

BREAKING ISOLATION: VICTORIA'S GAMING COMMUNITY IS NO LONGER HIDING

Page 6



Student groups oppose proposed ICBC legislation: 3



Camosun's Cultural Showcase returns: 4



Viet Cong bring the noise: 9

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I don't care. I don't care about anything."

COVER IMAGES:
Gaming: Nicholas Callanan
ICBC: Jill Westby/*Nexus*
Cultural Showcase: Camosun College A/V Services
Viet Cong: David Waldman

editor's letter

The game is never over

Oh, I've played some video games in my time. I've also collected comics and obsessed over heavy metal trivia facts. I know all about those kinds of subcultures. And I know that while 10 or 15 years ago they were considered a bit nerdy or uncool, I'm not so sure where they fit in the social landscape of today.

Which is one of the reasons I was so excited about contributing writer Jayden Grieve's cover story about Victoria's gaming community (page 6). I figured it wouldn't be without its challenges: gaming culture, like many cultures who have been vilified over the years, is wary of media (see the *Nexus*/LARPers debacle from a handful of years back). But we're not here to poke fun: I'm a guy with a tattoo with a parody of Metallica's logo who is often (*very* often) walking around with the theme song from *Super Mario Bros.* playing in my head. I've spent my life living in various subcultures that people poke fun at regularly.

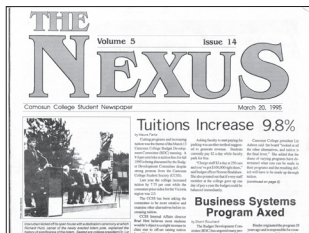
Besides, poking fun is cheap and easy: what we want to do is put some faces behind the gaming subculture, figure out who these people are, and find out what about gaming appeals to them. Plus, you know... Gamergate. We have questions.

Hopefully you find the story as interesting to read as we found it was while researching, writing, and editing it. And speaking of games, if anyone else out there is still haunted by the Atari 2600 *Swordquest* games, please come talk to me. I have questions.

Greg Pratt, managing editor
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

20 years ago in *Nexus*



Interurban Walk Safer's tough start: We reported in a previous installment of this column that 20 years ago marked the start of the Walk Safer program at Interurban. Unfortunately, our March 20, 1995 issue had a story updating readers on how things were going... and they weren't good. "People aren't as interested in volunteering [at Interurban] as they are at Lansdowne," explained Gaileen Flaman, who was then the director of Walk Safer. Fortunately, they made it through the tough times and Walk Safer is still running at both campuses today.

Wasn't funny then, not funny now: On the topic of Walk Safer, the news story "Prankster targets Walk Safer" in this issue detailed how Walk Safer's director and coordinators at the time heard a "young male voice, calling for help, using cliché terms and sounding really emotionless," while patrolling, said Gaileen Flaman, Walk Safer direc-

tor. It sounds either really creepy or really stupid, but either way, the young man stopped his joking as the two approached. He was never seen, but a report was filed and Flamen reminded students that "personal violation is not a joke."

Digital debates: These days you can't throw a lonely guy at another lonely guy without a debate raging out about whether it's best to listen to music on CD, vinyl, or your computer. And while... yawn... that debate is fascinating, let's put things in perspective for a moment: in this issue, 20 years ago, our writer Esme Friesen took time out of her review of Stereolab's most recent album to poke a bit of fun at people who at that point were already going off of CDs. "For all those converted to digital, what are those equalizers on your fancy stereo systems for now, anyway?" she asked, before adding, "Don't worry, they still make CDs, and they are available in Victoria."

open space

The right to die with dignity is long overdue

RACHAEL GRANT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I have seen torture. And I am overjoyed that laws enabling that torture were recently eliminated in Canada.

With the Supreme Court having recently struck down laws against assisted suicide, the controversial topic of euthanasia has risen to the surface of public debate once more. Arguments against the legalization of doctor-assisted suicide often come from a place of care, but are misguided at best.

As an individual who has cared for others with chronic conditions who suffer every day without relief, despite what medical treatment is available, I have witnessed what could only be described as torture. When there is no cure, no means to effectively control a person's suffering, and most importantly, when an individual has made it clear that they do not want to live out the rest of their lives in these conditions, to deny someone in this situation the right to die is without a doubt unethical.

There is the argument that legalizing assisted suicide somehow devalues the lives of those who live with conditions that involve chronic pain, issues with mobility, and degenerative illnesses of all kinds. Those who access assisted suicide

do so because they have made that choice.

This should be seen as an individual's choice: the decision to die in these circumstances does not, and should not, speak to others who face similar circumstances, or to people living with disabilities as a whole.

Honouring an individual's right to die when the only realistic alternative is suffering is humane, and should be seen as a way of supplementing palliative care. Legalization of euthanasia will not take away from the quality of medical care; it will strengthen it.

For me, at the end of the day, it boils down to this: we allow our pets to die with dignity, and there is no need for a lengthy debate. We recognize that a suffering animal, even with the best medical treatment, can be left suffering needlessly.

Yet, there are individuals in our own communities with excruciatingly painful chronic conditions who have expressed desire to not live their lives in agony, and their right to die with dignity is, somehow, still up for debate.

The recent ruling of the Supreme Court is a step in the right direction. It's also a step towards creating a legal framework that honours choice in an area that we have failed for too long.

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

NEXUS

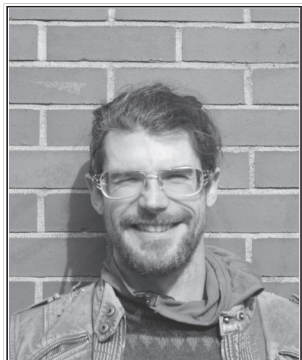
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SPEAK UP

Do you play video games? Why, or why not?

BY SARAH TAYLER



MATI DAVYDIUK

"Sometimes. If I play a video game, it's usually because the video game is good and it makes my brain work hard and differently."



MIMI PRECHACHAISUIUT

"No. I never find myself into it. I don't like playing by myself, but if I play with a friend it's fine."



TYLER FRANCIS

"Of course. Ever since I was a kid. And at first it was just a fun thing to do, but now they've become a part of my life. I want to become an animator one day."



HE WEI

"Yeah. Because that is a very interesting and a very useful tool... and a waste of time."



ADAM BEATTIE

"Yes. It's a fun stress relief. I can take my mind off studying for, you know, an hour or two."



SUMI YADAB

"No, I've just never been into it too much. But lately I've been getting more into it, so I might."

student debt

Proposed ICBC changes upset students



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Proposed legislation would deny students who have defaulted on their student loans a driver's licence renewal.

PASCALE ARCHIBALD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Proposed legislation by BC Finance Minister Mike de Jong will deny students that have defaulted on their student loans a driver's licence renewal through ICBC, and student groups such as the Canadian Federation of Students are not happy about it.

BC student debt and interest rates have never been higher, causing the provincial government to only collect \$17.3 out of \$185.5 million owing in 2013/14.

Zachary Crispin, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students-BC (CFS-BC), says that the proposed legislation is unfair to students and counterproductive to

getting students out of debt.

"Denying a driver's licence to young people struggling to pay back their loans is sure to cost jobs, resulting in more defaults, not fewer," says Crispin.

Crispin points out that this piece of legislation will paint people defaulting on their student debt as negligent, when the situation of postsecondary education in BC has set the stage for extreme student debt.

"The reason why so many people are in such a high amount of student debt is that we have the worst student financial assistance in all of the country, and the highest tuition fees in the history of our province," says Crispin. "This very

government has made it a perfect climate for us to have a mounting student debt crisis."

Under the proposed legislation, those unable or unwilling to repay their student loans would have to be in good standing for a year in order to qualify for a driver's licence renewal.

Rachael Grant, external executive of Camosun College's Student Society, mirrors the CFS' Crispin, saying the proposed legislation is a bad idea.

"This is an unfair and unproductive step that the BC government has taken," says Grant. "It is counterproductive and counterintuitive, as students won't be able to drive to hold down a job or get one."

"This is an unfair and unproductive step that the BC government has taken."

RACHAEL GRANT
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

The inability to drive in BC would make life exceedingly difficult, as Crystal Robertson, first-year University Transfer student points out.

"I think of a licence as having freedom," says Robertson. "People need a vehicle, especially on the island and places where it is difficult to access transportation."

Meanwhile, Tamara McLean, ICBC senior communications specialist for Vancouver Island, says that ICBC can only follow policy based on legislation.

"We do what the government tells us to do," says McLean.

Alex Semple, second-year Earth and Ocean Science student, raises important questions around the extremeness of the proposed legislation.

"At what detriment to the Canadian government is having students take a little bit longer to get their loans paid back?" says Semple.

The BC government saw a surplus of \$879 million this year and BC students have one of the best track records for loan repayment in Canada.

According to Minister of Advanced Education Andrew Wilkinson, 70 percent of postsecondary students graduate without debt. But

Wilkinson's numbers have Crispin and Grant confused.

"It's very confusing; his statistics don't match the BC government's statistics at all," says Grant.

The CFS-BC's Crispin claims that Wilkinson deliberately skewed those figures to downplay the student-debt crisis in BC, and what students really need is more financial help.

"We found that about 50 percent of people who go through postsecondary education take on some form of student financial systems," says Crispin. "We should be making sure that people aren't going into this sort of debt in the first place." (Wilkinson would not make a statement to *Nexus* on the matter.)

Students and student groups agree that how the provincial government decides to fund postsecondary institutions and deal with student debt is related to the value the government puts on higher education.

"It depends on what value we put on higher education," says Semple, "and is it enough of a benefit to our country, to our culture, and to our world that we should be putting people at risk and discouraging people from getting a higher education because of financial investment costs?"

NEWS BRIEFS

Chargers men's volleyball team wins national championships

For the first time ever, the Camosun Chargers men's volleyball team has taken home the gold in the national championships. The Chargers defeated the Limoilou, Quebec Titans in national championship play over March 12-14 at Holland College in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. The gold medal match was a thriller, with Camosun coming back from behind in the first set and winning 25-21. The Titans won the next two sets, but Camosun stormed back again in the fourth and fifth sets and went on to win the match and the championships. Meanwhile, the Camosun women's volleyball team took home a bronze in the nationals, held March 12 to 14 at Cégep Édouard-Montpetit in Longueuil, Quebec. The Red Deer College Queens won gold.

Remarkable Camosun alumni to win awards

If you know a Camosun alumnus whose work ethics are worthy of an award, the college is now accepting

nominations for the Distinguished and Promising Alumni Awards. The awards will be presented at Camosun's annual graduation ceremony, taking place on June 18-19. Visit camosun.ca/alumni for the requirements and to nominate exceptional Camosun alumni. The nominations close on March 31.

Hospitality students serve the homeless

Over 500 impoverished and homeless guests were given the rare opportunity to enjoy fine-dining service with an exceptional two-course menu, served by Camosun's Hospitality Management Training Program. The students were required to organize, serve, and prepare the entire evening for the less fortunate. The event took place at Our Place Society on Wednesday, March 11.

Chargers basketball wins

Chargers women and men's basketball dominated in their final home games of the season. The Chargers women beat the Kwantlen Eagles 71-59, and took down the Columbia Bible College Bearcats 56-48 on the February 20-21

weekend. Although the Chargers men pulled it off, head coach Scot Cuachon said in a press release, "We were far too casual on the defensive end." However, the Chargers ended up pulling it off in the final quarter to take the win.

Seminars to support students' leadership

Camosun's Continuing Education department is offering two-day training seminars to help young people between the ages of 17-24 with their leadership skills and knowledge. The Young Women's Workshop will be held on April 11 and May 9 and the Young Men's Workshop will run April 12 and May 10 at the Lansdowne campus. Visit camosun.ca/ce for more.

Artist's contest dishing out prizes

The artistic community of Salt Spring Island is giving Canadian artists a chance for recognition. Artists will have an opportunity to earn up to \$25,000 in prize money, with the leading artist to take home \$10,000 and a one-month artist residency on Salt Spring. The artists will remain anonymous to the judges to keep the competition fair

and 50 works of art will be selected, and original works will be for sale at Mahon Hall on Salt Spring Island.

Open textbooks could help students save

Open Education Week recently ran from March 9-13 and Advanced Education Minister Andrew Wilkinson is reminding students that there is an online source for viewing textbooks for free. BC was the first Canadian province to support the government-sponsored open textbook project. There are more than 70 textbooks available online for free through the program. Wilkinson stated in a press release that more than 4,600 students in BC have saved over \$600,000 by using the open textbooks. Visit open.bccampus.ca/ for more information.

Travel grants awarded to local athletes

Eight Vancouver Island athletes have been awarded grants to help with the cost of travelling off the island for training and competition. The Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Society (VIMSS) has awarded the grants to do their part in nurturing local athletes and helping them prepare for competitions.

Vancouver Island Alpine athletes can apply for a grant from VIMSS online over at vimountaincentre.com.

More money to be spent on contaminated land

Thetis Lake Regional Park once was home to a firing range used by police forces, security companies, and gun clubs, before being contaminated by toxic metals and bullets. The CRD has taken the initiative to address the contamination issue and take steps to reduce risks for human health. The remediation of the site, which included excavating and removing soil, has been completed. The CRD says the next step will be restoring the site and \$80,000 per year between 2005 and 2012 has already been spent on the project.

-ERIN BLONDEAU

Got a news tip for us? Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com today!

event

Camosun celebrates culture in eighth annual showcase



“A cultural showcase at my school? I was so excited!”

SRIJANI NATH
PEER CONNECTIONS MEMBER

CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

Students performing at a previous year's Camosun College Cultural Showcase event.



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LIFE.CHANGING

ANNIE LUKE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Culture is nurtured over time; some are born into it, some seek it, and others get lost in it. It helps us identify aspects of our lives and lays down a foundation in which a group thrives. The concept of culture is a universally shared value, establishing commonalities and, in many cases, respect.

The annual Camosun College Cultural Showcase, now in its eighth year, has created equal opportunities for students to participate and expand their understanding of con-

cepts such as culture and identity, and how they are interwoven or quite separate.

For instance, a Japanese student who doesn't speak the language is singing a Korean pop song, while “a group of Chinese and Korean students are singing Leonard Cohen's ‘Hallelujah,’” says Camosun International communication officer Roseanne Harvey, a prominent leader in the showcase's development.

The showcase, taking place on March 20 and including students from all over the world, coincides with the March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Peer Connections member Sriyani Nath recalls her initial reaction to the Cultural Showcase.

“A cultural showcase at my school? I was so excited!” says Nath.

Passionate and working cohesively, the performers' ability to accurately depict their cultural perspective shows the audience the range of the students' diversity.

The art of performing isn't simply displaying a talent, but believing in it enough to share. The Cultural Showcase offers means of communication among students and networking that may not otherwise occur.

“It's a really fun way to connect,” says Peer Connections member Jamila Liu. “Everyone is just so nice and I get to see other cultures, too.”

Graduating in Community Family and Child Studies, Liu has viewed

and participated in Camosun's Cultural Showcase twice and has gained experience with hosting and performing, but emphasizes her heightened ability to communicate effectively.

As a Marketing student from Eastern India who has spent two semesters studying here in Canada, Nath is preparing herself for her first Cultural Showcase hosting experience.

“It's a great honour,” she says, acknowledging the hours she has sacrificed to plan a seamless event. One of the advantages of working with the Cultural Showcase team is the knowledge she has gained on the cultural landscape here in Victoria, she says.

Nath is performing an eclectic Indian dance with friends at the event. She remarks on how the Cultural Showcase has strengthened the student community.

“Last year, we had 300 people show up,” says Sriyani. “This year we're hoping for 500.”

Although tickets for the event are free, donations are accepted and will be given to the African Awareness Society and will be allocated towards the Uganda Rural Fund, who aim to empower women, youths, and AIDS orphans in the country.

Camosun College Cultural Showcase
7 pm Friday, March 20
By donation, Alix Goolden
Performance Hall
camosun.ca/international

Don't Miss

The Camosun College Student Society Annual General Meeting

Helmut Huber Culinary Arts Centre Annex
Monday March 30th 1:15pm

Meeting Agenda

I - CALL TO ORDER

II - INTRODUCTION TO CCSS MEETING RULES OF ORDER

III - APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV - MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

V - ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1) Adoption of Mar 31, 2014 Audited financial statement

3) Adoption of current updated unaudited financial statements

4) Appointment of the Auditor

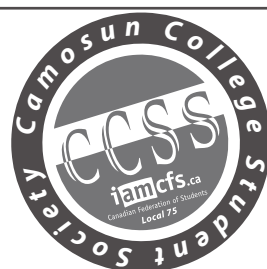
VI - SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND THE EXISTING BYLAWS

1) Repeal and Replace the Bylaws with the consolidated version currently used by the Society.

VII - REPORTS

VIII - QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

IX - ADJOURNMENT



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know your profs

Camosun Environmental Tech chair Steve Gormican gets serious



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun's Steve Gormican: ask him about the boat-launching incident.

“I’m somewhat of an optimist, so I think that we’ll get through these tough times.”

STEVE GORMICAN
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

JASON SCHREURS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

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

Do you have an instructor that you want to see interviewed in the paper? Maybe you want to know more about one of your teachers, but you’re just too busy, or shy, to ask?

Go ahead and email us at editor@nexusnewspaper.com and we’ll add your instructor to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we talked to Environmental Technology chair Steve Gormican about sharing in his students’ achievements, boat mishaps, and spilling a tear or two in his office.

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

I teach various courses and am

the chair of Environmental Technology. My subject area includes aquatic sciences, which involves both academics and practical field learning. I came from the consulting world, where you have to have a variety of skills.

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

My best reward is seeing new, keen, and bright people entering the field to replace me when I retire. Despite all the bad news on the environmental front, our current students have optimism and will play an important role in integrating sustainability into their jobs and personal lives.

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

I’m pretty much an open book. Because of the cohort model used in Environmental Technology, there is little that they don’t know about me, as we spend a lot of time together over the three years of the program.

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

I’m empathetic to those who have lost a loved one and may join them in a tear or two when they come to my office.

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

It’s usually at graduation, when I get to see the successful students

get their diplomas after all their hard work and dedication.

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

I almost lost a boat while launching it. Of course, it was in front of a group of students who were not only watching but filming the entire event. I constantly wonder when the video will show up on social media.

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

It’s very hard to stay positive about the lack of attention from the government, but I’m somewhat of an optimist, so I think that we’ll get through these tough times.

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

I play hockey, spend time on the water exploring the Gulf Islands, and go prawning when the season is open. I’m in charge of fleet maintenance and spend time tinkering on the family cars. I also enjoy dining with friends, live music, and theatre.

9: What’s your favourite meal?

Fresh seafood locally caught, accompanied by local vegetables, grilled on the BBQ, and served with a glass of local beer. Wait, is single malt whiskey a meal?

10: What’s your biggest pet peeve?

Entitled people.

NEXUS HUMOUR

Campus Callosus

By Jenna Cottrell

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8th Annual Cultural Showcase

A harmonious celebration of culture and diversity

Friday, March 20, 2015 Doors open at 7:00pm, show starts at 7:30pm

Alix Golden Performance Hall, 907 Pandora Avenue
Admission is free. Donations accepted for the Uganda Rural Fund.
camosun.ca/international 250-370-3681

Proudly supported by Camosun International students,
Peer Connections & African Awareness Committee.

CAMOSUN Victoria Conservatory of Music 50

“Now everyone plays video games, and there’s basically no social view of it being wrong anymore.”

EVAN HATCH
GOTTAACON

Walking into the recent GottaCon gamer convention held at the Victoria Conference Center, I’m immediately shocked by the severe volume and variety of people. Moms and dads with tiny babies, women in full body armour, teens, tweens, adults, seniors, children, a woman dressed as Sailor Moon... and everybody has a gaming device of some kind in their hands.

Across the street in the vendor section, booths are set up selling every game-related item imaginable. It’s a true paradise for those with a gamey disposition. It’s like an entirely new culture, and I begin to wonder what it’s all about.

LET’S GET TOGETHER

“The *Magic Club* is one of my pet projects on the Camosun campus,” says Andy Chen, who is the campus club’s president. “It started out as an initiative to create some safe spaces on campus and to have some social drop-in activities for students from different backgrounds.”

Chen says that he focused on gaming because he feels it’s a subculture at Camosun that people aren’t very aware of, and board games and tabletop games provide great opportunities to meet and get to know people.

Magic has around 12,000,000 players worldwide and new people are always learning, so it’s an excellent avenue to interact with others.

“By creating something like the *Magic Club* or *Dungeons & Dragons Club*, we’re breaking isolation,” says Chen. “We don’t want people to be playing games in dark rooms at home; we want it to be more acceptable in common culture and we want people to be aware of it.”

This breaking of isolation was a long time coming for members of the gaming culture, whose early years were spent in smaller groups or all alone. The appearance of clubs and conferences has helped to bring the culture some much-needed exposure and increased membership.

In western Canada, Victoria’s own GottaCon stands out as one of the most prominent examples of these events.

“About nine years ago, we were kind of disappointed in the conventions in town,” says Carson Upton, one of the partners at GottaCon Conventions. “They weren’t up to the international events that we had attended, and we wanted to see if we could put on something of a higher calibre.”

This is, arguably, what GottaCon has done. Over 600 people attended the first GottaCon back in 2008, but that number has multiplied drastically over the past few years.

Upton attributes their success to simple word of mouth and says that although they have had a few media partners in recent years, without attendees telling their friends how much they enjoyed the event, they would never have become as successful as they have.

Though “gamers” is a term that covers people with many different interests, GottaCon manages to be all-inclusive and provides something for all of the subcultures. For example, those who like to get physical.

“You have people who go out and do the physical live action role playing (LARP), and they go out on the weekends with LARPer weapons and run through the woods and are totally physical and active,” says Upton.

Evan Hatch, the other half of the GottaCon partnership, continues Upton’s train of thought. “Then you have board gamers who play board games all weekend, or the trading card game players, or the videogamers who play videogames all weekend and bring their own computers to compete in tournaments.”



CYLER PARENT

BRE GAMERS EXPLAIN WHY TH



CYLER PARENT

Upton finishes the tho and you have people who They are all looking for a c

Over the GottaCon we lugged huge personal com five *Magic: The Gathering*

For some people these are things that the gamir ordinary. Someone who pl do similar things without

And although people r gaming culture, it’s gener has not always been the ca

“W hen Ni spent there v

peers,” says Hatch. “Now basically no social view of

Although Hatch says t may still look at gaming as sensus seems to be that th into the culture of today.

With the popularizati other new genres in the vid of the mobile gaming plat who couldn’t be called a g walk of life appreciates a g

“I’ve worked with a lot ‘Oh, really? That’s so weir things in society which ha ‘gamer’ or a ‘nerd’ or a ‘ge

Even the word “geek,” reclaimed by the commun “Originally geek cultur

I kind of felt that way a litt they were a different type c

so many nerds and geeks that they’re starting to go, ‘I’m this sort

The pair also calls out to those who are still secretive about the Even though this is painfully obvious, it can still be hard to overc feeling.

“Growing up, you can be selective about the hobbies you sh ostracized for being different,” says Chen. “It’s now more accepta of game culture.”

The acceptance of gaming culture is great. But what about acc tions that the industry is misogynistic and inherently sexist. Is the

A FEW BA

“T hat’s one of the problems with game culture,” says kind of runs throughout, because a lot of the gam intercultural competencies when it comes to other

Chen says that though the misogyny is there, it’s only a small p by the rest, as was recently the case with the Gamergate controver

Gamergate was a scandal that involved the sexual harassmen male players in the gaming community.

Extending from August of last year into the beginning of 2015, there seems to be a million opinions on the true nature of #gamergate. Some claim it’s about ethics in journalism, and others claim it’s about the oppression of women in the gaming industry.

Interestingly, few of the gamers we talked to seemed to have that strong of an opinion on the matter.

Most gamers agree that they hope the fallout from Gamergate will be an impetus for positive change.

“I don’t like to think that they are the majority at all, because that gives a totally bad reputation to everyone else who’s a part of that community,” says Ellen Young, a Camosun business student whose interest in gaming has spanned almost a decade. “I do think that sort of attitude is very toxic in the community, especially if it’s a community with impressionable children or youth. I don’t want people to think



BEAKING ISOLATION

THEY DON'T NEED TO HIDE ANYMORE

Story by Jayden Grieve, contributing writer

Photos taken at GottaCon 2015 in Victoria

light: “You have casual people who come to play everything, fly in from all over the world for this specific tournament. Common experience: to play games and have a good time.” Weekend people dressed up in heavy character armor, some computers around, and others spent over \$300 on just four or five cards.

activities might seem strange, but these gaming community has come to consider as playing sports or collects sports cards might be a second thought.

may be confused by some of the antics of what is usually looked on in a positive light. But this is not the case.

IT'S YOUR TIME

When Nintendo first came out, it was a toy. If you were a teenager playing with a toy, you would be some derogatory stuff from your parents. Everyone plays videogames, and there's nothing wrong anymore.”

That people from his parents' generation might see it as silly or a waste of time, the general consensus movement has been mostly assimilated

of sports games, shooter games, and the videogame industry, as well as the explosion of the form, it would be hard to find someone who isn't a gamer in one way or another. Almost everyone from every generation has a good videogame.

“I'm not a professional in government and there's absolutely no stigma attached to it, or anything like that,” says Hatch, “compared to other professions, we've been points of contention, gaming and being titled as a ‘nerd’ is not really an issue anymore.”

“The word ‘nerd’ which was unarguably derogatory at one point, has been reclaimed and is now worn as a badge of pride.

“It was the suppressed minority,” says Upton. “In high school, being a nerd was a little bit. If you found another nerd or geek it didn't matter if you were a nerd or geek, you kind of bonded together. Now there are no ‘nerds’ or ‘geeks,’ or ‘I'm this sort of geek.’”

“The word ‘nerd,’ or ‘I'm this sort of geek.’”

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“The word ‘nerd,’ or ‘I'm this sort of geek.’”

NERD MEN

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“You have casual people who come to play everything, and you have people who fly in from all over the world for this specific tournament. They are all looking for a common experience: to play games and have a good time.”

CARSON UPTON
GOTTACON

that the kind of language that they use, or the attitude they have towards other demographics, is in any way healthy, or normal, or accepted.”

Young says the best way to combat discriminatory language in online gaming communities is by gamers “calling each other out.”

“That was how I started educating myself on these issues; someone actually called me out on some of the things I said online,” she says. “I hadn't even realized how what I was saying could affect people, but I had no bad intentions.”

Chen agrees and suggests that just the awareness of how someone's words are affecting others can often be enough to start the dialogue and work towards ending misogyny.

Unfortunately the members of the gaming community aren't the only sexist component; there is one that runs even deeper, according to Camosun Sociology instructor Peter Ove.

“There's two kinds of sexism, or two ways of viewing sexism. There's the way we typically view sexism in our culture and there's a more sociological view of

sexism,” explains Ove. “The first way is when you get people who are idiots, basically; misogynous people who don't like women. However, there's a broader element of sexism that involves simply defining men and women as different. You see this kind of sexism in some videogames where you get a company that will produce a violent video game with all-male leads and the only women in there are subservient or secondary. That's sexist.”

Ove also says that one of the interesting things about gaming culture is that the videogame market worldwide was at one time about 10 times the size of the movie market. And while he says that it's a bit of an old statistic, it's still relatively true. That would suggest that a profoundly large number of people are influenced by this medium. Luckily, both forms of sexism seem to be heading the same direction and the days of women only playing *Sims* and men only playing *Call of Duty* is dying out.

Ove suggests that games like *The Last of Us*, with strong female characters, are helping to boost the trend of equality and contribute to a bright future for gamers everywhere.



CYLER PARENT

FUTURE 2.0

Overall, the people at GottaCon were some of the nicest, most accepting people I've ever met. Hatch comments that they get all ages at the event: from people who just learned to walk all the way up to people using walking sticks, and more people show up every year.

Victoria has a huge *Magic: The Gathering* scene, almost 20 different videogame studios, several board game authors, and many more things coming up on the horizon.

Ed Bittner, owner of Yellowjacket Comics & Toys, says that every continent in the world (except Antarctica) is represented by people who play the *Magic* card game on the pro circuit, and that games, in general, are here to stay.

“It's nice to have something that brings people together,” says Bittner. “It's nice to have a place where when people are interested in the game, you can help them out, laugh, and joke with them sometimes, and it's also to have something where you're always seeing new faces.”

ON THE BIG BANG THEORY

With each passing second of speaking to someone about nerdy culture, the probability of *The Big Bang Theory* television show being brought up increases exponentially.

“Shows like *The Big Bang Theory* sort of buff the trend,” says Andy Chen. “No one should feel like they have to hide a part of themselves and putting game culture out there, letting people know it exists, in a lot of ways, creates a new culture where it becomes more acceptable.”

“I'll use the example of *The Big Bang Theory*; I actually have an issue with that show,” says GottaCon attendee Darren Kumka, “because it's not portraying nerd culture and making jokes about it; it's more making jokes at it. A group of socially awkward male nerds, and the jokes are kind of, ‘Ha, look at this nerd!’”

In reference to the word “nerd” becoming less derogatory, GottaCon attendee Amelia Hendrickson says the popular TV show could have mixed results for the gaming community.

“Things that people who might identify as a nerd usually don't like, like *The Big Bang Theory*, are making it more mainstream and washing out the term,” she says.

Camosun's Ove also brings up the show when talking about the representation of gamers in popular culture.

“Now that it's no longer bad to be called a gamer, shows like *The Big Bang Theory* have become popular in the sense that these ‘nerds’ are an object of popular culture, rather than an object of ridicule,” says Ove.



NICHOLAS CALLANAN

spoken word

Shane Koyczan knows tricks to artistic success

TORI DMYTAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We all want our voices and stories to be heard and, after a lot of hard work, award-winning poet, author, and performer Shane Koyczan has accomplished just that.

Koyczan grew up in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories and was raised by his grandparents. All through school he was bullied, but despite the discouragement, Koyczan says he kept on writing.

"I've been told a lot throughout my life that nothing you say has value or meaning, so I took a creative writing class at Okanagan University, and from there they got us to do an open mic night," he says. "The response was really supportive."

After feeling like his voice was welcome, Koyczan started up his own reading series in Penticton, BC and eventually moved to Vancouver to get involved in the spoken-word scene there.

Koyczan says for any kind of art that you just have to start doing shows. Get your paintings in a gallery or cafe, or go to open mic nights if you're a musician or a poet, because everyone has to start somewhere. And he started at the bottom, just like most of us have to.

"You're not going to start out selling out theatres. When I first started, I was doing shows for two people in a cafe and that's like any

"You're not going to start out selling out theatres. When I first started, I was doing shows for two people in a café."

SHANE KOYCZAN
POET/AUTHOR/PERFORMER

art, unless it's manufactured, like Usher discovers you in a basement somewhere," says Koyczan.

Unfortunately, for all talented people out there, being discovered like that doesn't happen often. In most cases, success is the result of practice, hard work, and really finding your own groove, which are all things Koyczan has done and continues to do.

He developed a groove early on when he discovered the awkwardness of the awkward pause. He never wanted that to happen, so he developed a strategy that doubles as a strong writing technique.

"When I write a piece, I kind of write backwards," he says. "I'll start with the ending and then work to the beginning that way I'm driving the metaphor all the way through."

More important than process, however, is the inspiration behind his writing. Koyczan was bullied

and angry, but turned his pain into poetry. He says his inspiration comes from life and actual experiences, from the jerks at school, or even eavesdropping.

One of his latest poems was written about a waitress he encountered, proving that sometimes telling someone else's story is far more powerful than any we could make up ourselves.

Koyczan says he has no idea what this life is like for somebody else, and how difficult it would be, and it got him thinking.

"I like listening to people's conversations," he says. "People say crazy shit; they really do. There are things that are said that are far more poetic than what I write."

Shane Koyczan
Friday, March 27
\$25, Alix Goolden Hall
shanekoyczan.com

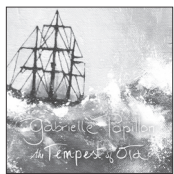


PHOTO PROVIDED

Shane Koyczan works backwards and listens to peoples' conversations.

New Music Revue

Gabrielle Papillon and Sarah MacDougall rise to the top of the new release pile



Gabrielle Papillon
The Tempest of Old
(Independent)
4/5

Just as The Civil Wars' self-titled album gave me a taste for their rendition of the country genre, Gabrielle Papillon's fifth album, *The Tempest of Old*, became an exception for my disinterest in indie rock.

With haunting beats, banjos, and a wicked fiddle, the first track, "Got You Well" sets the bar. The atmosphere transports your imagination knee deep into the mud of a stormy bog.

Throughout the album, the gang vocals send chills down the spine, without losing Papillon in the thunder of it. Her voice has an elusive quality, but she's not free floating. The vocals are naturally tied to the rhythmic orchestra's crescendos and falls.

My pet peeve is bad lyrics, but the album was in no danger of that. Each song flowed seamlessly into the next chapter of a relationship's beginning, turbulence, bitter breakup, and then the emotional strength found in the aftermath.

At the point of loss, the lyrics strengthen the feelings of acceptance, faith, and wisdom, all the while defying bitterness and cynicism.

-SARAH TAYLER



Jesse Roper
Red Bird
(Warner/Blue Heron Music)
1/5

Despite Victoria songwriter Jesse Roper's obvious instrumental and vocal talent, his self-indulgent music on *Red Bird* reminds me of a cover band you might find at a backyard BBQ celebrating an over-the-hill birthday.

Red Bird starts off with a folk sound, moves into a soft-rock lull, briefly falls into a ska-esque intermission (honestly, the better part of the album), then Roper gets lost in a love-song lullaby fit to make ears bleed.

Maybe he should stick with the not-quite-Rush sound, as it makes more sense than this eclectic playlist of an album, especially "The Good Life," which, oddly, mimicked the Seinfeld theme song.

It feels like Roper is simply showing us a portfolio of what he is capable of as an artist. Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that he will gain any new fans with *Red Bird*.

I would be curious to see a live performance by Mr. Roper because *Red Bird* isn't living up to the recognition he has received as a Victoria artist.

Better luck next time, bud.

-MATT O'CONNOR



Legs
Altitude
(Unsatisfied Records)
3/5

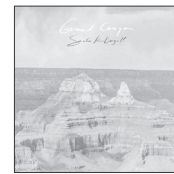
The first two tracks ("Jungle" and "Top of the World") on Brooklyn indie dance group Legs' new album, *Altitude*, are forgettable, but the album really picks up on the third track, "Hide and Seek."

Legs' slower, synth-driven songs are boring and meandering, suited for a movie soundtrack, which is perhaps their intention considering the bands success last year with the single "So Obvious," which was featured in the movie *Obvious Child*.

The upbeat, dance-driven songs found in the belly of this album gave me some faith, and I praise their funky, bass-ridden tune "Whole Wide Woman," the highlight of *Altitude*. It's a down-tempo, lyrically sensual groove monster. I won't be listening to this album in its entirety again, but I will be seeking out this song in the very near future.

For the most part, I found *Altitude* disappointing; I likely won't be listening to the entirety of it again. Legs did intrigue me enough, however, to seek out other tunes by them in hopes of coming across more of their funkier stuff. Legs have clear talent but this album was not my jam.

-MATT O'CONNOR



Sarah MacDougall
Grand Canyon
(Independent)
4/5

Even with Sarah MacDougall's strong Swedish roots, she showcases some convincing Canadian pride in her song "Sparrowhead." Let's just say it would be dangerous if everyone drank when she sang "Manitoba," like the popular drinking game to the song "Roxanne" by The Police.

Originally from Malmoe, Sweden and now residing in Whitehorse, *Grand Canyon* is MacDougall's third album and it showcases her unique sound.

She's a mixture of folk, indie, easy listening, and pop. I was initially thrown off by her unique sound and, to be honest, I didn't like it at first.

As an attempt to solidify my view, I listened to MacDougall's songs a couple more times and, well, it backfired. Soon enough, I was singing the lyrics to her single, "I Want to See the Light," out in public.

The song got stuck in my head like an annoying Miley Cyrus song, but at least I actually have respect for MacDougall.

-BLAIRE ARAMENKO



Harm's Way
Rust
(Deathwish Inc.)
3.5/5

Chicago has bred some disgusting metal and hardcore bands (see: Integrity and, well, Integrity). Harm's Way are no exception, continuing the time-honoured Chicago hardcore tradition of evil, serpentine riffing and anguished vocals.

Rust features 10 harrowing songs of terror, torture and internal struggle, but don't let that scare you off too much. Below the pain and sorrow is a hopeful, almost melodious, roar that, as the album progresses through its scream therapy, ends up settling on the surface.

"Hope," appearing at the album's halfway point, proves that all is not lost.

Released on Deathwish Inc., the record label run by Converge's Jacob Bannon, and recorded, mixed and mastered by the trio of Andy Nelson (Weekend Nachos), Kurt Ballou (Converge) and Brad Boatright (From Ashes Rise), there's no shortage of legit hardcore community surrounding this release.

Better yet, Harm's Way already have enough fury and chaos to carry *Rust* themselves.

-JASON SCHREURS

MUSIC

Viet Cong bring intricate indie rock to Victoria

JOSH TRAILL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Calgary post-punk outfit Viet Cong is making their way to Victoria, a city they are no strangers to. In fact, their old band, Women, actually broke up in Lucky Bar in 2010. But the indie rockers will be steering clear of Lucky Bar this time, performing at the Upstairs Cabaret on March 29.

“We all love Victoria, my grandma lives there... it’s a great place for grandmas,” says Viet Cong drummer Mike Wallace.

With gritty guitar tones and sporadic drum patterns, Viet Cong’s new self-titled album is very distinctive, especially in their original guitar tones.

“We spend a lot of times tweaking our guitars and amps to get a certain sound,” says Wallace.

With tour dates lined up all over North America, Wallace explains the expectations that come with success.

“Yeah, it’s been really exciting; most of the shows have been filled out,” he says. “It sort of sets a fire under our asses to keep on doing better.”

The band have also done tours all through Europe in the past and have their sights set on other places in the world.

“We played in a little commune in Copenhagen, it was amazing,” says Wallace. “Sometimes we’re



COLIN WAY

Calgary’s Viet Cong embrace complexity and instrumentation experimentation in their post-punk.

in a different country every day on tour in Europe. I’d love to tour in Asia, though.”

Viet Cong are known for the complexity of their music. Elaborate time signatures and frantically changing beats fill their albums.

“I’ve studied music in India. I spent a couple years just counting and clapping and trying to get my head around Indian time signatures,” says Wallace.

Most of the band members are professionally trained and it comes through in their music, including a wide range of musical influences.

“*Marquee Moon* by Television is one of our biggest influences,” reveals Wallace. “Bands like Bauhaus and The Cure have a huge effect on us, too.”

But influences can only go so far with a band’s sound. At some point, a band will be making some-

thing that’s completely original to themselves, and Viet Cong is no exception.

The band has been working on some new material in their spare time from touring and they hope to cut a record pretty soon.

“We have July off from touring and we have two weeks booked for some studio time,” says Wallace. “We plan on exploring the capabilities of our sound even more.”

Instrument equipment experimentation is a core principle in Viet Cong’s sound, explains Wallace. “We’ve been told to turn down the treble and volume at our live shows before.”

Viet Cong
7 pm March 29
\$12, Upstairs Cabaret
upstairscabaret.ca

review

Celtic Thunder takes itself too seriously at recent Victoria show

SARAH TAYLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Celtic Thunder came to the Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre on March 11 for their Best of Celtic Thunder tour. Since their 2007 debut in Ireland the group’s eclectic and theatrical performances have launched them onto the world stage.

And judging from the encyclopedic chattering of the elderly couple behind me, I could tell that they had earned a large, loyal fan base.

With the stage set to look like a craggy Irish coast, the opening number was heavy and rapid on the drums, violin strokes, and matching lightning effects.

My expectations rose as the group scattered over the stage in black coats and unleashed an orchestra of vocal harmonies and abrupt marching choreography to an epic Celtic folk song. But the constant melancholic, nostalgic, and sad lost-love songs were desensitizing and took themselves too seriously at the expense of a natural stage presence.

A few of them were able to stand out as moving or original when they engaged the audience, particularly when Victoria’s sing-along volume was challenged by Abbotsford, but other times the songs came off as stiff imitations.

In contrast, the group rhapsod-



R. JACK HARTIN

The overly serious Celtic Thunder. ies were Celtic Thunder’s selling point. Ominous group ballads revealed each of the group’s unique voices: raspy, clarion clear, and deep sultry baritone blended into a single rich sound.

When folk songs may have otherwise sounded hokey, cooperation brought out the singers’ personalities on stage and transformed songs into comedy skits, sending the audience squawking with laughter.

The highest energy came out in “Life with You,” dedicated to the late member of the group, George Donaldson, who was said to respond to funny words by saying something funnier back.

But the concert had more than a few mediocre moments, which dragged down the energy. Clustering the “best” of Celtic Thunder’s numbers may have impeded the show’s variety.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEXUS PUBLISHING SOCIETY

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015, 1 PM,

NEXUS OFFICE, RICHMOND HOUSE 201, LANSDOWNE

AGENDA

- I CALL TO ORDER
- II INTRODUCTION TO RULES OF ORDER
- III APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM
- V REPORTS
 - 1.) PRESIDENT’S REPORT
 - 2.) FINANCIAL REPORT
- VI ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 - 1.) ADOPTION OF MAR. 31, 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 - 2.) ADOPTION OF APRIL 1, 2015 TO MARCH 31, 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET
- VII RESIGNATION OF CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- VIII BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS
- IX ADJOURNMENT

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FREE PIZZA!

sounds

Festival highlights the power of human voice

SERA DOWN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It isn't uncommon in Victoria: a dozen flannel-clad buskers perched along Government Street, amusing shiny cedar acoustic guitars, singing folk renditions of Billboard Top 100 pop singles. Elderly gentlemen romance nostalgic tunes on trumpets and trombones alongside overly formal pre-teens mastering their violins. Indeed, Victoria is fond of its eclectic music community.

A selection of experienced vocal and audio artists are coming together to demonstrate the diversity of vocal expression through non-traditional styles such as overtone singing and multi-phonics at the Open Space Gallery's Voice++ 2015 festival.

An exhibition of non-traditional vocal performances is rare in any place; one featuring experienced vocalists of international provenance rarer still.

"These concerts will appeal to many different concert-goers, from classical music to modern to avant-guard jazz," explains Janice Jackson, whose own performance contains five works. Jackson's offerings include Arabic and Bulgarian ornamentation, Peking opera and overtone in Han No. 3, and a solo (composed by Marie Pelletier) to a mini opera titled *Echoes of Time Weeping* in traditional Bel Canto style, which draws from the South American myth of a forlorn woman searching for the lost souls of her children.

"Festivals that center around the voice are rare, as are experienced singers who focus much of their work on non-traditional singing."

JANICE JACKSON
VOICE++ 2015

A particularly intriguing piece to be performed by Jackson, titled *Angst* by Alice Ho (Toronto), combines both visual performance and extremes in dynamic, tempo, and pitch to convey nervous anxiety.

"There are also scissors and newspaper involved," says Jackson enthusiastically, leaving the rest to the imagination.

Other performances include a lecture from Swedish composer Erik Bünger titled *The Third Man*, which explores the complexities and evolution of technology in relation to music, language, and personal experiences.

Japanese artist and instrument creator Tomomi Adachi will be presenting a workshop and concert, unveiling fantastical inventions such as an infrared shirt that converts body movements and energy into sound, and inspiring audiences of all ages and experience levels to explore their body as a tool of musicality.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Voice++ 2015 festival exhibits non-traditional vocal performances by international performers.

Jackson says that while neither auditory nor visual mediums are superior, concerts capture their audiences much differently than a traditional art exhibit.

"Music is immediate and reaches the brain through the ears, through vibration, through the body... With visual art there is more time to ponder and allow the non-emotional part of the brain to process," says Jackson. "Time is different in music, whereas the visual is immediate

and can easily be ignored, music in concert is more difficult to censor or move away from unless one leaves the concert."

With Victoria's rich musical culture and its embrace of traditional arts such as ballet and theatre, Jackson hopes to see an enthusiastic turnout for the event.

"Opera lovers will love *Echoes of Time Weeping* because it's highly dramatic and emotional, as well as great theatre," says Jackson,

noting the unique nature of the event. "Festivals that centre around the voice are rare, as are experienced singers who focus much of their work on non-traditional singing. It's something everyone should have the experience of hearing."

Voice++ 2015
March 19-22
Open Space Gallery
openspace.ca

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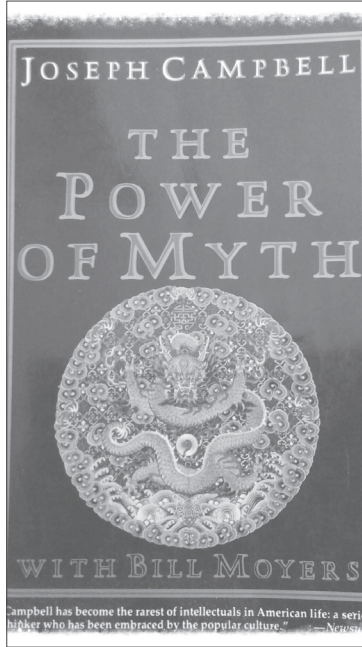
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Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

Joseph Campbell and the rapture of being alive



ogy, like *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* and *The Masks of God*, have had a large popular influence on artists, writers, philosophers, and even Hollywood. The original *Star Wars Trilogy* was inspired by Campbell's thoughts on the heroic archetype and the mythic motif of a journey or quest.

As a comparative mythologist, Campbell looked for answers to humanity's enduring questions in the stories told all over the world and throughout time. By finding the common threads woven through the myths of vastly different cultures, Campbell found human answers to tough questions like "what does it mean to love?" and "why do we die?"

He believed that we reveal ourselves by the stories we tell and that by listening closely to the stories of others we can better know ourselves.

Campbell's most famous piece of advice was "follow your bliss." By doing what we are most pas-

sionate about, we express our most authentic selves and are better citizens of the world. This isn't a call to embrace hedonism, however, as often the journey that fills us with passion is a difficult path.

But, ultimately, Campbell didn't believe that spending one's life looking for hard-fast meaning was a good use of our time here on earth.

"People say that what we're all seeking is a meaning for life," he explained. "I don't think that's what we're really seeking. I think that what we're seeking is an experience of being alive, so that our life experiences on the purely physical plane will have resonances with our own innermost being and reality, so that we actually feel the rapture of being alive."

Joseph Campbell must-read:
The Power of Myth
(Lansdowne/Interurban code: BL 304 C36)

"The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are," said Joseph Campbell, an American philosopher, lecturer, and writer best known for his work in comparative mythology.

Campbell's books about mythol-



Ability's Muse

by Andy Chen

camosun college students with (dis)abilities collective

Men's discussion needed on violence against women

Why should men be talking about men's violence toward women?

Because, men hearing stories of women suffering domestic violence doesn't actually change the lived-in reality that women face.

In fact, it's a process of re-victimization having to share a story of abuse or violence, often knowing that the perpetrators are likely to be never charged and that, statistically, based on your intersection (i.e. being indigenous and a woman) your likelihood of dying violently from

domestic and/or sexualized violence is increased significantly.

I heard two poignant stories this week from female colleagues. One chose the venue of the spoken word to tell her audience about her tale of domestic violence that began all the way from her birth up until a recent partner. The other, after years of being mostly acquaintances, decided to share something deeply personal with me about her past.

In each case, I was neither able nor ready to respond in a real, effective way that mattered. This is

largely in part because both never really trusted men who are, by and large, reckless with other women's bodies, let alone their hearts. And really, why should they?

According to the Canadian Women's Foundation, half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16. In addition, 66 percent of female victims of sexual assault are under the age of 24. So, men, if you care about the women in your life, this is the discussion to be had.



The Prodigal Planeswalker

by Andy Chen

camosun college magic: the gathering club

Embracing the Two-Headed Giant

Two heads are better than one. This is true for *Magic: The Gathering* as well.

While most players rely on a well built, 60-card deck and a bit of luck to pull out a win, one of the newer formats in recent memory that has found a foothold on the competitive scene is Two-Headed Giant, a team format where two players team up against an opposing duo of Planeswalkers.

Players operate as one with a shared life total (30 life points, to be exact) and take their steps

simultaneously: upkeep, draw step, combat, end step.

The catch: whoever is the dominant "head," generally the team member on the immediate right, declares what actions need to be taken and when.

Having a synergistic dynamic to the game forces you to plan and be more communicative with your partner.

Why is team play so important to the game of *Magic*?

As someone who used to do a lot of kitchen-table gaming, a term used

to describe the casual, non-competitive *Magic* scene, I know that being able to develop short-term alliances with others in a multiplayer game of "dog-eat-dog" game-slinging means survival: the better you play the politics, the more likely you will eke out a win in the end.

However, having the tutelage of a seasoned player as the dominant head is a great way to mentor new players into the basics of gameplay, and increase the affability of a game that is intimidating for those new and old.



Bite Me

by Megan Dunn

Lacey-Lou more than the sum of its parts

Lacey-Lou Tapas Bar is a quirky, distinctive restaurant located at 1320 Broad Street. Lacey-Lou has a fine balance of art, food, and entertainment.

Lacey-Lou considers itself an art lounge, tapas bar, and an entertainment venue. It's a one-stop shop. The red brick walls showcase local artistic talent, displaying graffiti, comics, tattoo art, pop surrealism, and more.

Whenever I'm there I allow my eyes just to wander, taking in all of the different collections of artwork. The tapas menu is unique and can be easily described as "eccentric." They have really played with traditional meals by adding unthought-of elements.

The brunch menu is available on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 am until 1 pm. There are only four food items to choose from on the brunch menu: I highly recommend

the Sriracha chicken waffle bites, which is crispy and spicy chicken breast on top of waffle bites. Pair that with a maple bacon Caesar, which has candied maple bacon and mozzarella as a garnish, and you will be thanking me later.

But my favourite menu item is the bacon-wrapped dates stuffed with almonds and feta (and I have had dreams about this appetizer). Sweet, salty, and absolutely divine, I am drooling just thinking about them.

Yet, what I love so much about this restaurant is what it represents. It's not just a place to grab a bite or a drink: it exhibits local talent on their walls, features local food, and is a place for local artists to perform.

The Lacey-Lou calendar is full each month, utilizing their platform to stage musical acts and biweekly poetry slams. Do yourself a favour and make time for Lacey-Lou.

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what's going on

by erin blondeau



CHRISTOPHER POYNTER

Victoria folk band West My Friend will be playing at Camosun's Gibson Auditorium on March 28.

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). C'mon, the end of the semester is approaching! It's the perfect way to de-stress after a tough few months.

UNTIL SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Sound explored through video

This is an artistic video exploration of how sound can alter one's environment and the space surrounding them. *Vertical Gallery: Translation* will be at Open Space until March 28; the hours are 12–5 pm, Tuesdays to Saturdays. Call 250-383-8833 for more information.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Voices from Palestine film festival

A series of films titled *Voices from*

Palestine is being shown at the Fernwood Community Association and BCGEU Hall on Douglas Street. The films depict historical happenings from the mid 1900s to present day. The film festival is sponsored by non-profit and volunteer organizations and all funds go towards ongoing work for social justice. The shows run at various times from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Visit victoriafriendsofcuba.wordpress.com for info.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 AND FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Experimenting with sound art through platforms

Japanese sound poet Tomomi Adachi

is taking music and sound to a new dimension with his innovative inventions and artistic improvisations. Join Adachi as he creates musical instruments and poetry with the help of unlikely technological items. There will be a workshop for participants of all skill levels on March 19, and a musical event showcasing his work on March 20. The events start at 7 pm at Open Space on Fort Street. Visit voicefest2015.bpt.me for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 TO SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Renowned college's ode to Broadway

The Canadian College of Performing Arts' singers, dancers, and performers will feature their talents at the Royal Theatre in tribute to the best of Broadway. The show starts at 8 pm each night, with one afternoon show at 2 pm on Sunday. Tickets start at \$30; visit rmts.bc.ca for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Exploration of artistic traditions

The Victoria Conservatory of Music and Camosun International present the eighth annual Cultural Showcase. The event explores many cultural traditions, including Japanese pop culture, classical music, Indian and Mexican dance, and much more. The show is family-friendly and is organized by Camosun students. Start time is 7:30 pm at the Alix Gooden Performance Hall. Admission is by donation.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Gore, bacon and zombies

Author and UBC Kelowna campus instructor Adam Lewis Schroeder has written a hilariously dark new novel, *All-Day Breakfast*. The novel depicts the story of a teacher-turned-zombie who is in disbelief of the clichéd idea of transforming into the undead. Schroeder uses humor, horror, and bacon to draw in his audience. He is launching *All-Day Breakfast* at two locations on Vancouver Island: Russell Books in Victoria on March 21 at 2 pm, and at The Old Firehouse Wine and Cocktail Bar in Duncan on March 22.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Asperger's Syndrome explored through art

An exploration of personal identity through the medium of photography is being showcased at Xchanges Gallery. Greg Klassen's photographic series of artwork has been delicately created as a glimpse into the perspective of Asperger's Syndrome. The show's final day runs from 12–4 pm on Sunday. Visit xchangesgallery.org for more information.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Shakespeare presented in HD performance

The Shakespeare masterpiece known as *King Lear* has been performed and filmed in HD by the Stratford Festival, North America's premiere classical theatre company. Stratford Festival is beginning an initiative to capture all of Shakespeare's plays throughout the next 10 years. *King Lear* will play at Silver-City in Tillicum Centre. The show starts at 12:55 pm. Visit cineplex.com for more information.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Real rockers take the stage at Lucky

True rock 'n' rollers and teen-crush-material duo High Kicks are playing with The Mohrs and Double Fuzz at

Lucky Bar. The Mohrs have been 13 years in the making and are ready to bring parties back to girl-ruling rock performances. Double Fuzz is a Calgary blues-rock band with catchy tunes and heart-pumping drum licks. Tickets can be purchased online at atomiqueproductions.com, Lyle's Place, or Ditch Records.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Colin James to rock the Royal Theatre

Rock hero Colin James is coming to the Royal Theatre. James has been on the scene for decades and was mentored by the legendary Stevie Ray Vaughan, becoming a household rock star. Tickets start at \$57. Visit rmts.bc.ca for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Thrash groove is back!

The Cambie Esquimalt will be the scene of the long-awaited return of "thrash groove," a genre of heavy metal that unfortunately took a solid hit when thrash fans realized that the mighty Pantera would never play together onstage again. Ladner, BC thrash-groovers Meridius will lead the charge with Disintegrate and Over the Coals also playing. The show starts at 9 pm and is \$10 at the door. Thrash groove!

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Inside Opera for Madama Butterfly

Madama Butterfly is the heroic tale of a geisha who falls in love with an American man. When her love returns to America, Butterfly waits patiently for his return with their child. The show's music is by Giacomo Puccini. Guests are invited to Inside Opera at the Union Club at 11:45 am and 1:15 pm. Tickets are \$25 and include a light lunch. Dress code is business attire. Call 250-382-1641 to reserve a spot.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

World's craziest metal battle in Victoria

Hardcore metal thrashers should be excited: the world's most intense metal battle is touring around Canada and will be making a stop in Victoria. Wacken Metal Battle Canada's Victoria competition will take place on March 28 at the Cambie Esquimalt at 8 pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Tech startup launches business with folk concert

Startup tech company MobileWRX Productions is a company designed to make campus life more fun and enjoyable by making the concert ticket-buying process flow smoothly. MobileWRX will be hosting its company launch with *New School Tickets, Old School Cassettes*, a concert taking place at Camosun College in the Gibson Auditorium. Victoria folk band West My Friend will be performing at the concert and will be releasing their newest album on cassette. Visit mobilewrx.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Three talented musicians to take the stage

Two-time Prairie Music Award winner and Juno nominee Oliver Swain, powerhouse vocalist and jazz musician Emily Braden, and classically trained cellist and composer Ben Sollee will be combining their contrasting talents in a night of powerful musical collaboration. The event takes place at the Fairfield United Church at 7 pm. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$22 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Lyle's place, Larsen's Music or at EventBrite.ca.

old-school video game word search

We'll admit it: old-school video games are a ton of fun. We came up with the names of a few classics to get the words for this issue's puzzle.

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

ARKANOID
BATTLETOADS
BREAKOUT
CASTLEVANIA
DEFENDER
EXCITEBIKE
GALAGA
GALAXIAN
GAUNTLET
JOUST

LEMMINGS
METROID
MILLIPEDE
PAPERBOY
QBERT
ROLLERGAMES
SPELUNKER
STRIDER
TEMPEST
TETRIS

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