

Rain boots and fireflies: a memoir

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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I encourage everyone to take advantage of me."

COVER IMAGES:
Rain boots and fireflies illustration: Rebecca Davies/*Nexus*
Student groups react to ABE cuts: Jill Westby/*Nexus*
Camosun Child Care: Jill Westby/*Nexus*
Book covers: provided

editor's letter

Time for some literary lovin'

There are many joys that come with being a student newspaper: we get to report on issues that matter to students that other media might be ignoring, for example (see contributing writer Sarah Tayler's piece on page 3 on how student groups are responding to the government lifting the tuition cap on Adult Basic Education courses). We get to write about issues that impact students at Camosun (see contributing writer Jeremy Vargas' story on page 4 about the difficulties some students with children face trying to get childcare services at Camosun).

And sometimes we get to do something totally different.

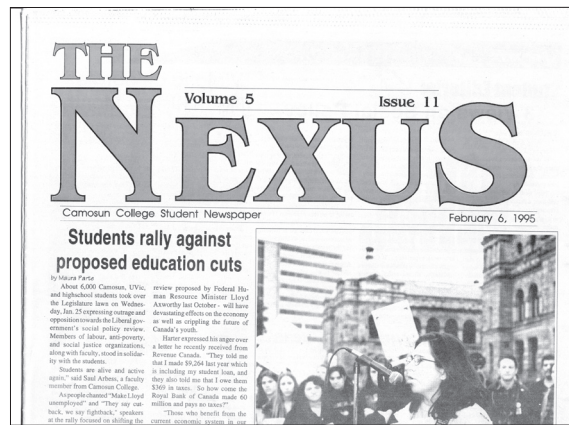
Which is what we did with this issue's feature story, where contributing writer Rebecca Davies offers up a lot more of herself than we usually see in our stories. But her memoir about her childhood is one that we thought many students would be able to either relate to or find compelling. Head over to page 6 to read it, and, as always, let us know your thoughts over at nexusnewspaper.com, or find us on Facebook or Twitter and sound off there (or send an email to us at the email address below).

And if the memoir leaves you feeling in a bit of a literary mood, great: we've got no less than four book reviews this issue (see page 9). Consider this our Valentine's Day issue; because if there's one thing all of us around here have in common, it's that we love words, no matter what form they take.

Greg Pratt, managing editor
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

20 years ago in *Nexus*



SIN sins: In our February 6, 1995 issue, there was a news story about how Camosun had stopped using Social Insurance Numbers (SINs) as student IDs. Citing issues of privacy concerns from Camosun students, the college made the decision to stop SINning. "It's a positive move that brings the college in line with Protection of Privacy legislation," said Paul Merner, who was at the time Camosun's Institutional Planning and Research head.

Parking problems: A news story with the dismal headline "Parking not to improve" ran in this issue, explaining that even though parking lots at Interurban were crowded, there would not be any more added.

And it sounds like what was there at the time wasn't top-notch. Magnus McElroy, a Walk Safer volunteer at Interurban, said that "the parking lot is horrible; it is full of deep mud puddles."

Camosun Express needed 20 years ago: Students can currently enjoy the services of the Camosun Express shuttle bus to get from campus to campus, but back then, no such bus existed. But it was needed. "A bus is needed to connect the Lansdowne and Interurban campuses," Sarah Kemp, the Camosun College Student Society chair at the time, said in the article "Students propose inter-campus bus." Hey, better late than never, right?

open space

Potential pedestrian paradise



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Students take this potentially deadly jaywalking gamble daily.

MATT O'CONNOR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What's scarier than going thousands of dollars into debt for a piece of paper that offers no guarantee of earning back its worth, let alone securing the career you're studying for?

Getting hit by a car.

And, here at Camosun College, that fear is a daily early-morning concern.

Hate Mondays? Find yourself half asleep walking into your first class of the day? Why not catch the #14 bus to school and attempt to cross Richmond Street to truly wake you up?

Foul Bay Road has a lovely and respected pedestrian crosswalk at the main entrance of the school, complete with signs and flashing lights, so why not have the same situation on the opposite side of the school where the secondary entrance can be found, and where one of the major bus routes drops off a large number of Camosun students all day?

I realize crosswalks don't magically appear, or I'm sure that would have happened one of the many times this issue was previously raised... no, a crosswalk at this location would take some thought and planning.

Richmond Street is certainly a doozy, especially during rush hour when most students are coming and going. Traffic quickly travels over the hill near the corner of Lansdowne with limited visibility, coming around a sharp corner prior to that. This busy road is a danger

for students and drivers alike. These reasons are also what makes, or what should make, a crosswalk at this location a priority for the college.

Is this issue going to be overlooked after being brought up yet again? Is a student petition required? Or does a student really need to be struck by a vehicle to have this obvious safety concern addressed?

I find it hard to believe that the college simply doesn't care about the well-being of its tuition-yielding attendees and "leaders of tomorrow," as Camosun refers to them.

Yes, there's a crosswalk at the intersection a mere block away with a two-minute wait time to cross, plus another block of a walk back up to the school grounds, but what student with less than five minutes to get to class is going to go through all of that just to cross two lanes of traffic in Victoria?

Scratch that; I've got an idea!

Why not simply install a crosswalk at the top of the hill in plain view of traffic, maybe throw in a couple of warning signs with flashing lights to give drivers fair warning of a pedestrian-controlled walkway? This would allow students an easily accessed and safe street crossing at the bottom of the stairs at the secondary Camosun College entrance, with the large staircase leading up to the historic Young Building.

This would make the secondary entrance of the Lansdowne campus not only safe, but one to be proud of.

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

SPEAK UP

Describe the romantic partner of your dreams.

BY SARAH TAYLER



GILLIAN BRYSON

"Someone who is assertive, but not overbearing; someone who is kind but who is still willing to let me screw up."



KUMI TAKEUCHI

"Someone who treats me very well, and we love each other very much."



EDISON CHUNG

"Someone I would like to hang out with all the time. I would like to share my happiness and sadness."



J.J. WYTRWAL

"A mirror with a playback of my voice. No, my real answer would be someone who is understanding, trusting, and reliable."



KINGSLEY AGBA

"She'll have self confidence and feel free to be herself. Someone that has dreams and will push me to my own dreams, too. Somebody fun."



EMILY EVANS

"Tall, and caring, and kind, and I need funny. And, yeah, handsome is a plus."

education

Charging tuition for Adult Basic Education causes uproar

SARAH TAYLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As of January 1, tuition-free adult upgrading courses have been eliminated, and postsecondary institutions across BC are now allowed to charge tuition fees. This change by the BC Liberals differs from their announcement in 2007 that there would be no tuition for Adult Basic Education (ABE), which included high school and English as a Second Language courses at post-secondary institutions.

"The Camosun College Student Society is shocked," says Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Rachael Grant. "It's contrary to what has been promised in the past by the BC Liberals."

According to Grant, the free access to ABE was necessary to eliminate the barrier that blocked access to job markets and further education. Zachary Crispin, chairperson of the BC chapter of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) says the tuition-free programs were a central element in allowing low-income adult students to pursue postsecondary education.

"This negative change in policy essentially betrays the most in-need people who would like to access education," says Crispin. "What's reasonable is for the public, through the government, to invest in education, so that there are not financial barriers, and we can all reap the benefit of having an educated populace and ensure that people who are in a marginalized circumstance or an impoverished background have the ability to remove themselves

"This is going to be very difficult for most students to pay for courses, and registration will probably go way down."

KATHY CORRIGAN
OPPOSITION SPOKESPERSON FOR ADVANCED EDUCATION

from that by having access to that free education."

According to Minister of Advanced Education Andrew Wilkinson, the reason for these changes to ABE's tuition is to financially sustain the postsecondary systems.

"Public postsecondary institutions now have an option to charge tuition fees for adult upgrading programs to keep these important programs equitable and sustainable," says Wilkinson.

The official Opposition spokesperson for Advanced Education, Kathy Corrigan, says that this is a poorly thought out policy, that the amount of money necessary for funding free access to ABE is relatively minor, and that the Liberals' priority is clearly not education. Corrigan also calls the new budget for ABE grants a "red herring."

"The financial problem here is that even charging adults for upgrading or for English Language learning will not cover the cost of the program," says Corrigan. "This is going to be very difficult for most students to pay for courses, and registration will probably go way down."

According to the CFS, the change makes the two percent cap

on tuition fee increases irrelevant and goes against the belief of accessible education.

"Going from a zero-dollar cost to hundreds of dollars certainly breaks the spirit of the cap on tuition increases for these programs," says Crispin. "In addition to this, there's a number of these courses that were in previous years referred to as Adult Basic Education high-school courses that were repackaged into seemingly first-year college courses, and fees were assessed to those as well. Institutions like Camosun College have skirted the rules to increase tuition fees in some of these programs."

Beginning on April 1, the government is planning on increasing the annual budget for grants in ABE and making them more flexible.

"Right now, we're not incredibly confident that this will be comprehensive enough to support everyone who is in need of upgrading," says Grant.

Meanwhile, Wilkinson defends the effectiveness that these grants will have.

"Upfront, non-repayable grants are available to low-income students to cover the cost of tuition and other education-related expenses such as



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Rachael Grant is the Camosun College Student Society external executive.

supplies, textbooks, transportation, and childcare," says Wilkinson. "The annual grant budget is being increased by 33 percent to \$7.6 million in anticipation of increased

demand. And a more flexible approach means students who are 10 percent above the income threshold are now eligible for a grant to cover half of their tuition cost."

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun food-service survey

Camosun will be encouraging students and employees to take a food service survey from February 2 to 13 to provide feedback and reviews, allowing these services to be improved upon. Go to bit.ly/15w6EF9 to take the survey.

Camosun to receive \$400,000 for trades

Camosun will receive \$400,000 to purchase new trades equipment as a part of the BC Skills for Jobs Blueprint. The equipment includes virtual welding machines, refrigeration trailers, and laptops. North Island College and Vancouver Island University have also been chosen to receive monetary support for trades programs.

Chargers volleyball teams get mixed results

The Camosun Chargers women's volleyball team won back-to-back games on the January 23–24 weekend against the Columbia Bible College Bearcats. Then, on January 30 and 31 they won two games against the Douglas Royals. The Chargers men had back-to-back victories over the January 16–17

weekend, lost to the Royals on January 30 then came back for a win on January 31. Camosun student Cam Fennema was an asset in that weekend's wins and earned the PACWEST Men's Athlete of the Week award.

Camosun's Erika Sheen named athlete of the week

Camosun women's volleyball player Erika Sheen led Camosun to a 12–2 record on the January 16–17 weekend. Sheen had over 50 assists and 14 points through the series against the Fraser Valley Cascades. Sheen was named PACWEST Women's Volleyball Athlete of the Week for an outstanding performance, as well as Athlete of the Week across all sports.

Basketball teams up and down

On January 23, the Quest College Kermodes defeated the Chargers women's basketball team, despite a strong performance in the first three quarters of the game. The Kermodes remain undefeated over 11 games. Haley Cabral led the Chargers with 12 points and two rebounds, and Kelly Young added nine points, seven rebounds, and two assists. Camosun now has a

record of 6–5. The Kermodes won defeated the Chargers's women's team again on January 24. On January 30, the Chargers women's team lost to the Columbia Bible College Bearcats, and on January 31 they lost to the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Eagles. Meanwhile, the Chargers men also held a good fight on January 23 but ultimately lost to the Kermodes, who led the game in all four quarters. Mat Uduboker led the Chargers with 15 points, one rebound, and four assists. But they came back, defeating the Capilano Blues on January 24, then on January 30, the men's team defeated the Bearcats, and on January 31 they defeated the Eagles.

Canadian students stand up for Egyptian students

Students across Canada are standing behind Egyptian students in their struggle for human rights. A recent statement signed by the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) and student unions from five other Canadian schools was addressed to the Canadian government and human rights groups, pleading for pressure to persuade Egyptian authorities to drop charges laid against students exercising their freedom of expression.

University of Victoria hikes rental fees, students react

On January 21 and 22, the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) responded to UVic's 10-year plan to hike residence rental fees. The UVSS held a series of events and workshops to take direct action against the startling raise in fees that start in September with a 13 percent increase; the fees will then be compounded with six percent increases for two years, then four percent for the remaining seven years.

Capital Regional District reaches agreement on affordable housing

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has reached an agreement with the province of British Columbia to purchase 22 properties leased to CRD's Housing Corporation. The Capital Regional Housing Corporation (CRHC) has constructed 538 affordable housing units over the last 30 years. The purchase of the land, according to the CRD, will allow them to improve management and operation, as well as sustainability, for the CRHC's 1,286 affordable-housing units.

Green Party opens in Vic

The Green Party of Canada has opened an office in Victoria that will serve as a hub for regional candidates, community events, and supporters and as a headquarters for the Green Party of BC. The office is located at 843 Fort Street.

Victoria's David Vest wins Maple Blues Award

Victoria recording artist David Vest recently won the Maple Blues Award for Piano/Keyboard Player of the Year, announced on January 19 in Toronto. This is Vest's second win in the category and fourth consecutive nomination.

-ERIN BLONDEAU

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

Want to write news stories for your student newspaper? You're in luck! We're always looking for new newshounds to write about hard-hitting matters that matter most to Camosun students. Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com for info!

campus

Student parents say campus childcare costly, long waitlists

JEREMY VARGAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Prices are high and waitlists long for Camosun students wanting to send their children to the college's Child Care Services centres, according to some student parents.

Derek Robertson is a student of the Sport Management program who says that utilizing the college's Child Care Services was not feasible for him.

"We can barely afford to go to school," says Robertson. "So to try and pay for our daughter to be in Child Care Services would probably be too much money, and I could not afford going to school."

Students pay \$1,085 a month for infants (newborn to 18 months) and toddlers (19 to 35 months) and \$810 for children three to five years old to attend the college's Child Care Services. These costs don't include snacks or lunches, which the parents have to provide. (Parents can apply for a government subsidy, which will pay for a percentage of the fees if they are eligible.)

"We price our fees based on the quality of care we offer in our centres and in the marketplace," says Lisa Stekelenburg, manager of Child Care Services at Camosun. "We are a best-practice facility and we are respected in the community

"If there was just more help for finding the resources for parents, that would be ideal."

CHELSEA DUNBAR
CAMOSUN STUDENT

at large for the practice that we offer in our centres."

Stekelenburg says that Camosun Child Care Services, along with the Camosun College Student Society, tries to help students who are unable to pay for such costs through bursaries.

"Every year about \$12,000-\$14,000 is given away in bursaries to students," says Stekelenburg. "We had 38 applications for bursaries this fall, and I am proud to say all of them, except for one that was ineligible, are getting a bursary."

But according to Chelsea Dunbar, a student of the Environmental Technology program and mother of an 18-month-old, applying for bursaries isn't a realistic expectation for some student parents.

"I barely have time to do my homework, let alone look for bursaries for 10 hours on the weekend," says Dunbar. "So if there was just more help for finding the resources for parents, that would be ideal."

Dunbar is also concerned with

the long waitlist for the Child Care Services program. She says she applied for their services at the Lansdowne campus, but after being waitlisted for four months, she was only offered a spot at Camosun's alternate campus, Interurban. After declining the spot, Dunbar removed herself from the waitlist and applied to another daycare.

"I would have liked to go to Camosun because of having my daughter close," says Dunbar. "But by the time I'm done my schooling, that's when I would get my daughter in there."

Interurban has space for eight infants (aged newborn to 18 months), each campus has eight spaces for toddlers (aged 19 to 35 months), and there are 16 spaces at Lansdowne and 24 at Interurban for children aged three to five. Stekelenburg says that students fill 70-75 percent of these spaces every year. Any application will be submitted to a waitlist, but the length of the waitlist can vary depending on the



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Lisa Stekelenburg is the manager of Child Care Services at Camosun.

number of applicants and spaces that are provided.

"It's not only our problem that we have a waitlist," says Stekelenburg. "It's the greater community at large of childcare in BC that has extensive waitlists."

Stekelenburg says she understands the challenges of being a student and a parent. She hopes that Camosun's Child Care Services acts

as an advocate for student parents at the college.

"We see the parents as our greatest heroes," says Stekelenburg. "They are working really hard to get ahead, and we want to try and support them as much as possible in succeeding in their education, and also as parents."

See camosun.ca/services/child-care/ for more information.

know your profs

English instructor Christine Kirchner says variety is the spice of life



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun's Christine Kirchner.

JASON SCHREURS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Know Your Profs is an ongoing series of profiles on the many instructors at Camosun College. Every issue we ask a different prof at Camosun the same 10 questions so we can get to know them a little better.

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

This issue we caught up with English Lit, Composition, and Creative Writing instructor Christine Kirchner and talked about the joys of teaching a variety of subjects, and how one misguided statement from a guest speaker can almost ruin a class' day.

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

I have been teaching English Literature, Composition, and Creative Writing since 1996. I taught briefly at the University of Victoria, Royal Roads, and the Camosun College School of Business before becoming a full-time instructor in the English Department at Camosun College in 1999.

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

I enjoy the interactions with the students. I love it when a class comes together, and there is energy and a passion for the literature or the writing. As a teacher, I am in the privileged position to observe and encourage students as their writing styles evolve; they discover their "voice" and their confidence grows. I love the diversity within our classes. Students at Camosun come from different backgrounds and cultures, and there is a wide range of ages and experience. Everyone has a unique frame of reference that he or she brings to the class' discussion of a work of literature. For example, a student will notice something about a story or a poem that I haven't noticed before, and he or she makes me re-think the story's or the poem's meaning. I love it when I learn from my students.

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

Well, I always tell them that

you can't truthfully write about characters unless you first know yourself—really know yourself. This process involves a rather painful process of "holding up the mirror," looking at ourselves honestly and objectively, our "warts" as well as our "charms." I would like them to know that I have great difficulty with this process, too.

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

That's a funny question because if I didn't want them to know something about me, why would I tell it to you now to publish it in *Nexus*? I will give you the answer that I gave to my children, and now to my grandchildren, when they ask me those kinds of questions: that all my dark, nefarious secrets are written in my autobiography, which will be published posthumously. If nothing else, that may guarantee one or two sales of the book.

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

One of the best things I've found about teaching at Camosun College is the opportunity to teach a variety of courses. As teachers, we are not slotted into a niche, unless we wish to be. For example, this January I am teaching a second-year film and literature course, two first-year Indigenous literature courses, and a second-year creative non-fiction course. This constant variety has been so beneficial to my teaching

and to my learning, since it allows me to expand my knowledge and understanding of writing and of literature, and to keep up with the changes in critical thinking and writing that are happening all over the world.

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

I was teaching an evening travel-writing class. The class was full of mainly older professional people (baby boomers or "zoomers") who were retired and eager to write about their travels. I had invited local poet, fiction, and nonfiction writer Susan Musgrave to talk about some of her travel/personal-essay pieces that we were studying in the class. She began by saying she had only one piece of advice for them, and that was to never to leave their homes because the world is a very scary place. You could have heard a feather drop during the long silence that followed that remark. I have a blurred memory of my linguistic calisthenics as I tried to save the situation by humorously reminding her that this was indeed a *travel* writing class. Somehow the situation and my credibility as a teacher were saved, but I will never forget the stunned look on their collective faces.

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

Postsecondary education is certainly evolving quickly due to the

advances in technology and the coming together of cultures into more multicultural or global communities. The classroom I teach in is vastly different from the classroom I experienced as a postsecondary student. The one thing that hasn't changed, however, is that students are still saddled with crushing debt as they embark on a career after graduation. I have a singular wish that postsecondary education become free for students in Canada.

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

My idea of relaxation has always involved physical activity: sports like tennis, rowing, golf, and so on. I have played tennis for most of my life. Much of my job as a teacher requires my sitting for long hours marking essays, stories, etc., so I always look forward to a good game of tennis on the weekends.

9: What's your favourite meal?

I know how to cook and have become quite good at it, having raised a family. Nevertheless, I would have to agree with my mother, who raised seven children: her favourite meal is the one that she didn't have to cook.

10: What's your biggest pet peeve?

What outrages me is when the helpless and innocent, be they children, men, women, whole cultures, or animals, are oppressed or hurt by those in positions of power over them.

student groups

New Camosun Social Justice Club sheds light on discrimination



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Andy Chen of the Camosun Social Justice Club.

SHAE CARTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Discrimination against minorities in Canada is something that is echoed on the country's post-secondary campuses. Luckily, the Camosun Social Justice Club has emerged to combat these issues, and in doing so has created a space

where students can safely tell their stories on campus.

The Social Justice Club holds a community roundtable meeting every other Tuesday in room 132 of the Alan Batey Library and Learning Commons at the Lansdowne campus. There, a group of students meet, share their experiences, and

“Where they’re being taught about equality, and human rights, at the same time our systems are denying them access to services we take for granted, like English language training.”

ANDY CHEN
CAMOSUN SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

discuss problems happening on campus.

Camosun student and staff-person Andy Chen is at the forefront of this new club. For Chen, social justice encompasses issues of inequality, and with this new club he hopes to bring these issues to light.

“The definition seems to change all the time,” says Chen. “For me, social justice is raising awareness about issues that disproportionately affect members of society, and it’s pretty broad. It includes, but is not limited to, racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism.”

Chen has heard firsthand the struggles of students on campus. Working in the English Language Development department, he has listened to countless stories of

struggles that new immigrants and citizens have gone through.

“I started hearing more stories of adversity, and it actually started to mean something,” says Chen. “We have students there who’ve experienced torture and imprisonment. They were fleeing their country and coming to Canada because it’s a safe haven.”

But even Canada still lacks the equality it desperately needs. In October, government cuts to funding on postsecondary ESL programs ignited a desire for justice in Chen.

“They’re experiencing a different kind of oppression,” says Chen about ESL students. “Where they’re being taught about equality, and human rights, at the same time our systems are denying them access to services we take for granted, like English language training.”

Chen says we need to hear these

stories. According to him, Western media doesn’t adequately represent these visible minorities in society. His hope is that the Social Justice Club can help others shed light on these issues.

“We never seem to get a full picture,” says Chen. “Personal stories broaden that narrative.”

But finding people who wish to speak up about discrimination can be hard.

“A lot of people just don’t want to talk about it,” explains Chen, “or feel they don’t know enough to engage someone in that discussion.”

But some students are speaking up. One student says her experiences in the club have been positive so far and that she appreciates the space.

“It’s a safe place,” says Sula Brown, “to edify our minds with the freedom to release the greater voice within.”



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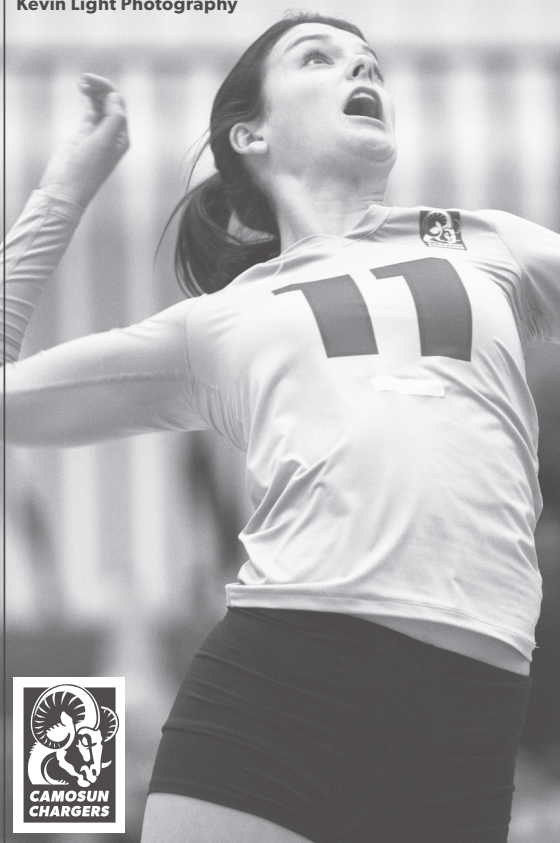
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Kevin Light Photography



CAMOSUN CHARGERS 2015 HOME GAMES

BASKETBALL

Fri Feb 6	LC	W6:00pm	M8:00pm
Sat Feb 7	DC	W1:00pm	M3:00pm
Fri Feb 20	KPU	W6:00pm	M8:00pm
Sat Feb 21	CBC	W1:00pm	M3:00pm

VOLLEYBALL

Sat Feb 14	COTR	W4:00pm	M6:00pm
Sun Feb 15	COTR	W10:00am	M12 Noon
Sat Feb 21	VIU	W6:00pm	M8:00pm

ALL GAMES PLAYED AT PISE



Camosun hosts the PACWEST Provincial Volleyball Championships

February 26-28

FREE admission to students with valid Camosun ID
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Find the Chargers at www.camosun.ca/sports/chargers

Rain boots and fireflies: a dramatic telling of common events

Story and illustration by Rebecca Davies, contributing writer



Bits and pieces of memory spark in my head like fireflies on a humid Ontario evening. The thoughts drift by, happy and content, fluttering against the dark backdrop. The bioluminescent twinkles in the darkness show me innocent flashbacks of random moments: ironing my best friend's hair on her bedroom floor before she left, skidding down a hill on my bare feet while roller-skating in the parking lot of our apartment, and endless hours burning marshmallows around campfires.

Past Christmases and Halloweens blend together, years and ages become vague, but these events, now meaningless, swirl together as one and it's difficult to know when one memory begins and another one ends. Sometimes, though, when I am quiet and able to breathe deep, the brighter, more significant memories that I would rather forget begin to fly around me like mosquitoes. Pesky memories that challenge my mindfulness dodge in and out of my headspace, pining for my attention. If I swat at them, they will fight harder, so I close my eyes, retreat into myself, and allow them to pass about as they please.

One particular moment is more aggressive and shines brighter than the others. It's the mosquito that is attracted to the inside of my ear, that stings my lip as I sip lemonade in the summer sun. Its incessant buzz attracts a swarm of thoughts that I'd rather not be forced to experience over and over, and over again.

It must have been summertime, because I remember it was quiet and the sun could still be seen peeking through the dark clouds that lingered after a downpour. My teenage self had just been dropped off by my boyfriend's red Ford pickup truck, and I noticed the house was blanketed in an eerie stillness. The damp air left dew on my skin, and the steam rising from the pavement that had been cooled by the rain didn't smell fresh. It smelled thick and toxic, as most Ontario evenings do.

I looked up and saw my little sister, still too young to be out alone, coming back to the house in my mother's oversized rubber boots. The hood of her fleece nightgown, covered in what I think was pictures of little stars, was dripping and muddy, even though the rain boots reached the middle of her thighs. Her head sulked forward as she dragged her feet, and she smouldered in my stomach and burned its way up my throat when I heard her whimper to herself.

I called out her name, and when she looked up and saw me through the rain, tears, her blue eyes opened as wide as the ocean and swallowed me whole. She tried to run towards me, but the boots were so big that it was hard for her to bend her knees. I sprinted towards her and lifted her up into my arms as if the earth was crumbling from underneath her. She sobbed into my shoulder harder than I had ever seen her cry with my mother. I carried her fragile frame back to the house and told her that everything would be okay even though I didn't know for sure.

I didn't know what had happened. I don't think I wanted to know. The memory I remember is wanting to get her home to bed. When we walked into the house, our mom sat by herself on the tattered blue sofa that she tried to make presentable with a crochet blanket draped over top. Her feet

I carried her fragile frame back to the house and told her that everything would be okay, even though I didn't know for sure.

propped up on the sage green chest that she has repainted as many times as she has been left by a man. It's as if a new coat of semi-gloss might help mask her feelings of worthlessness. She just stared at the empty space in front of her, while the cigarette between her fingers left still eddies of smoke floating throughout the room. She was either too embarrassed or unwilling to admit that yet another man had torn through our lives once again. She didn't even look at us, and that was fine with me.

I'm not sure if my sister told me that night, or if it's something that she confessed when she got older, but I know somehow that she was looking for me that evening. I had told her I would be at my friend's house down the street, but it was common for me to lie about where I was so I could get stoned and hang out with boys. She said she remembers wandering up the road, but she could not remember what house it was. She was tired of listening to our mother be called a cunt while being poked in the chest and wanted me to come home. I don't know how long she was walking up and down that street, but nobody had noticed she was gone. She was scared and needed me to protect her and I wasn't there.

Mom's boyfriend at the time was not as loud when I was around. He learned that I was strong when I stood up to him, close enough to smell the beer on his breath, and told him to shut the fuck up because we had school in the morning. I was tired. I was angry that my sister had to crawl into my bed in the middle of the night to feel safe. He ran over my bike the next day with his truck, but I knew that was only because he felt threatened. I smiled inside, knowing that I had gotten under his skin.

My mom had not dated that much while I was growing up. I almost wish she had. I think it would have been easier to watch men come and go quickly, instead of staying around for years, just long enough for me to love them before they got bored. My own biological father didn't even give me a chance. He left before I was able to call him Dad, and for that I am almost thankful. The stories I've been told about him leave the taste of battery acid on my tongue, but the desire for acknowledgement and the feelings of abandonment still linger. I suppose I owe him for my blue-green eyes and defensive stubbornness, but that's about it.

Years before my sister was even thought of, when I was around four, my mom met a man who was willing to love me in return. We laid together on our sofa in the evenings reading Dr. Seuss books, our feet resting on Mom's travelling chest, then painted a rich burgundy. One summer, he spent every possible moment in the lake with me, holding me gently under my stomach at the water's surface determined to teach me to swim. I remember him encouraging me to kick, kick, kick harder, and as I floated off on my own I could hear him cheering behind me.

Now that I am older, I've been told that he had his demons. If he liked to drink too much, it had never affected my perception of the strength and safety he provided me. I was devastated when he left. I remember clawing at the back of his work boots after he kissed the top of my head and walked to the door with an overstuffed army duffel bag slung over his shoulder. Now that I am older, I can see how he had to leave due to something greater than myself, but back then, as a young girl already doubting her place in this world, I was sure it was something I had done. Now that I am older, I know people sometimes have to make difficult, life-changing decisions and don't always know which path to choose.

He moved to San Diego and I never saw him again. He would write to

me, describing his new house and telling me how much he missed our quiet moments. He would beg my mom to let me visit him, and for her own reasons she did not think that was a good idea, so I daydreamed of us fishing as I stared at the map he had sent me with the red line he had made in marker, connecting our two cities.

One morning, after a couple years had passed, my mom snuck into my bedroom and crawled in between my pink Barbie sheets. As I stirred, I could feel the tension in her bones. She tucked my hair behind my ear and told me that there had been an accident. She has never been one for subtleties; he was gone. He had wrapped his car around a telephone pole and did not survive. I lay still, unable to breathe. I don't remember crying either. I think I just stared at the ceiling wondering what I'd make at school on Father's Day now that he was dead.

I wore my favourite purple polka-dot dress with white frills around the collar to his funeral, but we never made it. Our car broke down on the way, and as I bobbed on my mom's lap in the cab of the tow truck I remember telling myself that it wasn't over, I would not forget him. I was told that he had a diary, and within it was pages upon pages of thoughts and dreams for my future. That's how I know he really loved me. I have learned throughout the years that when my family shifts and changes, I can decide who remains at the core of who I am, and to not dwell on who is not. We make our own family, and he will always be the one I call Dad.

I also later learned that there was never a car accident.

Secrets have a way of being manipulated into truths the longer that they are held. I have never gotten the full story of what happened. He must have had demons living inside him, as I later found out that he had hanged himself; at least that is what I'm told. He had killed himself. He had killed himself never knowing how much he had shaped my childhood. Ten years later, the wounds still raw and throbbing, I got a permanent reminder of him in a tattoo of elephants around my wrist, just like the one I would see as he turned the pages of my first book.

Memories all intertwined burn through my head like an unruly forest fire that was started by that one tiny spark of vision: my sister swaddling through the puddles, frantic and desperately trying to reach me, but being dragged down by the weight of the rain boots on her feet. She still wears those boots, the weight of them holding her back. Her memories are different than mine, but they shape us in the same way. No matter how hard you try, some events are so unique to you that they are part of your skin and bones. You can learn how to adapt, how to live with the thick residue of what remains. But what is left moulds and influences any decisions you make, whether you know it or not.

My story isn't a tragic one. I have never gone to bed hungry. I knew I was loved and did well in school. I grew up to be determined, and self-sufficient, and, most importantly, happy. But this story is mine. It is individual to me and has helped create the foundation of who I am today.

My mother has found her own happiness, and after we almost lost her last year, I see how strong she is. She was only searching for what we all search for: love. And due to her own fireflies from the past fighting for her attention, she was distracted. She has since learned, as I have, how to live with them, and has found her purpose as a mother, and a friend, and is by my sister's side as she grows into a smart, strong young woman who can stand up for herself without me.

Now that I am older, I know people sometimes have to make difficult, life-changing decisions and don't always know which path to choose.

art

Gillian Redwood interprets unseen energies of life

PASCALE ARCHIBALD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Local artist Gillian Redwood used 12 large canvases and a very interesting idea for her latest exhibition.

"I'm very aware that a lot of the things that connect us to other people and that create life are invisible or unseen to our eyes," says Redwood, whose newest exhibit looks at the connection between masculinity and femininity. "It's those connecting energies that I've focused on in this exhibition."

Redwood describes the series of paintings as a continuation of her previous works.

"The first series that I did a few years back was looking at women and the mythology of women, the next series was all about men and the roles that they take in our society," she says. "After having done the male and the female, I then wanted to show the integration of the masculine and feminine in some way, so this show is about the concepts of the masculine and the feminine, the friends and the connections, and the way that we interact with each other."

The connections are described by Redwood in terms of energies, radiating out, in, and around the figures, and are the common theme throughout the entire series. The inspiration for the show came from her time spent travelling and her

interest in the human body at a molecular level, she says.

"I've done a lot of travelling and talked to many different people in many different areas of the world who have a much deeper understanding of energy," says Redwood. "I just think it's an amazing concept that the very tiniest particle, the very tiniest atom in our body, in our skin, in our bones... the very tiniest parts of us are actually little packets of energy, and that this can connect in all sorts of incredible ways with whatever is around us. So I wanted to include the idea of this universal energy, the universal spirit that connects everything."

Redwood has specific techniques she uses to portray these complex concepts. "When I paint I use bold strokes to show where weight and movement create dynamism, and I use ribbons of bright colour to indicate the streams of energy," she says. "For example, in some of the paintings there are kind of streams of gold coming from the sky, through the people, and into the ground."

Redwood learned the techniques she uses in all of her work years ago at the beginning of her artistic life. As a teenager, she attended arts school after graduating high school.

"What I learned then has really been the foundation of my painting now, and in those days I was under

"I wanted to include the idea of this universal energy, the universal spirit that connects everything."

GILLIAN REDWOOD
ARTIST

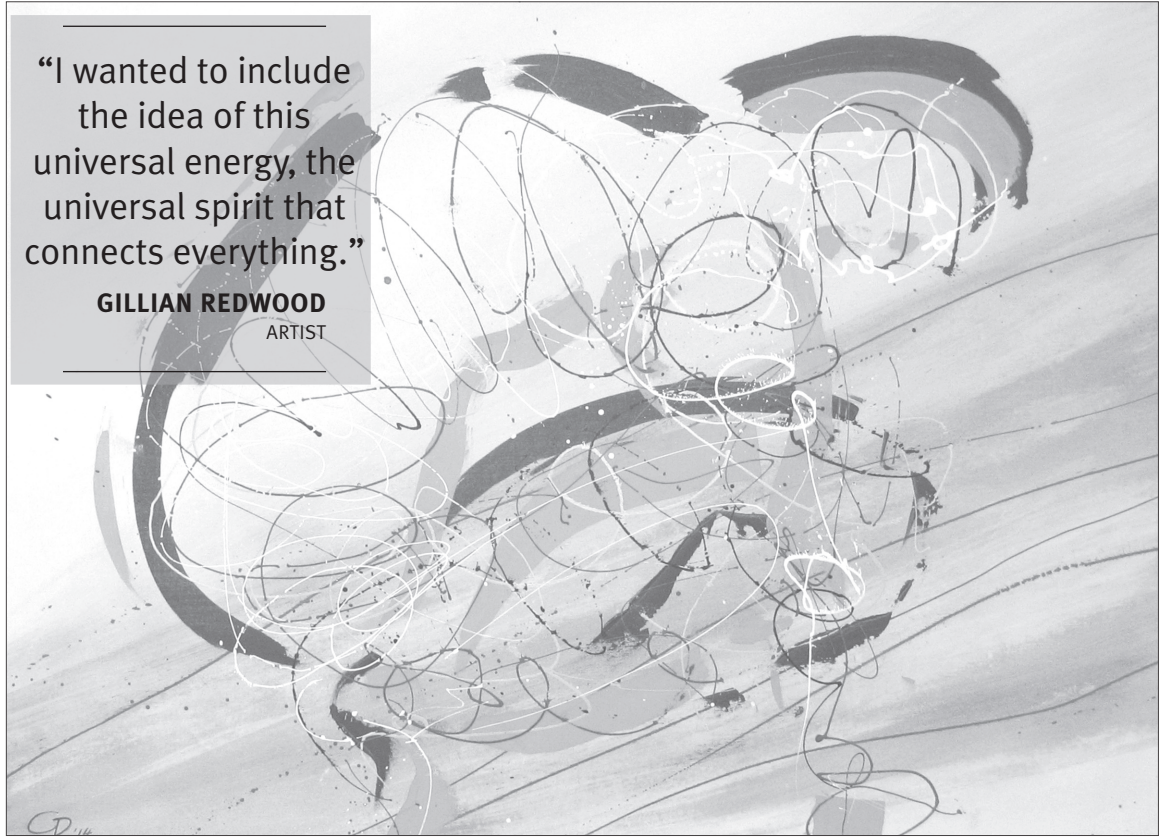


IMAGE PROVIDED

Gillian Redwood's *Piquioa* is an example of some of the work on display in *Energetic Universe*.

the direction of some very fine abstract artists," she says. "They gave me grounding in colour, line, form, and gesture."

Redwood graduated in 1969 but didn't pursue full-time artistry until 2003 after she had raised her three children.

"I worked in different areas of commercial art along the way, but in the background I've always been

painting. I was doing that right up until 10 years ago when I just decided that if I was going to be a full-time artist, I had better get on and do it," says Redwood. "So I gave up my job, and I've been full-time since then."

There was no turning back—and that's good, as Redwood has since completed a number of works and exhibited them in solo shows.

"I suppose it's the realization of my life's work to do these paintings," she says. "So, yeah, I'm excited about it."

Energetic Universe

Opens 7 pm Saturday,
February 7, runs until March 5
Martin Batchelor Gallery
martinbatchelorgallery.ca

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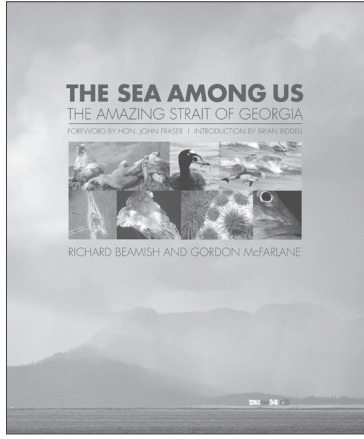
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Dine in only.

review

Coffee-table book looks at Georgia Strait



PASCAL ARCHIBALD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Sea Among Us: The Amazing Strait of Georgia

By Richard Beamish and Gordon McFarlane
(Harbour Publishing)

The Sea Among Us is the ultimate coffee-table book and reference material for all who live by and love the beauty of the Strait of Georgia.

The Strait is a semi-enclosed inland waterway located within the broader Salish Sea that encompasses the Strait of Georgia, Puget Sound, and Juan de Fuca Strait. It's connected to the Pacific Ocean through its northern and southern boundaries and is the receptacle for copious volumes of fresh water from bordering rivers and streams, making it a truly unique body of water.

This is the first book to present a comprehensive study of the Strait

I was pleasantly surprised to discover what the sea floor is made of, how long certain sea creatures can live (Geoduck clams can live 168 years!), and how the First Nations peoples used and were sustained by the biodiversity of the Strait.

of Georgia in all aspects, featuring chapters on geology, oceanography, invertebrates and marine plants, fish, marine mammals, birds, and human history. It was written with the intended purpose of providing sound science and an expansive view of the Strait of Georgia to decision-makers who find themselves responsible for the management of the Strait.

The book also creates awareness within the general public around the sensitivity of this body of water, and the challenges facing all the life and livelihoods it maintains (all proceeds go towards the protection and conservation of the Straits biodiversity through the Pacific Salmon Foundation).

The Sea Among Us is a collaborative effort by authors Gordon McFarlane and Richard Beamish, but the two didn't write this book alone; they worked collaboratively

with expert contributing writers for each chapter. And, because of this, each chapter is just packed with information, amazing photographs, charts, and graphs that are used well to provide a clear understanding of the subject matter.

I was pleasantly surprised to discover what the sea floor is made of, how long certain sea creatures can live (for example, geoduck clams can live 168 years!), and how the First Nations peoples used and were sustained by the biodiversity of the Strait.

The Sea Among Us provides an understanding and appreciation of the Strait of Georgia to anyone who finds themselves connected to the Strait in some way.

More importantly, the book outlines the challenges facing us in regards to how climate change and human impact could affect the Strait now and in the future.

review

WWI book details BC's involvement

REBECCA DAVIES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From the West Coast to the Western Front: British Columbians and the Great War

By Mark Forsythe and Greg Dickson
(Harbour Publishing)

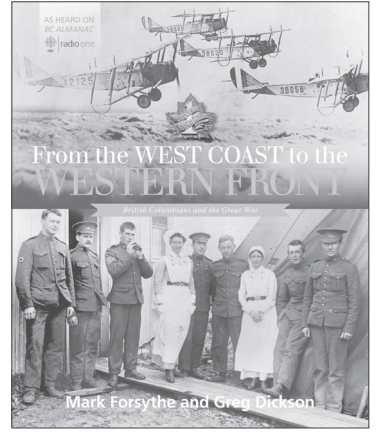
The way that authors Mark Forsythe and Greg Dickson chose to relay the history of British Columbia's involvement in World War I is surprisingly personal and detailed in *From the West Coast to the Western Front: British Columbians and the Great War*.

The two authors collaborated on a previous book, *The BC Almanac of Greatest British Columbians*, and they clearly have a love and respect for the history of our province. They have both worked for CBC for decades: Forsythe, recently retired, hosted the radio show *Almanac*, and Dickson is a historian, journalist, and producer.

Upon first glance, this book appears to be a heavy read. It resembles a textbook required for a Canadian History class, which isn't really my idea of casual reading.

I'm glad I gave it a chance, though, as I otherwise would have missed out on dozens of personal stories collected from CBC listeners.

Soldiers and their loved ones tell their unique and heartfelt stories



about their experiences and their relatives' contributions to one of the most devastating wars in history.

From the West Coast offers a refreshing British Columbian perspective and touches on aspects of the war that aren't usually told in most history books.

It's so common to feel disconnected from stories from the past, but Forsythe and Dickson give a voice to those who suffered through not only the horrors of war but also the thick history of racism and slavery in Canada. It's difficult not to feel the physical presence of the storytellers.

Perhaps it's because my great-grandfather is a WWII veteran, or perhaps it's my interest in human rights and the struggles of the past, but I found this book to be surprisingly difficult to put down, and it should appeal to more than just history connoisseurs.

review

New book teaches history lesson on Tofino

SERA DOWN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Tofino and Clayoquot Sound: A History

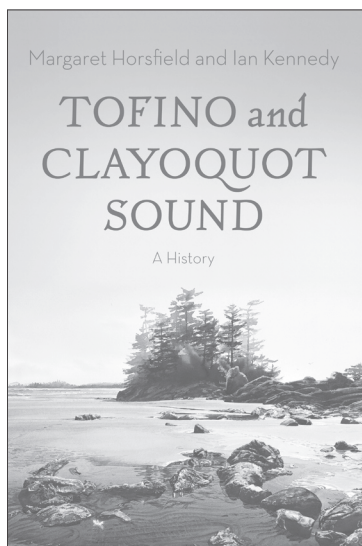
By Margaret Horsfield and Ian Kennedy
(Harbour Publishing)

For those who prefer not to spend their free time plundering academic history texts, *Tofino and Clayoquot Sound: A History* provides an intimate and conversational delivery of the interweaving events that shaped Tofino, Clayoquot Sound, and the surrounding territory.

Utilizing an array of sources ranging from *Times Colonist* archives to First Nations oral history and firsthand accounts, the novel embraces a past outside Euro-centric Western written history to provide a conclusive and concise account of events that cumulatively shaped the Tofino that we know today.

Though many relatively unknown or multi-name locations are mentioned throughout the text, Horsfield and Kennedy provide a series of well-rendered maps to assist readers in understanding their relation to each other in two dimensions.

For those who have an irrational distaste for cartography, simple in-text clarifications come complimentary, mentioning local and traditional names and using the migration of First Nations and



development of roads to establish a multi-dimensional understanding of these locations and where they lie in accordance to each other.

The book takes its history seriously, not choosing any singular point in human history at which to begin but instead outlining the formation of Vancouver Island and its geological past. Geographic calamity and the collision of tectonic plates provide a surprisingly dramatic entrance into this small-town history novel.

Each chapter analyzes a different perspective in history. It details the multiple bands of First Nations in the area and how each of their unique fishing and hunting methods were affected by the arrival of the Japanese, how the Japanese revolutionized the colonial fishing

Concluding in a portrait of Tofino at present, *Tofino and Clayoquot Sound: A History* wraps up seamlessly and leaves the reader feeling enlightened, rather than overburdened, by its approximately 600 pages of historical exposition.

industry on the West Coast, and how colonialists shaped the coast by means of the otter pelt trade.

Concluding in a portrait of Tofino at present, *Tofino and Clayoquot Sound: A History* wraps up seamlessly and leaves the reader feeling enlightened, rather than overburdened, by its approximately 600 pages of historical exposition. Though the knowledge is particular and hardly practical, this novel is definitely the avenue by which to begin pursuing a casual historical education.

review

White's century of living explored

JAYDEN GRIEVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

That Went By Fast

By Frank White
(Harbour Publishing)

Author Frank White is, at this particular point in time, 100 years old.

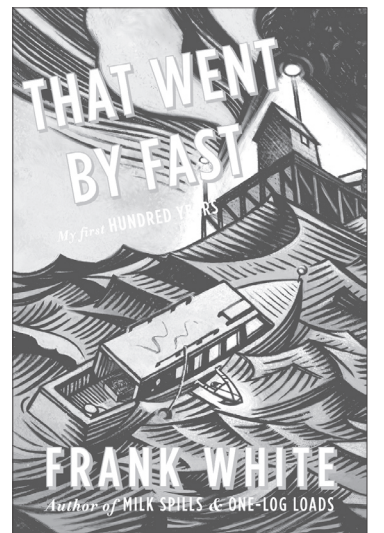
One hundred years on planet Earth isn't something I can contemplate. One hundred *anything* is hard to contemplate; if I had an extra \$100, my mind would likely implode.

Regardless of my ability to contemplate the number 100, White has now gone on living for a century.

His new autobiography, *That Went By Fast: My First Hundred Years*, the sequel to *Milk Spills & Other Log Loads*, which explores in detail his first 30 years, chronicles a time period over which unfathomable discoveries were made; seriously, computers don't even appear until the last few chapters.

White's tale takes us from Abbotsford to the Sunshine Coast, with stopovers here, there, and far between. It details such moments in his ever-changing career as a butcher's assistant, logger, amateur mechanic, and many others.

Throughout the whole process, White shows off a sharp and often-hilarious wit that seems to have remained strong into what must now be his twilight years. It's this



sort of book that really brings the history to life and reveals that no matter when or where you are, life is best when you are sharing it with those you love.

White's tale touches on points we will all experience in our lifetime: love, loss, longing, happiness, sadness, and the unknown. Despite his many adventures, what makes this story so amazing is simply that it's all completely ordinary.

White lives the life of a person, like you or me, who, despite the profoundly changing times, takes what life throws at him and makes it work.

This book offers many contemplative thoughts, but one that really stands out is that, despite our constant and unrelenting grapple with our own mortality, it's never too late.

music

Ange Hehr makes her mark on local music scene

MEGAN DUNN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ange Hehr learned to play the drums at age six, the guitar at age 15, and she made it into the top 100 for *Canadian Idol* at the age of 23. In two years, she has become a staple in the Victoria music scene, playing weekly at pub gigs at the Irish Times, Swans, and Bard & Banker (catch her there playing solo every Monday at 8:30). Her musical talent and charm with the audience is refreshing and undeniably unique.

Hehr grew up in the small northern town of Fort Nelson, BC, playing varsity basketball and working in the local mill. She often played in bands with her father, who is a drummer and her biggest musical influence. While living in Quesnel, BC, Hehr played in bars and also worked in the mill there. But, eventually, she made her way to Victoria.

"I promised myself I would only spend a year in Quesnel and then move forward," says Hehr. "It's very easy to become comfortable living in a small town, working at the mill, and making good money. However, it was one of those things I put up with, but didn't love it."

Hehr performs with her band, the Ange Hehr Band, weekly; they play an array of cover tunes. She also does solo acoustic sets, where she takes requests from the audience. Hehr says she will attempt

just about any song given to her, even far-out requests like, say, the Spice Girls.

Hehr says she has chosen to sing cover songs for a few different reasons. "Somebody has done something so well," she says, "and I just love singing the songs. I love it so much; it's fun and it's easy."

Hehr has always written her own music and is inspired by her past experiences. However, writing songs is scary and vulnerable for her, and because of that, sometimes writing gets put aside. To remedy that, she's planning to start collaborating with fellow songwriter Sean Baker.

"I feel I need to collaborate with someone, in order to force me out of me out of my box," says Hehr.

Due to the rapidly changing music industry, Hehr knows the obstacles that a new musician faces in producing original music.

"It's really hard to make money performing original music," she explains. "You struggle, you tour, and you might break even, but probably not, and you definitely need to come through. Today's listener is wise, and you need to be different. But writing and performing my original music is definitely the end game."

One of her pet peeves, she says, is musicians who don't take the time to engage with their fans.

"I don't understand how you



PHOTO PROVIDED

Local musician Ange Hehr playing a gig at the Irish Times.

could be who you are, or be doing what you are doing, if you don't share with other humans. Why would they follow you, or love what you do?" asks Hehr.

Hehr is playing solo shows at 8 pm on February 4 at Breakwater

Bistro and at 7:30 pm on February 5 at the Penny Farthing. At 9 pm on February 6 and 7 she plays with the Ange Hehr Band at Bard & Banker.

There is no cover charge to get in to any of the performances.

New Music Revue



Reservoir
Cicurina Vol. 1
(Glory Kid Records)
4/5

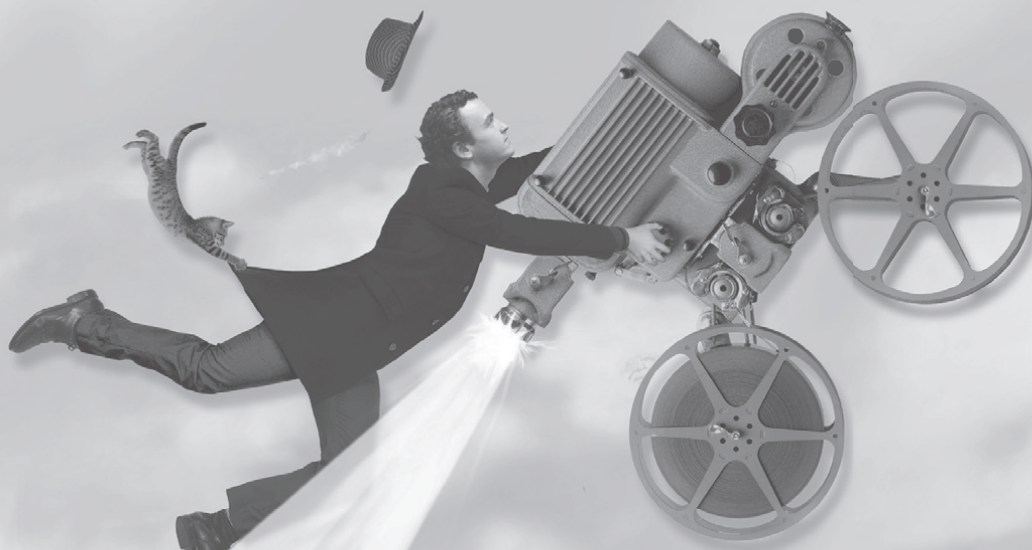
Pennsylvania's Reservoir are about to remind you of what the word "emo" once meant. Once upon a time, bands like Sunny Day Real Estate and Mineral actually embraced heart-on-sleeve emotion in music and delivered it to an energetic rock soundtrack that wasn't overly slick or pandering in its songwriting structure, and that's what Reservoir accomplish on this latest EP.

Sort of, anyway: they're pretty slick, and they incorporate a lot more dream-pop/shoegaze elements into their sound, particularly with the swirling guitar work and occasionally meandering songs. But it all works (and, hey, Mineral meandered sometimes, too).

The band should have no problem extending their sound to a full-length worth of material when the mood strikes them. For now, these four songs will take listeners back to the mid-'90s just fine. "Waves Erase" conjures up memories of classic emo bands like Christie Front Drive and Boys Life, and for that alone, Reservoir deserve your attention.

-GREG PRATT

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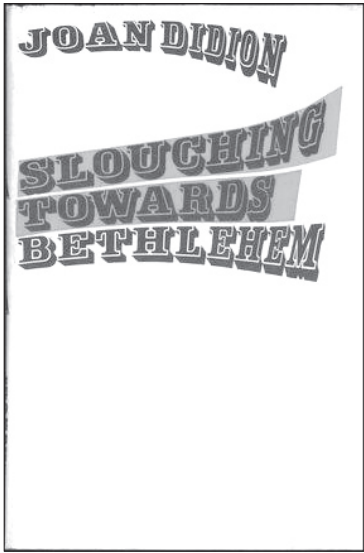
Travel the world with the VFF this Reading Break. Tickets at victoriafilmfestival.com or 1215 Blanshard St.



Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

Joan Didion and the New Journalism



Of course, Joan Didion didn't set out to change journalism.

Writing was simply a way to process her curiosity about the world.

ary journalism. *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, published in 1968, is a collection of essays about California's counterculture movement. Didion writes with an urgency and immediacy that unfolds the world of hippies, junkies, folk heroes, and runaways in vivid, living detail.

Her personal, yet stylistically masterful reportage helped change the face of American journalism. Along with writers like Hunter S. Thompson, Tom Wolfe, and Truman Capote, Didion wrote journalism that rejected the traditional rules of reporting in favour of a style mainly concerned with a strong narrative.

Their writing, which became known as "New Journalism," was characterized by literary techniques such as first-person narrative, complex dialogue, and the use of incidental details to fill in the readers' image of a character.

Wolfe, the unofficial ringleader of the group, said that the basic unit of New Journalism wasn't the fact that was being reported, but the scene in which that fact was discovered.

Of course, Didion didn't set out to change journalism. Writing was simply a way to process her curiosity about the world. Like many novelists, poets, and journalists, Didion said she wrote "to find out what I'm thinking... what I see and what it means." By telling the stories she encountered around her, Didion found a way of discovering the world and herself.

Joan Didion must-read:
Slouching Towards Bethlehem
(UVic McPherson Library code: PS3554 I384S55 || Greater Victoria Public Library Central Branch code: 814.54 DID)

"We tell ourselves stories in order to live," said Joan Didion, a multi-talented writer known for her novels, screenplays, and non-fiction. Didion's most recent work includes two incredibly moving memoirs about the deaths of her husband of 40 years and, just over a year later, their only daughter.

In addition to her novels and memoirs, Didion wrote essays and articles for nearly every major American magazine in the second half of the 20th century.

Her unique style and almost uncanny social insight quickly established Didion as a master of liter-



Age of Geeks

by Vishal Pandey

Handy apps for improving studies

In this age of technology and everyone having a smartphone, nothing is too much work. Countless apps are available to do everything from taking notes in class to buying cheap books online. As long as you've got a smartphone and a few bucks, here are a few apps to ace, or at least pass, every exam this semester.

ShareYourBoard

Note-taking in classes is great, but if your hand starts hurting after all that writing, ShareYourBoard promises peace. Just take a picture of any whiteboard and it will adjust the white balance to give a crystal-clear snapshot of the lesson. Not enough? It's also free for Android phones!

IStudiezPro

It won't get you an A in every

class, but it will definitely help you manage your time better. IStudiezPro allows users to input class schedules and homework into a built-in planner, then alerts them of approaching deadlines, keeps track of grades, organizes extracurricular schedules, and counts down to the next class. The app costs \$2.99 for iPhone.

Amazon Student

We all know how expensive college textbooks can be. This app will definitely keep your wallet healthy and within budget. Snap a photo of a textbook's barcode and the app will tell you how and where to get it cheaper. Besides that, you can sell back your old used textbooks in exchange for Amazon gift cards. And if you've got an iPad, you can also eliminate the textbook entirely by browsing through Apple's eBooks

store, where you can find cheaper digitized versions of the same books. However, eBooks do vary in cost; many of them are around \$15. This app is free for Android and iPhone.

Textalyzer

Alcohol and bitterness; it's a toxic combo when technology comes into play, and that's the reason Textalyzer is booming: to prevent people from messaging their ex when they are drunk after all those shots and pints. Users need to enter their "forbidden list," which contains the list of people added to your contacts every time you're drunk. The app has built-in memory and concentration tests, which users need to complete if they want to unlock the list and make some bad decisions. It's the sober babysitter we definitely sometimes need.



Indigeviews

by Shayli Robinson

camosun college first nations students association

Upcoming events for indigenous students

'uy skweyul!

As the First Nations Director of the Camosun College Student Society, I would like to introduce *Indigeviews*, the new column written on behalf of the First Nations Student Association (FNSA). This column will seek to connect and engage with self-identified indigenous students on campus.

If getting connected with fellow indigenous students on campus is something you're in to, come to our Crafternoons sessions. Crafter-

noons is an informal, fully supplied regular event that takes place both at Lansdowne and Interurban to give indigenous students a chance to socialize and play around with crafting supplies (sometimes we have food).

For the Winter semester, we'll be beginning Thursday, January 29 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the FNSA lounge (Young 314 at Lansdowne) and Friday, February 6 from 1-3 pm in Portable A, room 101 at Interurban.

We also have an event that's looking to be more of an all-day thing on Monday, February 9. We'll be meeting downtown for an informal meet and greet and discussions on upcoming events, then going rock climbing at Craig X (subsidized by FNSA), and then kicking back at Moon Under Water Brewpub. Stay tuned for updates.

To find out more, join our Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/ccfnsa or shoot us an email at fnsa@camosunstudent.org.



Bite Me

by Megan Dunn

Wings aplenty at Tartan Toque

The Tartan Toque is Victoria's only true wing joint. However, the Toque has so many choices beyond chicken wings. You can't just sit there and scan the menu board; it takes a few minutes to truly absorb what's available.

The food choices include house-made burgers, salads, wraps, and greasy goodness like fries and poutine. The choice of wing sauce ranges from typical "hot" to "candied bacon." Dip them in some blue-cheese sauce and call it a day.

All the sauces are made from scratch, and they have vegetarian and vegan choices. One of the big hits for vegetarians is the crispy tofu fingers, a substitute for chicken wings. Tofu fingers work the same way as the chicken wings: you choose your custom flavour sauce, and they are deep-fried to your liking. I have had the tofu fingers; as much as I like the idea, a basket of

them is a bit much for my liking.

I usually have the crispy chicken wrap and choose the peanut satay sauce with garlic mayo. The wrap is loaded with greens, tomatoes, and avocados. I'm never disappointed with this choice. I don't recommend the crispy tofu burger; it has a big homemade patty, but it consistently falls apart in your hand, and not in a good way. It's just messy.

My favourite part about the Tartan Toque is the atmosphere. I kind of like the uncomfortable, hard benches that you need to slide into, the bar service, and the array of board and trivia games to play while dining with your friends and family. The restaurant is also very inviting: the staff is always friendly and ready to help with recommendations.

The Tartan Toque is located in the Stadacona Centre at 1507 Pandora Avenue; their hours are from 11:30 am to 9:30 pm.



Ability's Muse

by Andy Chen

camosun college students with (dis)abilities collective

Internalized dominance

Being an able-bodied person within our culture comes with a lot of privilege. We think of providing access ramps and designated disabled access washrooms as assurance that society is fair and objective. Until you actually listen to another student's lived-in experience of accessing public postsecondary, you don't realize how different it can be for them. We are only scratching the surface of addressing ableism.

A good working definition of ableism is discrimination in favour of able-bodied people. I like this definition because it places emphasis on those that perpetuate ableism to show that they aren't being prejudiced or discriminatory.

Persons with disabilities (PWD) encounter not just physical barriers, but also socio-cultural ones as well. For example, the responsibility of accessing support requires rigorous testing from specialist doctors willing to vouch for you. You may need

to experience periods of recovery, making it impossible to prolong your studies or employment.

Despite making strides to create more inclusive spaces on campus, such as facilitating groups like Camosun for Social Justice, the one shortcoming of anyone coming into the Students with (dis)Abilities director role is addressing their own internalized ableism. Often we demand that others demonstrate their need for accommodation but don't address the ways we propagate oppression subtly or overtly.

We continue to benefit by having non-able-bodied people out of the workforce (it allows Statistics Canada to report a lower unemployment rate while creating an industry built around managing non-able-bodied people) or by having them pursue further postsecondary education. It justifies our dominant roles in further tokenizing disabilities under the guise of supporting the proletariat class.



The Prodigal Planeswalker

by Andy Chen

camosun college magic: the gathering club

Magic club receives generous donation

Where there's a community, there's often a noble benefactor who wants to see fellow planeswalkers thrive. One such member gifted Camosun's *Magic* club with the most unexpected surprise of all: a Duel Deck Anthology set. This specially made set was created to help introduce new players to the game while highlighting 20 years of *Magic: The Gathering* folklore.

Have you ever wondered what would happen if goblins clashed with elves? What if a legion of angels were to collide with a demon's den? Who will triumph in the end?

Other powerhouse decks highlight the story of the planeswalkers. In *Magic* arcana, they are ethereal beings that have ascended beyond their mortal coil to become godlike

creatures with the ability to traverse other planes of existence.

The notion of walking the planes is key to the canon for which the *Magic* universe was built: it's a clash of the titans. Some work to free their domain; others try to enslave through overt or devious ways.

Often, when planeswalkers clash, the plane acts as the battleground while the inhabitants are the fodder. The rippling effects can cause rifts through time and space that rewrite history, thereby redefining the character of entire races.

Whether or not you are drawn to the game's rich storytelling or the incredible artwork, Camosun's *Magic* club is ultimately a community defining its own place in the college's landscape.

what's going on

by erin blondeau

TUESDAY EVENINGS

Weekly drop-in sports at Interurban

Interurban students are on a mission to spread health and wellness. It all started with a drop-in sports night on Tuesday evenings at the PISE gym. The idea is to give Camosun students opportunities to participate in free/drop-in activities in a safe, inclusive, and social environment. The drop-in sports take place on Tuesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 pm at the PISE Gym and are available only to Camosun students (so be sure to bring your Camosun student card).

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

Magic in the Young building

Camosun's *Magic: The Gathering* Club is a place where club members (and newcomers) can test their skills and duel their decks. The club will be handing out Magic starter decks to new members, and everyone is welcome. The club takes place every Friday from 1-4 pm in room 220 of the Young Building at the Lansdowne campus.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Victoria Film Fest returns

There's an opening gala, speakers, and about 10,000 interesting films playing at this year's Victoria Film Fest. Head over to victoriafilmfestival.com to see a schedule and to find out more information about becoming a member (it's \$2), movie times, and much more.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Camosun instructor's art in exhibition

Camosun Visual Arts media technician Mike Andrew McLean's work will

be presented at Deluge Contemporary Art (636 Yates Street). McLean's art focuses on intriguing techniques in the reproduction of an image. The exhibition hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 12-5 pm.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Bathers captured in paint

Neil McClelland's work captures people at the beach in the medium of paint, inspired by image-sharing social media sites like Instagram. The paintings have created a genealogy tracing back to the tradition of "bathers." What does that mean? Come check it out at Xchanges Gallery (2333 Government Street) to find out. See xchangesgallery.org for more information.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Camosun partners with Victoria non-profits

The Victoria Health, Wellness, and Sustainability Festival will take place at the Victoria Conference Centre. The festival brings vendors specializing in holistic health to downtown Victoria. Camosun College will be partnering with the Island Chef Collaborative and the festival to serve a five-course, gluten-free dinner at Camosun's Dunlop House at the Lansdowne campus. A large chunk of the proceeds will be donated to the Growing Chefs Program. Visit healthandwellnessfestival.ca for more info.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Exercise with 5/10 km walk

Vic Y Volkssport is organizing a 5/10 km walk from Cedar Hill Recreation to 3220 Cedar Hill Road. Registration is at 9:30 am and the walk starts at 10 am.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Want an active family?

Get active with your family and celebrate Family Day. The Panorama Recreation Centre is hosting an event with \$2 admission to family swimming and skating, with a chance to win draw prizes. The skate goes from 1 to 2:20 pm and the family swim goes from 1:30 to 4 pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

For adult eyes only

The Phoenix Theatre at the University of Victoria will be featuring an award-winning Canadian masterpiece called *The Lion in the Streets* that tells the story of dark moments, troubled lives, and, ultimately, understanding. This play has mature subject matter and is for audiences 17 years and older. The show starts at 8 pm and tickets are on sale at phoenixtheatres.ca.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Murder and madness in Italian opera

Forbidden love has a fatal outcome in this romantic *bel canto* opera called *Lucia Di Lamermoor* by Donizetti. The piece tells a tale of murder, madness, and manipulation. The opera is in Italian with English surtitles. The show runs on February 12, 14, 18, 20, and 22 at the Royal Theatre. Tickets start at \$25 and can be ordered by calling 250-385-0222 or 250-386-6121.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Beethoven at the Metropolitan Church

Victoria Chamber Orchestra music director Yariv Aloni is presenting an all-Beethoven concert at the Metropolitan Church. Muge Buyukcelen will be the guest violinist and

will play *Violin Concerto in D Major, Opus 61*. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at victoriachamberorchestra.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Cali rappers hit town

Rap group Souls of Mischief are touring to promote their recent album, *There Is Only Now*. The Californians have remained popular for 20 years and have no plans to quit any time soon. The group's Victoria show will be at Distrikt Nightclub, and doors are open at 7 pm. Tickets can be purchased at thisisblueprint.com/events/souls-of-mischief-victoria.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Wilderness of Manitoba to get wild in Vic

Toronto's the Wilderness of Manitoba are going on a 17-day tour to support the debut of *Between Colours*, which is their fourth studio album. The Wilderness of Manitoba will be performing at the Alix Goolden Hall. Visit thewildernessofmanitoba.com for more information.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Lovers skate 2 for 1

Hockey all-stars and figure skaters finally have a place to go with their special someone on Valentine's Day: Panorama Recreation Centre is hosting a 2-for-1 admission for the lovers' holiday. Families are also welcome. The skate takes place from 1 to 2:20 pm.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Some lovers hate skating

For all the lovers out there that hate skating (and are also in grades 6 to 10), there is a swimming event happening on Valentine's Day at Panorama Recreation Pool. There will be games throughout the night and

chances to win prizes. It's the perfect date night... well, if you're in grades 6 to 10, that is. The swim goes from 8 to 10 pm.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 TO SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Four generations of art

Two Haida artists, Reg Davidson and Don Yeomans, are showcasing work created through four decades of their lives, highlighting their artistic progression. Davidson and Yeomans explore traditional design elements and introduce new techniques into their work. The show is at Alcheringa Gallery (665 Fort Street). Call 250-383-8224 or visit alcheringagallery.ca for more info.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Rozycki speaks

Open Space, partnered with UVic's Department of Writing, is hosting a reading by Polish poet/critic/translator Tomasz Rozycki. Rozycki has been publishing award-winning books since the mid-1990s. Books, beer, and wine will be available for purchase. The show starts at 7:30 pm at Open Space, located at 510 Fort Street. Admission is by donation. Visit openspace.ca/Tomasz_Rozycki for more info.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Native plant-life study

The owners of Saanich Native Plants have much to say about wetland and meadow restoration at Haliburton Community Organic Farm. Kristin and James Miskelly will explain the plant-life restoration techniques being used by the farm's volunteers and how these activities have created a greater diversity of plants and wildlife at the farm. The event starts at 7 pm at UVic in room D116 of the MacLaurin Building. Go to npsg.ca for more information on this and other events.

valentine's day word search

We got some of our volunteer writers to list off the first five words they thought of when thinking of Valentine's Day to come up with this list. Find the words in the puzzle!

Bring the completed puzzle in to the *Nexus* office and grab some prizes!

ALONE
CANDY
CAPITALISM
CATHOLICISM
CHEESY
CHOCOLATE
COMMERCIALISM
DISCOUNT
FAMILY
FLOWERS

FOREVER
FRIENDS
HALLMARK
HEARTS
LONELY
LOVE
PUNS
SCAM
SEX
SINGLE

F	C	C	T	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	W	C	C	S
P	O	O	A	N	F	B	V	P	C	T	H	E	A	T
U	Q	R	M	K	U	B	V	J	H	E	M	Q	T	R
N	Z	Y	E	M	Q	O	X	G	E	G	W	C	H	A
S	I	H	G	V	E	V	C	S	U	C	F	Y	O	E
V	G	F	Z	G	E	R	Y	S	A	U	D	L	L	H
L	E	F	K	B	P	R	C	P	I	N	A	L	I	A
O	Z	L	K	W	G	T	I	I	A	D	S	S	C	K
N	E	U	G	A	M	T	J	C	A	R	W	E	I	R
E	K	A	B	N	A	L	O	N	E	L	K	N	S	A
L	L	R	L	L	I	V	D	W	S	S	I	R	M	M
Y	D	O	I	X	E	S	O	N	C	G	C	S	U	L
W	V	S	E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C	A	M	L
E	M	J	U	G	F	Y	L	I	M	A	F	M	M	A
Y	H	K	E	P	I	L	Z	P	H	V	C	Q	E	H



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

Find Your Voice. Speak Your Mind.
 Lan: 6:45 PM Thur, Paul 216 Int: 5:15 Tue, Campus Ctr 320
 Info on the web: <http://camosuncollege.toastmastersclubs.org>

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