Think of an orgasm; it’s utter bliss," Ward says. "That’s a glimpse of enlightenment."

The Kaula, a religious sect in India, originally introduced this form of enlightenment around the first millennium, but for a very different reason. The Kaula used sexual fluids as offerings to powerful goddesses known as Yoginis. The Yoginis were often warriorlike and derived their power from sacrifice and sex.

Tantra would later spread from as far west as Afghanistan and as far east as Java and become a major aspect of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, Western professor Micheal Slouber says.

"It’s everywhere, but it’s kind of a secret," Slouber says. "Tantra has always been esoteric. It’s always had that subculture."

In recent years, Tantra’s presence has declined in popularity in Asia and has become more popular in the United States and Europe, albeit with some dilution, Slouber says. While sex was a small aspect of Tantra in the beginning, it has become the primary meaning in the West. For Westerners, Tantra means prolonged sex and honoring your partner, he says.

"Quite frankly, it’s like a handjob with incense," Ward says.

Westerners typically look for the quick-fix orgasm without the proper training or knowledge of Tantra, says Juliet Jivanti, a yoga instructor at the Ayurvedic Health Center and Wellness Shop in Bellingham.

"There is a lot of preparatory practices that lead up to Tantric sex," Jivanti says.

A lack of guidance or knowledge can have adverse effects on practitioners, Jivanti says. In Tantra, the main energy points located throughout the trunk of the body, known as chakras, must be trained to take on high energies, she says. Pranic energy, the Tantric life force, needs to be steered by experienced individuals, she says. Otherwise, they run the risk of burning out their system by taking on too much energy, she says. The same standard would apply to someone training in a marathon.

"Your system needs to be very well prepared by someone who knows what they’re doing," Jivanti says. "Regardless of what you’re doing it for, it’s still an energy transmission in your system."

For Ward, Tantric sex can be the hook to making someone’s life more holistic.

Tantra requires training and practice to work. With practice, a couple can reach new heights of arousal, and form a stronger connection.
SAVING FACE
Reconstructive surgery heals trauma

STORY BY STEPHANIE KIRK
Photo by Rachel Brown
POWERING UP HIS CHAINSAW, 25-year-old Kevin Anderson hovers the blade above the oddly shaped tree stump, preparing to slice, as he has done countless times before. He begins to cut his way through the wood when the chainsaw suddenly jolts. The metal teeth knock against an unwanted surprise — a metal spike nailed into the stump. The metal-to-metal contact causes the chainsaw to kick back and Anderson loses control. The blade flies up, slicing a jagged cut down the right side of his face.

The blow from the chainsaw came so fast and had such force that it sliced Anderson’s safety glasses in half and knocked his hard hat off his head.

“After it happened, and I realized what happened, I took an extra t-shirt and put it [on my face] to cover the wound,” Anderson says. “We were so far away we didn’t wait for an ambulance to come get us.”

With nothing more than the cotton T-shirt covering the deep, bloody gash, Anderson and a friend got into the car, knowing a long drive was ahead of them. The sawmill was located in Rexburg, Idaho and the nearest hospital was more than an hour and a half away in Twin Falls.

In order to repair his wounded face, Anderson needed a plastic surgeon. While cosmetic surgery is used to enhance a person’s appearance toward some aesthetic ideal, plastic surgery focuses on repairing and reconstructing abnormal structures of the body, according to the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery. In 2013, roughly 5.7 million reconstructive surgeries were performed in the United States, 2 percent higher than ASPS’s 2012 report.

Plastic surgeons are called on to fix tissue damaged by developmental abnormalities, infection and disease or — in Anderson’s case — trauma.

Once at the hospital, a team of doctors examined Anderson’s wound. The cut was dangerously close to his right tear duct. A plastic surgeon and an ophthalmologist had to determine if it was safe to operate, or if they needed to come up with a more strategic plan of action.

Dr. Timothy Whitney had experience with similar injuries in the past. Although he was not Anderson’s surgeon, Whitney specializes in plastic surgery at Plastic Surgery Bellingham, one of Whatcom County’s largest plastic surgery practices. With more than 20 years of experience, Whitney has performed roughly 12,000 surgeries.

Whitney says the most important part of creating a surgical plan for a wound like Anderson’s is to analyze the patient’s facial anatomy.

“When we move tissue, we need to know where the muscles are and place the scars in the natural units of the face so that it ultimately looks good, as well as solves the problem of sewing the wound up,” Whitney says.

After hours of operating, Anderson’s surgeon was able to position the scars in a way that flowed naturally along his cheek, nasal ridge and between his brows, resembling a frown line.

“It looks good now,” Anderson says about his scar. “Most people aren’t able to tell what happened. Most people say, ‘Shit!’ when I tell them. But the skin had to heal to get this way and it took about six months. I got out of the habit of looking in the mirror for a while.”

Anderson was working at the mill to pay his way through college, but he dropped out of school after his accident.

“It was one of those movie moments that changed [my] life,” Anderson says. “I might have gotten a college degree and done something different, but I lost a quarter at school, and then I was discouraged by my looks because it took so long to heal.”

The trauma of the accident caused Anderson to take an alternate career path. He served in the United States Coast Guard for 22 years and witnessed historical moments, such as Queen Elizabeth II running aground off the coast of Martha’s Vineyard in 1992 and singer John Denver’s plane crashing in 1997 off the coast of Monterey, California. Today Anderson has returned to school, 25 years later, and is pursuing a degree in accounting at Western.

Despite the traumatic event, Anderson is not dejected when he thinks about what could have been. What happened, happened, he says — for better or worse.
PIZZA MY HEART

Bellingham pizzerias experiment with crusts

FIRE CRACKLES IN A 900 DEGREE oven beside Patricia Boyce at Gusto Wood Fired Pizza in Bellingham as she drizzles extra-virgin olive oil around the edge of a credit card-thin circle of dough. The Saturday-morning hustle of Bellingham Farmers Market surrounds her as she spreads homemade sauce on the oil. She sprinkles grated mozzarella and scrambled eggs around the surface. Bacon, spinach and thin-sliced rings of onion are added to create a breakfast pizza.

"Pizza ready!" Boyce shouts. With a pizza peel, a utensil with a handle longer than a yardstick, pizzaiolo Russ Kendall slides the pizza onto the oven's hot firebrick as flames tickle the back of the domed ceiling. The pizza takes about 90 seconds to cook.

Processes such as this are replicated by many pizzerias. Gusto Wood Fired Pizza makes Neapolitan-style pizza, characterized by a cracker-like edge with a thin, workable center and light toppings. Others, such as Goat Mountain Pizza, create pan-style pizza, with a thick crust and layers of toppings. Nailing the perfect crust recipe is a shared sentiment between pizzerias.

Goat Mountain Pizza serves a unique crust, light and fluffy in the middle with a crispy bottom layer, Goat Mountain employee Maxwell Rose says.

"Crust is the basis of all pizzas," Kendall says.

Goat Mountain's recipe was developed after years of experimenting, head chef Charlie Pasquier says. The dough has more moisture than a traditional crust. It is not rolled with a rolling pin or spun in the air; it's poured into a rectangular baking sheet, where gravity spreads it out.

"If you were to throw [the dough] in the air, it'd be like bubblegum in your face," General Manager Chas Kubis says.

Some customers tell Goat Mountain's Alexander Staples they come just for the dough. It's the most important part of the pizza, he says.

"You could have the best toppings in the world, [but] if you don't have a good base to put them on then it's not going to be a good, finished product," Staples says.

Goat Mountain Pizza bakes the dough once before it's dressed with toppings. Rose spreads a tomato sauce made with a "secret blend of herbs and spices." Grated mozzarella, rows of fennel sausage and slivers of garlic are added before the pizza goes back in the oven.

"Every layer [of toppings] acts as the next surface, the next foundation for the next topping," Pasquier says.

The bottom layer of crust crisps with the cut of scissors. Deep red sauce sits below islands of bubbly mozzarella and cooked basil, and a golden edge snaps when folded. Cheese and crust collide at the edge, and each bite is a consistent blend of bread and toppings.

STORY BY RHoades CLARK
Photo by Evan Abell

(below) Goat Mountain Pizza chef Maxwell Rose sprinkles smoked brisket on a pizza before opening the shop for lunch.
ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

To view additional online content, visit klipsunmagazine.com

MULTIMEDIA

BRINGING TAP TO THE SURFACE
After tap dancing for 12 years, Stephanie Harper got into a car accident. Forced to get knee surgery, her doctors told her she might never dance again. Now with a dance degree from Western and her own dance studio in downtown Bellingham, Wash., Harper can finally tap without pain. This piece is about her struggle to overcome an injury, and her plans to bring tap back to life in the hearts of her students at Harper&I.

RIGHT ON CUE
Most sports include a large field, huge teams and loud crowds. Chris Chaves, however, is a player for a different kind of sport—one that requires a more unique surface. Leaning over a felt table and practicing precision, the Western Billiards Club is a place for students to come together and learn the ins and outs of the game. A hub of skill, practice and support, this club brings students together to bond over an often-overlooked kind of sport.

THE ART OF REPURPOSING
Eberhard Eichner gives new life to neglected materials through repurposing furniture. Creating elegant and timeless furniture is his way of limiting the content that is dumped into landfills daily. Now in his fourth year working for the Re-vision division of the Re-store, the projects have diverted an estimated 50,000 pounds of materials from the landfill. Eichner was recognized with a 2013 Recycler of the Year award from the Washington State Recycling Association for his efforts in re-using materials.

ESCAPING WITH EYELINER
Once the wig is on, Justin Yau-Luu transforms himself as his alter ego, Ruthy Ruthless, an evil woman who demands fear and respect. Watch as the 19-year-old Western sophomore escapes under a layer of cover up, eyeliner and lipstick.

STORIES

HUNGRY FOR MORE
Reality of living with Prader-Willi Syndrome

BLEMISHES WANTED
Unedited photography promotes positive body image
KLIPSUN
IS A CHINUK
WAWA
WORD
MEANING
SUNSET.