

Nexus consistently (and fairly quietly) produces a well written, evocative, visually entertaining newspaper. Jason Schreurs continues to reinforce the foundation of our now 21-year-old building with the cement of journalistic prowess, financial know-how and good instincts. Greg Pratt is a well-grounded and creative editor who understands writing and transitioned into Editor-in-Chief gracefully. Nexus staff and volunteers are free to develop their ideas in a supportive atmosphere. Training and development of young talent is very important at Nexus and to that end our associations with the Applied Communication Program and the Canadian University Press remain strong. Nexus also joined the Associated Collegiate Press. The Board was efficient thanks mostly to Jason's guidance.

Jason is the heart and soul of Nexus. He possesses almost all of the institutional memory and has his hand in every aspect of the newspaper. Not only is Nexus fortunate to have him but Camosun College's writing students and volunteers benefit from his knowledge and patience. In January, Jason handed off some of his duties to Greg and now commutes from Powell River every two weeks. This is a move the Board wholeheartedly supported and it seems to be a good fit for both parties.

Greg Pratt was promoted to Editor-in-Chief. His attention to detail and desire to push the paper a little further editorially and graphically is wonderful for Nexus. He relates well to the staff and volunteers and raises the level for everyone in the office.

Jason and Greg are constantly exercising their judgement and editing abilities when dealing with Nexus writers and deserve to take a bow for their effort.

Erin Ball was chosen among many applicants to be Student Editor. Erin has continually looked for sharper and more interesting issues to address in her

editorials. On top of conducting weekly editorial meetings, she wrote *Eye on Campus*, *Local*, *Live and Loud*, *Sports Briefs*, and *News Briefs*. She was also responsible for Feature layout and some editing. This is a long list. Or maybe it's not.

Erin found the job rewarding and challenging and completed it with her characteristic good humour and calm. It seems to me that the Student Editor position should be reevaluated in time for the 2011/2012 school year; there seems to be a lot of responsibility. Then again, maybe this is normal for a functioning newspaper. An option could be reworking the deal with ACP to allow for some class exemptions for the Student Editor.

Amanda Richardson took to her position writing Features like staple to stapler. She got involved in the stories like... staple through paper. She asked tough questions, like when you try to remove that staple from the paper. This metaphor is over. Her internship with Nexus really paved the way for a smooth transition to writing Features in the fall and winter semesters.

While writing on subjects such as anorexia, urban agriculture and Rifflandia gave us an indication of her versatility in the first semester, she set a goal to write and research more in-depth investigative features for semester two. She turned out articles on green washing, water issues and curious jobs among others. Amanda's Features were a staple for Nexus readers.

René Andor was hired as the News writer, taking on one of the most difficult jobs at Nexus. She wrote informative, measured articles on issues that should matter to students. Her angles were interesting and she represented Nexus professionally.

Emily Laing took on Sports and some news writing. She added flair and personality to a difficult subject. Her commitment to the paper extended to

distribution as well as sitting on the Board as Treasurer — a position she won in October's open elections.

Alex Haro took some damn good pictures and coordinated new media. Some of my favourites pictures included The One of the Flower Through the Fence and The One of the Waterfall.

A special thank you goes to Jina Mousseau who stepped in to help with graphics. They were great and added visual credibility to Nexus.

The NPS also acknowledges the hard work of many volunteers in the community. Thank you! Free labour is what makes journalism go and we hope Nexus is a great place to learn.

Students in the Applied Communication Program contributed about 75% of Nexus content over the past year. First year students are obligated to submit three to four articles in each semester and this allows a lot of choice for Greg and Jason. While having a lot of choice is a luxury for Nexus, sometimes those choices are not always desirable. If I was given the choice between a punch in the face or a kick in the stomach I don't know which I would choose. Some weeks it must feel like that when guiding students through the writing process. Nexus may want to look into a more proactive approach to training with in-class workshops, seminars or random beatings.

Both Lois Fernyhough and Kim O'Hare, the writing teachers in ACP, are pleased with the alliance and plan on continuing the program into the future. The issue Nexus faces is the uncertainty in ACP. Government cutbacks and a somewhat dry curriculum have conspired to create lower enrolment and an uncertain future for the program. Nexus will need to make contingency plans to fill gaps in the 2013/2014 school year.

Nexus continues to place training near the top of the list of priorities. Five delegates attended the Canadian University Press (CUP) conference in Winnipeg in October. The conference was a success and staff had a chance to network with other papers and bond as a team. Eight Nexus delegates attended the CUP National conference (NASH) in Montreal in January. Papers from all over the country participated and there were some excellent workshops and speakers. At NASH, Nexus and the Martlet won the right to host next year's NASH — a nod to the paper's credibility and standing on the national stage.

Nexus hosted the WRCUP conference March 25 to 27. The lineup included Arthur Black and Tony Parsons amongst many other solid speakers and workshops. Nexus was fortunate to have Erin Ball and Reneé Andor organize the whole event in conjunction with their ACP Publishing class. They held a well-attended, informative WRCUP and the Board would like to acknowledge all their hard work.

A Board was elected in April of 2010 with an interim President and Treasurer. Nexus then held an election in October where the President and Treasurer were acclaimed to the positions. I had two votes against me and Emily had one.

My experience on the NPS Board has been very positive. Emily, Jina, Marty Taillon, Adam Holroyd and I were able to meet consistently and efficiently with Jason's help. Luke Holland joined the Board after the Vancouver CUP conference last spring and attended when he could, but had to work much of the time in the winter semester.

I tip my hat to the Board. We showed up. We listened. We approved stuff. Well done.

Collective bargaining continued to be an issue between Nexus and the Camosun College Student's Society. If I understood the issues I would write about them, but I don't. Erin Ball (the Vice President until she took the Student Editor position) originally volunteered to bargain on behalf of the NPS board when negotiations came around. They never did and I volunteered to take Erin's place. Nothing happened until I spoke with Darragh Grove-White, a representative from the CCSS. In an hour with him I understood nothing he said. I asked questions about my role in the process and received slight of hand, philosophical responses beyond my understanding. After speaking with Jason about it, I stepped back from the position and suggested that the next Nexus Board find someone suitable. It was also my opinion at the time that there was no one suitable on the Board to replace me because their knowledge was no greater than mine.

To me, there is a larger picture issue: the NPS is comprised of people with no experience in being on a Board. I am the President and I have only sat on one or two boards before. Nexus needs to look for Board support from different parts of the community and with different types of experience. Not only does the Board require members who have skill in collective bargaining, but accounting, design and journalism, if possible. The problem is that Board members must be selected from the Camosun student body and there is not a lot of interest. Perhaps the conversation will continue next year.

Camosun College is fortunate to have a quality newspaper like Nexus. Life is all about change and Nexus embraces this philosophy and gets the job done. Much of the credit should be piled upon Jason Schreurs. He has built an efficient, curious and creative team.

Darin Steinkey - NPS President 2010/2011