

Cam...nce 1990

# MEET YOUR STUDENT SOCIETY

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# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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### SEND A LETTER

*Nexus* prints letters that are 250 words or less. *Nexus* reserves the right to refuse publication of letters. Letters must include full name and student number (not printed). *Nexus* accepts all letters by email to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. We reserve the right to edit all letters.

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "That's not Hawkeye. That's Thor."

COVER PHOTOS:  
Students: Jill Westby/Nexus  
Background photo of Camosun: Greg Pratt/Nexus

student editor's letter

## Spring reading... and writing

It's a warm, sunny spring day at Camosun. The campus has quieted down a bit, but the exodus of students going in and out of Fisher is still quite a sight. One of the things I like most about taking spring and summer courses is that I can actually hear my footsteps echo as I walk under the bridge that connects Ewing and Fisher.

But tranquillity comes at a price: over the next six weeks, I am prepared to have virtually no life whatsoever, as are most students who are matriculating in the spring and summer. The seven-day break between winter exams and spring courses was a short-lived one, and now it's back to the grind. It's the grind that makes me thankful for moments like these when I can sit and think, whether it's while folding laundry or while tapping a keyboard.

Our writers have been doing just that: tapping a keyboard, hard at work, writing this issue. My fellow student editor Pascale Archibald wrote the feature story, where she talks to the newly elected student representatives of the Camosun College Student Society (see page 6).

Archibald didn't quit there. On page 4, she tackled a story about a subject that always raises a few eyebrows: education policy. And on page 3, she wrote about something even more contentious: the college's policies surrounding sexual assault.

In the arts section, contributing writer Jayden Grieve fills you in on a new multimedia performance celebrating British Columbia; head over to page 8 for the lowdown.

We've got some new columns back on page 11: flip there now to read about what's hot and what's not in the movie theatre, as well as our new column highlighting local indigenous voices.

I hope everyone kicks off the semester in a spring-like fashion and studies in the field adjacent to Young, because, let's face it, most of us do whatever we can to make studying just a little bit better.

Adam Marsh, student editor  
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

## letters

### Women's Collective conversation continues

What are your resources that you base your piece on ("Camosun Women's Collective needs to rethink approach," March 16, 2016 issue)? I'm interested to learn your critical ideas about feminism. At the moment, the piece reads like its author had a casual five-minute conversation about "the f-word" and, as a result, thought up some under-researched ways to "explain" why feminism "isn't working." Not helpful (for anyone) either.

Maybe it would help to know within which framework(s) you yourself approach feminism and then reconsider where and how you situate the collective in that context?

Speaking of which, are you familiar with the policies of the collective and what kinds of initiatives they have been taken towards—what you conveniently squeeze into a binary—equality?

ANNETTE

VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

## announcement

We are pleased to let everyone know that contributing writer Rachael Grant's story "Postsecondary on an empty stomach," from our August 19, 2015 issue, recently won the national Canadian Association of University Teachers award for Excellence in Education Journalism, in the student category. Search the name of the story on nexusnewspaper.com to read it. Congrats from all of us at *Nexus*, Rachael!

## 25 years ago in Nexus returns in September

open space

## Nexus Women's Lounge critique misses mark

RACHAEL GRANT  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There was a passionate critique of the Women's Lounge—a student-run space on Camosun College's Lansdowne campus—in a recent *Open Space* in *Nexus* ("Camosun's Women's Collective needs to rethink approach," March 16, 2016 issue). Although a positive intention can certainly be assumed on the part of the author, the opinions outlined are an inaccurate portrayal of the actual function of this space.

Despite the opinion piece not being particularly positive in scope in its analysis of the Women's Lounge and its perceived function, it should be noted that feminist activism, or lack thereof, on campus is an in-

It is particularly important that the function of the Women's Lounge be clarified. The opinion piece in question highlighted the absence of direct support the Women's Lounge offers to survivors of sexual assault. The Women's Lounge is in no way a crisis centre, nor has it ever been intended to act as such. The lounge is a comfortable space to unwind, study, and work together. This space also acts as a point of contact where students can learn about resources and support both on and off campus.

Feedback collected anonymously from students who utilize this space did contain some agreement with the points made, although the vast majority of those who offered feedback did not agree with what

The Women's Lounge is in no way a crisis centre, nor has it ever been intended to act as such. The lounge is a comfortable space to unwind, study, and work together.

credibly important conversation to maintain. There is immense value in actively pushing toward being more effective in addressing oppression of any kind.

The Women's Lounge was referred to as a "female-friendly space," stating that it is only open to women. Not only does this statement conflate sex with gender, but it does not reflect current practice. The Women's Lounge is maintained as a safer space that is open to all, although self-identified women are prioritized, and it's often where the Women's Collective meets to discuss events we'd like to hold, advocacy we'd like to engage in, and how we feel is best to maintain the lounge. There are individuals who use it as a quieter space on campus that tends to contain fewer self-identified men, and that is incredibly reasonable given that gender inequality doesn't cease to exist when one arrives on campus grounds.

was being suggested. Themes included the importance of maintaining safer spaces, as well as alarm that space for self-identified women was being challenged—particularly when there are similar spaces on campus for indigenous students and queer students—and concern that perhaps the value of these spaces was being challenged as well.

It was also noted repeatedly that the criticism of this piece—all based in issues rooted in a patriarchal society—appeared to be assigned as the responsibility of self-identified women. The overall tone of feedback was that of frustration with the portrayal of the Women's Lounge.

These are important conversations. There is always room to take student-based initiatives in new directions. If you have any feedback or questions, or would like to get involved, please contact the Camosun College Student Society's Women's Director at womens@camosunstudent.org.

## SPEAK UP

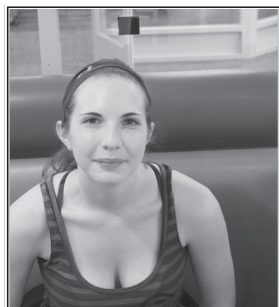
What would you like to see the new Camosun College Student Society student representatives do in their positions?

BY ADAM MARSH



**CARLOS SUAREZ RUBIO**

"I would like to see a more fair environment for students. Teachers still have too much power that they are using to abuse their authority: unfair marking, harsh marking. There's no respect for the rights of the students."



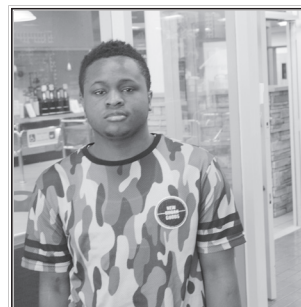
**KAITLYN THOMPSON**

"I'd like more microwaves in the cafeteria."



**BOLAJI EKISOLA**

"I think issues like having students be a bit more sociable. International students just don't really care. They do, but not as much."



**OLORUNTOYBANKOLE**

"More fun; more student parties put on by the college."



**MELANIE SHIELDS**

"I'd like to see more healthier food options in the cafeteria."

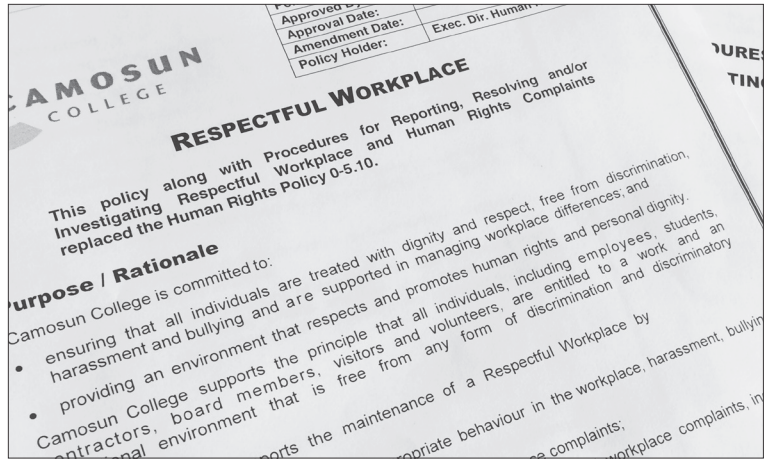


**KYLIE RANSOME**

"Less expensive parking."

procedures

## New bill starts conversation about Camosun's sexual-assault policies



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Some say Camosun policy surrounding sexual assault needs updating.

### PASCAL ARCHIBALD

STUDENT EDITOR

The provincial Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act, which was tabled late April, will ensure that postsecondary institutions in BC create and maintain policies to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct on campuses. After receiving royal assent, there is expected to be a grace period of one year before the bill takes effect, allowing institutions the time to develop appropriate policies.

According to Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) External Executive Rachael Grant, students currently in attendance at Camosun College would benefit greatly from the creation of this act, as the college does not currently have policy specifically relating to sexual assault.

“The issue is that there is actually no articulated policy at this point, and that’s actually the case for most postsecondary institutions,”

says Grant. “There is no articulated structure that a survivor of sexual assault can navigate to report their assault. That is something that is being addressed on a bigger level right now in BC, and it is a really important conversation.”

Even though Camosun’s Respectful Workplace policy covers harassment—including sexual harassment—and assault, Camosun Vice President of Student Experience Joan Yates says that she feels that Camosun’s policy is lacking.

“We are really mindful that we have got to look at our student conduct policy and now add a component to it that is highly specific on this issue, and we don’t have that currently,” says Yates. “It is a gap and we know that. We want to be very mindful of the victim’s circumstances and be intensely sensitive to this.”

Currently, according to Yates, if students have been subject to an

“We have got to look at our student conduct policy and add a component to it that is highly specific on this issue.”

JOAN YATES  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

assault or any disturbance on campus, they have many options open to them for reporting an incident. They are instructed to contact Camosun Manager of Campus Security Byron Loucks, the counselling department, or student services.

“Our number of mechanisms for it is not to confuse or flummox students, but more so that there are a lot of points that can pull the student in,” says Yates. “For example, our counselling department is geared for this, our safety department is geared for this, our student services department is geared for this, so if a student went anywhere in this organization, in those areas, we should have a process that kicks into place for them.”

Grant says that having a male Manager of Campus Security as the contact point for people reporting sexual harassment is problematic, as is the amount of security on Camosun campuses.

“Personally, as a woman on campus, I wouldn’t feel comfortable reporting to that individual, but I

would also add that the amount of security that is present on campus is incredibly lacking, so that is a very minimal layer of support when you are trying to, ideally, protect students,” says Grant. “That isn’t enough, by any means, if that is being suggested as the primary focus of contact for a survivor of an assault to access.”

Loucks is one of the people in charge of keeping Camosun safe; he is also co-chair of the Safety Net committee, which is the deciding body on the best course of action for issues that arise on campus.

“There needs to be one centralized place that people can contact or call, and when people contact or call us, then it’s my responsibility to engage the right people to ensure that that situation is dealt with,” says Loucks. “That could be bringing the two parties together, it could be bringing in program directors and leads, it could be as much as taking it to the Safety Net group and having a meeting with Safety Net. So, really, more than anything

else, I think it is just so there is one centralized contact.”

Grant says she was unaware of the existence of Safety Net; there is little documentation available to students on who they are and what they do. *Promoting College Safety: A Resource Guide for Employees* is a document available through Camosun’s intranet; 200 were printed and it can not be accessed through the college website’s search engine.

Camosun College Ombudsman Carter MacDonald is a member of the Safety Net committee; he helped develop the resource guide in question.

“We don’t refer to sexual assault very specifically, but it is something that was developed by the committee,” MacDonald says of the resource guide. “It talks about dealing with problems and disruptive behaviours. It talks about the Safety Net group, the composition of it, and the resources that are available.”

Policies and procedures around this issue are going to be changing very soon, not just for Camosun but for all other institutions in BC. For now, Camosun is waiting to see what happens next.

“The reality is all postsecondary education institutions are waiting now for the provincial government’s sexual-assault policy work to be fully released, and it hasn’t yet,” says Camosun Vice President of Education John Boraas. “I have done my best to step speed on what they are contemplating, but we don’t have the document yet.”

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Students solving sustainability challenges

Camosun College and UVic recently set up teams of students with organizations to try to solve local sustainability challenges in the Capital Regional District’s Ready, Set, Solve program. 42 students from a variety of academic backgrounds volunteered their time to solve 13 unique energy and climate challenges. Find out more at [crd.bc.ca/readysolve](http://crd.bc.ca/readysolve).

### Charges won’t be laid in sexual-assault investigation

The University of Victoria Students’ Society (UVSS) says that students at UVic are outraged that a fair process and outcome for survivors of sexualized violence has once again been halted, due to charges not being laid in a recent sexual-assault investigation at the university. The UVSS blames this lack of justice on what they say is

a deeply embedded rape culture within society, and they say that the justice system is fundamentally unable to deliver justice to the people who are most marginalized in society.

### United forces fight homelessness

Oak Bay United Church and Threshold Housing Society (THS) recently agreed to work together to create eight new housing units for homeless youth. THS plans to lease a building owned by Oak Bay United Church and upgrade it for both housing and life skills training. THS operates three other facilities and supports a number of young people in apartments throughout the Capital Regional District.

### Carleton University board of governors faces no-confidence motion

Unions representing faculty, librarians, administrative staff, and graduate students at Ot-

tawa’s Carleton University have unanimously passed motions of non-confidence in the university’s Board of Governors. According to the Carleton University Graduate Students’ Association (CUGSA), there’s concern from students and workers that the board of governors is not acting with the best interests of the community or the public good in mind. This is in response to new bylaws that made the board less open and less accountable, and that centralized power within the executive committee of the board, according to CUGSA.

### Victoria’s car-free day wins award

The Downtown Victoria Business Association has won an award of excellence for their Car Free YYJ day, which was held last June. The award was handed out at the Best in the West Awards, which were held at the annual conference of the Business Improvement Areas of BC. More than 20,000 people attended Car Free YYJ; six blocks of Doug-

las Street were closed to vehicles during the event. This year’s Car Free YYJ is scheduled for June 19 and is expected to include an extra three blocks. To find out more, visit [downtownvictoria.ca](http://downtownvictoria.ca).

### Capital funding to benefit the region’s health-care facilities

The Capital Regional Hospital District Board has approved funding of over \$6.7 million to support capital projects and equipment purchases to improve and upgrade the region’s health-care facilities. \$3.75 million is slated for Island Health 2016 capital projects, and \$2.95 million is to go toward health-care equipment replacement and upgrades in the region’s hospitals and residential-care facilities.

### Victoria’s sewage water too stinky?

The office of the Minister of Environment recently said that Victoria’s wastewater systems are significantly above the Capital

Regional District’s high-risk designation threshold, and said that they need treatment by 2020. Hopefully someone’s paying attention: fines or even imprisonment could go down if deadlines for change aren’t met, according to the Fisheries Act.

### Curbside glass collection to continue

The Capital Regional District (CRD) board says that the collection of glass containers will continue as part of the CRD curbside blue box program until the current collection contracts expire in April of 2019. The CRD has collected glass containers as part of its residential curbside blue box program since it began in 1988 and say that approximately 1,600 tonnes of glass containers are recycled every year.

-PASCAL ARCHIBALD

Got a news tip? Email [editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com) to fill us in today!

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations, we started an Instagram account! Come say hello over there and see what we’re up to online.

While you’re at it, we’re also on Facebook and Twitter, you know...

Find us as nexusnewspaper on all three. See you there!

postsecondary

## Student group says Liberals broke budget promises for indigenous learners

**GREG PRATT**  
MANAGING EDITOR

The federal Liberal government hasn't followed through on campaign promises that impact indigenous learners, according to one student group. The Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia (CFS-BC) says that the Justin Trudeau government promised to remove the two-percent cap on the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP), which is how bands get their funding to send people to postsecondary, and they haven't.

"Trudeau promised to remove the cap, in addition to investing \$5 million into postsecondary education in this budget," says CFS-BC Aboriginal Students' Representative and Camosun student Shayli Robinson, "and indigenous postsecondary wasn't even addressed. So it's him not keeping his promises and letting indigenous people down."

CFS-BC Chairperson Simka Marshall wishes Trudeau would follow through with his campaign promises and the obligation he has to indigenous learners in Canada, "and remove the funding cap for indigenous students and add whatever funding is needed to the program to clear the backlog and ensure that indigenous students don't have to be turned away from colleges," says Marshall.

The federal Liberal government did not reply to interview requests by deadline.

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) First Nations Director

"Trudeau promised to remove the cap, in addition to investing \$5 million into postsecondary education in this budget, and indigenous postsecondary wasn't even addressed. So it's him not keeping his promises and letting indigenous people down."

**SHAYLI ROBINSON**

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS-BRITISH COLUMBIA

Jackson Traplin says that the Liberal government's budget shows them "renegeing on their election promise to increasing funding by some \$50 million per year.

"This is problematic, as it is in stark contrast to a TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada] recommendation insisting on more adequate funding for First Nations seeking college- and university-level educations," he says. "Compounding that factor is the two-percent cap on First Nations education funding, which, incidentally, has been in place since 1996 and has not kept up with the rising costs of tuition fees."

Traplin says that he has spoken to at least one First Nations student at Camosun who is "in a quandary" because his band denied him funding for the spring semester.

"As it has been stated, a rising

tide lifts all boats," says Traplin. "A government that follows through on its commitment to First Nations education will, by and large, benefit the country as a whole."

Marshall says education is crucial to Canada's indigenous communities, and adds that a lot of indigenous youths are going to enter the workforce in the next few years.

"The rate of unemployment in the indigenous population is really high, and education is a good way to combat that issue," she says. "And, also, right now in Canada only eight percent of indigenous people hold a degree, compared to 23 percent of the non-indigenous population, so there are a number of reasons why education is really important."

Robinson says that she and her fellow indigenous students were really excited when the initial promises were made.



FILE PHOTO

Shayli Robinson of the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia.

"The amount that each band gets from the PSSSP is based on membership," she says. "I come from a really small band which has just over 200 members, so we hardly get any funding, and because of that my band has had to put really strict guidelines in place and not a lot of people can get it. A lot of other nations have had to do that, because they have a lot of members who want to do that, but they have such limited funding that they need to have a really tough application process in order to get it."

Marshall says that CFS-BC has been working on lobbying for the removal of the PSSSP cap for

a number of years, and says they were "really shocked" when the budget came out and didn't have the promise to remove the cap in it. She adds that CFS-BC will continue to work to attempt to make the federal government accountable for what they promised.

"We've been trying to reach out to coalition partners in BC to try and put pressure on the federal government," she says, "to make them follow through with their campaign promises."

*With files from Jayden Grieve, contributing writer*

policy

## Camosun College seeking student input for Education Policy



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

The Camosun College Student Society's Rachael Grant.

**PASCALE ARCHIBALD**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun is currently working on their Education Policy Renewal and Framework Initiative, which aims to address the current educational policy priorities of the college.

It's been approximately eight years since the college has had dedicated policy resources, something that Camosun Vice President of Education John Boraas says has been a result of budget cuts.

"We really haven't had much policy work at the college for many years," says Boraas. "So what we've wanted to do, really, is begin to build our entire policy structure, with the voice of students much more involved."

The initial stages of the initiative have involved consultations with various members of the college community—including students—to determine what policies stand out as high priority. The initiative

"I just hope to see this transfer to a really tangible benefit for Camosun students in how they navigate postsecondary."

**RACHAEL GRANT**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

is coinciding with some financial leeway, according to Boraas, which will allow the college to invest in resources as well as policy creation.

"It's timed with the ability for us to do some investments in different parts of the college," says Boraas. "Our policy priorities can be paired up with adding resources we need to do things differently, so I'm pretty excited."

Camosun College Student Society External Executive Rachael Grant is also a member of the Camosun College Policy and Standards

sub-committee and has been part of the consultation process. She hopes to see this initiative positively impact the student experience at Camosun.

"Throughout this whole process of consultation, we've come across all these issues that students face that haven't really been discussed as thoroughly as they could have been," says Grant. "All these really important issues are coming up because of this consultation, and some of it will be addressed in policy and some of it will be looking at practices, and I just hope to see this transfer to a really tangible benefit for Camosun students in how they navigate postsecondary."

The college says that a strategic role of policy and policy development is being able to put organizational values and principles into practice. To accomplish this, the student voice is essential, according to Boraas.

"I've always believed in going after the voice of students, but I have to admit it does get lost sometimes as we hurry to get things done," says Boraas. "So it's really a chance for us to do things based on what our values actually are, to build processes that invite the student voice in."

This initiative—which is ex-

pected to be ongoing over the next six or seven years—is geared toward creating an institution with a focus on the learning experience of students, according to Boraas.

"We really want all of this work to be done through the lens of student success and the student experience," he says. "So we are wanting to take a really progressive student-centric approach to how we look at all of our policies."

Grant says that this is a chance to make a difference in terms of student experience, and there is a hope that more students will participate in this active policy rewrite.

"The college is so eager to have student representation on the [Policy and Standards] sub-committee, and it is such an amazing opportunity; this doesn't happen often and has such amazing long-term impacts," says Grant. "Whether you realize it or not, we interface with policy all the time. When you were admitted into Camosun College, that was you interacting with policy, and it impacts every student, so it's a way that you can contribute for students now and for students years from now. I would highly recommend it if you have the time and the energy to put your two cents in because it's definitely worth it."

sports

## Camosun Chargers basketball teams look back on season



KEVIN LIGHT

Rachael Bakker of the Camosun Chargers women's basketball team hard at work during a game last season.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

The seasons are over for both the Camosun Chargers men's and women's basketball teams.

The Chargers men's basketball team finished off their season with an eighth-place national ranking at the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) national championships. Head coach Scot Cuachon says that the nature of the college's many two-year programs and struggles with the higher tuition international students pay are a difficulty for the Chargers when they're competing with teams at a national level.

"The most challenging thing we face is more on the recruiting side," says Cuachon. "And I think that's the program as a whole—you

know, collegially, us being generally a two-year school playing against a lot of five-year schools. We're lucky this year that we have guys in a lot of five-year programs, so we've got guys in business and accounting and things like that."

The Chargers men's team came away winless at the CCAA national championships; Cuachon says they have to, generally speaking, get better to be able to compete at the national level. Looking ahead, there is change afoot for the lineup of the team.

"We're losing certain guys, which has some positives and some negatives to it because it gives us a chance to upgrade in some divisions if we can. We need to shoot the ball a lot better; we need to be able to

score a little more. We were heavy on our defence this year, which is a big part of basketball, but it's only one part of it."

Cuachon says that bringing in more international students is key to success in the future.

"Not being able to offer international athletes a tuition at par is something that really, really sets us back. I was talking to a lot of coaches during a press conference and they rely heavily on their international students and being able to offer international students at par on a domestic tuition, which we can't. That always puts us behind the eight-ball a little bit, but we've got to find a way to get around it if we can."

Despite these struggles, Cuachon is quick to point out that

"We're looking to improve on our shooting, we're looking to improve on our speed. We want to play a faster game next year, so those are the things that we're looking for in our recruiting."

**CARL MACDONALD**  
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

team chemistry this year was great and that the player identification camp, which took place April 15 and 16, helped fill in some of the missing pieces on the court.

"There were a lot of great people who came out," he says, "and now it's just about evaluating if they can fill our needs or if we've got to keep searching elsewhere."

Meanwhile, the women's team finished in sixth place in the Pacific Western Athletic Association provincials this year. Head coach Carl Macdonald says he strives to play "a very up-tempo, quick-paced game" that is more on par with the national level than the provincial.

"We're looking to improve on our shooting, we're looking to improve on our speed," he says. "We want to play a faster game next year, so those are the things that we're looking for in our recruiting."

Macdonald says the challenge for him lies both in recruiting and on the floor. As Cuachon mentioned, Camosun is by and large a two-year school, which poses some challenges for Macdonald and his team that many other schools don't have to deal with.

"We have to develop our players into the equivalent of fourth- and fifth-year players in two or three years," says Macdonald.

The women's basketball team made it into the playoffs, but lost to the Capilano Blues 66-80. Despite the loss, the Chargers' Kathryn Candell was the provincial league leader of points per game, Kelly Young was second in the league in rebounding, and Rachael Bakker finished with the second-highest scoring percentage.

"We had a sixth-place team," says Macdonald, "yet we had three players that really stepped up and showed me quality."

Macdonald says he was pleased with the way the players grew and developed throughout the year.

"Team chemistry developed over the course of the year into a really strong, solid group of players," he says. "It was great in that aspect."

Despite not having all the results in the Chargers' favour, Macdonald says he will strive to play a game of transition basketball in the future to help get his team up to national-level standards.

"In our league, it's a slower, more methodical kind of a game, and so we're looking to change to being a game that's more in line with a game that's played in other provinces, like Ontario and Quebec."

It's back to the drawing board for Macdonald and his team, but he says that in retrospect he "feels great" about the season and how the players responded to his coaching style.

"As a coach I feel really great that we have players that can understand what we're trying to do and execute it, and despite all three of them [Candell, Bakker, and Young] facing the toughest opponents from the other teams, they were able, individually, to step up."

## know your profs

### Camosun English prof Kelly Pitman says education is about seeking understanding



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun's Kelly Pitman.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

*Know Your Profs* is an ongoing series of profiles on the instructors at Camosun College. Every issue we ask a different instructor at Camosun the same 10 questions in an attempt to get to know them a little better.

Do you have an instructor that you want to see interviewed in the paper? Maybe you want to know more about one of your teachers, but you're too busy, or shy, to ask? Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com and we'll add your instructor to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we talked to Camosun English prof Kelly Pitman about how much teachers think about students, her swearing habit, and the ups and downs of education as job training.

1. *What do you teach and how long have you been at Camosun?*  
English. 16 years.

2. *What do you personally get out of teaching?*

It engages both my brain and my heart, which is everything you could ask for in a job, and I believe in the importance of learning, so my work is meaningful to me.

3. *What's one thing you wish your students knew about you?*

Maybe they already know more than they want to. But, seriously, something students might be interested to know about me and other teachers is that we think about them even outside the classroom. We notice when they disappear. We feel sad for them when they

struggle. We feel thrilled when we see them come into their own. It wouldn't be unusual for me to be eating breakfast and thinking about how to help a particular student be more engaged or less discouraged.

4. *What's one thing you wish they didn't know about you?*

Well, I am prone to swearing, but I am working on that.

5. *What's the best thing that's happened to you as a teacher here?*

I love it when students tell me that they didn't think they'd like writing, or reading, or poetry, and it turns out they do. A more specific thing is that this spring I'm leading a field school course on Irish literature, and it finishes up in Ireland. I'm stoked about that.

6. *What's the worst thing that's happened to you as a teacher here?*  
Budget cuts.

7. *What do you see in the future of postsecondary education?*

I've been worried for a long time about the attitude of governments and, increasingly, citizens that education is about jobs and money; jobs that powerful industries have deemed important. Sure, everyone needs a job, and education plays a role in that. However, I feel the long-term personal and cultural benefits of learning are more important.

The premise of education is that a society full of open-minded, knowledgeable people who can really think can discover better ways to live. Education should be about seeking understanding, freely exchanging ideas, and learning to reason rigorously, so it disturbs me when I hear people speak of schools as merely serving the economy or individual material success.

But I have a lot of hope. I believe that people who come to school for the narrow purpose of job training can end up learning how to be thoughtful citizens. The world has problems, and teaching people to think deeply is our best chance of fixing them. I think students

should be asking themselves not just what school does for them and for business but also how they are going to use their learning to help to challenge the assumptions, lies, misperceptions, and cruelties that are too common in the world. To do that, they need to study a lot of things, not just what their future bosses want them to study.

8. *What do you do to relax on the weekends?*

I read. A lot. I walk in Garry Oak meadows or by the sea. I rummage through thrift stores. I hang out with my family.

9. *What is your favourite meal?*

How to choose? There are so many yummy things. I love Indian food, Italian food, Mexican food, Thai food. I am especially happy that someone came up with peanut sauce. That stuff is awesome.

10. *What's your biggest pet peeve?*

Unkindness.

# Policy changers and Getting to know the newly elected Camosun Co

Lobbying government to create change that impacts students; working with Camosun to change policy that impacts students; throwing parties that... impact students? Sure, sounds good: the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) does all of that and more, and they do it with the help of elected student representatives.

The CCSS recently held their 2016 student elections. Among those elected this round were student representatives to sit on the Camosun College Education Council and Board of Governors. Zachary Snow, Sukhdeep Kaur, and Emara Angus are now on the Education Council; Meagan Greentree is now representing students on the Board of Governors.

That's not to mention student reps in positions as varied as Financial Executive, Women's Director, and Students with Disabilities Director. And there's more; read on to get to know some of your recently elected CCSS student reps. Find out who likes the outdoors, who's returning to their position feeling more confident than ever, and who loves their sweatpants.



## Chris Marks – Financial Executive

### Where did you grow up?

Vancouver Island, mostly along the north island. Then I spent lots of time up the coast, commercial fishing on vessels. I've been in Victoria for about 10 years.

### What are you studying at Camosun and how long have you been here?

I've been here over six years, working on a business degree, mainly at Interurban but sometimes at Lansdowne.

### What was the motivation behind running in the student elections?

I've been running in the student elections since I started at school, and it's been good. It's been nice to learn about what the student society does and what the college does, and it's a good way to give back and just keep stuff going. When I'm involved in an experience, I like to immerse myself as much as possible.

### Do you have any ideas about what you would like to do in the Financial Executive position?

In the time I've known the student society we've been collecting money for a building fund, but we don't really have enough yet to do the building. Buildings are expensive and we would probably have to build two eventually at each campus, so we are nowhere near there yet, although we have over \$2 million in the fund. So the student society is in an extremely strong financial position, courtesy of 25 years or so of existence and careful management. I am also advocating giving back to students, because that is where that money and those resources came from. This year at Camfest we had some food trucks, which were a bit of an expense, but I think it went over well; I've always voted in favour of giving back to students as much as possible. Like I said, the student society is in a strong position, but they have maybe not spent as much money as they have taken in every year. That's good, but now we have hundreds of thousands of dollars, which sounds like a lot, but it's not in certain circumstances. Rather than socking it away, I'm more about just giving it back to students and programs.

### What do you do for fun?

I play with fire. Next week I am taking a flame effects workshop for working with liquid propane and stuff for making flame proofers and fire art. I'm also a licenced pyrotechnician.

## Sarah Lindsay – Interurban Executive

### Where did you grow up?

I was born in Scotland and then I moved around the States for five years or so; I've been in Victoria for almost 15 years.

### What are you studying at Camosun and how long have you been here?

I'm in the Bachelor of Business and Administration program for the accounting major. I officially started in the fall of 2013. I did a year of random courses before that and took an Accounting 110 course and I was like, "I love this, this is great, I will be an accountant!" Before that I did a welding certificate straight out of high school, and then I realized it was actually really dangerous.

### What was the motivation behind running in the student elections?

I've always wanted to be involved in my school community. I'm in the degree program; I'm going to be here for a while. I want to feel attached to my school, I'm not good enough to play on any of the sports teams, and I've always wanted to be involved with building community on campus.

### Do you have any ideas about what you would like to do in the Interurban Executive position?

I want to promote the clubs program, and I want to have on-campus events. I want to build more awareness around the student society because I feel like there is a disconnect between us and the general student body and people don't know we exist, or what services we have to

offer, and so I'm hoping to build a newsletter via email. I want there to be more awareness of what we have to offer so that people can take full advantage of what we provide.

### What do you do for fun?

I watch a lot of TV. Just lots of happy, comedy shows; nothing that exercises my brain. I also like to hang out with my friends, and I love my sweatpants.



## Rachael Grant – External Executive

### Where did you grow up?

I moved here when I was nine. I'm from Ontario, but I've mostly grown up here in Victoria. We moved around a lot; I was born in St. Catharines, but I lived in Ottawa, I lived in Hamilton, just all over the place in southern Ontario. When we were growing up my family just moved a lot, just within the same area; we are just nomadic for no reason. Victoria is mostly what I know. It can be a really common story; a lot of people here are from Ontario.

### What are you studying at Camosun and how long have you been here?

I'm studying in the Community, Family and Child Studies program. I started here at Camosun when I was still in high school, doing a dual credit course that was available; that was a really cool introduction to Camosun while still in high school. And I have been here on and off since fall of 2008, taking breaks now and then, doing part-time study, doing full-time study, depending on

health and work and other factors. So I've been around for a while, but not always as a constant.

### What was the motivation behind running in the student elections?

I think a big part of it is that I've done a term as External Executive before; there is a really steep learning curve involved in the position, and the last time I did the term it kind of felt like I was learning how to do it as I did it. The term was a year long. When I had two months left of the term, I felt like I was doing really well and knew what I needed to know to do the job to the best of my ability without being too stressed out about it or trying to learn skills as I was applying them. What I wanted to do was do a full term where I was just in my element and knew exactly what I was doing, so I'm really excited to do a term where I already have those skill sets developed.

### Do you have any ideas about what you would like to do in the External Executive position?

Oh, totally. A big part of the position is advocacy, so I would like to really look at how the communication between the general student body and the student society can be strengthened and use feedback from students as to what issues they see on campus and off and really applying that to tangible advocacy and campaign work; really strengthening that student connection and applying it to some quality campaign work. We hear a lot about students not knowing that the student society exists, or they don't know much about what they should access with the student society. We do need to look more thoroughly at how that gap could be connected a little better. So that's kind of a broad-scope intention for the upcoming term for me.

### What do you do for fun?

I'm a very artistic person, so anything that gives me a bit of an artistic outlet I definitely love. Right now I paint a lot and I love photography, I love to write. Just anything artsy, I just go for it. I love creating, so that is kind of what I do for fun right now.

## Melanie Winter – Women's Director

### Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Brookfield, Newfoundland. I came to Victoria in 2013 to work as a dental assistant; once I got here and realized what a college and university community it was, I started feeling like I was missing out on the experience. My dentist at the time said, "You would be good in business," so I went to school for business.

### What are you studying at Camosun and how long have you been here?

I've been here since January 2013, and I'm doing my Bachelor of Business Administration in human resources.

### What was the motivation behind running in the student elections?

I took a huge interest in mental health and then I realized that the school... I don't want to say that they lacked it, but I feel there wasn't lots of awareness. I wanted to get involved in the student society to get more student involvement, engagement, and awareness. Then I saw there was a Women's Director, and I thought that's a powerful position to be a part of. I want to be a part of community and school culture, and to be able to bring awareness.

### Do you have any ideas about what you would like to do in the Women's Director position?

I would really like to like get more involvement from students. We don't have an on-campus culture the way I think we could, because we don't have residences. It would be nice to really



# government lobbyists College Student Society representatives

Story by Pascale Archibald, student editor

Student photos by Jill Westby/Nexus  
Background Camosun photo by Greg Pratt/Nexus

get people involved in trying new things for their well-being.

**What do you do for fun?**

I like going out and exploring the island, whether it's hiking or day trips. I work for a non-profit and so I get to go out into the community and be involved in all these different activities. I like that because my job is a lot of serious stuff but also a lot of play.



**Kimberly Banfield – Students with Disabilities Director**

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up here in Victoria; I've lived here my whole life.

**What are you studying at Camosun and how long have you been here?**

This is my third year at Camosun, if you don't count all the semesters I had to drop because I was sick; I'm in the Applied Chemistry and Biotechnology program.

**What was the motivation behind running in the student elections?**

I've been on the board for about 18 months. I was always involved in a lot of school clubs in high school, middle school, and, apparently, elementary school—I just found a bunch of certificates in leadership skills from fourth grade. So I like being

involved and I like putting on the events; I like just trying to make the school more fun for other students. Because we have such a small school, sometimes it's hard to get those events going and bring attention to issues, but we've actually made such a big impact on student life over the last 18 months; it's pretty incredible.

**Do you have any ideas about what you would like to do in the Students with Disabilities position?**

The Disability Resource Centre is opening a new place, so that will be fun and hopefully bring awareness that mental health is important. Not a lot of students recognize when they are falling apart, or breaking down, or when they are crying in the bathroom. I mean, go to the Nursing [department] floor—any time around exams there's always someone crying, and people need to recognize that that is where taking care of your mental health comes in. Also, to try to stop the stigma around disabilities—I hate that word—is something really near and dear to my heart. They are not disabilities; they are different abilities, diverse abilities, and extra challenges. I think it's really important to give students information so if they do find themselves in that position, they can get the help they need. A surprising number of students don't know that we have counsellors at the school—like, a shocking number. It breaks my heart because I see friends that are close to me going through school and not making it because they can't cope emotionally or otherwise, so they just drop out, and then they go to see a counsellor that they are paying. Meanwhile, at Camosun, they had no idea that they had access to counsellors that whole time, and by then it was too late.

**What do you do for fun?**

I love kayaking, I used to horseback ride, and I love painting and singing.



**Anthony Pica – Pride Director**

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in a town called Orillia in Ontario. It's just north of Barrie, and it's a small town; when I was growing up there, there were about 30,000 people. It was this really cute town. Me and my whole family moved to British Columbia about four years ago, then I moved to Vancouver Island.

**What are you studying at Camosun and how long have you been here?**

I've been at Camosun since September [2015], and I'm in the Associate of Science degree program. I took pre-med because I want to pursue it to be a doctor but who knows where that's going to go; it could change at any time, really. I'm going to UBC after I'm done at Camosun; I'm going to be taking a program called Natural Resource Conservation, and my major is going to be in global perspectives. I really want to save the world.

**What was the motivation behind running in the student elections?**

I thought it would be great to get involved with the school, get to know what's going on, and have a say in the matter. I thought it would just be a great idea to get to know people and for people to know who I am. I thought it would just be good community building.

**Do you have any ideas about what you would like to do in the Pride Director position?**

To be honest, I don't. What I thought about it was basically just helping those in need or giving comfort to those who may be just coming out, or maybe giving them different perspectives. I've thought of the position more of like a support team, and I am really into that. My mom is a spiritual counsellor, so I kind of took after her with the whole counselling thing. I am really good at listening—it's basically my best trait—but I'm also good at giving advice; at least I think I am. I think the ideas will come as I get more comfortable with the position and see what I'm allowed to do and what I'm not allowed to do.

**What do you do for fun?**

Right now, I'm camping; that is what I do for fun. I also love to hike and bike, and kayaking is probably my favourite water sport. I go to the gym, usually—if it's not exam week—every day, Monday through Friday. I love being in shape and fit. And hanging out with friends. And, honestly, I do love school, so I love being in school as well. School is really my grounding spot on Earth.



**Shauna Nedeler – Sustainability Director**

**Where did you grow up?**

I've lived here all my life.

**What are you studying at Camosun and how long have you been here?**

I just started this year, and I am doing the pre-medicine program; it's a mix of biology, chemistry, that kind of thing.

**What was the motivation behind running in the student elections?**

Through high school I became really into the environment, and I've always had a pretty environmental family; I've always had to bike to school and that kind of thing. So I just wanted to have an opportunity to make a change and have some sort of position where I could organize events for the school and make people aware and participate in helping the environment.

**Do you have any ideas about what you would like to do in the Sustainability Director position?**

I would like to start doing beach clean-ups. It's amazing how much junk you find at the beach. I would also like to do a weekly bake sale for a non-profit. I participated in the Ready, Set, Solve program this year, so I would love to do that again. It was quite a challenge, but it was definitely a rewarding experience I think a lot of people would enjoy. Maybe try to put on a monthly event; maybe try to have a documentary club about some sort of environmental cause, sort of like a book club, but for environmental stuff. We could have a guest speaker come in for some topic around the environment, sort of a fun get-together, a chat. Give everyone a chance to show their opinions.

**What do you do for fun?**

I'm a gym person. I'm always at the Camosun gym; people kind of know me from that. Cooking, baking. I always enjoy a good book or a TV show. I'm getting back into *Game of Thrones*, but I'm trying not to get too addicted because I have spring classes and I don't want to be watching TV every night.



**Wyatt Matthew – Lansdowne Director**

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Victoria in Gordon Head.

**What are you studying at Camosun and how long have you been here?**

I am a University Transfer student, but all of my focus has been in business. This past year I have been studying business and general studies.

**What was the motivation behind running in the student elections?**

I wanted to be able to have a voice within the school board and to make sure that I did in fact bring any kind of positive change that I possibly could to the student society.

**Do you have any ideas about what you would like to do in the Lansdowne Director position?**

The first thing that I primarily wanted to take a look at is the autonomy that the student society clubs have. I am a big part of Camosun's

DECA business club right now, and I've noticed that that club—along with, very possibly, all the other ones—could use more of a voice within the student society board.

**What do you do for fun?**

I love anything to do with the outdoors, so I love climbing, biking, swimming, hiking, travelling... anything to do with the outdoors, I am absolutely in love with.

To find out more about your student society, head to [camosunstudent.org](http://camosunstudent.org).

event

## Musical revue and multimedia show explores life on the west coast



PETER POKORNY

The *Flotsam and Jetsam* crew getting ready to sing the songs of BC.

**JAYDEN GRIEVE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

An event happening in town hopes to resonate in the hearts of anyone who loves British Columbia. *Flotsam and Jetsam: Life on the West Coast*, a musical revue and multimedia show produced by The Other Guys Theatre Company, explores the history of BC's coast.

"We've been dealing with history and theatre, and creating theatre out of history for the last 12 years with the company," says co-writer Ross Desprez. "[This time] we're looking at the history of BC. We decided to just focus on the coastal area, so we started writing songs to try and turn the elements of BC history into folklore."

"There are romantic things, there's tragedy, and there's beautiful things. It's diving into local history in a really cool way."

**COLLEEN ECCLESTON**  
*FLOTSAM AND JETSAM: LIFE ON THE WEST COAST*

The show features live instruments and newly created music set to the backdrop of a collage of historical imagery. Desprez says he considers the piece to be a happy story but promises both happy and sad moments. He says that he thinks it will be fun for everyone.

"There's some sing-along elements to it," says Desprez. "We like to try and get the audience involved. Folk music should be available and accessible to the audience, and with a good folk song you want to sing along to the chorus and memorize it."

The team has put the entire performance together from scratch, and Desprez says that despite himself and co-writer Tobin Stokes being the main writing forces, the whole show is very much a big collaboration.

"I learned a long time ago, in this business, to surround yourself with talented people and trust them to do a lot of the work," says Desprez. "Tobin and I write the music, but I have to say a lot of the orchestrations of this music come directly from the musicians that we've brought together."

The cast and crew are made up of a variety of talented people who Desprez has worked with often. One of his performers, Colleen Eccleston, has lived in BC for 32 years but has been all across the country.

"It's magnificent," says Eccleston of BC. "I've lived all across Canada, and it is by far the most magnificent place; the nature of it, the variety of trees, the ocean, the colours, the birds, just the natural beauty of it is astonishing."

Eccleston grew up partially in Newfoundland, and she says that what she loves about that province is all of the wonderful stories and local folklore. This gives her a slightly different perspective on BC.

"There's a real history to the place," says Eccleston about Newfoundland. "You grow up with a sense of that, and it's really reflected in the music and the stories you hear. As a songwriter it's weird because there isn't that in BC. There is in native culture, but not so much in folk culture."

Eccleston, who's worked with Desprez and Stokes twice before, says that this particular performance will stay keenly focused on BC's coast.

"This is more local stories; it doesn't just focus on mining or focus on fishing," says Eccleston. "There are romantic things, there's tragedy, and there's beautiful things. It's diving into local history in a really cool way."

The show's subject matter covers many things—some fictional, some not. There's reference to historical protests, fisheries, immigrant history, and many other pieces of BC, with a strong environmental message fused throughout.

"I think everybody will enjoy it," says Eccleston. "The connection to the place will work for everybody. I can't think of anyone who wouldn't enjoy it in some aspect. You're not going to hear anything like it anywhere else."

Desprez says that their main goal is to present BC history in a way that makes it interesting and memorable, and, at the same time, to explore folk music and create some new local legends.

"The most positive thing about doing these shows is that the public responds to them," says Desprez. "People recognize themselves and their families. I think audiences really like to recognize their own history and see it presented and given relevance."

*Flotsam and Jetsam: Life on the West Coast*  
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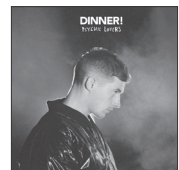
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New Music Revue



Dinner  
*Psychic Lover*  
(Captured Tracks)  
3.5/5

*Psychic Lover* is the debut album from Danish producer and vocalist Anders Rhedin. The album includes 10 pop songs, and it is successful in what it sets out to do.

The backing tracks of the album are clear; they do not have a lot of noise and chaos, and they mix very effectively with the lyrics. When the music and lyrics are perfectly combined together, the "psychic lovers" theme is better shown.

However, the artist's name is Dinner, so, as an experiment, I tried to listen to the album while eating my dinner. The result?

Well, I cannot deny that these are good songs for listening to in the evening, and even in the morning (Rhedin has said he gets inspiration in the morning).

Unfortunately, at dinnertime, listening to these songs is very terrible. When I was eating, I listened to the album, and I almost choked on my meal, because sometimes the tunes suddenly change or disappear. It's not a good experience at dinnertime.

-HE WEI



review

# Anti-Flag brings spirit of punk to Victoria



MEGAN THOMPSON

Pennsylvania's Anti-Flag mixes their politics with their punk just right, as their recent show in town proved.

**JAKE WYATT**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Welcome to the goddamn punk rock show,” sang Anti-Flag bassist Chris #2 during the bridge of their song “Fabled World” at their April 29 show at Victoria’s Distrikt nightclub. And it made sense: Anti-Flag is a band from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania that embodies the

very essence of punk. The band members sport mohawks, play punk with pummeling power chords, and have lyrics with a progressive political message; when Anti-Flag took the stage, they would have been right at home beside The Clash or the Sex Pistols.

What makes Anti-Flag so memorable compared to other punk

groups is how they deliver their music. While many of their hardcore contemporaries focus on being as heavy and loud as possible, and their pop-punk brethren are often overly saccharine, Anti-Flag knows how to hit just the right spot when it comes to making quality punk rock. Like a well-made cocktail, Anti-Flag’s sweet melodies and catchy riffs

While many of their hardcore contemporaries focus on being as heavy and loud as possible, and their pop-punk brethren are often overly saccharine, Anti-Flag know how to hit just the right spot when it comes to making quality punk rock.

make the bitterness of their message go down easier.

Unfortunately, the bass-heavy setup typically used for club music didn’t do any favours for the intricate guitar work found in many of the band’s songs. The relentless wall of sound walloping from the amplifiers drowned out much of what was being played on the higher end of the register. Still, this was used to great effect on some songs, such as the hammering guitar riffs and bass lines on a cover of Fugazi’s “Waiting Room.”

Joining Anti-Flag for the show were Portland punks Lee Corey

Oswald, who will be touring with them for the rest of their dates in western Canada, and locals No Liars, who rocked their hearts out as concertgoers trickled into the venue. One of the openers provided the second-funniest part of the concert, when Lee Corey Oswald drummer Corey Ciresi pranced about the stage in his underwear searching for a sundress to wear.

The most amusing part of the night was the chiding a local moshers received from Anti-Flag’s Chris #2 after hitting his head on the wall. The bassist complimented the fan on his exuberance, but added, “I’m not questioning whether you’re a good or bad moshpitter, just that when you hit your head against the wall, you should probably say to yourself, ‘I’m not gonna do that.’”

Highlighting the politics behind Anti-Flag’s music was the speech of an Amnesty International activist, who was seeking signatures for a petition to end child labour. He was holed up in a corner of the venue for the rest of the evening, and he certainly saw a fair share of visitors.

Anti-Flag capped off the show with “Drink, Drank, Punk,” which the band played in the pit, surrounded by fans. It drove home the message the band had been stressing throughout the evening: despite all the evil in the world, when it comes to music, “We’re all a family of punk rockers.”



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By Jayden Grieve



springtime word search

The sunshine and allergies are here, not to mention those intense condensed spring courses. We took 20 springtime words and made this issue's word search out of them. Happy hunting!  
 Find the words on the left in the word search on the right, and bring it in to our office (Richmond House 201) to win a prize!

- BLOOMING
- BUGS
- BUTTERFLY
- CATERPILLAR
- DAYLIGHT
- DUCKLING
- FERTILIZER
- FLOWERS
- GARDEN
- HUMIDITY
- LAWNMOWER
- MOSQUITO
- NATURE
- RAINBOW
- RHODODENDRON
- SUNSHINE
- TURTLE
- WATER
- WHEELBARROW
- WILDLIFE

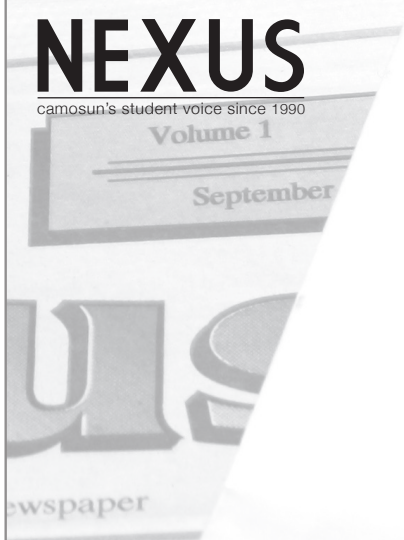
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V	A	W	N	T	L	J	X	Y	T	Z	U	K	I	C

contest  
 Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

You've been getting good at this. Real good. So we upped the difficulty level this time. Let's see if you can find this copy of the last issue of *Nexus*, which we hid somewhere at Camosun College. The first person to find this copy of the paper and bring it in to our office (201 Richmond House, Lansdowne campus) wins themselves a free prize! We'll give you one hint: this one is hidden somewhere on the Lansdowne campus. Happy hunting!



**HELP BUILD OUR TEAM**

**NEXUS NEEDS STUDENT VOLUNTEERS!**  
 SWING BY OUR OFFICE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED. WE'RE AT RICHMOND HOUSE 201, LANSDOWNE CAMPUS.

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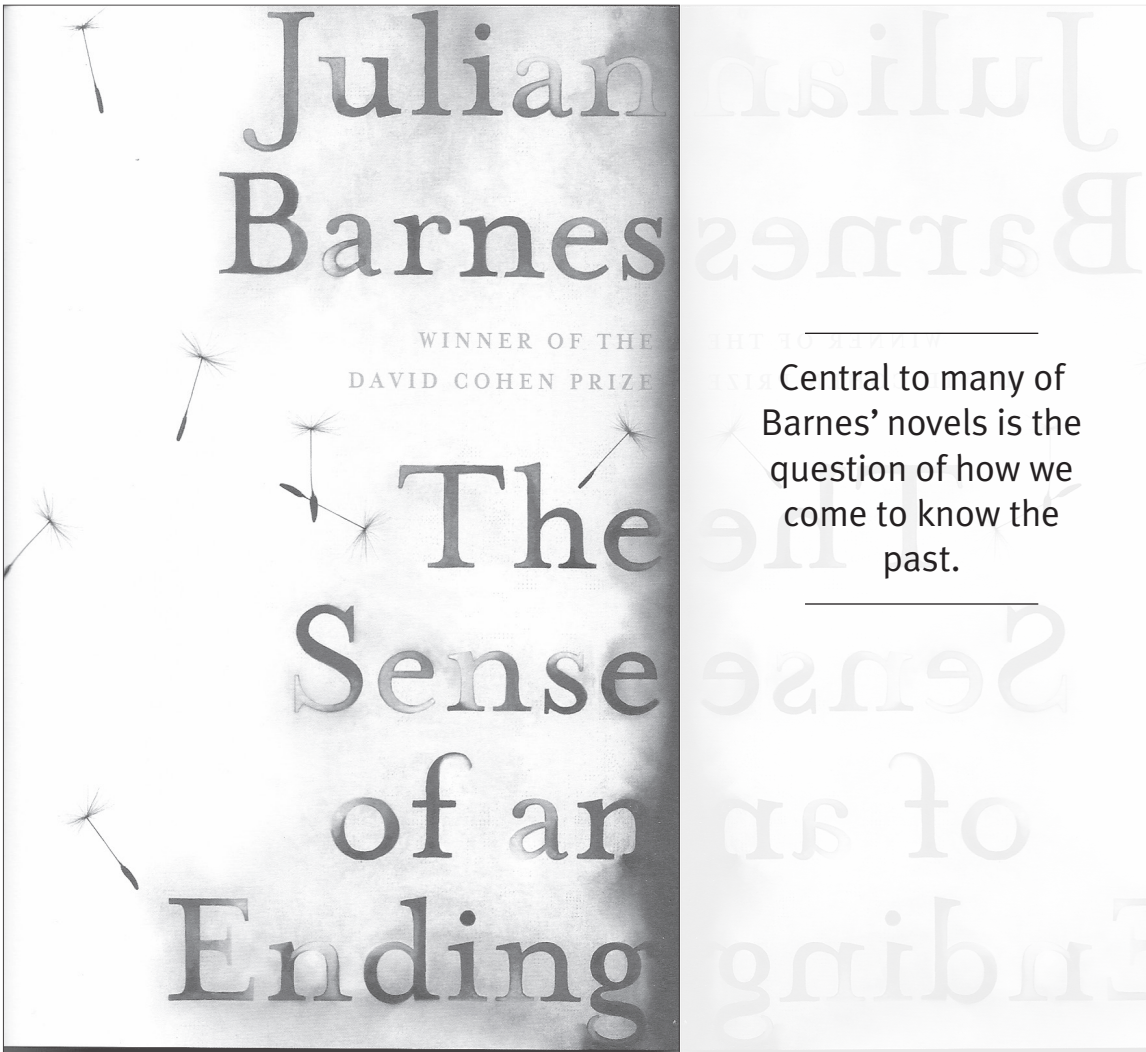
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Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

# The truths and lies of Julian Barnes



Central to many of Barnes' novels is the question of how we come to know the past.

Julian Barnes is an English novelist known for his 1989 novel *A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters*. Barnes studied at Oxford University, but because of mediocre grades he ended up writing word definitions for the *Oxford English Dictionary* instead of pursuing academia. He spent three years “in the letters c to g,” researching the histories of words. After several years he became a journalist and then a novelist.

Central to many of Barnes' novels is the question of how we come to know the past. The title of *A History* is a play on Sir Walter Raleigh's *The History of the World*, but Barnes takes a distinctively subjective, non-linear, and ironic approach to the “serious” subject

of history. A wild cast of characters, from woodworms to astronauts, narrates very subjective episodes that dance about in time.

But Barnes is not only having fun at the expense of objectivity, the assumed purview of both journalism and history. “To be honest,” he said, “I think I tell less truth when I write journalism than when I write fiction... when you are writing journalism your task is to simplify the world and render it comprehensible in one reading; whereas when you are writing fiction your task is to reflect the fullest complications of the world.”

In 2011 Barnes won the Man Booker Prize for his novel *The Sense of an Ending*, which deals with the very complicated process of sorting

out the truth of our own pasts from the stories that we tell ourselves and others. Early on in the novel the narrator quips to his high-school history teacher, “History is the lies of the victors.” His teacher replies, “It is also the self-delusions of the defeated.”

Imaginative literature, Barnes argued, is “the best way of telling the truth; it's a process of producing grand, beautiful, well-ordered lies that tell more truth than any assemblage of facts.” And this includes the truths and lies we tell about ourselves.

**Julian Barnes must-read:**  
*The Sense of an Ending*  
(Lansdowne library code: PR 6052 A6657 S45)



Of the Land - local indigenous voices

by Johnathan Gabriel Michael Underwood

# Our land's first peoples

Hello, hello; we have lots to say, many stories to tell, and much of our wisdom to pass your way. Too much to tell for our first issue. We are a small group of aboriginal writers who want to share some of our culture and give voices to our people who want to speak.

It is nice to meet you.

Over the next while we will be in this little space every issue of *Nexus*, sharing knowledge and anything we feel needs to be shared. We will transmit knowledge from our knowledge keepers, elders, and respected voices, for we would like to deliver our truths and share words with many.

We would like to take this section in the paper and use it to tell stories, share the words of our elders, or start a dialogue. We can talk about anything, really, for thousands and thousands, and thousands and thousands, of years we have lived here, and passed on the

knowledge in those many years, so we might colour outside the lines a bit. We can colour outside those lines if we want; the lines ain't got nothin' on this HB2.

We, the writers, feel like we should create a dialogue and interact more with and between communities. We want to transmit knowledge and share about the communities we have here, the communities that have been here for centuries. We are the WSANEC people.

Hey, maybe we can even tell jokes. Okay, here is a fantastic one.

Knock knock...

Who's there?

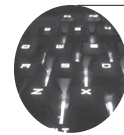
Police.

Police who?

Police let us in, it's cold outside.

Did that one leave you speechless? I am not good at knock-knock jokes.

End of transmission.



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

# The fall of World of Warcraft

One of the most famous video games of all time, *World of Warcraft*, has stood at the top of the MMO charts for nearly 10 years. However, it has recently become one of the most boring and tedious games to play.

With outdated graphics, controls, and combat, and with the developers adding in new expansions too often, *WoW* has managed to slowly lose its player base. At the height of its empire, *WoW* had an active 12 million monthly subscribers. Since then, numbers have dropped to a nine-year low at around 5.5 million.

One of the many things causing *WoW* to lose players is its pay model. Being a monthly subscription game, it still tops the charts for subscription-based games by a landslide. But many other games have either changed or been released in other models, such as free-to-play

or buy-to-play. These games, like *Guild Wars 2*, have a much larger player base.

One of the last hopes for developer Blizzard is their new expansion, *World of Warcraft: Legion*. *Legion* is set to come out later this year and features a new class, new weapons that can be changed into more powerful weapons, and a new map.

In addition, it's safe to assume that Blizzard will be raising the level cap for players, since they do that every expansion.

If this expansion fails, it will mark the downfall of a giant in the video game industry. If this is the case, the death of *WoW* will make room for other games to grow in its place. The fate of the remaining 5.5 million subscribers and one of the world's most famous games now rests in the hands and code of the developers.



To See or Not to See

by Finlay Pogue

# The Lobster best served with butter and perseverance

*The Lobster*  
3/5

“Now, the fact that you'll turn into an animal if you fail to fall in love with somebody during your stay [at the hotel] is not something that should upset you, or get you down.”

These are words spoken by the hotel manager to David (played by Colin Farrell) in *The Lobster* (2016), and they showcase the dark and pointed humour that gives this film its spark and helps it along through what could have potentially been a very dreary two hours.

“A wolf and a penguin could never live together; neither could a camel and a hippopotamus. That would be absurd,” David is told, showing that *The Lobster* is at its best when it is being sardonically

outrageous; a wolf and a penguin living together is no more absurd than turning all people without life partners into wolves and penguins.

What I liked most about *The Lobster* was its matter-of-fact way of addressing the absurdities of its own plot; it could have taken the insipidly self-serious route that many recent dystopian films—namely, the *Divergent* and *Maze Runner* movies—have gone.

However, there are confounding elements of *The Lobster* that cause the film to drag and take away from the statement director Yorgos Lanthimos is trying to make.

For example, in the first half of the movie, there's a clear and common goal for the people in the hotel: find somebody to love. But during the second half, when the

film moves away from the hotel, I found myself wondering where it was going and why; the characters lose the driving force they had in the beginning and instead spend their time doing inexplicable things for inexplicable reasons.

Coupled with this is the problem of the deliberately stilted dialogue; characters sometimes wait a full five seconds before responding to an innocent question in the movie. Why is this? What are they thinking? Or, rather, what was Lanthimos thinking?

I had similar problems with *Blade Runner* (1982) and *Artificial Intelligence* (2001), where many of the main characters seemed to have merely humanoid ways of expressing their emotions. Both of those films succeeded, though, because



COURTESY OF MONGREL MEDIA

**The Lobster delivers a message through dark humour.**

many of the main characters were, in fact, humanoids—an excuse that *The Lobster* cannot use.

Worse still, *The Lobster*'s core concepts are specifically human oriented: how human relations are forged; how strange a thing love is, and that so much emphasis is put on it; how society pressures people into falling in love. These elements are all addressed in the film, but

meaningful conclusions are forgone when its characters do not act like human beings.

If you want a film that delivers a dark chuckle every now and then and has intriguing, if thinly veiled, opinions about the societal construct of love, then this movie is for you. If you go to the movies to see people act like actual people, steer clear.

## what's going on

by pascale archibald

UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 23**Water, pigment, and paper is all it takes**

Well, perhaps a little talent is also required in order to have a collection displayed in the Greater Victoria Art Gallery. *Water + Pigment + Paper*, co-curated by Michelle Jacques and Nicole Stanbridge, is on display until May 23. Visit [aggv.ca](http://aggv.ca) for more information.

UNTIL TUESDAY, MAY 24**Alumni art**

Camosun alumni Samantha Radons and Kazmear A. Johnston have their art on display at Open Space's annual Vertical Gallery installations this month. See [openspace.ca](http://openspace.ca) for more details.

UNTIL THURSDAY, JUNE 23**Water is neat, 'cause of the way it is**

In honour of World Water Day on March 22, the Victoria Film Festival is holding their latest mini-festival. The Wild Water Festival will focus on extreme water sports, travel, and the environment. Submissions for the festival are open until June 23; there is no charge to submit. For more information or to submit a film, visit [filmfreeway.com](http://filmfreeway.com) or [victoriafilmfestival.com](http://victoriafilmfestival.com).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11 UNTIL SUNDAY, JUNE 26**Paintings of old Japan**

It was only in the 18th century that the literati style of Chinese Southern School painting came to be studied; now you can study it too at the

*Nanga: Literati Painting in Old Japan* exhibit. See [aggv.ca](http://aggv.ca) for more info.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 UNTIL SATURDAY, MAY 28**One fest to rule them all**

Intrepid Theatre's Uno Fest is North America's longest-running festival of solo experimental and contemporary performances. As a bonus, the opening-night performance at every show at Intrepid Theatre and Metro Studio is pay-what-you-can for tickets at the door. To find out about the performances this year, and for information on ticket and pass prices, visit [intrepidtheatre.com](http://intrepidtheatre.com).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18**The empire strikes back**

Come spend a Wednesday night at Sugar with Young Empires and Blajk on May 18. Advance tickets are \$15; doors are at 8 pm. More information on this event can be found at [sugar-nightclub.ca](http://sugar-nightclub.ca).

FRIDAY, MAY 20 AND SATURDAY, MAY 21**If the shoe fits**

Ballet Victoria presents the performance that established their artistic voice in Canada. The tale of Cinderella is told through the group's choreography, designs, costumes, and score. The show is playing at the Royal Theatre on Friday at 7:30 pm and at 2 pm on Saturday. Tickets start at \$30. For more information, visit [rmts.bc.ca](http://rmts.bc.ca).

FRIDAY, MAY 27**AfriCa Fest Victoria**

The Victoria African & Caribbean



PHOTO PROVIDED

Toronto's Young Empires are bringing their rock to town for a show at Sugar on Wednesday, May 18.

Cultural Society is celebrating the cultural diversity of Africa through food, music, and dance. The dinner is scheduled from 6:30 pm until 11:30 pm at the Vic West Community Centre. For more information or to purchase tickets to this event, visit [africafestdinner.eventbrite.ca](http://africafestdinner.eventbrite.ca).

SATURDAY, JUNE 4**Transmissions from the other side**

Stop in to see the season opening of *Trans-Pacific Transmission: Video Art Across the Pacific*. The exhibit fea-

tures the work of artists from around the Pacific Rim; it looks at the history of the trans-Pacific exchange. For more information on the display and for gallery hours, head over to [aggv.ca](http://aggv.ca).

MONDAY, JUNE 6**Local women get awarded**

The third annual Unlimited Woman Awards, held at the Victoria Conference Centre, will celebrate women in the local community. To view a full list of awards, or to nominate someone for an award,

head on over to [younlmited.com/unlimited-woman-awards](http://younlmited.com/unlimited-woman-awards).

THURSDAY, JUNE 9**Drum fun**

Head down to Fairfield United Church, at the corner of Moss and Fairfield, for a free drumming workshop. And don't be intimidated if you're not exactly Neil Peart on the bongos; beginners are welcome. Drums are provided, but feel free to bring your own. The event runs from 7 pm to 8:30 pm; space is limited, so reserve at [drumvictoria.com](http://drumvictoria.com).

# NEXUS

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No experience necessary!

If you're interested in volunteering at an award-winning student newspaper, stop by our offices at Richmond House 201 on the Lansdowne campus, or contact us by email ([editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com)) or phone (250-370-3591).