

STUDENT POVERTY

**Are Canadian postsecondary students
feeling the squeeze more than ever?**

page six

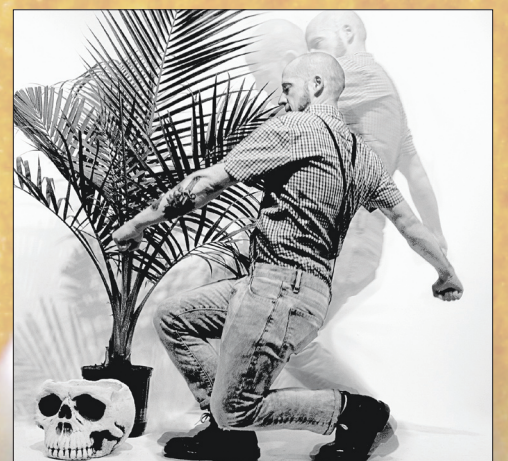


**Exclusive:
Camosun College
Student Society
Lansdowne executive
alleges she was
harassed at
Canadian Federation
of Students meeting**
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**Former Camosun Chargers
player becomes assistant
coach**

**Camosun artist in residency
talks moshing, fish**



NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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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: "Bernhard."

COVER PHOTOS:
Student poverty: Greg Pratt/*Nexus*
Student society allegation: Greg Pratt/*Nexus*
Camosun Chargers: Provided
Camosun artist in residence: Provided

editor's letter

Bleeding or not

We all know the cynical saying: "If it bleeds, it leads." As someone involved in media, I always cringe a bit when someone says that. Unfortunately, most mainstream media outlets do not set a good example and give people reason to think that's true. But it's not what real journalism is all about.

This issue has some bleeding in it, so to speak. The feature story is nothing but bad news, at least on first glance. But contributing writer Rachael Grant managed to find some hope while researching and interviewing for her in-depth cover story on student poverty in Canada. Head over to page 6 to see what she managed to dig up.

There's more bad news on page 3: a Camosun College Student Society board member's allegations of harassment at a recent Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) national meeting. These aren't claims to take lightly, so we talked to her, and we also talked to the chair of the CFS, to try to get to the bottom of it. At the end of the story it's up to you to decide which side you believe. Our job is just to bring the story to you in an impartial manner.

Look, we don't care if it bleeds or not. Feel-good stories are great, too. This time around our main stories happen to look at some subjects that aren't too pleasant. Here's hoping next issue has a bit more good news, but even if it doesn't, we'll bring it to you regardless. Not because it bleeds, but because it's news.

Greg Pratt, managing editor
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

letters

The provincial CFS divide

I attended the national general meeting in June on behalf of the Northwest Community College Students' Union, Local 66 of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) (Re: "Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia motions take aim at national Canadian Federation of Students organization," web exclusive story at nexusnewspaper.com). To put it simply: every delegate from British Columbia was subjected to at least some extent of slander and verbal abuse during the course of the weekend. Those who were not of a typically marginalized demographic were dismissed as speaking from positions of privilege regardless of the validity of their statements, and those who were faced hostile personal attacks in constituency group meetings normally respected as safe spaces for discussion of matters affecting individuals marginalized by race, gender, and orientation. The abusive actions condoned by [Bilan] Arte and [Jessica] McCormick were blunders in judgment of the worst kind I have encountered in my time working with the CFS and need to be addressed whether with or without input at the national level.

REILLY WALKER

VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM



NEXUS

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email,
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We want to hear
your story tips.

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open space

A Camosun student looks at Hong Kong's recycling system

While I've been in Hong Kong I've experienced a black rainstorm and typhoon signal no. 8, in which civilians were dodging huge plastic containers flying through the air.

ANNIE LUKE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Compared to Victoria, Hong Kong is in the dump in regard to their waste management schemes: their landfills are expected to be full this year.

The easiest thing to do would be to criticize them and suggest that Hong Kong adopt a system such as Victoria's, where places to deposit recyclables, compostables, and garbage are placed across our city.

But forcing our waste-management practices on Hong Kong would be like wearing a size XXS T-shirt when you're really a medium. Yes, it may fit, but it will *not* look good.

Hong Kong has had an incredible population growth, which challenges the land in terms of resource preservation and waste management. While Victoria's population rests at approximately 330,000, Hong Kong is at a booming estimated 7.3 million.

Having been in Hong Kong for three months, I've found hundreds of garbage bags filled with items; I often take them to bottle depots. And not only does every item from leftover food to wine bottles get thrown out, but I've experienced flying garbage in typhoons! While I've

been in Hong Kong I've experienced a black rainstorm and typhoon signal No. 8, in which civilians were dodging huge plastic containers flying through the air.

Raised by two parents who have always had a compost in the backyard and deeply detailed recycling bins in the house, I cringe at the sight of others misplacing garbage. I have many friends who stand on either side of the waste-management scale: either they worship the recycling system or have admitted that they could not care less about the environment.

I've always found the latter's level of apathy shocking; however, I won't say that the majority of my generation lacks empathy. They lack knowledge.

Waste-management programs should be more transparent, and people of all ages should have the ability to access information about the facilities that manage waste. We should be given more opportunities to visit the sites, such as landfills and glass-treatment plants, that are managing our waste.

Compared to the advanced and efficient metro system Hong Kong has provided, their waste-management programs are far from the same level of quality.

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

SPEAK UP

What's the wildest summer adventure you've had this year?

BY SARAH TAYLER



JAKQUI SCHULER

"I did some caving at Horne Lake Caves; that was really cool. I saw a lot of really neat rock formations."



ANGELO MURIEL

"I saw a rock concert; it was Aerosmith. It was one of my dreams. I almost cried when they played 'Dream On.'"



CARLINE MICLISSÉ

"Last Saturday I went to the race track behind the Oak Bay Rec Centre and raced with my six-year old daughter, Grace. I enjoyed it."



TAYLOR MOORE

"I went to Rock the Shores; it was pretty good."



SERGIO ROMERO

"I went kayaking with my girlfriend in Sidney. Lost my phone, went into the water, tipped over, but it was pretty fun overall."



MITCH BIGGS

"I had a work baseball game, then we went out to Thetis and hung out there."

student politics

Camosun College Student Society Lansdowne executive alleges she was verbally abused at Canadian Federation of Students national meeting

GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) Lansdowne executive Shayli Robinson, who is also Aboriginal Students Liason for the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia (CFS-BC), claims she was verbally abused and bullied at a recent Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) national meeting.

Robinson says she ran for the national women's representative position at the meeting (which took place in Ottawa from June 5 to 8) and, after a close vote, won. But when it came time for closing plenary, "that's when things got ugly," says Robinson.

During opening plenary, outgoing CFS national chairperson Jessica McCormick said she had taken time off in April for mental health issues, says Robinson. Robinson says she wanted to know why McCormick didn't attend a national executive meeting in April and why she didn't provide a mandatory work report.

"So I went up to the mic and said, 'Jessica, I recognize you told us you took a LOA for mental health issues and I appreciate that. But what I want to know is why in April, when the national executive met, you were not there and you didn't provide a reason for not being there, and you didn't provide a work report.' Totally fair question, just asking for transparency. And people freaked out and used me as a scapegoat."

Robinson claims that due to recent tensions between the BC locals of the CFS and the national organization relating to allegations of internal corruption, which *Nexus* previously reported on, she was used as a scapegoat to pick on BC.

"After that, people kept going up to the mic to speak about things, even when we were talking about other things, and they'd start by saying they find it really inappropriate to be probing about mental health

issues and totally twisting what I said," says Robinson. "Incredibly frustrating."

Then, Robinson says Ontario delegates called an emergency women's constituency meeting, which is where she claims the abuse took place.

"Basically the person who called it explained that they called this meeting because of what I had said, and as the national women's representative they did not like that, and they wanted to talk about it," says Robinson. "I explained in more detail what had happened and what I meant, and apologized again for what happened. It was just awful because they chose not to hear that."

Canadian Federation of Students national chairperson Bilan Arte says that she is "incredibly concerned" to hear that this was Robinson's experience at the meeting, which Arte attended. Arte, who answered questions for this story via email, says she hopes that Robinson will discuss these matters with her directly so they can resolve the situation.

"I cannot comment on the specific proceedings of the Women's Constituency meeting," says Arte. "Constituency meetings are spaces for delegates who identify with the constituency group to come together to discuss the proceedings of the meeting and reflect on issues the group faces. As those discussions can be very personal, confidentiality of all members needs to be upheld. I can say that conversations were had that were important for many delegates."

Arte says that she knows a number of delegates were "disturbed and hurt" by what Robinson said to McCormick.

"It's my understanding that there was also some level of resolution that took place," says Arte. "I am troubled to hear that the experience was difficult for Shayli."

Robinson says that although BC

delegates kept putting their hands up to get on the speakers list, no one from BC really spoke.

"I'm pretty sure they manipulated the list to put Ontario people on first," she says.

Arte says that this is definitely not the case.

"This is false and is not the way any part of any federation meetings have ever been facilitated," says Arte. "As per general meeting practices, new speakers are given priority and those responding directly to questions or statements are also given space to do so. A number of delegates from across the country approached me personally after the conversation, including delegates from British Columbia, stating that it was a well-organized discussion."

As the speakers went on, according to Robinson, people were twisting her words, saying it was "disgusting" that she would "ask for details about someone's mental health issues."

"A lot of really awful things were said about me," she says. "We all called it verbal abuse; that's what was happening. It was totally bullying, which is extremely messed up because the women's constituency is supposed to be a safe space and they made it not a safe space."

Arte says that the CFS strives to create safe spaces for students and says that at all general meetings an anti-harassment officer is available for delegates.

"This resource was an asset at the most recent meeting, skillfully addressing and correcting any concerns as they arose," says Arte. "At the emergency women's constituency meeting, there were additional supports for all delegates who may have been triggered by the conversation. At the opening plenary, delegates received a thorough anti-oppression presentation. The federation takes the responsibility of creating supportive and effective spaces for student representatives



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Shayli Robinson of the Camosun College Student Society.

very seriously and continues to look for ways to improve that."

But Robinson says that the abuse she faced in that meeting was so intense that the room was no longer safe.

"I was having anxiety attacks, I felt physically ill, I could not eat afterwards. It was one of the worst things I've ever been through, and I've been through a lot of trauma in my life," she says.

Although some were saying they didn't want Robinson as a representative anymore, no re-vote was called, she says. However, when it came time to ratify the positions, Robinson did not get ratified.

Still, CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte is hopeful that a unified national student movement can press on and says that the resources of student organizations would be put to better use on issues such as tuition-fee spikes or the federal election rather than internal political issues.

"I still have unanswered con-

cerns about some of the recent changes that have been made in the CFS national office and was astonished and ashamed by what happened at the recent national meeting," says Turcotte, "but I believe that we need to reach out and find a way to work with the national office and the locals in Ontario, as the interests of Canada's students are not served by having a divided student movement."

Robinson says that the events at the national meeting are indicative of how the national organization is moving forward in a way that she's not in line with.

"I am horrified that an organization that is supposed to be about working together and providing safe spaces and letting voices of those who are marginalized be heard would do this to a recently elected delegate who comes from two minority groups," she says. "It was incredibly messed up that they would do that to anybody. I'm horrified."

NEWS BRIEFS

Terminated Camosun College president to receive \$176,000 this year

Camosun College's new president, Sherri Bell, began her term on July 1, but the college's previous president, Kathryn Laurin, is still getting her \$176,000 salary for 2015, according to a recent *Times Colonist* story. Laurin had her contract terminated last June for reasons never made public, although she claims that the termination was unjustified. Laurin is officially on a leave of absence and receiving full salary and benefits until February 2016, according to the story.

Camosun gets \$1.6 million in funding

On July 23, it was announced that Camosun College will receive \$1.6 million for the creation of a

testing interaction lab to support the local manufacturing sector. The lab will provide students hands-on experience and also provide industry access to what Camosun called "state-of-the-art manufacturing technologies" in a press release. The lab will be part of the Interurban campus' Trades Education and Innovation Complex, set to open in September.

Camosun College launches new course about indigenous culture

Camosun will start offering the new course "Understanding Indigenous Peoples" in September. The course aims to help learners understand indigenous culture by, according to a Camosun press release, offering "an inside look at the distinctive worldview and historical

experience of First Nation and Métis people in Canada." See camosun.ca/indigenous-learning for more about the college's Indigenous Learning programs.

City of Victoria supports Adult Basic Education

The City of Victoria recently called on the Christy Clark government to restore the \$15-million-plus in cuts to Adult Basic Education (ABE) and to also reverse the tuition fees on ABE courses. The motion passed by a unanimous vote by council. The cuts happened in December of 2014, when the government removed the tuition-free ABE mandate and announced a \$6.9 million cut to ABE programming at postsecondary institutions in BC, including Camosun College. The Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia (CFS-BC)

applauded the City of Victoria in a press release, with CFS-BC chairperson Simka Marshall (a former Camosun student) saying that students "are excited that the City of Victoria has chosen to stand with them in recognizing the importance of tuition-free ABE." More information about the BC-wide campaign calling on Clark to restore the cuts can be found at dontclose-the-doors.ca.

McKenzie interchange finally gets approved

An \$85-million interchange at the intersection of McKenzie Avenue and the Trans-Canada Highway has been given the thumbs-up. The corner, which is known for being heavily congested and dangerous, now has provincial funding approved for the project, which has long been talked about. The Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition

has issued a press release urging the government to ensure cycling safety is improved at the intersection, which also includes the Galloping Goose trail.

Good news for cyclists

Speaking of cycling safety, two-wheelers will be happy to hear that Bike BC recently put \$140,000 towards a planned extension to the Lochside Trail. The extension will be at the intersection of Borden Street and McKenzie Avenue, as well as at the corner of Borden Street and Cedar Hill Cross Road.

-GREG PRATT

We've got more News Briefs that we couldn't fit here; head to the news section of nexusnewspaper.com to find 'em!

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

sports

Camosun alumnus becomes Chargers assistant coach



PHOTO PROVIDED

Erika Sheen used to play for the Camosun Chargers; now she coaches them.

PASCALE ARCHIBALD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Former Camosun student and Camosun Charger athlete Erika Sheen recently became an assistant coach for the Chargers women's volleyball team.

Even though Sheen didn't actively seek out the opportunity to coach (and to be mentored by Chargers coaches), she says that she just couldn't not be involved in the game, as it had consumed her life for so long.

"As hard as it is to look back on some of my years, I can recognize that it developed me as a player

and made me the leader I am," says Sheen. "Starting at the bottom and ending my career with a bronze at nationals is quite the experience. I feel like in this position I can really influence young females as athletes to push them into their full potential and give them first-hand knowledge of what it actually takes."

According to Sheen, she didn't start out her volleyball career with her team spirit fully developed. She attributes her maturity as a player and a leader to the challenging first years of collegiate volleyball.

"I played my first three years in Alberta at Lethbridge College, and

during my second year our head coach was fired halfway through our season," says Sheen. "That year developed me as a person and a player because as a team you have to rally together and push through."

Sheen is confident that she can make a difference in young players' performances because she has learned the hard way what it takes to make it in the game.

"At Lethbridge, we didn't win that many games, and I had never been to provincials or nationals," she says. "It was a very small college; we weren't very good. After I transferred to Camosun in my

"In this position I can really influence young females as athletes to push them into their full potential and give them first-hand knowledge of what it actually takes."

ERIKA SHEEN
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

fourth year, we went to provincials and we got bronze, so that was pretty amazing for me."

Sheen says that getting that medal at nationals, as well as silver at provincials, was a "huge experience" for her.

"My five years started from the bottom, and I finished my career with a bronze at nationals," she says. "I truly believe that I know exactly what it takes to get to that national championship and to bring home hardware from it."

The opportunity to get into coaching occurred naturally, which makes sense: Sheen doesn't seem like she would ever be too far away from the sporting scene.

"I've been playing volleyball since Grade 6," says Sheen, "but I actually played competitive soccer for probably close to 10 years, and in Grade 8 I had to choose between my competitive soccer and school sports because they conflicted quite a bit. I decided to go with school sports because that way I could play a variety of sports. I grew up with an athletic family and I think that was kind of a big influence on me."

When Sheen graduated from high school, she had two scholar-

ship offers: one was basketball and one was volleyball. She chose volleyball. Sheen says her choice was part convenience of playing in her hometown, and part playing to her strengths.

"When I first graduated high school, I just thought I would play for two or three years, and then maybe I would start work or go to university," says Sheen. "I decided to stick around, and the more I got involved with the college-level sport it just got a lot more fun and a lot more competitive, and I loved every minute of it."

Chris Dahl, head coach of the Chargers women's volleyball team, says that Sheen's strengths in teamwork make her a good choice for the position.

"Erika is an outstanding team person," says Dahl. "That's one of the things that struck us—she's got that people-first personality that we try to make a priority within our program."

Sheen is one of 12 individuals chosen for a mentorship coaching position from across Canada by the Canadian College Athletic Association (and one of only four in volleyball).

know your profs

Camosun geoscience instructor Tark Hamilton loves to explore and research



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

Camosun College's Tark Hamilton: dislikes compound fracture tibias.

GREG PRATT
MANAGING 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 an 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 too busy, or shy, to ask? Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com and we'll add your instructor to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we talked to Camosun geoscience instructor Tark Hamilton about compound fractures, accordions, and being frustrated at online scheduling systems.

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

I have taught mainly geosciences classes (Geos 100, 110, 240, 250) since 2001, plus some chemistry and environmental technology.

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

I enjoy sharing my experience and latest research with students who are curious and receptive about earth science. The real payoff for me is to see my students catch fire intellectually and succeed.

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

I am not just a guy who teaches from books but from a whole career's worth of exploration, research, and publications. I do this and have always done so, not just because they pay me, but because Earth is my toy box and it is always fun to figure out what it is trying to show me. I also spend more time on student papers than they do!

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

I wish they didn't know that I can make mistakes like anyone else (except for my choice of Hawaiian shirts).

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

The best thing is when my students make discoveries on field trips or in the lab and when they succeed in competing for jobs, university placements, or scholarships. It is also pretty neat when they find unusual fossils and pretty mineral specimens when we go on class field trips.

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

On a weekend geology field trip, a student was clowning around and showing off trying to rock climb in a waterfall. He fell, getting a compound fracture tibia/fibula, and needed a medevac. This was one lesson I wish we all didn't need to learn. He did make it back to class after the weekend but finished the term on crutches.

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

I see students increasingly engaged, not just with the theory and big-picture stuff like climate change, resource limitations, and environmental remediation, but with tailor-made personal projects and practical transferrable skills to

deal with these issues in concrete and constructive ways.

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

I promote acoustic music (I book and host for Deep Cove Folk Music Society) and try and play enjoyable music on obnoxious instruments like accordions, bagpipes, banjos, concertinas, and guitars. I write songs and sing with the Victoria Nautical Song Circle and the Gaelic Choir. I also do whatever my pal Loki (Welsh terrier) thinks might be fun or will let me get away with!

9: What's your favourite meal?

My favourite meal would have to be my ever-changing always-gourmet breakfast porridge. My weirdest meal would probably be poached eggs with green taco sauce served over fried leftover haggis.

10: What's your biggest pet peeve?

Limiting my peevess to Camosun, I'd choose either the length of time I spend marking papers, that classes are invariably too short to pass along everything I'd like to, or the insanely inhuman, insensitive scheduling attainable with INFOSILEM.

art

Camosun artist in residence compares moshing men and fish



PHOTO PROVIDED

A sampling of Ishe Barrett's work, on display at Camosun.

“There is a visual similarity between the repetitive and ornamental nature of the movements of a betta fish and those of men who participate in mosh pits at punk and metal shows.”

ISHE BARRETT
ARTIST

TORI DMYTAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Interesting things are always going on around Camosun's campuses; this year's artist in residence exhibition is sure to be a good example of that. Current Van den Brink resident Ishe Barrett is a 2014 Camosun Visual Arts graduate and was selected from students and alumni to put on an exhibition.

Barrett's project is based in photography, which is her main medium. However, she says that if she were to be representing something three-dimensionally, she would be using ceramics. She says that diversity is one of the many tools Camosun gave her to succeed.

“I think the main thing for me,”

says Barrett, “and one of the reasons the Visual Arts program was so valuable, is that it helped me to develop a skill set that allows me to execute an idea in whatever medium will best communicate the concept I'm working with.”

Her project *Alpha Male/Betta Fish* is about the similarities between the body language of men in mosh pits at concerts and the aggression of betta fish. This is all part of a larger concept Barrett has been working on about how society views men as a culture and how they are depicted in photography, she explains.

“There is a visual similarity between the repetitive and ornamental nature of the movements of

a betta fish and those of men who participate in mosh pits at punk and metal shows,” says Barrett. “By presenting these photos and the accompanying video work, the models are presented for the viewer's gaze in a way that hopes to mimic the experience of watching fish in a tank.”

Barrett says she has always had an interest in visual culture, ideas, and how humans express themselves. She ultimately decided to go to school for art because she spent a lot of time working in jobs that didn't satisfy the need to express herself.

“I was older when I made the decision to leave the workforce and pursue an art education, and it has

been a really positive experience for me,” she says. “I am excited about the goals I am setting for myself and the new way I get to interact with my social and academic communities.”

There are two artist in residence opportunities at Camosun. One is the Artist in Residency program, which allows professional artists to come work in Camosun's studios, and the other is the Van den Brink residency, which is available to second-year students in the Visual Arts Program or to any alumni from the past three years. Barrett had to submit a proposal for the project that included a portfolio, a timetable, and a budget.

Barrett has described her time

at Camosun as “life-changing” and says she can't wait to continue her education in September at the University of Victoria.

“I came into the college atmosphere as a person who really didn't understand the value of the academic experience and just how amazing it can be,” she says. “The faculty and staff have been so generous with their support; they have challenged me to reach beyond my comfort zone.”

Alpha Male/Betta Fish
6-9 pm September 8-11
Room 116, Young Building,
Camosun College Lansdowne
campus
camosun.ca

Camosun president Sherri Bell: the NEXUS interview. September 9, 2015 issue.



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All completed surveys will be entered into a draw for a prize pack!

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2: What would you like to see more or less of in our feature stories?

3: What would you like to see more or less of in our arts stories?

4: Do you read our event listings? YES/NO

5: What would you like to see in our columns page?

6: What other suggestions/comments/feedback do you have for Nexus?

7: Please enter your name and email here if you'd like to be entered in the prize draw:

Postsecondary on an edge

The rise of student poverty in Canada

By Rachael Grant, contributing writer

Photo by Greg Pratt/Nexus

It would be comforting to think that a slight dip in Canada's economy has led to the situation many postsecondary students are in: struggling with poverty. Unfortunately, many working within postsecondary education feel that the factors at play are much more complex than that. It's more than just waiting for the economy to get better: experts say that substantial change is needed to fix the problem of student poverty in Canada.

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Andrea Eggenberger feels strongly that there are at least two major factors at play. She says the issue has two main factors.

"One is that education has become so expensive," she says, "and two, that minimum wage is very low; it's below the poverty line."

Eggenberger says that the minimum wage is far from what is required for students living in the Greater Victoria area to be able to always make ends meet. She stresses that "it's so vital for people to just be able to pay for their education, and if tuition was lower, and minimum wage was higher, people would have to work a little less to maintain their college experience."

Camosun College VP of education John Boraas agrees that external factors are key to explaining why students find themselves struggling more so now than in the past.

"I think it's probably reflective of general society and I think we are a microcosm of what we are seeing out in our broader community," says Boraas, "and it seems that there certainly used to be a larger number of safety nets for all members of our community, and Camosun is reflective of that. Certainly, student aid is available, but people are living more and more in the margins. More and more of our students are working multiple jobs, and all of those things are indications of people being closer to the edge."

"People are living more and more in the margins. More and more of our students are working multiple jobs, and all of those things are indications of people being closer to the edge."

JOHN BORAAS
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Hunger and education

The starving-student stereotype is well established, but whether or not students are living on the edge of poverty while they go to postsecondary is up for debate. Michael Waglay is the program coordinator for the Beyond Campus Food Banks project, addressing food security for Canadian postsecondary students: he says that the first campus food banks appeared in 1991 at the University of Alberta. Now, according to Waglay, there is a food bank on almost every campus.

"So we have to look at what happened between those periods," he says. "I think it's pretty clear that, if you look at the numbers, tuition has gone up 238 percent since 1991, at the same time that federal government funding has gone down 50 percent."

Waglay says that there are many factors at play when considering student hunger as an issue. He points to the job economy, for starters, saying it's not very good for students right now.

"In fact, we're at about 20 percent youth underemployment, and I believe that is a record for this country. So, it has to do with broader issues in the economy. Housing costs have gone up, which is another economic issue. It has gone up 17 percent from 2009 to 2012, and, again, students and young people pay more than what is considered affordable for housing. Many choose to be housed and have to scrape together food, rather than be homeless and eating. Food ends up being the variable cost that people pay."

Camosun College ombudsperson Carter MacDonald says that the issue of student food security is prevalent here on campus.

"I would say that, easily, 30 to 35 percent of the students that I deal with have serious financial issues," says MacDonald. "I have gotten involved with some students that have gotten into such desperate shape that they literally don't have money for food for the week. Although it is not my role to lobby on behalf of anything, on a couple of occasions I have made it known to the student society

that there is a student in desperate shape, and the student society has to come through with some food vouchers in order to assist the student."

Waglay insists that charity, however, is not the ideal way of addressing a systemic issue.

"In terms of roots, I would say it's about priorities, it's about government campus policies, and what we are doing is to raise awareness about it and get people to not accept that charity is a way of dealing with this problem. Clearly, the charities already cannot sustain an increase in numbers, so we force students to rely on charity in a land that has enough food and money for them."

Simka Marshall, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Student Societies, says that the starving-student stereotype is "actually a very real thing."

"It's often a diet of ramen and water, or mac and cheese," she says. "It's not until that time in the semester when it's time to pay your fees and it's time to work hard for a student to get by to cover the high cost of tuition fees on top of that and be able to afford their next meal."

"We're seeing students having to take on thousands of dollars of debt, where you're paying incredibly high interest rates on that. That high amount of debt is keeping our students in the cycle of poverty."

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENT SOCIETIES

Working for change/spare any change?

According to Camosun College employees, the complex issue of student poverty is a complex set of issues with a complex set of solutions. Camosun College's Boraas says that one of the reasons there are fewer jobs out there and students have to work is that

"We know that tuition is growing, and that's putting more pressure, and the result of that is that there are more students at the absolute margins who are struggling the most. We try to focus our budget on those students, we are trying to create more part-time programming so that they can work while going to school. All of those things we are trying to do, and we are trying to make it more accessible, and provide an experience that they can afford."

First-year automotive mechanics student Richard Robson says that the costs for his program were reasonable; he says that his main difficulty is finding a job at the college, but also admits that he's "picky" about where he works.

"I'm trying to find an auto job somewhere, but no one is hiring," he says. "It's full time, and not part time, which is the only downside to it."

First-year sheet metal student Brittany Anderson says she found a lot of money that her course costs, but feels that it is worth the cost. "For what you get out of it," she says, "you are definitely going to be better off afterwards."

The CFS-BC's Marshall points out, however, that the reality of student sacrifices is no rare occurrence in BC. She says that she sees students who have to pay their way through postsecondary.

"Students are working three times more than they had to back in the 1990s because of the costs of living, and food, and school itself," she says. "One of the things that is how much more students are paying for a postsecondary education, and having to take on thousands of dollars of debt, where you're paying interest on that. That high amount of debt is keeping our students in BC in the cycle of poverty."

The price of education is something all students must deal with in postsecondary, and the extensive barriers to having adequate funding are a major issue, according to many working on advocacy in the area of student poverty.

Camosun College financial aid advisor Viviane Siddall feels that the support that is intended, although, she points out, "there has been an increase for a number of years."

Empty Stomach

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SIMKA MARSHALL
TUDENTS-BRITISH COLUMBIA

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"The program is intended to be a supplemental program," she says. "However, there is always room for more money in a student's life, so in terms of it being adequate, students are resourceful and will often work part time and do what they can to supplement the student loan that they are getting."

Despite the realities of student poverty and the resulting financial burden of attending postsecondary, Marshall says getting involved can help bring about positive change. "Two major steps that someone could take is first going to squashthesqueeze.ca and signing the petition to lower tuition fees, eliminate interest rates, create a grants program, and increase institutional funding. Those are all linked together and that campaign targets student debt, and that would be a great step towards breaking that cycle of poverty so that students won't have to struggle to pay for school. The second thing would be to check out the Fight for Fifteen campaign, which is a BC Federation of Labour campaign to increase minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and while \$15 an hour is not a living wage, it is still significantly better than what we are getting paid now for minimum wage."

"I would say that, easily, 30 to 35 percent of the students that I deal with have serious financial issues."

CARTER MACDONALD
CAMOSUN COLLEGE OMBUDSPERSON

A college with heart

In the seven years that Carter MacDonald has served as ombudsperson at Camosun, he has seen many powerful examples of the compassion that Camosun employees incorporate into their everyday work. MacDonald recalls a dramatic series of events close to the holiday season years ago that showcased that an institution can still have a heart.

"We had a student—a single mom—and it was not long before Christmas. She was obviously distressed, and was talking to one of the student services employees, and all of a sudden she lost it, and grabbed the employee by the hair, and pulled her head down on the desk. Another employee came to help, and the student pushed the rolling chair back, and both of the employees fell back on the floor."

But this confrontational situation did not end in legal action or the end of the student's academic career. MacDonald says it took a dramatic turn in another direction.

"Out of all of that, we had the counsellors do a debriefing session, and the vice president, the president, all showed up. Everybody took it very seriously. The employee who was initially assaulted went out of her way afterwards not to press charges but to raise funds for that young student and her child so they could have a good Christmas."

As someone who has been a key stabilizing factor in many of the conflicts that take place at Camosun, MacDonald feels strongly that "there are many areas where Camosun College can be seen as an institution with a heart."

"I think that comes from the people of the college, as opposed to the college as an educational institution," he says. "The generosity of spirit of the people who work here has an add-on effect, and of course, that has an add-on effect for students who are experiencing financial difficulty and poverty."

John Boraas, acknowledging that financial hardship is a reality for many students, hopes to make it known that there are options for those struggling at postsecondary.

"We do have emergency loans that students can use to help them through those tough spots," he says. "There are definitely many examples, and as you are pursuing your educational journey, and circumstances arise that make you feel like you should quit, please see financial aid, please see our other service areas like aboriginal education, please see counselling. All of those people know where services and supports are to help you through those tough spots and provide some advice."

festival

Bringing old plays back to life and connecting artists together with the return of Fringe



PHOTO PROVIDED

A moment from *For Body and Light*, just one of the 300-plus shows happening during the 2015 Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival.

ANNIE LUKE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What a summer finale: during the span of 11 days, the Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival will bring spoken-word poetry, dance performances, and fully-produced shows to nine different venues around town.

One of the interesting things about Fringe, which is now in its 29th year, is that it gives young companies—from all over the world—the ability to showcase their new material to a wider audience than they would normally have.

“It is encouraging for new artists,” says Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival guest producer Heather Jarvie. “They can try something

that may be considered weird or out of the box and someone will love it. Victoria audiences are excited to see unusual things.”

Given that the Fringe fest has over 300 shows in 11 days at nine venues, including two site-specific pieces, it’s no wonder it is the “biggest beast” Jarvie has scheduled.

“We had two companies approach Intrepid Theatre expressing their desire to bring their own venue and do something different,” says Jarvie. The site-specific pieces have landscapes incorporated into the performances; one location is in Macaulay Point Park in Esquimalt, and the other is at the Congregation Emanu-El, Canada’s oldest synagogue.

One of the site-specific performances is *Lieutenant Nun*, produced by Theatre SKAM and performed at the Fringe Festival in 2002 and 2004. As part of Theatre SKAM’s 20th anniversary, they invited artists to reimagine their past work.

“There are some pretty contemporary themes in it,” says co-artistic director Kathleen Greenfield. “It’s about a nun who escapes the convent and runs away as a conquistador in the new world as a male—the contemporary version of Mulan. We are really exploring the character’s gender and their self-identification. It’s less Joan of Arc and more about the internal struggle within her own body.”

In fact, *Lieutenant Nun* is more

relevant today than it was when it was first launched, according to playwright Elaine Avila.

“We are much more aware of transgender and indigenous rights and accepting of multiple languages in plays than we were in 2003 and 2004,” says Avila.

Meanwhile, the performance of *For Body and Light* focuses on “a search for the heart of winter, whenever and whatever that may be,” says scriptwriter Ian Ferrier.

Jarvie says that the connection the Fringe Festival participants share after 11 days is amazing.

“It’s incredible how much of a family we are,” she says. “The staff, the volunteers, the artists. They are long days; it’s exhausting. You

“*For Body and Light* focuses on a search for the heart of winter, whenever and whatever that may be.”

IAN FERRIER
FOR BODY AND LIGHT

“We are much more aware of transgender and indigenous rights and accepting of multiple languages in plays than we were in 2003 and 2004.”

ELAINE AVILA
LIEUTENANT NUN

Victoria Fringe Theatre
Festival

Thursday, August 27 to
Sunday, September 6

Various prices and venues
victoriafringe.com

come to the end of the festival and you feel like you should be burned out, but you’re not, because of the community’s support.”

The support the volunteers give does not go unnoticed. Ferrier says that he doesn’t think this project would happen without volunteers and he adds that he loves that the volunteers offer their homes to the artists during the 11 days of the fest.

“It’s the best,” he says.

The Fringe Festival itself has travelled across Canada, giving artists the ability to witness each other’s work.

“The kinship of fellow artists going across the country together,” says Greenfield, “is extraordinary.”

theatre

Rick Miller brings people together with baby-boom generation tale *BOOM*

BLAIRE ARAMENKO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

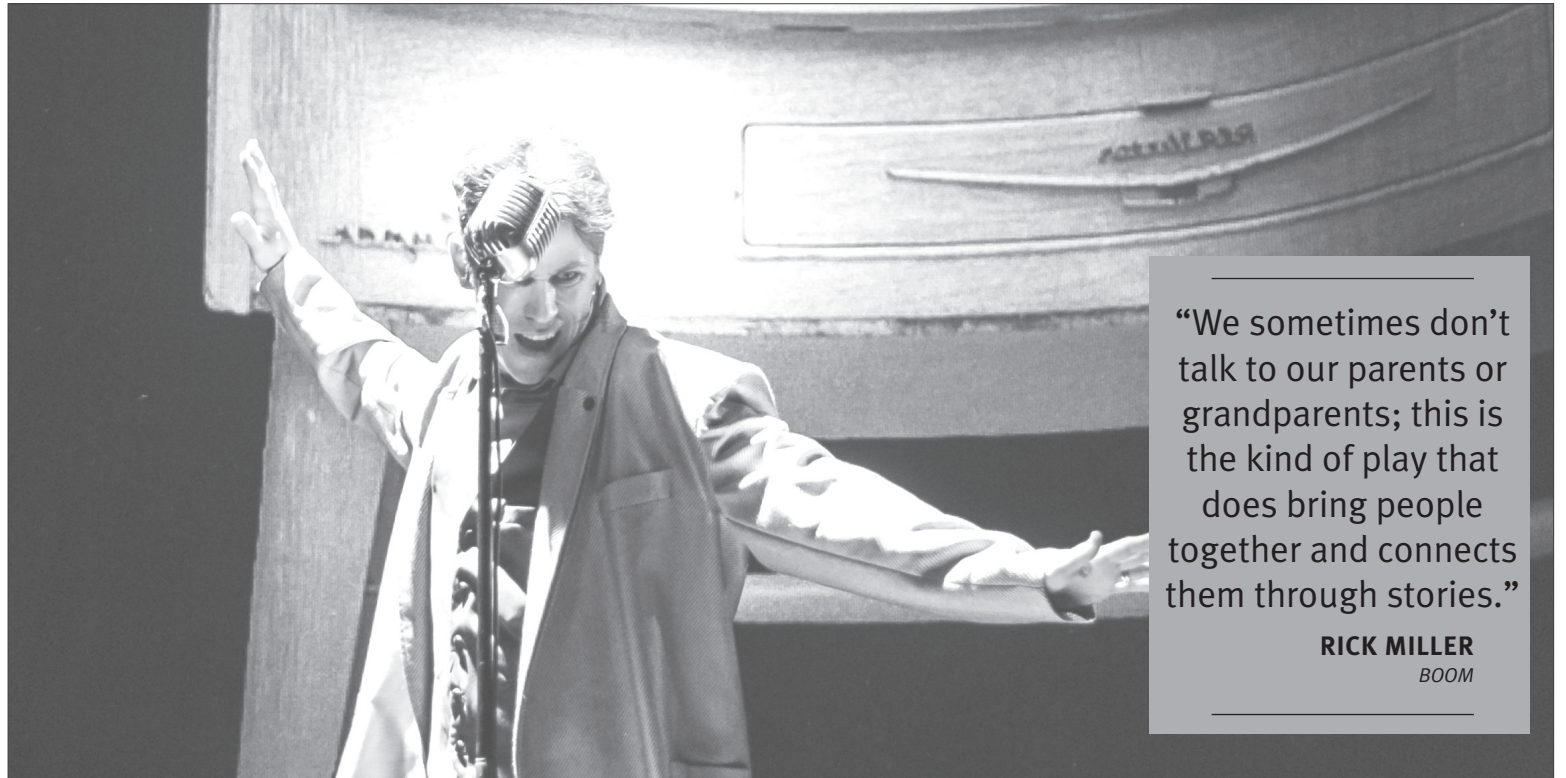
Typical solo acts consist of performers utilizing their own talents: singers sing their own songs, comedians tell their own jokes, and magicians perform their own magic tricks. One person would never attempt to impersonate 100 people in just one show, right? Well, Rick Miller does, and he will break every preconceived notion of solo shows as he does it.

Miller will be coming to Victoria to perform his solo show *BOOM*. *BOOM*, of which he is both writer and director, tells a story about the baby boom generation with emphasis on the culture, politics, and music in the years 1945 to 1969.

"It was a period where there was a lot of political upheaval and culture had a huge impact at the time, way more than it does now and I think way more than it might ever have. So I wanted to explore how those two things were tied together, how song really could change a political time," says Miller.

Miller is a man of many voices; he will be using his vocals to impersonate political figures such as John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as rock and roll icons like John Lennon and Janis Joplin. However, out of all the voices that he impersonates during the show, he favours some of the lesser-known ones.

"I have my personal favourites that aren't necessarily the most popular," he says. "There's a song called 'Eve of Destruction' by Barry



"We sometimes don't talk to our parents or grandparents; this is the kind of play that does bring people together and connects them through stories."

RICK MILLER
BOOM

PAUL LAMPERT

Rick Miller in his one-man show *BOOM*, which he says has the potential to not just entertain, but to bring families closer together.

McGuire, which is, in 1965, the first protest song that made its way to the top of the charts. People who lived through that era probably know it. It's not as big as the Beatles, for instance, so I just love doing that song because I get to sing it and play guitar and harmonica and it's something people are often discovering for the first time."

To some of the audience, this show may be a history lesson; to others, it may be a reminder of what they lived through. Regardless, it will have something that everyone can relate to or take away from it.

"I knew I wanted to sing in the

show, but what I didn't know was that it would also be partly a documentary about three very different lives that are more or less based on my parents," says Miller. "Whether you're a young person, a teenager, or a baby boomer who lived through it, or even if you're a pre-boomer who was born before World War II, there is something universal in all of our stories."

BOOM may even be able to connect loved ones together by sparking conversations that have never been had, leading to stories that may have never been heard.

"We sometimes don't talk to

our parents or grandparents; this is the kind of play that does bring people together and connects them through stories," says Miller. "I get feedback where people have said, 'You know what? I've been thinking about your show for three days and I called my mom and asked her a few questions and we've never connected like that, ever.' That's really rewarding to me."

Miller doesn't only want to inspire deep conversations; he also wants to promote creativity. It can be a struggle for some; even those who consider themselves to be creative people have moments where

they feel uninspired. But everyone can be creative, and Miller believes that we could all benefit from it.

"Creativity isn't reserved for freaks and geniuses," he says. "I think it's out there for everyone, and we could all benefit as a society if we were all creative and engaged in society in active ways and not just passively consuming entertainment."

BOOM
Until August 23
\$33 and up, Belfry Theatre
belfry.bc.ca

New Music Revue

Powerful indie, raw country, and the last three Led Zeppelin reissues



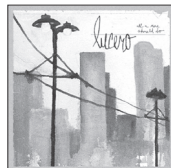
Frog Eyes
Pickpocket's Locket
(Paper Bag Records)
3/5

Victoria indie-rock band Frog Eyes has gathered a new assortment of musicians to create an even darker, more unique sound on this album. Vocalist/guitarist Carey Mercer still makes his mark with his signature shaky style, and he is accompanied again by his wife Melanie Campbell, who blends her aggressive, sometimes tribal drumming with Mercer's angst-ridden vocals.

Inspired by his late father, Mercer's poetic lyrics tell a story from a place of pain and grief that is felt with every word. A small orchestra of friends surrounds Mercer with intense dream-like melodies, lifting the weight of the singer's iconic contagious sadness.

Although I can respect the emotion and artistry behind this album, it is not something I find myself drawn to listen to. I listen to music to feel good, and although I enjoyed the instrumentals, Mercer's creepy voice brought me down like Roger Waters' on a rainy day.

-REBECCA DAVIES



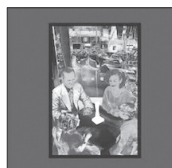
Lucero
All a Man Should Do
(ATO Records/MapleMusic Recordings)
4/5

Long known in the musical circles I tend to gravitate towards as "the band that covered Jawbreaker's 'Kiss the Bottle,'" Memphis-based Lucero delivers their gritty country-rock with passion and confidence here on their tenth album.

Don't go thinking this is mainstream pretty-boy country-pop; this is slamming-back-whiskey-at-the-rock-club country. Songs like the amazing "Went Looking for Warren Zevon's Los Angeles" and "I Woke Up in New Orleans" paint a wonderful picture through the lyrics, and the music—which brings to mind the Wallflowers at their moodiest/best—proves that these guys would appeal to fans of gritty country rock and melodic punk (hence, the Jawbreaker cover).

The amazing feel-good "Throwback No. 2" evokes Bruce Springsteen in the excellent sax solo, incredible songwriting, and emotional performance. And jaw-dropping closer "My Girl & Me in '93" is both wonderfully uplifting and heartbreakingly nostalgic.

-GREG PRATT



Led Zeppelin
Presence
(Atlantic Records)
5/5

And so the Led Zeppelin reissue series comes to an end, for now, until the whole damn catalogue gets reissued again. You know what? Ain't a rock band since that's created so much richness in such a small amount of space as Zep did, so that's fine by me.

1976's *Presence* was the beginning of the end for the band, a dense, difficult album containing a mere seven tracks, the first of which is ten damn minutes long. And that song, "Achilles Last Stand," is wonderful, very much a forgotten Zep classic.

But ask anyone what's on the rest of this album and you always get confused looks, nervous silences. I've listened to it a zillion times and I still don't know what the hell "Royal Orleans" or "Tea for One" sound like. But when it's spinning, it's majestic, deceptively simple, the sound of a band unravelling and kinda not caring, the blues monstrous, the rock even moreso.

The extras are uninteresting demos. But the seven originals are a true classic-rock treat.

-GREG PRATT



Led Zeppelin
In Through the Out Door
(Atlantic Records)
5/5

Led Zeppelin's final album has long fascinated me. Like the album that came before it, *Presence*, it only has seven songs. One is ten and a half minutes long and I'm pretty sure it is horrible ("Carouselambra"), but other songs on this album lift the listener like no other rock band is capable of.

"All My Love" and "Fool in the Rain" are those songs, both absolutely captivating classics, the band uninterested in rock conventions, drummer John Bonham totally, inappropriately, awesomely pounding the heck out of his kit during even the quiet moments.

"I'm Gonna Crawl" ends the album, and the Zep saga, with a brutally morose blues, one that actually works instead of sedates like most blues rock does.

And "Hot Dog"? Hell, it's ridiculous, but it's Zeppelin, it's 1979, we'll let 'em have a silly shuffle/hoe-down number if they want.

Again, the extras are nothing special unless you're a Zep diehard, but the album is classic.

-GREG PRATT



Led Zeppelin
Coda
(Atlantic Records)
4.5/5

The postscript to the most amazing spree of studio albums in rock, Led Zeppelin's 1982 odds 'n' sods collection *Coda* is no one's favourite Zep album, with eight tunes gathered from the band's history, songs that never made the cut to the albums proper.

Here's where the reissue series finally gets interesting: *Coda* comes with no less than 15 bonus tracks spread over two bonus discs, featuring an incredible Zep rarity called "St. Tristan's Sword." Amazingly, it's an outtake from back in 1970 that never made it to the band's incredible *Led Zeppelin III* album.

The track is raging proto-metal, quite possibly one of Jimmy Page's heaviest moments; I can see why it wouldn't have worked on their very mellow third album, but I'm shocked it's never, to the best of my knowledge, seen the light of day.

The 14 other tracks are mainly demos and are nothing too special. Sad this reissue series is over; Led Zep were one of a kind, and it's nice to be reminded of that now and again.

-GREG PRATT

music

Victoria's Nick La Riviere moves ahead with second album



PHOTO PROVIDED

Victoria musician Nick La Riviere and one of his beloved conch shells.

GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

When Victoria's Nick La Riviere started to put together the material for *Another Time Around*, his second studio album, he knew that there was going to be one major change: the album was going to have vocals on it. His debut, 2009's *Too Much to Do*, was completely instrumental, but the music dictated singing this time around.

"The singing went hand in hand with the genres of music on this album," explains La Riviere. "It made sense to do an all-instrumental album for my previous jazz

record, but for this album I wanted to branch out into other genres. I've had the opportunity to play a lot of different styles of music with the various bands I work with, and I wanted my own band to reflect that musical diversity as well."

One of the most unique aspects of La Riviere's music is his tendency to play conch shells. He says he first discovered conch shells as an instrument through Steve Turre, the trombonist in the *Saturday Night Live* band.

"It's a pretty unique-sounding instrument, and in [Turre's] groups they can sound almost like

a choir of human voices," he says. "The transition from trombone to conch shells is pretty natural: you do basically the same thing with your mouth to make the sound, so when I had an opportunity to try playing one it was an easy decision to keep up with it. It's great being able to do something at a show that many people have never seen before."

The long road to conch shells began at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, which is a Camosun satellite campus. La Riviere studied there in the jazz program; he says it's important for students to support local creativity.

"I've played in all kinds of bands, and one of the things I always really enjoy is playing in a band that's performing its own original music," he says. "It's great to work with people who are actually creating something of their own, which is what I've tried to do here. I hope the students can support that. Of course I don't want them to listen to my album only because it's local; hopefully the quality of the music and recording production also makes it something that can just be enjoyed for what it is."

And when he's not creating his music, La Riviere is teaching two

"The transition from trombone to conch shells is pretty natural."

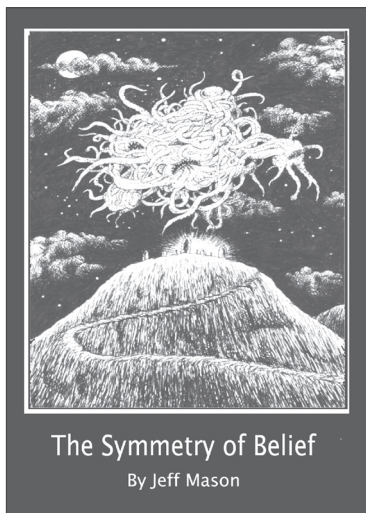
NICK LA RIVIERE
MUSICIAN

large community bands: one that plays big band music and one that is R&B. He says that the two are totally different from each other, but both are a lot of fun.

"There's a lot of satisfaction watching as those groups go from just receiving their music for the season to really playing it well and rocking it. Creating music for me is more of a personal experience. I haven't done a lot of group writing, so most of my music starts with just me at the piano trying to work out my ideas, whereas teaching the large bands is a lot more of a group effort to make something work."

review

Camosun alumni's new book shows great promise



The Symmetry of Belief
By Jeff Mason

SARAH TAYLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun alumnus Jeff Mason's first novel, *The Symmetry of Belief* (self-published), is heavily influenced by classic sci-fi, fantasy, and horror by authors such as H.P. Lovecraft, Frank Herbert, and J.G. Ballard. The story is reminiscent of Milton's "Paradise Lost," in which humans willingly fall from heaven, or, rather, ascend from paradise into the cruel void of space to find vengeance and freedom.

Themes are layered on top of each other, and Mason tackles the relationship between religion, politics, and power; the believed potential of humans to abuse and surpass their environment despite

Mason's characters are forces that, once you're in, you just cannot turn your eyes from.

our self-destructive progress; the chaotic nature of life and death; the universe.

Mason especially highlights the metaphorical destruction of the environment today through the consequences of war on the Earth-like planet Lacus.

Now, you may adopt a bit of a love-hate relationship with Mason's work. The idea of this novel is foreboding and epic, but it's a little undercooked. The first impression it gives is that it's not quite the final draft, and it's in need of editing to fix common errors in the spelling and grammar. The flow of the story is jarring, which inhibits the complex timeline. It may turn some readers away due to the difficulty of immersion.

However, Mason's characters are forces that, once you're in, you

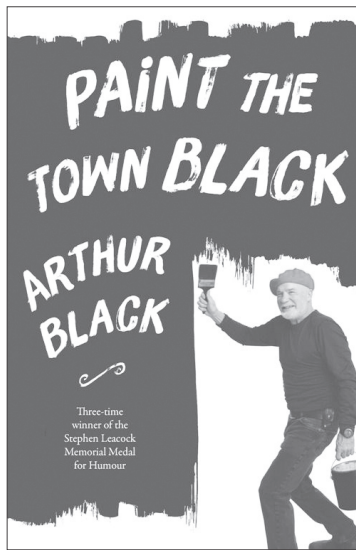
just cannot turn your eyes from. Just as the plot picks up momentum, some heroes experience shocking moral U-turns. Humanity's only hopes of survival lie in destructive powers or lost artifacts of power belonging to a religion that the people have long since lost faith in.

Even knowing that the fate hounding them will not allow them to stop, you wonder how far they will go, or how much they will sacrifice, to achieve their aims inside an indifferent universe.

The book may not be easy to get into, and it may be a little raw, but if Mason had stewed on it a little longer to give it that final coat of polish, *The Symmetry of Belief* would clearly have been a captivating novel. After you put the book down, you're left wondering what comes next.

review

Arthur Black misses the mark



MATT O'CONNOR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Arthur Black's *Paint the Town Black* (Harbour Publishing) is a stream-of-consciousness series of opinion column pieces written by a 71-year-old white Canadian male who is an ex-CBC host and comes across as very anti-technology.

This book's content comes as no surprise but will still keep you shaking your head all the way through.

I've never read anything quite like it. Black has a brainbox full of information, not all of which is completely useless. Some things he talks about, or starts talking about, could actually be interesting if he didn't

veer off topic, stringing through barely related news or facts, and finishing off in space.

This book is pure Canadian culture and reads as something you might find in *Maclean's* or *Readers Digest*: straightforward and easy to get through. Each entry is roughly 500 words in length; when you've had your fill of "good old days" or "kids today" blather you're thrown into a whole new story.

I quickly tired of Black's holier-than-thou attitude, which comes out in almost every piece he writes. He makes fun of steampunk attire and the size of a hunter's penis; he offhandedly boasts about his life; he discusses queer struggles in an offensive and uneducated way in an attempt to appear as an ally. His subject matter is weak and, frankly, disappointing coming from someone who has been in the business for as long as he has.

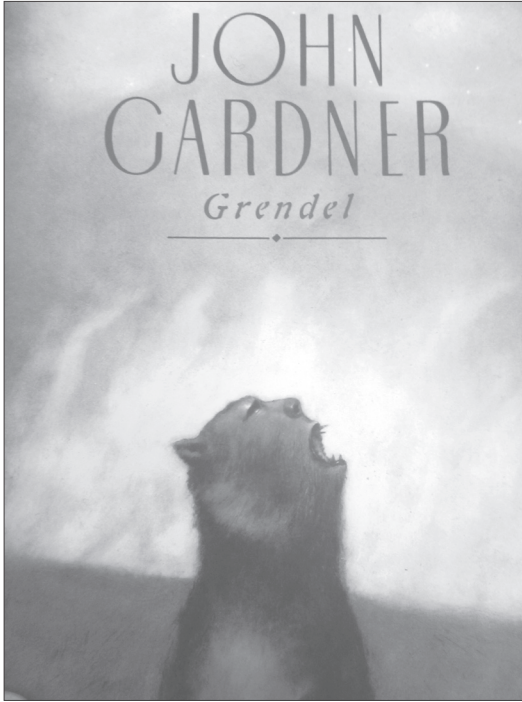
As a member of the generation that he consistently shames and depicts as zombies aimlessly wandering with faces pressed to our phones updating Twitter pages with blasé content, I must say Black needs to get with the times, even if that just means dropping the computer-free nostalgia and anti-cellphone dialogue. That's old news. And my generation won't be publishing it for much longer.



Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

John Gardner on monsters and men



Much of John Gardner’s fiction explores the inner worlds—and all their attendant contradictions—of his characters without shying away from the darker aspects of human nature.

American novelist, essayist, poet, and critic John Gardner is perhaps best known for his novel *Grendel*, in which he constructs the world of *Beowulf* from the perspective of a sensitive, curious monster. *Grendel*, who has a love/hate relationship with his terrible mother and hangs out with a philosophizing dragon, gives us a unique chance to see so-called heroic humans from the other side.

Much of his fiction explores the inner worlds—and all their attendant contradictions—of his characters without shying away from the darker aspects of human nature. Gardner himself carried darkness about for much of his own

life: when he was eleven years old his younger brother was crushed under a tractor that Gardner was driving. He blamed himself for the accident, and themes of accidents and guilt show up throughout his writings.

“Art,” said Gardner, “is a way of thinking, a way of mining reality.” The artistic minerals that we mine, he argued, ought to deal primarily with morality. By morality he didn’t mean a narrow religious morality, but rather a human morality that allows us to learn how to better get along with one another.

“We need to stop excusing mediocre and downright pernicious art,” he wrote. “We would not put

up with a debauched king, but in a democracy all of us are kings, and we praise debauchery as pluralism.” What good fiction should show us, says Gardner, is that society can have room for diversity while at the same time maintaining certain standards of behaviour.

“Art,” he once said, “is in one sense fascistic: it claims, on good authority, that some things are healthy for individuals and society and some things are not.”

John Gardner must-read:
Grendel
(UVIC library code PS3557 A73G74)

relaxing word search

If you’ve read our news page and feature story, you’re probably completely stressed out. Sorry. Here are some words from last issue’s feature to soothe you.

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

BASKED
BOBBED
CALMNESS
CLEAR
EASE
ENERGY
FLOATING
GLIDED
JUMPING
PROUD

REFLECT
STRENGTH
SUN
SURFACE
THANKED
TUFTS
VALUE
VICTORY
WARMTH
WAVES

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

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NEXUS WANTS STUDENT VOLUNTEERS TO WRITE SOME NEW COLUMNS FOR US FOR SEPTEMBER! SWING BY OUR OFFICE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED. WE'RE AT RICHMOND HOUSE 201, LANSDOWNE CAMPUS.

NEXUS HUMOUR

You draw comics.

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(Don't ask how.)

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Submit samples to:
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Lansdowne Campus, or email:
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

what's going on

by greg pratt



PHOTO PROVIDED

The National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China present *Peking Dreams* at the University of Victoria on September 5.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS
IN AUGUST

Free flicks outside

Let's face it: it's really hard to say no to checking out free classic movies like *The Secret of Nimh* (!) being screened for free at various locations outside (Beacon Hill Park, Broadmead Village, and the Legislature). What do you have to do that is possibly better than this? Nothing. Check out freefilmfest.com for the schedule and locations.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21
AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Art of the Trio

Join pianist George Colligan, bassist John Lee, and drummer Kelby MacNayr for two special nights of jazz from the aptly named George Colligan Trio. The Friday show is \$15 for students and \$20 for others with an 8 pm start time at Hermann's Jazz Club (753 View Street). The Saturday show takes place at Northern Quarter (1724 Douglas Street), also starting at 8 pm.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

The thin line between Beethoven and ABBA

Victoria Summer Choir is celebrating its tenth anniversary by playing a wide range of tunes. Check it out at 7 pm on August 22 at St. Mary's Anglican Church (1701 Elgin Road) and 3 pm on August 23 at St. Elizabeth Church (10030 Third Street, in Sidney). Email cchay@live.ca for more information.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Kelby MacNayr and friends

An all-star jazz session, led by Kelby MacNayr and featuring John Lee, Roy Styffe, and more, takes place at Hermann's Jazz Club at 753 View Street. The door price is \$15 for students and \$20 for others.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25
AND FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

Pesky plants

The Land Conservancy is looking for volunteers to help remove invasive species on their land covenants in the Highlands region of Victoria. The pulling of pesky weeds and other invasive species will take place from 10 am to 2 pm on both days. For more information, email covenants@conservancy.bc.ca or contact Torrey at 250-479-8053.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Probably tacos for me

The Best Meal You Ever Ate is being billed as a "serio-comedy" about Jews and Nazis and one tasty meal that may or may not be kosher. The play is being put on at Emanu-El Synagogue, 1461 Blanshard Street. Email zeldadean@shaw.ca for times and other info.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

That's Ancients with two Is, of course

If you like it loud, Vancouver metal band Ancients are definitely worth checking out. They bring the noise but bring the rockin' riffs as well. The heaviness goes down at Distrikt; see strathconahotel.com for more info.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
TO SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Get integrated

The ninth annual Integrate Arts Festival is a free... what, you're sold already? Me too; I like free. This one shows off Victoria's smaller art galleries; see integratearts.ca for more info.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Retro swinging organ is go!

Come and check out the retro swinging sounds of the Tony Genge Organ Trio on August 30. The trio consists of Hammond organist Tony Genge, tenor Roy Styffe, and drummer Kelby MacNayr, along with special guest guitarist Andrew Janusson. The show starts at 7:30 pm at Hermann's Jazz Club (753 View Street) and is \$15 for students and \$20 for others.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

The national acrobat

Peking Dreams is a performance by the National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China that features ballet, tumbling, plate spinning, contortionism, and much more. Did we say plate spinning? We sure did. It goes down at 2 pm at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium. \$26 for students; see uvic.ca/auditorium for more info.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Sing your heart out

Local women's choir the Crystal Singers are looking for some new voices to join them Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 at St. Aidan's United Church, located at 3703 St. Aidan's Road. Their fall session starts on September 8; email the.crystal.singers@gmail.com for information.

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Ancients at the cemetery gates; they'll be in town on August 27.