

ARE REGION DIVIDED

Should Greater Victoria amalgamate?

page 6



Camosun ESL cuts update: page 3



Nexus gets athletic: page 5



Spoken word energizes: page 12

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "This map won't know what hit it."

COVER IMAGE:
Amalgamation by Greg Pratt/Nexus
Camosun ESL cuts: Isabela Sasaki/Nexus
Camosun exercise clinic: Photo provided
Spoken word fest: David Bukach

editor's letter

Jigsaw quandaries

The topic of amalgamation in the Capital Regional District is a surprisingly touchy one. If you have an opinion about whether the 13 municipalities that we live in and around should combine into one (or, as some people suggest, two or three), you probably have a strong opinion about it. If you don't have an opinion, you probably have no opinion about it whatsoever.

It's like the blue bridge; for those involved, it's such a hot topic that it brings up lots of questions to those watching the debate from the outside. Contributing writer Matthew Helliwell tackles the amalgamation debate here in this issue's feature story. Turn to page 6 to see both sides of this thorny issue, and to find out what it all means for you, the students of today.

That's not the only big issue we're looking at this time around: turn to page 3 to read an update on how the Camosun College Student Society has been keeping students informed about and involved with the recent ESL funding cuts here at Camosun.

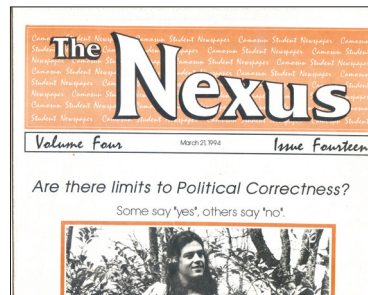
Need to decompress after all that? Can't blame ya; head back to our arts section to see what local Eastern European-tinged rockers Tower of Dudes are up to (page 13) and find out what's happening at this year's Spoken Word Festival (page 12).

There's much more to dive into here, including a story on naked bungy jumping for a cause (page 4) and Camosun's new Athletic and Exercise Therapy Clinic (page 5), so take the plunge into our pages and enjoy!

Greg Pratt, editor-in-chief
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

20 years ago in *Nexus*



Correction... 20 years later: Our March 21, 1994 issue had a familiar face in our *Speak Up* column: local politico Rob Fleming. But under his mug is the name "Rob Spector." Thinking we may have uncovered a political scandal, we got in touch with Fleming to find out if indeed he ever had a hush-hush name change. Nope: "Perhaps a typo," says Fleming. So, consider this a correction from 20 years ago. Our apologies, Rob.

Enough with the exclamation marks! As anyone who has written for *Nexus* can attest, we're not huge on exclamation marks in journalism. I groaned out loud when I turned to page 7 in this

issue and saw the following two headlines: "Business division on the button!" and "Permaaware not so permanent!" Enough!

Macramé?: This issue's cover story and many of the other stories in it dealt with political correctness. A wide variety of opinion was given, some very politically correct, some... not so politically correct. But the most quotable was from our *Student Opinion* column, where writer Kait Burgan suggests, inexplicably, that people who read too much into things while being politically correct "must have better things to do with their time. If not, maybe they should take up macramé."

open space

ESL cuts privatization of English training



ISABELA SASAKI/NEXUS

People at a recent rally protesting against ESL cuts.

ANDY CHEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If anyone thinks the recent ESL cuts are the result of budget worries, they're sadly mistaken. The problem of English language training and how it should be delivered in British Columbia is a decade-long debate.

Taken from a sociological standpoint, a critical constructionist believes that social problems are constructed, conceived, and presented to the public to reflect the interests of society's elite more than the mainstream at the expense of those with the least power.

Using the critical constructionist approach, I would argue that the construction of this problem is two-pronged.

For starters, it diverts public attention away from the fact that government is underfunding and "privatizing" public postsecondary by putting the responsibility of immigrant language training on to non-profit and community organizations with fewer resources to deliver on those promises. Secondly, it casts immigrants as job takers while being freeloaders on the taxpayer dollar.

As stated in the Ministry of Advanced Education's Adult Basic Education (ABE) articulation handbook, British Columbia has had a "rich history" of delivering ABE courses and programming since the 1960s. In the public postsecondary system, it's been delivered by 18 institutions across BC in the form of Adult Upgrading, Employment Training, Adult Special Education

(ASE), and even English as a Second Language (ESL).

As a way to counteract the growing concerns of rising tuition, the provincial government instituted a tuition freeze in the 1990s and, later, a two-percent tuition cap following a couple of years of deregulated tuition fees, where institutions such as Camosun College were able to selectively raise tuition on certain programs.

Adult Basic Education to this day is defined as tuition-free. During a time of tuition caps and declining budgets, institutions looked to increasing international student enrolment. International student fees are largely unregulated and were readily seen as a way to generate revenues in a time of flat funding. Camosun College restructured its ESL into English Language Development. College preparatory ESL courses (English 10, 11, and 12) that were formerly adult upgrading became tuitioned. This gave the institution further legitimacy to raise tuition fees on international students for English language training.

From a critical constructionist perspective, society's elite appears to have successfully branded ESL students as primarily wealthy and transient immigrants who seek to reap their hard-earned taxpayer benefits. It stigmatizes a vital portion of our emerging population as "temporary workers" and further entrenches the view that public postsecondary is a privilege for only those who can afford it.

Something on your mind? Send *Open Space* submissions (up to 400 words) to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. Include your student number. Thanks!

SPEAK UP

Do you think that the municipalities that make up Greater Victoria should amalgamate?

BY RACHEL SOVKA



DYLAN MOORE

"I think that each community has its own unique set of needs, so having a blanket organization that would have the same rules in all the municipalities maybe wouldn't be best for the specific needs of each community."



ALEXANDRA MANUEL

"I don't like the idea of having things too far away from the local situation. It's like one world government—I don't like that idea. It's too far away, too disconnected, you get desensitized from the local issues."



RENÉE AUDY

"I enjoy the fact that we have 13 different parades in the summer, and I think that more opinions are probably a really good thing for Victoria. I would vote to keep them as they are."



MEGAN GOULD

"I don't think we should because I don't think there's going to be equal opportunity for the people in Esquimalt as the people in downtown. All the things that the municipalities should be doing together we are already doing with the CRD."



JUSTIN TJART

"It takes the power away from the municipalities and gives it to Victoria and Saanich. Different communities have different interests and they won't get heard by the bigger communities; it's economics of scale."



OLIVER MCKEE-REID

"Amalgamation will just result in skewing proportional representation of the populous in different areas and de-localize problem solving, effectively reducing democracy."

programs

Camosun gets transitional funding for ESL training

“[The transitional funding is] positive news, it allows for the appropriate planning, it allows for some level of proactivity as opposed to being reactive to it, and gives us some time to see what options are available.”

JOAN YATES
CAMOSUN COLLEGE



ISABELA SASAKI/NEXUS

“This transitional funding is good, but it’s created a lot of distraction and the attack on ESL and postsecondary education is still happening.”

SIMKA MARSHALL
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY



ROZ SULYMA/NEXUS

The Camosun College Student Society held a protest (left) and a “town hall” meeting (right) about the recent ESL cuts.

GREG PRATT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Camosun College will be receiving \$1.43 million in one-time transitional funding for ESL training, the provincial government announced on Wednesday, February 19. The funding, part of a transition plan the Ministry of Advanced Education has developed with the federal government and public postsecondary institutions, comes after the news of funding cuts for domestic ESL students (see nexusnewspaper.com for last issue’s story about the ESL cuts). The money, which is part of funding going to 17 postsecondary institutions across BC, will fund the college’s ESL training through the next year.

“That is very important for us strategically, and is very very important for us in terms of determining the future of ESL,” says Camosun vice-president of communications Joan Yates. “So we feel that the provincial government has come through in terms of transition money that is very much needed and appreciated right now.”

Yates says that the college is currently “putting in place a number of scenarios” in regards to what will happen after this one-time funding money runs out; until then, she says that this transition funding is a positive thing.

“It’s good news, it’s positive news, it allows for the appropriate planning, it allows for some level of proactivity as opposed to being reactive to it, and gives us some time to see what options are available,” she says.

CCSS external executive Simka Marshall says that while it’s good to get some funding to help the current students finish off this year of their ESL training, she stresses that it is still just one-time funding and might be taking away from the larger issues at hand.

“With this transitional funding, it’s good, but it’s created a lot of distraction and the attack on ESL and postsecondary education is still happening,” says Marshall. “There’s still an issue here: we still have to fight for the reversal of this cut.”

The CCSS recently held two events to help students better understand and voice their concerns about the recent cuts to Camosun’s ESL program.

On Thursday, February 20, they held a “town hall” meeting at the Interurban campus. Over 100 people—including students, community members, and Camosun faculty—attended the standing-room-only event, according to Marshall.

“It was a lot more successful than we anticipated,” says Marshall, who explains the event was a forum for the students to share their stories and ask any questions they had.

The CCSS invited local MLAs Lana Popham and Rob Fleming and advanced education opposition critic and New Democrat MLA David Eby to the event, all of whom showed up. They also invited minister of advanced education Amrik Virk and Premier Christy Clark; Clark sent her regrets to the CCSS, explaining she couldn’t attend because she was travelling that day. Virk did not reply to the invitation.

“That was a nice gesture to see that we actually got a response,” says Marshall. “The minister never responded, so that was disappointing.”

(Aspokesperson for the minister of advanced education told *Nexus* that they can find no record of this invitation being sent.)

So many students wanted to talk at the meeting that the event had to stop before everyone had a chance to say what they wanted to.

“There was a lot of talk about wanting to follow the Canadian dream and getting here and finding out this program is discontinued, and how heartbreaking it is,” says Marshall. “So it was really emotional, and a lot of anger as well.”

Students spoke for 40 minutes and the politicians had five minutes to respond to the students’ concerns. They all said they’d take their stories back to the Legislature. “It was incredibly successful,” says Marshall. “It was a very powerful event.”

The next day, Friday, February 21, the CCSS held a rally outside the

Ministry of Advanced Education office at 835 Humboldt Street. Around 150 people showed up, including a lot of the same ESL students from Thursday, but this time they brought their families, says Marshall.

“That was a really powerful message, to show how this program really affects these students’ lives, and they depend on it to enter the workforce and get a job so they can support their families,” she says. “Also, a lot of people are really worried about what the future is going to be of ESL, and that’s something that was expressed, like, ‘What’s going to happen to my children when they’re growing up and need this training?’”

As well, some Camosun students and CCSS members held a sit-in in the lobby of the Ministry of Advanced Education office at 8:30 that morning to draw more attention to the situation. “They just wanted to take some direct action to show how serious this is,” says Marshall, who adds that the CCSS will be organizing more events like this in the months ahead.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chargers bring home medal

The Chargers women’s volleyball team have finished the provincial championships with a bronze medal, the first-ever medal in the 20-year history of the women’s volleyball program. The men’s volleyball team finished fourth provincially, with a narrow loss in the bronze-medal match. The women’s basketball team also lost in their bronze medal match while the men’s basketball team lost in the quarter-finals. In other Chargers news, players on both the men’s and women’s basketball teams have

been awarded PACWEST All-Star and All-Star Rookie Team selections. In women’s basketball, third-year shooting guard Aija Salvador has been selected as a PACWEST 1st Team All-Star. Third-year point guard Ella Goldschmid and fourth-year wing/post Elyse Matthews were selected as PACWEST 2nd Team All Stars. Emma Cunningham was named to the PACWEST All-Rookie team. Over in men’s basketball, third-year player Trevor Scheurmann made the PACWEST 1st All-Star team.

Bus pass-up videos to raise awareness

Local students and BC Transit bus drivers are releasing videos in hopes of influencing budget planners to allocate more funds to peak-hour transit service. The problem has been ongoing for years, causing students to be late for classes as full buses pass by crowded stops. The UVic Student Society is also calling on students to send the message to the Victoria Transit Commissioner to demand action. The videos are available on maketransitwork.com.

New lanes for buses, bikes

Construction has begun on Douglas Street to add priority lanes for buses and cyclists. The dedicated lanes are intended to shorten transit travel times during the busy rush hours downtown by converting existing street parking into priority lanes. The new lane from Fisgard to Hillside is expected to be ready by the end of May, with a second phase from Hillside to Tolmie starting later this year.

Bricks of debt

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations has created a

website, wallofdebt.ca, to raise awareness of student debt. The group sees the problem as something that affects the economy as well as Canadian families. The site’s “wall of debt” amassed over \$6 billion in student posts in the first two days. Head to the site to add your own debt to the wall.

See nexusnewspaper.com for more, including news on food scraps with nowhere to go and the latest in artificial muscles!

-SAMANTHA PETTIFER

Got a news tip or a story that we should be covering? Let us know!
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

awareness

Bungy jump event strips away clothes, stigma

“I was terrified of propelling myself off of a 150-foot ledge attached to a string, but I knew the fear and pain I was experiencing was nothing near as painful and scary and schizophrenia.”

STEPHANIE LEKEI
FEATURED BUNGY JUMPER

RACHAEL GRANT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The thought of bungy jumping is a terrifying prospect for lots of people; imagine doing it naked and it gets even scarier. But, at least this time, it's all for a good cause: the seventh annual Naked Bungy Jump for the Victoria branch of the BC Schizophrenia Society is sure to be a powerful weekend.

This two-day event will give people of all backgrounds an op-

portunity to bare it all in the name of the struggle those who experience mental illness face, as well as encourage a dialogue about stigma and the importance of community involvement.

“This event is a great way for a message of courage and inspiration to reach the greater community,” says executive director of the Victoria branch of the BC Schizophrenia Society Hazel Meredith.

Stephanie Lekei is a featured jumper at this year's event, and she has an important story behind why she is returning to jump after participating last year. Lekei's brother struggled with schizophrenia and died by suicide at the age of 23. He will no doubt be in Lekei's mind as she takes a meaningful leap in his memory. And while she was scared to jump last year, she did it anyway, because she knew that the fear of bungy jumping pales compared to the fear of having schizophrenia.

“I was terrified of propelling myself off of a 150-foot ledge attached to a string,” says Lekei about last year's dive, “but I knew the fear and pain I was experiencing was nothing near as painful and scary and schizophrenia.”

And while holding a naked bungy jump event might sound like a gimmick, it's far from it: Lekei

says that when she was up there last year and everyone was naked at the same time, it wasn't strange to be naked anymore. And, she says, that's exactly how it should be about mental illness.

“If we all talked about it, it wouldn't be weird,” she says about mental illness. “No taboos or insecurities, it would just be okay. It is okay; too many people just don't know it yet. Being naked is a vulnerable position, and flinging yourself off a bridge is moderately risky and that is where that fear and uneasiness should stay. No one should ever have to fight terror over telling someone about their struggles for fear of being shunned.”

The funds raised at the event will benefit people in need of support who face mental illness as an everyday reality.

“1 in 100 people have schizophrenia,” says Meredith, who adds that the event will have 200 jumpers, “and recovery is possible, but it takes a whole community.”

Naked Bungy Jump
Saturday, March 8 and
Sunday, March 9
WildPlay Element Parks,
Nanaimo
bccsvictoria.ca



PHOTO PROVIDED

Featured jumper Stephanie Lekei getting ready at last year's event.

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health

Nexus goes to Camosun's new Athletic and Exercise Therapy Clinic

SUZY BEAUCHAMP
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If it seems like students are looking a bit healthier at the Lansdowne campus, it's because Camosun's Athletic and Exercise Therapy Clinic is now open.

The clinic opened in January in room 201 in the Wilna Thomas Building and is an extension of the athletic and exercise therapy program. All the care and treatment provided is done by students of the program, supervised by those with more experience.

The clinic provides prevention and care of musculoskeletal issues as a result of physical injuries, as well as other health issues related to physical activity... or lack thereof.

Peter Rehor, dean of Camosun's Centre for Sport Exercise Education and creator of the therapy clinic, says that one of the clinic's many purposes is to introduce and make the community aware of the opportunities available at Camosun, as

well as promote physical activity and wellness. It also provides services not available anywhere else in BC. The work done in the clinic is both hands on and technology based.

"We provide cutting-edge assessment," he says, adding that he brought some of the clinic's technology over from the USA.

The clinic (which is open to everyone; go to camosun.ca/aetclinic for more info) is perfect for people who have health issues that aren't severe enough to get attention from doctors.

Another purpose of the clinic is to provide freedom and independence for seniors by providing them with the tools necessary for living a healthy lifestyle. They also help people with chronic diseases and health issues such as high cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity, as well as general injuries resulting from physical activity.

"We have it all," says Rehor.

A large percentage of the people

who come into the clinic are looking for short-term treatment. However, they also do long-term work with people, in programs ranging anywhere from one month to six months.

"95 percent of people come in for one thing, and come back for treatment," says Rehor.

One of the things that makes the clinic unique is that it is based on behavioural psychology. All programs and treatments are individualized and comprehensive based on each client's personality and needs. Rehor says that he can take a blood test and have results almost instantaneously, with just a finger prick. The reason for this is that they do all their tests on site.

"Another one of the benefits is that all the tests are non-invasive and the results are immediate," he says, emphasizing the speed with which the clinic works. "We can put in an order for orthopaedic shoes, send it to Virginia and get the shoes

back at 10am the next day."

All of this sounds great, but without some first-hand experience it doesn't mean much. So I went to the clinic to see what it all means.

I did the body composition test, and all I had to do was stand on a machine: easy enough. I found out how much of my body weight was fat, lean muscle, and water, and whether I was in the normal range for people of my age and height and whether or not each side of my body was balanced in strength and weight. And it was all in a matter of minutes; not bad.

So what did I find out? My body weight was a little on the low side of normal; my body fat and lean muscle were also within normal range, although I could do with gaining some more muscle and losing a bit of fat.

(Looks like it's time for me to start hitting the gym!)

What's next for the clinic? Rehor wants to get students more



PHOTO PROVIDED

The writer getting tested.

involved, and students working with students is one of the ways he is hoping to do that. "My dream," he says, "is for the students to call it their clinic."

camosun

Know Your Profs: Camosun's Catherine Mack



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES
Camosun's Catherine Mack

GREG PRATT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Know Your Profs is an ongoing series of articles helping you get to know the instructors at Camosun College a bit better. Every issue we ask a different instructor the same 10 questions.

Got someone you want to see interviewed? Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com and we'll get on it.

This time around we caught up with business instructor Catherine Mack and talked about watching students grow, embarrassing

dog hair, and winging it for a sick colleague.

1: What do you teach and how long have you been a teacher at Camosun?

I teach business courses, particularly entrepreneurship, business planning, business communications, and retail merchandising. I've been a teacher at Camosun for almost 14 years.

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

I really enjoy the opportunity to be involved with students' learning. Students constantly amaze me with their energy and their desire to learn and apply their knowledge to improve not only their own lives, but also the community they are part of. It is so rewarding to watch a student progress through his or her program gaining confidence as well as knowledge and skills.

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

I wish my students knew as a student I was always very nervous before writing an exam. It didn't matter how prepared I was, how well I might have done on the previous exam, or how many "writing exam preparation" seminars I participated in.

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

I wish they didn't know I let my dog sit on the seats in my car. I gave a ride to a few students one day and there was blond dog hair all over my black cloth seats; it was such a mess. I was so embarrassed!

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

When a student is the successful candidate for a job I provided the contact or the recommendation for; or a student tells me years after graduating that they are still using the skills from my class every day at work; or a student has a great co-op

or field school experience and they tell me all about it; or when a student says, "Oh, I get it now," when they have been struggling with some financial statement or such. And it's always a wonderful moment when I get to meet a student's very proud family at grad.

6: What's the worst thing that's happened to you as a teacher here?

Having a colleague suddenly become gravely ill in the middle of a term. While being very concerned for him and his family, another colleague and I stepped in to his classes and had to be strong for his very upset students, while delivering a meaningful experience in courses we had never taught. At the time we also had our own regular classes.

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

Students will need current knowledge and skills in a rapidly changing world. They will continue to need to have the ability to

be critical thinkers and excellent communicators. An intercultural perspective will be extremely important. Students will be life-long learners and postsecondary education will need to offer easy entry back in for further studies. There will need to be more innovative delivery models for programs.

8: What do you do to relax on the weekends?

I spend time with family and friends and get outside with my dog.

9: What's your favourite meal?
Homemade pasta with fresh tomatoes, a little olive oil, and basil.

10: What's your biggest pet peeve?

I find it difficult to understand colleagues who think that classes should be scheduled when they want to teach rather than when it is the most convenient for students to attend.

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Like pieces of a puzzle

Would amalgamation benefit or hinder Victoria and its surrounding municipalities?



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

**Depends
on
who
you
ask.**

**By Matthew Helliwell,
contributing writer**

If you're looking to get emotions flying in Victoria, I suggest you say this one word: amalgamation.

Amalgamating would mean that the 13 municipalities that make up Greater Victoria would merge to form one, two, or three units. It's far from a new idea: municipal amalgamation has been a topic of discussion in this city since the early 1900s. The conversation is so old that most Greater Victoria residents were convinced it was never going to happen. But recently, something changed that mindset.

Check the letters to the editor in any local news source and you'll see: Greater Victoria residents are using the A-word again. What changed is the creation of the Capital Region Municipal Amalgamation Society, commonly known as Amalgamation Yes. Amalgamation Yes is a group of Greater Victoria residents and policymakers who

lobbied Victoria City Council to have the following question placed on the municipal ballot in November: "Are you in favour of reducing the number of municipalities in the Capital Regional District through amalgamation?"

A "no" vote on that question means putting the amalgamation issue to bed... for now. A "yes" vote, though, would mean requesting the province of British Columbia do a study in Greater Victoria to determine the feasibility of amalgamation and the best possible options for municipal restructuring.

It sounds like a lot of work. On the other hand, so does administering 360,000 people with 91 mayors and councillors. Assuming your taps flow, your garbage disappears on garbage day, and you have access to well-kept parks, you might be thinking, "Who cares?"

The answer might surprise you. We decided to catch up with a few voices on both sides of the argument to try to get to the bottom of what amalgamation in Greater Victoria really means.

Amalgamation always

Some Victorians have made it their life's work to see that we lose some of our municipalities and follow suit with Canadian cities like Calgary, Halifax, and Toronto, all of which have amalgamation in their past. Amalgamation supporters come from all walks of life. In Amalgamation Yes, there are retired police officers, teachers, sales representatives, and even a former deputy minister. It's no surprise why Amalgamation Yes spokesman John Vickers calls his own contingent of pro-amalgamators a "cross-section of the community."

Vickers himself is no exception. Originally from the Maritimes, Vickers moved to Victoria with his home alarm business. Now retired from the security business, Vickers dedicates his time and efforts to the community. His might not be a name you recognize, but if you've been around Victoria in the last few summers you have likely seen the fruits of his efforts. Vickers coordinates both the Chalk Art Festival and the Buskers' Festival, created recently but now staples of Victorian summers. When he finds time away from organizing community events, Vickers is a leading voice for Amalgamation Yes.

For Vickers, Amalgamation Yes' mission is democracy. "We don't even have a position on 13 or three [municipalities]," he says. "We just want a community dialogue."

Not surprisingly, Vickers and his crew are very pro-amalgamation, but that isn't their immediate mission, he says. Vickers and Amalgamation Yes are counting on support for

amalgamation to be high enough to warrant a study on its feasibility. "CFAX has done about eight [surveys]. They've all been about 70 or 72 percent in favour of amalgamation. We thought, 'Let's get a non-binding question on the municipal ballot.'"

Referendum or no, there is much more to amalgamation than a simple joining of municipalities. Vickers claims that amalgamation is primarily about efficiency.

"At the end of the day, when you lay out police, fire, municipal planning, transportation... there is a strong opinion out there that we a very over-governed region," he says.

While certainly not everyone in Victoria believes that, enough do to produce 70 percent in those aforementioned polls. In the City of Victoria, Marianne Alto represents those voices.

Alto, a City of Victoria councillor, deals every day with issues at the municipal level. She says, at least in the "core municipalities" of Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, and Esquimalt, amalgamation just makes sense. "Where I think there is potential for benefit is in planning and service delivery," she says.

On the planning note, she points to the Shelbourne corridor by Hillside Mall and the Lansdowne campus. "In the Victoria section, south of North Dairy, it's zoned for a higher density use. When it becomes Saanich, it's different zoning. In the core municipalities, you can see many examples where we would have better planning."

Pro-amalgamators say that an amalgamated community would make it much easier to approve developments, since there would be only one, two, or three zoning regulations to follow, as opposed to the current 13. Alto also says that

an amalgamated community would be better at delivery emergency services.

"When you start talking about fire, police, ambulance, it just makes sense," she says, referencing recent tragedies where local residents were "bounced from one municipality to another just to get through to 911." The absorption of some municipalities into others would mean that police forces could patrol greater areas and not rely on neighbouring departments.

Alto thinks it's important to dispel a few myths surrounding the amalgamation question. First off, amalgamation does not necessarily mean all 13 municipalities coming together.

"I don't think that makes sense, and I don't think many people think that makes sense. You're still going to have multiple municipalities, just bigger," she says.

Alto was largely responsible for the non-binding amalgamation referendum being placed on November's municipal ballot. Even though she favours amalgamation, Alto says that is not the point. Rather than trying to push an agenda, Alto says that the referendum question will determine how much time and money is spent on pursuing amalgamation. "I don't care what the answer is," she says. "For me it is a matter of informing future priorities."

Alto stresses that the Victoria municipality is not pursuing any action toward amalgamation before the question is posed in November. There's just no harm in adding the question to the ballot, she says. "I just think it's really important to ask the question. If it changes or not, it's going to affect you. You should have a voice at that table."

2014

Elections

On October March 18th, 19th and 20th

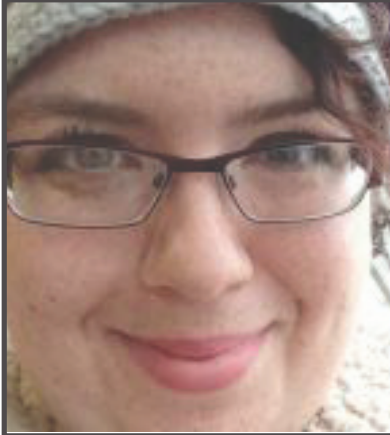
Make **YOUR** Choice

Voting stations open from

9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Interurban Campus Centre 2nd floor Lansdowne in the Fisher Foyer

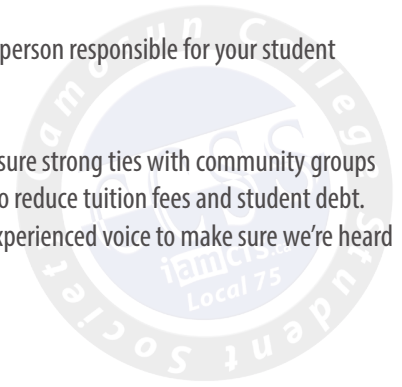
Rachael Grant
External Executive



My name is Rachael Grant and I'm in the running to be your External Executive. The External Executive is the person responsible for your student society's public and partnership outreach. This means media communications and coalition building.

My election pledge to you is simple. I'll use my nearly two years of experience with the student society to ensure strong ties with community groups and advocate for students' rights. Here at Camosun, we're a part of ongoing efforts to pressure government to reduce tuition fees and student debt. We're also advocating for increased government funding to end pass-ups and improve transit. We need an experienced voice to make sure we're heard loud and clear. I will be your voice.

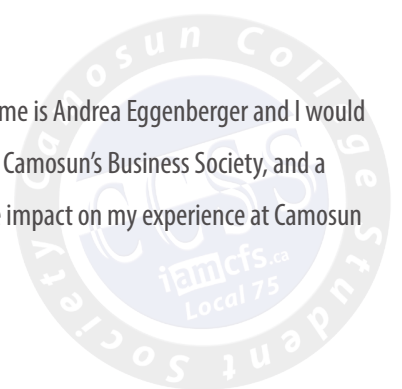
Thank you for your consideration, and in advance, thank you for voting.



Andrea Eggenberger
Interurban Executive



Even with its wealth of students, the Interurban campus has trouble forming a community of its own. My name is Andrea Eggenberger and I would like to build a stronger community on campus as your Interurban Executive. I am an active member of DECA, Camosun's Business Society, and a contributing writer and Board member of Nexus Newspaper. Getting involved with student clubs had a huge impact on my experience at Camosun College, and on my academic success. I would love the opportunity to share this experience with you.

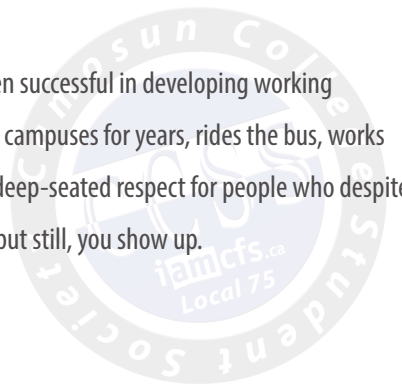


Chris Marks
Interurban Executive



I am asking for your vote. As a mature student, I bring a wealth of experience to the table and have been successful in developing working relations with the college at the faculty and executive level. As a student who has been attending both campuses for years, rides the bus, works part-time and lives on a budget, lives with a disability, I understand some of your challenges. I have a deep-seated respect for people who despite their obstacles and challenges show up every day in pursuit of an education. Success is "inconvenient" but still, you show up.

If you get a chance to vote, please vote for Chris Marks.



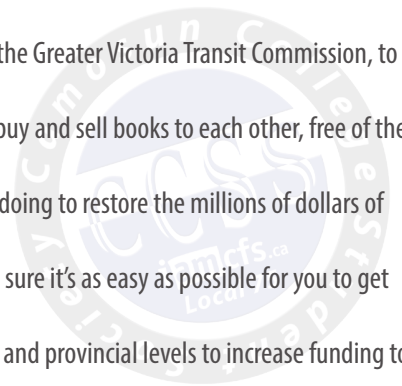
Morgan Purvis-Bellamo
Interurban Executive



The Interurban Executive exists to support and get useful results for students at Interurban. And that's what I intend to do.

- We need better transit services at Interurban, especially in the evenings. I'll be working with the Greater Victoria Transit Commission, to increase the amount of bus service at our campus.
- Textbooks are obscenely expensive. I will improve the student run bookswap, so that we can buy and sell books to each other, free of the overhead charged by the bookstore.
- ESL Students should NOT have their program cut in May. I will continue the work I have been doing to restore the millions of dollars of funding that the BC Liberals have removed. Immigrants need access to English Education!
- Student's need to have easy access to information about our health and dental plan. I'll make sure it's as easy as possible for you to get care quickly and without up front cost
- I will remain a steadfast partner in the ongoing campaigns pressuring government at federal and provincial levels to increase funding to post secondary students.

The Student Society Fees we pay should work for us. Let's keep our student society focused, efficient, and oriented on students' real needs.



Jacqueline Christie
Lansdowne Executive



I will endeavor to represent students needs by aiding communication between students and staff, by facilitating access to resources and by helping create new ones. I believe that by respecting old paradigms and by also allowing new shifts to form through collaborative efforts we can support everyone and their passions that come through Camosun- especially in conjunction with the wider community. My community engagement includes volunteering for The British Red Cross and Amnesty International, working with children having learning difficulties and being part of Camosun College Student Society, as a director, over these previous two semesters. Through experience, I've learned that making mistakes and listening to our own voices of wisdom is essential in order to guide each other through doors of change or positive sustainability- in doing so, we can propel the world into humanitarian and environmental growth. After overcoming challenges, I recognize it is fundamental to love your community, yourself and each other to grow in the best way possible. I want to be with you on this journey embracing education and fulfilling personal aspirations. We can strengthen our voices together for equality in love, faith and respect; so that more beaming smiles are readily born in a world we are all proud to call home.

Jordan Sandwith
Finance Executive



Hi there!

My name is Jordan Sandwith and I'm running for the Finance Executive position. I've been a member of the CCSS board for three years and am now looking ahead to completing a final year as Finance Executive.

One of the most difficult functions of the board is making financial decisions. My ambition is to provide the board of directors with a clear understanding of current financial trends so the board can make more informed decisions. Thanks for taking the time to read my platform

Joshua Goodwill
First Nations Director



My name is Josh Goodwill, I come from the Nuuchahnulth territories of the Tseshaht peoples. I would be an honour and privilege to represent the Indigenous students at Camosun College. I am in the Indigenous Studies program finishing up my final year. I want to address current Indigenous issues and bring them to light while hosting a handful of events to include Indigenous students. Klecko Klecko

Annabelle Pickering
Women's Director



My name is Annabelle Pickering and I'm currently studying Archaeology at Camosun. After moving to this beautiful city, I have come to realize how much I have fallen in love with it. And what better way to show my love than to make contributions to this community. As an active volunteer in several organizations, I am no stranger to sharing my time to help others.

I plan to aid the women of this school and of the community to the best of my abilities. I will ensure that a safe space is provided where women can feel at ease and secured. As an avid fan of cooking, I would like to have days where women can have access to home cooked meals and delicious baked goods. To ensure needs are met, I intend to create a suggestion box to give individuals the option to voice their thoughts, opinions, suggestions or questions on paper. Finally, I would like to host events such as social gatherings and workshops to bring us closer together to help support and empower one another. If elected, I will be proud and deeply honoured to be your Women's Director.

There will be a referendum as a part of this election:

Whereas the Fitness centre on the Lansdowne Campus is open more hours than the Fitness Centre on the Interurban Campus;

Are you in favour of raising the Recreation Levy, currently \$4.20/month, by 26 cents per month in order to fund increased service hours at the Interurban Campus Fitness Centre?



Andy Chen
Students with Disabilities Director



My name is Andy Chen and I am a Camosun graduate in both Mental Health & Addictions as well as Human Resources Management. According to the Low Income Cut-off (LICO) measure of poverty, 9% of all Canadians (3.5 million) are poor. In a period of austerity and declining “real” wages, more of us turn to public post-secondary for relief and the promise of better employment. However, college budget shortfalls of 2 million dollars per year are pushing students to the edge as more and more programs and services are withdrawn further hindering their success in public post-secondary. As Students with (dis)Abilities Director and Board of Governors, I will advocate for more funding and resources toward counselling and disability support services. I will promote existing services and help develop further pathways of entry for our economically challenged students. I will campaign to restore funding to public post-secondary and keep the “community” in our community colleges. Lastly, I will use my previous External Executive experience to help raise awareness of accessibility issues on all campuses and sites of Camosun College. Thank-you for your vote!

Xin Yi (Vicky) Qu
International Director



Xin Yi (Vicky) Qu International Director Platform Statement
你好! Bonjour! Hello Camosun!

I am Vicky Qu, an office management student and an international student from China, Shanghai. I have been as a Campus Director in CCSS since May of 2013. Also, I have been one of Peer Connections Program Coordinators since September of 2013. I have a lot of experience of planning and holding events on campus. If re-elected into office CCSS, I will focus primarily on improving the students’ life at Campus, bring students more convenience and benefit, especially for the International students. Also, I could be a good bridge between International and domestic students. I will do my best to improve students’ lives at Camosun College. Thank you for reading!
!!!Vote for me!!! !!Vicky Qu!!

Andrea Lemus
International Director



Hi, my name is Andrea Lemus, but I am better known as Andi. The reason I became the International Student Director was because I enjoy working with people and I saw the many possibilities of continuing to build a strong cross cultural community. A community were connections between International Students and our local Canadian students could continue to evolve through events, clubs, meet ups and outings. During my time as the International Director, I worked with the International Department and Peer Connections, supporting, organizing and being involved in cultural events, providing information and connecting individuals to resources, organizing informative workshops, language clubs, and outings. I have worked to connect people and to facilitate their engagement on campus, in our community, and to our beautiful environment. I truly respect and celebrate diversity and I believe that being culturally informed is a great asset for all of us. If re-elected as the International Director I will continue my commitment to work hard in delivering a positive service that results in unforgettable student experience. I am looking forward to another great year – thank you for your vote!

Nathan Veenhof
Pride Director



My name is Nathan Veenhof and I am currently a second year Business Administration student. Above all, I am interested in listening, learning, and doing what I can to help. As Pride Director, I will focus on providing support and safe spaces on both campuses as well as building awareness for all things LGBTQ.

Tatianna French
Pride Director



My name is Tatianna French and I would be honoured to be Pride Director for Camosun to celebrate my second year here as a student. I am an outgoing, positive, and a maternal individual who wishes to continue the reputation of having a safe and fun environment for the LGBTQ2 community on and off campus. My goals as Pride Director include: providing support whenever it is needed, hosting safe, fun and creative events for the students and the rest of the community, as well as taking suggestions from those of you that have any, and doing my best to make them happen. I have had a blast at past events thrown by Pride and I have really enjoyed volunteering for set-up etc. It has been wonderful getting to know other students and people in the community and I look forward to meeting more of you. If chosen as Pride Director, I can promise I will be present and supportive of all needs encompassing the community, as I find this a vital trait in directing a strong community for both LGBTQ2 and their allies.

Tsz-Yin (Morticia) Chan
Lansdowne Director



I am Morticia Chan.

Barack H. Obama once said “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek”. So I want to be the one who make the changes, to make a better school life for students who are studying in Camosun College. That’s why I want to run for the Lansdowne Director in the Student Society. In performing the task, leadership and confidence are indispensable. Over the past seven years, I have been working as a student body executive in my secondary school in Hong Kong; being the Lansdowne Director in the winter semester also gave me a chance to deepen my knowledge on the college as well as the situation of students. All of these equipped me into self-motivation, persistence, patience and determination, and most importantly, leadership and confidence. Striving the best for the students has always been a passion of mine. If I am elected as the Lansdowne Director, I am sure I will devote all my passion and efforts to help the students.

Vote for me, vote for your future. Thank You.

Stephanie Hurst
Sustainability Director



Sup! I am Stephanie Hurst, a first year Environmental Technology Student and a member of Camosun Student for Environmental Awareness (CSEA). I want to become your new Sustainability Director of Camosun College to help further promote sustainability and environmental awareness within our college community. I hope to improve the college's already extensive recycling program to include soft plastics and foil lined plastics. Promoting the practical use of the already existing garden bed, by encouraging the growth of kale and other hardy foods. I want to ensure that our student body is aware and educated about environmental issues happening on the global level, and encourage activism towards issues they are passionate about. Finally, creating a more conducive environment for native wild life species by installing mason bee hives, and wild bird feeders.

Niamh O'Reilly
Sustainability Director



Hey my name is Niamh O'Reilly and I am running for CCSS Sustainability Director! This is my first year at Camosun Lansdowne studying Environmental Technology. As a member of the CSEA club I will be participating in 'Sustainability Week' and other events to promote environmental awareness. Our planet Earth provides us with the resources essential for day to day life. I hope to inspire others to be conscious of this and defend our rights to a healthy environment. If elected to student council my goal is see a more sustainable Camosun College. This would involve local action in the community, organic farming, and green technology such as solar energy. Always remember: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

Adrian Maclaren
Lansdowne Director



My name is Adrian Maclaren and I'm running for Lansdowne Director of the Camosun College Student Society. As a 2nd year at Camosun completing 1 year of business and now in the University Transfer Program, I represent a large portion of Camosun students. Most students go to Camosun as a stepping stone to further their education and hopefully gain valuable skills. I want to represent these and all students at Camosun. During the past 2 years I have attended meetings and several events held by CCSS and in doing so have learned about the roles and responsibilities of the CCSS Lansdowne directors. I feel I can bring both enthusiasm and experience to this position and will strongly contribute to the CCSS leadership. I do not take lightly to the duty appointed to the Director position and will make sure that the students voices are heard. I am interested in School Pride/Spirit, making College life fun, Exercise, healthier/ sustainable food options, Camosun sports, and making learning easier and more excisable to students. I am very passionate, motivated, and eager to get involved.

STUDENT SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**AT 2PM ON
FRIDAY MARCH 21
LANSDOWNE CAMPUS
YOUNG 310
FREE FOOD**

- I CALL TO ORDER
 - 1) Call to order by member of the Executive
- II INTRODUCTION TO CCSS MEETING RULES OF ORDER
 - 1) Introduction to rules of order, the chair shall provide a brief introduction to the rules of order.
- III APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
 - 1) The April 5, 2013
- V ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 - 1) Adoption of Mar 31, 2013 Audited financial statement
 - 2) Adoption of current updated unaudited financial statements
 - 3) Appointment of the Auditor, Susan Ryan
- VI SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND THE EXISTING BYLAWS
 - 1) Special Resolutions to Amend the Bylaws
5. Honoraria
 - a. Executives and Constituency Directors shall receive an honourarium as determined by special resolution of Council. The rate of pay for executive members shall be equal to the hourly rate of the work study program at Camosun College minimum wage in the British Columbia;
 - b. The Council may, by special resolution, establish or vary honoraria for Campus Directors
- 2) Repeal and Replace the Bylaws with the consolidated version currently used by the Society.
- VII REPORTS
 - 1) Election Report
 - 2) Reports from the Executive members
 - 3) Walk Safer Report
 - 4) Ombudsperson report
 - 5) CFS Report
 - 6) Women's Centre Report
 - 7) PRIDE Report
 - 8) SWD Report
 - 9) FNSA Report
 - 10) International Constituency Report
 - 11) Other Members of the Board of Directors
- VIII QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR
- IX ADJOURNMENT



Continued from page 6

Amalgamation No

One of amalgamation's opponents is Camosun political science instructor Mona Brash. To Brash, it doesn't matter how loudly pro-amalgamators shout "inefficiency." It might be the case that we could be running our region more efficiently, but she feels Amalgamation Yes is going about things the wrong way.

Brash points to the BC legislation that says the provincial government can no longer force municipalities to amalgamate. Under the legislation, "municipalities who are interested in amalgamating... are the ones who are to initiate it." Brash rejects what she calls Amalgamation Yes' "top-down" approach to amalgamation, since their question would prompt a provincial study and, potentially, a provincially mandated amalgamation.

Also, the question posed by Amalgamation Yes is problematic, Brash says. "It doesn't say anything. Which municipalities? North Saanich and Central Saanich? Victoria and Oak Bay? There are quite a large number of combinations."

Brash also rejects the supposed outcome. She believes a "yes" vote on the referendum question will not prompt a provincial study, as Amalgamation Yes hopes. The possible combinations are too many, and not properly laid out in the referendum. "Do you really think the provincial government is going to spend money [on a study]? Not when the process already exists," she says.

Beyond what she sees as an imperfect question, Brash does not necessarily oppose the principle of amalgamation in Greater Victoria. Rather, she invites citizens of different municipalities to initiate it by lobbying their council, as called for by provincial law. However, Brash does claim that "nobody has successfully argued for any groups of municipalities to amalgamate. The proof is in the pudding: the citizens are not calling for amalgamation."

Additionally, Brash says that in amalgamation debates and literature in Victoria, "people are not debating the same issue. They're debating apples and turnips." Staunch anti-amalgamators argue they will lose access to politicians and control over municipalities, among other things. Pro-amalgamators, like Amalgamation Yes, argue that amalgamation is better for efficiency and better for business. "They're talking about totally different things," Brash says. "More people live in municipalities than do business. The biggest investment anyone has is their home. You have much more control at the local level."

Ultimately, Brash says, the notion that an amalgamated region would be an efficient region does not hold water. "Look at the literature. The efficiency argument can easily be refuted. How do you measure democracy, access to politicians, and control over where you live?"

No stranger to democracy and politicians is Jim McDavid, professor and graduate advisor in the school of public administration at the University of Victoria. McDavid has extensive experience in local government in British Columbia. He does not oppose the principle of amalgamation, but he is not convinced that it is right for Victoria.

The proposed models in Victoria, McDavid says, are based on what he calls "the aesthetics of administrative simplicity." Simply reducing the number of municipalities, councillors, and mayors might look good on paper, but ultimately misses the point of local government, he says. "A local government is to represent the views of the people within a geographic area," says McDavid, adding that gutting the number of voices at that table doesn't always work in anyone's favour.

The municipalities in Greater Victoria have enough trouble cooperating as it is. Amalgamating them might end up with more disagreements. According to McDavid, "When you put two cities together that are different from each other, you're going to have winners and losers." The only likely way an amalgamation is going to end well is if two or more municipalities initiate the process, says McDavid. Even then, the onus is on the citizens to be well informed.

"If the people within any two or three or four communities were to agree that the benefits to amalgamating would outweigh the costs, they

"When you lay out police, fire, municipal planning, transportation... there is a strong opinion out there that we a very over-governed region."

JOHN VICKERS
AMALGAMATION YES



"Nobody has successfully argued for any groups of municipalities to amalgamate... The citizens are not calling for amalgamation."

MONA BRASH
CAMOSUN COLLEGE



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW HELLIWELL/NEXUS

John Vickers (left) is the spokesman for Amalgamation Yes; Camosun College's Mona Brash questions their techniques.

should be free to do so. That's the way the [BC law] currently reads," he says.

Therefore, municipalities don't need Amalgamation Yes or a question on the ballot, says Brash. Want to amalgamate? "Go ahead," she says. "The process is right there."

Still, McDavid says there is no harm in placing the referendum on the ballot. "If [Amalgamation Yes] is successful in getting a straw vote on the ballot, fine. That's going to be a good indicator of interest."

However, there is almost no way that the vote will initiate any kind of provincial action, he says. "If the goal is to get the province involved," says McDavid, "that's not going to happen."

McDavid warns any students and voters not to fall into the trap of aesthetic simplicity.

"Do not make assumptions that the more mayors and councillors you have, the more difficult it is to govern in a metropolitan area," he says.

McDavid invites students to participate in the process of local government and become informed on amalgamation, but remains unoptimistic that Amalgamation Yes' initiative will affect much change.

Where do we go from here?

As you can see, there is no shortage of opinion on the amalgamation question here in Greater Victoria. The issue is certainly far from black and white.

And, whether you love it or hate it, you just might have an opportunity to have your voice heard.

If you live in the City of Victoria or Colwood, the referendum on amalgamation will appear on

your ballot on November 15. These are the only two municipalities whose councils have approved having the question on the ballot as of press time. Other councils may approve the same question, a version better suited to their municipality, or no question at all.

With or without a referendum, amalgamation has been around way longer than any of us. Come November, we'll see if it sticks around much longer.

2 OUT OF 3 AIN'T BAD

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festival

Spoken Word Fest ready to break barriers again

“The festival gives everyone a taste of what spoken word is and it sort of demystifies it and makes it accessible to people.”

CATHY PETCH
SPOKEN WORD ARTIST

JAYDEN GRIEVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Festivals have a way of bringing people together. Whether it's over the mutual enjoyment of an event or the communal thrill of sardining together into an already over-packed auditorium, they tend to bring out

the best in people. The Victoria Spoken Word Festival promises to be no different. With talent swept in from far and wide, the weekend should be an exciting chance to see some nationally known artists as well as some new ones.

“The festival is actually really geared towards younger and emerging artists, the idea being that if you've been going to an open mic or a slam there's a very big gap between slamming and touring Canada,” explains festival artistic director Missie Peters. “There's not a lot of development opportunity in Canada to help you get there, so for me it's a way to help bridge that gap and show people that they can take their art beyond a coffee shop.”

Peters says that finding the right mix of people for the event was key for her. And by getting newcomers to the spoken scene and some more established folks, she's managed to

find what she feels is a good mix.

“There are a bunch of people who've probably only been doing it for two years, or people who came out of the high school program so they're only 19, but then I also have some people who've been doing it for a decade. My main focus is bringing together the right group of people so there is variety between them.”

The festival, now in its fourth year, has shown a lot of growth since its debut. After moving to a bigger venue, the organizers are especially hyped to put on a memorable show. Artists from as far as Quebec and Detroit have been recruited to perform their special brands of entertainment and share their wisdom.

“My set will be a very eclectic mix of stories and poems and music inspired by the festival's interdisciplinary storytelling theme,” says poet of honour Barbra Adler. “My topics range from cat food to intimidating fathers to moon burials.”

Adler says that when she was starting out, the most important thing she got from attending festivals was realizing that there was a group of people out there who loved the same thing she did.

“I definitely didn't know that in high school, and it was sometimes even hard to find that at university,” she says. “Connecting with the spoken word community was my first experience of feeling like I had found my people. It definitely made life a lot less lonely, but more than that, it gave me something to aspire to. It's really easy to think you've seen it all until you check something out that totally rewires your expectations of what's possible.”

It is this kind of connection that Peters has worked so hard to create.



DAVID BUKACH

Participants at a past Spoken Word Fest get wild.

In addition to bringing in professional artists to perform, she has collected an ensemble of talented artists who will participate in workshops throughout the weekend and then create three nights worth of shows in just a few hours. The artists will learn different techniques and explore different mediums in order to better understand their own art.

“This year's theme is ‘inside story’ and it's about our role as storytellers and poets, kind of playing with archetypes. And there's going to be puppets, so there's a lot of fun there with story structure,” says Peters.

The hope is to bring a little bit of excitement to all of those who visit the festival and help them explore new things. For spoken word artist/playwright Cathy Petch, who will be performing as part of the ensemble, the festival is a way to introduce spoken word to those who may have not experienced it before.

“This festival is really important, because it shows people this art that might completely appeal to them. Some people in Victoria might not find a voice until they find spoken

word and see a community around it and some acceptance, and they'll be embraced for finding what's important to them,” says Petch. “It drums up a scene that can stay all year; we all have our local slams but if there's a festival it gets more media, it gets more credit. It gives everyone a taste of what spoken word is and it sort of demystifies it and makes it accessible to people.”

Peters feels that the event matters as it provides people an opportunity to push barriers and explore new creative processes.

“The festival is important because it really gives poets a playground to take risks, to challenge themselves, to try new things,” she says. “This is my heart, this is the thing that I'm most proud and passionate about to put on all year because it's about giving people a safe place to take risks and about showing my community something really cutting edge.”

Victoria Spoken Word Festival
8pm March 4 to 9, \$40 pass
(\$10-12 per event)
victoriaspokenwordfestival.com



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ELECTION
for
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and
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Vote for your favourite candidate on
March 18: 9am - 7pm
March 19: 9am - 7pm
March 20: 9am - 3pm

Fisher Foyer – Lansdowne
LACC Second Floor – Interurban

Your vote DOES count!

what's going on

by samantha pettifer

MARCH 1-9

Get beery

Victoria's local breweries show the city their stuff with a host of beery events during Victoria Beer Week. How about speed-dating with the brewers to ask them about beer? A movie about beer guru Michael Jackson (no, not that Michael) and a pub crawl are also on tap. The full schedule is at victoriabeerweek.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

100 years of the Strath

A perennial downtown nightlife favorite, the Strathcona Hotel turns 100 this year. Friday night will be their gala event, with proceeds going to the Power to Be charity. Lighthouse Brewing has partnered with the hotel to make a special centennial beer that will be exclusively on tap at the hotel; sales of the beer also support the charity.

MARCH 6-22

Are you trying to seduce me?

The Graduate is a classic coming-of-age story that is both touching and humorous. This production is based on the novel and screenplay, and brings the '60s to the stage. Artists were invited by the Langham Court Theatre to submit Graduate-inspired pieces for an exhibition and sale also taking place at the theatre. Meet the artists on March 9, from 1 to 3pm. Tickets and show times available at langhamtheatre.ca.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Doggin' it

Saskatoon band The Sheepdogs carry the blues-rock torch high, having won a Juno for their album Learn and

Burn. A big guitar sound and vocal harmonies make their live grooves irresistible. Check them out at Club 909.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Owlin' it

With a fresh new album, The Private World of Paradise, Wake Owl brings their indie folk-rock style to Lucky Bar. Toronto synth-pop singer Lyon will be opening, playing tracks from her dreamy EP Indian Summer.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Old man from the east

Old Man Luedecke is a folksy singer-songwriter from Nova Scotia who has scooped up multiple Juno awards for his music. He has a storyteller's sensibility, with his own take on traditional tunes. The show is at St. Anne's Auditorium at 8pm; advance tickets can be purchased from Ticketmaster.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Baroque opera spectacular

The Boston Early Music Festival is coming to Victoria with a pair of Baroque operas: La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers and La Couronne de Fleurs. Instrumental music, singing, and dancing will be part of the unique 17th century show at the McPherson Playhouse. Show details at earlymusicsocietyoftheislands.ca.

SATURDAY APRIL 5

Oh, Bhoy

It's over a month away, but the first show for stand-up star Danny Bhoy has already sold out. Luckily, a second show for this intensely funny comedian has been added, as he brings his new show Dear Epton to the Royal Theatre. Ticket info available at rmts.bc.ca.

music
Local band Tower of Dudes make their own culture

“I try and write about issues dear to my heart, but at the same time making it funny is important, too.”

NOAH FINCHLEY
 TOWER OF DUDES

JILL WESTBY
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When thinking of Eastern European music, local Victoria bands don't usually come to mind. But there's one band in particular bringing the unique influences of Eastern European folk music (the Czech Republic, to be specific) and mixing them with a strong shot of energetic rock 'n' roll.

Victoria-based Tower of Dudes, who are releasing their third album, *Make Your Own Culture*, on March 1, were born in Prague by two Victoria locals who happened to be living there abroad at the time.

The band went through many different musicians and instrument changes from 2008 to 2011 while touring through Eastern Europe. In 2011, they relocated back home

to Victoria and since then have been working on *Make Your Own Culture*.

The album is a 12-song, tempo-changing, accordion/mandolin/acoustic guitar-driven manifesto. The songs themselves aren't radically crazy or different sounding; it's more the instruments that make a unique blend of folk rock with something a little more foreign.

The main influence of the band stems from a mix of “good, old-fashioned fuck you punk rock,” according to singer Noah Finchley, and the foreign instruments of Eastern European gypsy music; even a vibraphone and some harmonicas can be heard in the mix.

Finchley, also the band's main songwriter, was born in Victoria and says that his main influence while growing up was the local punk/grunge scene in Victoria.

“It was just the whole idea of being able to do whatever you want to do,” he says. “I mean, in punk that's kind of what it's all about.”

This ideology is embodied with the title of the new album: *Make Your Own Culture*. “One theme of the new album is complaining about going to work, and ‘Complaints About Work’ would not have made a very good title,” he says.

The album never comes across as whiny, however. In fact, most of the songs are energetic in a positive



PHOTO PROVIDED

Victoria's Tower of Dudes bring Eastern European sounds to Victoria.

way. The single exception to this is the last song, “Morning.”

At first listen, “Morning” sounds like a slow, melancholy acoustic ballad closing off *Make Your Own Culture*. But the lyrics make it a hilarious tongue-in-cheek rant at early mornings and all of the grievances that come with being forced to wake up early. (Ahem... 8:30am classes, anyone?)

“Yeah, I'm definitely not a morning person,” says Finchley. “I try and write about issues dear to my

heart, but at the same time making it funny is important, too.”

So what has exactly has enabled Tower of Dudes to evolve from a travelling band in Eastern Europe to a more permanent fixture on the west coast of Canada? According to Finchley, it's all been natural.

“A lot of bands try and find people that are the best musicians or the most well-known... and I just find my friends. It was always just about playing music with my friends,” he says. “You can do

whatever you want and hopefully there'll be people who will want to join you.”

And the three words that would best describe the sound of Tower of Dudes?

“Eastern European cow punk!” exclaims Finchley. “Oh, wait... that's four!”

Tower of Dudes
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Noms!

words and photo by Patrick Hallihan

The Waddling Dog offers up the best kind of grease

The Waddling Dog is a little pub with food as full of flavour as it is full of grease. Located just off the Pat Bay Highway on Mt. Newton Cross Road, this little pub offers that a quiet atmosphere that I love.

I'm not going to lie, folks: 90 percent of the reason I went was due to the name—how can you not snicker every time you hear it? Better yet, I've heard they even have a waddling dog on the premises! (Although I never saw him; too bad.) The restaurant features all the staples: dim lighting, booths and tables of wooden construction, sports on TV, and a bar.

It's a "seat yourself" type of place, but our waitress wasted no time in coming over to ID us and take our drink orders.

For the eats, myself and one of my friends had the clubhouse sandwich, another had poutine, and the fourth had a chicken sandwich. Each dish ran about \$11 to \$13, plus drinks. Our drinks showed up quickly, followed shortly after by the food.

The clubhouse was pretty great, and came with bacon, chicken, tomato, lettuce, and avocado on multigrain bread. Mine also came with a side of French fries, which were amazing; bad French fries are always a downer. As near as I could tell, they were battered with something before being fried, making them that much more delicious... although they could turn a paper bag see-through.

The poutine was certainly unique as well. Coming with your standard cheese, gravy, and the same battered French fries, it also sported green onions and bacon, giving it some extra flavour. The fourth dish was the chicken sandwich, which came on a baguette with chipotle mayo and veggies. This one did not register as high in grease factor as the other two, but was still very good.

Some restaurants are greasy in the worst of ways (think seedy and unpleasant); The Waddling Dog is greasy in all the best ways (think deliciousness and curing hang-



Grease: essential for pub grub.

overs). As the chicken sandwich shows, some dishes definitely dial back the grease, so don't be scared off if you're on a diet, as they still have plenty to offer. (But get some of the French fries anyways, because why not?)

As bonus, The Waddling Dog also has two free pool tables and dart boards, so even after you eat, you can hang out for a while and have some fun. So if you find yourself out in this part of Saanich, maybe returning home from the ferries, drop in to The Waddling Dog and enjoy some food and pool.



Age of Geeks

by Vishal Pandey

Major mobile motions

Within the first few days of the Mobile World Congress, there has already been a long list of launches of anticipated releases and other exciting announcements, which include the launch event of Samsung's flagship phone for this year: the Galaxy S5.

Sony also unveiled their flagship phone, Xperia Z2, whose predecessor saw a considerable amount of success last year.

Both of these phones have 1080p displays, Snapdragon 801 processors, and high-resolution cameras, but that's about it as far as similarities go. All the major carriers in Canada have already announced

the arrival of Galaxy S5 in the line-ups, sometime in April. But, Z2 is yet to be confirmed (if it's even coming to Canada, given how Z1 came here: very late and exclusively to one major carrier).

As far as new features go, they are both now waterproof, dust resistant, and IP67 certified. Galaxy S5 sports a 16 MP camera with auto focus and Z2 has a 20 MP sensor. Galaxy S5 also has an iPhone-like biometric fingerprint scanner and real-time heart-rate monitor.

One significant improvement is that both phones can now record 4k (ultra HD) videos.

Another major announcement

during Mobile World Congress is Blackberry adding Z3 and Q20 to their line-up of smartphones. Both these phones, and the S5, will be hitting the stores in the spring.

Nokia unveiled their first Android line-up, as well. They released their X family of smartphones, which run on a "forked" version of Android, which looks like a mix of Windows' phone OS and Android's OS. Time will tell what comes of this experiment. But Nokia considering Android is a big move. The stability of Nokia phones and the awesomeness of Android: can it revive the diminishing Nokia? What do you think?



Politically Speaking

by Matthew Helliwell

Coalition concerns

Thomas Mulcair, leader of the federal NDP, recently reminded us that he's open to a coalition with the Liberals. Liberal leader Justin Trudeau, in turn, reminded Mulcair where he could stick his coalition.

The idea of a "progressive" coalition is not new. In 2008, Mulcair was part of the NDP team that proposed uniting the Liberals, NDP, and Bloc under a single "progressive" banner. That failed. Since then, it hasn't suddenly become a good idea.

It's not hard to predict that the next election will see a split vote among the non-Conservative voters. That vote splitting might be the reason for another Conservative government. However, the only thing the Liberals have in common with the NDP is their appeal to ABC voters: Anything But Conservative, that is. When one discusses politics in Canada, it's important to remember that we can't speak strictly of left and right, but left, right and centre.

For years, the Liberals held that centre position on the political spectrum, if only in campaigns. Realistically, though, no party can run a country entirely on "centrist" policies. Things were a little "leftier"

under Trudeau and "righter" under Chretien. Generally speaking, the Liberals were balanced by the NDP on the left and the Conservatives (whichever banner they operated under at the time) on the right.

The Mulcair that proposed this union is the same Mulcair that had nothing positive to say about the Liberals in an interview last year. Mulcair lambasted the Liberals' past, saying their history speaks for itself. He's reassured the Canadian voter that he is planning to run attack ads on Justin Trudeau. While he admitted he didn't know Trudeau well, he refused to even use his name. And yes, Trudeau is the same guy that paraphrased the late NDP Leader Jack Layton's dying words to make a partisan jab at the "negative, divisive party of Tom Mulcair." Could there be a more perfect union?

The Liberals and the NDP hold similar positions on a few issues, but ultimately are based on different ideologies and different history. A coalition of the NDP and the Liberals might make short-term electoral sense, but imagining it trying to govern gives me the shivers much worse than another Harper majority.

astrological asininity

by River Rainfall

Hi okay OMG did you see last issue where I was put at the bottom of the page? Is that because you've all been complaining about me? Um if anyone likes me please email *The Next-Us* or whatever this website is called and let them know!

Aries: So did you use the duct tape like I predicted last time around? Totes predicting the future over here. In yours this time around I see garlic, unicorns, and patches of grass that are both sunny and shady?! What does that mean LOL let me know please.

Taurus: So! Did you buy lotto tickets? I didn't, I haven't since the '80s and Lotto 649, which would come on at 6:49 during a commercial break in the news or something. And you could watch those balls bouncing around in that big circle thing which seemed inconsequential but um hello totally CHANGED MY LIFE. Buy another freakin' lotto ticket this week, we're on a roll.

Gemini: So... your secret is safe with me. LOL AND THE ENTIRE COSMOS.

Cancer: Cancer, OMG, I just called you "Cencer"! I have a very hard time writing sometimes because there's so much going on around me but anyway, Cencer (LOL), avoid crowdsurfing, crowd-funding, and crowds in general for the next couple of weeks, K?

Leo: Hi! You've been rolling along and things have been going smoothly lately, haven't they? That's about to change, but it's all good so embrace the chaos. Like I do every day: I'm sitting in the middle of Hillside as I write this! Cars are totes honking LOL.

Virgo: Hi Virgo, umm... if you see me sitting in the road anytime can you come rescue me LOL some-

times I get stuck. Thanks and in exchange for that, I'll tell you this: your lucky colour is beige (weird!), your lucky word is "and" (there are totally lucky words, most people don't know that though), and your lucky astrologist is River!

Libra: Still partying? Good!

Scorpio: I hope you watched out for the colour blue and snakes last time! This time around I'm getting that you need to watch out for the colour blue and sna... wait a minute, it's the same! What are you doing over there? LOL!

Sagittarius: I totes cut back on the caffeine because my doctor told me to, and that's why I don't believe in medical doctors (EVER HEAR OF BIG PHARMA??). He's just trying to make me subdued so I won't start the cosmos revolution! But, Sagittarius, listen to me and listen closely: we're going to start the cosmos revolution.

Capricorn: So last time I pointed out that you shouldn't do weird things on quiet side streets that involve you not being fully clothed. I hope you listened to me. Now, this is confusing, but bear with me... now you should embrace that, and go do weird things on quiet side streets and not be fully clothed. The time is now! (But stay off the neighbours' lawns, rude-y!)

Aquarius: Hi, did I ever tell you that I'm Aquarius? I have? Okay LOL then why aren't we hanging out like all the time? I'd say email me but I don't have email so just hope for the best and River will appear!

Pisces: How does it feel to always be at the end? Must be a drag 'cuz I'm too tired out now to look at your future. Don't blame me, blame my doctor. And BIG PHARMA!

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Camosun College Student Society columns



In Search of Lost Time

by Daphne Shaed
camosun college women's center

The trouble with trigger warnings

Those of us that work in marginalized communities and activism are more than likely familiar with the practice of trigger warnings. For some time I have been working, speaking, listening, writing, facilitating, healing, and navigating within social networks that use the term “trigger warning” to warn people of sensitive materials.

I have trouble resolving the word “trigger”—a word that’s inherently violent as it’s directly associated with guns, gun violence, traps, mines, and war.

In the western world, movie theatres are packed with patrons paying to see gun violence, games are played where winning means killing the most people, and the news is telling us of gun violence daily.

But why pretend violence is okay? Why do we teach children that bullying and violence are bad when we

simultaneously engage in media where violence is acceptable, where fictional superheroes are praised even though their methods are inherently violent?

The purpose of a warning serves as an opportunity to check over ourselves; to brace ourselves, to say, “I can’t do this right now” and leave the room. Using the word “trigger” to warn people of emotionally sensitive material is sadly ironic.

I encourage us all to think about this and when we are trying to work in anti-violence and harm reduction that we try to collectively avoid terms commonly associated with violent acts and violence.

It’s not easy and, given the prevalence of the phrase “trigger warning,” it may seem unlikely that it will be replaced. But I know I will practise to provide people with an “emotional stressor warning” instead.



Mind Your Business

by Gariele Braaksma
camosun college DECA club

Shady eyes, aggressive arms, spaghetti handshakes

We’ve all been groomed on how to mind our manners. From the dinner table to the classroom, we’ve been taught to swallow our food before speaking and to raise our hands before inquiring. Body language blunders can be detrimental to any first meeting, whether it be with a client, a boss, or even a date.

Dodgy eye contact

In some cultures, direct eye contact is viewed as combative or disrespectful, but in North America, the opposite is true. When we avoid eye contact by looking down, shifting our gaze, or looking away completely, we are sending a message that the other person is not worthy of our attention. Lack of eye contact comes across as disinterested, disengaged, and sometimes flat-out sketchy!

Crossed arms

Another major mistake is folding arms in front of the chest. This, too, signifies aggressiveness or standoffishness. By closing off our bodies, we are communicating that we are not open or receptive to the ideas being shared. Pair those crossed arms with a menacing scowl? Well, that just sounds like the job description of a club bouncer.

Limp hands

The only thing worse than a limp handshake is a spaghetti hug, but since this is a business column, we’ll stick to the traditional greeting. Unless we plan on batting eyelashes and whispering *enchanted* to a suitor, there is no excuse for offering our hands like a delicate piece of cloth. Handshakes should be firm, brief, and paired with eye contact.



Queerly Forward

by Piotr Burek
camosun college pride collective

Queers make a splash!

Swimming pools can be very uncomfortable places for queers, especially those that do not fit neatly into the gender binary, or those whose body types don’t match societal beauty norms. It’s hard for queers to feel welcome in spaces often dominated by straight folks.

Queers Get Wet is a night-time swim that happens regularly at the Esquimalt Recreation Center. It’s an opportunity for queers to come together, be visible and feel safer in a space that is not very conducive to identities that don’t fit within the heteronormative model. Queers Get Wet is a splashtastic example of how the queer community can come together to support each other and have a lot of fun doing so.

The various queer events that happen around Victoria are perfect opportunities for getting involved in the

community and meeting all the incredible super queeros that live on these beautiful Lkwungen territories. Queer hikes, discussion groups, dance parties, knitting circles, swim meets, movie nights, and book clubs are examples of meeting points where queers and supporters come together to relate, create, and celebrate!

Camosun Pride aspires to connect queer students with as many awesome community events as possible. Don’t be afraid to ask us about all the radtastic events that happen in this community. Send us an e-mail at pride@camosunstudent.org or check into the Pride Lounge on the first floor of Richmond House.

Now let’s finish with this awesome *Simpsons* quote: “Individually, we are weak, like a single twig, but as a bundle, we form a mighty faggot!”

food fad word search

Last issue’s feature story took a look at food fads and why we’re so quick to look for fast solutions to getting healthy (if you missed it, head over to nexusnewspaper.com).

We’re curious to hear what you thought about the story and what you think about food fads: drop us a line and let us know.

In the meantime, over on the right are a few words that came up in the story. Find them in the word search below. We’ve got some more CDs in the office, so the first five people to come by with the finished word search get a free CD!

- ACAI
- ANTIOXIDANTS
- BERRIES
- BLUEBERRIES
- BUZZ
- CIVILIZED
- DIETICIAN
- EDUCATE
- FAD
- FIBRE
- FRUITS
- GLUTEN
- HEALTH
- HEMP
- MARKETING
- QUICK
- TREND
- VEGETABLES
- VEGETARIAN
- WELLNESS

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Courtney secured a co-op position at Global Centurion in Washington, D.C., an organization focused on the abolition of modern slavery. Not only did Courtney see

former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton give a speech at the Department of State, but her work allowed her to see the impact of human rights advocacy first-hand.

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