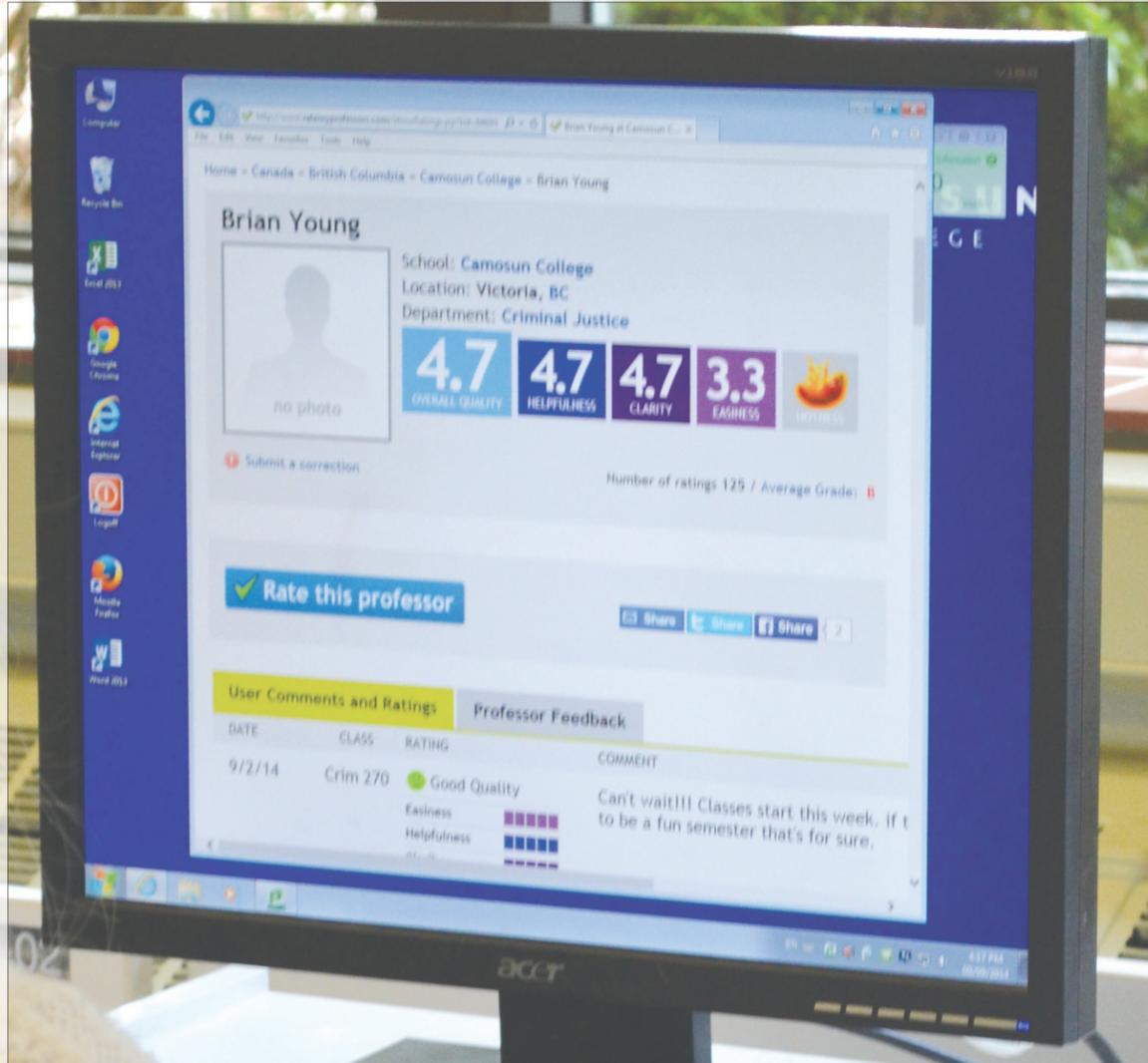


# RATING YOUR PROFS

Teachers and students grade the phenomenon.

Page 6



Camosun alumni supports striking teachers: 3



Chargers golfers aim big at start of new season: 4



Brother Ali connects during intimate club tour: 9

# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

Next publication: October 1, 2014

Deadline: noon September 24, 2014

Address: 3100 Foul Bay Rd., Victoria, BC,  
V8P 5J2

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## editor's letter

# Red hot chili pepper

I am not a prof, yet not all that long ago I found myself in the unlikely position of looking up my own name on Rate Your Professors. See, I teach classes in journalism and the history of heavy metal (you can't make this stuff up) in Continuing Education programs at colleges and universities, so thought maybe, just maybe, I was on the site, reviewed and rated and hot or not.

Nope. I wasn't on there. But point being if a part-time teacher like myself searches his own name on sites like that, you can bet that full-time profs are no strangers to the joys and horrors of reading their reviews, which contributing writer Gillian Sellman explores in her feature story on page 6.

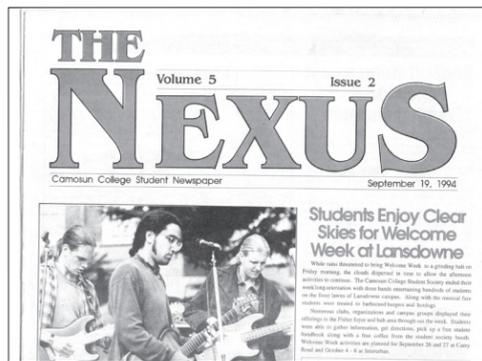
Elsewhere, we've got stories on a former Camosun student spearheading a campaign in support of BC teachers (page 3), the Victoria Wine Fest (page 5), gospel performer Marvin Matthews (page 8) and so much more. Dive in, and, as always, let us know what you think! Your feedback lets us know what you want to see more, and less, of, so keep it coming.

In the meantime, I'll keep checking Rate Your Professors to see if I end up on there. I don't think anyone can resist knowing if they are deserving of the chili pepper or not.

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

## flashback

# 20 years ago in Nexus



**Presidential faux pas:** In our September 19, 1994 issue we had a story about how Camosun's first female president, Liz Ashton, had officially commenced her duties. Ashton went on to much notoriety by saying in an unrehearsed speech in 2008 that "the students that come to us, initially, they're not the best and not the brightest in terms of their academic standing," a statement she later defended in our March 5, 2008 issue, saying "Camosun students are not coming out of high school as the highest qualified academic students. That's a reality; it's not me in any way putting students down."

**Crime never sleeps:** One of my favourite old-school Nexus columns was *Crime Watch!* A round-up of all

the crimes to happen on campus over the previous two weeks, it was as entertaining as it was slow-moving, and far more confounding than anything. In this issue, well, the report is that apart from some graffiti, not much happened. And there you have it!

**Camosun overcrowded?:** One of the common praises Camosun receives is the smaller class sizes compared to UVic. So it's surprising to see the issue of overcrowding come up in this issue's Speak Up. Four of the six students we spoke with agreed without a doubt that Camosun was overcrowded, with one saying that "all the classes are overcrowded." What do you think? Is Camosun overcrowded in 2014?

## open space

# Keeping Pride political

As I sat back amongst the clapping bystanders screaming and grabbing for bead necklaces and temporary tattoos I felt a strange disconnect. Something wasn't quite right.

MATT O'CONNOR  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gay pride? What about the rest of us!? No, I'm certainly not one of those people who actually uses not having "straight pride" as an arguing point. What I mean is: what about the majority of individuals in the queer community who aren't cisgender homosexual men?

What started out as a radical political riot led mostly by trans people of colour/political activists has become a heavily corporately sponsored event... it's become a parade.

I recently attended the Vancouver Pride Parade and Festival and was extremely disappointed, yet not surprised, to find that the main focus of attention was on the large flamboyantly decorated corporate floats selling products to those in attendance, carrying DJs and fit gay men thrusting and dancing sexily on stripper poles.

Yes, Pride parades across North America seem to be selling the "ideal" queer person. Those sexy, glitter-covered, white, middle-class, gay cisgender men.

I won't lie and say I don't enjoy having attractive looking people float past me dancing to club tunes on a hot summer day. I'm human and that combination of things appeals to most of my senses. But is this why Pride parades are socially acceptable now?

Personally, I prefer to see the community-run groups, services, and organizations supporting LG-BTQQIP2SAA individuals and families throughout the year and creating awareness of and actively

fighting against the many continuing queer struggles.

As I sat back amongst the clapping bystanders screaming and grabbing for bead necklaces and temporary tattoos thrown by police officers and, of course, Justin Trudeau, I felt a strange disconnect... like something wasn't quite right.

It felt like a distraction from the reality of something bigger than it all. Here we are celebrating "Pride" amongst oppressors, their enablers, and bystanders. In fact, those very people are *in* the parade, waving and receiving cheers of admiration from the crowd!

Perhaps you can understand why I couldn't quite bring myself to cheer along with the others as the Conservative Government float rolled by and I thought about how the federal government won't allow me to correct the gender on my birth certificate until I have had invasive surgeries that I have never and will never desire.

Most people like to throw on their rose-coloured Elton John glasses during Pride Week and pretend like everything is gay and merry because, "Gays *can* marry in Canada!" Why aren't we using this privilege, this power, the countless dollars spent, and our right to freedom of speech to fight for freedom of the individual?

Because we're not all treated as equals. We're not all free to express ourselves and live our lives as we choose. We're not all recognized by the government, and we do not all have the basic human rights to which they promise us.

Let's keep Pride political!

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

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "It's all about the touchy-feely stuff."

COVER IMAGE:  
Rate Your Profs: Jill Westby/*Nexus*  
Alumni supports teachers: Jill Westby/*Nexus*  
Chargers golf: Provided  
Brother Ali: Corey Dewald

# SPEAK UP

Do you use websites like Rate My Professors? Do you think they are effective?

BY GILLIAN SELLMAN



JAMIE SENGER

"I have used it in the past, and I think it can be effective, but sometimes people are clearly biased, and people with strong opinions are usually the ones who make the effort to go and write things."



HELENA GOOSSEN

"I don't use Rate My Professors, but it would depend on how many people reviewed the teacher as to whether it would be effective or not."



MADI DOUGLAS

"I haven't used Rate My Professors, but I think it would be [effective]."



DERICK WELSH

"It's an effective tool to learn about the techniques the professor uses and solidify abstract ideas. I find it interesting and I definitely look at the easiness and the overall professor score."



JEREMY VARGAS

"I've never really used it, but I think a website that can tell you how a teacher is rated and what people think of them could be helpful. And it also might help the professors to look at what people are saying."



HANK ESSER

"I've never used it, but based on the name of the site it seems like it might be a productive thing."

activism

# Former Camosun student spearheads social-media campaign in support of teachers

“I was surprised that there wasn’t already a really clear online presence in support of teachers, especially from parents.”

**JORDAN WATTERS**  
SUPPORT FOR BC TEACHERS



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun alumni and Support for BC Teachers founder Jordan Watters.

**JASON SCHREURS**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A former Camosun College student has quickly become a key figure in garnering public support for BC teachers currently affected by the labour dispute with the provincial government.

Jordan Watters, who took Camosun’s University Transfer program in Education in 2001–2002, launched the Support for BC Teachers Facebook group in May after discovering there wasn’t much of a social-media presence around the issue.

“I went looking for a page that had information and was geared towards supporting teachers as the labour dispute started ramping up at the beginning of May,” says Watters, who has two young children not yet in school, “and

there was nothing out there. I was surprised that there wasn’t already a really clear online presence in support of teachers, especially from parents.”

The public response to Watters’ Facebook page was immediate, receiving an average of 750 likes per day for the first two weeks. As of press time, the page has over 18,500 likes.

“The thing just took right off,” says Watters, “so that became a full-time job pretty quickly.”

Watters, who is also running for Victoria school board trustee in the upcoming municipal elections, says the goal of the Facebook page was to be a hub for rallies and activities taking place in support of the BC teachers.

She says that so far it’s been a success, with many spin-off and

regional groups starting up from the page.

“I think the teachers were pretty worried going into this that they were going to be fully slandered in the court of public opinion and abandoned by parents, and that doesn’t seem to be the case,” says Watters, “and what’s going on in social media has a huge role to play in that.”

And while the current labour dispute does have to do with schools’ class sizes and compositions, says Watters, it could also have wider-reaching impacts that could affect the whole province, regardless of the outcome.

“There is a lot of fear right now that we are moving towards privatization and that the government’s agenda is to break the union. The fallout could be the complete trans-

formation of the public education system as we know it in BC,” Watters says. “It’s also possible that if the teachers really hold the line that we could get better quality, more fully funded public education. And, meanwhile, the public level of engagement has been heightened, which is only ever a good thing.”

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) has also been vocal in their support of BC teachers, posting a letter of support to their website in early August, and picketing alongside the teachers during the summer.

“The CCSS finds it shameful how the BC government has behaved, being found by the Supreme Court of Canada to have unlawfully changed the BC Teachers’ Federation collective agreement, as well as the systematic stripping of

our educational systems, whether it be within the K-12 system or postsecondary education, which, historically, have been chronically under-funded and, by extension, undervalued,” the CCSS stated in part of the post.

Watters says that she is pleased that Camosun’s student society has been so public in their support for the striking teachers and adds that she wishes more student societies across the province would follow suit.

“It’s so awesome,” she says. “I’ve been really surprised that not all student societies at universities and colleges have really taken a strong stance. I think that’s so short-sighted. Camosun has always been radical and right on the forefront of this sort of thing, so it doesn’t surprise me.”

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Student awards available

Camosun’s Education Council awards committee is looking for student activists on campus for a series of awards of up to \$1,000 in value. The awards will be awarded to academically strong students who have been active in such causes as community service, African awareness, family leadership, animal rights, and more. A full list of the awards can be found at [camosun.ca/about.education-council/awards/index.html](http://camosun.ca/about.education-council/awards/index.html). Applications are due October 20, so get applying!

### SFU and Camosun partner in masters program

Camosun College and Simon Fraser University (SFU) are again offering the SFU Master of Education (Curriculum and Instruction) in Victoria via the college in the summer of 2015. The master’s program is intended for postsecondary

educators and accepts traditional and non-traditional applicants. The two-year program is tailored around the busy schedules of its applicants and classes take place every second weekend at Camosun. Faculty representatives will be at the University of Victoria’s Graduate Student Fair on September 23 to answer questions and provide additional information. Go to [sfu.ca/education/gs/degreediploma/masters/ci-ps2015.html](http://sfu.ca/education/gs/degreediploma/masters/ci-ps2015.html) for more information about the program. Deadline to apply is November 15.

### Getting Victoria all green and stuff

An organization called the Green Teams of Canada has expanded its scope to include a new chapter in Victoria, aptly named the Greater Victoria Green Team (GVGT). The new team aims to engage people in the Capital Regional District in educational and hands-on activities that will help in restoring and conserving

local ecosystems, as well as helping people connect to nature. Teams of volunteers will be organized to remove those pesky invasive plants (friggin’ blackberries and dinosaur weeds) and plant new trees and native plants. The Victoria group also plans to do shoreline cleanups, so lotsa good stuff to help out with! Go to [greenteamscanada.ca](http://greenteamscanada.ca) for more info.

### New campus app promises big things

We over here at *Nexus* firmly believe that apps can’t change your life, but they might make things a little easier. Enter Campusgrids, a new and completely free mobile application that promises to get students more engaged in their campuses, as well as find out about events taking place on campuses across Canada. How Camosun-specific the app is remains to be seen, but it doesn’t hurt to throw another

app on your already cram-packed home screen now, does it? Go to [bit.ly/campusgrids](http://bit.ly/campusgrids) for more info or [bit.ly/cgAppDL](http://bit.ly/cgAppDL) to just download that sucker.

### So you wanna sing (again)?

The Victoria Mendelssohn Choir is looking for a few experienced singers, especially tenors and basses, to join their symphonic-style classical and romantic vocal group. This choir is serious stuff, it seems, as they “strive to achieve a high standard of discipline and technical excellence,” according to a press release. If that sounds like a challenge you’re up to, email [cchay@live.ca](mailto:cchay@live.ca) or call 250-380-0496 before September 30 to arrange an audition. Good luck, you songbird, you!

### More ways to spend that childcare subsidy

The Maritime Museum of BC is offering day camps to support families during the teacher’s strike,

and they’re ready to take your daily childcare subsidy for weekly camps (Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4:30 pm) at a cost of \$175. The camp activities are directly linked to the BC social studies and science curricula and are nautical themed, from sailing, to pirates, the gold rush, the fur trade, and much more. To book a camp, call 250-385-4222 ext. 112.

### Mayne Island just got trailed

A new demonstration trail is being planned for Mayne Island to link the Southern Gulf Island’s ferry terminal to its Village Bay and Miners Bay. The island’s 2.3-kilometre trail route is being designed and planned this year with a budget of over \$100,000.

-JASON SCHREURS

Got a news tip or a story that we should be covering? Let us know! [editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com)

sports

# Camosun golf team aims to improve on last year's bronze

**JASON SCHREURS**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Camosun College's 2013 national bronze-medal golfers are aiming their sights even higher this year, according to the team's coach and players, but first they're going to have to get past a stalwart team in their own province.

After two tournaments so far this season, the Camosun Chargers men's golf team sits second behind the University of the Fraser Valley Cascades in provincial rankings. With largely the same team returning from last year's national bronze-medal run, team coach John Randle says the Chargers should benefit from consistency and another year's experience.

"Having played the full schedule last year, they're a little more calm and relaxed," says Randle. "We'll see; in golf you never know what's going to happen, but so far they've stepped up and played well."

Veteran player and Victoria native Jarred Callbeck will once again

"Our goal is to win the nationals and there's no reason why this team can't do it."

**GRANT MASKIEWICH**  
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

lead the Camosun golf team this season. Callbeck had a stellar season last year and racked in numerous PACWEST provincial and CCAA national league awards, including All-Canadian Player and First Team All-Star. He was also busy in the off-season, winning Victoria's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Cedar Hill Open Men's Golf Tournament on May 17-18.

"He's one of the best players in the conference and his playing ability speaks for itself," says Randle about Callbeck, "but he's also a leader on the team and he keeps

things light; he's relaxed but he also works hard. So, not only does he walk the walk, but he's good at talking the talk, too."

Joining Callbeck this year are returning third-year players Brady Stead (Vernon, BC) and Grant Maskiewich (Smithers, BC), and second-year student-athletes Mike Flegel (Moose Jaw, SK) and Brett De Vries (Kelowna, BC).

Maskiewich, for one, is optimistic about the upcoming season and the team's chances this year at the nationals.

"I'm feeling good about it and the whole team is back from last year, along with one solid new player," says Maskiewich. "Our goal is to win the nationals and there's no reason why this team can't do it."

Rookie Scott Merriam, from Cranbrook, BC, is the only new Charger for 2014's golf team, and the enthusiasm of his Chargers teammates seems to have rubbed off on him already.

"It seems like we have a very talented group and I believe we are capable of winning every event during the regular season," says Merriam. "As for the nationals, I think we have a great chance at taking the gold medal this year."

The Chargers finished second behind Fraser Valley in their first tournament of the year September 6-7 in Surrey, and second behind the Vancouver Island University Mariners in the second tournament, which took place in Nanaimo on September 13-14.



JOHN RANDLE

Second-year student athlete Brett DeVries, from Kelowna.

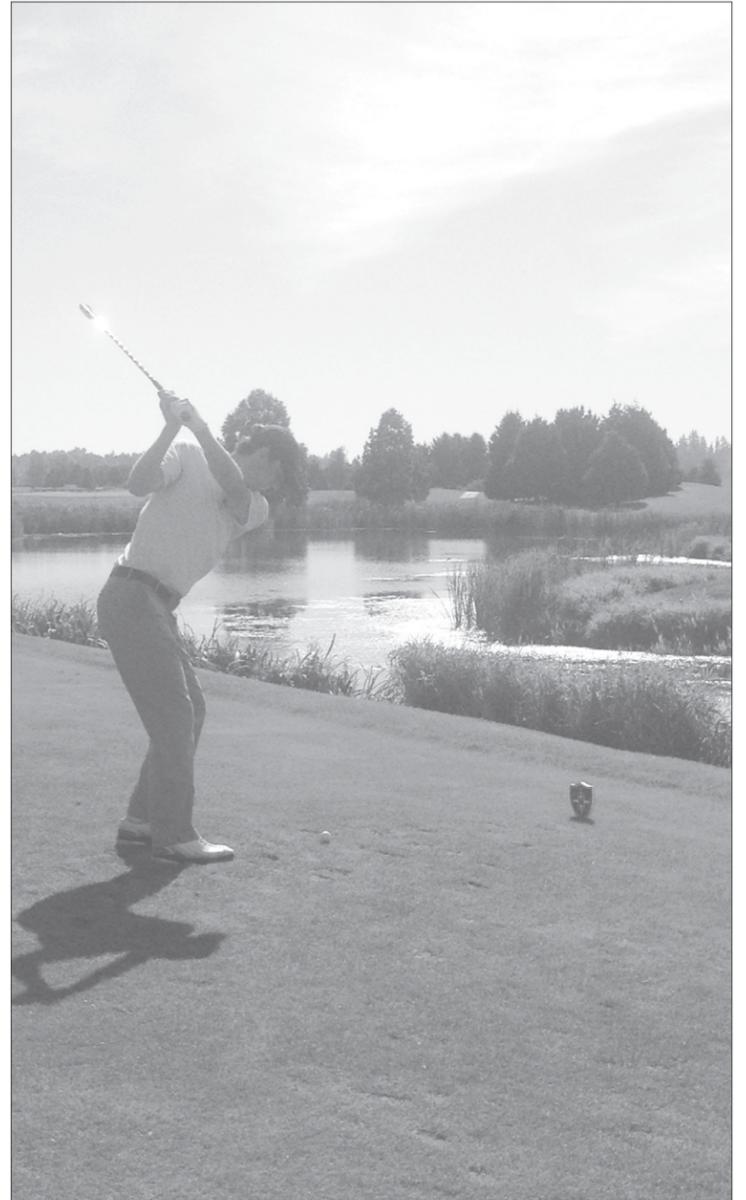


PHOTO PROVIDED

Grant Maskiewich is optimistic about the Chargers' upcoming season.

And while the Camosun players are feeling good about their chances to take it all this year, their coach is being a little more cautious.

"If the guys play up to their potential we have a chance to finish well," says Randle. "We've got almost the same team that finished third in the country last year, so we hope to see a progression and hope that we'll improve, but at the same time other schools are improving, too. All you can hope is that you have your team playing their best

when it comes to nationals."

Randle says the team has everything they need to be champions: the right attitude, a high skill level, and even the necessary work ethic.

"We have a lot of fun when we play tournaments, so they're having a good time, but the flipside is they are doing a lot of work to be prepared," he says. "They're great kids, they work hard, and they're very coach-able. So everything's good. We just have to figure out how to beat Fraser Valley."



Education Council  
**ELECTION**

Representation is important!

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

**The nomination period is from Monday, September 29 through Friday, October 10 (3 pm deadline).**

The election will be held on Wednesday, October 29 and Thursday, October 30, from 9 am - 7 pm.

For more information, see posters around the campus, on CamNews, student website, or contact Linea Patterson at 250-370-3530.

**FREE YOGA FOR YOU**  
September 22 - 28th

No pre-registration, arrive early!

Monday Sept 22nd 12:00pm POWER HOUR  
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drinks

# Wine fest brings international tastes to Victoria

**JASON SCHREURS**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

An upcoming wine festival taking place here in Victoria will celebrate and expose attendees to wines from around the world. As an added bonus, students checking out the event might find a pathway to an interesting career, according to one of the presenters.

Stuart Brown, a local sommelier who graduated from the International Sommelier Guild and is now a teacher for the guild himself, says that some of his students are coming out of college in their early 20s and are already studying to be sommeliers.

"It's a credible career now and it's an educational trade that I love," says Brown. "And the reason why I love wine is it's international and it's about a specific place. It's not like beer and spirits, where you can make it anywhere. It's not about where the products are coming from; with wine the fruit is grown in a specific place and it speaks to that place."

The inaugural Victoria Wine Festival, which takes place on September 26, is a day-long series of wine tastings and seminars, including Brown's look at the lesser-known Loire wine region in France.

"The reason I wanted to get right into that region is because the Loire isn't very popular, and it's not because of quality or anything else," says Brown, "it's just not as known as other regions like Bordeaux or Burgundy, so I wanted

to do the seminar on that, just for exposure."

Brown, who got his sommelier diploma in 2006, says that France is a big part of his program's studies.

"If you look at our textbook, France is almost half of our textbook because it's such a big part of the world of wine," he says.

**"With wine the fruit is grown in a specific place and it speaks to that place."**

**STUART BROWN**  
VICTORIA WINE FESTIVAL

Brown points to the wines in the Loire region as being some of the most unique in all of France due to the soils and climates being quite different there, something he'll talk about during his presentation at the festival.

"What's so cool about France is it was developed before automobiles, so while over here we have things from all over the place, in France they are very traditional to what they make right there, so every little village has its own unique cheese and wine, and foods that go with both," he says.

Brown says that he's excited about the upcoming Victoria Wine Festival, the first wine festival in the city in a number of years, and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Local sommelier Stuart Brown is excited about the international aspect of the Victoria Wine Festival.

this time with a more international focus.

"It's been a long time since something like this has happened," he says, "and it's good to have some-

thing local, as well as international. A lot of the wine festivals we have in British Columbia are BC-oriented, but this one also has international wines, which is very cool."

**Victoria Wine Festival**  
Friday, September 26  
Parkside Hotel, 810 Humboldt  
vicwf.com

who's that prof?

## Flashback brass attack

Alright, Camosun students, time to see if you're really paying attention in class. The first person who can successfully identify this, uh, archival photo of a current

Camosun prof wins a gift package of prizes from us here at *Nexus*!

Email your guess to editor@nexusnewspaper.com today to see if you're the lucky winner.



PHOTO PROVIDED

# LOOKING FOR WORK?

Join this season's Camosun Chargers Event Staff!



The Camosun College Athletics department is looking for energetic, committed and sport-minded students to assist with Chargers game day operations.

**NOW HIRING:**

- Score keepers for basketball and volleyball
- second Shot clock operators
- Cybersports statistics software operator for basketball

- Admission and concession staff
- Video camera equipment operator
- Webcasting software operator

**Note:** Applicants must be available on evenings and weekends, September - March.

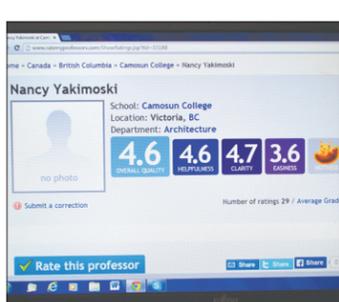
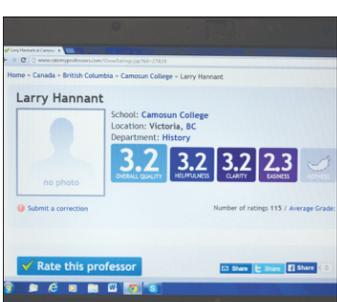
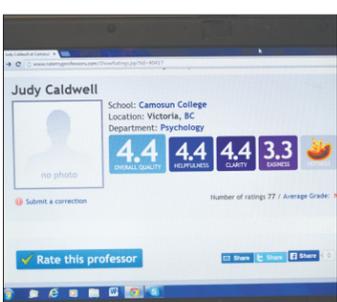
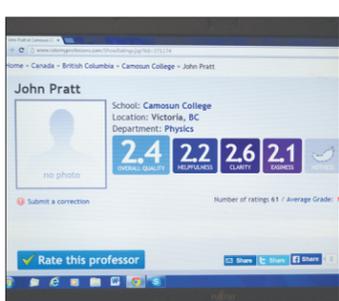
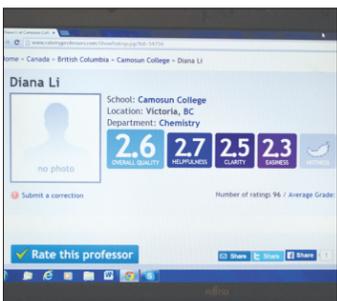
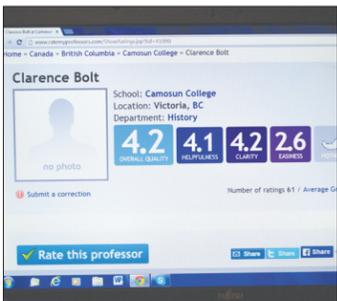
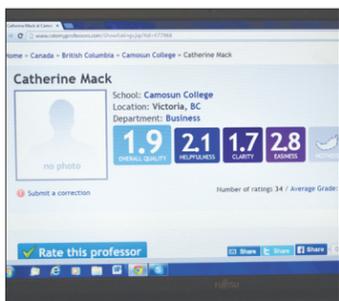
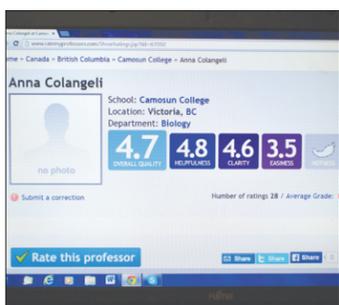


Contact Kathryn Russell, Athletics Event Assistant: russellk@camosun.ca Apply soon, positions are filling up!

Find pics of the Camosun Chargers in action on Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/camosunchargers/sets/>

# The number

## Taking a closer look at



The first time I came across a website that rates teachers, I was in middle school. Back then, it was a way to laugh at bad reviews of my least favourite teachers and smile at the glowing reviews for my faves.

Now that I'm a (somewhat) mature college student, I wondered if I could turn to popular prof-rating website Rate My Professors for more useful, decision-making/teacher-picking information.

I wanted to know if I could really enhance my college experience by consulting a website before I chose my instructors, or at least have a legit reason to read through pages and pages of hilarious reviews. I figured, what better way to find out than to ask students, and teachers, what they think of the site.

### Student feedback

With a name like Rate My Professors, it's obvious the website is geared towards students. So hopefully students are using it.

For some Camosun students, like first-year Business Administration student Dan Ramage, Rate My Professors is an essential resource.

"I've picked seven different instructors from Rate My Professors," says Ramage, "and I think it's been an accurate representation."

And for others, it's more of a decision-making aid. Melanie Winter has used the website to scout out her instructors both at MacEwan University in Alberta and here at Camosun College during her first year of her Business Administration HR degree.

"If I go back and read the reviews of teachers I had, I find that they're pretty accurate," says Winter, "but when I look at reviews to find teachers I get a different outcome than what I thought."

So Rate My Profs, as it's called, may not be a one-stop shop for class picking, but what is it good for?

"It's effective if you want to know if a person is a tough marker, or not easy to meet up with, or unhelpful, and that's important," says Winter. "Like if a person says, 'That teacher grades completely hard and I'm usually an A+ student,' I know it's tough to do good in that class."

But, of course, an online rating system like Rate My Professors has its negatives. "There are trolls who will write reviews just for the sake of doing negative reviews," complains Ramage.

There is something about an anonymous online review service that can bring out the worst in people. Winter says that negativity can definitely be a downside on the website.

"I find people have the tendency to write more negative reviews than positive reviews," says Winter. "That's where it's a downfall."

But the apples aren't all bruised on Rate My Professors, says Winter.

"It draws two types of people," she says. "It draws the completely negative people who want to slam their teacher cause they're mad, and it draws those who are top-notch students in the class who are into meeting with their teachers all the time and stuff like that, and want to write a good review."

It may be hard to tell if someone who posts on Rate My Profs has a legitimate claim to shame or if they are just "somebody just didn't do their work or has beef with the teacher for some reason," says Winter.

But not everyone has trouble weeding out the legit from the less legit. "I can generally see through the trolls," says Ramage. "It's pretty easy if you ask me."

Although Winter says she uses the site a lot to read comments and reviews on instructors, she usually refrains from posting herself unless it's absolutely necessary.

"I just made my first review last semester," says Winter. "It was a class I was nervous going in to and I wrote a review because I knew people out there like me, who are average students, would want to know what I wanted to know."

The majority of the reviews on Rate My Prof stay on one end of the scale or the other. In the case of Ramage, he would only post "if I had a really bad experience, or if I had a really good experience."

Winter says she is willing to go out of her way to recognize a good prof.

"If I went to a class and understood everything," she says, "I would want to recognize the teacher for that."

### Teacher

There are two sides to every story without any professors?

Although you might think that you likely they know about Rate My Pro

"I knew it existed, but it had been Camosun Criminal Law professor E to look at a bunch of other profs; it'

And if teachers are looking at it helping you choose the least evil pr the teacher know what they need to

"When I read the reviews, I kind [feedback] is what I want," says Yo to read it, and it's completely anyo

The anonymity of the site might for students.

"I used to use those hand out en kind of difficult," says Young, "beca this kind of subconscious awarenes

As opposed to in-class reviews, place thing.

"The thing that's kind of cool a that want to do it can just go on ther tell the truth and give the feedback w that's the best review."

Young says that the site might students.

"You've got to put a bit of effort help your fellow students."

Young goes as far as to say tha say.

"If you've got nothing but nega that you need to tinker with somethi he says.

And what would Young say to t them and slap them around a bit an ing to say? If some anonymous pers 'No, I don't'?"

More seriously, Young says he c real response to negative comments I think it's great, I like what I do, an that feedback is great."

It's good to know that at least s ments on Rate My Professors to he Professors is useful for giving accur to work with.

"When I read those reviews I thi Young. "I'm doing what I would like for the students, so, in that way, I w

### The

Aside from knowing whether Rate My Professors, it's im any problems with the concept of th

For this, we turned to Camosun

Ove admitted to checking out th looked themselves up on it at some think it's useful, it's kind of hard no

From his experiences with the si problems. He agrees with student "you get two kinds of students; the who hate them," he says.

Ove says this makes for a less-tha a good sample, a proportional samp

### Chilli pepper: hot or not?

Students can rate their profs' attractiveness on a chilli pepper scale at Rate Your Professors. But do students and instructors think the chilli can take the heat?

"I don't trust the pepper. To each their own when it comes to how somebody looks. Sometimes attitude alone can create hotness."—student **Melanie Winter**

"Unreliable, and unnecessary."—student **Jessica Vandyke**

"I think it's fun, having the column where you get to tick if the professor is hot or not. I mean, thank goodness they don't have the column where you're just damn ugly."—instructor **Brian Young**

"Nope."—student **Dan Ramage**

# ers game professor-rating sites

## er feature

ory, and what good is Rate My Professors  
our profs are stuck in the Stone Age, it's  
fs as well.  
en a long time since I looked at it," says  
Brian Young. "It was great, though. I got  
s hilarious."  
as well, it may have other uses than just  
professor for next semester; it might help  
change.  
d of go, 'Well, that's good,' because that  
ung. "I think it's great for me to be able  
amous."

make it an even more valuable resource  
d-of-term review things and even that's  
ause you are there in the class, they have  
s of it."  
Rate My Profs is not a one-time, one-  
about Rate My Profs is that the students  
re and do it," explains Young. "They can  
without any consequence, and sometimes

even be able to draw more and better  
t into it," he says, "so you're doing it to  
t even the haters have useful things to  
ative reviews, there's a message to you  
ing, because something's not working,"

he Negative Nellys? "You'd like to grab  
d say, 'Seriously?'" but what are you go-  
on says, 'You suck,' are you going to go,  
does appreciate the reviews. He says his  
would be, "Thank you for the feedback."  
d I think having the opportunity to get  
ome teachers might be taking the com-  
eart. It might even mean that Rate My  
ate and honest feedback for a professor  
nk, 'Maybe I am doing okay at this,'" says  
e to see a prof do, and I think it's working  
ish I had checked it sooner."

## critics

er or not people are using and enjoying  
portant to examine whether there are  
e site itself.  
Sociology professor Peter Ove.  
e site himself. "I think most profs have  
e point," he says. "Whether or not they  
t to."  
te, Ove has definitely encountered some  
Melanie Winter that on Rate My Profs  
e ones who love the profs and the ones  
n-desirable sample population. "You want  
ole. You can't have a random sample."

Another thing that he says makes the website an ineffective survey tool is the lack of volume. "Good surveys have a large sample," says Ove. "For example, right now I think I have two ratings, and I've had about 160 students a term for six terms now. So there's nowhere near the number of students for it to actually be feasible."

Ove does agree with Young that the end-of-term class surveys also aren't the best way to get constructive criticism.

"You can have the same problem with in-class evaluations, though," he says. "For an in-class evaluation you're lucky to get 50 percent of students."

One of the biggest problems with Rate My Profs is the criteria they use to rate instructors on the site, say Ove.

"The one real beef I have with rate my prof is the criteria they use: helpfulness, and clarity, and easiness," he says. "That says a lot about what they think about teaching, and what they think the purpose of teaching is."

For Ove, it's an issue because it jumps to conclusions about what the whole point of college is. "It's assuming that students are going to school simply to get it done, and not actually to expand your mind, learn something interesting, improve yourself, or help society," he says.

Like any good critic, Ove has suggestions for improvement.

"The one category that's really missing is something like importance or value, maybe the professor wasn't very clear or helpful, but you learned a ton," he says.

Ove does admit that there are times where the site might be helpful to students.

"Where a student looks and every single review is horrible, they might avoid that course," he says. "But barring those extreme examples, when the class fits in your schedule is probably more important than minor differences in Rate My Professors."

## Final thoughts

One thing everyone, students and instructors alike, agrees on is that Rate My Professor is a place you can go to share and read other people's opinions.

You might be with Ove, who says "it's not going to accurately represent the teacher, but I don't know if any evaluation is going to sum up everything about the teacher. What they do show is someone's opinion, which is valuable, not because it's all the truth. But because it's someone's opinion."

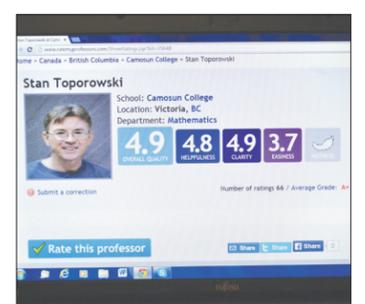
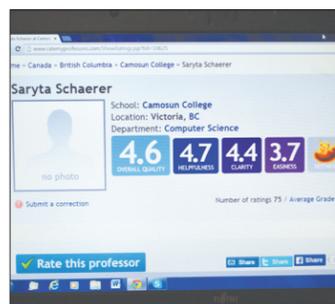
Or you may side with Young, who says "there should be some tool where people can leave some opinion on whether this is a good course to take or not, and it's not highly scientific, but sometimes we don't need that; we just need what you think."

Whether you like using Rate My Professors or not, as Ove says, "It's one source of information which people can use, or not use, along with lots of other sources of information."

So keep reading those ratings. Just remember to watch out for trolls.



By Gillian Sellman, contributing writer  
Photos by Jill Westby/Nexus





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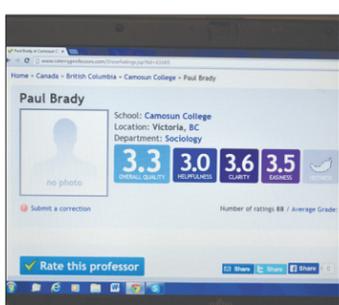
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festival

# Gospel singer Marvin Matthews finds the light

**JULIANNE DAZE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gospel singer Marvin Matthews almost pursued a career in opera singing, but because he had difficulty with opera's darker subject matter he found the light and focused his efforts on gospel music. It's a genre that allows him to share a message with the audience that is meaningful to him.

"I started singing in church when I was about eight years old," says Matthews. "I think what attracted me to gospel music, or to Christian music in particular, is that there is a sense of singing something that is true, something that is relevant, and something that is life-giving."

With a powerful voice and stage presence that communicates a genuine joy for life, the Los Angeles-based Matthews has become a world-renowned performer, including performances at three Olympic Games. His opera-trained voice produces deeply soulful sounds and



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Marvin Matthews says gospel music is very personal and very exciting.**

his lyrics address themes of love, the past, and hope for the future.

"There is hope for wherever you are in your journey," he says. "Gospel music is a type of music that brings hope, that brings vibrancy. It's not music that's boring or impersonal. It's very personal and it's very exciting."

Matthews, who is appearing at Victoria's first annual Gospel Music Festival at the Alix Goolden Hall on September 20 alongside his Marvin Matthews Band, was first introduced to gospel in his hometown of Washington, DC. He says there's a

timeless truth to gospel music that people of different cultures and faiths can identify with.

"That's what makes it gospel music to me, because there are people there who are of different faiths and yet they love the music," he says. "I think it's because the music resonates with something that is true, and that is relevant to human life."

Based on his love for sharing gospel music, it's not surprising that Matthews refers to his career as a "business of communication." He says there's nothing that com-

municates better than music when he is performing in countries around the world.

"The one thing that is exciting to me in performing around the world is that the language barrier that exists in our speech is non-existent in our music," he says. "When I performed in Korea there was a real sense of camaraderie. Even when I could not speak the Korean language, they still understood the sentiment of the song."

Matthews' worldwide success is not without a great amount of support from home. Father of two

children, he expresses gratitude for his family and for their unwavering support.

"They are always there and always present and always ready to see me succeed and be all God created me to be," he says. "They are a rock for me, they teach me about myself, and they teach me about taking care of life."

Marvin Matthews (at the Victoria Gospel Festival)  
Saturday, September 20  
Alix Goolden Hall  
hightideconcerts.net

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## New Music Revue

### Boozy bruisers



The New  
Pornographers  
*Brill Bruisers*  
(Last Gang Records)  
3/5



Sterile Jets  
*Liquor Store*  
(Yesca Rock)  
3/5

You may remember The New Pornographers last album, *Together*, from the whole month it was stuck in your head after listening to it.

If you are looking for the same edgy, catchy, high-energy hits in *Brill Bruisers*, prepare to be disappointed.

The Vancouver supergroup's new album features much heavier synth and electronica sounds than their old album. This sometimes works in songs like "Backstairs," but more often falls flat, making for more of a background soundtrack than the in-your-face energy of their previous albums.

Nonetheless, The New Pornographers are still a great band. You can still hear the West Coast flair in songs like "War on the East Coast" and hear their pure talent throughout the album.

Although it might not be stuck in your head for a whole month, *Brill Bruisers* is still good for a weekend afternoon listen to get your head bobbing.

*Liquor Store* revisits the original definition of what it means to be punk, and does it with a certain likeability. California's Sterile Jets set out to make music that transcends musical restraint.

Trying to place this album into one genre is nearly impossible. Drawing influences from noise/art/stoner-punk and some old-fashioned metal, *Liquor Store* is an album that leaves the listener a little confused at times. This is, of course, not necessarily a bad thing and is probably the best aspect of this album.

The vocals resemble bands like Iron Maiden or Black Sabbath, backed by powerful punk guitar riffs inspired by Black Flag. *Liquor Store* is an exciting thrill-ride of an album, but nothing about it is overly memorable. I was more drawn to the experimental tracks on this record, but if you're looking for fun punk music that concerns itself with nothing but the punk spirit, definitely give this a listen.

-GILLIAN SELLMAN

-JOSH TRAILL

music  
**Brother Ali uses club tour as a chance to reconnect with fans**

**JASON SCHREURS**  
 ASSISTANT EDITOR

Minneapolis-based rapper Brother Ali has spent the past couple of years playing some big-ass festivals: Rock the Bells, Back to Basics, Soundcheck, even headlining the Minnesota State Fair... the man has done it all. But it's his upcoming club tour that he's most excited about, because it's a chance to reconnect with his longtime fans.

"The way I built my career was playing in little clubs with just my fans, having my own shows, and I really miss that," says Ali from his home just days before heading out on the road. "So this tour's just about that; getting back to what made me love this. Those are the moments I appreciate the most: playing for my fans, connecting with my listeners, and just having those experiences with them."

Rapping since he was seven years old and bouncing between schools and cities during his upbringing, Ali has spent his adult life recording a number of acclaimed rap albums, including 2012's *Mourning in America and Dreaming in Color*, never shying away from hard-hitting content like his breakout 2007 track "Uncle Sam Goddamn."

His upcoming North American tour, which he has dubbed the *Home Away from Home Tour*, is all about Ali continuing on with what he's always done: rapping, performing in front of audience, and connecting with his listeners.

"For me, it's never been a choice of, 'Well, am I going to rap, or am I going to go to college? Am I going to rap, or am I going to get a job?' This is just what I've always done, every day since I was young," he says.

The club tour promises to be a solid one, featuring DJ Last Word acting as more of a "musical director" and spinning during the whole lineup, according to Ali. Meanwhile, Ali's Twin Cities cohort and regular tour-mate Mally will act as the host for the evening's festivities, as well as performing his own set. Also on the bill is the upstart California political MC Bambu ("He's a lot more fun than most music that people think of being political," says Ali), who will also act as host for the whole show.

"That's another thing that I do with my tours, and I've never seen another hip-hop artist do this except for The Roots; they used to go on tour and bring all of their friends, and they'd do the band for everybody. So they'd go out with Erykah Badu and Common and they'd play for everybody, so that's kind of where that idea comes from," explains Ali.

Ali says he also goes that extra step to make the night special by writing a tour theme song, which everyone on the bill perform as the show's encore.

"I'm really about putting together a tour package, in the same way that I'm not necessarily a song person; I like making albums," he

"Those are the moments I appreciate the most: playing for my fans, connecting with my listeners, and just having those experiences with them."

**BROTHER ALI**  
 RAPPER

says. "I like it better when you can listen to a whole album, and the same is true with a tour. I like when the whole experience of the night is good, and I like to know that what I'm presenting is going to be great before I even get on the stage."

The club tour is the perfect opportunity to recharge with his people before he heads back to the studio to record his new album.

"Before I make my next album, I just want to remember that connection," he says. "I call this tour *Home Away from Home* because it's kind of like checking back in again with everyone before I make my next album, so I can have that connection with my listeners again."

Brother Ali  
 Thursday, September 25  
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COREY DEWALD

Brother Ali will be writing a new album after his current club tour.

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Age of Geeks

by Vishal Pandey

# The full rundown on the new iPhone 6

It wouldn't be too far off to say that Christmas has come early for Apple fanatics and enthusiasts. In a September 9 event, Apple unveiled the long-awaited next generation of iPhones, which will be Apple's flagship for this year and next (at least until the next iPhone launch). And this time the iPhone is coming in two sizes (no, neither of them is plastic).

**Vital stats**

The iPhone 6 will be launched in many countries on September 19, along with its big brother, the iPhone 6 Plus, which features a larger 5.5" display. Apple plans on making both models available in over 100 countries by the end of this year.

In Canada, pricing for the iPhone 6 will start at \$199 for a 16-gigabyte version on a two-year contract. Apple has done away with the 32-GB version altogether, and

the 64-GB variant will now take the midrange position, with a 128-GB option also now available. Each step up in storage capacity will cost you around \$100 more. As always, pricing and availability may vary slightly from country to country and carrier to carrier.

**Pixel power**

The iPhone 6 features a 4.7" display with a resolution of 1334x750. The pixel count is 326 ppi, which is the same as the iPhone 5s. However, the contrast ratio now sits at 1400:1, which is a drastic improvement over the iPhone 5's ratio of 800:1. The display also packs dual-domain pixels, which allow for wider and better viewing angles.

Both the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus are equipped with Apple A8 64-bit chipsets, which also tout a new M8 motion coprocessor for even better performance than its predecessors. Apple hasn't made

any mention of RAM, so we can assume that it's similar to its predecessor, which was way more than enough for handling any day-to-day multitasking.

Another addition is that iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus both feature built-in NFC functionality that will work seamlessly with Apple's new payment system, Apple Pay. This method combines NFC and Touch ID in order to allow you to make payments with your iPhone across thousands of merchants in the United States.

**iSight delight**

The rear-facing iSight camera in the iPhone 6 has an all-new sensor that should handle everyday photography better than ever. HD video recording and slow-mo video have also gotten boosted to 60 fps and 240 fps, respectively. The front-facing FaceTime camera appears to remain largely unchanged.

Camosun College Student Society columns



Greener's Digest

by Maggie LeBlanc

camosun students for environmental awareness

# CSEA 101

Camosun Students for Environmental Awareness (CSEA) is a not-for-profit organization based out of Camosun College at the Lansdowne Campus.

CSEA focuses on spreading environmental awareness while promoting sustainability on campus and in our local community of Greater Victoria.

We address such issues as over-consumption, waste disposal, water quality, and native species conservation, as well as what can be done to mitigate these concerns.

Camosun College Student Society's Sustainability Director and acting CSEA president Stephanie Hurst and CSEA vice-president Maggie LeBlanc run CSEA along with a team of committed student volunteers.

The group meets biweekly to discuss upcoming events, planned

workshops, and potential sustainability projects on campus and in the community.

Future workshops include soap/body-scrub-making, make-your-own-paper, wild foraging, seed saving, invasive plant extractions, and many, many more.

Our first event is the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up at Craigflower Park on September 28 at 10 am. CSEA will have garbage bags and bins available for volunteers to pick up garbage and help clean our beautiful city. Everyone is encouraged to attend and take part in the movement towards a cleaner, greener Victoria.

For more information on CSEA or to get involved, please contact CSEAcamosun@hotmail.com, or visit us on Facebook at "CSEA—Camosun Students for Environmental Awareness 2014."

## 20 Years Ago In *Nexus* word search

- BATEMAN
- BELFRY
- BUNGY
- CAREY
- COUPON
- CRIME
- HARASSMENT
- HARPOS
- HEEP
- HERSTORY
- HOLISTIC
- HONDA
- INTEGRATION
- LANSDOWNE
- PRESIDENT
- ROXY
- SHIT
- STUDENTS
- URIAH
- WOMEN

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

For this issue's word search, we grabbed a copy of the paper from 20 years ago and grabbed the first 20 words we found. It's partially a fun time capsule (Hi, Harpo's!) and partially a reminder that the more things change...

Bring the completed puzzle in to the *Nexus* office for a prize!

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# NEXUS

## HUMOUR

By Jenna Cotton

Campus Callosus

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College recognizes Chargers student athletes in 20th annual awards ceremony

April 16, 2014 by Jason Schreurs, managing editor (Edit)

Elyse Matthews and Lucas Dellabough came away as co-winners of the President's outstanding achievement in academics and athletics at the recent Camosun Chargers awards ceremony. Matthews, a fourth-year wing on the college's women's basketball team, studies in the environmental technology program this year with a perfect 9.0 [...]

Find web-exclusive stories at [nexusnewspaper.com](http://nexusnewspaper.com)

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**NEXUS**

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## what's going on

by jason schreurs

UNTIL OCTOBER 19

**Belfry opens season**

The Belfry Theatre is opening its 39<sup>th</sup> season with celebrated First Nations writer Tomson Highway's play *The Rez Sisters*. The play, which runs nightly until October 19, features an ensemble cast portraying female First Nations characters and is directed by Peter Hinton. Go to [belfry.bc.ca](http://belfry.bc.ca) for show times and more information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

**Local author Alicia Priest launches new memoir**

Help Victoria-based author and journalist Alicia Priest celebrate the launch of her new memoir, *A Rock Fell on the Moon: Dad and the Great Yukon Silver Ore Heist*. Sounds rad, but we have no idea what that title

could mean, other than exactly what it says. Yes, in fact, the book details the infamous silver heist by Priest's father in the Yukon Territory during the '60s. The book launch takes place at 7:30 pm in the Robert Service Room at the Bard & Banker Public House (1022 Government Street). Go to [munrobooks.com](http://munrobooks.com) for more info on the book and its launch.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

**A tree-hugger's delight**

Obsessed with trees? Or perhaps you have a strange leaf, branch, and trunk fetish? Either way, you'll want to check out UVic's Native Plant Study Group's presentation from steward of the forests, Everett Peterson. The caretaker of the forests surrounding Goward House on Arbutus Road for the past 10 years, Peterson will explain how urban

forests hold the answers to their own health. Sounds fascinating and perhaps slightly titillating? Come on, I know you tree fetishists are out there! The event (keep it clean) costs \$2 for non-members and takes place at 7 pm at UVic's MacLaurin Building in room D116. Go to [npsg.ca](http://npsg.ca) for more info.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

**Confidential salmon**

Come check out *Salmon Confidential*, a new documentary film on what is being called a "government cover up" that's killing BC wild salmon. The film, presented by Victoria friends of Cuba as part of the Social Justice Film Night series, details biologist Alexandra Morton's discovery that BC's salmon are testing positive for viruses associated with salmon farming, information which she

claims is being suppressed by the government. The film takes place at the BCGEU Hall (2995 Douglas St.) at 7 pm and is by donation.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AND

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

**One more wave**

The Pacific Peoples' Partnership (PPP) is hosting the annual One Wave Festival, celebrating and honouring connections to the Pacific while building identity and community. The festival kicks off on Friday with the free Changemakers' Summit at the UVic Cadboro Commons from 1-3:30 pm, including a panel presentation exploring the role of the arts in acts of social transformation. Additional free workshops and performances will take place on the Saturday from 1-6 pm in Centennial Square downtown. Email [info@pacificpeoplespartnership.org](mailto:info@pacificpeoplespartnership.org) for more information.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

**Align your spine**

A series of yoga workshops happening on the Lansdowne campus aims to help participants align their spine and stand strong. Covering posture, inversions, realignment, and adjustments, the workshops should get you feeling less creaky and stiff in no time. Suitable for all levels of yoga students, the small class (maximum 10 people) costs \$35 and takes place in the Lansdowne movement studio in the bottom floor of the Young Building. Call 250-370-3602 to register.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

**Japanese artist speaks on campus**

Hiraki Sawa, a Japanese artist now living in London, England, will speak on campus as part of the Camosun Visual Arts Visiting Artist Lecture Series. Sawa will share his insights into his arts and inspiration during the free event, taking place at 7 pm in Fisher 100, Lansdowne.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

**Puppets! Puppets!**

A Puppets for Peace Ceremony and Parade takes place today, which sounds equally interesting and terrifying. The opening ceremonies take place at 12:30 pm at the Craigdarroch Castle, followed by a parade down to the Government House via Joan Crescent and Rockland Ave. Go to [creativelyunitedfortheplanet.org](http://creativelyunitedfortheplanet.org) for more info.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

**Masta Ace in the house**

Classic Brooklyn rapper Masta Ace hits Victoria's Lucky Bar on Septem-

ber 21 in what should be a fantastic hip-hop show. Also appearing on the bill are New York hip-hop crew eMC, featuring Wordsworth, Stricklin, and Punchline. Pull those baggy pants slightly down over your hips and get down to Lucky, pronto. Tickets are only \$18. Go to [atomiqueproductions.com](http://atomiqueproductions.com) for more info.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

**UVic Environmental roundtable**

Looking for some green-y to do after Wednesday classes? Keynote speaker Frances Litman will do a presentation on community engagement through creative collaboration, and while that seems like a pretty open-ended topic, it also sounds like a good starting point for some lively environmental discussion. Takes place at 5 pm in the Vertigo Room (a.k.a. the former Vertigo Nightclub) in the UVic Student Union Building.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

**Interurban barnyard harvest**

Head over to the Interurban courtyard after classes today and pick up a cold bevvie and some edible eats. The Camosun College Student Society is presenting Barnyard Blowout, a barnyard harvest-themed beverage gardens, to get the semester off to a frothy, tasty start. 11 am to 5 pm (booze from 1 to 5); check out [camosunstudent.org](http://camosunstudent.org) for more info.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

**Big Wreck piles up**

Toronto's Big Wreck is one of those band names I've seen around for years, but really couldn't tell you anything about what they sound like. I always pictured them being like a straight-laced version of Primus, but I have no idea why. It's more likely that they play hard-rockin,' danceable rock, but, again, that's just being pulled right out from my behind. Go find out yourself (or perhaps you're already a fan and are now grumbling at me) at the newly christened Distrikt (formerly Club goney) in the Strathcona Hotel on Douglas. Go to [atomiqueproductions.com](http://atomiqueproductions.com) for more info.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

**Yukon Blonder's solo project in your space**

Jeffery Innes, the frontman of Vancouver indie rock band Yukon Blonde, will be playing in town with Toronto's folk-indie-ensemble The Wooden Sky at Distrikt (formerly Clubgoney) under his new solo project name, High Ends. Point yer clicker to [atomiqueproductions.com](http://atomiqueproductions.com) for more info.



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