

# New magazine spotlights music industry

By Hayley Bostrom

Western junior Harrison Kadwit stood outside the Wild Buffalo waiting to interview the band Mudhoney before their show. As the band walked out of the venue to eat before the show, he asked them for an interview and was instantly shot down. An unknown, burnt-out punk rocker approached Kadwit after seeing the failed attempt.

"This is punk rock," he said. "Get in there."

Within moments, the punk rocker hauled Kadwit from the Wild Buffalo and brought him to Bayou on the Bay, where Mudhoney was fueling up for their performance.

"I felt like I was overstepping my boundaries," Kadwit said.

The restaurant was empty — just the Mudhoney members and their beers. The punk rocker pushed Kadwit toward the band.

"This kid wants to interview you," the punk rocker said.

Little did Kadwit know his interview attempt would become his first interview for SIGNED magazine, a student-run magazine about the music industry.

Mark Arm, the lead singer of Mudhoney, signed Kadwit's arm on request of the punk rocker.

He never found out who the punk rocker was.

Kadwit, creator of SIGNED magazine, sheds light on the music industry through local interviews and reports on the inner workings of the record-label industry.

"I realized there is not anything out there, as far as I am aware, that teaches people about the music industry or the record industry, specifically," he said.

Kadwit began preliminary planning of the project in September 2012.

"I would like to [produce SIGNED] to a point where I feel like there is a sufficient amount of information out there for people to access," he said.

The first issue debuted April 12, at Yellingham, a local music event.

It made the perfect launching point for a magazine dedicated to portraying the inner workings of the



Western junior and music enthusiast Harrison Kadwit created music magazine SIGNED. The upcoming September edition will feature an interview with Death Cab For Cutie's bassist, Nick Harmer.

Photo by Danny Miller

music industry, Kadwit said.

Not only does the magazine include in-depth interviews with musicians, but it also features contributions from other writers, such as local poet and Western professor Mary Cornish.

Cornish contributed an unpublished poem to the magazine.

"We include things besides interviews to keep people

entertained," Kadwit said.

Lead editor Kadwit, graphic designer Andrew Jerome, art director Kent Allen and assistant editor Jimmy Rogers produce the magazine.

"It's a really fun project, and it has a lot of potential as an interview-driven, quarterly DIY music magazine," said Western senior Jimmy Rogers, editor of The Planet and assistant editor of SIGNED. "It's

nice breaking out of [The Planet] and doing something about music and art."

Western alumnus Sam Moss included an excerpt from his novel, "Basic Analysis," in the first issue of SIGNED.

"There's this burgeoning underground literary scene, reminiscent in some ways of the hardcore scene Harrison has documented in SIGNED," Moss said.

In the next issue, Moss plans to contribute a book review to keep the magazine creatively well-rounded.

"I think there is a lot of passion and attitude behind [SIGNED]," said Syd Bridges, Western sophomore and SIGNED reader. "It definitely has the potential to spread a lot of knowledge."

Kadwit interned with Barsuk Records last summer in Seattle.

"It opened my eyes to what goes on behind the scenes and how it all works," he said.

Kadwit recently interviewed Nick Harmer, the bassist for Death Cab for Cutie, to be featured in the next issue.

The next issue is expected to be published in September 2013 and will include Nick Harmer's interview, along with excerpts from local writers.

Kadwit was initially nervous, but Harmer was a nice guy, he said.

"Death Cab is kind of the pride and joy of Bellingham's music scene," Kadwit said.

Kadwit is hopeful about the future of the magazine, and plans to incorporate an array of music genres.

"I also like talking to old blues and jazz musicians, because they're at the heart of modern music," Kadwit said.

The magazine is published in Salt Lake City at \$3.20 each, Kadwit said.

"I'm going to see where the magazine takes me," Kadwit said.

He plans to interview bands throughout his senior year at Western in the hopes of landing a job at a record label.

**SIGNED is available for purchase via Facebook or through Kadwit at 501 E. Maple St., for \$4.**

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