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KLIPSUN



DIVIDED / SPRING 2017

SPLIT PERSONALITIES

Splitboards are changing how powder hounds approach the sport

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SORRY TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE

Breaking political molds online and in town

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CHIROPRACTIC

The modern schism and its occult history

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Dear Reader,

I'd imagine you picked up this magazine for one of two reasons. The first of these is that you have a connection to Klipsun. Maybe you know one of our writers, designers, photographers or editors. Maybe you've been in town long enough to recognize the magazine as a mainstay on Bellingham newsstands.

But the other reason you picked it up, and I'd guess the more likely one, is the striking nature of the cover. We are living in a country divided. If there is one thing Americans can agree on following our tumultuous election cycle, it is that. The lines split down virtually every socioeconomic, cultural and religious distinction. We've assembled our music, news, movies and even facts into our own tailored universes. We are slowly losing any semblance of a shared language.

This is not the way for our country and this not the way for journalists.

In the "Divided" issue, Klipsun contributors sought to push against the current national grain. They spoke to Trump and Clinton supporters alike, they examined both the science and spirituality behind chiropractic, they teased out the consonant and conflicting identities of a black female mountain biker.

Dig into the following pages. May they serve as an example that our current division is not destiny.

Regards,

Kjell Redal

Editor-in-Chief

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fans support locally, too?

opinion piece by **BRENDAN HERRON**
photo by **MORGAN STILP**

SUPPORT. LOCAL. SOCCER.

A fight's been brewing among soccer fans in the United States.

In one corner are the Eurosnoobs, donning \$100 Manchester United replica jerseys, Nike bar scarves and pseudo-British encyclopedias of purist "footballing" lingo. In the opposite corner stand the Major League Soccer loyalists, supporter's club T-shirts, skull-and-crossbones biker bandanas and rainbow-colored scarves laden with anti-fascist proclamations.

The fight's been raging for many rounds now, and as each round begins, the crowd of onlookers has grown. Both parties are poised to trade blows once again, yet no one bothers to interject and ask the question: why are American soccer fans so divided?

A famous, unattributed quote claims that "soccer is the sport of the future, and always will be." It's hard not to agree, given the myriad of attempts to place the sport alongside its established NFL, NBA and MLB counterparts. The 1994 World Cup – Diana Ross' missed 6-yard shot during the opening ceremony aside – was largely seen as proof, finally, that people cared about the sport. The success of hosting the tournament led to the establishment of the MLS, which remains the top U.S. domestic soccer league.

For almost two decades now, soccer's popularity has grown slowly but surely. But in the last five years, it has done more than that – it has exploded. Soccer is now the second most popular youth sport, having surpassed baseball, basketball and football. Television networks began investing hundreds of millions of dollars on broadcast rights for both domestic and international competitions.

The league itself has seen monumental growth. Average attendance now ranks ahead of the NHL, and eighth globally, ahead of prestigious soccer leagues in France, Brazil and the Netherlands. Commissioner of Major League Soccer Don Garber recently announced plans to expand the league to 26 teams by 2020, and again to 28 teams in the years following. Those lucky enough to be accepted will pay a hefty expansion fee of \$150 million and also secure investment in a soccer-specific stadium.



Bellingham United players rejoice after winning the title of Washington Indoor Soccer League Champions in a 10-4 rout over the Olympic Force.

Still, many American soccer fans dismiss the domestic league, citing its lower level of play, generally lukewarm fan support and lack of history. They say it's hard to invest themselves in a product that isn't the gold standard, unlike other professional leagues in America.

I've been lucky enough to experience both sides of the coin. As a 16-year-old, I spent a year in Germany following Alemannia Aachen, a beloved local team. The club struggled on the field during my first year there and they faced relegation from the second to third division going into the final game of the season. Having given so much to support the team, there was no question in my mind of traveling with 4,000 other Alemannen to make the eight-hour trip to Munich for the final day.

The support was unified, unwavering and rewarded with two goals early in the second half. It seemed as though the

pieces were falling into place, but the final piece of the puzzle remained in the hands of another relegation-threatened team, hundreds of miles away. They needed to lose, and as the clock ticked toward 90 minutes, it became clear they wouldn't. The final whistle blew, and everyone wept as the gravity of the relegation began to sink in.

To them, this team belonged in the second division. For over a hundred years, the club stood for the working class populace it served. It, like the city, craved national relevance. In that moment, the dread of an uncertain future became reality.

The nether regions of semi-professional German soccer may seem like a far cry from the big business of sports franchises in the U.S., but I recognized there were lessons to be learned from my experience. Supporting local soccer is inherently more emotional. Cities, communities and cultures are expressions of the people who live there, and local sports teams become the embodiment of those people.

Supporting local soccer is no different than buying a local craft beer, handmade clothing from a local boutique or a ticket to a film premiere at an independent theater. The grassroots Free Beer Movement implores current American soccer loyalists to take skeptical friends to a match, armed with the promise of a free beer at the stadium. Ultimately, the first hurdle in overcoming biases toward local soccer is to just go.

Go, experience it for yourself, make your judgments and draw your own conclusions. Hopefully you'll feel the same passion and pride I feel every time I watch a match, whether in Bellingham, Seattle or Berlin. But if you don't like it, that's okay. The Premier League is still broadcast every Saturday morning. Your couch can't offer free beer though. ■



**CITIES, COMMUNITIES AND CULTURES
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**CONGRESS
SHALL MAKE
NO LAW...**



A protester of President Donald Trump's election glares at his supporters in Red Square on Inauguration Day.

**Free speech is not a
partisan issue.**

**opinion piece
by ANNA KERR**

**photo
by KJELL REDAL**

Hooded figures break windows in nearby shops and set fires to the property around them. Others assault a man wearing his “Make America Great Again” hat. Muffled chants fill the air. Armed police lob tear gas in attempts to disperse the rioting crowd.

This was the scene at what started as a peaceful protest after anarchists stole the nation’s attention at University of California, Berkeley in early February 2016.

Students were protesting the “alt-right,” conservative Milo Yiannopoulos’ visit to the campus. Yiannopoulos is infamous among the left for his controversial speeches. Although he claims he is not anti-semitic or racist, his actions and language argue otherwise. His praise for Trump is loyal and unwavering. Yiannopoulos has offended people of diverse identities and backgrounds, especially feminists and members of the LGBTQ community, while identifying as gay himself.

But the destructive scene at UC Berkeley that led to the cancellation of the event not only casts a negative light on our generation’s political reactions – it was also unconstitutional. The authors of the Constitution enacted protections for free speech precisely to protect unpopular opinions, like Yiannopoulos’. Legally, people have the right to speak their minds, especially on matters of public concern, regardless as to whether or not their speech offends listeners.

This idea was reinforced by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 1969 case, *Brandenburg v. Ohio*. When Clarence Brandenburg, a prominent Ku Klux Klan leader from rural Ohio, contacted a reporter to cover the rally at which he was to speak. Brandenburg forwarded claims that “our President, our Congress, our Supreme Court, continues to suppress the white, Caucasian race,” and that there might be “revengeance” against racial and religious minorities. Despite Brandenburg’s less-than-accurate vocabulary, the Supreme Court determined that what he said was protected under the First Amendment. The Court’s reasoning for the ruling was that Brandenburg’s speech did not carry “a clear and present danger,” and did not “incite imminent lawless action.” These are the standards still applicable today when determining whether any given speech is protected by the Constitution.

Yiannopoulos’ speech at Berkeley did not incite imminent physical violence. The protesters were right to stand up against his visit and their beliefs, as the First Amendment also protects peaceful assembly, but what started as another manifestation of protected speech quickly devolved into a crime. Attempting to silence an individual or a group of people because you disagree with their beliefs does not create a safe or balanced democracy.

With both parties unwilling to acknowledge what needs to change within their respective party and listen to the other side, the gap between them is only growing. I recently heard someone say that we only listen to respond and refute; we do not listen to understand.

In 1616, both the Holy Office of the Vatican and his scientific peers condemned Galileo Galilei’s theory of a universe in which the earth revolves around the sun. In 1859, Charles Darwin published “*On the Origin of Species*” and received major backlash from religious fundamentalists. Without these voices – both wildly unpopular at their time – we would not be the advanced society we are today.

Former President Barack Obama brought up this idea for the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, “Americans have fought and died around the globe to protect the right of all people to express their views, even views that we profoundly disagree with. We do not do so because we support hateful speech, but because our founders understood that without such protections, the capacity of each individual to express their own views and practice their own faith may be threatened. We do so because in a diverse society, efforts to restrict speech can quickly become a tool to silence critics and oppress minorities.”

If we, as a nation, have any hopes of moving forward as a united people, we must move beyond speech policing. We must listen to understand instead of listen to refute. We cannot claim to be open-minded liberals but be unwilling to investigate and understand the other side. ■



Coleman is just one of many WTA drivers that regularly bus students to and from campus.

BEHIND THE WHEEL

story by **BRENNA VISSER**
photo by **ZOE DEAL**

A day in the life of a bus driver who keeps Western students moving.

Jim Coleman's day starts precisely at 6:41 a.m.

"Not 6:40, not 6:45," he laughed. "I clock in at 6:41. Every minute counts here."

Lines of hollow parked buses sit dormant as the rain drizzles on a January morning. At 6:45 a.m., one of them softly glows to break the darkness. At 6:46 a.m., the horn blares.

Beeeeep.

"Horn still works," Jim Coleman muttered. He checks another box on the form he checks every morning to make sure the bus is in working order before another turn at shuttling Western students to and from classes.

Coleman is one of 150 Whatcom Transit Authority bus drivers who facilitate the 2 million rides Western students take each year. At 60 years old, the Bellingham native has been doing so for the past 16 years.

"College students? They're an easy crowd. They're very efficient – they have their cards out before they get onto the bus and they find their seats quickly," he says. "In general, they are very respectful."

By 7 a.m., the bus is rolling down the still silent streets of Bellingham, headed for the downtown station. He sets his green water bottle in his cup holder, but noticeable at this hour of morning, no cup of coffee.

"Drinking coffee during your shift just makes you go to bathroom more, and sometimes you don't get to go to the bathroom exactly when you want," Coleman says.

The bus driving opportunity literally fell into his lap when his wife saw an ad in the The Bellingham Herald for the job. She filled it out and told him she thought he would be a good fit.



COLEMAN IS ONE OF 150 WHATCOM TRANSIT AUTHORITY BUS DRIVERS WHO FACILITATE THE 2 MILLION RIDES WESTERN STUDENTS TAKE EACH YEAR. AT 60 YEARS OLD, THE BELLINGHAM NATIVE HAS BEEN DOING SO FOR THE PAST 16 YEARS.



"I like driving, and I always got along with people, so it seemed like it would be a good fit," he says.

At 7:27 a.m., he pulls into the Lincoln Creek Park and Ride. Students quietly shuffle onto the bus, thermoses in hand and earbuds in ears. Each swipes their card through the machine in a predictable cadence.

"Good morning." Beep. "Good morning." Beep. "Good morning."

"Does this bus go to campus?" one student asks before Coleman can finish his greeting.

"Yes," he says. Beep.

The bus falls silent and bright iPhones illuminate the faces tilted forward. As Coleman climbs the hill on Bill McDonald Parkway, he remembers the year he attended Western himself. He studied chemistry and physics at the university and most of the buildings he stops at today didn't exist then.

"Buchanan Towers," he says, over the intercom. 7:36 a.m.

But he left Western to pursue a job where he could get his "hands more dirty" through a machinist program offered at Bellingham Technical College.

Coleman has always loved operating machinery. If he were to be anything but a bus driver, it would be an engineer or airline pilot. He took a flight lesson and joked that flying an airplane and driving a bus were "oddly similar," but his first love before buses was motorcycles.

Motorcycle racing, to be exact.

"My first motorcycle was a red, 1967 Suzuki 120. I would race with bikes I later bought around the Hannegan Speedway, but I'm not really that competitive," he says. "Racing was an outlet to see if my mechanical experiments with my motorcycle would work."

He pauses. The bus lurches. "Campus Services," he says into the intercom before settling back into silence. 7:38 a.m.

Out in rural Whatcom County, he still races the motorcycle on trails weaving through his wooded, 5-acre property. A lot of those Douglas Firs – 500 over 10 years – were personally planted by him. Tending to his trees reminds him of his childhood out at Gooseberry Point on the Lummi Reservation.

Once his shift ends at 3:33 p.m., he likes to go out and tend to the trees to make sure they are healthy.

"I'm the type of person who likes to put out seeds for birds when it snows, or serving soup at the soup kitchen, so I guess that carries over to helping the guy with crutches who needs a seat or understanding when someone doesn't have a dollar for bus fare," Coleman says.

Prior to taking a job as a bus driver, Coleman spent slightly over three years volunteering at soup kitchens and halfway homes in Texas and

Bellingham. He has found the skills he learned relating to people in a soup kitchen are not unlike the one he uses every day on the bus route.

"Driving the bus is the easy part. The passengers are the job," he says. "One time, I had someone ask me to go through the bank drive-thru. I mean, I'm not a Toyota."

He laughed, followed with a sigh. "The most important quality to have as a bus driver? Patience. Definitely patience."

The bus lurches. "Ridgeway." Swipe. 7:40 a.m.

At this point in the morning, the bus is stuffed wall to wall with students shuffling in a pack toward the back to make more room.

As the bus rolls down College Way, Coleman recalls how his time volunteering at the halfway houses lead him into Christianity. He and his wife now open up their Bellingham home as a place to practice a type of prayer that focuses on supernatural healing – a practice that isn't always easy to find in a standard church.

"I wasn't raised in a church growing up, but I was inspired after dealing with people with real life struggles at the halfway house," he says. "My wife and I have an individual experience with God. I guess my spirituality also kind of goes with the birdfeeder thing."

A student near the front of the bus looked up from his phone.

"Isn't it weird that we are so scared to show our faith?" the student asked.

Coleman glances to his right, "Yeah. It's good to just feel like you are helping someone."

"Yeah. Sometimes I am scared of what people may think if I show my faith too much," the student responds.

The bus lurches at 7:43 a.m. "Haggard Hall," Coleman says.

The students file off the bus with the occasional, "Thank you!"

A day doesn't go by where Coleman doesn't have his routine tested. Sometimes that means having a student ride a bus to Ferndale who meant to go to downtown Bellingham. Other times, it's just fighting traffic so slow that he doesn't get the chance to take five minutes to himself to eat his banana in the break room.

But today, he pulled into the downtown station right in time for his 9 a.m. lunch.

"You do get behind sometimes, but what you learn is that there is nothing you can do about it. Eventually, you catch up," he says. "You just have to wait until the light turns green." ■

Bras are something almost all women wear but why? We don't need them!

opinion piece by NANETTE JACKSON
photo illustration by ZOE DEAL

BRAS — WHO NEEDS 'EM?

Why do women wear bras? Is it because of they need the support or is it because it's a piece of clothing we've been taught to think is essential?

Caresse Crosby, a poet and founder of the Black Sun Press, invented the modern bra in 1914. She wanted to go to a ball one day and instead of submitting to the suffocation of the corset, she decided to create something new. She tied two small pieces of fabric together and fastened them with a strap that went around her neck. Other women were shocked at first but came around to the idea. At the time, people enjoyed the freedom of bras compared to corsets because they allowed more breathing room. The bra became the replacement of the widely-used corset, although major production of bras didn't begin until the 1930s.

In the 1960s when women were fighting for equal rights, a movement referred to as “bra burning” spread throughout the nation. Women would publicly burn their bras and continue life without bras to symbolize independence. My question is – why did we bring back the bra after this revolution?

Did we bring them back because people tell us that our boobs will start to sag if you don’t wear them? Well, a 15-year French study of women ages 18 to 35 suggests bras don’t actually support our breasts as much as we’re told. They found that women who didn’t wear a bra over women who did, had a seven millimeter lift in their breasts because their chest muscles were no longer relying on the bra to prop them up. The study also suggests wearing a bra does not help with back pain related to larger breasts.

What really gets me is that there’s a statistic stating the annual bra market in Europe and North America is worth \$11 billion, according to the Global Market Review of Lingerie in 2016. Yikes.

Western alumna Dana Hasert gave a TED talk on the politics surrounding bras and that’s where I found my passion about this topic. She recounted walking around a young women’s bra and underwear section and seeing padded training bras with their expensive price tags.

I remember thinking, “Why the hell do little kids need padded bras?” Hasert talked about how she noticed all the padded bras in sections for young girls whose breasts had barely developed and the flack she received for not wearing a bra from friends, family, and co-workers. She shared enough to make me think, ‘no more.’ I have been regularly braless for more than a year.

Now that I’m braless, I get questions everyday about why I don’t wear bras. Does it make me a hippy or does it just make me a normal human being? I’m just wearing my body the way it was given to me. When we were all swimming in the womb, we all started off with the same parts. Is it really that crazy of a concept?

Going braless signifies a break from social stigmas and allows women to embrace their femininity.



I’M JUST WEARING MY BODY THE WAY IT WAS GIVEN TO ME. WHEN WE WERE ALL SWIMMING IN THE WOMB, WE ALL STARTED OFF WITH THE SAME PARTS. IS IT REALLY THAT CRAZY OF A CONCEPT?



As a woman with smaller breasts, I can get away with wearing more revealing shirts because I don’t have that much to show. But for my friend Kate, she can’t wear a revealing shirt with her 34DD breasts without feeling like she is being judged or oversexualized by men. It’s not as simple to say women shouldn’t wear revealing clothing. It’s important that people feel comfortable to express themselves as long as they’re not hurting themselves or anyone else. Feeling this comfort as a woman or a man is something we can all give each other. If someone wants to flaunt what they have and be proud of their body, empower them!

I would argue that few things are more attractive than naked breasts, not even a lacy bra. If men can walk around without shirts, then women should be able to walk around braless – no matter how big their breasts are. Women rip their bras off at the end of the day anyways. Why not exercise those muscles and embrace the beauty of naked breasts all day, everyday? Don’t let anyone make you feel ashamed of your body.

There is something to be said about the natural beauty of unsupported breasts and being part of a movement to normalize this free way of living for all women, and not to mention, it’s cheaper. Going braless isn’t just about “fighting the system.” It’s about normalizing what we all have: nipples. Society has told us that women’s nipples are sexual and we should have a radar out for them.

So, will you join me in trying to normalize this idea? Try going braless for a day or changing your perspective on the taboo of going braless. ■



Bellingham police cars respond to a late-night incident downtown.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT

An easy-going Wednesday turned into a twelve-hour horror in jail. I was booked for a DUI just months ago, dividing me from my past achievements, friends and those who still decide to drink and drive.

The saying, "It was my worst nightmare," comes off the tongue so easily in a moderately bad situation. But that ache in my stomach as I woke up on the ground, surrounded by four cement walls, a plastic bucket with a piece of ripped paper that had one phone number scribbled on it and the moaning of a sick woman rolling on the bed mat beside me - that feeling of waking up and realizing that I was, in fact, in jail. That was my worst nightmare.

It should have been anyone besides me, at least that is what I thought. I was the tryhard who considered missing a class a failure. Looking down at the wristband that had a small, fuzzy picture of my face, I realized that I would have to explain this absence to my professor.

My mugshot lives somewhere; I've searched for it online, but so far, all I have is a local newspaper article listing that day's jail bookings.

That wasn't my idea of a news clipping I could add to my journalism portfolio. That wasn't my idea of a Wednesday night of "going out and taking it easy."

That Wednesday was an outlier. I decided to be spontaneous, go out and maybe have a drink or two. The venue was usually packed with college kids dancing to music from the '90s, early 2000s - and sometimes mid 2000s - after buying the cheapest well drinks. I was used to keeping track of those drinks and used to skipping '90s Night because I had class in the morning.

But as the cliché states, "No one looks back on their life and remembers the nights they had plenty of sleep." Sure, whatever.

Leaving the bar, I was doing just fine. Getting to the venue, I was immediately asked by a stranger to get a

drink. Free drink? Like most drowning-in-debt students might, I agreed and took it. Almost immediately after, another guy slipped over by my side. "Can I just buy you a drink?" The other one was barely down and I still don't know why this was the night I decided to keep saying yes. But there I was – accepting yet another.

These two strangers approached me again that night and each bought me another drink. I had forgotten about my easy night. I walked outside to get some fresh air and look for a friend who I later found out had left. Standing in front of the bouncer at around 12:30 or 1 a.m., I dropped my phone and picked it back up. He wouldn't let me back in.

One of the drink-buyers had followed me out. He was offering a cab. 'Oh, I know what he is up to,' I thought.

"Thanks, but I can get my own cab," I said, determined and blinded by the urge to proclaim my female independence.

Grabbing my roommate by the arm, we started to walk to my car. "Are you sure you're okay to drive?" she asked.

If only I could freeze that moment in time. You see, typically, I would have stopped myself for a moment, no matter how much I had to drink. I would have pondered the question, said no and probably have run back to the stranger offering a free cab – I later heard he simply was offering us an Uber separate from his own.

But that room for judgment had passed. I was officially too stupid. I got in the car and, for some reason, popped in an Usher CD and began to drive home.

I was probably driving for about four minutes. I saw the lights and I remember trying to get myself together. Both my roommate and I were shouting to each other, freaking out, but still drunk enough to think we were going to have a friendly conversation with the police and make our way home.

Usher's "Yeah" was vibrating through my car; I quickly turned it off.

The officer asked if I had been drinking. I said yes, but I was the designated driver. "When was your last drink?" he said. I had no idea, but I remember guessing. He had me get out of the vehicle and do the toe-to-heel walk in high heels. He had me do the penlight test, which I barely remember.

I thought I was doing fine, but then I took the breathalyzer test, which I knew I wouldn't pass. Everything sped up after that. I was facing the police car, shaking as the cold metal of the handcuffs tightened around my wrists. He began reading me my rights.

I heard my roommate yelling out my name, each time more panicked than the last. "What are you doing with her? She has class in the morning!"

I remember sobbing as the reality of what was happening sank in.

I had just been arrested for a DUI.

I was in jail for 12 hours. Every minute was spent trying to keep myself from panicking or crying. My release time had gotten pushed back repeatedly. I stood on my

tiptoes to peek out the window and watch the only clock in the hallway tick another minute. I was asked for drugs and I was asked for my food at each meal, which I gladly gave away. I had lost my appetite to the nightmare that kept settling into reality.

It has been months, now. I have taken multiple tests to prove I am not alcohol dependent, as most people who get a DUI are.

A past study from the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment found 80 percent of DUI offenders reported alcohol-related problems within their social life. Since then, I have been pulled over once for a minor traffic violation. Unable to breathe, every traumatizing memory flooded my mind when I saw the red and blue lights behind me. I showed the officer the breathalyzer I need to start my car, to prove I was not drunk, only scared.

I frequently wake up from nightmares of going back to jail. An Uber would have been a lot cheaper than a DUI. But aside from financial concerns, I know hurting someone would have made it unbearable to live with myself.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1,921 people were killed in crashes involving a drunk driver in Washington State from 2003 to 2012. The majority of those deaths belong to those in the 21 to 34 age range.

My friends who know about it have still chosen to drink and drive home. The amount of alcohol I had that night was the perfect amount for a peak of false confidence, according to a counselor who had to evaluate my alcohol habits. And with false confidence, my friends think they are invincible.

I pray they won't have to learn the hard way, because since that moment, I have struggled to feel exactly how I felt before. I have struggled to feel like a good student, a good daughter and a good journalist. And the last thing I want is to feel like I didn't share what I learned. Because as shameful and embarrassing as it is, it is also something everyone pushes under the rug.

How many people are going to need to learn the hard way? ■

personal narrative by ANONYMOUS
photo by OCTOBER YATES



SPLIT PERSONALITIES

story by **BRENDAN HERRON**
photos by **MORGAN STILP**
+ **KJELL REDAL**

While Mount Baker has long been a bastion of snowboarding, splitboards are altogether changing the way powder hounds approach the sport.

The room is small, but well-lit.

Suddenly, a formidable roar fills the emptiness of the space, reverberating off the low ceilings. Johnny stands adjacent to the table saw, ready to slice the powerless figure below him in two. A respirator conceals his face – the smell can be pretty peculiar. He places weights on top of his victim to ensure his cut is straight as an arrow. Both pieces must be identical in size for when he decides to splice them together again.

Some traditionalists consider Johnny's line of work gruesome and eccentric, but for a new age of enthusiasts, the splitboard he just created is truly a piece of art.

For years, snowboarders lived in the shadow of their alpine cousins. The technology that adapted skis for backcountry excursions was simple and relatively cheap, granting thrill-seekers a new way of finding the freshest powder. However, Making snowboards backcountry-accessible was an entirely different proposition.

Whereas skis were already suited to both hike uphill and shred down, snowboards were inherently limited. Those committed enough to venture into the backcountry were forced to do so on foot, drudging through feet of unpacked snow with their cumbersome board strapped to their back. In an attempt to solve this inconvenience, the first splitboard was invented in the early 1990s.

But in the past five years, snowboarders across the country have caught the splitboarding bug, and nowhere more so than in Bellingham. Johnny Lupo is arguably one of the

biggest reasons why. He is one of about 20 technicians in the country that knows how to split snowboards and his unique service is helping to foster a new breed of backcountry riders.

Originally from California, Lupo grew up surfing and boarding at park-focused resorts like Big Bear Mountain Resort and Mountain High. All it took was one trip to the Pacific Northwest for him to fall in love with the mountains and the snowboarding community.

In 2009, Lupo decided to move to Washington permanently, securing a job at Snowboard Connection, the well-respected shop in Seattle's South Lake Union neighborhood known to those within the industry as SnoCon. He served as an understudy to a renowned technician and former World Cup level ski race tuner, who was also the first person to introduce him to splitboarding.

"I was really fascinated and I wanted to learn everything that he had to offer me," Lupo says. "As a result, I had to go out and splitboard and see what it was about."

Here, he learned about the splitting process from start to finish and also honed his tuning expertise, yet his time at SnoCon came to a bittersweet end after five years. Mounting competition from e-commerce operations like Evo and a neighboring REI forced the mainstay shop to close in its 25th year of operation.

Lupo was one quarter away from completing his associate's degree in business management when SnoCon closed, but the prospect of opening up his own shop suddenly seemed

more tangible than ever. He sped up his business plans by two years, opting to put his tuition money towards a business instead. Bellingham was always his top destination since Mount Baker was - and still is - his favorite mountain.

"Every time I ride at Baker, I progress. The level of riding is so high," he says. "You progress as a rider much quicker there than most other places I've been to."

His plan was to focus on tuning, repair and building custom splits, as opposed to being a retail-heavy store. During his time at SnoCon, he observed firsthand the danger of retail shops having too much stock, only to be cursed with a substandard winter.

Boardworks Tech Shop opened its doors in 2014, the year of Mount Baker's worst season on record. Nonetheless, Lupo was able to find a niche in the market, given his specialization in tuning and repairs.

"Nowadays, there are so many automated machines that do what I do, but you lose the personal touch and that sets us apart," he says. "We still haven't given up on the craft."

In recent years, the rise in popularity of backcountry touring has been reflected in the number in splitboards Lupo builds. Freddy Kurzen, a senior studying manufacturing engineering at Western Washington University, is just one of the many who have joined the scene, and had his board split by Lupo.

Like Lupo, Kurzen was a California-transplant drawn to the big mountain riding of the Pacific Northwest. After working for a year as a lift operator at Mount Baker, he decided to invest in gear that would allow him to duck the ski area boundary ropes. For first-time splitboarders, the transition can be tough.

"I consider myself a pretty good, confident snowboarder, but when it comes to skinning and hiking, there's definitely a learning curve," Kurzen says. "You're very free, you're at your own risk, but you're also playing by your own rules."

Less time is spent snowboarding, and more time is spent mapping routes, checking conditions, following forecasts, and doing shear tests of the snow. The harsh reality of backcountry touring, irrespective of whether you're sliding down the hill on one plank or two, is the variability of the snow. Unlike the meticulously monitored slopes of a ski resort, backcountry terrain presents the risk of avalanches and other obstacles in remote locations far from cities, let alone emergency services.

Ian Ingoglia, another Western student and recent splitboard

convert, says one of his biggest reasons for making the switch was having a riding partner who takes safety as seriously as he does. They now have an avalanche training course and year of backcountry riding under the belt, but are still aware of the ever-present danger.

"You can't just go head-first into it," he says. "You have to be kind of calculated."

Nonetheless, he believes the logistical challenge is what ultimately makes the riding so rewarding.

"I knew I wanted to ride powder all the time, and I knew this was my key to it," Ingoglia says.

It's midnight. Drove of exhausted snowboarders have nestled their way into dive bars and craft breweries, seeking to drink the pain of the day away. On the other side of the bay, Johnny Lupo is once again confined to his unorthodox office.

Tonight, he's splitting three boards - his personal record is 12 - but he estimates it will take at least a couple of hours to cut all of them. For each board, he creates a specifically measured plywood jig, speckled with holes drilled in line with the pre-existing board inserts. U-shaped steel handles, each strategically placed, protrude outwards. They're designed to house bundles of electrical wires, but so far, it's the best solution he has been able to conjure.

He makes measurements and draws lines, continually adjusting his point of view to make sure his dead center is the dead center.

"I have 30 different measurements on this board, and only two of them matter," he says, referring to cuts down the center of the board and the center of the template. "It's very much a check, re-check, check ten more time process."

The jig is complete. As he walks to the front of the shop to open the door, his face disappears behind his respirator.

"It kind of looks all Dexter-y in here," he says. "It's kind of appropriate for the murdering of snowboards we're about to do."

The table saw roars and Johnny starts to laugh. ■

(left) Lupo analyzes his split. Splitting boards produces a noxious dust, requiring Lupo to wear a respirator while making his cuts.

(right) Like a surgeon wielding a scalpel, Johnny Lupo makes his incision. The board's metal inserts require that Lupo makes an initial cut before slicing it directly in half.



It costs the pharmaceutical giant Mylan \$1.44 to manufacture a single dose of the anti-allergy epinephrine, but it costs consumers \$600.

opinion piece by MOIRA LANDVATTER
photo courtesy of MOIRA LANDVATTER

THE COST OF LIVING WITH ALLERGIES

"I drew you a picture."

Two wide, hazel eyes are staring back at me. Those eyes belong to my 7-year-old cousin Juniper. She reaches up to give me a hug and I thank her before heading back to the Thanksgiving table. Everyone's favorite dish is there, except for the nut-dusted cheeseball. If Juniper ate it, she would die. Her nut allergy is so severe she relies on the EpiPen, an epinephrine auto-injection used to treat anaphylactic shock.

Symptoms of anaphylactic shock are potentially life-threatening and include, "throat swelling, persistent wheezing, fainting, and low blood pressure," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Epinephrine, when injected, alleviates these symptoms by "improving breathing, increasing heart rate, and reducing swelling of the face, lips, and throat."

Juniper tries to avoid nuts, but she always keeps her EpiPen on hand, just in case. However, paying for her EpiPen is getting increasingly difficult as time goes on. Mylan, EpiPen's manufacturer, raised the drug's average price from \$83 a decade ago to \$600 in 2016, according to The American Journal of Medicine.

Despite these price increases, the EpiPen remains virtually unchanged since 2009, according to the American Medical Association.

Mylan owns both the brand name and generic version of the EpiPen, solidifying its monopoly of the epinephrine-auto-injection market and forcing my aunt and uncle to pay top

dollar for a product that could save Juniper's life.

And Juniper isn't alone. Four to six percent of children in the United States suffer from food allergies, according to a study by the CDC.

"The concern is that some patients will forego purchasing the EpiPen and run the risk of not having the immediate life-saving treatment available in the rare case of needing it," says Dr. Emily Gibson, medical director of Western's Student Health Center.

EpiPens are not expensive to make. ACE Surgical Supply sells a 1mL dose of epinephrine without the plastic injection mechanism for \$4.79. The adult EpiPen delivers an even smaller, 0.3 mL dose, according to a study done by the National Institutes of Health. Using these figures, one dose of epinephrine used for an EpiPen costs approximately \$1.44.

The Food and Drug Administration is not at a loss for cheaper, generic versions of the EpiPen either. There are currently 4,036 backlogged applications waiting for FDA approval of generic products that could potentially save consumers hundreds of dollars, according to the FDA's quarterly update released in July 2016.

Mylan is releasing a generic version of the EpiPen, at a 50 percent discount from the current sale price. A 50 percent decrease from \$600 is still \$300, a far cry from the original cost of the EpiPen, less than a decade ago. Even at a reduced cost, \$300 is still too much for a life-saving medication, especially



Juniper in the hospital after an allergic reaction.

to increased access to the EpiPen, stating, “[Mylan] now reaches 80 percent more patients.” She also claimed there used to be “a lower awareness of anaphylaxis” and Mylan has brought awareness to the issue.

Mylan will soon release a version of the EpiPen with a longer shelf-life, so that consumers won’t need a refill as often, Bresch claimed.

That is the other problem with EpiPens. They expire. Consumers pay the astronomically high price and after 18 months, must pay it again, or risk that their product will not be effective.

“A common drug that needs replacing every year and has had such a big price increase affects the budgets of individuals and health care providers,” Gibson says.

In her testimony, Bresch failed to acknowledge her base salary increase, which went from \$1.2 million in 2014 to \$1.3 million in 2015 – an 8.5 percent increase, according to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. And Bresch wasn’t the only Mylan executive to get a pay raise. Rajiv Malik, Mylan’s president, and Chief Commercial Officer Anthony Mauro also saw increased base salaries of 11.1 and 13.6 percent respectively.

Dr. Gibson says she doesn’t see the price of EpiPens coming down anytime soon.

“There will be alternative delivery systems that will be developed, at less expense, but they must go through the FDA approval process which can take years,” she says.

Nickel and diming consumers shouldn’t be the way Mylan pays for their executives’ already high salaries. Most consumers, whose lives rely on the EpiPens, can only dream of earning what Bresch and her colleagues earn.

My aunt and uncle are a middle-class family renting a house in Portland, Oregon where the cost of living has been steadily rising. My uncle is a technician who works on coffee machines. My aunt works as a part-time server at a restaurant and spends the rest of the time taking care of four children. They work hard to support their family, but companies like Mylan are making it increasingly difficult for them to do so.

Life-saving medications should not be out of reach for consumers, especially when there are simple ways to cut the costs of these medications. People like my aunt and uncle should not be forced to pay the extravagant salaries of pharmaceutical executives like Bresch.

I look down at the drawing Juniper drew for me. It’s a picture of our family – stick figures of her older sister Eliot and herself hold hands, standing in front of a house. I shudder to think what would happen if she was exposed to tree nuts and could no longer afford an EpiPen.

Whether it’s holding pharmaceutical giants accountable for their price hikes and lack of transparency or putting pressure on the FDA to approve more applications for generic alternatives, we owe it to people like Juniper to find more affordable options for American consumers.

After all, it’s a matter of life and death. ■

when the medication is so cheap to make. Efforts to reduce the cost of the EpiPen are a step in the right direction, but do not excuse Mylan’s actions.

Up to 15 million Americans have food allergies, according to a statement by Food Allergy Research & Education. These research findings also illuminate another striking statistic: “Every 3 minutes, a food allergy reaction sends someone to the emergency department; that is more than 200,000 emergency department visits per year.” These people rely on EpiPens to keep them alive.

“Something is very, very wrong when drug companies value their profits over the lives of their customers. It is time to enact prescription drug policies that work for everyone, not just the CEOs of the pharmaceutical industry,” Sen. Bernie Sanders tweeted on Aug. 24, 2016.

President Donald Trump agreed by stating in a January 2017 press conference that drug companies are “getting away with murder” when they dramatically raise their prices in a short period of time.

Mylan CEO Heather Bresch, in her September 2016 testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reforms, claimed Mylan raised its price due

FOUR YEARS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

The double standards as a student athlete in college.

story by **EVAN ELLIOTT**

photos by **MORGAN STILP + KJELL REDAL**

As **James Molyneux-Elliot** fired his fists into his dresser, his long road with soccer came to a cross-section. But it wasn't two roads merging – it was a rock and a hard place.

He never thought he'd ever have to question his love for the game. It was what he and his lads did for fun, passing the time and expending energy on the grassy expanses of Sammamish.

As time went on, he noticed soccer becoming less fun and more regimented. He grew frustrated, feeling like soccer was no longer adding value to his life. This feeling festered until it culminated in his retirement from the sport in the spring of 2014 after playing one season for Western.

Despite appearing in every match his freshman season, he felt devoid of the gratification soccer once gave him. He couldn't find a rhythm. Following practices, he would often come home furious or leaving games disappointed and "punch the living crap" out of his dresser.

"I began to boil over," Molyneux-Elliot says.

He no longer recognized himself when he looked in the mirror. Soccer was dragging him down. He felt he couldn't meet the goals he'd set for himself on or off the field. To top it off, the coaching staff offered him feeble support, if any, in a formative time in his life. When coaches told him his social life didn't matter, Molyneux-Elliot says he felt they were the last people he could come to as a resource. It was time to get pragmatic.

"Shortly after, I informed [my coach] I would no longer be playing because I was so anxious and depressed," Molyneux-Elliot says.



Keenan Curran was having a solid day on the gridiron in San Luis Obispo, California as his Montana Grizzlies took on the Cal Poly Mustangs. Then it came down to one play, in the endzone, with the game on the line. Curran, a wide receiver, couldn't haul in a go-ahead touchdown and the Grizzlies lost a heartbreaker, 42-41.

Local reporters made Curran feel their wrath, ready to move on from the redshirt sophomore just three games into his career donning Montana's maroon and silver.

"You would've thought I dropped 10 passes that game," Curran says. "The critical things people say about athletes actually hurts sometimes."

Curran used the external doubt to fuel his fire, rattling off nine touchdowns in the following five games and receiving praise for his efforts. It's a double standard not lost on Curran. He must play well or else.

"The fans see us as property so to speak," Curran says. "In reality, we're all young adults still figuring things out and to shame a kid for making a mistake is horrible."

Property. That's an issue the National Collegiate Athletic Association has been battling over the span of six decades regarding its student-athletes.

Student-athletes. That's a term that's been buying the NCAA wins in the battle over how they treat, what some call, their property.

Ernest Nemeth likely isn't a familiar name to even the most die-hard college football fan.

In 1953, the Colorado Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that Nemeth, of the University of Denver's football team, was an employee of the school and warranted worker's compensation from the school.

With this decision, the NCAA had to do something. After all, its entire business model was now under siege.

Thus came the birth of the term student-athlete. In essence, the NCAA sought to establish its athletes as students in order to distance them from ever being categorized as employees.

Why? Because as employees, they would want to be compensated. The NCAA didn't, and doesn't, want that. Why would they? Following the first year of college football's playoff, payouts for schools participating in bowl games rose by nearly \$200 million to an estimated \$505.9 million total distributed among schools and conferences – but not to the student-athletes who performed.

In a 2006 paper from Washington Law Review, Robert and Amy McCormick concluded NCAA student-athletes often meet requirements of an employee under the Common Law Standard.



A former Western soccer and Sounder's Academy player, James Molyneux-Elliott made the decision to hang up the boots after his freshman season at Western.



Western Men's Soccer competes against Simon Fraser University at Harrington Field.

In the paper the two stated that, “[Student-athletes] perform services for the benefit of their universities under an agreement setting forth their responsibilities and compensation, are economically dependent upon their universities, and are subject virtually every day of the year to pervasive control by the athletic department and coaches.”

In the present, the issue of player compensation is at the forefront of criticisms of the NCAA and the multi-billion dollar business it runs.

The issue has brought about those like Kain Colter and fellow Northwestern University football players, who attempted to unionize in 2014. A regional director for the National Labor Review Board in Chicago approved the request, which was swiftly overturned the following year after appeals from the university.

As a redshirt junior goalie at the University of Washington, **Sarah Shimer** has seen the flaws in the world of student-athletes firsthand.

“Time commitment is huge,” Shimer says. “I didn’t fully grasp the extent to which I belong to the coaches until I got to college.”

The NCAA allots 20 hours a week, in season, for training to occur on the field. The assumption is student-athletes should be spending the rest of their time furthering academic pursuits. And they do.

Requirements for Shimer and her team include academic

tutoring, study sessions, multiple meetings a week, film study, community service, yoga sessions and individual meetings with coaches, dieticians and athletic trainers.

All seems according to plan though, as far as the NCAA is concerned. Shimer says her team has won UW’s large team GPA academic leader for several quarters in a row.

“My coaches definitely put an emphasis on academic achievement, but with the amount of time they ask us to commit to other things outside school, I don’t think they treat us like students first,” Shimer says. “If it were up to me, I’d have more time devoted to my academics, because I know at the end of the day my career is going to be in something outside of soccer.”

But it’s not up to her.

“The reason student comes first in the phrase student-athlete is because obviously you have to pass your classes in order to play, but you have to do just that – pass your classes,” Curran says. “It is not required for you to excel.”

Molyneux-Elliott says the student part comes first, but described the academic standards expected of him and other student athletes as “pathetically low.” To his coaches, being eligible to play was always more important than his academic performance, he says. Any academic support came in a short-term capacity – they would rather him pass his classes than plan for a prosperous academic future.

“[The] coaching staff does not get paid for having their players

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FOR ME, I AM A LOT MORE THAN AN ATHLETE. ATHLETICS ARE A BIG PART OF WHAT HAS MOLDED ME INTO WHO I AM, BUT MY IDENTITY DOESN'T LIE IN IT BECAUSE I SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE THAT SPORTS CAN'T LAST FOREVER, EVEN THE GREATEST ATHLETES OF ALL TIME HAVE TO HANG IT UP EVENTUALLY

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graduate on time, and I'm certain that if I did not quit when I did I would not have graduated in four years like I am now," Molyneux-Elliott says.

Time commitments conflicting with academics only become exacerbated if, or when, professors don't hold athletics in high regard.

"I've had a [professor] falsely accuse me and a group of athletes for cheating in his class once, simply because he hates athletes," Shimer says.

Curran sees professors as accommodating on a campus, and within a town, that lives and breathes Grizzly football. In Curran's experience though, as a man of color, being a student-athlete has been a matter of sticking out like a sore thumb living among white people in Missoula, Montana.

"When I walk around campus with my fellow colored teammates, it is just expected that we are athletes. We are all in shape, taller gentlemen and colored in a very diversity-challenged community," Curran says. "Professors also assume that I am an athlete, and they don't really hold it against me. It is just interesting."

Shimer is picking up what Curran is putting down. She too, has a desire to be seen for more than her athletic skill set.

"For me, I am a lot more than an athlete. Athletics are a big part of what has molded me into who I am, but my identity doesn't lie in it because I see the bigger picture that sports can't last forever," Shimer says. "Even the greatest athletes of all time have to hang it up eventually."

All things considered, Curran still finds the sometimes overwhelming experiences as a student-athlete to be a privilege.

"Being a student-athlete is challenging, but just as rewarding as it can be stressful," Curran says. "The time commitments are large, and it consumes a lot of energy both in and out of season but I think the stresses that are put upon us comes back to help us out in both game time and real life situations."


Molyneux-Elliott's time to hang it up came before Shimer and Curran. His decision was made partly in order to finish school in four years but, more importantly, to focus on who he was away from the pitch.

"It was the best decision I have made up to this point," he says. "I finally spent some time on me and my mental health, and came to realize that soccer had become my main source of self-worth. I worked to combat that mindset."

In the time since, Molyneux-Elliott has run for Associated Students President at Western, brewed his own beer with the help of his friends and is set to go to law school after graduation.

Soccer may have caused an upheaval in his life and threatened his mental psyche, but Molyneux-Elliott has come out the other side battle tested. It could've had something to do with the question all student-athletes should ask themselves before selecting a school for the next four years.

"At the end of the day I asked myself one very crucial question, would you be okay living there, going to school there, if you weren't playing sports?" Molyneux-Elliott says. "Well I am glad I considered that now given my retirement." ■

A photograph of a forest. In the foreground, a large tree trunk is covered in green moss. A fallen log, also covered in moss, lies horizontally across the middle ground. In the background, many thin tree trunks rise vertically, and sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect. The overall color palette is dominated by greens, browns, and soft yellows from the sunlight.

RIDIN' DIRTY

story and photos by **DOMINIC YOXTHEIMER**





Brooklyn Bell moved from SeaTac to Bellingham when she was 10 years old.

In high school, Bell used the newfound freedom of a driver's license to discover the Pacific Northwest backcountry. Bell became an avid skier, hiker, climber and backpacker, but her most recent focus is mountain biking. She has been mountain biking for two years, hitting the trails six days a week. Recently, Bell became a sponsored rider for Kona Bicycle's new all-women team, The Kona Supremes.

The 20-year-old is a digital artist and junior in the design program at Western. When she's not outdoors, she's creating work heavily inspired by her outdoor life. ■

(previous) Bell boosts over a log on Galbraith Mountain, just outside Bellingham. Before she could afford a bike of her own, Bell ran on the trails almost every day. "Running was my gateway to mountain biking because running gave me access to the mountains without having to buy a bike," she says. "Galbraith was just my mountain."



(left) Bell rests near Galbraith Mountain's famous U-Line trail, overlooking Bellingham Bay. "Do what feels right and make it your own. That was the hardest thing for me getting into [mountain biking]. I didn't think that it was something that was mine, but now it is," Bell says. "I ride because it makes me feel like a gangster. No guns, no drivebys necessary."



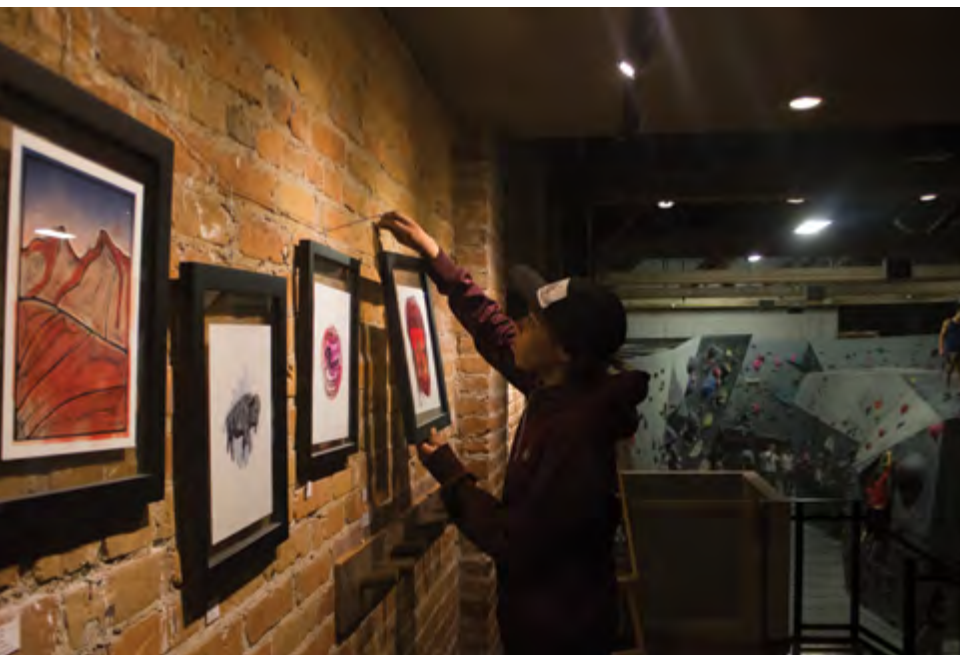
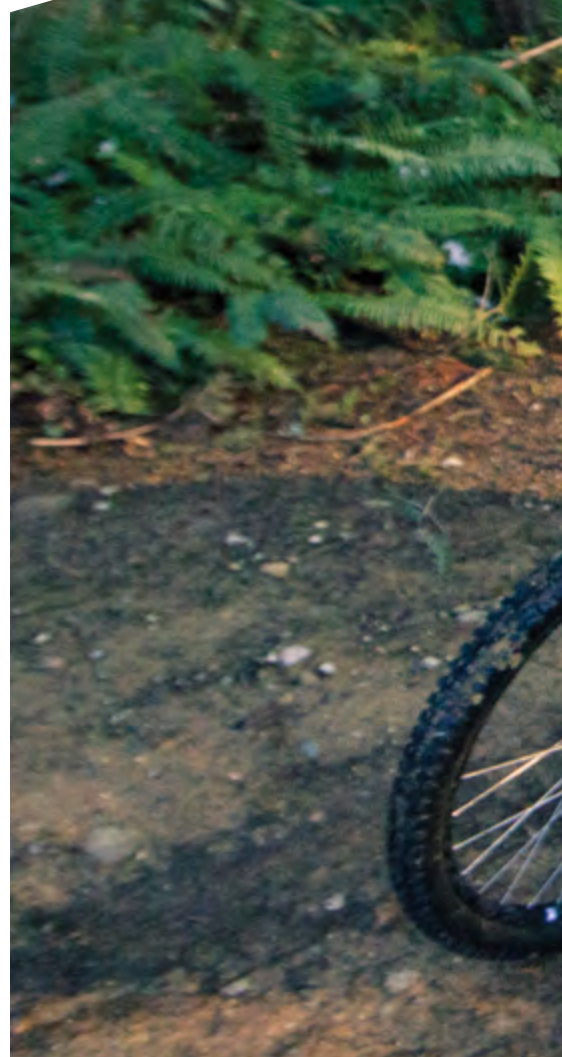
*(right)
Bell works on
her bike at the Kona
Bike Shop in Bellingham,
Wash. Bell is sponsored by Kona
to ride in an all-women mountain
biking team called The Kona Supremes. "I get
underestimated because I am a woman," Bell says.
"Just, like, being a woman is really special. I get to have
special colors and I get to be feminine at the same time."*



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RACISM IS INTERNALIZED IN OUR SOCIETY. WHEN YOU THINK OF A MOUNTAIN BIKER, WHEN YOU THINK OF SKIER, WHEN YOU THINK OF HIKER, WHEN YOU THINK OF CLIMBER, ALL OF THE THINGS I AM, YOU DON'T THINK OF SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME. YOU THINK OF SOME WHITE DUDE. THAT'S THE REALITY WE FACE, BUT IT'S STARTING TO CHANGE.

”





(left) Bell rips into a turn on one of the many trails on Galbraith Mountain. "I don't really experience racism full on, but there are times when I do go riding and people will be like 'oh do you know where you are going? Are you okay?' And I am like, 'I'm fine.'"

(bottom left) Brooklyn Bell hangs her art on the wall at Vital Climbing Gym. "Going into Vital is so overwhelming because there are so many people, but at the same time, there are people from all walks of life," Bell says. "There are people who are rich in there and there are people who are poor. There are people of color in there, too, and it's amazing to see people from all different backgrounds, and not only that, but skill level, too."

(bottom right) Bell pushes her bike up a muddy trail on Galbraith. There is minimal instant gratification in mountain biking; riders easily spend more time hauling their bikes up the mountain than they do riding. "This is what the rest of the industry is like," Bell says. "I am so thankful for the opportunity to ride with some of the best people I know. We get to hangout, party together, and ride together."



SORRY TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE

Social media increasingly divides us – here's how to escape

story by OCTOBER YATES
photos by KJELL REDAL

Breaking the Political Mold

story by YAELLE KIMMELMAN
photos by KJELL REDAL

Walk across any university campus today and you'll see hundreds of students with their eyes locked on their smartphones, gobbling up media and spitting it back out for their own personal audience.

The worldwide web is shrinking as the Internet and social media platforms mold themselves to fit everyone's individual, online profile. In the swift-moving river of information, social media users are trapped in whirlpools of like-minded ideas.

We've all heard of the social media "bubble" or "echo chamber," but what is it exactly, and how does it affect us and our views?

This bubble decides what pops up in your feed as you scroll through any given social media site.

It depends on where you live, how much money you make, your political stance and what you like – everyone's feed is different.

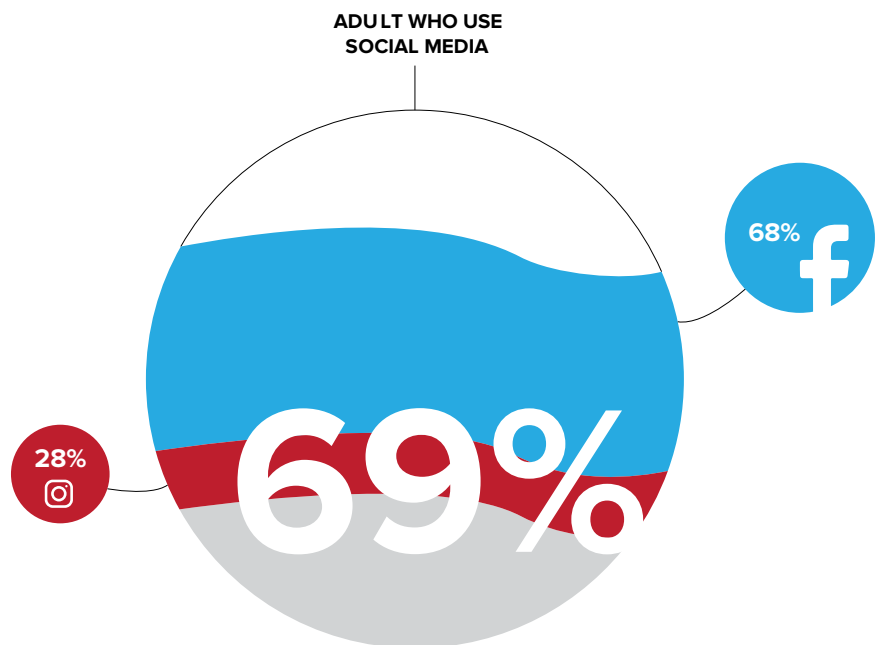
Dr. Todd Donovan, a professor of political science at Western, explains this dynamic in its non-digital manifestation.

"People that settle in urban areas self-select a kind of lifestyle. They live with similar people. People who live in rural areas also self-select that," Donovan says.

The same "self-selection" applies to the online world as well. People will visit or "live" on certain sites, interacting with certain people who generally view the world in the same way they do.

Approximately 69 percent of U.S. adults use some form of social media, according to Pew Research Center. The majority of Americans, at 68 percent, use Facebook, followed by Instagram at 28 percent. Of those percentages, most Facebook and Instagram users will use the sites everyday.

Today, most social media uses some form of algorithm to select content for each user based on their search history, location and many other factors. The algorithm used is known as a "recommender system," which curates social media feeds.



Dr. Brian Hutchinson is a computer science professor at Western. His research specializes in machine learning.

"There is this idea called collaborative filtering and its one of the most popular ways that recommender systems work. They aggregate the behavior of like-minded users in order to make recommendations for you," Hutchinson says. "In the case of Netflix, they say 'oh, these other 10 users who seem to very highly agree with you in how they rate things really love this movie you haven't rated, so maybe we should recommend this movie to you.'"



Protesters shout across Kok Road in Lynden at supporters of Donald Trump before the now-president gave a speech in the small town during his campaign

In some cases recommender systems are too effective, leading to an echo chamber of information or filter bubble, Hutchinson says. Posts and news stories that represent a certain user's views and opinions are displayed back to them with little input from the opposition.

"Media, generally, is all about self-selecting what you want to hear, what you want to follow and the news stories that confirm what your preferences and beliefs are," Donovan says. "Broadcast media has shown this for years. We believe certain outlets dismiss others and only consume outlets that are consistent with our preexisting beliefs; everybody is increasingly living in these little media cocoons."

Platforms like Facebook have research teams dedicated to analyzing their users' information and building their sites around what their viewers want.

"That's all logic that's based in the back," Hutchinson says. "[Companies] use the massive quantities of data they have to find patterns to make predictions about what you will and won't like, or what is and what is not in agreement with what you believe."

Research on political polarization by Stanford and Pew shows that gaining a broader scope of opinions and beliefs is a positive thing for our personal growth and society. For major corporations though, that can be problematic.

"It's risky for companies, if people see recommendations that they don't agree with or believe in then they might blame the tool or platform," Hutchinson says. "I think it's a valuable thing to expose more diversity of ideas to more communities, but it can be risky."

Bellingham, and Western in particular, have a reputation for being a liberal epicenter in Whatcom County. Within the county, 55 percent of registered voters voted for Hillary Clinton, while 37 percent voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 U.S. General Election.

Using what we know about website algorithms and social media, we can examine what exactly makes up the bubble around Bellingham.

For example, using Twitter's advanced search options, if you search for the name "Trump," set your location to Bellingham, and set the date range between Jan. 19 to Jan. 21, 2017 - the inauguration of Donald Trump - there were zero positive responses, 15 negative responses and 21 neutral responses. Neutral, in this case, means tweets that contained the word "Trump" without a political opinion.

These analytics, along with 2016 election statistics, suggest a majority of Twitter users in Bellingham view President Donald Trump negatively or remain neutral.

But a more pointed analysis of political web geographies can be found in a 2015 paper published in the *Science Journal*.

Facebook researchers anonymously tracked 10.1 million of the site's users for six months. Based on the selected users self-defined political leanings - they chose between very liberal, liberal, neutral, conservative or very conservative - the researchers tracked which media outlets a political group were more likely to share information from.

The correlation was striking enough that *The Wall Street Journal* created a graphic in which users can track a typical "red feed" or "blue feed" which gives them spun news regarding any certain topic including ISIS, guns, Trump, abortion and more.

Using this information, Facebook can then prioritize which outlets a politicized user is more likely to interact with, whether that's by sharing, liking, or commenting.

Evona Cole, senior and environmental science major at Western, says she sees a problem with this. She finds importance in having her views challenged rather than reinforced on social media.

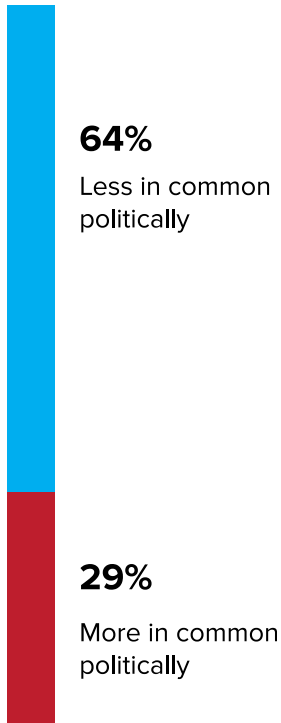
"I am a victim of that," Cole says. "I get around the same opinions being a part of the Young Democrats of Whatcom County. The only Republicans I know are my parents, so when I get backlash, it's from phone calls with them, not really over social media. I like to be opposed, not in a violent way of course, but seeing more than one perspective is useful to understand society and how people work."

Donovan thinks there is an option for finding more balanced information though.

"With social media, it's hard. It used to be, when there were just three networks and a couple of major newspapers, that they at least pretended to be neutral and there wasn't space to specialize in an ideological niche," Donovan says. He suggests citizens "rely on foreign media rather than American media because they don't necessarily have the same profit motive to show sensational things." ■

While disagreeing about politics over social media, % of users who say

They have...than they thought



Drug legalization posters and chalked anti-Trump messages greet passersby walking on the bricks across Western's campus. But if you step off the main thoroughfares and take a quick jaunt up a set of stairs to walk through the door of a Kappa dorm, you'll find Collin Magnusson, one of the few Western students who voted for President Donald Trump.

Magnusson, a sophomore studying math, grew up in Lynden and moved to Bellingham to attend Western. He knew the move would entail a drastic shift in his political surroundings, but he didn't fully expect the reactions after the 2016 U.S. General Election.

"It's a little different being here, around people who are upset about the results of the election," he chuckled.

Leave Magnusson's dorm, jump in a car and drive north on state Route 539 until you reach the edge of town. Once you pass the abandoned lot where Costco used to sit, the "Make America Great Again" signs and pro-life billboards begin to pop up. Drive a few more miles and you'll reach Magnusson's hometown, the rare willing host Trump could find in western Washington for his May 2016 campaign rally.

Conservative signs adorn front lawns as you drive down Front Street and into the residential area, but one stands empty, save for a few scattered children's toys.

Ryann Butela lives in the house with her family. A Democrat who voted for Clinton in November's election, Butela is a liberal anomaly in conservative Lynden.



Collin Magnusson, a Western sophomore and math major, is one of the few conservative students at Western.



Ryann Butela poses for a photo in her neighborhood in Lynden. As a consistent Democrat and supporter of Hillary Clinton in November's election, Butela's politics don't fit cleanly with those of her town.

Lynden and Bellingham – two towns, two demographics, one county.

Despite this polarization, Whatcom County has been considered overall as one of the “bluest” counties in Washington based on its liberal voting history, according to the Washington Office of Financial Management. In 2012, the majority of the county’s votes were for President Obama, the legalization of marijuana and same-sex marriage. In 2016, it went blue again with votes for Hillary Clinton and restriction to gun accessibility.

At first glance, it would seem as though most county residents are liberal, considering the strong voting trend favoring liberal ideas. But as in many places in the U.S., and urban-rural political divide defines Whatcom County.

“There’s parts of rural areas, like Lynden, where a Democrat won’t get 10 percent of the vote and there’s parts of Bellingham where a republican won’t get 10 percent of the vote,” says Dr. Todd Donovan, professor of political science at Western. “In some ways, [Whatcom County] is more divided or sorted than a lot of places you’d see in the country.”

With this consistent pattern, many people have understandably come to associate Bellingham with liberals and Lynden with conservatives. However, people like Magnusson and Butela are some of the few breaking their respective political molds.

“At the beginning, I did not tell anyone about my political views,” Magnusson says. “Mostly because that’s not what I consume myself with. But, as time went on, conversations came up and I let some people know my ideas.”

Magnusson says these opinions are sometimes misinterpreted at Western.

“I’m not sexist. I’m not homophobic. I’m a conservative. I just tend to have values that lean more to the right.”

Both Magnusson and Butela say that while the decision to move out of their respective political territories made them uneasy, they are times when they’re pleasantly surprised by the communities they’re welcomed into.

As Magnusson walks through campus, heading to his next class or the gym, he often runs into friends, giving them a fist bump and asking how their day is going.

“A lot of people were shocked about my political views. They were completely confused, kind of in disbelief,” he says. “But I’d say we were able to get past the differences, except for a couple [of people].”

While Butela works in Bellingham, she says she feels like a part of her Lynden community. Although she is the only liberal in her cul-de-sac, she says her neighbors are always willing to lend a helping hand.



OK, THIS HAPPENED. TRUMP IS OUR PRESIDENT. NOW WHAT? HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD?" BUTELA ASKS. "IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LOT – PEOPLE JUST NEED TO LEARN TO RESPECT AND LISTEN TO ONE ANOTHER A LITTLE MORE.



"We have this Facebook group and everyone will post things like, 'I'm baking cookies and realized I don't have enough butter,' and usually someone will respond saying that they're sending their kid over with butter," she says laughing. "It's really a great community. The other day we saw our older neighbor trying to shovel the snow and almost immediately all the other men in the neighborhood came out to help out."

Magnusson and Butela both attribute their education at Western in influencing their worldviews.

As a math major, Magnusson says he doesn't take a lot of discussion-based classes. However, the political science class he took in a previous quarter provided a discussion he wasn't used to. His brows furrow as he tries to find the words to describe his experience in his Classical Political Theory class.

"I didn't say anything political in that class. I just let everyone else do the talking because the class was super negative," Magnusson says. "I just didn't want to have any confrontation because I felt it was a really negative atmosphere."

He sat in the back of the lecture hall, afraid to speak up because he didn't want other students to perceive him the wrong way. While the discussion in the class didn't wholly sway his political views, he says he did begin exploring some other options.

"I didn't support Trump from the beginning. I was a Marco Rubio fan," Magnusson explains. "I know I'm a conservative guy, but coming to Western has helped me see the other side a little bit."

Magnusson didn't want to compromise his conservative ideals in the 2016 presidential election. When Trump became the Republican Party nominee, he explains how he still wanted to support the current president's underlying platform.

"It's really hard to be a Republican here because students associate me with things Trump says," Magnusson explains. "But I knew the things [Trump] was saying [during the election] were wrong and completely unnecessary."

As Butela reflects on her time at Western, she remembers a class that was the turning point in her belief system.

"I took a class at Western called Scripture Literature. It broke down the Bible as pieces of literature and broke

apart different phrasing that was used to describe God or Jesus. You could recognize that different people wrote different passages," she says. "Being born and baptized in a Catholic home, I never had really questioned the Bible until now. I stopped going to church after that class."

Her political views, however, remained largely the same before and after she stopped going to church.

She says her support for Clinton and Democratic issues stem from her love of children, education, the environment and health care.

"I feel like Hillary is somebody who cared about those things and is going to help do good things in those areas," she says. "I was extremely disappointed at the results of the election."

According to the Pew Research Center, most recent presidential election left most of the country surprised and many communities further polarized. However, Butela and Magnusson are hopeful for the future.

"I'm a pretty open-minded person and I understand the concerns people have with Trump," Magnusson says. "I think now it's time for us to come together and move forward, and I hope I can help other people on Western's campus see a little bit more of my view on things."

Butela, in the middle of the divide – not only with her community but with her family – hopes for unity in the future.

"I can tell some people are hurt and they feel like they are being judged by the way they voted, but that's always going to be the case and people feel it on both sides," Butela says. "I think there's a way to come together. You just really have to focus on the issues and even though you might not agree on the person who is making the final decision, try to find some sort of common ground on the big issues."

While Whatcom County is indicative of our country's increasingly polarized political landscape, both Magnusson and Butela push back against the pattern.

"OK, this happened. Trump is our president. Now what? How do we move forward?" Butela asks. "It's going to take a lot – people just need to learn to respect and listen to one another a little more." ■

Between homework, work and friends, some Western students have one more thing to fit in—getting married.

story by MIKAYLA KING
photos by SHANNON FINN

MARRIAGE 101

It's one of the last Saturdays before the start of fall quarter. Western students spend their final countdown to classes sleeping until noon, soaking up the sun at Lake Whatcom and adamantly ignoring Canvas notifications.

Some move into new apartments with new roommates during this time of year, but for JT Harpel, the next few moments will define his entire life. He stands at the end of the aisle at Fairhaven's Sacred Heart Catholic Church, waiting for the moment when everything will change — seeing his wife, Lizzy Harpel, for the first time in a floor-length white gown and saying, "I do."

"I never really thought I would actually get married," JT says. "But seeing my best friend, gorgeous, start walking down in a white dress; I was just completely blown away."

"He cried really hard," Lizzy added, laughing.

Two weeks later, he was walking across campus for his first class of the school year.

NON-TRADITIONALLY TRADITIONAL

It is not uncommon to see college students swiping right on Tinder, having casual encounters at bars and attempting to avoid any sort of committed relationship. By the time Americans turn 24, 85 percent have never been married, according to the U.S Census Bureau.

Some students break away from the trend by sticking to tradition. JT and Lizzy opted not to move in together before marriage, a decision becoming less common according to the National Survey of Family Growth, and rooted in their Christian faith.

According to the Pew Research Center, millennials are delaying marriage for all sorts of reasons, like they haven't found the right person, they aren't financially stable or aren't ready to settle down.

Most classmates are surprised when JT mentions he is married, he says. JT gets a common, surprised reaction from his peers when he relates class discussion to his experiences and relationship with Lizzy, especially when he calls her his wife.

"They make a weird face then look at my hand and see, 'Oh, yeah, he does have a ring on. Weird,'" he says.

Just a few years before, both JT and Lizzy had the same reaction. They never thought they would be "that married student" in class.

"I remember [when I was] a freshman. I knew someone who was engaged as a senior, and I was like, 'What the heck are they doing? You're still in college. Why the heck would you get married?'" she says.

Although she is now graduated, people ask Lizzy the same question she once asked herself. There are stigmas against getting married young, especially when your spouse attends college, she says. Her friends point to the financial strain of marriage and the change that comes with age as the biggest problems for young married couples.

These changes can happen when students leave campus bubbles. Entering the workforce can shape political views and free hours, once dedicated to studying, can develop new interests. Lizzy says she doesn't fear these changes though, and looks forward to rediscovering her relationship with JT throughout the years.

"Sometimes you change, and sometimes you change in very different ways and you figure each other out again," she said. "In ten years, I'm sure we'll be completely different people, but that's what keeps you working at a marriage. It's not easy."

Not everyone can negotiate the changes. One of the most common reasons for divorce is marrying too young, among infidelity and unrealistic expectations. Unlike Lizzy, more and more people are waiting until later in life to get married. The median age for a first marriage is now 27 for women and 29 for men, the oldest it has ever been according to the Pew Research Center. Rewind almost 60 years to 1960 when most grandparents were college students, and most people married before the age of 24.

Few traditionally college-aged students have made the leap to marriage while still attending class. In 2015, 20



percent of Washington State marriages were of people age 18 to 24 years old, but JT isn't convinced waiting means much in terms of love.

"If you find someone you know you want to spend the rest of your life with while you're young, it's the same as if you were older. Why wait?" he says.

STUDENT. SPOUSE. STRETCHED THIN?

Marriage and college aren't exactly the perfect couple. Balancing the stress of married life and college can take a toll. Married college students have a harder time adjusting to the demands of higher education than their single peers due to more personal responsibilities and time commitments, says a study in the Journal of College Student Development.

Instead of spending the three months leading up to her wedding stressed about midterms, Western senior Brooke Morris took spring quarter off to plan her wedding in July 2016.

Her husband Jonathan Morris decided to stay in class for the spring but grew overwhelmed with the stress of balancing wedding planning with school. When he wasn't reading textbooks, writing essays or studying for midterms, he picked wedding colors and cake flavors. This left little time for friends, Brooke says. She saw the impact school had on her husband and this affirmed her decision to take the quarter off.

Instead of taking time off for the wedding, JT added more to his already full schedule. With the threat of student debt already looming on graduation, JT was determined to pay wedding expenses as they came. Taking up a second job, he struggled to make time for relationships in his 70-hour work weeks.

JT and Lizzy spent weeks apart, with only thirty minutes together, often late at night and half-asleep. Barely having time for what he considered the most important relationship in his life, JT grew distant from his friends, especially those who lived in his hometown of Vancouver, Wash.

"Being married makes you reevaluate a lot of the different things and relationships in your life," JT says.

It also changed how the couple interacts with each other's friends. Before moving in together, it was easier to spend time with friends alone because they didn't live together, Lizzy said. Now, when JT's friends visit, she is often unsure what to do, not wanting to encroach on their time together. This balancing act results in Lizzy sneaking around the kitchen before she goes into the bedroom while JT spends time with his friend.

Instead of hurting her relationships with friends, the change has strengthened them, Brooke says. Forcing herself to schedule time together means she sees her husband frequently and values their time together more.

Marriage also brings a new perspective on the couple's current relationships. JT and Lizzy became aware of an obvious gap in their social circle. Having no married friends of the same age, Lizzy wishes for someone to



FEW TRADITIONALLY COLLEGE-AGED STUDENTS HAVE MADE THE LEAP TO MARRIAGE WHILE STILL ATTENDING CLASS.



turn to for support and to share the unique struggles of married life. She still turns to her friends for advice, especially those in committed, long-term relationships, but knows they can't relate to her experiences firsthand.

The one person Brooke can count on to understand exactly what she is going through is her husband. When Brooke becomes overwhelmed with studying, she says he will set apart time for the couple to take a hike or set up a hammock.

"We make it a priority to serve and love the other person rather than getting caught up in selfishness. When we are both seeking to serve the other, we are able to have a joy and satisfaction that would be difficult to achieve [otherwise]," she says.

Brooke and JT plan to make one more trip down the aisle when JT graduates in winter and Brooke graduates in fall.

On the first Saturday of spring break, most students will escape the city for a week, but a few will pile inside the Performing Arts Center donning caps and gowns for a day. Seven months after saying "I do," JT will walk onto the concert hall's stage, this time for a degree in sociology, his wife Lizzy cheering him on from the stands. ■

(previous) After JT's classes or job at the Financial Aid office finishes, Lizzy walks with her husband around campus to catch up on their days apart.

(below) Wedding photo courtesy of Carmylee Photography.



REALIGNMENT: CHIROPRACTIC'S MODERN SCHISM AND ITS OCCULT HISTORY



There is a divide between chiropractic and the rest of the medical world, but also within the practice itself.

story by BAILEY JO JOSIE
photos by ZOE DEAL





DESPITE THE HIGH USE OF CHIROPRACTIC AS A WAY TO DEAL WITH PAIN (MOSTLY IN THE LOWER SPINE), IT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED A “COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH APPROACH” AND ITS ORIGINS CAME FROM SPIRITUALISM, NOT SCIENCE.



A delicate placement of the head to side, as if the patient is asked to look up at the light and appear deep in thought. Firm hands frame the jaw and throat, grab, hold and POP! It's all over. No, this isn't a dramatic murder scene from a screenplay or a novel; it's a typical chiropractic appointment, specifically a neck realignment.

“The health of a joint depends on movement to get nutrients in and waste products out. It's like a sponge in that it requires active motion for this to happen,” says Dr. Matthew Tellez, a Bellingham-based chiropractor and naturopathic. “Chiropractic really is an art and science, though modern chiropractic is mostly about science.”

Chiropractic has been around for over a century and according to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, it is described as “a health care profession that focuses on the relationship between the body's structure—mainly the spine—and its functioning.” Though the American Chiropractic Association estimates that over 27 million Americans are treated annually by a chiropractor, it is still saturated with controversy.

Despite the high use of chiropractic as a way to deal with pain – mostly in the lower spine – it is generally considered a “complementary health approach” and its origins came from spiritualism, not science, according to the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management.

Specifically, it came from a man who went by the name D.D. Palmer – short for Daniel David – who invented chiropractic by using adjustments to cure a man of his back pain and his deafness over a century ago. Surprisingly, the man he cured corroborated this.

Harvey Lillard was a janitor who lived with hearing loss for close to two decades before he became the first patient of chiropractic. Lillard's testimony stated, “Dr. Palmer told me that my deafness came from an injury in my spine. This was new to me; but it is a fact that my back was injured at the time I went deaf. Dr. Palmer treated me on the spine; in two treatments I could hear quite well. That was eight months ago. My hearing remains good,” according to the David D. Palmer Health Sciences Library.

This may seem bizarre and anecdotal, but it is the complete basis for chiropractic that we know today.

Palmer believed that diseases in the body were caused by the nerve flow being affected by the misalignment of spinal vertebrae. He was a magnetic healer before he created chiropractic, which meant that he would attempt to heal patients by increasing circulation in their bodies through magnetism. Palmer's son, B.J. Palmer, later wrote of his father's magnetic healing, saying, “[it] consisted of [the] patient lying on couch, back down – he sitting alone-side, with hands resting above and below, in 15-minute periods, flowing HIS magnetism for that period.”

B.J., whose history with his father was tumultuous at best, also became a chiropractor and helped further establish the Palmer School of Chiropractic, a school that's still in session today.

D.D. and B.J. are main subjects in a book written by Holly Folk, a comparative religion professor at Western. “I focus on the first several generations of chiropractors and I talk about the way that they build chiropractic theory as a form of ideological cohesion and certain sort of structural benefits, like it's easier

to license a practice when you have a science to articulate," Folk says.

Her book, "The Religion of Chiropractic: Populist Healing from the American Heartland," looks into Palmer's philosophies, his practices and their metaphysical and occult influences. Though the origins of chiropractic may seem odd, what Palmer wanted to expand is even stranger. In a letter written in 1911, Palmer wrote that chiropractic must be established as a religion.

"I am the fountain head. I am the founder of chiropractic in its science, in its art, in its philosophy and in its religious phase. Now, if chiropractors desire to claim me as their head, their leader, the way is clear. My writings have been gradually steering in that direction until now it is time to assume that we have the same right as has Christian Scientists," Palmer wrote.

Regarding Palmer's letter and the title of her book, Folk made a quick clarification. "Chiropractic is not a religion, although, [it] certainly has spiritual views. And the reason why I call the book "The Religion of Chiropractic" is because around 1910-1912, chiropractors themselves have an argument about whether or not chiropractic should become a religion," she says.

Palmer was a peculiar man, and in many ways tried to retcon his prior teachings and his own creation. In the same letter, he insisted that what brought him the knowledge of chiropractic was a spirit from "the other world" - specifically, the ghost of a medical doctor.

"So, my hunch is that none of that happened," Folk laughed. "My guess is this - D.D. says at the beginning of 'The Chiropractor's Adjuster' that he hadn't told people this before, but now he is prepared to own up to the fact that he learned chiropractic secrets from the ghost of a dead doctor named Jim Atkinson."

Folk says the theory for why Palmer would make such an outrageous claim may come from the social circles he was involved in.

Palmer was friends with a man named William Juvenal Colville, who was a "popularizer of metaphysical and esoteric ideas." Colville wrote many books about spiritualism and his ideas left such an impression on Palmer that his 1910 book, "The Chiropractor's Adjuster," was dedicated to Colville.

Folk says by alluding to a dream intervention by the ghost of a doctor, Palmer was making an obscure reference to Egypt, Rosicrucian history and other metaphysical intelligence. Palmer was essentially making himself out to be a great thinker in an age of great metaphysical thinkers.

"I don't think he learned it from a dream but I think this was his sort of nudge of saying 'I have established myself in this esoteric circle,'" Folk added.

That's a lot of information to take in. Which is also part of why Palmer's insistence on creating a religion out of chiropractic never took off - his students and other chiropractors were just not interested in it and the idea of turning chiropractic into a religion was abandoned.

So chiropractic came from spiritualism and esoteric philosophy - where does the science come in? Studies looking

at whether or not there is sound science in chiropractic have been inconclusive in regards to claims that it heals a certain ailment or illness, outside of lower back pain. This is due in part to the fact that a large part of chiropractic relies on spinal manipulation.

Spinal manipulation is what chiropractors do to get that distinctive "pop" from a patient's joints; by using different techniques that involves twisting, grasping, pushing and pulling of the body, the practitioner is able to manipulate the vertebrae and relieve any pain or pressure in the patient.

Research conducted by three chiropractors and a doctor of physical education looked at the spiritual aspects of chiropractic and concluded that there is little evidence to back it up, according to the journal.



“

THE SCIENCE GOES AGAINST WHAT PALMER BELIEVED IN AND...THE PRACTICE ITSELF?

”



*Through spinal manipulation,
chiropractors can relieve pain in
the neck and back.*

In the article, one writer reasons, “When chiropractors use spinal manipulation therapy for symptomatic relief of mechanical low back pain, they are employing an evidence-based method also used by physical therapists, doctors of osteopathy and others. When they do ‘chiropractic adjustments’ to correct a ‘subluxation’ for other conditions, especially for non-musculoskeletal conditions or ‘health maintenance,’ they are employing a non-scientific belief system that is no longer viable.”

This science goes against what Palmer believed in and what his school is based entirely on, so what do these results mean for the practice itself? It has caused a schism within the practice of chiropractic. Those who still cling to Palmer’s ideals that vertebral subluxation causes most diseases are called “straights”, while “mixers” want to move toward more science-based medicine.

Dr. Tellez sees himself as a mixer, but also more than that.

“My practice functions like primary care but without the pharmaceuticals,” Dr. Tellez says. In other words, his field of chiropractic is eclectic and observant, though still outside the realm of what one would expect from a regular doctor’s visit.

He doesn’t prescribe drugs but will offer more natural alternatives, like vitamins. Tellez says he believes that the human body “is a living miracle with supreme sophistication that even the most educated medical mind will never fully understand or comprehend.”

Dr. Tellez’s form of alternative medicine has increasingly become the norm within the chiropractic community, possibly because of studies that show little evidence toward Palmer’s original theories. Fewer and fewer chiropractors consider themselves “straights,” but according to Folk, this is a fairly recent trend.

“It’s kind of funny because, the majority of chiropractors are considered mixers although, until almost 1980, the majority of chiropractors graduated from Palmer College, a ‘straight’ school. I would say that until you get to the most recent generation of chiropractors, the typical chiropractor was going to be a straight college graduate who was doing a certain amount of mixer practice,” Folk says.

So the division within chiropractic isn’t as wide as one may think? Well, yes and no. As Paul Ingraham, a writer for Pain Science says, “The goal of chiropractic is to help people with musculoskeletal pain and injury, and that problem can of course be approached in a scientific way, and many chiropractors have been doing it for a long time already.”

The only real question is whether the idea of a “chiropractor” will survive the process. And that’s up to chiropractors, . They may succeed in maintaining their identity, or they may lose it, depending on how hard they cling to their origins.

Palmer’s legacy is still in the practice of chiropractic, but time will tell whether or not his ideals and theories will be fully abandoned. However, it may never disappear as long as there is a patient in a chiropractic office, rubbing their neck after an adjustment, deciding in their own mind whether or not the sharp POP! will alleviate any discomfort in their joints.

As long as these people find comfort from chiropractic for their pain, Palmer’s gift will never die. Just don’t count on it to cure your deafness. ■

FINAL SHOTS

photo by **MORGAN STILP**

Finding your balance can be tough when you're slacklining 15 feet above Bellingham Bay. But Whatcom Community College junior Spencer Winter made the journey with ease. Winter and his friends spent their afternoon walking a line at Taylor Dock.





photo by **ZOE DEAL**

Dante Alexander, a Bellingham police officer, looks for homeless encampments near Civic Park. There is a divide in the U.S. between the public's perception of policing as a job and officers' understanding of their own careers. In a nationally representative survey of 8,000 police officers from around the country, Pew Research Center found this January that only 14 percent of police officers think the public understands the dangers inherent in their jobs "very or somewhat well".







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A photograph showing the back of a person's head and shoulders. The person has short, dark hair. The lighting is dramatic, with a warm orange glow on the left side of the head and a cool blue glow on the right side. The background is dark. The text is centered on the back of the head.

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