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Get your yuk-yuks out

The comedy scene in Victoria is booming. Here's why.

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NEXUS camosun's student voice since 199

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SEND A LETTER

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

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "Olives are evil."

COVER PHOTOS: Victoria comedy scene: Provided ESL cuts hit Camosun: Camosun College A/V Services

local play hits the road. Provided

editor's letter Time to get involved!

I didn't make any new year's resolutions this year. Nothing official, anyway. I mean, after I spent \$22 on popcorn for my family the other day I grumbled to myself that I "will never fucking do that again," which I suppose counts as a resolution. But as the clock struck 12 on New Year's Eve, I was more concerned with just looking back at how good 2013 was, a process which includes some good Nexus memories.

We won awards, we published great pieces, we connected with students. We had great volunteers giving it their all, and we had editing sessions that at the time make volunteers want to tear out our eyeballs, but make for stronger stories in the end. It was a busy, productive year and everyone involved should be proud.

Looking ahead into 2014, while everyone around me takes time to say weird things like "I can't believe it's already 2014," we're already busy plotting out the next year. And I'm sure, like last, we'll do many great things around here. But we're not tooting our own horn: we're tooting your horns, students, because you make the paper what it is.

Having said that, I want to take this time to reiterate what some people don't realize: any Camosun student can write for Nexus. Most people who come through our doors have absolutely no journalistic experience, and that's just fine by us. We're here to teach, help, guide, and get you from fresh-faced newbie excited about writing about a topic that you're passionate about to journalism vet with a handful of published pieces under vour belt in to time.

People are often worried about commitment, but you shouldn't let that get in the way of doing some volunteering with us. We love writers who help out on a regular basis, but if your schedule only allows for some writing here and there, that's great, too. And it's not just writing: we very much like contributions from artists, proofreaders, and photographers. So drop us a line and let's get this year started!

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

flashback 20 years ago in Nexus



Two sides to every story: Last time around in this column, we talked about how a student had written in to the paper to complain about a flyer the Camosun College Women's Centre had circulated displaying female genitalia. In our January 10, 1994 issue, the Women's Centre wrote a letter in response, saying they feel the picture is "an example of an empowering statement." They said that "while some, as the woman in the letter, were offended by this image, we also received positive feedback from both sexes."

not: It's always fun reading our good crystal ball in his bands 20

There are always bands that are still making the rounds (Blue Rodeo were playing in town here on January 4, 2014 and also on January 11, 1994). There are also bands that have more or less been lost to time. Hothouse Flowers, anyone?

Tree-free predictions: A news story, "Tree-free book to hit Victoria shelves," predicted a time in the future when "almost every book you read is made entirely of something other than a tree." Books are still made from trees, but e-readers, while not without their own environmental costs, make it look What's going on... and what's like writer Keith Bell had a pretty

open space It's not as easy as just giving

Is this really going to take a chunk out of the iceberg of poverty?

RYAN BREZZI

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Events like the World Day of Giving portray that things are changing for the better. You know, as though the world is becoming a better place because people from countries around the world are making small donations to help those in need. I'm a little skeptical. Isn't this just a Band-Aid?

Think about it: sitting from my computer I can use my plastic credit card to wire money to an organization which will then deliver it somehow to those in need. I don't see how the standard of living or long-term opportunities for the people receiving the money is really going to change with that type of tactic.

Are all those little donations really going to make a difference to the economy of wherever they are going? Is this really going to take a chunk out of the iceberg of poverty? Not really.

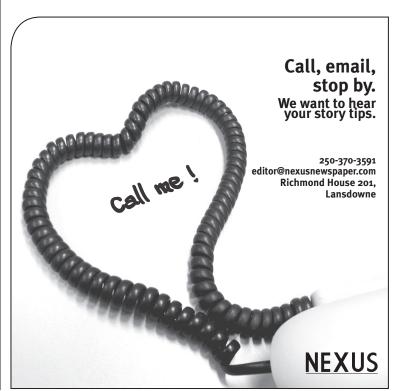
Of course, pundits would argue that it's going to be invested into projects that allow those communities to become independent and self-sustainable.

Perhaps it will, and that's fantastic.

But, realistically, it's unlikely to make a nation more competitive on a global level and, in this time of globalization, that's what's truly needed. To do that there would need to be policy reform on a political, governmental, and corporate level.

We need to get up off our computer chairs and do more than mouse-click our money to an organization. We need to take action in the community and use our involved effort and attention, along with the power of computers, the internet, and social media.

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



Home hits the Belfry: Peter Pokorny

events listings from 20 years ago. years ago.

What was the most interesting thing you did over the Christmas break?



CAITLIN IDDINS-BABIN

"I had four Christmases. Both my boyfriend and I have split parents. It was stressful. We had three dinners in a row and the last one on New Year's!'



PETER VANBUREN

"I went skeet shooting and cross country skiing at the same time."



DONAVIAN BENSON

"It's probably not suitable for the paper... there was some public nudity and some friskiness."



HONG HONG

"Work! Work! Work! And then play my new Wii when I'm not at work."



DEVON AKTARIAN

"I spent a lot of time volunteering with grandparents in a care home."

BY RACHEL SOVKA



ALEXANDRA BONNER

"I went to visit my 93-yearold grandma in Cobble Hill. It's nice to have a white Christmas."

NEWS

Federal ESL funding cuts leave Camosun College shocked, disappointed

"This funding slash targets an already marginalized group who deserve quality ESL training that equips them to go on to postsecondary education or to enter the workforce."

> SIMKA MARSHALL CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY



The future of Camosun's ESL programs are in jeopardy after recent federal funding cuts.

JASON SCHREURS MANAGING EDITOR

Camosun College's entire English as a Second Language (ESL) program looks to be on the chopping block as of April due to a recent \$2.5-million budget cut.

The announcement, which came down from the federal government in early December, was a shock to the college, according to Joan Yates, Camosun's vice-president of communications.

Yates says the college knew that changes were afoot, but had no idea the cuts would be of this magnitude, as the college had predicted the cost of running the ESL program at \$1.3 million.

"The mood within college administration has gone from shock to incredible disappointment," says Yates. "ESL programs are a fundamental for Camosun College. We put incredible importance in helping ESL students get into the economy and the job market, and this really hit us in the solar plexuses."

Since the announcement, the college has met with every level of its community, from senior admins to ESL students themselves, and has been lobbying the government about the seriousness of the funding cuts.

"Since we heard the news we've been going flat out, trying to look at what we need to do, including actively advocating and make everyone at the government level understand what this decision means," says Yates.

Meanwhile, college staff and students have been assured that ESL programs will continue to run through the winter semester. Currently, it's unclear what will happen to the programs and its students after April, but "no more ESL funding means we have to extrapolate, no more ESL," says Yates.

Camosun faculty and staff were informed of the cuts on December 5 via an "urgent communication" from college president Kathryn Laurin. In the statement, Laurin asked the college community to "please extend patience to your colleagues who are most directly impacted and know that we are all reeling from this announcement." Laurin asked anyone with questions or concerns to direct them to vice-president academic John Boraas.

In mid-December, the college announced a hiring freeze, which mostly impacted administrative positions.

Camosun's union reps at CUPE Local 2081 say that the negative message the federal government is sending with these ESL cuts is two-fold.

"The message it sends is disturbing," says union president Jerry Oetting. "To deny domestic ESL training to our resident immigrants is an appalling move considering this province was built on the backs of immigrant labour. I believe this government intends to move to a model where this training is provided by private schools. While they claim it's a financial decision, it's really about offloading the work onto the private sector so their pals in big business can make a profit."

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) is planning outreach work during January to create more awareness around the issue, says CCSS external executive Simka Marshall.

"This funding slash targets an already marginalized group who deserve quality ESL training that equips them to go on to postsecondary education or to enter the workforce," says Marshall. "ESL is important, as a majority of our domestic ESL students go right into other college programming. It is also crucial for new Canadians and immigrants as it's a way to get them comfortable in a college setting."

Oetting says the effects of the ESL cuts will be far-reaching, in-

"To deny domestic ESL training to our resident immigrants is an appalling move considering this province was built on the backs of immigrant labour." JERRY OETTING CUPE LOCAL 2081

cluding a reduction in student services as a result of any job loss for support staff.

"The impact on Camosun College will be felt in every school and in the end all students will suffer as programs and options are cut and the true overall financial cost to the institution becomes apparent," he says. "Ultimately, CUPE members' jobs will be lost... for every position cut, there is a direct impact on student services."

Yates says the college spent most of December before the holidays consulting with different levels of the college community, including its board of directors, and will decide what to do next when they receive a transition plan from the government sometime this month.

"I do have to say that when we met with the faculty most of their concerns were about issues pertaining to students, not of themselves," says Yates, "which I found to be highly commendable."

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun Chargers ready for more

After the mid-season break, the Camosun Chargers teams are heading back into action. The women's basketball and volleyball teams finished strong after the first semester, both at third in the PACWEST standings. The men's basketball team will be training hard after a tough start to the season, and the men's volleyball team is aiming for consistent wins. Home games start with volleyball on January 10.

Camosun student's recovery surprises doctors

Camosun student Paige Young was saved from a potentially fatal

blood clot last month, thanks to the persistence of the medical staff at the Victoria General Hospital. Despite an extended period of time with inadequate blood flow to her body, doctors say there was no apparent permanent damage. Though her recovery was called miraculous, she has not yet improved enough to be released from the hospital. Best wishes for her recovery from all of us at *Nexus*.

Sooke author gets closer to Mars

Out of over 200,000 applications, Sooke resident Marina Miral has been chosen as a short-list candidate for a one-way Mars mission. Dutch non-profit foundation Mars One aims to create a settlement on Mars, hoping to send four colonists in its first launch. If the local author is one of the final candidates in 2015, she will spend seven years in training before living her dream of space travel. (And, yes, we said "one-way.")

TEDx Victoria talks posted

For those who didn't make it out to the actual event, the talks from last November's TEDx event in Victoria have been posted online. The presentations are given by speakers such as Bob McDonald, Adam Kreek, and Mary-Wynne Ashford, to name just a few. The entire playlist of TEDx Victoria 2013 talks is now available for viewing on YouTube.

Pipeline recommendation debated

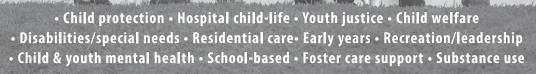
Last month a review panel recommended that the federal government approve the contentious Northern Gateway Pipeline that would carry oil through Alberta and BC. This announcement has not dulled efforts of those opposing the project, especially from many First Nations groups in BC, who are considering legal action if the project is approved.

They think their compost don't stink

You might think it's obvious that garbage, especially compost, smells bad, but did you know it's against the law to subject the neighbourhood to those nasty odors? Compost facility Foundation Organics found that out the hard way by ignoring warnings and even a licence suspension, continuing to emit a foul stench into the surrounding area. The facility was charged under public nuisance laws after "significant odour complaints" were received. So, now you know: it's against the law to be too stinky.

-SAMANTHA PETTIFER

Got a news tip or a story that we should be covering? Is there something students on campus are talking about but we're not? Let us know! editor@nexusnewspaper.com



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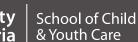
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Representing the student voice can be a lot of work, and volunteers go a long way towards making each issue of *Nexus* fantastic.

We publish every two weeks, and can always use an extra hand.

For example:

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Writers - We cover news, sports, and entertainment on campus and throughout Victoria, from local theatre to mainstream movies, concerts, and festivals.

Artists/illustrators - Good artists always have opportunities to share their work through *Nexus* with comics and illustrations.

Proofreaders - Every issue of *Nexus* strives for perfection, but the occasional typo escapes our notice. Proofreading is an invaluable skill.

Advertising Sales - *Nexus* actually pays a finder's fee for any local advertising brought to the newspaper. What student doesn't need money?

If you're interested in doing some 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) or phone (250-370-3591).

CAMPUS

Know Your Profs: Camosun's Keri Norrie



Camosun accounting instructor and department chair Keri Norrie.

n's successful dual 4:Wh

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 accounting instructor and department chair Keri Norrie and talked with her about making a connection with students, cheating, and texting during class (spoiler: don't do it).

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

I'veenjoyedteachingatCamosun for over 15 years. As a professional accountant and businessperson, I have taught a variety of business courses at Camosun, with an emphasis on teaching third and fourth year financial accounting. For the last few years, I have also enjoyed teaching introductory accounting as part of Camosun's successful dual credit program with local secondary schools; it is an excellent program that helps high-school students transition to postsecondary while earning both high school and Camosun credits.

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

Definitely the connection with students and helping them succeed in learning and achieving their goals. Many of the students that I taught over the years are still in touch with me and I love to hear from them. My life is much richer as a result of being a teacher.

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

For me, lifelong learning isn't just a motto but a way of life. Keeping an open mind, expanding your comfort zone, challenging yourself, and always looking to learn more have been important factors to my professional and personal success. It's one of the reasons why, in class, I focus on developing critical thinking and research skills, as they are so important to the students' future success. 4: What's one thing you wish they didn't know about you?

I am known for being a straight shooter, someone who is honest and forthright, but at times I wish I had more of a poker face, especially when my class is asking about hints for an upcoming exam.

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

That's a tough question as I truly have "best" moments every day. It's the daily connection with students and my colleagues that makes being a teacher at Camosun so rewarding.

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

As a teacher, and now the chair of my department, the worst thing is dealing with issues of plagiarism and cheating. We expect integrity and professionalism from our students, so in addition to violating Camosun's policies, it is personally disheartening when it occurs. On the positive side, after meeting with the students, these instances can sometimes be good life lessons, which hopefully helps them make better choices in the future.

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

I think the most memorable and effective courses are a collaboration between the teacher and the students; while the syllabus outlines what will be covered, it is the dynamics in the classroom that make it great. So while I see online courses, for instance, continuing to grow in popularity, I think that there will always be a need for the connection that occurs in a real classroom.

To help achieve the best of both options, in the accounting department we will be offering more courses in what we call a "virtual classroom" format. These courses have scheduled online classes, just like a face-to-face class, but using webcams and microphones so that we have the face-to-face benefits of being in a class but with the flexibility of an online offering. The classes are also recorded so that students can review the class material again. I think we'll see more of this type of class in the future. 8: What do you do to relax on the weekends?

I'm an avid jogger so I am often outside jogging with my dog, in any kind of weather. I also love to read so I am happiest when I have a stack of books beside my bed and a full Kobo.

9: What's your favourite meal? I love to travel and I enjoy cooking and trying new foods so my most memorable meals usually occur in other countries, in local restaurants, from street vendors, or from interesting grocery stores. When I'm at home, my favourite food is my husband's homemade pizza. A close second would be anything made by Gilbert Noussitou, the chair of the culinary arts program at Camosun. My department hosts various accounting events during the year in which we invite the local business community and Gilbert and his team never fail to impress.

10: What's your biggest pet peeve?

Students texting during class. It's fine at the breaks but not during class. Fortunately, it doesn't occur very often in my classes.

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FEATURE

Comedy nights boost Victoria's already growing comedy scene



Ryan Bangma gets the guffaws at a recent comedy night.

JASON SCHREURS MANAGING EDITOR

If it seems like Victoria's comedy scene is taking off in recent months, it's because it is. According to promoters and local comedians, comedy in Victoria is booming. One big reason for this recent comedy resurgence is the development of regular comedy nights on Wednesdays, now taking place at the Stone's Throw Restaurant and organized by local comedian Erikk Isfeld.

"The most rewarding thing about doing this is watching people grow over time," explains Isfeld, who took over as the show's producer at the beginning of December. "Having the ability to book the shows myself means that I can pick somebody like Jake Gyllenskog, who's this new kid who's just started out. It's been great to book him on shows and see him stretch his legs and figure out what his comedy is, and then see him two months later just get so much better."

Isfeld is one of the local comedy scene's strongest proponents. Starting his own standup act about 18 months ago, he's still fresh to the scene, but when the opportunity to take over the Temple Comedy nights came up he jumped at the chance. He recently added a co-producer and moved the show to the Stone's Throw. "It's a booked show, not open mic," says Isfeld. "Comics get seven minutes, which allows them to stretch their legs, and one of the things I set out to do was make it one of the premier shows in the city that comedians want to work at, and audience members want to see." And it seems to be working, with each show featuring a headlining act rounded out by a strong lineup of local talent. Recent headliners have included local comedians Myles Anderson and Morgan Crannie, and Vancouver's Katie-Ellen Humphries, while the January show features local comedy vet Wes Borg.

Formerly known as Back Alley, Stone's Throw Comedy is still known for its edgy content, something that local comics recognize and appreciate.

"The humour tends to be edgier because the crowd tends to be younger," explains recent headliner Anderson, who recently won a spot at the Northwest Comedy Fest during the local Blue Bridge Comedy Festival. "It was already inferred with the previous name that, being in a back alley, you can say whatever you want. That culture of edgy humour has carried over for the new shows."

Anderson says the comedy scene in Victoria is really picking up due to the availability of stage time, an important factor for any strong comedy town.

An appearance by Yuk Yuks founder Mark Breslin at a recent open mic show at a different venue is another good sign that Victoria might be a place where comedians can make a go of it, says Anderson.

"The fact that we attracted a guy like Mark Breslin here to see our scene, he probably never would have come before," he says. "It's amazing how many shows you can do here now. Whenever I've talked to pro comedians they always say, 'Live where you can get the stage time,' and here you can get several shows a week." minutes before start time, he realized there was no microphone on stage.

"[Local comedian] Abdul Aziz saved the day by grabbing a mic from his truck," he laughs. "But that just shows the strong community base that the Victoria comedy scene is built around."

Anderson remembers another folly from a more recent show, this time involving one of the show's hosts, David Bruce.

"He fell right off the back of the stage," laughs Anderson, "and it was amazing because he managed to make a joke out of it. We were all backstage in stunned silence and there was so much tension in the room, but he brought it back. We couldn't believe it; we were sitting back there and all we heard was this crash and the crowd laughing. It wasn't part of the act, but it was hilarious."

Even as he works out the kinks, Isfeld is trying hard to make his shows the strongest showcase of local talent possible, hitting up various comedy shows in town to make his next bookings.

But that's not the toughest part



Anderson points to weekly shows like Cenote and Ratfish (a show Isfeld calls "the granddaddy of all Victoria comedy shows"), as well as monthly shows like the Felicitas show at UVic and the downtown comedy show at the Stone's Throw.

"So every week I can go on stage two or three times. It's crazy good," says Anderson.

Not without their struggles, the members of the local comedy scene are good about banding together, something that was proven at the first show Isfeld was involved with at the previous location. Two

s of his duties.

"Definitely the hardest part is dealing with the comics," he chuckles. "When they really want to do comedy, they live and breathe it, so trying to wrangle them into getting onstage at the right time, in the right show, is usually the toughest part."

Luckily, the hardest part of the job is also one of Isfeld's favourites.

"It's a challenge because they're all usually off being funny in the back room, so there's definitely some wrangling involved," he says. "I really like doing it, though."

Stone's Throw Comedy 8 pm Wednesday, January 22 \$10, The Stone's Throw Restaurant (642 Johnson Street) facebook.com/templecomedy

Vancouver's Katie-Ellen Humphries brought her laughs to Victoria.

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theatre Kitt & Jane wins Fringe lottery, tours Canada this summer

"It's addictive, it's a test of endurance, a test of your friendship, and it's a festival not to be missed, whatever city you're in." **INGRID HANSEN** KITT & JANE

JASON SCHREURS

MANAGING EDITOR One of Victoria's more successful independent threatre productions recently received the rather exciting news that they'd won a chance to tour their show at various Canadian Fringe festivals this summer. The creators of *Kitt & Jane*: An Interactive Survival Guide to the Near-Post-Apocalyptic Future, a local theatre favourite the past couple of years, won the Canadian Fringe Lottery and will be hitting theatre festivals in seven cities this summer.

"We work really hard to have the opportunity to create shows," says director Kathleen Greenfield. "This is the first opportunity that we have won that can be chalked up to pure luck. We immediately went into planning mode: should we fly or drive? How should we



The cast and crew of Kitt & Jane pose for the ultimate selfie before getting back to preparation for their Canadian tour.

raise money? What cities should we go to? Who can we get to sponsor our meals?"

Choosing Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, and their home base of Victoria, Greenfield and co-creators/co-stars Ingrid Hansen and Rod Peter Jr. are looking forward to seeing how their modern-day fable about two hyperactive 14-year-olds preparing us for the end of the world goes over on audiences in different cities. The tour runs from June 21 to August 31.

"A Fringe tour is a place to smash your show up against audiences and hone it to perfection, quite possibly the best party of the year, and an immense amount of work," explains Hansen. "It's addictive, it's a test of endurance, a test of your friendship, and it's a festival not to be missed, whatever city you're in. Fringe is one of those rare places in Canadian culture where you feel

a sense of true community, of love and ideas being exchanged, risks being taken."

One of only five Canadian productions picked in the lottery, Hansen and her cohorts understand how big of a deal it is that their play was selected, and they don't plan on taking it for granted.

"Many people apply many years in a row and never win the lotto," says Hansen. "Although I do know of one friend who won the lottery, I believe, three years in a row. There was a Facebook thread of friends threatening him if he won a fourth year in a row."

Putting Kitt & Jane (a sequel to Hansen's one-person play, Little Orange Man) on a tour means Peters will be the brunt of a particularly funny part of the play, night after night.

"I'm happy," jokes Peters, "that I get to have cake smashed into my face for three and half months."

UNTIL SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 Puppet cavemen are happier than you

Puppet shows aren't just for kids. Calgary's Old Trout Puppet Workshop has created *Ignorance*, a "puppet documentary" that goes from cavemen to modern humans, and considers what makes us happy (hint: it's not iPhones). The show is playing at Blue Bridge at the Roxy. Details at bluebridgetheatre.ca.

Thursday, January 9 Rockers surf through town

Supporting their latest recording, Pythons, Surfer Blood will be bring-

silent auction including artwork and music. Head to St. Ann's Academy Auditorium at 7pm; more info at creativelyunitedfortheplanet.org.

> WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

They say it's like life...

Though the first image that comes to mind is probably Liza Minnelli in the film, Cabaret has been doing well for itself since the '90s as a Broadway revival. The award-winning musical is set in Berlin, as Hitler and the Nazis are on the rise. The drama of the time is played out on the stage of the Kit Kat Club and in the lives of its patrons. Cabaret runs at the Langham Court Theatre, info at langhamtheatre.ca.



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ing their catchy guitar pop (think surf punk meets Pixies comin' at ya from Florida) to Lucky Bar.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 Even without snow, it's still funny

The Snowed In Comedy tour is clearly named for the rest of Canada. but just because our weather's nice doesn't mean we can't laugh about it. This show features Arj Barker, Dan Quinn, Craig Campbell, and Pete Johansson, all stand-up veterans who have earned their popularity. They'll be at the McPherson Playhouse, more info at rmts.bc.ca.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

Music for the earth

Local musicians Danton Jay, Kristia Di Gregorio, and West My Friend will be playing to support the environmentally focused non-profit group Creatively United for the Planet. The relaxed singer-songwriter and folk-roots vibe will accompany a

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Insane funk posse

Vancouver's Five Alarm Funk bring all kinds of energy to their live shows. You will be compelled to dance. You will sweat and shake. All from the supreme power of irresistibly funky music. The fun goes down at Sugar Nightclub.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Theatre SKAM is ready to party

For nearly two decades, Theatre SKAM has promoted independent theatre in Victoria, and this year the company can finally get into bars and have a drink. Their birthday party fundraiser will be good times: live music, party games, and pool tables will keep you entertained, and a raffle will reward generosity! Party at 8pm at the Odd Fellows Hall, 1315 Douglas Street.

ARTS

play New play hits home in more ways than one

"This is a hyper-local piece; how often do you go to the theatre and listen to people talk about streets that you walk down every day?" JOEL BERNBAUM HOME IS A BEAUTIFUL WORD



Kayvon Kelly in rehearsals for Home Is a Beautiful Word at the Belfry Theatre.

IAYDEN GRIEVE CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The term "hits home" is used often but rarely does it take such a literal sense as in the case of Home Is a Beautiful Word.

Set in our own Victoria, Home is a Beautiful Word takes a unique look at the issue of homelessness using verbatim theatre, a method that keeps its material especially genuine.

"Verbatim is an art form that uses real transcripts of interviews in it," explains Home is a Beautiful

Word writer Joel Bernbaum, who cites Frost Nixon and The Laramie Project as some well-known examples. "What it allows is for people to speak for themselves, rather than a playwright putting words in their mouths."

Since he began the process of creating the play, Bernbaum has performed more than 500 interviews throughout Victoria, asking the homeless, businesspeople, government workers, stay-at-home parents-really, everyone from children to senior citizens—their opinion on the issue of homelessness.

"It was important to me from the beginning to have a holistic view because homeless people are part of the story, but they're not the whole story," he says. "If we stick to that what can happen is it becomes an 'us and them' dynamic."

He also explains how surprising each interview was, saying that each time he made an assumption about how someone would respond on this issue, his assumption would be shattered. This is, in essence, the same effect he hopes to deliver to his audience.

"I think if we do our jobs right in the theatre, we are entertaining our audiences and also engaging them in an experience that makes them think about life in a different way," says Bernbaum. "That's important at all times in theatre, but especially with an issue like this, in a city like this. This is a hyper-local piece; how often do you go to the theatre and listen to people talk about streets that you walk down every day?"

Bernbaum says that the people behind Home have an opportunity

to give the audience an enjoyable evening, but they also have the opportunity-and the responsibility, he says-to engage them, make them think differently, and expand their thoughts on their city and the

people in it. "If that's not important," he says, "I don't know what is."

> Home is a Beautiful Word Until Sunday, January 19 \$25, Belfry Theatre belfry.bc.ca





COLUMNS

which will be good for the industry

Budget-friendly devices

of Nexus devices, which provide

top-notch hardware in a budget-

friendly price, we can be certain that

the trend is towards these kinds of

devices now. The average consumer

is now more aware and conscious

while buying phones, and the com-

panies know that. This trend will

continue to rise in 2014, so more

and more Nexus-like devices will

Smart watches and Google

glasses are just a start. In 2014, be

prepared to welcome the innovative

and more portable devices with

even smarter technologies. Google

is already set to launch Glass 2.0,

which will add more functionality

to the privately released glasses

device and is said to be available

to public consumers sometime in

2014. Smart watches are another

exciting innovation that will surely

rise in 2014, given the trend towards

we can expect in 2014. But we

never actually know what's in store

until it arrives on store shelves and

This is just a glimpse of what

Wearable technology

be ready to roll.

portability.

With the increased popularity

words and photo by Patrick Hallihan

Easy-peasy fruit cobbler



Rarely has cobbler been this easy. Or peasy!

Fruit cobbler is the delicious little brother of the much beloved pie dessert. The creation of a pie is somewhat more involved, with more that can go wrong, and it's substantially more time-consuming. Cobbler, on the other hand, is quick and easy and still tastes delicious. So let's get to it!

First things first, you will need:

- Part one (filling)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- -1/2 tsp salt

10

Noms!

- 1 cup water
- 1 tbsp corn starch
- 4 cups fruit of choice
- Part two (crust)
- 2 cups flour
- -1/2 tsp salt
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 cup shortening
- 1 cup milk

This recipe was originally intended to make rhubarb cobbler, but today I opted for apples. Because of this, I used Granny Smith apples as

they are naturally tart, somewhat similar to rhubarb. That said, apples are also far more tedious as you have to peel them, so go ahead and do that first, then slice them fairly thin and put them aside for now.

With the fruit ready, preheat the oven for 425F. You're better to do this after prepping the fruit because of how time-consuming prepping the apples is.

With the apples (or whichever fruit you chose) prepped, we can start assembling the ingredients from part one of the above list. First, grease an eight-by-eight, oven-safe glass pan with butter or shortening.

Then, mix all of the dry ingredients, add your prepared fruit, mix in the water, and pour the entire mixture into the pan. Place the glass pan in the preheated oven until it bubbles, approximately 8-10 minutes. Place the glass pan on a cookie sheet in case of overflow.

While the filling is baking, move on to part two: making the batter to form our crust. In a bowl, combine the flour, salt, baking powder, and two tablespoons of sugar. Once mixed, add the shortening and cut it into the other ingredients. Finally, we add the milk to finish forming our batter. Stir up the batter until it's fully mixed. It should be somewhat spongy and doughy when done.

Spoon clumps of the batter on top of the filling. Don't worry about fully covering everything or spreading it evenly; the batter will expand substantially as it bakes. Once done, sprinkle a tablespoon of sugar on top, and place it in the oven to cook for about 20 minutes, or until golden brown.

Once done, the crust formed on top should have expanded substantially and turned golden brown. Allow your newly formed concoction to cool, and enjoy! (And I'm serious about the cooling part; the filling is pretty much molten lava when it comes out of the oven.)

Happy baking, everyone, and welcome back to school!



10:30am - 11:10am





as a whole.

Expect to see more wearable tech this year.

It's a new year, with new resolutions, and some new, and refreshing, technology news.

The year 2013 was really big in technology sector; it had Google glasses, smart watches, and the evolution of 3D printers. But all of that is past now, so what's next? What can we expect in 2014?

Well, we can't answer, but we can predict. Here's a list of the top technology innovations and rising trends that we can expect this year.

Curved displays

Towards the end of 2013, we had a glimpse of what curved displays will be like in smartphones like Galaxy Round and LG's G Flex. Many were impressed, but some questioned its advantage. Regardless of what individual opinions are, we can surely expect this curved screen technology to be used in future devices, including some smartphones and tablets.

Operating systems

Firefox, Blackberry, and Ubuntu have already announced their presence in the smartphone market. In 2013, we heard about Firefox OS, BlackBerry 10, Sailfish OS, Ubuntu Touch, Tizen, not to mention many others. But we can predict that Android, iOS, and Windows Phone will remain the leaders in 2014.0ne thing is certain: competition will bring innovative ideas to the table,

by Matthew Helliwell

Scandal and political change in store

Not every Canadian finds politics riveting. The past year, however, rocked many a political world with its scandals, shake-ups, and election upsets.

And, yet, for all the excitement

landscape, it's this: we haven't seen anything yet.

Much of the action of the past year is far from over and here's what we have to look forward to in 2014: the fates of both the Northern

online, so be prepared for technology news that could blow your mind this year. 🛛 🗧 📖 (Politically Speaking

and 11:20am – 12:00pm

BC Hydro

Matt Barnes **TEC 174**

Schlumberger Dave Meade **TEC 177**

IBEW Local 320 Adrien Livingston TEC 175

12:00pm - 12:40pm and 12:50pm – 1:30pm

JV Driver

Mike Miketon TFC 174

ABE Books

Cliff McCollum TEC 175

McElhanney Land Surveys Ltd.

Ryan Blommaert **TEC 177**



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of 2013, this year promises even more.

Let's recap 2013: right here at home, the BC Liberals shocked everyone with a sweeping election win, to the chagrin of pollsters who had declared their post-mortem.

Federally, the Liberals shocked exactly no one after choosing as the face of their party an average politician with a certain winning surname. Justin Trudeau has catapulted the Liberals back to being taken seriously, and polls show they are once again a force to be reckoned with.

Meanwhile, the offices of the Prime Minister and the Mayor of Toronto faced two entirely different scandals.

The year 2013 had everyone in the political loop on the edge of their seats. But if one thing can be read from the current political

Gateway and Keystone XL pipelines are still to be determined. Even a final approval from Ottawa on Northern Gateway won't seal the deal; this year is sure to bring court challenges and civil opposition to Enbridge's proposal.

The Keystone XL ball remains in the United States' court and, if the deadlock of 2013 is any indication, it will remain there for at least the next year.

2014 is almost certain to bring an election to an already politically tumultuous Quebec. If the governing Parti Quebecois win a majority it would mean another separation referendum, a mess that most of my generation is too young to remember.

2013 was a heck of a year in Canadian politics, but it won't hold a candle to what we're in for in the coming months.

COLUMNS/HUMOUR

Camosun College Student Society columns

Queerly Forward

by Jillian Wedel camosun college pride collective Ring in the new year on your own terms

The holiday season has come to a close and the year 2014 has now begun. For many, this time of year means being with family, celebrating old traditions, sharing good food, and exchanging gifts with your loved ones.

Sadly, not all folks who have come out as LGBTQ are welcome or feel comfortable heading home for the holidays. If they are welcome, however, often their partner is not.

As one who falls into this category, I felt the need to reach out to anyone else who has experienced this kind of alienation during a time of year when the overabundance of "Christmas cheer" often has a tendency to accentuate feelings of estrangement.

May you always remember that other people's

thoughts and feelings about who you happen to fall in love with have absolutely no reflection on the intrinsic worth of your beautiful, resilient, and vibrant spirit. Seek comfort in the fact that you belong to an enormous family of other queer individuals who love you for, and not in spite of, your unique identity.

Take this time to connect with the close friends and good people in your life who make you feel at home within yourself. Don't forget that not all family members are given—some of the best ones are chosen.

And don your gayest apparel, because it looks good on you.

From all of us at Camosun Pride, we wish you a safe and sexy new year. Though it may not always feel like it, you are celebrated.



The stroke that chimed in the New Year signalled something daunting: the looming summer job hunt. But never fear; just follow these six simple steps before you go approaching any future employers.

Do a general Google search

Start with a general search term that includes your industry and the location you want to work in (i.e. "marketing agency Victoria, BC"). You can also add "yellowpages" to your search for contact info. Compile a list of all the companies and save the websites for researching the companies later.

Ability's Muse

Do a specific Google search

If you are interested in working in a specific industry, do a second search. For example, add "sports" or "theatre" to a "marketing" search.

Research the companies

Read thoroughly through the company websites and any online reviews to find the company's core values, accomplishments, and customer feedback.

Rate the company

Make a list of all the things you want from your position. What skills do you want to build for your dream career? Do you want room for advancement within the company? Prioritize these things and then rate all of the companies you're considering.

by Andrea Eggenberger camosun college DECA club

Research each company's team

Read the company bios and their LinkedIn profiles. Do you have anything in common? Do they belong to any networking groups that you can attend?

Resume and cover letter Write these specifically for the company you're targeting and make an appointment with Camosun's career centre to check over your

by Rachael Grant camosun college students with (dis)abilities collective

Overcoming a (dis)ability

There is a demand that's easy for any person living with a (dis)ability to internalize, and that is the demand to overcome. There's an expectation for people with (dis)abilities to dig deep and surmount all the odds. To overcome the greatest of adversities and, above all, be inspiring is hammered into our heads through a deeply ingrained and overly romanticized societal requirement.

There is an expectation to jump the curb with your wheelchair if there is no ramp, and be that overly positive and excruciatingly optimistic person that society portrays many people with (dis)abilities as, and although there is value in being resilient and manoeuvring creatively through life, the popping of a wheelie, or the cultivation of a smile, shouldn't be

the expectation.

When the need to overcome outweighs a need to push for social change, we as a society lose out, as energy spent focusing on what we define as acceptable success takes away from possible efforts to promote accessibility, as well as the rethinking of the way we approach (dis)ability.

package.

Imagine the energy that could be refocused if we had an accessible society. Time spent learning how to navigate through a world that wasn't built with all in mind could be far better spent.

But the need for access is not focused on; instead, a super-human standard is being placed on the world's largest minority to be all that they can be, and get past that pesky (dis)ability.

Earth Council By Adrian Behennah



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PUZZLES/HUMOUR

January 8, 2014

onomatopoeia word search

The first five people to come by the <i>Nexus</i> office with this word search completed get to dip their hands into our pile of free CDs and take one home! This time around, we went with onomatopoeias. Why? Because we like typing that word out, and because we like how they look. So find the words on the right down	BANG BARK BEEP BLIMP HICCUP HONK MEOW MOO	ROAR SCREECH SHUSH SLURP SMACK SNEEZE SPLASH WOW
below, and have fun!	OUACK	700M
	Quileit	20011



astrological asininity

by River Rainfall

Hi! Happy new year! This is a really spooky and cosmic time for us astrologists, so bear with me. I hope your planets stay aligned this year! I feel like mine are already totally not aligned LOL! Let's do this!

Oh, and if you want to get in touch with me, well, sorry! I don't have an email LOL I think it's all being monitored and government mind control and microwaves and stuff BUT you can email *Nexus* and they'll pass it along to me.

Now that I'm talking about microwaves I'm hungry LOL!

Aries: Hi! Hope you had good holidays with lots of rest because LOL you've got a hell of a January ahead of you! Watch out for men named Bob, or Bobby, and women named Jane! Hopefully that's not, like, your mom or best friend or something!

Taurus: Taurus! What's going on? How's the big bull sign doing LOL. Well, you seem like you have your ducks in a row, but I don't know if you do. Double check that your Ts are dotted and all that!

Gemini: At some point over the break, I thought, maybe I'll stop writing this column. Every time I'm finished I crumble to the floor twitching and crying, it takes so much out of me! But then I think, Gemini, what's up! Gemini needs me. So, I'm back! Watch out for back bacon. LOL totally not just saying that because when I said "back" there a while ago it made me think of back bacon. It's what I saw in the stars! Sometimes I see food LOL.

Cancer: Uh-oh, now I'm hungry! Let's do this: 64 is good, 198 is very bad, networking and branding, I still don't know what either of those words mean, but you should focus on them, bye.

Leo: So, I told you a while ago about Lee the Leo I met? We totally hung out a LOT over the holidays. Leos, you're all good. I see squishy Saturn sundaes in your future! LOL.

Virgo: Virgos will be very vantastic in the future! LOL like fanastic!

Libra: Alright, let's get serious. Libra, good things are going to happen as a result of karma and stuff. LOLI typed "karama"! Then I typed "typede"! Anyway, keep up the good work just being you!

Scorpio: Hi! Hope all is well. Because it won't be for long! But hang in there: January might be a bummer, but February looks excellent. Whoa, long-term forecast! I didn't know I could do that LOL!

Sagittarius: I'm still laughing over my "typede" and "karama"! I hope you found that funny, Sagittarius! Because there's not much else worth smiling about in your near future! Too bad! Like your good pal Scorpio, that'll change next month.

Capricorn: OMG there are so many signs!

Aquarius: Hold on a second... have I mentioned yet that I'm an Aquarius? I don't think so! So, that's totally cool. We're, like, related! LOL let's hang out!

Pisces: You again? You're always after my sign (Aquarius!), closing things down, just being weird hanging around. But, fine: totally buy jellybeans this month, it'll set off a chain reaction like you wouldn't believe! LOL, wow!







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) or phone (250-370-3591).

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