

Can Canada Post survive?

Faced with cuts and a population typing instead of writing, the organization is trying to reinvent itself. Will it work?

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SPARK Fest smashes patriarchy: 10

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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editor's letter

Letters never sent

I'm a big fan of upholding tradition, and I resist using technology to needlessly replace things that work just fine in the first place. You telling me my kids won't learn to handwrite in school? Even though I never, ever, ever handwrite (my signature is basically the equivalent of a 90-year-old man vomiting through his fingers), I'll go down fighting that one. We're not so perfect now that we need to eradicate everything that has come before us, after all.

Having said that, when I get home from work and see a pile of mail waiting to be dealt with, it is usually accompanied by a sigh and a violent speedwalk towards the recycle bin. After all, it's usually bad news, isn't it? Depressing and desperate junk mail, coupons for horrible garbage I wasn't going to buy in the first place but now might, and something from the government, which is always scary.

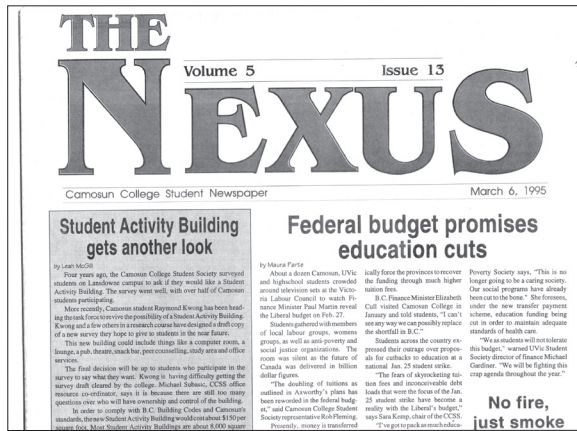
Where are the letters from friends and family? They stopped coming to our mailbox. I get hundreds of emails a day in my inbox on my computer, and that's where my friends' names pop up now instead of in the mailbox in my carport. But the simple act of sending an email can have huge repercussions, as contributing writer Keagan Hawthorne's feature story (see page 6) examines.

Sit down, dive in, and write us a letter to the editor to let us know your thoughts on the story. Send it in the mail: we dare you (Nexus, 3100 Foul Bay Road, Victoria BC, V8P 5J2).

Greg Pratt, managing editor
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

20 years ago in Nexus



Stinky situation: It's a news story from 20 years ago that mirrors complaints island residents still have today: our March 6, 1995 issue talked about how Interurban students had been smelling something stinky in the air recently. "Mr. MacNutt, across the street, has a compost business where he mixes topsoil with animal wastes; depending on which way the wind is blowing it can be pretty overpowering," said Wally Schmidt, who was then with Camosun's physical resource department. Shitty.

Rage against bad driving: This issue's *Speak Up* asked students what their favourite stress relievers were. Mark Swain said that for him

it was "listening to Rage Against the Machine real loud while driving crazy in my truck." So that's why the roads seemed unsafe in '95!

Poop... just poop: Letter-writer Magnus McElroy wrote in to *Nexus* in this issue to voice his concerns that he felt discriminated against as a man: "The harassment guidelines I've seen have always depicted women being victimized by men," he explained while talking about Camosun's handbook. "I fail to see how equality can be achieved by editing words to eliminate roots that imply something else," he wrote. McElroy illustrated his point by adding that "Grey Poupon doesn't have poop in it."

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

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "Speaking of gaming, I pulled my Playstation 2 out of the closet for the first time in years the other night, I thought I was going to have the best night ever. It didn't work. I was totally devastated."

COVER IMAGES:
Canada Post: Jill Westby/*Nexus*
Bus: Jill Westby/*Nexus*
Camosun Chargers: Kevin Light
SPARK fest: provided

open space

All religions same at core

The terms "religion" and "secular" both hold such strong connotations; we think there's such a thick line between the two.

MEG KOCKX
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was an early Sunday morning and I was attending church for the first time in about 10 or so years.

An elderly lady with a promising smile had been chatting with me and, with a particular amount of enthusiasm, she said, "It's so wonderful to see a new face. I just find it so energizing to come here at the beginning of the week, or at least once a month. I find myself grounded. It just gives me perspective."

Which is when something clicked inside me, and I realized that what this lady feels about going to church is equivalent to what my dad feels when he goes for a hike in the forest.

This feeling is one we hopefully have all experienced in our lives; an energizing feeling which captures our inspiration, which grounds us, makes us think, giving us perspective on life in general.

It's this feeling that makes us believe that we have a purpose, that we feel accepted, and that we belong.

The core values people feel when they attend a church or practice a certain religion are equivalent to the core values people experience when they endeavour in what they love, in whatever gives them a sense of belonging.

At the end of the day, it comes

down to our values, whether we are aware of them or not. It's that feeling that makes us find hope or makes us feel inspired.

The terms "religion" and "secular" both hold such strong connotations; oftentimes we think there's such a thick line between the two.

Yet, at the end of the day, I don't think it comes down to being religious or not being religious; it comes down to the simple fact that the core values religion offers are also the core values that other people who aren't religious feel.

Humans all want to be treated right, to be respected, to love and to be loved, to find a sense of peace, and, most importantly, to feel like we belong, like we are a part of something.

And although each religion has different guidelines for people to live by, they also offer that place of belonging, much like what my dad experiences when walking through the woods, or someone else experiences doing yoga.

All of these factors tie into the picture that we as humans are subconsciously—or consciously—attracted to places that make us feel these values. Being religious or not being religious separates us only in that aspect.

It's time to realize we are not at all that different in our core values.

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

SPEAK UP

Would you be more likely to write a letter or an email to someone who doesn't live here?

BY SARAH TAYLER



CRYSTAL HERIE

"I would love to say I'd write a letter, because who wouldn't love getting more letters in the mail? But, due to simplicity, I would most likely email."



CARL RONDEAU

"I'm more likely to use email."



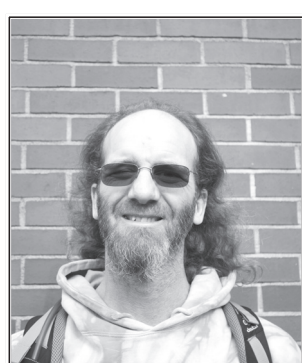
KAILA CAINES

"Definitely an email."



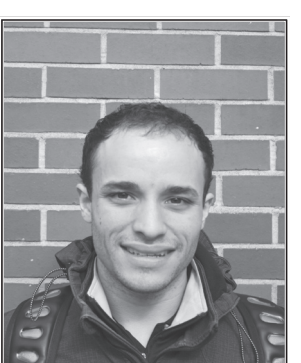
JACQUELINE MARSTON

"Definitely an email."



BRUCE TURNER

"I would most likely have to say email. It's been a long time since I've written a letter. I was never much of a letter writer."



JESSE SANDHU

"I'm more likely to use email."

transportation

Student reps get position on Victoria Transit Commission



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

The Victoria Transit Commission recently instated a position for student groups to address issues.

JASON SCHREURS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Student reps at Camosun and UVic say a recent decision to instate a student position on the Victoria Transit Commission will be an important step to address ongoing issues with transit.

Rachael Grant, external executive of the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS), and Greg Atkinson, director of external relations for the UVic Students' Society (UVSS), will share the newly appointed position, which won't have voting power but will still have significant influence, according to Victoria Transit Commission chair Susan Brice.

"The expectation is that down the road they would be a voting member, but we are a very consensus-building group, so I would anticipate that a student rep who

has valid points to make would be regarded by other people on the commission as though they had a vote," explains Brice, also a Saanich councillor. "There may be times when there could be issues that are more divided, in which case the students would be able to use their powers of persuasion and their comments to influence the commission members."

Grant and Atkinson both say they are "thrilled" at the commission's decision to instate a student position, even if it is a non-voting role for now. Grant says a motion has already been made to investigate turning the position into a voting one, and Brice confirms that commission staff is already looking into how to change the provincial legislation to eventually give the students voting power.

"We were incredibly excited about this huge win for students in the realm of transit," says Grant. "This is above and beyond what we asked for, and we're very enthusiastic about sitting at that table."

Atkinson says when the decision was made at a Victoria Transit Commission meeting he and Grant could hardly contain their excitement.

"I was sitting beside Rachael and we both did a little fist-bump," laughs Atkinson. "We're really excited about it."

It was student reps who originally approached the commission about getting more involved, and Brice says the commission was happy to work more closely with student reps on transit issues, since students are the largest segment of transit ridership in the Greater Victoria region.

"We were incredibly excited about this huge win for students in the realm of transit."

RACHAEL GRANT
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

Camosun and UVic students contribute over \$5 million annually to their mandatory Universal Bus Pass program, and the CCSS and UVSS (along with Unifor 333, the union of Greater Victoria bus drivers) founded the Make Transit Work campaign.

Brice says working with students on transit issues has been very beneficial to transit services as a whole.

"It's been very interesting and rewarding working with students," she says. "I have found over the years that the students are very good at carrying the message forward on behalf of the general student body. They are very knowledgeable about the transit system as it relates to their needs and as it interacts with their school schedules."

The student reps will now sit at

the table with mayors and councillors and help shape the future of transit services in the area. With access to the commission's meeting agendas, reports, and budgets, the reps will be able to "bring our issues with transit to the forefront and make sure students are being consulted," says Atkinson.

Grant and Atkinson say they will work together in the position to ensure that transit works on issues such as route accessibility, bus pass-bys, and sustainability, among others that affect students.

"It's something very exciting for the mayors and councillors that supported us as well," says Atkinson. "They see this as a way of getting new ideas and possible solutions for transit issues they've been identifying for years, so we're providing a fresh perspective for them."

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun ready for employment boom

In a recent press release, Camosun College President Peter Lockie said that by 2020 British Columbia is expected to have over one million new job openings. Lockie explained that 34 percent of those job openings will require at least a college degree, and 44 percent will require college certification. Camosun has over 160 educational programs and is in an excellent position to train employees for the employment boom expected to take place, according to the press release.

Camosun hosts skills competition for young students

Nearly 1,000 middle-school and secondary-school students took advantage of the First-in-Three event on February 27 at Interurban campus. The event introduced the students to trades and technology careers, while high-school students were encouraged to show off their skills in a competition to win gold, silver, or bronze medals. Middle-school students (grades 6-9) took part in fun events such as spaghetti-bridge building and sumo-robot contests.

Chargers take home wins, mostly

Hilary Graham earned PACWEST women's volleyball Athlete of the Week on February 18, while Katie Fetting took home the honour the week of February 25. Meanwhile, Vitor Macedo was the men's volleyball Athlete of the Week the week of February 25. On February 21, Camosun Chargers volleyball beat the Vancouver Island University Mariners on both sides: women 3-2 and men 3-0. Over the February 13-14 weekend, the Chargers basketball women's team fell 52-39 to the Mariners; Camosun men lost 87-62. On February 20, women's basketball won 71-59 and men won 76-49, both against the Kwantlen University Eagles. Chargers basketball took on Columbia Bible College Bearcats on February 21, with Chargers women earning a 56-48 win and Chargers men winning 78-70. And the awards just don't stop: Chargers volleyball team picked up a number of awards in the PACWEST All-Star awards. On the men's team, student-athlete Alex Sadowski received a First Team All-Star award, while Cam Fennema and Vitor Macedo both received Second Team All-Star recognition. Chargers rookie Douglas

Waterman made the PACWEST All-Rookie Team. On the women's side, Hilary Graham and Mariah Holmstrom got First Team All-Star nods, while Morgan Marshall and Erika Sheen got Second Team All-Star awards. Charger rookie Megan Beckett received the Rookie of the Year award for the whole league, as well as an All-Rookie Team award. Meanwhile, Chargers women's volleyball team head coach Chris Dahl was named Coach of the Year.

Is that ad a contest?

A double-decker transit bus sporting a Camosun ad is serving major routes throughout Victoria, taking a different route every day; students are encouraged to participate in a series of social-media contests involving the bus. The Camosun Twitter and Facebook pages will release information on how to enter each contest right before the end of each contest period. The next contest runs from March 3-6. Visit camosun.ca/news/press-releases/2015/february/cambus.html for more information.

Controversy continues with tuition-based education model

Nearly \$7 million will go to 18 postsecondary institutions to

jumpstart their evolution to a tuition-based model for Adult Basic Education. Students are outraged with the decision to implement tuition costs for these classes. "The only announcement government should be making is that high-school level education is going to remain free, period," said Zach Crispin, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students-BC, in a press release.

Student debt is steadily on the rise

According to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), unrecoverable student debt has risen to more than \$1 billion since 2011. Since 2011, 200,000 students have relied on the student loan Repayment Assistance Program, while over 178,000 students cannot pay their student loans at all.

Advanced Education Minister downplays student debt, says CFS

According to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), Minister of Advanced Education Andrew Wilkinson made claims in an interview with CBC Radio that heavily contradicted previous government research involving the impact of

student loan debt in British Columbia. Zach Crispin, chairperson of CFS-BC, said in a press release on February 23 that "the Minister is dead wrong on the size, scope, and impact of student loan debt in BC." Crispin added that Wilkinson appeared to downplay the detriment of students' debt.

The Learning Portal useful for all

The Royal BC Museum has launched a unique website, The Learning Portal, that allows adults and children access to countless articles, videos, images, audio, and other historical information. The Learning Portal is designed to accommodate people of all learning levels and offers everyone a chance to learn about history. The Learning Portal can be found at learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

Arts programs granted

The 2015 Operating Grant Program, totalling \$2,086,980, has been approved by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts Committee. The program is to provide assistance in the CRD to organizations with public programming in the arts.

-ERIN BLONDEAU

sports

Camosun Chargers volleyball teams host provincial championships



KEVIN LIGHT

The Camosun Chargers women's volleyball team took home silver in the provincial volleyball championships.

PASCALE ARCHIBALD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Camosun Chargers women's and men's volleyball teams hosted the three-day Pacific Western Athletic Association (PACWEST) provincial volleyball championships on February 26–28 at the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence at Camosun's Interurban campus. The championships, which featured the province's top six men's and women's teams, concluded on the evening of the 28th with the Camosun men winning the gold and the women taking silver.

In the men's semifinals, the

second-seeded Camosun Chargers faced off against the Vancouver Island University (VIU) Mariners.

Despite a promising comeback in the second set by the Mariners, the Chargers defeated them in the fourth, establishing a four-set victory for Camosun and advancing the Chargers men towards the chance for gold.

Chargers men's head coach Charles Parkinson recognizes the abilities of the opposing team and was glad to see his team come back.

"The second set was a bit of a hiccup," says Parkinson. "Our pass-

ing went to hell in a hand basket and VIU's serving was really strong, but we recovered, which is the sign of a team that is peaking at the right moment. Our plan was to serve well, take their middles out of play, and force the ball to the wings and let our block and defense go to work."

Second-year left side Cam Fennema captured Player of the Match honours for his strong performance of 14 kills and 5 digs throughout the game. The final score was Camosun 3, VIU 1 (25–17, 10–25, 25–19, 25–21).

Parkinson's plans for glory paid off in the championship finals

against the Douglas College Royals. The Chargers started the match with an exciting victory in the first set, causing the Royals to bump up their game. The Royals fought for control and took it in the second set, but the Chargers turned the match around by the third and kept it, winning themselves their second at-home PACWEST provincial championship title.

The final score was Camosun 3, Royals 1 (25–19 23–25, 25–23, 25–23). Fennema was Player of the Match again, hammering out 21 kills.

First-year left side Mark Severinsen says that the victory was the result of a lot of hard work.

"I'm pumped, we've been working for it all season," he says, "and to have all that work finally pay off is just the best feeling in the world."

The team is elated over the provincial victory, but Parkinson knows there's still hard work ahead as they head to the national championships.

"I'm obviously really proud of the team, but this isn't our end goal," says Parkinson. "That's nationals."

Meanwhile, the women's volleyball team started off strong, but fell short of capturing a home-court gold win. Starting off as the top-seeded women's team, they battled the College of the Rockies (COTR) Avalanche in the women's semifinals. Camosun quickly defeated COTR and advanced to compete for gold against the VIU Mariners. The final scores were Camosun 3, COTR 0 (25–20, 25–18, 25–15).

Third-year middle Lainey Jantzi was just as excited as the rest of the team going into the final match.

"We are feeling really good," she said before the finals. "We are excited, and we are going to play our game."

Jantzi received Player of the Match for her nine kills, two aces, and one stuff block.

Women's head coach Chris Dahl, who was recently named PACWEST Women's Volleyball Coach of the Year, knew what challenges were ahead for his team going into the finals.

"VIU is going to have a good game plan," he said before the finals. "They are going to come out and execute with a lot of heart and passion."

That the women's championship game was played against last year's champions was also something that Dahl took into account.

"This is familiar territory for them," he said, "so they'll have their sights set on an absolute battle."

The Chargers started off strong at the women's championship finals, winning two consecutive sets. The Mariners weren't about to give up that easily, however, and managed to turn the game around in the third.

The gold win went to the Mariners by the end of the fifth set and the Chargers took silver, which still advances them to the nationals. The final scores were VIU 3, Camosun 2 (15–25, 21–25, 26–24, 25–14, 15–12).

Chargers third-year outside hitter Katie Fetting was named Athlete of the Week, as well as Player of the Match, having produced 22 kills and one stuff block.

"Our team had a really excellent match," says Fetting. "We did a lot of great things. It just didn't turn out the way we wanted it to."

Although the game didn't turn out as planned, Fetting says she's still proud of her teammates.

"I'm so incredibly proud of my team and what we did," she says.

Both Camosun teams advance to the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) national championships, taking place March 11–14 at Holland College in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (men) and Cégep Édouard-Montpetit in Longueuil, QC (women).

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CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY Spring 2015 ELECTION NOMINATIONS

External Executive (1 year term)*

Finance Executive (1 year term)*

Lansdowne Executive (1 year term)*

Interurban Executive (1 year term)*

First Nations Director (1 year term)*

International Director (1 year term)*

Pride Director (1 year term)*

Students With Disabilities Director (1 year term)*

Sustainability Director (1 year term)*

Women's Director (1 year term)*

Interurban Director (6 month term- 2 positions)

Lansdowne Director (6 month term- 2 positions)

**Nominations open Thursday, March 5, and close at
3:00pm on Wednesday, March 18.**

Terms of office commence: May 1st, 2015 * Position is remunerated an hourly stipend of \$10.25 +4% up to 20 hours a week depending on the position



<http://camosunstudent.org/elections>

booze

Victoria Beer Week brings more cheers to another year



PHOTO PROVIDED

There will be plenty of glasses clinkin' at this year's Victoria Beer Week.

GILLIAN SELLMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With its abundance of craft breweries, it's pretty clear that Victoria is a beer-drinking city, so a beer-specific week seems perfectly natural.

Enter Victoria Beer Week.

"There was a group of us that started meeting, all kinds of different people, but all related to beer," explains Joe Wiebe, co-founder of the festival and author of *Craft Beer Revolution*. "Beer weeks have been happening in the States and Vancouver for a while, and we thought the time was right to do something like that in Victoria."

Wiebe says that Victoria Beer

Week has a worthy cause of expanding awareness and knowledge of beer.

Just as there are many kinds of brews, there are many kinds of beer drinkers as well, he explains.

"We really wanted to put something together with a wide variety of events so people with different interests related to beer could get involved," says Wiebe.

If you're not tired of classes yet, the festival offers many valuable learning opportunities.

"We have a few events that are specifically about education, teaching people about how to homebrew and how to taste beer," says Wiebe.

For the foodie crowd, the festival offers food events, like a beer-paired brunch or pizza and a class on cooking with beer. And if history is more your style, they have that as well, with a seminar on the local history of beer.

"But it's not just purely educational," says Wiebe. "It's about enjoying and appreciating beer culture as well."

For that purpose, there are events like the Thunderdome, where organizers are asking 10 breweries to each come up with a new beer, with all 10 to be launched on that night.

"It's at a really cool venue called Wheelies Café, and they'll be serv-

"We wanted to put something together with a wide variety of events so people with different interests related to beer could get involved."

JOE WIEBE
VICTORIA BEER WEEK

because it was so successful," says Wiebe. "It's such a cool space and we have the market vendors open during the event, so people can have food during it."

According to Wiebe, Victoria Beer Week is just another example of the long love affair that Victoria residents have with beer.

"The beer culture here has been around for so long, since 1984 when Spinnakers opened, so we have this history that we can really build on," says Wiebe. "People who are just visiting town, or are new to Victoria, can really learn about how great the scene is here and get really connected to these breweries that already have these long stories behind them."

ing food and we'll have these different breweries there to talk about the beers," says Wiebe.

Wheelies is just one example of a great Victoria venue helping to make the festival even better.

"Last year we had one cask night at the Victoria Public Market, and this year we're adding a second one

Victoria Beer Week
March 7 to 15
Various locations
victoriabeerweek.com



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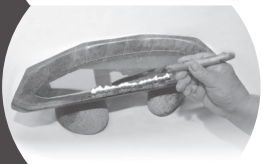
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These include courses at universities, colleges, trade or training schools or for programs and workshops provided by community-based groups or cultural centres for activities related to Aboriginal language and culture. Personal Credits can be used by a Common Experience Payment recipient, shared with up to two family members or pooled for group education services.

The deadline to apply has been extended to **March 9, 2015**. Help with completing the Personal Credits Acknowledgment Form is available.

Find out more at www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca or by phone:

- Main information line: **1-866-343-1858**
- Assembly of First Nations: **1-866-869-6789**
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Iqaluit: **1-888-646-0006**
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- Makivik Corporation, Quebec: **1-418-522-2224**



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The cheque's no longer

What will happen to Canada Post as it struggles

At Canada Post's Victoria sorting plant, manager Kevin Pearson strides onto the huge facility floor and says, "This is where it happens." At 3:30 on a Tuesday afternoon, "it" means quite a lot.

Long, shiny conveyor belts snake from laser-scanning machines into the caverns of trucks and suck up packages of all shapes and sizes. The packages are whisked to a network of sorting belts, where they are directed by hand into appropriate destination bins.

In another area, employees wheel a conveyor into the back of an outgoing truck and begin filling it with packages from retailers and post offices all over Victoria. They're on a tight deadline; the truck leaves at 5 pm, ready or not, to catch the ferry.

"We process about 7,000 packages a day here," says Pearson above the din and bustle. "And some of those are boxes of letters, up to 300 letters per box. It's a lot."

Nationally, Canada Post has over 66,000 employees and serves roughly 15.5 million addresses. In 2013 alone, Canada Post delivered 3.8 billion pieces of mail, or 10.5 million parcels and letters every day. To do this, drivers clocked over 79 million kilometres, which is the equivalent of driving to Mars.

In Vancouver alone, the package depot handles 30,000 packages from retailers in Asia every single day. As a public corporation, Canada Post pays dividends to the federal government. In the last 10 years, it has contributed over \$1 billion to public coffers.

But new technologies are continually redefining how we relate to one another and changing how companies like Canada Post must operate. Bills, catalogues, and bank statements are all now available in electronic versions, which has undermined an important source of revenue for Canada Post.

"The government has made it clear that it is not interested in subsidizing Canada Post," says Pearson, "and we've had to adapt."

With letter revenue declining, the corporation has begun actively shifting its focus to parcel delivery, especially from online retailers. They now deliver two out of three packages shipped within Canada.

"We were the number one Amazon carrier of choice during the Christmas season," says Pearson. "And we delivered 95 percent of parcels on time."

But a shift to packages means the company is cutting resources devoted to processing letters. In 2013, Canada Post announced that it would stop all home delivery of letters by 2017, routing the mail for about five million urban addresses into community mailboxes instead. This will save billions of dollars in labour, but it means the loss of a significant number of jobs.

The postal union

Janet Barney is president of the Victoria Local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, and she's not impressed with the changes, to say the least.

"I think it's terrible. These cuts are totally uncalled for," says Barney. "Financially, Canada Post has been pulling in millions of dollars in profit, 17 out of the last 18 years. So there's no need for these cutbacks that hurt communities."

Losing jobs and cutting services have knockdown effects throughout the community, which students will feel. The loss of door-to-door delivery means far fewer employment opportunities, especially entry-level letter-carrier positions, which are accessible jobs for students.

But Barney says the issue isn't just loss of jobs. There are many hidden costs in stopping door-to-door delivery, since the benefits of the service, though often unnoticed, extend beyond just delivering mail.

"Letter carriers are people who have a strong sense of public service," says Barney. "They find and rescue stray dogs. They call 911 because they know there's something wrong with a house when the mail hasn't been picked up in three days. They're out there talking to people. Seniors who are alone at home, they're waiting for you. Without door-to-door, you don't get to know your customers, because you're just going to a number in a box. You lose that connection with the people."

The union believes it is ideology, not economics, that's motivating the changes at the crown corporation.

"We think these changes are being pushed by the Harper government, and we think their ultimate plan is to privatize Canada Post," says Barney. "They're saying that we're a burden to the taxpayers. But the revenue that Canada Post makes goes to fund health care and other federal programs that benefit taxpayers."

Life as a letter carrier

Bob is a letter carrier who experiences the cuts and changes to Canada Post every day (he wished to remain anonymous for this story).

Because of the budget cutbacks, working conditions have deteriorated at the corporation, with high levels of animosity between management and unionized workers. And even though his job is being phased out, Bob says being a letter carrier is "having to do more than there is allotted time for."

There are appealing aspects to the work, and Bob enjoys the relative freedom, the exercise, and being outside in the community. The romance of being a letter carrier attracts "everybody from academics to addicts, musicians and artists, to drunks. The sorting floor is a real melting pot of personalities."

But the job is designed by an equation that doesn't take into account other factors, like days when there's double the mail, or bad weather.

"You're basically left feeling like a corporate packhorse," says Bob. "The job was designed by people who have never done it before."

Bob is required to deliver everything that comes across his sort desk every day. Most days, he has just enough time to get this done. But on a busy day, finishing a route in eight hours is physically impossible. The corporation does pay employees for working overtime, but staying late at work isn't optional.

"It's not so bad here in Victoria because it's generally mild," he says. "But if you're in Winnipeg, and it's the middle of winter at -35, and you're staying an hour or two later out in the cold and snow, well, no amount of overtime pay compensates for that."

"It's a dirty game they're playing," he says of management. "Everyone is overburdened and to even survive the workload you have to break the rules."

Bob is referring to safety rules that stipulate how a letter carrier is to move up and down a street. They are only allowed to cross at crosswalks and intersections, not allowed to hop fences, hedges, or rails, and must visit houses in a pre-determined

"The government has made it clear that it is not interested in subsidizing Canada Post, and we've had to adapt."

Kevin Pearson
Canada Post

order that's not always the most efficient. To get their work done, "Management knows that it's happening, but they let it slide and justifies the heavier workload," he says. "So they come up with the excuse that they don't put in the reports is that carriers have to cheat to do it. And if you weren't following the rules, you were cheating, so we don't have to pay compensation." Workers' Compensation Board claims at Canada Post are so high that an accident investigator to verify the employee's version of events.

"The management will use any excuse not to pay compensation," says Barney. "Oh, you stepped off onto the grass here, so you weren't following the rules of a corporation."

The economics of privatization

Camosun business professor Bijan Ahmadi agrees with the union. "Logically driven. My question is: 'What is the goal of Canada Post?' Ahmadi believes that, unfortunately, the answer is to maximize corporate dividends to the government. In 1981, the federal government created Canada Post as a publicly owned entity whose mandate was to deliver mail to every Canadian.

Canada Post operates over the largest jurisdiction of any postal service in the world. It still pay some of the lowest postal rates globally. To send a letter internationally, it costs more than in any other country.

To accomplish this feat, Canada Post delivers mail within urban areas, which is more expensive, remote places. A private corporation would not be able to make profit for its shareholders.

In business terms, the situation in which a service necessary to society is provided at a market failure. For example, a company that only delivered mail to urban areas without charging exorbitant rates for their services.

Without government intervention, a company operating on a profit basis would not deliver mail to Inuvik when they could concentrate on more profitable urban centres. Ahmadi believes this is why it's important to keep Canada Post public.



Janet Barney is the president of the Victoria Local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

with family. He doesn't think that ending door-to-door delivery is a good idea.

"Why cut jobs? I've always had this romantic notion that I'd like to be a letter carrier. It's a physically healthy job to have. Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but I think it's important to have a job that's physically healthy."

But Gartner thinks the post is important as more than just a job. "My brother is in India right now. It's nice to hear from him on a regular basis. It would be really special to get a letter," he says. "It's epic that it would be so special to get a letter."

to a friend of mine in Nelson, and it really makes it special when something like this is happening too fast; all of our communications are instant."

er in the mail uggles to remain relevant?

Story and photos by Keagan Hawthorne, contributing writer

not interested in subsidizing Canada Post, to adapt.”

erson
Post

postal workers must find ways to circumvent these rules. because if the work is being done in an eight-hour day, these reports saying that we can do it in eight hours. What and of course, if you had an accident, they would say, ‘Well, ave to pay you compensation.’”

igh that in the case of a serious injury they will send out an

tion,” says Bob. “The detective will look around and say, ng your route.’ Then the employee is on the hook, not the

Barney that many of the changes at Canada Post are ideo- Canada Post over the next few years?” says Ahmadi.

privatization. As a crown corporation, Canada Post pays ment created Canada Post Corporation as an independent, body in the country, regardless of where they live.

al system in the world, even Russia. Amazingly, Canadians in Canada costs just over half of what it would cost in Nor-

centres at a profit, which is used to operate its mail service ot have the same incentive, since the mandate of a private

for social welfare doesn’t make economic sense is called il to the Arctic would be hard-pressed to make any money

he free market would have no incentive to deliver mail to tres.

a public corporation. “That’s what crown corporations are good at doing: correcting market failures. And they provide good service,” says Ahmadi. “I know that something sent to Inuvik has as much of a chance of getting there in five days as something sent to Toronto. That’s important to us as Canadians. We require a unifying service like that.”

Ahmadi does believe that Canada Post should operate as efficiently as possible, and if that means converting door-to-door delivery to community mailboxes, he’s all for it. While it must maintain a certain standard of service for all Canadians, the corporation should not be “an inefficient provision of efficient resources,” he says.

If Canada Post can modernize and stay efficient while still providing services, this means more money is being paid to Ottawa in dividends and taxes, money that can fund health care and schools.

Canada Post and Camosun students

Second-year Marketing and Communications student Connor Rencher can’t remember the last time he sent anything in the post. Like many students, the majority of Rencher’s personal communication takes place online or through texting.

And while Rencher does order items online, he chooses whichever shipping provider is cheapest.

Nathan Gartner, a first-year Electronics Engineering Technology student, however, believes that Canada Post and physical mail still have a role to play in personal communications today. Gartner uses the post to keep in touch takes sense.

to be a letter carrier,” he says. “You’re out in the commun- hioned, but I think it’s important that jobs like that exist.” ployment.

email, because I get to see pictures of what he’s doing, but ould make it that far. For years I sent letters back and forth omething has to travel like that. Everything we are used to

The sociology of communication

Camosun communications professor Lois Fernyhough agrees with Gartner that we may have lost something in the switch to all-digital communication.

“People crave speed,” says Fernyhough. “We seem to equate technological progress with moral progress, which is something we’ve done since the industrial age.”

But speed is not always the same as quality when it comes to communication.

“The medium you choose to deliver your message imparts a certain communicative value to the message and actually changes it somewhat,” says Fernyhough. “Generally speaking, the ease and speed at which we can communicate digitally is much different than sending off a letter... With electronic media, it’s very easy to send things off quickly, sometimes without thinking.”

Still, there are benefits to the improvements of ease and speed when it comes to communication. And communication, like any other facet of society, is bound to evolve along with the rest.

“Would you want your mail to be delivered by somebody walking to Toronto? Or riding a horse? I don’t think so,” says Fernyhough. “Is the model of Canada Post doomed to be on the reject pile superseded by technology? Maybe. Things are changing, and new models have to take the place of what has gone before. It had to be there to pave the way, but it soon gets superseded.”

The future of Canada Post

Back in the postal union office, Barney disagrees with Fernyhough’s assessment of the future of Canada Post. She points to the rise of e-commerce and the switch to parcel delivery as a positive step

by management to keep the corporation current with society’s changing needs. In fact, the increased package volume from online shopping has actually created jobs in Victoria in recent years, she says.

Still, the union believes that there are other ways to modernize without having to cut jobs or services when it comes to lettermail delivery.

Barney points to postal banking as a possible revenue-generating stream that could pay for currently unprofitable but important services. With postal banking, the post office would offer basic banking services like cashing cheques, taking deposits, and offering small loans. It exists in many countries in Europe, where it generates large revenues to help their postal system cover other costs.



Packages going through Victoria’s Canada Post sorting facility.

“We seem to equate technological progress with moral progress, which is something we’ve done since the industrial age.”

Lois Fernyhough
Camosun College

The precedent and legislation for Canada Post to offer banking services is well established; up until 1968, when a push by big banks and the government shut the service down, Canada Post did just that. Barney says many rural communities across Canada are lacking basic banking services.

“Small communities on the island here don’t even have a credit union. But every community has a post office. So Canada Post could easily offer postal banking in rural communities,” she says. “The big banks have all pulled out because they’re driven by profit and they can’t make enough. We already offer money orders and money-grams. The post offices are already there; they all have a safe and cash registers. There would be minimal infrastructure needed.”

The way forward for Canada Post may well be to step back into a stronger role as a pivotal link between people and communities. For students, this means better contact with families and more efficient package delivery when they order online. Despite the changes and disruptions it faces, Canada Post is doing its best to continue being a unifying force over the vast distances that are the reality of life in Canada.

Camosun student Nathan Gartner believes that the best way forward is to hold on to what we have.

“Is the postal system still relevant or is it just a romantic notion?” he says. “I don’t know. But I think it’s still important. I think it’s special.”

music

Vinyl Supernova home to Victoria's vinyl resurgence

"I just love that everyone that's going there has one thing on their mind, and it's music."

RYAN WUGALTER
VINYL SUPERNOVA



People looking through the piles of records at a previous Vinyl Supernova event in Fernwood. PHOTO PROVIDED

JOSH TRAILL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

All of the Victoria record collectors wondering when the next big event is going on will want to check out Vinyl Supernova. The largest record fair on Vancouver Island, Vinyl Supernova will be home to over 50 vendors selling their merchandise. Local record stores from all over the island, and even a few off the mainland, will gather in the Fernwood Community Centre to show their stuff—sort of like a pilgrimage, but for music junkies.

Vinyl Supernova organizer Ryan Wugalter started the record fair four years ago because of his passion for music. "Before Vinyl Supernova, there hadn't been a record fair in Victoria since 1988," says Wugalter.

"There was an obvious niche waiting to be filled, and more and more people have been coming through the door. I'm very happy with the way everything is going."

Victoria is known for its strong arts culture, so it makes sense that there would be an annual record fair here. Jason Flower, owner of the newly opened Supreme Echo record store on Government Street, has been a vendor at past Vinyl Supernova events and says they are a wonderful chance to do some record shopping.

"I've gone to every one of them," says Flower. "They're great and they keep getting better every time."

Vinyl Supernova is also known for selling rare vinyl, says Flower.

"People are looking for a lost, used gem," he says.

Flower is no newcomer to the music scene here in Victoria. He's played in local bands such as Mexican Power Authority and Ruby Karinto and even started his own record label, which he has recently used to reissue vinyl releases from obscure boundary-pushing Canadian bands from decades past. Interesting, experienced vendors such as Flower, all showing what they've got, should be Vinyl Supernova's biggest draw.

Vinyl has been making a bit of a comeback in recent years, which is a bit surprising considering we're in the age where music is available to anyone with an internet connection.

"The internet has changed everything regarding arts and culture," says Flower.

Vinyl enthusiasts like Flower and Wugalter say printed records and even CDs hold a certain magic that a library of mp3s just can't match. Record collecting isn't for everyone, but for people who love music deeply, it makes sense to be able to collect your passion in a physical medium.

"It's just enjoyable to have a collection; the artwork is so big, and the sound, of course, is amazing," says Wugalter. Along with the magic of physically owning music, the resurgence of vinyl allows events like this to be hosted. Physical mediums of music give birth to record fairs like this one, and, thanks to the re-popularization of vinyl, Victoria is now home to its first ongoing record fair in over 20 years.

"A city of this size not having a

record fair for that long just seems so crazy to me," says Wugalter.

Not only does this get record stores and fans stirring with excitement, but it also has a positive effect on the Victoria music scene in general.

"I just love that everyone that's going there has one thing on their mind, and it's music," says Wugalter. "I'd just like to see everyone in Victoria who collects records... I just want them all to know that it's happening. It's nice to be around likeminded people."

Vinyl Supernova
10 am-4 pm March 21
\$2, Fernwood Community
Centre
fernwoodnrg.ca/
vinyl-supernova-2014

theatre

Dickens' unsolved mystery brought to the stage at Langham Court



DAVID LOWES

Charles Dickens died before finishing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, so the conclusion is up to the audience.

TORI DMYTAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The great author and storyteller Charles Dickens wrote *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, but the case could never be solved. Dickens passed away before writing the end of the story, leaving his last piece of work unresolved and in the hands of desperate playwrights trying to take advantage of his untold tale.

Langham Court Theatre is producing a comedic, musical adapta-

tion of the novel this season that will be directed by long-time theatre volunteer Roger Carr. Carr has been at Langham for many years, so he happily accepted the offer to put on this production, saying that this show has a unique quality to it.

"It's set in a British musical in 1892. It's kind of got a real feel for it that you don't get in many places these days," says Carr.

Even though this tale has been adapted to the stage, the playwright

never dictated the ending. Instead, many possible endings were written, and the audience votes on who they think the murderer is. Carr says that regardless of whom the audience picks as the criminal, the show is sure to have an exciting ending.

"We did a rehearsal in which each of the seven murderers was chosen, so each one of them got to try their thing," he says. "I was anticipating chaos, but they were all equally brilliant."

"We did a rehearsal in which each of the seven murderers was chosen. I was anticipating chaos, but they were all equally brilliant."

ROGER CARR
THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN
DROOD

But the voting doesn't stop there; the audience also chooses who the lovers will be. Carr says that there are vast age differences among the actors, so the show could end up with a pretty scandalous couple.

"We have one man who is in his seventies and we have one young lady who is probably about early twenties, or we have the reciprocal, we have an older woman and a younger man," says Carr, adding that there is a brother/sister duo as well.

This show is a perfect example

of how wild and unexpected theatre can be. So what about the man directing it? Does he spend his own time doing wild and crazy things, too?

Well, in fact, Carr says it's quite the opposite.

After a long career of teaching, Carr enjoys his relaxation with a bit of theatre on the side. Even though he directs large shows like *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, he also enjoys the serenity that he found in retired life.

"I retired from teaching four years ago, and now I do my very best not to be too busy," he explains. "I went to university, studied theatre, and I taught theatre for 33 years and lived happily ever after."

Even though Carr is living a "happily ever after" scenario, the same can't be said for the play. How can it when its fate lies with the audience?

The Mystery of Edwin Drood
8 pm March 4-25
\$24, Langham Court Theatre
langhamtheatre.ca

theatre

Canadian poet honoured in new play

JAYDEN GRIEVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“All I have ever cared about/and all you should ever care about/is what happens when you lift your eyes from this page.”

Beautiful words from the late Canadian poet Gwendolyn MacEwan’s *Let Me Make This Perfectly Clear*. The Ontario native passed away in 1987 and is still considered by many to be one of Canada’s greatest poets.

“Our director really wanted us to come up with who we thought Gwendolyn MacEwan was; who I thought Gwendolyn MacEwan was.”

TANNIS PERRY
UVIC GRAD

Alien Creature: A Visitation From Gwendolyn MacEwan is a play written in tribute to this great Canadian icon, and it will be performed by University of Victoria grad Tannis Perry.

“It’s different parts of her life, and it’s mixed in with her own

imaginative stories and her own metaphors about her life,” says Perry. “It’s inspiring that she embraces the dark side of things in her poetry. She doesn’t try and shy away from the dark side of human nature. She tries to get it out, and I think that’s admirable because everyone has a dark side.”

Perry explains that she really identifies with MacEwan as an artist and was drawn to the play immediately. She goes on to express how wonderful her director, Jocelyne Lamarche, was, and how hard they worked to develop their own unique take on the play.

“When Jocelyne first approached me with the project she really discouraged me from doing research on Gwendolyn MacEwan,” says Perry. “Specifically because she didn’t want me to try and portray that person. She really wanted us to come up with who we thought Gwendolyn MacEwan was; who I thought Gwendolyn MacEwan was.”

It’s especially important to know your character well when performing in a one-woman show. As the sole person responsible for everything, Perry says it can be a little bit frightening at first.

“If I miss a cue or a line, I completely have to cover for myself. It’s a little intimidating, but I know it backwards and forwards now,” she says. “I had my preview and I



THEATRE INCONNU

Theatre Inconnu’s new play is a tribute to poet Gwendolyn MacEwan.

thought it went really well. I’m a lot more comfortable with the play now that I’ve had more time to rehearse it.”

Despite the pressure that she feels, Perry is eager to perform and would like to do justice in her tribute to MacEwan, whose life had many ups and downs. And despite having its sad moments, overall the play comes off as touching and hopeful.

“The theme of the play is about trying. It’s about going through the struggles of life and your passions and being able to admit that the way

things were at one point doesn’t need to be the way things are at another,” says Perry. “It’s about trying not to lose oneself just because things are different from the way they once were. Some people don’t adapt to change as well, like Gwendolyn, but I think trying your best is what she did.”

Alien Creature: A Visitation from Gwendolyn MacEwan
February 17-March 7
\$10-\$14, Theatre Inconnu
(1923 Fernood Road)
theatreinconnu.com

New Music Revue



Led Zeppelin
Physical Graffiti
(Atlantic Records)
5/5

The latest Led Zeppelin reissue tackles 1975’s huge *Physical Graffiti*, a double album of absurdly good, acid-destroyed rock. All these years later, it still sounds perfect.

“Custard Pie” is one of the best album openers ever, and “In My Time Of Dying” is an 11-minute funeral dirge... placed as track three. This is serious stuff.

“Kashmir” has, you know, the best riff ever, and “In the Light” is a moody ’70s rocker without peer (the riff at 4:27 lifts, reinvigorates, forever). But then there’s the forgotten songs: “Down By the Seaside” totally kills it, “The Rover” nails proto-metal riffing to the wall, and “Night Flight” is one of the band’s unsung greats, the song in a fun class all its own.

Like all these reissues, the re-mastering is not a deal-breaker and the bonus material (here alternate/rough takes of album cuts) is forgettable (except for the very disorienting early version of “In the Light”).

But it doesn’t really matter, because *Physical Graffiti* is untouchable as a rock album.

Own it, listen to it often, respect it.

-GREG PRATT

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stage

Belfry brings social issues to light during SPARK fest

REBECCA DAVIES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2015 edition of SPARK Festival is presenting a blend of performances celebrating wild inhibition, the Canadian dual identity, and the mockery of the yoga and health industry. The goal is to showcase theatre pieces that are ahead of the curve, and playwright/dancer Anita Majumdar cannot be further from it in her performances *Let Me Borrow That Top* and *Boys with Cars*, sequels to her long-standing play, *Fish Eyes*.

"The theme with these plays is there is a crisis point where each protagonist hits their version of rock bottom, and it's their responsibility to pick themselves back up using their own self-strengths and skill sets," says Majumdar. "Somehow Indian dance is always tied in to that devotion to picking yourself back up. That is what I think makes this

trilogy unique, having Indian dance woven into these three women's lives and their stories."

The more Majumdar discloses about her inspirations the more layers unfold. The idea for *Boys with Cars* stemmed from the media's focus on religion and culture instead of the real issue, when talking about honour killings.

"The issue isn't Islam, it isn't being from India, or South Asia, the issue is patriarchy," says Majumdar. "I wanted to be able to showcase the preference for male honour over women's within a secular community, and so I placed it in high school."

Majumdar believes that the way to change the patriarchal views of society is through dialogue, and she transforms the language of intricate Indian dance to tell the tales of three teenage girls facing relatable struggles of not fitting in.

"This country doesn't belong to any of us, except for the Aboriginal communities, and so we forget that a part of our Canadian identity is actually of the immigrant experience," she says. "It's actually the Canadian experience to feel like you don't fit in."

Majumdar says she's thrilled to be playing in Victoria once again, as she has a close relationship with the Belfry Theatre.

"When I went to the Belfry two years ago, I felt like I was done with theatre. But the Belfry, everyone at the Belfry, the space itself... part of my experience performing *Fish Eyes* there resuscitated my love of theatre," she says.

But Majumdar isn't the only act at this year's SPARK Festival. *Through the Gaze of a Navel*, performed by Emelia Symington Fedy, is a reflection on the yoga and self-help industries. Fedy directs a yoga class where the audience may participate if they want, and she brings her own unique brand of odd humour to the interactive performance.

Canadian singer-songwriter Hawksley Workman is hosting a rock 'n' roll cabaret in his performance of *The God That Comes*, an extravagant interpretation of Greco-Roman mythology and the god Bacchus. Any performance that has a strobe light and stage haze warning is sure to be thrilling.

When asked to describe Workman's play, Belfry artistic director



"Performing *Fish Eyes* at the Belfry resuscitated my love of theatre."

ANITA MAJUMDAR
PLAYWRIGHT/DANCER

PHOTO PROVIDED

Anita Majumdar believes the way to change patriarchy is dialogue.

Michael Shamata was almost at a loss for words.

"They kind of let loose with drink and sexual inhibition, and they take the lid off of the place," he says, chuckling to himself. "It's a great rock concert with a story to it."

In addition to those main feature presentations, the Belfry will be showcasing 10-minute mini-plays that riff off of Theatre Skam performances to honour the company's 20th anniversary.

These shorter shows will be held in non-traditional spaces such as courtyards, offices, and closets before the feature presentations, which Shamata says helps to bring an energetic "buzz" to the SPARK Festival.

SPARK Festival
March 16-30
Free-\$36, Belfry Theatre
belfry.bc.ca/spark-2015

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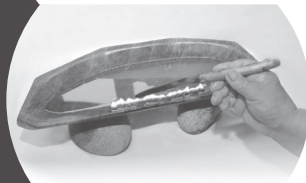
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La date limite pour présenter une demande a été prolongée au **9 mars 2015**. De l'aide pour remplir le formulaire d'attestation de crédits personnels est offerte.

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Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

Hermann Hesse the original beat poet

Hermann Hesse, a German writer best known for his novels *The Glass Bead Game*, *Steppenwolf*, and *Siddhartha*, received the Nobel Prize in 1946. He had a troubled childhood and didn't do well in school, so most of his education as a writer came during the evenings while he was apprenticing to become a bookseller.

Working in the bloody first half of the 20th century, Hesse's life wasn't always happy. He married three times and was consumed with a quest for an authentic experience of life. Much of his work explores this individual quest for self-knowledge. *Siddhartha*, published in 1921, tells the story of a wandering

Brahmin's life and the insights that led to his enlightenment.

Hesse was fascinated with Orientalism and Eastern philosophy. His expressions of these philosophies were a major influence on later generations of writers, especially the American beat poets and the counterculture of the '60s.

Hesse's travels in India gave him a unique spirituality and mysticism that was divergent from the staunch Christianity of his parents and his upbringing. Writing at a time of industrial and technological expansion, Hesse's popularity came in part from his presenting a vision of life that wasn't focused on a scientific, mechanized self.

"Everything is within you," he wrote in *Wandering*, a collection of pastoral sketches based on his travels by foot through the Swiss Alps. "Gold and mud, happiness and pain, the laughter of childhood, and the apprehension of death. Say yes to everything, shirk nothing, don't try to lie to yourself. You are not a solid citizen, you are not a Greek, you are not harmonious, or the master of yourself, you are a bird in the storm. Let it storm! Let it drive you!"

Hermann Hesse must-read:
Siddhartha
(Lansdowne library code: PT 2617 E85 S52 1957)



Bite Me

by Megan Dunn

Stage a Fernwood tapas gem

The wonderful neighbourhood of Fernwood has a unique restaurant called Stage Wine Bar. It's located right in the heart of the Fernwood Village, at 1307 Gladstone Ave., and the hours are Sunday to Wednesday, 5-10 pm, and Thursday to Saturday, 5-11 pm.

I frequent this establishment because I live about a five-minute walk away. The staff is always friendly; on my first visit, the owner came to our table and introduced himself, asked what our favourite type of food is, and then recommended choices on the menu that would satisfy our food desires.

It was a rather comical visit, because I was with family from England who love their pub fare, and at first they were a little put off at the sight of my fried Brussels sprouts on a tiny plate.

However, their skeptical attitude quickly changed

after they tried them; they're absolutely delicious, and I like to describe them as little green flakes of heaven.

Wine Stage Bar is a tapas bar, so it's fun to go with a group and try a little bit of everything. Just to give you an idea of what they offer, the plates include a chef's choice plate, cheese plates, vegetarian and gluten-free options, and house-made sausages. Sometimes my friends and I pop in just to have a glass of wine from their extensive wine list.

What makes Stage unique is its Fernwood location and the personable attitude of everyone who works there. They make you feel like family, and that you are wanted there; I never feel rushed to eat and get out just so they can open a table.

Stage can be a bit pricey, but it's totally worth checking it out.



Ability's Muse

by Andy Chen

camosun college students with (dis)abilities collective

Finding inspiration in struggle

I recently listened to the brilliant dialogues of my fellow colleagues at Camosun's Conversations Day, an annual event that showcases inspirational stories from the college community.

There is no telling what the human spirit can accomplish, and it reminds me that some of us are charged with greatness. I walked away from the event with the knowledge that we all have potential to be remarkable if we cultivate it.

One particular story had me deeply moved and equally disturbed all at once. While it was a compel-

ling tale of triumph over adversity, it completely contrasts my present journey.

While one colleague was revered upon his return, I on the other hand find myself having to prove to others daily that I belong amongst my peers. Rather than accept other people's poor opinions of me, I stand my ground, endure, and sometimes fight.

I don't relish giving grand speeches to groups ready to hand me their applause. Instead, I seek out the poor soul struggling to articulate their experiences, on or

off campus, and I provide them the audience they felt they were deprived of, try to validate their thoughts and feelings, and remind them that they are people deserving of our respect and acknowledgment.

I don't take comfort in appeasing others to maintain an illusion of control. I reflect the critical nature of the problem back to others in ways that can draw disapproval.

While I'm overjoyed to hear these inspirational stories, it saddens me that society doesn't elevate everyone's personal story to the point of critical acclaim.



The Prodigal Planeswalker

by Andy Chen

camosun college magic: the gathering club

Stacking the deck

What makes a good 60-card *Magic: The Gathering* deck? Do you overrun your opponent with your army of middling to strong creatures? Is there an unbeatable combination of cards that, if left unchecked, assures your victory? Or does your strategy involve stalling your opponent's resources to the point that they resign in defeat or frustration?

A deck, in theory, is only as good as its pilot; you need to have a win condition (win con), the method by which a deck is used to win.

Knowing when to withhold a spell until the opportunity to use it presents itself is just as important as casting it. For example, if your win con relies on summoning your 10/10 flying trample Beast creature, make sure your opponent has no responses. Wait until their hand is emptied of spells, or their resources are tapped out.

Where do the best deck ideas come from? If you are a "Spike," a descriptor for *Magic's* most aggressive, competitive players, you find inspiration from "netdecking"

the format's best deck lists, card for card.

However, as a "Johnny" player, I once designed an original or "rogue" deck that upset a number of netdecks at a tournament. It was a very sobering experience for the other player, who went undefeated for 40 matches until we were paired against one another.

Building a deck is a personal experience. A planeswalker's true character is not only divined through their choice of cards, but also through how it is played.

Education Council & Board of Governors ELECTION

Representation is important!

Do you want to influence the future of the college? Would you like to have a voice in the development of educational programs? Expand your horizons by serving on Camosun College's Education Council or Board of Governors!

The nomination period is from Thursday, March 5 through Wednesday, March 18, 3pm.

The election will be held Tuesday, April 07 and Wednesday, April 08 from 9:00 am - 7:00 pm, and Thursday, April 09 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

For more information, see posters around the campus, on CamNews, Camosun.ca website, or contact Sandra at 250-370-3855.

what's going on

by erin blondeau



PHOTO PROVIDED

Big Little Lions are playing Victoria on March 8.

TUESDAY EVENINGS
Weekly drop-in sports at Interurban

Interurban students are on a mission to spread health and wellness. 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 at the Interurban campus and are available only to Camosun students (so be sure to bring your student card to get in).

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 7

A walk a day keeps the doctor away

Get your heart rate pumping with a 5/10 km walk, starting at Gyro Park on Sinclair Road on March 1. Registration is at 9:30 am and the walk is at 10. Contact Susan at 250-727-6826 for more information. If that walk doesn't quite tickle your fancy, never fear, because another walk is near: a 5/10 km walk starts at Henderson Rec Centre at 9:30 am. Contact Malca at 250-818-9496.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Be inspired by musicians and speakers

St. Mary's Anglican Church will feature inspirational musicians and speakers in the chapel. Admission is by donation, with a suggested amount of \$8. The event begins at 7 pm. Call 250-598-2212 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Audience and performers morph together at UVic

In a theatrical twist, UVic's theatre department is hosting a dynamic role-playing event that involves the audience in the role of performer. The audience will be held accountable for the figurative lives of others and take on issues such as lies, deception, and crisis. The event starts at 1 pm and takes place in the Phoenix Building. Admission is free and no registration is required.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Living Books helps students network

Camosun Library, in partnership with Cooperative Education and Student Employment, is giving students a chance to network with people in

their desired employment industry, explore different careers, and learn about potential jobs during 15-minute appointments with "living books." The Living Books event is designed to allow students to converse with a "living book" in order to learn about them in person. Visit camosun.ca.libguides.com/livinglibrary2015 for more information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Inception: theatre style

Experience a play within a play. Take the show's fate into your own hands and become an acting member of the audience. In the *Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the audience will have the ability to vote on the perfect ending for the play. The unfinished work of Charles Dickens is said to have an intense and gripping plot that's not suitable for children, but great fun for adults. Tickets are \$26 for adults and \$24 for students. Visit langhamtheatre.ca for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Singer-songwriter turned psychotherapist

Victoria singer/songwriter Joel Kroeker has redirected his musical attention from touring with artists such as Randy Bachman and Bruce Cockburn to working with music and psychotherapeutic perspective. Kroeker is a registered clinical counsellor and music-centred psychotherapist; he will be giving an experimental lecture and workshop at the Victoria Lung Society from 7-9 pm. See ow.ly/JCv5j for info.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Don't let the IKEA thing dissuade you, though

Head on over to Merlin's Sun Home Theatre (not a wizard? don't know where that is? Call 250-598-7588 or email timgosley@telus.net) at 7:30 pm on March 8 to catch Big Little Lions, a duo whose folksy, dancy tunes have been used in IKEA ads. Seriously!

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Hilarity will ensue

The crew at Hecklers Bar and Grill has created a comedy show called *One Night Only*, sharing some of their most beloved and, hopefully, hilarious acts. The event will showcase Phil Hanley, Mike Delamont, and Sean Proudlove. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling 250-386-9207 or at hecklerscomedy.eventbrite.ca.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 21

18th century rivalry

One of the greatest music geniuses our planet has ever known will be gracing the stage at the Phoenix Theatre. Witness the 18th century rivalry showdown between Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri at the matinee (2 pm) or at the evening performances (8 pm). Visit phoenixtheatres.ca for more information.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Sit back and relax with some masterworks

Experience *Symphonic Masterworks* with music director Yariv Aloni at the Alix Gooden Performance Hall. You will be graced with the magical sounds of mezzo-soprano, harp, and organ. The show starts at 2 pm and tickets are \$22. Tickets can be purchased at a variety of locations across town and online at civorchestraofvictoria.org. Visit that same website for more information on this event.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Nominate or apply for BreakOut West

Victoria will be hosting BreakOut West 2015! What is that? Well, BreakOut West is four days of music and everything music- and artist-related from Western Canada. There will be a three-day music conference, a diverse music festival, and the Western Canadian Music Industry Awards and Gala. The BreakOut West festival will run with Rifflandia Festival. If you would like to perform or be nominated, apply now. The deadline is March 15 and the festival takes place in September. Visit breakoutwest.ca/submissions1 for more information.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Students rally to raise money for African school

A group of Camosun students have come together to organize what looks like a fun-filled event to raise money for a special school in Ghana called The Human Factor Leadership Academy. The school's goal is to help shape hard-working, honest, and compassionate leaders who can bring change and positivity to Africa. The school needs more classrooms, access to electronics, and other important educational tools. The event will take place at Fernwood Square at 10 am. Go to indiegogo.com/projects/service-learning-project-human-factor-development for info.

nexusnewspaper.com web exclusives word search

We scoured some of our recent always-awesome web-only stories (see nexusnewspaper.com to read 'em!) to get words for this issue's puzzle.

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

ASSISTED
BASKETBALL
BOISTEROUS
BRILLIANT
CAPITALISM
CLIMATE
COMEDY
DIE
DIGNITY
EUTHANASIA

GLOBETROTTERS
HOBBIT
IMPROVISED
INTERSTELLAR
JOURNEY
OVERDUE
SIN
SPACE
SUICIDE
TORTURE

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

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Reviews of the latest *Hobbit* movie and *Journey to Space* at the IMAX, an opinion piece on assisted suicide legislation, a review of the Harlem Globetrotters at the arena, and more!