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Michael Homnick  
*Western Washington University*

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16

**TRAILS, TREES & TRUCKS**

Despite their gas-dependent toys, off-road enthusiasts work to maintain trails.



8

**NO SHOES, SOME SERVICE**

A Western student lives life shoeless.



14

**TANGLED TRESSES**

Students weigh in on their experiences with dreads.



22

**"DIRTY" DAN**

Quiet Fairhaven's loud beginning.



28

**STRATEGIC SLEUTH**

Breaking the stereotypes surrounding PIs.

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVES**  
[klipsunmagazine.com](http://klipsunmagazine.com)

- DETOX DIET
- A HISTORY IN DIRT
- DIRTY THOUGHTS
- WAXING WOES

**MULTIMEDIA**

**DOWNTOWN STORIES**

Late-night workers give the dirt on downtown nightlife.

**OFF-ROADING**

A slideshow from "Trails, Trees & Trucks."

**DETECTING LIES**

A reporter takes on a lie detector test.

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

**4 DIGITAL DIRT**

**6 FABULOUS FLOCK**

**13 BATHROOM BLUES**

**19 HELL OF A WORKOUT**

**25 LIAR, LIAR**

**26 DIRT CHEAP**

**30 DIGGING FOR FISCAL FACTS**

# KLIPSUN

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT PUBLICATION  
OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

I know what you're thinking: Who cares about dirt anyway?

It's all around us, finding its way onto our shoes, into our homes and under our fingernails. But we didn't make this issue to highlight dirt's prevalence. It's dirt's ability to play a unique part in so many people's lives that makes it special.

For some nature seekers, it takes a little more than a hike to get the blood flowing. Off-roading gives these daring drivers an opportunity to become one with nature, and kick up some dirt along the way.

It's also common for people to associate dreadlocks with dirt — a connotation that one Klipsun reporter found is not always true.

Humans are always looking for ways to stay clean. But in spas around the world, people are realizing all that may take is a healthy portion of mud.

And even sometimes people can be inherently dirty. Take Dirty Dan, Fairhaven's putrid patriarch, a man famous for his filthy lifestyle.

True, these stories are all about dirt. But they are also about the way people walk on it, drive over it, wear it, bathe in it, get rid of it and live their lives with it.

So roll up your sleeves, put away the soap and remember a little dirt never hurt anyone.



**MICHAEL HOMNICK**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**ON THE COVER:** Massage therapist Christina Wienhold paints mud on Brittany Lee-Anderson's stomach at Chrysalis Inn & Spa in Bellingham, Wash., November 2010.

photo by Sars Richardson | KLIPSUN

# DIGITAL DIRT

HOW A FACEBOOK PAGE CAN KEEP PEOPLE AT MINIMUM WAGE

Story by Andrew Mitchell



It's no secret the job market is cutthroat right now. Recent graduates looking for their first real job, without a lot of prior work experience, try to gain a competitive edge by preparing an official resume featuring all their impressive qualities and personal achievements.

But employers have always been aware that a resume is not the most honest representation. Now they are checking another "resume" that you have been filling out for years. It has your most honest and personal information, and in most cases, it doesn't take much effort to find it.

Employers have now incorporated tracking and checking prospective employees' "digital dirt" into the hiring process. Digital dirt is any unflattering information that you have put online about yourself. This could be a picture of you passed out with a fifth of vodka in your hand and permanent marker all over your face, an expletive-filled comment you posted on a social media website or an opinionated rant about legalizing marijuana on your personal blog.

Any one of these could be the difference between getting a job or not, but you can stay in the competition for your dream job by cleaning up your dirty online trail.

Aaron Ignac, the assistant director of the Career Services Center at Western Washington University, says online presence is becoming almost essential to employers and whether you have a good one is really only up to you.

"This kind of practice is commonplace for recruiters and at least a professional online presence is becoming expected of applicants," Ignac says. "If you are making any part of yourself public on the Internet, it is seen as fair game."

Ignac says in this tight job market when employers are flooded with applicants, it is easier for employers to make quick cuts through online background checks to streamline the hiring process.

"How far they can dig and what is considered credible information to make hiring decisions in this process is still being discussed and debated constantly," Ignac says. "But as students you just have to be aware that employers are doing this, whether you consider it invasion of privacy or not."

In December 2009 a study commissioned by Microsoft titled "Online Reputation in a Connected World" investigated how much online research employers do. The study surveyed 275 human resources professionals and hiring managers from all over the world, as well as more than 300 "consumers," or potential employees.

The study found 70 percent of the human resources professionals have rejected a candidate based on information they found online, but only 15 percent

of the potential employees believed information found online had any impact in the hiring process. Eighty-four percent of human resource professionals also believed the use of online background checks will rise in the next five years.

George Allakhverdyan is a computer science major at Western and is on track to graduate after winter quarter of this year. He interned with Microsoft last summer, and the company has a potential job for him when he leaves Bellingham.

During his experience in the computer science department, Allakhverdyan realized just how easy it was to find information about people online, so he decided to start maintaining his online image meticulously.

“One of the main things people do not realize is that when they sign up for a site like Facebook you are not defaulted to any privacy settings, so an employer can find your page just by searching your name on Google,” Allakhverdyan says. “You have to go through each privacy setting to make sure all your information is covered, and I think most people just think of pictures when they think of keeping things private.”

Allakhverdyan knows, especially with a company like Microsoft, that even privacy settings may not be his saving grace. He deletes anything online about himself that could be misinterpreted, even some comments posted by friends to his page.

“A big site like Facebook is very well built and structured, so security has to be top notch. But on the other hand, a lot of developers know the security issues associated with those sites,” Allakhverdyan says. “If they really wanted to go the distance they could possibly find ways around those privacy settings, and the technology that is at the fingertips of employers is only getting better.”

Dr. Tara Perry, a communication professor at Western, teaches a class on professional communication. She has begun to incorporate the concept of digital dirt and how to clean it up into her curriculum in order to help students make the same realization as Allakhverdyan.

“Students who are graduating now are making it much easier for employers to weed out who they want and don’t want because they are putting everything about themselves online,” Perry says. “We are at a time where people are not sure or don’t know the etiquette.



SOURCE: DECEMBER 2009 STUDY COMMISSIONED BY MICROSOFT, TITLED “ONLINE REPUTATION IN A CONNECTED WORLD.”

The rules are just coming out, and right now, it’s like a free for all. People are doing it without thinking of the ramifications.”

Even though most of the things we put on the Internet are virtually permanent, if you find yourself with a bad digital dirt trail there are certain steps you can take to try and repair your online image.

Both Perry and Ignac agree that presenting a professional online image on a website such as LinkedIn can be a good way to offset inappropriate pictures or posts you have. The goal is to bury your negative results on a Google search by having more positive representations of yourself at the top, because many employers will not normally go past the first couple pages of results.

This may help, but both advisers say it is best to simply be conscious of everything you put on the Internet while you are doing it.

“If you wouldn’t want your mom to see it, then you probably wouldn’t want a potential employer to see it either,” Perry says. “Putting most of that stuff online is just not worth it at all.”

You don’t have to change who you are or what you believe in when making these changes to your online image. But in reality, no picture of you completely wasted is funny enough to keep you at a minimum-wage job, and adopting that mindset is a good place to start.

When doing anything on the Internet, treat it like a job interview, and make sure you’re filling your online resume with the same kind of information you would want to put on an official resume.

# FABULOUS

# FLOCK



Story and photos by Samantha Sorden

Lipstick-hued crimson curtains fall over the windows and front entrance of La Vida Dance studio, meaning to “Live the Life” in Spanish. The cotton curtains cascade down, spilling kisses onto the pink-painted wood floors. Mirrors line the pale yellow walls waiting to reveal the viewer’s alter ego. Frills, fringe, fishnet stockings, high heels, neon pink and orange wigs, and make-up are scattered across the floor as the ladies from the Dirty Bird Cabaret get ready for rehearsal. This flock of women combats the sexiness stereotype, while embracing their unique body types.

The Dirty Bird ladies saunter onstage in costumes completely different from their style offstage. Kolby, Western alumna and artistic director, refers to herself as the girl next door, no make-up, but onstage she is in character as Lucy Goosey.

“We don’t want to look like the girl next door, not even the hot girl next door,” Lucy Goosey says. “My stage persona is just an embodiment of features of myself. It’s a good release of all the craziness, and getting to be this crazy alter ego person that I’m not in my daily life.”

“All stage names are bird-related with silly and fun sexual innuendos,” Lucy Goosey says.

Performers are asked to be referred to by stage names only. Outside of their stage persona, performers are members of the community with occupations ranging from preschool teachers to historical preservationists.

Lucy Goosey and Kitty Nuthatch formed the burlesque-style dance group three years ago, stemming from a belly dance group named Banat Sahar, meaning “Daughters of the Dawn” in Arabic. “The Bird crew consists of 10 performers with some sort of dance background,” explains Amanda, commonly known as Kitty Nuthatch, another artistic director. Other members of the Dirty Bird Cabaret include Lupe as Suzy Swallow, Aireekah as QT Kiwi, Erin as Lola Longtail, Reby as Fanny Flamingo, Mindy as Ruby Redbreast, Lisa as Ophelia Pecker and Maria as Chickadee.

American burlesque theater shows began in the 1860s and originally combined minstrel shows, political satire, variety, drama, English Opera burlesque, comedy and striptease all in one act. Popularity climaxed in the early 20th century and was commonly referred to as “the poor man’s clubhouse,” according to Bernard Sobel’s book, *A Pictorial History of Burlesque*, published in 1956.

"WE DON'T WANT TO LOOK LIKE THE GIRL NEXT DOOR, NOT EVEN THE HOT GIRL NEXT DOOR. MY STAGE PERSONA IS JUST AN EMBODIMENT OF ASPECTS OF MYSELF. IT'S A GOOD RELEASE OF ALL THE CRAZINESS, GETTING TO BE THIS CRAZY ALTER EGO PERSON THAT I'M NOT IN MY DAILY LIFE."

*-LUCY GOOSEY, DIRTY BIRD CABARET ARTISTIC DIRECTOR*

"What we do could be considered sort of burlesque, but there is a neo-burlesque movement happening right now and what comes to mind is a striptease," Lucy Goosey says. However, audience members will not see the Dirty Birds get down to their skivvies. These performers aspire for a comedic presence more than anything, poking fun at sexiness.

"Our goal is to do away with this idea people have about women and sexiness," Kitty Nuthatch says. "Women like to see a realistic representation instead of girls like the Pussycat Dolls. Men and women are relieved when they see something other than Britney Spears. The reality of sexuality is a little more complex."

The Dirty Bird Cabaret hopes to catalyze and inspire more dance groups like themselves, Lucy Goosey says.

Dancing is a great creative outlet and stress reliever. "I think they are just as good as or better than stuff that is happening in Seattle," Sonja Hinz, owner of La Vida Dance Studio, says, commending their stage performance. "[Lucy Goosey and Kitty Nuthatch] have been performing since 1997 or 1998 and you can really tell they coach the dancers really well. It's burlesque but they are all different shapes and sizes. They really play up their sexuality."

The women are trying to scrounge up money to pay for the rehearsal space to keep Hinz, a former Banat Sahar performer, afloat during these hard economic times, Kitty Nuthatch says.

"It's kind of a hole in the wall," Lucy Goosey says, describing her favorite local haunt. The Birds call this "hole in the wall" home for at least two to four hours a week, sometimes more depending on the dancers' schedules and the number of performances.

But Hinz says La Vida is more of a community space, providing alternative, off-the-wall dance classes like Bollywood Fusion and Irish dancing, and only making enough money to pay rent and bills.

"We're all doing this as a labor of love in our



**PHOTOS:** The Dirty Bird ladies take a break from rehearsal on Oct. 31, 2010 to pose at a bus stop outside La Vida Dance Studio. Keep your eyes peeled for the Bird crew at the What's Up! Awards show in January.

spare time, which is very little. We don't make any money at it. Pretty much all of our expenses are covered, but if anything we spend money on it," Lucy Goosey says. "We do all the costumes and get all the props made."

It's a real passion outside of day-to-day duties, but sometimes wanting to devote all spare time to choreography, costumes and props interferes with life.

The dance group has become very versatile, tailoring performances to different venues like the Temple Bar and Boundary Bay. As for future ventures, these sassy ladies are performing at the What's Up! Awards Show in January, honoring Bellingham's finest in music. The Bird Crew also hopes to produce their first dance variety show, a Valentine's Day extravaganza.

Until then, the Dirty Bird Cabaret will be nesting in their "hole in the wall," perfecting new choreography, training new group members and polishing their alter egos to prime performing condition.



# NO SHOES, SOME SERVICE

A WESTERN STUDENT LIVES A SHOELESS LIFESTYLE

Story by Olena Rypich  
Photo by Lillian Furlong



*"If you wanna catch the biggest fish in your pond/  
You have to be as attractive as possible/  
Make sure to keep your hair spotless and clean/  
Wash it at least every two weeks/  
Once every two weeks"*

Famous rock band Nada Surf pays homage to Betty Cornell's once well-known 1950s "Teenage Popularity Guide" and includes the lines from the original work in their song "Popular." The current idea of cleanliness, however, has shifted significantly since the '50s. These days, washing your hair once every two weeks just won't cut it. You'll be lucky to skid by on two days without a shower.

As a rule, showering is as necessary as eating: wake up in the morning, turn on the pulsating water, lather, rinse, dry off. After a long workout at the gym, one can't not shower: jump in, lather, rinse, dry off. For most of us — whether at school or workplace — following this schedule seems only natural. Try holding off a bath for a couple days; see what happens. It's a routine that seems unbreakable.

Western senior Jason Sebbas looks sharp. He has edgy but tastefully messy hair. He wears a brown jacket, a black dress shirt with a tie, slacks and no shoes.

The barefoot but otherwise professional-looking young man strolling through Western's campus is aware that his offbeat choice to lack footwear attracts a lot of attention. Sebbas is used to people doing double takes upon passing him — and not just at school.

The absence of shoes is a way of life for Sebbas. He grew up in Warm Beach, Wash., where he spent summer breaks without the constraints of clunky shoes. Little by little, he used shoes less and less until his calluses built up so much that he could step on broken glass and not get cut.

"WHEN I FIRST GOT TO THIS SCHOOL, I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T BE THE ONLY ONE NOT WEARING SHOES, WITH WESTERN HAVING A REPUTATION AS A HIPPIE SCHOOL. BUT WHEN I GOT HERE, I REALIZED I'M KIND OF THE ONLY ONE HERE NOT WEARING SHOES."

-JASON SEBBAS

He says he enjoys being barefoot and avoids any kind of protection for his feet unless it is absolutely necessary. As a recreation major, he only wears shoes at the gym in order to protect his feet when he plays sports and when businesses require that he wear them or refuse to serve him.

"When I first got to this school, I didn't think

I would be the only one not wearing shoes since Western has a reputation for being a hippie school," he says. "But when I got here," he adds, not holding back a chuckle, "I realized I'm kind of the only one here not wearing shoes."

Sebbas says his own friends sometimes act uncomfortably or as if they're ashamed of him, but he doesn't see his lack of shoes as a problem.

Rain, shine, snow or hail, Sebbas isn't afraid to get a little dirty. To say his feet get dirty quickly would be an understatement. When he lifts his feet to display the soles, it's hard to believe that the thick, yellow skin isn't part of a shoe.

"I'm surprised they're not more brown," he says with a laugh.

For someone who gets dirty so often, Sebbas would seem to need a quick shower at least once — if not a couple times — a day. On the contrary, Sebbas says he finds showering often excessive, preferring to do so only when he has worked out or feels dirty.

Most health professionals don't disapprove of Sebbas's more relaxed attitude toward hygiene. In fact, when most people think of dirt, the association is most likely to be with germs, illness and disease, so the inclination is to scrub it away with soaps and sanitizers, counting to get rid of the pathogens. At the first sign of illness, most patients take antibiotics to kill the bacteria and germs.

Our bodies contain a healthy balance of good and bad bacteria. The good bacteria can also live on the skin and in the mouth, health experts say. If we get rid of it, chances are we are stripping away what counterattacks diseases.

The good types of bacteria, most popular forms of which are commensals and symbions, do the task of keeping you healthy.

"Being barefoot might associate me with a hippie crowd, but I wear a tie every day," he says. "I'm not

always wearing a jacket, but I like to dress up."

He says people these days are too obsessed with cleanliness. Sebbas just might have been the stud of his time several decades back. The rule for him is that he won't shower unless he feels the need, which might not happen for days at a time.

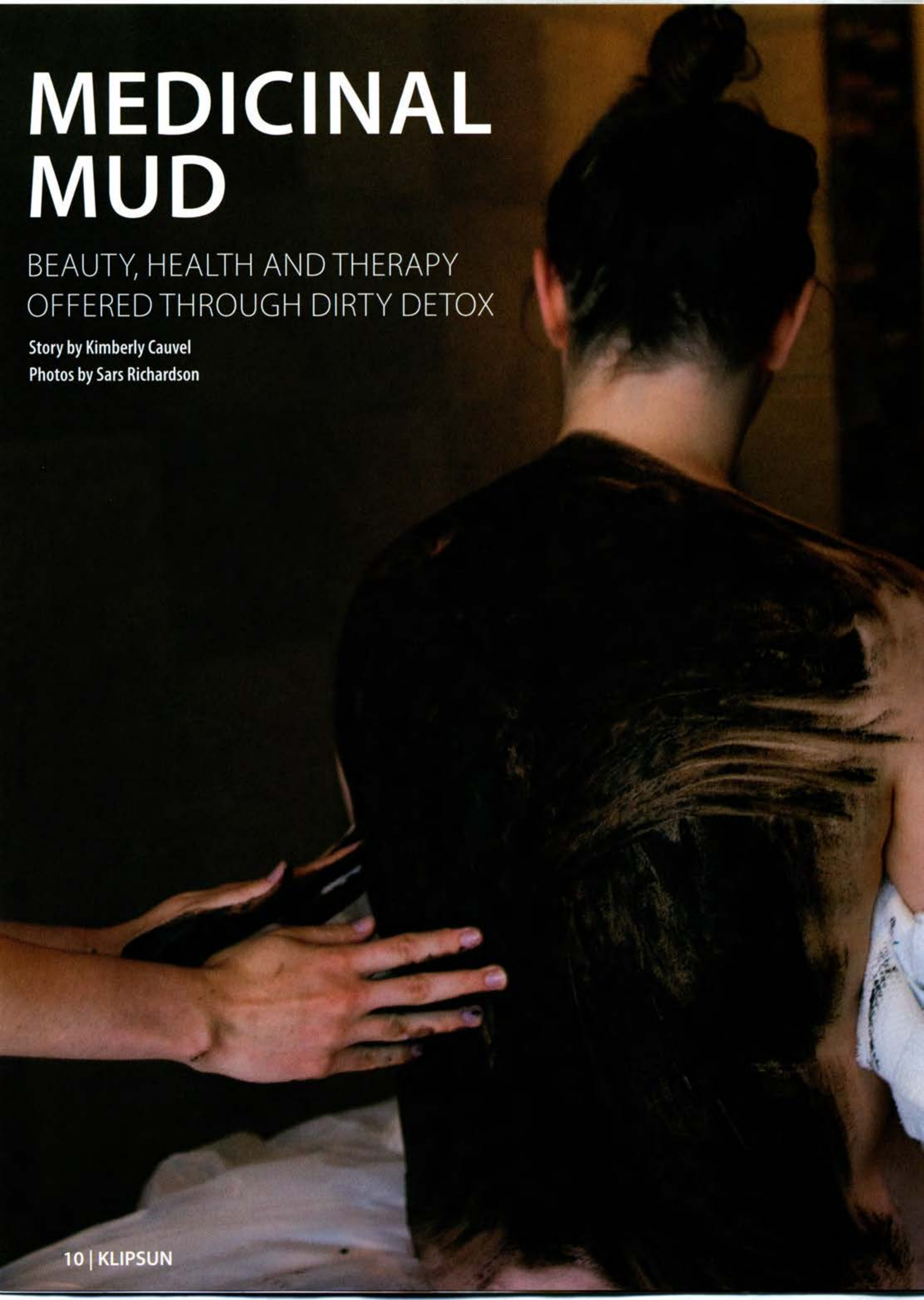
After all, a little dirt is good for you.

# MEDICINAL MUD

BEAUTY, HEALTH AND THERAPY  
OFFERED THROUGH DIRTY DETOX

Story by Kimberly Cauvel

Photos by Sars Richardson



**L**ead Massage Therapist Renee Larsen at Zazen Salon Spa in Bellingham slathers a black substance over Lynne Kain's peachy skin. Grainy and glistening with a wet sheen, this substance is used for medicinal, therapeutic and aesthetic purposes and contains the most basic elements of the earth: water, dirt and minerals. Mud has the power to cleanse the body, mind and spirit, an irony harnessed since ancient times.

As far back as B.C. 300 Cleopatra maintained her skin using mud from the Dead Sea. Mud was used in spas in Czechoslovakia in the 1300s and was applied to wounds during World War I prior to the development of penicillin.

"Mud in general is known as a detoxifier," Chrysalis Inn & Spa General Manager Sandi Robb says. "It's really great for your skin, leaving it hydrated, smooth and refreshed."

Mud's ability to remove toxins from the body is the primary benefit. Brittany Lee-Anderson, lead massage therapist at the Chrysalis, says toxins enter the body through lifestyle choices such as diet, exercise and the environment we live in, and their buildup hinders the body's natural ability to eliminate them.

Lying face-up and nude on a small bed in the center of a room the size of a walk-in closet, Kain's chest and pelvis are draped with white towels. Larsen moves her hands across Kain's body rhythmically, in circles over her shoulder blades and in rows across her belly button, smoothing the mud into a thin layer.

Glazed with a coat, Kain is wrapped in a thin plastic sheet and cocooned in brown blankets to amplify the warming effect and bring the body to a sweat. With only her face exposed she immediately begins heating up.

"You get really, really warm so you start sweating, and that allows the mud to work its wonders," Larsen says. "It's relaxing, it stimulates the immune system, it detoxifies the body and it increases circulation."



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Renee Larsen, Lead Massage Therapist at Zazen, smears Moor mud across the skin of massage therapist Lynne Kain. **ABOVE:** A 3-inch wood-handled paintbrush is dipped into a gray, rubber bowl and the bristles emerge with a clinging layer of tan mud.

Not just any glob of water and dirt will do however; the makeup of the mud is essential. Spas import mud containing beneficial vitamins and minerals from around the world. "You can't just take it from your backyard," Lee-Anderson says.

The Chrysalis uses mud from France, Hungary and Morocco for a variety of treatments including wraps, baths and a \$500 exotic Turkish experience for couples. Zazen offers full-body wraps using Austrian Moor mud or Middle Eastern Dead Sea mud.

"Moor mud and Dead Sea mud are the most popular," Larsen says. "They have the most curing effects, especially the Dead Sea mud because of the mineral and salt content."

Marine life is unable to survive in the mineral and salt-rich waters of the Middle Eastern sea, which gives it its name. The Dead Sea mud used at Zazen is not in its natural form but is a light brown powder that needs to be mixed with water before use. "The liquid form is better quality because it comes straight from the earth," Larsen says.

The Moor mud is in its natural, liquid form as a black paste.

# Where does the mud come from?

## MOROCCO

**TYPE** Rhassoul, also called Moroccan lava clay  
**PRIMARILY** beautifying  
**COLOR** tan  
**TEXTURE** powder  
**SMELL** earthy with rose or jasmine oil  
**USES** applied to the skin, for heat lamp drying and steam process

## FRANCE

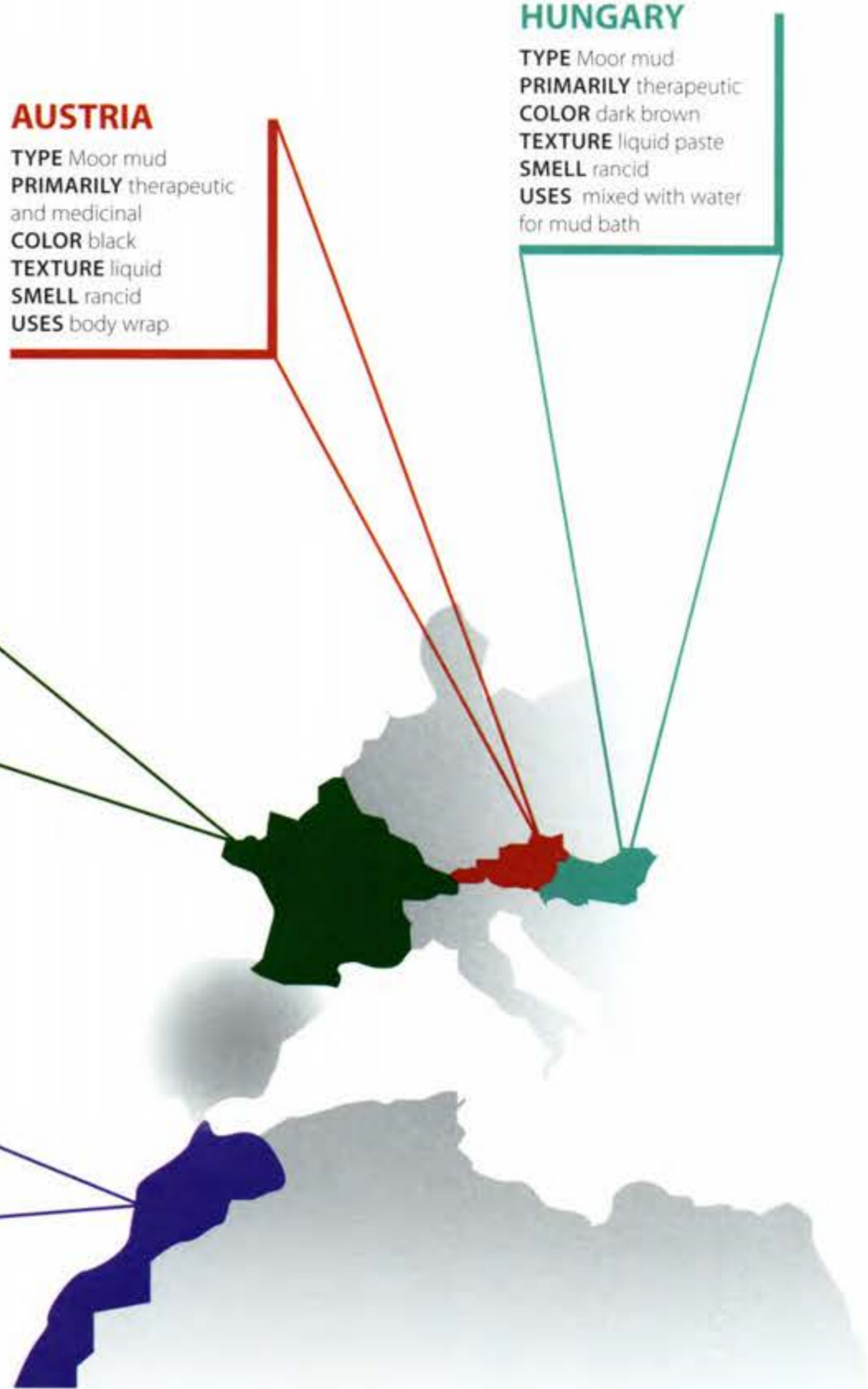
**TYPE** Moor mud  
**PRIMARILY** therapeutic  
**COLOR** grey  
**TEXTURE** powder  
**SMELL** earthy  
**USES** body wraps and deep tissue detox

## AUSTRIA

**TYPE** Moor mud  
**PRIMARILY** therapeutic and medicinal  
**COLOR** black  
**TEXTURE** liquid  
**SMELL** rancid  
**USES** body wrap

## HUNGARY

**TYPE** Moor mud  
**PRIMARILY** therapeutic  
**COLOR** dark brown  
**TEXTURE** liquid paste  
**SMELL** rancid  
**USES** mixed with water for mud bath



“When you open the bin that it comes in, it smells like decaying plant matter,” Lee-Anderson says. “We mix pine oil with it so that it smells appropriate for a spa.”

Moor mud is composed of more than 1,000 different decomposed plant materials hundreds of years old. “Moor mud also has antibiotic and anti-inflammatory characteristics,” says Dr. Bill Comiskey, president of Keyano Aromatics, the company that supplies Zazen. He says Moor mud is medicinally effective for skin conditions, acne, muscle pains, arthritis and ulcers.

Christina Wienhold, a massage therapist at the Chrysalis from Hamburg, Germany, says mud therapy

is popular in Europe and Japan.

In Japan, the ingredients of mud have been used for post-cancer and chemotherapy recovery as well as to remove radioactivity and heavy metals, she says.

After several minutes Larsen removes the cocoon Kain is bundled in, lifting the blankets and peeling off the plastic. Clear water washes over Kain’s body and turns black as Larsen’s hands loosen the mud from the skin. Pools accumulate on the plastic sheet and dark waterfalls cascade over the sides of the bed, streams of muck splashing on the tile floor. A drain in the center of the floor summons the murky liquid which swirls to the grate, carrying with it mud that is now truly dirty—ridden with toxins.



# BATHROOM BLUES

Story by Juan Cornejo  
Photo by Carey Rose

**H**ave you ever wanted to use a public restroom but were afraid to ask yourself what the black chunks or jelly-like muck beside the toilet were? Maybe it was the foul smell and walls littered with vulgar graffiti that made you think twice. Perhaps the unidentifiable liquid on the floor was the last straw.

Whatcom County Health Department regulations dictate that as long as you can relieve yourself and make use of hot running water, soap and disposable towels, a bathroom is serving its purpose. The health department's inspections primarily focus on the kitchen because that's where most people would get sick. But it doesn't mean a filthy bathroom does not have health repercussions or gives a hint of how well-managed an establishment is.

"We don't have the staff to inspect every bathroom for every restaurant; we go on the assumption that if the kitchen is safe, then the bathroom is safe," says Tom Kunesh, Whatcom County's Health Department inspector. "Restrooms are inspected on complaint basis, but it's very rare."

According to the health department, if a bathroom is inspected and is deemed unusable, the owners must clean or repair it within an allotted

timeframe, depending on the nature of the repairs required. If management doesn't follow through, the health department closes the bathroom to customers.

Given that it's not hazardous, a customer does not want to go into a bathroom and step on urine or use a toilet that should carry a warning symbol. Some people are more or less bothered than others.

"We clean daily. It might not seem like it, but we do," Brian Waller, owner of the Beaver Inn for 15 years says. "We repair and maintain if needed, but for a certain reason some people just completely disrespect our bathroom. Maybe it's because they know they are not being seen.

"It's just goddamn frustrating sometimes. I'll hire professional cleaners and install a new mirror; by the end of the day the bathroom is dirty and by the end of the month the mirror looks like the one we replaced. The whole bathroom concept... I don't know, it just amazes me... We've even had people steal our air freshener," Waller says with a hint of laughter in his voice.

An owner or staff member can only do so much. It can sometimes take time, money and resources to clean a bathroom and only seconds to dirty it up again.

# TANGLED TRESSES

THREE BELLINGHAM RESIDENTS TALK ABOUT WHY THEY LOCKED THEIR HAIR AND HOW THEY KEEP THEIR TRESSES CLEAN

Story and photos by Sars Richardson

**D**readlocks can be slender and uniform, squat and knobby, or littered with beads and hemp. They vary in shape, size and color. When one sees dreads it's tempting to think dirt. Dreads can be dirty; they can even rot. But not all dreads are created, or maintained, equally.

As rain falls in a fog-like haze outside Busy B's Barbershop on Elm Street, owner Bernard Franklin chats with a customer.

"There's a strong misconception about dreads with older generations," the Atlanta native says. "There is the perception that dreads are nasty and dirty and that kids with dreads are dangerous."

Creating dreadlocks differs with each customer, Franklin explains. "It's the texture of the hair that makes a difference. Black dreads are really easy, and a white person with curly hair would be easier than short Asian hair."

The process of creating dreadlocked hair involves repeatedly backcombing or "rattin'" each section of hair and twisting it with beeswax to lock hair together in rope-like tresses.

Taylor Reed, 21-year-old Whatcom student, says caring for his long, rich brown dreadlocks takes commitment.

"They can actually rot on the inside if you don't dry them out really good," Reed says, his mouth twisting in disgust. "A friend of mine didn't take good care of his dreads and when he got up one morning three of his dreads had fallen out. They were just [lying] there on his pillow."

Franklin echoes Reed, saying, "It's easier to just do cornrows."

He smiles and pulls off his black beanie to reveal four cornrows running from his brow to the nape of his neck.



## ONE DREAD, TWO DREADS

**A**broad, knotted cord of hair is pinned into the otherwise untangled, brown hair in Cassidy Lovins' ponytail. The 20-year-old Western junior sports only two dreadlocks: one top of her head and one the nape of her neck. Her hair still wet from an early morning shower. Lovins says she washes her dreadlocks like the rest of her hair.

She admits she couldn't commit to a full head of dreadlocks. "I sort of thought I could have this one dread for a while and then I could try to comb it out but then I hit the moment of truth when I realized I'm going to have to cut it out."

The English-literature major smiles at the idea of a job requiring her to wear heels or a skirt and take out her nose ring or change her hair.

"It's just not me," Lovins says, fingering the silver bead that wraps the dread at the top of her head. "I don't have plans to cut my hair anytime soon."

## DREADLOCKS KEEPING MEMORIES

A flash of red hemp pokes out among the thick, blond ropes of Malwina Sitarz's dreadlocked hair. Accompanying the red hemp is a striped, tan bead from Tasmania and a large, black bead.

The 21-year-old psychology major says her dreadlocks are like memories. She holds up the lock wrapped in red. "My boyfriend bought some red hemp and we were at the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and he tied it around for me."

Two and a half years ago, Sitarz decided to change her image. "I really transformed from high school," she says, pulling back her shoulder-length locks. "I think people saw me and had the wrong first impression — straight blond hair and wearing Abercrombie or Hollister. I came up here and felt like people stereotyped me as a bitch or [a] preppy girl, but the dreads helped changed that."

An avid swimmer, Sitarz says she never washes her hair. The chlorine from being in the pool every week keeps her dreadlocks free of debris and helps the hair dry out and tangle together.

Sitarz lets her blue eyes focus on the tan bead for a moment before pushing her hair over her shoulder.



"I CAME UP HERE AND FELT LIKE PEOPLE STEREOTYPED ME AS A BITCH OR A PREPPY GIRL. BUT THE DREADS HELPED CHANGE THAT."

-MALWINA SITARZ

## NO MORE DREADS

Sean Mills runs his lanky fingers over his meticulously cropped hair.

"I had dreads from sophomore year of high school until sophomore year of college," the 21 year old says, holding his hands to his chest to indicate their length. "I'm half African American and half Caucasian, but my hair is the blackest hair you've ever seen."

The Western senior sported dreadlocks after his barber recommended them. "My barber was tired of doing my hair," Mills laughs. "He said my kinky hair kept breaking his combs."

Mills cut his dreadlocks off two years ago. "My hairline started receding and it looked weird," he admits, laughing to himself. "Also, I wanted to be Turk [from the ABC show Scrubs] for Halloween and he is basically bald."





# & TRUCKS

Story and photos  
by Carey Rose

# TRAILS, TREES



## DESPITE THEIR GAS-DEPENDENT TOYS, OFF-ROAD ENTHUSIASTS WORK TO KEEP TRAILS OPEN AND A RESPECT FOR NATURE ALIVE

“U nhook me, I want to try something.” Western senior Justin Hartley shouts through his window at a crowd of bystanders as their faces turn from apprehension to excitement. Hartley is parked on a steep hill of slick rocks and soupy mud and is tilted far enough to be in danger of barrel-rolling his 1987 Toyota 4Runner down to the bottom. He had just been hooked up to a towrope to help guarantee safe passage to the hill’s summit.

At Hartley’s request, a bystander tosses the rope aside. Hartley turns his steering wheel, shifts into gear and floors it. The engine roars as all four tires begin to spin. The truck bounces, bumps and slides sideways, miraculously coming to rest at a less perilous angle. Hartley readjusts the steering wheel, carefully toes the gas pedal and slowly ascends to the summit amid the crowd’s jubilant cheers.

For Hartley and his friends, off-roading isn’t all about getting filthy and tearing up pristine natural reserve land. It’s about appreciating it. It’s about getting out there and conquering the unconquerable.

Western senior Alex Riedo has a Jeep Cherokee that has taken him along sheer cliffs, up mountains and even through deserts in the pursuit of places otherwise nearly inaccessible. It’s the wilderness that keeps him coming back, getting just a bit lost, but with a purpose.

In a sport that has been proven rocky with misconceptions, Riedo, Hartley and other enthusiasts must go out of their way to keep legal trails open and prove that the love of nature and exploration is what off-roading is all about.

“Not everybody [who goes off-roading] is a stupid, drunk redneck who goes out and destroys the land,” Riedo says. “We go out with the aim to make [trails] last.”

Riedo and Hartley often participate in work-parties before off-road trips. At these events, more than a dozen volunteers work diligently for hours to rebuild washed-out or destroyed sections of trails.

Despite the enthusiasm and volunteer efforts of off-roaders, Hartley has felt the sting of closing trails, like those in the Reiter Foothills Forest east of Everett. The list of legal off-road locations is slowly dwindling.

Walker Valley Off-Road Vehicles Trails Manager Elyse Fleenor says that the shutdown of the Reiter Foothills Forest is temporary, although its reopening has fallen behind schedule.

“It will reopen,” Fleenor says. “There’s a permitting process. Just because [the Department of Natural Resources] is a state agency doesn’t mean they’re exempt from a permit. Sometimes the public doesn’t understand how slowly the wheels turn.”

Fleenor says that whenever possible, she and other employees will issue citations if they encounter people knowingly abusing the land. However, due to lack of funding, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is increasingly understaffed, and both enforcement and trail maintenance grow increasingly difficult.

“DNR land isn’t just open for everybody to go and thrash on,” Fleenor says. “Everyone has to do their part by protecting this forest and putting in time and volunteering and keeping the area up. ... We’re really tight on budget and we just don’t have the staff at this point.”

The Reiter Foothills Forest is home to a particular trail that both Riedo and Hartley recall as one of their favorites.

“It’s a sheer cliff that overlooks the town of Index,” Riedo says. “We’ve gone out there at night and you can see for miles and miles on top of a cliff, and the town just looks tiny. You hear the trains coming before you see them and you watch a giant light [from the trains] snake through the mountains. It’s one of the coolest things you’ve ever seen.”

Off-roading has more to offer than just scenery and the thrill of the outdoors.

Western senior Victor Bjornsson says ingenuity is a big part of the experience. It’s impossible to take every tool and every part that a driver might need, so when something breaks, Bjornsson says, you have to think of ways to fix it on the fly, or else you’re stuck.

“[It’s] almost like MacGyver,” he jokes.

Hartley says off-roading really comes down to thinking through things and weighing the consequences of your actions before you decide to act. It can be the difference between scaling the hill versus rolling down it.

After gaining experience and confidence in his own



**FIRST PAGE:** A blue Toyota pick-up truck waits in line during a volunteer work-party to repair a trail in Walker Valley Forest near Mt. Vernon. It and other trucks were loaded down with rocks to be deposited at a portion of trail that had been washed out by inclement weather.

**ABOVE:** A customized off-road vehicle tackles a portion of the trail "Expressway" that Western senior Justin Hartley refers to as The Wall. It's a steep slope made up of the smoothed surfaces of boulders, and drivers can often become stuck and require assistance.

off-roading skills, Hartley found that he was drawn to a technical subset of off-roading called rock crawling. He especially prefers it to "mudding." Hartley describes "mudding" as mashing the throttle down in a muddy field and hoping to steer right.

"I'm pretty particular about my truck," Hartley says. "If it gets muddy, I get upset. I'd take a dent over a muddy truck any day."

Off-roading evolved naturally for Riedo. He bought his Jeep during his senior year of high school with the intention of using it in the mountains to go snowboarding.

"I was going to make it a little bigger and just have a little fun with it," Riedo says. "It kind of got out of hand."

Riedo estimates he has more than \$12,000 invested in his Jeep, having added heavy-duty suspension components and specialized off-road tires among other upgrades.

In the interest of not wearing out these expensive aftermarket parts, he doesn't drive it on the streets anymore.

"You get carried away so fast," he says. "You see somebody going up a trail you can't go up, and it's like, 'Crap, I want to be that guy.'"

Unlike Riedo, both Bjornsson and Hartley

drive their trucks daily. Off-road enthusiasts take real pride in their "rigs," as they call them, and a sense of community seems to grow out of the trucks themselves.

Hartley belongs to a Toyota club called Northwest Toys and he admits to enjoying going off-roading with his "Toyota friends."

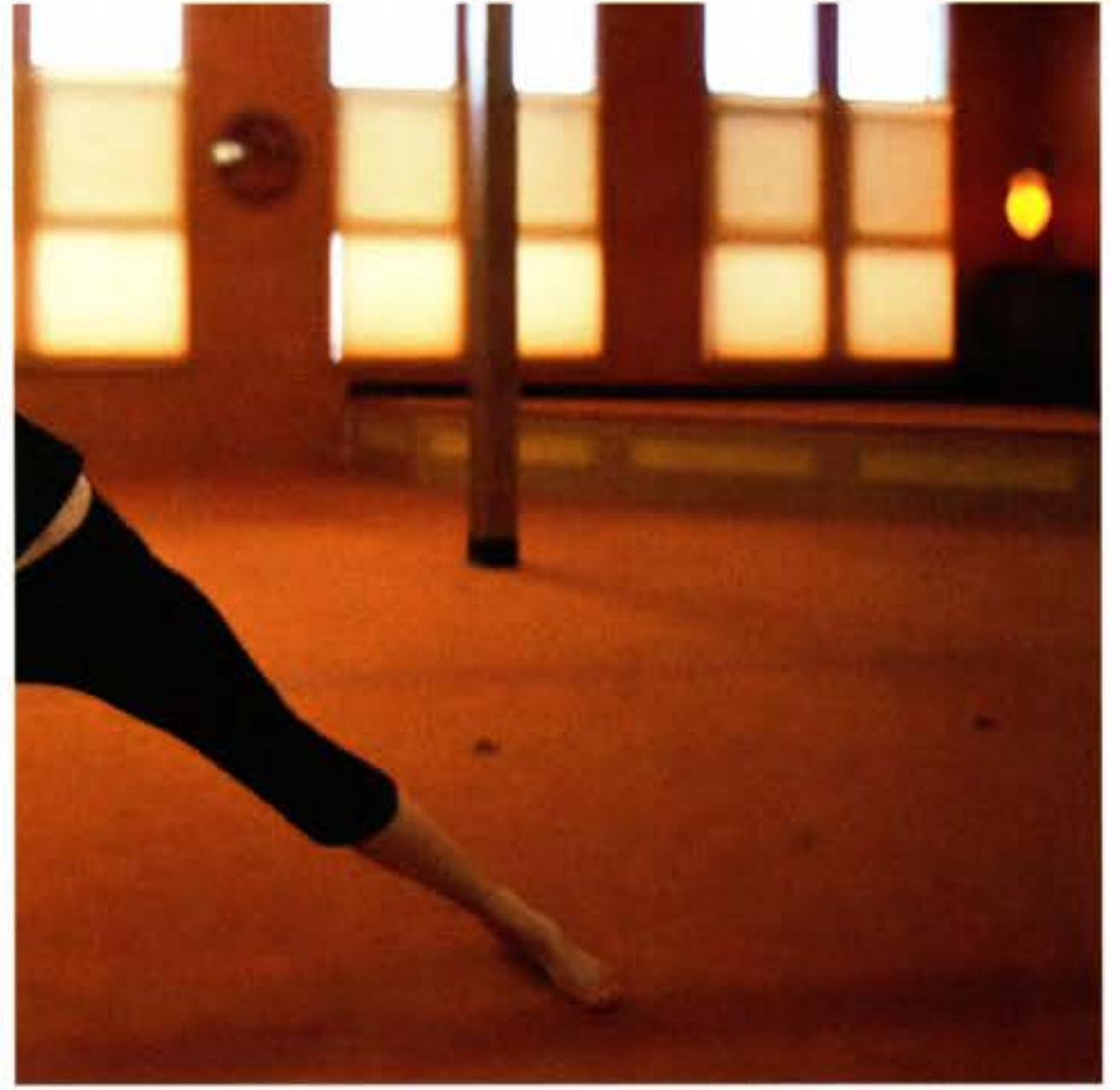
"It's kind of a clique, like a friendly rivalry [with other groups]," Hartley says with a smile.

Riedo belongs to an off-roading club called Pacific Northwest Jeep. Riedo says the Pacific Northwest Jeep community is home to doctors, firefighters, even mechanics from all over the area. "It's a huge mix of people," he says.

"[Off-roading] is something that has evolved for me," Riedo says. "Being active in snowboarding and being outdoorsy, to have something that I could always take anywhere I wanted," Riedo says. "To have a vehicle that goes anywhere."

Riedo and his fellow enthusiasts will continue to climb in the uphill battle against misconceptions about off-roading.

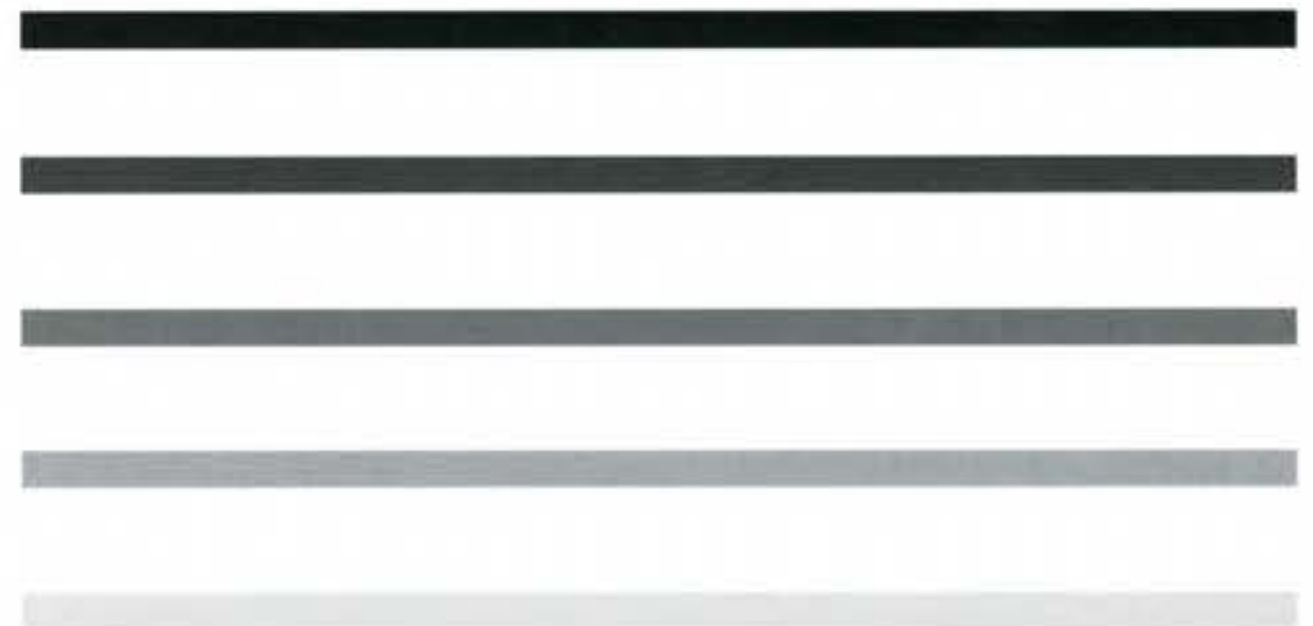
To truly explore and get a little lost in today's world of Google Maps, GPS systems and cell phones, sometimes you need a purpose. And sometimes you have to get a little dirty.



# HELL OF A WORK OUT



Story by Chelsea Asplund | Photos by Lillian Furlong



## ONE REPORTER JUMPS INTO THE MYSTERIOUS, AND SWEATY, WORLD OF BIKRAM YOGA.

**T**he studio, ironically resembling a place more similar to hell than any kind of sanctuary, has fiery orange walls and towering mirrors from floor to ceiling. The 105 degree Fahrenheit heat hits you instantly, as if you suddenly walked into a sauna or went on a conquest through the Sahara Desert. I have never been to the Sahara Desert, but I presume that is what it would feel like: hell.

The room is dark and I can hardly see as I am directed to the back corner, which appears to be the only space available. Those around me are lying on their backs, their towels draped over their yoga mats and their bodies completely still. This doesn't seem too bad, I think to myself, minus the beads of sweat sliding down my face. I take a deep breath and follow their move, and suddenly the lights flicker and I am made aware of the 45 or so people surrounding me. I was about to begin a 90-minute Bikram Yoga class, and I had no idea if I would make it out alive.

For Western student Alix Crilly, it was this very class that brought her back to life.

When Crilly first heard the news that her boyfriend, an soldier, would be deployed to Afghanistan last year, she began to suffer severe panic attacks. The attacks always started as random thoughts of "What if's?" Those thoughts would turn into images in her mind, which would escalate into cold sweats and a tightening of her chest, making Crilly unable to breathe.

"Once I stepped into the yoga studio, every stress

about school, class, assignments, deployment was gone," she says. "I was able to focus on me and my body. For 90 minutes I didn't think about anything negative."

Bikram Yoga is practiced under such intense elements so that participants' organs and muscles can be stimulated and warmed up. The 26 asanas, or postures, require significant concentration and self-determination, and each is designed to strengthen specific muscles and joints and stimulate the organs and nerves.

Thanks to the interest of a friend, Crilly went into Bikram Yoga last spring completely blind — she had no idea what to expect. As a member of Western's varsity crew team, she was surprised at the quality of workout she was able to have.

"I liked the fact that I felt like I had just ran an hour of cardio and lifted [weights] just like my regular crew workout," she said. "But surprisingly, even though I was stationary in a room, it really created a cardio workout I had never experienced before."

Crilly continued on to do 35 straight days of Bikram Yoga, no longer experiencing panic attacks of any kind. Because of the cost, she is not able to attend as regularly as she'd hoped, but she said it was at the top of her Christmas list this last year.

Bikram Yoga began more than 30 years ago when Bikram Choudhury from Calcutta, India began learning Hatha Yoga poses as a child. He soon became a yoga champion and went on to compete in several

# BIKRAM

## 26 POSES

AT

## 105 DEGREES

FOR

## 90 MINUTES

contests in his young adult life. When a weightlifting accident crippled him, Bikram created a 26-posture series to restore his health and incorporated the heat.

Today it is a popular exercise practiced across the world and it has transformed the lives of millions of people, including herself, says trainer Karin Schwiesow.

“I love seeing people evolve, seeing them grow not just physically but mentally as well,” she says. “So many people go into it depressed or not feeling good about themselves, but I see a transformation very quickly.”

Schwiesow, who is an instructor and manager at the Bikram Yoga — A Yoga College of India in downtown Bellingham, eases through the room with precision on her headset microphone. As the class progresses from posture to posture, she reveals her fine-tuned ability to call people out by name, including my own she only learned minutes prior. Along with her timing of rhythmic claps and staying on beat, she is able to narrate the entire session, including the pronunciations of the asanas, with names such as Tuladandasana and Shavasana, translating into “Balancing Stick Pose” and “Corpse Pose.” Her skills are a direct reflection of a nine-week, intensive certification program she completed in 2003.

Bikram himself taught the certification at his main training headquarters in Beverly Hills, Calif. The training included practicing Bikram twice a day, six days a week, as well as learning the dialogue, anatomy, physiology and Bikram philosophy.

“Not only do I like what I see [in students], but



**PREVIOUS PAGE TOP:** Karin Schwiesow, instructor at Bellingham Bikram, demonstrates the “triangle” pose. **PREVIOUS PAGE BOTTOM:** Schwiesow grasps her hands around the bottom of her foot while doing the “standing head to knee” pose. **THIS PAGE:** Schwiesow looks over her shoulder while doing the “spine twisting” pose.

I see the same in myself,” she says. “It changed me mentally. I am stronger, I am more flexible and I feel younger. Mentally I am not so depressed. It changes your body chemistry when you do Bikram Yoga. I just feel great.”

Bellingham resident Erik Wrolson, 44, stumbled across Bikram Yoga when he was hired to install the audio and headphone systems for the studio. The exercise, Wrolson said, made him curious to try.

Now it is two years later and he can still remember his first experience.

“It was shocking,” Wrolson says. “It’s extremely athletic. I was never flexible before and it totally changed my body and my core, because I can actually become flexible. I never thought of myself as flexible.”

The calming words of “Namaste” send a wave of relief through my entire body. Fast forward 90 minutes and I am right where I started, minus the pound or so of sweat that is now drenched through my clothes. I stare up at the orange wall that now appears less fiery and I take a deep breath.

I made it through hell.

# DIRTY DAN

FAIRHAVEN'S FOUNDER LIVES UP TO HIS DIRTY REPUTATION

Story by Ross Buchanan  
Photo by Jordan Stead



**D**aniel Jefferson Harris was a dirty man. As suggested by his filthy appearance, he considered personal hygiene to be a less-than-crucial element of his daily routine, but who can blame him? After all, once he finished up an arduous day smuggling alcohol, selling alcohol, drinking alcohol or bad-mouthing Native Americans, Harris may have considered grooming his enormous beard to be trivial.

Cordially known as “Dirty” Dan, Harris was an archetypal 19th century entrepreneur: alone in unforgiving and unknown wilderness for long periods of time, unafraid to soil his own hands while sowing his ambitions. The zenith of this aspiration would come shortly before his 50th birthday, when on Jan. 2, 1883, Harris filed the plat for the small, wild city of Fairhaven, Wash.

Harris immigrated to Bellingham Bay in 1854, roughly six years after leaving his birthplace on Long Island, New York.

“Dan Harris was 15 years old when he went on his first whaling voyage, and while sailing on a ship called *The Levant* several years later, he would be part of a crew that sailed [farther] south than any U.S. vessel before it,” says Ralph Thacker, a Fairhaven historian. “The captain of the ship got the record, but Dan was the only member of the whaling ship to step onto the [Antarctic] ice.”

According to Thacker, Harris’ experience at sea may have helped him appreciate the deep-water port qualities of the south side of Bellingham Bay. Harris’ 1854 arrival came shortly after that of a handful of other Caucasians, one of whom was named John Thomas. Having made the journey south from Vancouver in a one-man rowboat, Harris took over Thomas’ waterfront claim after the owner’s death in the winter of 1854.

“Dan was prepared to fend for himself,” Thacker says. “[Dan] was unique in his ability to survive... he

## GRIMELINE

**LONG ISLAND, NY**  
Harris is born second among six children.

1833

**PACIFIC OCEAN** Harris spends close to six years sailing on whaling vessels, leaving from his home in New York to sail the Pacific. While visiting Tasmania during this period, he is jailed for returning to the ship extremely drunk and disorderly. He smells and drinks like a sailor. Evidence would suggest he’s getting dirty.

1848

**HAWAII** Harris disembarks from his whaling crew while stopping in the Hawaiian archipelago. He catches a ship headed to the North American mainland, doesn’t look back.

1853

had a vision for a town, and, by golly, he did it”

The visible remnants of once-successful logging mills, boat-building operations and aged hotels sparked Thacker’s interest after he retired in the quiet suburb. As his research into Fairhaven history grew deeper, he looked past the industrial boom of the town’s logging days, and began searching for information about his neighborhood’s soiled patriarch.

“I realized that studying the mills or buildings in Fairhaven was too late [in the town’s history], and I postponed them to study Dan,” Thacker says. “My purpose is not to give Dan a bath... I just realized that no one had done the research before and that lots of the stories about Dirty Dan felt like fish stories to me.”

Thacker wants to study and publish works on Dan only when the research can be backed up with solid evidence. He has written several books on the historical background of Harris and Fairhaven, available for free through his website, and supported with primary documentation from the late 19th century.

“It’s hard to appreciate exactly how hard life was during that time, and so it’s hard to understand Dirty Dan,” Jim Roth, a Harris impersonator who lives in the Fairhaven community says. “We have to search for who he really was... and it is clear that he was very willing to get his hands dirty in order to survive.”

Beyond the cultivation of a chin of white facial hair, Roth has little in common with the character he plays while on the job. Shuffling around his Fairhaven home in monkey-shaped slippers and a historically authentic derby hat, the retired school teacher of more than 27 years comfortably discusses historical Fairhaven and its founding father.

“When [Harris] was alive, society in general did not accept him, particularly the upper class,” Roth says. “It’s ironic that the man who founded [Fairhaven], which was much larger and busier at the time, was looked down on by the upper class. Now he sits casually

on his park bench in the center of town, as the most remembered character from the earliest days.”

According to Roth, Fairhaven has hidden many scars that made it among the most notoriously wild destinations in the old Pacific Northwest. Roth leads groups of between six and 12 people around the small, bayside community, pointing out the former brothels, saloons and historical idiosyncrasies of a time long since vanished.

Diane Phillips smiles broadly when Dirty Dan comes up in conversation and is quick to flash pictures of herself next to Roth. Phillips, the owner of The Barbershop at Fairhaven, is another community member who adorns historical costume to celebrate Fairhaven’s unruly past. Like Roth, she can only speculate what her own life might have been like in those early times.

“I laugh a lot when I dress up as a ‘woman of the night’ from back in those years,” Phillips says regarding the community events at which she dresses in costume. “But the reality is that 115 years ago, if you were a woman in Fairhaven without a husband or a family to support you, you could have likely ended up as a prostitute.”

Phillips, as a single mother and business owner on Fairhaven’s Harris Avenue, expresses her compassion for women during the later part of the 19th century. She finds the history of hegemony against women both disturbing and significant.

“The first businesswomen [in the community] were madames... they kept the girls fed, clothed and housed,” Phillips says. “[Harris] built the first hotel that supported the madames and he knew what was going on.”

Phillips estimates that Harris earned his nickname rightfully, as a vulgar, smelly and opportunistic businessman. She smiles while reminiscing about Harris’ exploits, and laughs when remarking how lucky

**VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

After a short stop in Canadian Territory, Harris heads for what was then the Washington Territory. With only his supplies and a one-man rowboat, Harris makes his way south to Bellingham Bay, where he assumes the claim of John Thomas, a pioneer who had recently died.

**1854**

**WASHINGTON-CANADA BORDER**

Harris earns a reputation for being smelly and unabashed by his physical state of filth while working a Canadian mine. Meanwhile, Harris continues to develop the waterfront claim he acquired from Thomas.

**1860s**

**SOUTHERN BELLINGHAM BAY, WA**

Harris files the plat for a new town, called Fairhaven, along the shoreline of his growing property. He then invests his money in the town, constructing a hotel and a deep-water dock, and makes plans to develop the strip running away from the water (later to be called Harris Avenue.)

**1883**



“HARRIS WAS A BIT OF A SCALLYWAG. BUT HE DID A LOT OF PRODUCTIVE WORK. HE COULDN’T HAVE KEPT MONEY AND WALKED AWAY RICH IF HE WAS DRUNK ALL THE TIME.”

-RALPH THACKER

she is to have never been a woman who had to sleep with Harris.

“My sense of Dirty Dan is that he was someone who I would have liked,” Roth says. “I just wouldn’t have been able to keep up with his drinking.”

Harris travelled back and forth between British Columbia and his Fairhaven claim of 70 to 80 acres. In the process, he single-handedly built a three-mile road between Sehome and Lake Whatcom and earned his physically dirty reputation during the 1860s while working in a Canadian mine. While in Canada, he is famously reported to have purchased a barrel of nails for \$3 per pound, only to sell them for \$5 per pound after transporting the barrel only 12 miles.

“The fact that he navigated the islands to Bellingham Bay by himself was quite a feat, especially considering he was a smuggler who loved to drink,” Roth says. “He loved to drink and he loved to party and would sell alcohol illegally to anyone else who felt the same.”

Thacker’s studies indicate that Harris was arrested for a variety of petty offenses. These include borrowing money from a Canadian bank then using the funds to purchase alcohol for smuggling into the U.S.; distributing copious amounts of untaxed alcohol to Native American tribes; and inciting the British Columbian Stikine Tribe to attack the Lummi Tribe residing near his property claim.

“I promised myself when I started that I would only pursue information I could document,” Thacker says. “Harris was a bit of a scallywag...but he did a lot of productive work. He couldn’t have kept money and walk away rich if he was drunk all the time.”

After spending half a century on the American frontier, Harris was content to retire from his career as a successful entrepreneur to focus on his hobby of being filthy rich. By the end of the 19th century, he retired to the sunny coast of California, where he would spend the rest of his life threatening to beat up his wife. Thacker’s records even indicate that Harris loaned money to the former governor of California.

“The idea of Harris as a wealthy intellectual is not as funny or comfy as the idea of him with his cask of whiskey,” Thacker says. “But Stoneman [the former governor] could have walked into any bank on any day, and instead he decided to loan money from Dan.”

Although he enjoyed the benefit of owning property in downtown Los Angeles, near the modern location of 400 Spring St., Harris’ wealth and his retirement fund were built around a small logging town far, far to the north; a town still brimming with alcohol, criminals and prostitution.

While most towns in the deep reaches of the Pacific Northwest would have fit such a description during the 19th century, Fairhaven was the town that made Dan dirty.

**FAIRHAVEN, WA** Harris marries Bertha L. Wasmer. She is 26-years old, half his age. Harris is officially a dirty old man. Wasmer files for a divorce a year later, citing Harris’ abusive nature. However, she falls ill with a terminal disease, and the couple reconciles to begin spending their time in California.

**LOS ANGELES, CA** Harris sells the rest of his investment in Fairhaven to Charles Larrabee and Nelson Bennett for a total of \$75,000. He buys several lots on what is now the 400 block of Spring St. in downtown Los Angeles, where he and his wife spend their time until her death in November. He spends his time managing his \$130,000 estate, drinking heavily, and enjoying his wealth.

**LOS ANGELES, CA** Exactly 10 months after the passing of his young wife, Harris dies and is put in the dirt. His fortune is invested in land throughout Southern California.

1885

1888

1890

# LIAR, LIAR

THE TRUTH  
BEHIND  
MODERN LIE  
DETECTION

Story by Carina Bissett

Photo by Max Wilbert



**R**ubber tubes wrap around the chest and abdomen. The blood pressure cuff tightens. Blood pumps through the veins causing minor throbbing throughout the arm. Small black sensors are attached with Velcro on several fingertips, while a mass of tangled wires trails back to the main monitor.

The only other person in the small, cement room is the test examiner who starts off with simple questions about daily routines and names of close relatives. The room is silent, except for the scratching of three metal pens on the machine's graph paper.

True or False? Can a lie detection test tell if you are actually lying?

Polygraph machines are attached to an ongoing controversy regarding the tests' reliability as well as whether any methods can truly detect liars. Even with advancements in technology, professionals still argue that it may be impossible to completely uncover the dirt concealed within the depths of the human mind.

"There is some truth in the idea that when you lie, your body produces a natural response," says Western associate professor Jennifer Devenport, who specializes in the research of social psychology and law. "The problem with the polygraph is that it doesn't distinguish between emotional responses — love, hate, anger, excitement, fear — the body treats it the same."

Detective Michael Mozelewski conducts polygraph tests for the Bellingham Police Department. He says he refers to the polygraph test not as a lie detector, but as a truth verification process.

"I like to use it to tell [subjects] I just want to verify your story or verify your truth," Mozelewski says.

According to Mozelewski, it's his job to look at test results for reactions and determine why the subject had a reaction. He then asks further questions to validate the responses seen on the charts to make sure

he is accurately interpreting test results.

But what about the people who claim to have discovered ways to "trick" the lie detector? Countermeasures are the physical and mental ways used to influence the results of a polygraph test.

"There are some indicators that if you come in and you do something that produces high anxiety or stress in your body, such as biting your tongue really hard, that you are going to have a pain response," Devenport says. "The stress level will go up, and then they can't tell if you are lying or what's going on."

Terry Ball is the owner of Ball & Gillespie Polygraph in Edmonds, the oldest private polygraph company in Western Washington. Ball is a nationally certified polygraph examiner and a certified forensic law enforcement examiner. He has completed more than 10,000 polygraph examinations.

Ball says modern polygraph examiners spend a significant amount of time studying countermeasures. "The examiners know each method and can recognize them," he says.

Detective Mozelewski says he knows people can learn how to pass a polygraph test.

"I know of situations where unethical polygraph examiners have been hired by people to help them study on how to pass a polygraph that they murdered their wife. It can be done," he says. "It's not necessarily the reaction you are going to falsely produce. You have to know exactly when and where and at what time to falsely produce it."

The test examiner notices the slightest flinch, change in breathing or even a small swallow. It's noted on the chart and taken into consideration on the final results of the test. Polygraph machines may not be 100 percent accurate, but they do have a keen eye for accurate observation.

# DIRT CHEAP

THE ART OF HAGGLING AND BARTERING FINDS LIFE AT THE FLEA MARKET

Story by Celeste Erickson

Photos by Carey Rose

It's a far cry from the average mall. It's a place where a frugal shopper looking for a dirt-cheap deal can search for hidden treasures and negotiate the price of any item. A section for art made of plants, a library of books and movies, even a room devoted to arcade games occupy the large space called O'Donnell's Bellingham Flea Market.

Those who buy and sell at the market have a common goal: finding a great deal. Six months ago, Dan O'Donnell founded the market, seeking to fill a niche in the community he thought was missing. Sometimes vendors only stay for one weekend, and by the end they are just looking to get rid of their stuff, O'Donnell explains.

"The two best times to come are right when it opens, either day, to find things underpriced, or right before closing on Sunday," O'Donnell says. "People do not want to load it back in the truck."

O'Donnell estimates about 1,200 people visit the market each weekend. He says he is looking to develop it further by introducing a trading post for the items permanently at the market.

Sharon Taylor has been with the market nearly since its creation. She had to leave her previous job, so she decided to create another one at the flea market. Still, Taylor says she is not making enough, so she had to learn to economize. She grows her own food in a greenhouse and makes her own toiletries such as soap, lotion and laundry detergent.

Taylor also barter services, which is new to her this year. She offers to tend to the landscaper's greenhouse space in exchange for the job. When she has a plumbing problem, she babysits for the plumber.

"You can always find somebody that can do the things you can't do, and you can do something in return for them," Taylor says.



Taylor's customers are also looking for a bargain. She says it would surprise her if a customer didn't negotiate a price down from the ticket.

Cecil Watson can be found at the market selling his finds and looking for new ones. He says he has

been collecting scrap metal all his life and cleans it up to sell at the market or on eBay.

“I like to preserve history for the younger generation,” Watson says with a smile. “People think it’s junk. I call it rusty gold.”

He also has many years of experience talking down a price. Recently, he was interested in buying a pile of old tools with no price labeled. The owner wanted to sell it for \$20. Watson wanted to pay only \$15. They eventually settled at \$18. Watson says he enjoys this process of haggling and bartering for an item.

O’Donnell describes himself as a frugal man. He wears a sweater from the Salvation Army, pants from Fred Meyer he bought on sale for \$15, an undershirt from Wal-Mart and shoes found from a box of miscellaneous items he recently purchased from a vendor at the flea market.

“I’m not wearing anything I paid full retail for,” he says.

He is used to getting things at the cheapest price and says he hates the feeling of being ripped off. O’Donnell recognizes people have an urge to always have new things instead of used.



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Cecil Watson examines a silver dish he considers purchasing. Under his right arm is another dish he has already purchased for \$1.75. He says it could be worth as much as \$60.

**ABOVE:** Resin rings fill a dish in a small room within the Flea Market. The Flea Market is divided up into different areas or rooms which vendors can rent out as needed.

## TIPS

for getting a bargain

- Come to the market right when it opens or right before closing for the best deals. The vendors usually don’t want to pack up so you might get a cheaper price
- Don’t settle for the price on the tag; make an offer with the vendor
- Don’t be afraid to haggle a little

“There’s a stigma to something if it’s not [new],” he says. “When you’re a kid it’s the new bike, and then it becomes the new car, then the new house. Why? It doesn’t make any sense when you pay three times as much for it.”

Lea Sadler, a vendor at the market since June, sells a little bit of everything. Like Taylor, everything in Sadler’s area is negotiable. Sadler had a customer willing to exchange the sweatshirt she was wearing for one of Sadler’s. She agreed to the swap and sold the new sweatshirt later that day.

She tries to keep good relationships with the regulars. “Everybody is struggling, so it’s good karma,” she explains. “I love to make a deal and see a person smile.”

As Sadler finishes up for the day, a woman approaches her and continues a discussion about a hat the woman wanted to purchase earlier. “I’m not going to take this today,” the woman says.

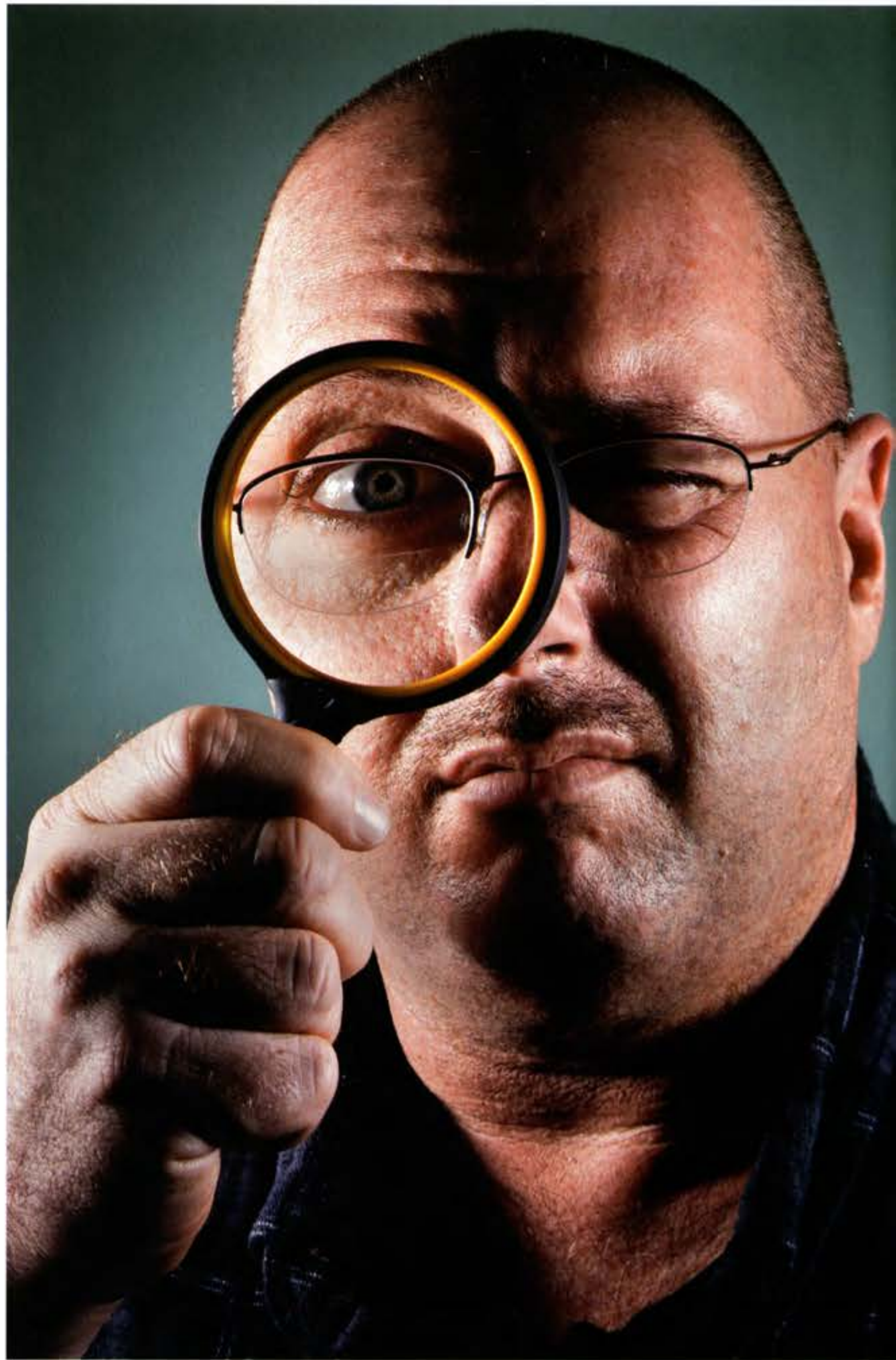
Sadler hardly hesitates before telling her, “That’s fine. If you want to keep it, go ahead; it looks

great on you.”

The woman offers to pay her next week. Sadler replies, “Sure if you want to.”

This is a typical trade for the bargain-hunters at the flea market.

# STRATEGIC SLEUTH



Story by Elysia Nazareth

Photo illustration by Jordan Stead

Some occupations require employers to dig up dirt in the most literal sense: with bare hands, shovels hacking up raw earth. And then there's private investigator Joe Kelly, who digs up a different kind of dirt entirely.

Kelly does not wear a beige trench coat or carry around a magnifying glass. His towering figure could intimidate the guiltiest of criminals and hints at a prior life of law enforcement, though you wouldn't think so from his soft-spoken and fair-tongued disposition.

Seduction. Scandal. Lies. Deceit. These are just a few of the misconceptions that come with the job title.

"When most people think of a PI, they think of a guy hiding in the bushes with a camera outside a sleazy motel room, trying to catch a guy cheating on his wife," Kelly says.

Though some PIs investigate infidelities for a living, Kelly is not one of them. "First and foremost [in infidelity cases] nobody wins," Kelly says. "If you find out the spouse is cheating, then your client is mad. If you don't catch them, they are mad. It's a no-win situation."

Clients who want to investigate infidelity cases don't always understand the law, he says. Many believe PIs can go anywhere at anytime, and that's not the case, he says.

"This is where the negative stigma [of the job] was developed," Kelly says. "There are trespassing and privacy legal issues you have to be cognizant of."

For private investigators, these restrictions are regulated by the Washington State Department of Licensing.

“WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF A PI, THEY THINK OF A GUY HIDING IN THE BUSHES WITH A CAMERA OUTSIDE A SLEAZY MOTEL ROOM, TRYING TO CATCH A GUY CHEATING ON HIS WIFE.”

-JOE KELLY, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

“One of the more common broken regulations are the laws that have to deal with PIs who place ads and seek business but have not been licensed through the state,” Sirena Walters, customer service specialist at the Department of Licensing says. “They can lose their license for un-professional conduct [according to RCW/WAC codes.] There’s a difference between surveillance and endangering lives by tailgating or reckless driving.”

Private investigators are also under strict privacy regulations. They can’t look through the windows of homes, and they can only gain access to public records or other documents through a reliable source.

So what does a day in the life of private investigator Joe Kelly entail, and what parts of the job are purely fiction?

At 1941 Lake Whatcom Blvd. in Bellingham, Kelly, owner and lead investigator of Strategic Solutions, is jabbing away at his keyboard. After being deputy sheriff for the Collier County Sheriff’s Office in Florida for 20 years where he investigated homicide cases, Kelly became a defense private investigator.

“Investigating homicides provided me with the skill set necessary to be a private investigator because the job needs you to be really familiar with police procedure and reports,” Kelly says.

Someone with Kelly’s direct experience in the field can be an important asset to defense attorneys. Private investigators help point out weaknesses in cases that attorneys may have overlooked, help select the right jurors and act as a second set of eyes to analyze the responses and reactions of the jury pool.

The majority of Kelly’s cases involve anything from criminal and civil investigations, trial preparation, scene investigation, interviewing and surveillance to review of evidence and documentation — not exactly reminiscent of an episode of *Magnum PI*.

Television can be deceiving. When Kelly receives a case, the first steps, which include reading reports, are not as thrilling as they are crucial to the case.

“It gives you an understanding of the events as portrayed by the police,” Kelly says. “From that, I am able to analyze the information and determine the course of the investigation.”

Surveillance serves as an equally tedious chore. “This is the most boring part for me because it requires endless hours of watching someone and waiting to see if they do anything,” an unenthused Kelly says.

The next steps include locating victims and witnesses, a task easier said than done. Because people move or do not provide accurate information to the police, Kelly says he uses the databases private investigators have access to, which provide addresses and other important information helpful in locating potential criminals. Searches often include criminal history checks.

Once a witness is located the next challenge is to contact them and obtain a statement. A frustrated Kelly explains that often people do not return calls, answer the door or they request that the prosecutor be present.

“The most dangerous part of my job is approaching the unknown,” Kelly says. “Most of the people I encounter are involved in criminal activity themselves and you never know how they will react to your presence. People involved in criminal activity are often jittery to begin with and then add drugs and alcohol and anything goes.”

As a criminal defense investigator, Kelly is most satisfied when his investigations result in a client having a fair experience with the criminal justice system. Despite the fact that he chooses not to investigate the tumultuous tangles of infidelity, juggling multiple cases and driving from city to city in search of witnesses is more than enough to keep Kelly on his toes.

So next time you hear the Pink Panther theme song or flip on *Miami Vice*, keep in mind that Kelly will be doing the true investigating as he continues to defy the misconceptions that come with his job title.

# DIGGING FOR FISCAL FACTS

## AMID BUDGET CUTS, WASHINGTON STATE FAILS TO PROVIDE CITIZENS WITH ADEQUATE ACCESS TO STATE SPENDING

Story by Kayley Richards

Senator Patty Murray has a Twitter feed. Governor Christine Gregoire has an official Facebook page, on which she shares political links, videos and upcoming events (as well as her affinities for chocolate mousse and Grey's Anatomy). The Washington State Legislature website has an online bill tracking system, and the Washington Public Disclosure Commission website has a searchable online database so voters can track contributions to political campaigns. The Washington state government is certainly no stranger to modern technology, but if you think you can get all the dirt on government spending in a single click, you're out of luck.

"Unfortunately, our state doesn't do a very good job of providing easy, online access to how our government spends money," says Steve Breaux, a public interest advocate for the Washington Public Interest Research Group.

Last April, Washington was given an "F" on transparency of government spending in "Following the Money," a report released by the United States Public Interest Research Group. The comprehensive report rated all 50 states on how well each provides online access to government spending data and found that 32 states provide a searchable online database for government spending with "checkbook-level" detail. Washington received its "F" grade and was labeled a "lagging state" because while some information on government spending is available online, Washington lacks the easily searchable, "one stop, one click" kind of

website that has been implemented in states such as Kentucky and Ohio, which received the two highest scores in the report.

A person can actually find all kinds of information online about our state government's spending, says Mindy Chambers, Communications Director for the State Auditor's Office. Budget reports and general trends in spending are reported on the Washington State Fiscal Information website, which is maintained by the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee and the Office of Financial Management.

"It really depends on the criteria being used to formulate a report [such as Following the Money]," Chambers says. "Some states have a website that's more like a check register, where you can see what was spent, line by line, and account for every pencil and every paperclip. If that's what a person's looking for,

"IF OUR GOVERNMENT REALLY WANTED TO CHANGE AND IMPROVE, YOU WOULD THINK THEY'D FIND THAT KIND OF REFORM HELPFUL. IT KIND OF MAKES YOU QUESTION WHETHER THEY'RE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING."

-NATHAN STREIFEL, WESTERN SENIOR

then no, Washington doesn't have that."

While some Washington citizens and public interest advocacy groups worry that the lack of transparency could make it difficult for misconduct in government spending to be exposed, the current state of the economy could be a large factor in why Washington state has not yet implemented a searchable database for its government spending. The United States Public Interest Research Group estimates that creating a searchable database would cost Washington state approximately \$300,000. Breaux says the state does not have that kind of money readily available.

"Right now with the budget crunch, it would be really hard to implement something like that," Breaux says. "When the government is cutting the budgets for things like healthcare and education, it would be kind of hard to say, 'Well, we're cutting more funding for healthcare so that we can implement a system to inform you that we're cutting funding for healthcare.'"

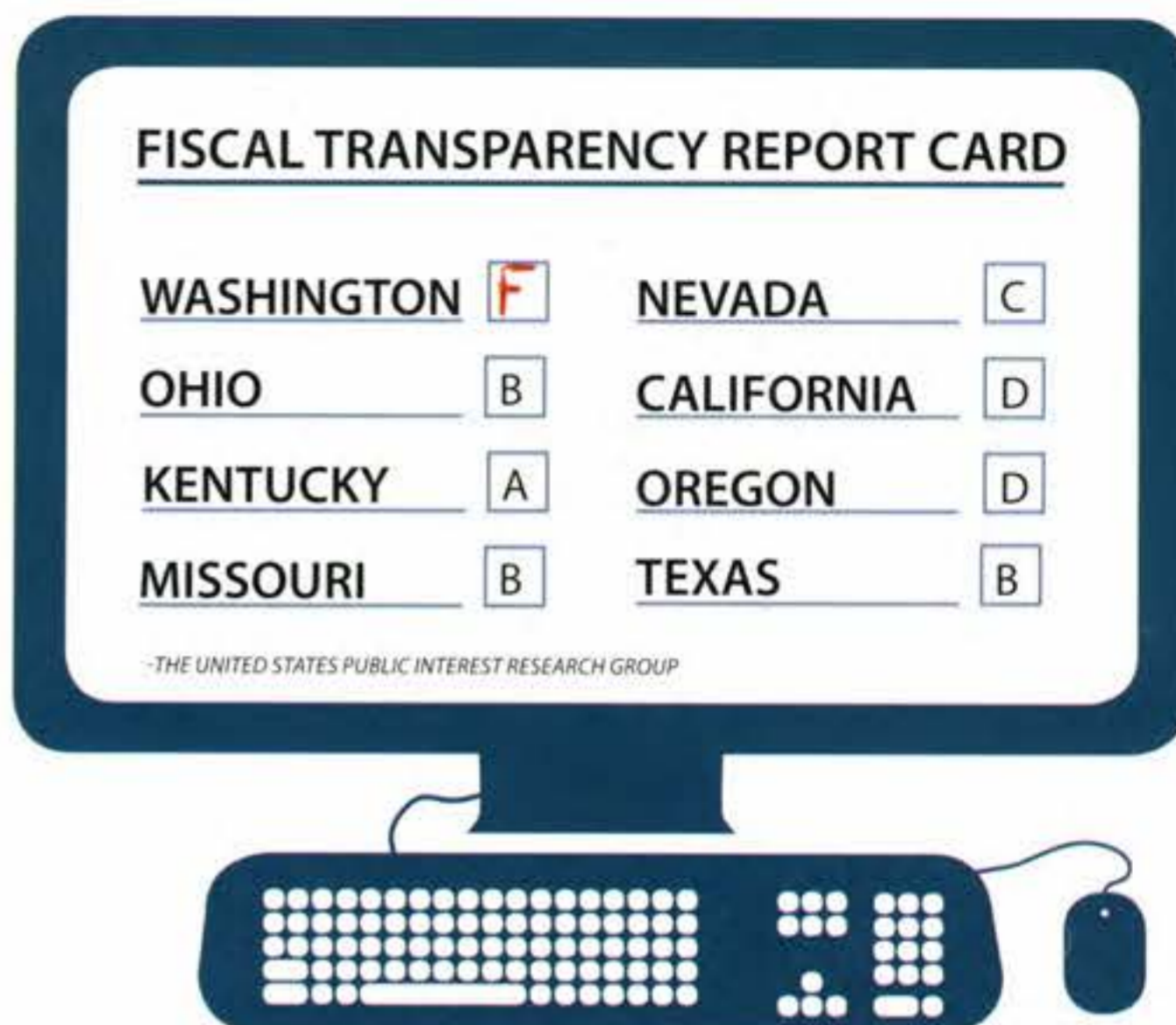
Western senior Nathan Streifel, 22, and Western junior and political science minor Megan Vertullo, 20, say they were surprised to learn that Washington received a failing grade in spending transparency and doesn't maintain an easily-searchable online database.

"It seems irresponsible," Streifel says. "If our government really wanted [to] change and improve, you would think they'd find that kind of reform helpful. It kind of makes you question whether they're trying to hide something."

Vertullo echoes Streifel's concerns.

"When information isn't exposed to the public, there's always room for that situation to be taken advantage of," Vertullo says. "Especially with all the budget cuts that are happening right now... it's scary to think that there's no way for us to really know what's going on."

Breaux says the creation of an online database for government spending would certainly make research easier for investigative journalists and people with an interest in politics. But Breaux says the problem is that the average person does not



prioritize government transparency, and it may take a stronger show of public interest for a database to be created.

"There just aren't very many people saying, 'Why can't I see how you're spending money online?'" Breaux says. "People are more adamant about finding out why taxes are high and why budgets are getting cut, and the squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Streifel says that even when the public seems to have more pressing concerns than government transparency, an online database is necessary to help citizens hold the state government accountable for its spending decisions.

"It's possible that [even with an online spending database] the information would still be very cryptic, and the average person might not care enough to really look into it," Streifel says. "But regardless, that information should be readily available [online] for anyone who wants it. That's Washington's duty: to educate its people on the affairs of the state."

State spending information can be found in a variety of online sources, including the reports released periodically on the state legislature website and in the audit reports available on the State Auditor's Office website, says Chambers. The dirt on government spending is all there, but for now, Washington citizens may have to do a little digging to find it.



# KLIPSUN

is a Chinuk Wawa word meaning sunset.

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