

# PROPAGANDHI

How the Winnipeg political punks became Canada's most important band

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## STUDENTS DIVIDED

Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia takes steps to separate from national Canadian Federation of Students organization

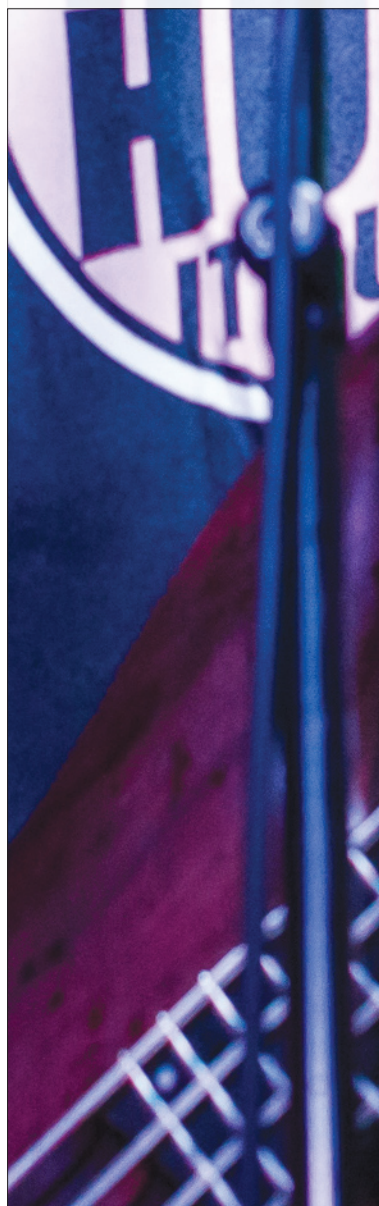
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## LIKE BUTTS IN THE WIND

Charity bungee-jumping event organizers encourage the brave to bare it all

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## BIG-SCREEN BUFFET

Victoria Film Fest returns with movies with a message

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# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "Listening to you talk... it's verbal diarrhea."

COVER PHOTOS: Greg Gallinger

## editor's letter

# The power of music

This issue's feature story, excellently put together by contributing writer Jake Wyatt (see page 6), means a lot to me. I consider music to be one of the most important things in the world, and I consider Propagandhi to be a very important band.

I was blown away when I first heard them in high school. I had no idea a band could sing about Canadian politics in such a way. Their albums, which often contained suggested reading lists, essays, and more information than a typical first-year political science course, opened my eyes to countless issues I hadn't been exposed to.

And, as an added bonus, the music kicked ass. I consider their album *Potemkin City Limits* to be the best punk album of all time. Maybe the best album of all time. There are some days I literally can't even listen to it, it's so perfect. I've had people confess to me that there are songs on that album that bring a tear to their eye; I know the feeling.

I'm happy to be alive during a time when music like this is being made. Propagandhi continue to open my eyes to issues that get swept under the rug; one recent song is about the 1993 Canadian military scandal in Somalia, also known as our country's "national shame."

This, to me, is what music is all about. It makes your heart speed up and it makes your mind race. It can bring about change. I know it changed me; I wouldn't have been reading Noam Chomsky and Howard Zinn as a teenager if not for this band's music and suggested reading lists.

In the words of Propagandhi vocalist/guitarist Chris Hannah, "anyone remember when we used to believe that music was a sacred place and not some fucking bank machine?" I do, and I'm forever grateful for bands like Propagandhi for keeping that spirit alive.

Greg Pratt, managing editor  
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

## flashback

# 25 years ago in Nexus



### Window-man saga continues:

We've been reporting on the strange saga of "the man in the window" for the past few issues here in this column because, apparently, back in 1991 that was a big deal around Camosun. In a nutshell, a cardboard cutout of a man went missing from Camosun's Audio/Visual department. In our February 5, 1991 issue, the story "Man in window for ransom?" detailed a ransom letter that Camosun's A/V department received; demands for the safe return of "Cam Olsun" (the cardboard man) (I am not making this up) involved the college dealing with their parking at the time, which those who kidnapped Olsun saw as a problem. "My main concern is the safe return of Cam," A/V employee Ken Whitehead said in the story. Guess you had to be here in 1991 for any of this to make any sense.

**Sounds familiar:** In the story "Arab-Canadian students harassed by CSIS," the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF) said that Arab-Canadian students involved with anti-war movements were being harassed by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). Apparently, these students were photographed by CSIS during protests; CSIS then circulated their photos to "members of the Arab community" for identification. The story said that in the previous two weeks, the CAF had received complaints from approximately 30 Arab-Canadians about CSIS agents approaching them for information.

**GST opinions:** We talked to a handful of students to get their thoughts on the then-new GST for this issue. Unsurprisingly, reactions were not good. Students thought the tax was "pretty bad," said that "It does bother me," and said that they "have negative thoughts about it." But the best was the stunned tone of writer Chantal Costaz, who wrote, "Consumers walked around on January 1 in awe, paying tax on almost everything they looked at, even a cup of coffee."

## open space

# Valentine's Day just a holiday for business fat cats

TABITHA ROSS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Valentine's Day is a mysterious holiday filled with romantic and heroic stories of a saint of (or in some cases *in*) love, a saint of justice, protesting prison conditions, who passed away after being locked up and falling in love with his jailor's daughter; or a saint who continued to perform marriages in secret after young men were outlawed from marriage, as their emperor feared it would lessen their skills as a soldier.

These stories have little to no evidence to back them up but fall in line with the charismatic lure of grand love overcoming any obstacle. Un-

your significant other to get you a special gift that's made in a huge factory far away and also given to thousands of other customers?

Many people's idea of a personal touch is to buy a mass-produced card and sign their name and maybe a short sentence, if the card's recipient is lucky. But why? This holiday is so far removed from its Pagan and Christian origins and is little more than a holiday celebrating money.

But, of course, I understand its allure. Maybe your significant other has their eye on a special necklace. Maybe you know posies are their favourite flower. Maybe there's an inside joke in that Hallmark card. Maybe a romantic dinner and

## Valentine's Day is little more than a holiday celebrating money.

fortunately, these enchanting stories are no longer relevant to today's capitalist and almost propagandist displays of Valentine's Day.

We often *ooh* and *ahh* at such stories as *Romeo and Juliet* or *Titanic*, but when it comes to showing our modern-day significant other our love, it comes down to an average of \$142.31, give or take a few flowers. And businesses like Hallmark, Hershey's, and Tiffany & Co. spend big bucks convincing consumers to buy their products.

The two people most accountable for Valentine's Day were both entrepreneurs. Richard Cadbury had the original idea of selling chocolate in a heart-shaped box for Valentine's Day. Esther Howland was an artist who made Valentine's Day a mass-celebrated holiday in America through her well-known and very popular cards.

While it's an exciting and intriguing holiday for anyone who is keen on marketing, business, and finance statistics, I must ask this: is this what we chalk love up to nowadays? A big company convincing

flowers and chocolates are a special way for you to show your love on this romantic holiday. And you don't want to risk being dumped over a lack of a gift, do you?

Well, you need to consider if someone who would dump you over that is someone you really want to be with. What happened to unconditional love? Does this mean you'll have to stress over what to get that someone every year, desperately asking Google, aimlessly wandering malls hoping you spent enough to make them happy? Maybe instead you should date someone for whom Valentine's Day will mean baking heart-shaped cookies together and giving each other personal effects such as a handmade painting, a childhood stuffie, or a photo album.

There are a lot of other, better ways to prove your love than spending loads of cash. Break the norm; try creating a more indie Valentine's Day vibe. Try getting your sweetheart a gift without a "made in China" sticker tucked away under a price tag.

## correction

A version of "One door for all" (January 20, 2016 issue) that was still being edited was erroneously published online; it identified Camosun student Luka Hilchey as being transgender, which Hilchey did not say to *Nexus* during our interview. We apologize for the mistake.

# SPEAK UP

How would you feel about gender-neutral bathrooms coming to Camosun?

BY ADAM MARSH



### REBECCA WAINES

"I think we should have a men's bathroom, a women's bathroom, and a gender-neutral bathroom. That way, you would make everybody comfortable."



### TOM JOHNSTON

"If there was one it wouldn't affect me, so either way is fine."



### DANA SIMPSON

"I think however people feel most comfortable is the right way to do it. I'm absolutely for it."



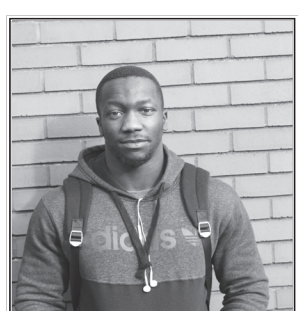
### RYA PESTI

"It's something I haven't seen before, so it's interesting. I'm not against it."



### RICHARD WITTING

"I don't really have an opinion against it."

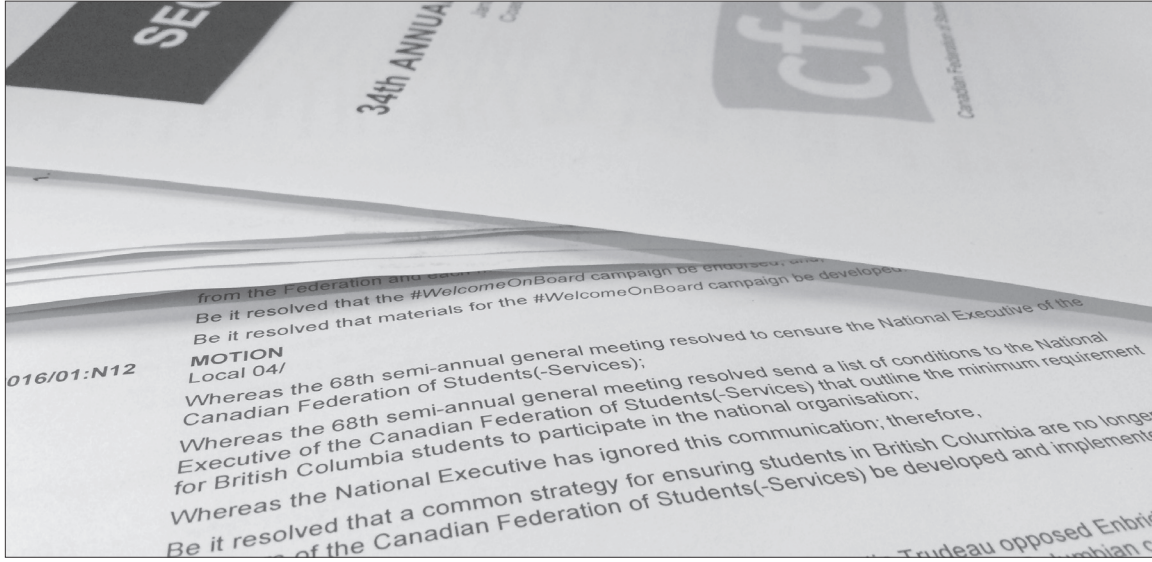


### MOHAMMED ALMOWALD

"I think it's fine. I'm really comfortable with it."

student movement

## Motions to separate from national Canadian Federation of Students organization pass at Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia meeting



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

The agenda for the recent Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia annual general meeting.

### PASCAL ARCHIBALD

STUDENT EDITOR

Three motions were passed during the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia (CFS-BC)'s 34th annual general meeting that indicate the beginnings of separation from the national Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) organization.

The relationship between BC member groups and the national CFS organization has been strained due to allegations of corruption in the national organization as well as issues surrounding communication, transparency, and services delivered from the national organization, which have been covered in previous *Nexus* stories.

"Three motions of consequence were passed," says Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) executive director Michel Turcotte about the CFS-BC meeting, which was held from January 14 to 17. "One to change the name to BC Federation of Students; another motion to end the duality of membership [so Camosun students would not be required to be members of both national and provincial organizations, as they are now]; and the third motion that was passed actually related to developing a strategy to separate the organizations."

The strategy of how to separate was not decided on but will

be discussed at the next executive committee meeting, which CFS-BC—a separate legal entity from CFS—hopes to hold by March.

"If you follow the bylaws of the organizations, the only way to get out of the Canadian Federation of Students is to have a referendum, and there can only be two referendums a year," says Turcotte. "The unusual thing in our case is that it is not very common to have a whole component who wishes to leave." (In the past, individual schools have fought to leave the CFS; this time, it's an entire province.)

A referendum would take a very long time as an exit strategy, according to CCSS external executive Andrea Eggenberger.

"There are 14 schools in BC that are federated [with the national CFS organization]; generally, if you are going to leave the federation, you would file a special referendum," says Eggenberger. "Only two can leave at a time per [CFS national] meeting, but we have 14 schools, so that would leave some schools waiting for seven years."

Turcotte says that BC members attempted to mend relations with CFS during the summer, but says that the letter that was sent was not responded to. (CFS did not return our request to comment on this by deadline.)

"In August, there was a motion

outlining the grievances that CFS-BC had with CFS national," says Turcotte. "A letter was sent out, outlining those grievances and, essentially, requirements for BC's full participation in the Canadian Federation of Students, and that was not responded to."

CFS national chairperson Bilan Arte declined a phone interview to discuss specific details but did provide *Nexus* with a statement via email.

"Students at member locals in British Columbia continue to be members of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)," says Arte, "and the national organization remains committed to serving its members through effective campaigns, services, and lobbying efforts. Our movement relies on democratic principles of decision-making, from referendums on membership in the federation to the floor of national meetings. This spirit of member-driven decision-making and our governing documents remains a standard that we expect to be respected by organizers in British Columbia."

"I look forward to Camosun students expressing their voice through national campaigns and lobbying efforts to reduce tuition fees," Arte continues, adding that students can attend an upcoming CFS Indigenous student experience

"The discussions that we are having seem to be pretty clear to members here that both organizations are kind of going in different directions and with different priorities."

**SIMKA MARSHALL**  
CANADIAN FEDERATION  
OF STUDENTS-BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

summit to "see how they can continue to benefit from and contribute to Canada's student movement."

CFS-BC chairperson Simka Marshall attributes the divide between the organizations to a difference in focus. (Marshall clarifies that the organization is still operating under the CFS-BC name but are in the process of changing it.)

"I think the discussions that we are having seem to be pretty clear to members here that both organizations are kind of going in different directions and with different priorities," says Marshall. "So folks in BC felt that this was just the next step of action to take to ensure we keep doing the positive campaign work here in BC."

CFS-BC also claims that they pay fees to CFS for services that are no longer used, such as the national help line for students, the handbook project, the bulk-buying consortium, and web services.

"Most locals in British Columbia have moved away from the national service model," says Turcotte. "In addition, locals in British Columbia haven't been part of any national campaign or anything of that nature since this conflict began in October of 2014. So I wouldn't say we are getting any national support."

There's also concern that CFS hasn't been consistent in their financial transparency, says Eggenberger.

"All these financial documents and state balances are supposed to be available to provincial representatives so that they can disseminate that information to any locals who are curious," says Eggenberger. "But there hasn't been proper communication, so requests from the BC representative for information are met with delayed responses or just no response at all. This has been going on for almost a year." (CFS did not return our request to comment on this before deadline.)

Turcotte says that the student fees for one provincial organization would remain as they are now for membership in both provincial and national organizations.

"The idea of the motion is to essentially transition people into only having that single British Columbia fee, which would be the amount that local members currently pay for both parts of the CFS," says Turcotte. "That would probably enlarge the infrastructure of the BC organization because you'd have more financial resources and you'd be taking over some of those functions currently done by national."

Marshall admits it will be a lot of work but says the provincial organization hopes to improve on services they already provide students.

"We will be able to really focus our campaign work for BC students and continue providing high-quality services to students here as well," she says.

Eggenberger says that the most important thing students in this country have is solidarity.

"All we have is our numbers, which is our power," says Eggenberger. "We have a strength in numbers, and standing together we make a very loud voice; that is a very powerful thing that can effect change in the country. But if we let small disagreements divide us, the CFS crumbles as an organization. That's what we've been seeing; that's what we've experienced. There have been attempts to heal this breach, but nothing has been fixed at this point so we are looking at separation."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Camosun to host championships

Camosun College will be hosting the 2017 Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) Women's Volleyball National Championship. The championships will take place at the Camosun Chargers' home base, the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence at the Interurban campus, from March 8 to 11, 2017. Visit [camosun.ca/sports/chargers](http://camosun.ca/sports/chargers) for more information on the Camosun Chargers, including a rundown of all recent game results.

### Fletcher joins college board of governors

Stefan Fletcher was appointed to the Camosun College board of governors on December 17, 2015. He has worked as a physiotherapist

in Victoria for over 25 years and is the co-founder of RebalanceMD. His term is expected to run until December 31, 2016.

### Divest UVic pressures board of governors

Divest UVic held a protest at the University of Victoria's board of governors meeting on January 26. They were attempting to convince the board of governors to hold a yes-or-no vote on whether the institution will continue to support the fossil-fuel industry. According to Divest UVic, 50 students protested, but the board members didn't engage with them. This led the group to believe that UVic will continue to support the industry, which it does through investments, according to a Divest UVic press release.

### Vancouver Community College to raise fees

According to the Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, the institution plans to increase tuition fees for some programs by more than \$1,000. Tuition fees have increased every year for 14 years at the college and student debt has hit new record highs, according to a press release from the student union.

### Contest focuses on anxiety awareness

AnxietyBC's third annual writing and multimedia contest is accepting creative works from now until March 31. The contest encourages BC youth and young adults (aged 17 to 29) to create short stories, essays, poems, photo-

graphs, fine art, or videos that focus on the experience of anxiety. The winners will receive up to \$500 and have their work published on AnxietyBC's website and social-media channels. To find out more, visit [anxietybc.com](http://anxietybc.com).

### Courage nominations

The Courage to Come Back Awards, presented by Coast Mental Health, celebrate British Columbians who have overcome adversity or illness and who inspire and give to others. If you know someone you admire or who has inspired you, nominate them and share their story with others. To submit a nomination and to find out more, visit [coastmentalhealth.com](http://coastmentalhealth.com). Deadline for submissions is February 12.

### BC Transit tests security equipment

On Monday, January 11, BC Transit began testing additional security equipment as part of a one-year pilot project that will conclude in April. Activation of two external side-mounted cameras and limited audio recording in and around the transit operator's compartment is being tested on 13 buses in the Victoria fleet. According to BC Transit, over 340 security and safety incidents have benefited from the use of the security camera pilot project. For more information, visit [bctransit.com](http://bctransit.com).

—PASCAL ARCHIBALD

Got a news tip for us? Email [editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com).

student club

## New Camosun club helps women in engineering gain confidence



CAMOSUN COLLEGE AUDIO/VISUAL SERVICES

Valerie Shearsmith of the Interurban Women in Engineering student club.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun College has a new student club for women in engineering.

Second-year Civil Engineering Technology student Valerie Shearsmith says she started the Interurban Women in Engineering club—which Shearsmith says aims to instill “confidence and assertive-

ness to women”—after personal experiences of feeling intimidated in the industry.

“Sometimes, in my experience, I’ve been the only female in the engineering firm, and that’s a hard position to be in, especially if you’re timid,” says Shearsmith, who worked in the industry for nine years as a drafter. “So I’d like

to prepare these girls so they’re able to stand out when they get into the work force.”

Shearsmith says the club meetings consist of lectures from motivational speakers who have worked at engineering firms and have first-hand experience with being outnumbered.

“I’ve met a lot of great women who are capable of a whole lot of things, and they have encouraged me,” says Shearsmith. “Now I don’t have to be scared of being in a management position. I mean, those ladies took it on and they do really great work, and they’re respected.”

Shearsmith says the most rewarding part of the club is watching her fellow classmates gain confidence. There is even someone in the group who specializes in executive coaching and leadership decisions, she says.

“When I see a girl in the classroom setting who is one of those ones who has a hard time stating their own opinion when another member is quite sure in their opinion, I just say, ‘You know what? Go for it. Because your thoughts matter.’ So when I see these girls and how thankful they are that they have a club like this, it’s great.”

When Shearsmith first started out as an engineer in a small town, she began going on site as an inspector with construction foremen.

“I was telling them, ‘Okay, you need to add nails here, you need to put in a pad here.’ So imagine a girl

“Sometimes, I’ve been the only female in the engineering firm, and that’s a hard position to be in, especially if you’re timid.”

**VALERIE SHEARSMITH**  
CAMOSUN INTERURBAN  
WOMEN IN ENGINEERING  
CLUB

of 20 telling a 60-year-old foreman, basically, how to do their job.”

Since then, others have followed in her path.

“From what I hear,” says Shearsmith, “this year was a record for women being enrolled in Civil Engineering Technology. Right now, we have about eight women to 30 guys in the program. We really need a lot of confident ladies in the industry, because we’re a minority right now.”

Zoe Brown, chair of Civil Engineering Technology at Camosun, says that she’s not sure if it’s a record year but says that enrolment exceeds past averages.

“The five-year average enrolment of women in the Civil Tech program is 13 percent,” says Brown. “We currently have 17 percent women in Year 1 and 22 percent women in Year 2.”

Shearsmith would like to see women get more opportunities to be in management positions.

“The people that I’ve met as I’ve progressed in the industry have given me confidence that there’s a lot of potential out there,” she says.

Ayla DeFoor, also a second-year Civil Engineering Technology student, says she has noticed an increased sense of camaraderie with her classmates since Shearsmith founded the club. She says that for her it’s less about gender equality and more about treating all humans with a fundamental level of compassion.

“I don’t want to necessarily see ‘gender equality,’” says DeFoor. “I’d rather see human equality. I really hate to admit that I’ve experienced a little bit of sexism in the industry; it’s sort of hard to believe that, but it is there. I’m really looking forward to working in a place where my gender is not an issue.”

DeFoor says the next place she works will be determined by the feeling of equality that she perceives in the office. She thinks the club is helping its members prepare for being involved in the industry.

“Val is doing such a great job preparing us,” says DeFoor. “I think it’s a really great service she’s doing us.”

All Interurban Women in Engineering meetings consist of guest lectures and take place at Interurban on Fridays in the Technologies Building.

Find the club on Facebook (search for CI Women in Engineering) or email [vsdesignanddraft@hotmail.com](mailto:vsdesignanddraft@hotmail.com) to stay updated.

know your profs

## Camosun writing prof Jasmine North becomes other and marvels at community

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT 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](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com) and we’ll add your instructor to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we talked to Camosun writing professor Jasmine North about becoming other, pronouncing vowels, and our collective existence.

**1. What do you teach and how long have you been at Camosun?**

I’ve been teaching at Camosun since the summer of 2010. I teach composition, literature, and technical writing classes.

**2. What do you personally get out of teaching?**

I enjoy witnessing and participating in the process of “becoming other,” which is a concept developed by Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari

in *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. Basically, if the concept is related to the classroom, each new class is composed of a multiplicity of different people whose way of seeing the world is a result of different family, cultural, and educational backgrounds. The classroom becomes an assemblage of people from all different walks of life, and as a result of the convergence of these different worldviews each person in the class, including myself, learns something new and begins to see the world in a slightly different way.

**3. What’s one thing you wish your students knew about you?**

I wish they knew how hard I have worked to get to where I am and how hard I continue to work to try to give them the tools they need to succeed as well.

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

I wish that I could pronounce every word properly. I have trouble with vowel sounds and order; I was made fun of in high school (and beyond) because of the way I pronounced “ambulance.” I think I have it right now, but I can’t actually tell because I can’t seem to hear the difference.

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

I feel like I have become a part of an amazing community that is united by its desire to provide the knowledge and skills required to better our collective existence.

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

I recently worked extremely hard to design a new online course. Teaching online is a completely different process, and despite the fact that I spent a huge amount of time trying to create a course that I thought was accessible and interesting, I wasn’t able to create the same kind of connection or rapport that I have been able to create in a face-to-face setting with students. I have learned, over the last six years, that despite my best intentions it’s actually not possible to give every single student exactly what they want in terms of the type of information they are seeking or the method of delivery by which they receive that information.

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

My biggest concern is the cost of education. It can be difficult to



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun College’s Jasmine North enjoying a quiet moment.

promote learning when you know, based on your own experience, that education is expensive. Student loans are great because they provide access to education, but they do build up rather quickly, and paying them back, with interest, is a significant burden.

**8. What do you do to relax on the weekends?**

In the winter, I like to read by the fireplace. In the summer, when I have more time, I like to garden and paint.

**9. What is your favourite meal?**  
That’s a hard question because

I have more than one answer! If I’m cooking, Maui beef strips from the Red Barn Market with perogies fried in olive oil and green beans sautéed in butter and garlic. If my partner is cooking, I think my favourite dish is seafood pasta (angel hair pasta with crab, scallops, and shrimp). But he is a fantastic cook, so I like pretty much everything he makes.

**10. What’s your biggest pet peeve?**

When there is an accident on the highway and none of the people on the road have enough sense to clear a pathway for the emergency vehicles.

fundraising

# Bungy Jump for a Cause strips stigma, clothes for charity

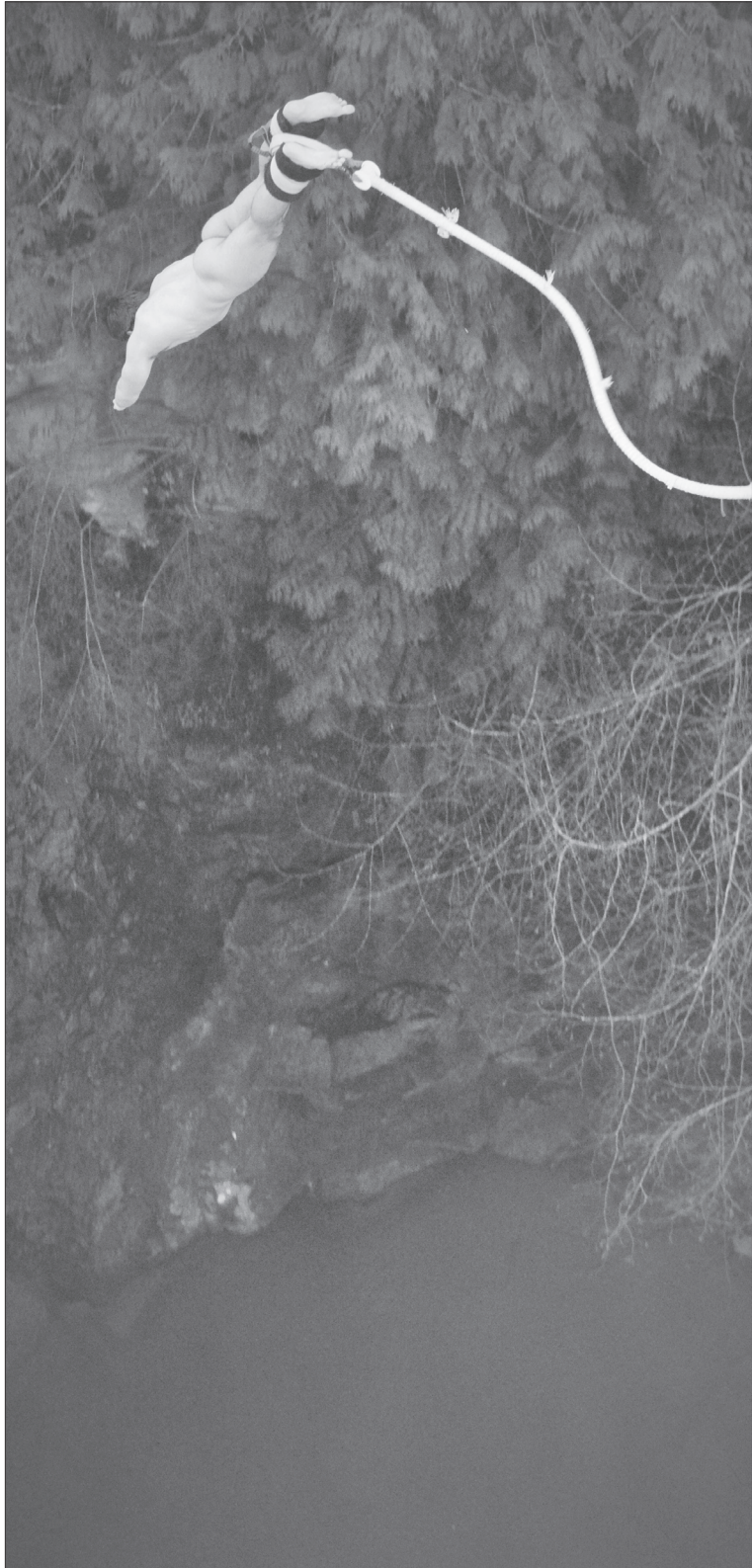
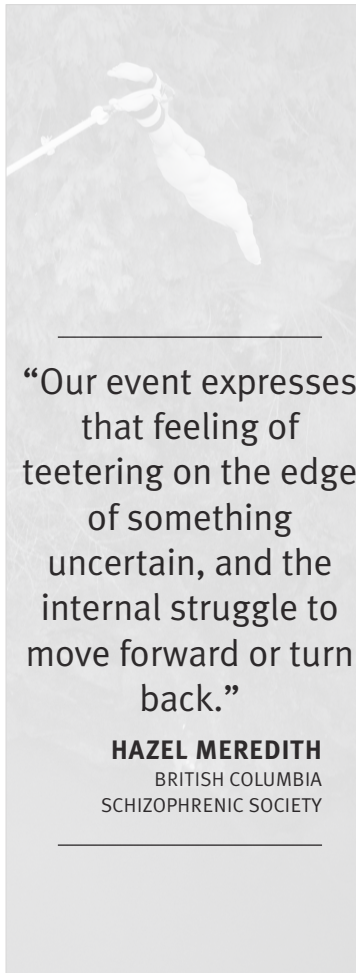


PHOTO PROVIDED

A participant at last year's event takes a plunge in their birthday suit.



“Our event expresses that feeling of teetering on the edge of something uncertain, and the internal struggle to move forward or turn back.”

**HAZEL MEREDITH**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
SCHIZOPHRENIC SOCIETY

**ORIANA SMY**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“I’m terrified and nervous and excited all at the same time,” says Emma De Vynck, who is doing her University of Victoria Social Work practicum through the British Columbia Schizophrenic Society (BCSS).

De Vynck will be one of 160 people jumping naked in the 10th annual Bungy Jump for a Cause fundraising event, which is put on by the BCSS at WildPlay Element Parks in Nanaimo.

“Jumping in the nude addresses that social discomfort with nudity, which is not unlike the social

discomfort around mental illness,” says De Vynck.

The BCSS hopes to strip back the stigma related to mental illness by having people strip off their clothing and take the 150-foot leap of faith into the Nanaimo River.

“Mental illness is a shocking experience that forces people to face the unknown,” says BCSS Victoria branch executive director Hazel Meredith. “Our event expresses that feeling of teetering on the edge of something uncertain, and the internal struggle to move forward or turn back.”

Not all participants are required to jump in the nude; everyone has the option to wear clothing if preferred, but it comes with a price. The cost to participate in the nude is \$55; with clothes on it’s \$129.99. BCSS is offering participants who raise \$200 or more for the cause to jump for free, clothed or not. According to BCSS, all funds up to \$25,000 collected before the event will be matched by a long-standing anonymous donor.

“This event expresses the importance of having a lifeline, whether it is a cord tied to your ankles or the services of the BCSS,” Meredith adds.

Like many organizations in the non-profit sector, the BCSS, which offers services to those affected by mental illness, faces funding instability. Simultaneously, the organization has a need for more resources.

“We see many people on limited incomes,” says Meredith. “We fundraise throughout the year to be able to run our services. It is a challenge spending a lot of our time fundraising when we know we can better spend our time offering hope and help directly to people facing mental-health challenges.”

One area that requires a lot of

funding for BCSS’s Victoria branch is the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP). Approximately \$2,500 is required to run one of these action plans. Roughly 12 to 15 people will be granted this prevention tool to aid in their personal recovery.

“The funds raised from this event will go toward helping people find a reason to be hopeful and be inspired to take the next steps forward in their recovery,” says Meredith. “For many, the BCSS is a first step to believing in themselves and considering their future.”

According to the BCSS, mental illness affects one in five people (that number is larger when taking into account affected family and friends). Schizophrenia alone affects one in 100 people in Canada, according to the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Meredith says that this community-oriented event will remind those affected by mental illness that support is available and recovery is possible. To date, over 1,500 participants have taken the naked plunge and raised over \$116,875, which has enabled the BCSS to help an estimated 23,000 people in need of support.

“We need to show people affected by schizophrenia or other mental-health issues that they deserve our support, and that it is available to them,” says Meredith. “Recovery is possible, but it takes the support of a caring community.”

The BCSS encourages spectators for this dare-to-bare event, which will also have a fire pit, hot dogs, and s’mores.

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Kevin Light Photography

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# Three decades of Propagandhi

## Prairie punks prove that music still matters

Story by Jake Wyatt, contributing writer

Photos by Greg Gallinger



Propagandhi guitarist/vocalist Chris Hannah and drummer Jord Samolesky.

### SOMETHING TO SAY

Few bands combine political thought with a poetic touch like Propagandhi. Here's a sampling of some of the band's finest refrains.

"Sometimes the ties that bind are strange: no justice shines upon the cemetery plots marked Hampton, Weaver or Anna-Mae, where Federal Bureaus and Fraternal Orders have cast their shadows; permanent features built into these borders. But undercover of the customary gap we find between history and truth, the founding fathers bask in the rocket's blinding red glare."

From "Today's Empires, Tomorrow's Ashes"

"Success: the ability to perform within a framework of obedience. Just ask the candy-coated Joy-Cam rock bands selling shoes for venture capitalists, silencing competing messages, rounding off the jagged edges."

From "Back to the Motor League"

"But how can one man ever repay a debt so appalling? Can't gouge 10,000 eyes from a single head so I think we should observe a sentence that will serve to satisfy both a sense of function and poetry: so you will spend the rest of your days drenched in sweat, with your face drawn in a rictus of terror as you remove another buried land mine fuse. Meanwhile, 100 yards back behind the sandbags, a legless foreman pulls the trigger on a red megaphone. Squelching feedback. Drunken laughter. Broken English. His dead daughter's picture. Time and tide, no one can anticipate the inevitable waves of change."

From "Iteration"

After a 20-plus-year absence, Canadian political punk legends Propagandhi are returning to Victoria. Embarking on a tour of western Canada while crafting new material for their seventh full-length album, the Winnipeg band, who got together in 1986, will be returning to Vancouver Island for a show at Sugar on Sunday, February 7.

Naturally, the return of one of the dominant icons in Canadian music has many local musicians and fans giddy with excitement. You'd be hard-pressed to find someone involved in the Canadian alternative music scene who is unfamiliar with Propagandhi. The group's ferocious yet passionately melodic instrumental work, combined with their politically charged and intransigent lyrics, have placed them in an echelon all of their own.

And you don't have to look too far around Camosun to find those willing to sing their praises. Current *Nexus* managing editor Greg Pratt is always happy to go on at length about them (see his editor's letter on page 2), and former *Nexus* managing editor Jason Schreurs, now publisher and editor of Powell River-based Peak Publishing, is also a big supporter of Propagandhi.



Sulynn Hago joined the band last year.

"Propagandhi are a life-changing band whose importance to not only Canadian punk rock but Canadian music in general cannot be overstated," says Schreurs. "They are probably the most important punk band of our generation."

That importance has been built through years of hard work and dedication to their craft. While Propagandhi originated as a skate-punk group, with their first album, 1993's *How to Clean Everything*, featuring a novelty Cheap Trick cover ("I Want You to Want Me") and a furious assault on the sensibilities of ska through another joke song, their delivery has improved greatly, which is why they've achieved a rabid following and much critical acclaim.

"The thing about Propagandhi," continues Schreurs, "is with the goofy name and the notoriety of their first album, many music fans have just written them off as some tongue-wagging pop-punk band, when in fact they have progressed unbelievably over their past few albums into an amazingly talented bunch of musicians. A lot of punk fans don't even know they have more than two or three albums, and that's a shame."

### FEEL THE RAGE

The band's impact can certainly be felt nowadays, although it's sometimes in the strangest places. For example, Propagandhi guitarist/vocalist Chris Hannah and bassist/vocalist Todd Kowalski have provided guest work with Canadian prog-metal titans Protest the Hero, who are always happy to talk about Propagandhi's

importance. In addition to their musical impact, the band has achieved a status that transcends their musical endeavours.

Hannah was once voted the second-most-hated Canadian by historical magazine *Beaver* (now called *Canada's History*). He was narrowly edged out of this prestigious title by polarizing Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau but surpassed controversial Canucks Stephen Harper and Paul Bernardo.

"On a whim I submitted my name and encouraged people to vote for me," says Hannah. "Due to the power of the internet, I almost won the whole thing. And I think they were not impressed that that happened."

Being named a more notorious singer than Céline Dion, who finished seventh on the list, is a point of pride for Hannah, as it would be for many red-blooded Canadians. While Hannah's place on the notoriety list is facetious in nature, he says there are certainly those out there who aren't the most amicable toward the band. Early Propagandhi shows were infamous for their volatile nature, with Nazi skinheads often coming to start trouble due to the band's active stance against racism.

"Back in the day, starting fights was the purpose of the show for a certain bunch of people, particularly skinheads, who want to just dominate the place," says Hannah. "That was par for the course depending on the town. LA was bad; Winnipeg had a bit of that going on. Places like Fresno, Bakersfield, Birmingham, and Alabama all had the same kind of vibe."

Kowalski also remembers the incendiary nature of the old shows. However, the crowds have lightened up in recent years, he says. Whether that's due to skinheads finding a new target, the change in venues, or the maturation of the crowd, Kowalski is just glad people are now showing up to enjoy the music.

"I don't like being around lame people," says Kowalski. "There haven't been too many goofs coming out to shows now. I don't know if it's because everyone's older and smarter or what. Maybe it's just the type of venues; they're not just little community halls where every little drunk goof shows up. It's usually decent shows with good people. We don't even tend to have many fights or anything. Maybe dumb people don't care anymore."

Hannah also notes that the crowds and shows have become more secure in recent years. While he's pleased that he can just focus on the music, part of him also misses the excitement and furor that came with the older gigs.

"It's not like the old days," he admits. "In the old days it was insane. Everywhere you went there were skinheads. The shows were just generally more disorderly, sometimes in an exciting way, sometimes in a dangerous way. They're really isolated incidents now, as opposed to the norm, which I guess I like, but I kind of miss it a little bit."

### A MUSICAL JOURNEY

The group's musical evolution is an inverse of the chaotic-to-calm evolution of their live shows. Hannah admits that Propagandhi's debut is not his proudest moment.

"*How to Clean Everything* is just so goofy in some of those songs," he says. "We were doing what Mike wanted because Mike was paying for this record. We put the Cheap Trick cover on there; I wish we didn't do it but we did." (Mike Burkett is better known as Fat Mike, the frontman of NOFX and co-founder of Fat Wreck Chords, the label that Propagandhi released their first four albums on. Burkett has said that it was the Cheap Trick cover that sold him on Propagandhi; on the band's last album with Fat Wreck Chords, 2005's *Potemkin City Limits*, Propagandhi called out Burkett on his business practices and political leanings in the song "Rock for Sustainable Capitalism.")

Hannah's gripes with their debut stem mostly from its delivery but also from the point of time it reflects.

# Propagandhi

"It's a bunch of songs written as a teenager," he says. "If people imagine having to show everybody the poetry or diary they wrote in their teenage years to everybody, there you go. That's how it feels."

As the years have progressed, Propagandhi have emerged from their skate-punk chrysalis into a melodic-hardcore force to be reckoned with. Their latest two releases, *Supporting Caste* and *Failed States*, are much more focused, fervent, and ferocious records that display their growth as musicians.

"I think we've just gotten incrementally better at our instruments as the years have gone by," says Hannah. "When we first started the band, we had bigger visions of sounding more like a melodic punk band, but we wanted it to be more metallic and have more elements of Kreator and Sacrifice in it. But we just weren't there, particularly me. I wasn't a good enough guitar player and I couldn't sing like any of those guys, so we defaulted more to the melodic punk stuff. As the years went by we got a little bit better and were able to achieve the vision we had for the band more successfully."

Kowalski attributes the success of their later records to the chaotic nature of the music.

"I think we're all over the place," he says. "We don't have any limits or rules. We get in there and there are a couple little curveballs this time around. We generally have a lot of riffing and heaviness going on. Because it's fun, you know?"

## A LYRICAL JOURNEY

While the band's music is a key component of their success, they wouldn't be the punk legends they are today without their politically charged, inflammatory-yet-introspective lyrics (samples of which can be found on these very pages). Guitarist Sulynn Hago joined the band in September of last year; she was chosen from hundreds of applicants. Hago describes Propagandhi's lyrical impact on her before she joined the group in the same way one would talk about a great novel or moving film.

"It makes you think," she says about the band's lyrics. "When you have such powerful messages, it can inspire you like you've just read a good book or watched a moving film. It's almost like they're sitting down and having a conversation with you through the song."

Hago also notes how Propagandhi's music has the ability to reflect the cultural landscape of its era.

"It's a little bit of a timestamp, but not in a bad way," she says. "It has this aspect of, 'Hey, I know exactly when this was written.' It's just genuine. Whether it's social commentary or pop culture, nothing about this band seems forced."

Hago has big shoes to fill, as she is replacing former guitarist David "The Beaver" Guillas, who left the band to pursue a career as a teacher. While it is always tough to see a band member leave, Propagandhi have been nothing but pleased with their new shredder so far.

"She has an unbridled musical enthusiasm," says Hannah, "and a drive to learn, and she was different. She's from a different place [Florida], has a different background, and she has a different set of influences than we have, musically. She has an energy that's contagious, and it's really fun to see her up there rocking out."

Kowalski is also pleased with finding a new bandmate who has managed to integrate so successfully.

"So far it's worked out awesome," he says. "She really has this creative spirit, the same spirit I enjoy, which is just rocking as hard as she can and being as creative as possible. If she lived in Winnipeg it would be perfect, but she lives in Florida, so it's a little more difficult. But she's easygoing; she's fun to be around."

The process to find a new guitarist was an ar-

duous one, according to Hannah, but they believe the work they put in to making the right selection has paid off.

"The process was a nightmare. We didn't anticipate having 500 people throw their names in the hat. We just wanted to do due diligence for the whole process," he says. "So far it's been great. For once in our lives we made the right choice."

Hago is very excited to have joined the band. As a childhood fan of Propagandhi, she was ecstatic to learn she was chosen for the job and is ready to show the world just what she can do.

"I was in New York at the time," she says of when she found out, "and it still doesn't even seem real. Even though I've already played four shows with the guys and jammed with them, it's nothing I could have mapped out in my head happening. If I were to go back in time and tell my 14-year-old self I would be playing in Propagandhi, I wouldn't have believed it."



Bassist/vocalist Todd Kowalski.

Whether she believes it or not, Hago certainly has the credentials to play with the big guns like Propagandhi. An established punk rocker in her hometown of Tampa, in way she's been preparing her whole life for this gig.

"I've just played in a lot of bands for the past ten years," she says. "Basically my whole life has been trying to find a solid unit. From a guitarist's standpoint, being in Propagandhi is perfect for my tastes, as they've got this punk aesthetic in terms of the crowd and the values and content, but as far as a guitarist's standpoint, I love the riffs, I love the heaviness."

And what about that aforementioned seventh album? The band is known for taking long gaps between records; their last album, *Failed States*, came out in 2012. Hannah says Propagandhi are in the midst of preparing material for a new full-length.

"We're taking it as it goes," he says. "If you ask me, I want to be recording this summer, but I'm not sure how realistic the other guys think that is. We have so much material, but we have to hammer it all together. The hardest part is the last 25 percent of writing; that takes the longest. So I'm gunning for sometime this year to be in the studio making the record."

Even with the departure of one guitarist and the addition of another, and being in the midst of writing a new album, they're still excited about going on tour and playing some shows for fans, new and old.

"We're looking forward to finally getting back to Victoria and playing again," says Hannah.

And Victoria fans, who have been waiting for over 20 years for the band to return here, are just as excited as the band is. Some are even travelling to Vancouver to catch the band's two nights there.

"I'm going to all three of their BC shows," says former *Nexus* editor Schreurs, "and I could die happy after that."

"Dear Ron MacLean. Dear Coach's Corner. I'm writing in order for someone to explain to my niece the distinction between these mandatory pre-game group rites of submission and the rallies at Nuremburg. Specifically, the function the ritual serves in conjunction with what everybody knows is in the end a kid's game."

From "Dear Coach's Corner"

"In the shadows of Santa Cruz, she crossed her fingers behind her back. Built Suharto a Trojan horse and lay still 'til the motherfucker sent her north, where as night fell she emerged with a box under her arm that held her pledge of allegiance and her uniform. She laid it at the gates of the General's embassy and her whisper echoed into dawn as she disappeared: *The truth will set my people free.*"

From "Mate Ka Moris Ukun Rasik An"

"'Post-vegetarian'? I must submit to you, respectfully: be careful what kind of world you wish for. Someday it may come knocking on your door."

From "Human(e) Meat (The Flensing of Sandor Katz)"

"Better lives have been lived in the margins, locked in the prisons and lost on the gallows than have ever been enshrined in palaces."

From "Purina Hall of Fame"

"'Publicly subsidized! Privately profitable!' The anthem of the upper tier, puppeteer untouchable. We focus a moment, nod in approval, bury our heads back in the barcodes of these neo-colonials."

From "...And We Thought that Nation-States Were a Bad Idea"

"Don't forget to thank those bitter ex-musicians-cum-embedded-rock-journalists frantically applauding the latest artist-formerly-known-as iconoclast, giddy from the fumes of a fresh defection, moping to the maudlin beat of a hat rack rhythm section, a tacit understanding of mutual non-aggression enjoyed by every nauseating do-nothing functionary. Really, it's not so much the incessant ruse of assigning profound meaning to the meaningless curios you decorate your sets with in your extraordinarily mundane fictions. It's the (colossal) arrogance of the subtext: the province of human affairs is a field best left to dilettantes with an extraordinary gift for feigning of paralysis. For saying nothing at all. For daydreams of black tie affairs at Rideau Hall."

From "Fedallah's Hearse"

"Here in the few remaining moments we have left, just what do you propose we say in our defence? That much was decided before any one of us were born?... I guess it's just common sense to preach what ought to be, but ensure it never is in the present tense."

From "Last Will and Testament"

movies

## Victoria Film Festival tackles comedy, drama, and more

JAYDEN GRIEVE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Victoria Film Festival is back for its 22nd year of screening films for local audiences. The festival has a very large and comprehensive line-up of movies; Victoria Film Festival communications coordinator Fulya Ozkul says that no matter who you are, you're sure to find something you'll love.

"You can expect 150 films over ten days, with a variety of short and long films from all over Canada and the world," says Ozkul. "There's something for everyone, really."

Although there may be similarities in the festival's line-up from year to year, the films shown are always very different; Ozkul says it's hard to know what to expect. She explains that Victoria has such a varied audience that everything from Canadian to American to foreign films has a chance to do well.

"You kind of have an idea of what will sell well right off the bat, but it is always kind of interesting," Ozkul explains. "Victoria is a different kind of demographic and a different kind of market than Vancouver or Toronto, and people in Victoria really like all the diverse stuff."

One of the films that will be playing is *Sandwich Nazi*, a Vancouver-based documentary about deli owner Salam Kahil that follows his everyday comedic antics in the deli and delves deeper into his charity work and backstory (and is not related to the *Seinfeld* episode the doc takes its name from).

"I find it really interesting because there are all these people who we come across in our everyday lives who we don't know anything about, and this is just one story of many," Ozkul says. "It's really nice to see the different sides of this average man."

*Sandwich Nazi* director Lewis Bennett explains that they screened a shorter version of the film at the Victoria Film Festival in 2012,

"Schizophrenia is still really stigmatized. All the media coverage revolves around portraying people with schizophrenia who have committed really violent and atrocious crimes, and I really wanted to tell a story about a normal, kind-hearted individual who has to deal with it."

CHLOE SOSA-SIMS  
DAN AND MARGOT

and that they were happy to come back.

"Last time we came out, we basically took the ferry over and were only able to stay for one screening," says Bennett, "so I'm excited about spending a couple days in town and seeing a bunch more films."

Bennett and his film are no strangers to festivals, and he says that, at the ones he's visited, the film has been met with an interesting mix of reviews.

"I think we made a film that people were either going to love or hate," says Bennett, "and we kind of got that response; some people will immediately dismiss it after the fact and some people will love it and champion it."

Bennett was originally drawn to Kahil as a customer at his deli, where he is constantly making people laugh. They wanted to share this humour with the world—that's what inspired them to make the documentary.

"Maybe it's teaching them about



PHOTO PROVIDED

Chloe Sosa-Sims is one of the co-directors of *Dan and Margot*, which deals with schizophrenia.

something new or giving them empathy for a different situation or different people," says Bennett, explaining why he likes to make film. "But for me and the people I work with, we are always kind of drawn to comedy; that's sort of our first love."

In stark contrast to Bennett's charming piece, *Dan and Margot*, another film screening at the festival, provides a window into the life of Margot, who has schizophrenia.

"I think that one will be interesting because it's a topic that not a lot of people talk about," says Ozkul. "Mental health is discussed pretty regularly, but not necessarily schizophrenia. The director and Margot will be here, so I think that will open the floor for a really interesting discussion after the film."

The film was made in Toronto; the two co-directors and Margot are very excited to head out to the west coast.

"This is actually our first time attending Victoria both as a city and a

festival," says Chloe Sosa-Sims, one of the film's co-directors. "We're especially excited because it's our world premiere and our whole team will be there."

Sosa-Sims and her team are working hard to set up a big festival run and plan to do a grassroots screening tour at a handful of different universities in the fall.

"I've heard great things about the [Victoria] festival and, having looked at their program previously and this year, I think they do a very exceptional job at creating a Canadian and international line up," says Sosa-Sims. "They are actually quite a large festival in the scheme of Canadian festivals."

Sosa-Sims says she hasn't seen the film with anyone except her co-director Jake Chirico and Margot, and she is excited to share it with the world and to see how people react to it. The subject matter is very near and dear to her, and she hopes people will take something away from it.

"The film should bring some light to schizophrenia and what it's like to experience something like that and really humanize it for a lot of people who are unfamiliar," says Sosa-Sims. "Schizophrenia is still really stigmatized. All the media coverage revolves around portraying people with schizophrenia who have committed really violent and atrocious crimes, and I really wanted to tell a story about a normal, kind-hearted individual who has to deal with it."

Ozkul is happy that there is such a variety of exciting films at the fest.

"The film festival is always about seeing films that you wouldn't be able to see otherwise," says Ozkul, "and getting out of your comfort zone and trying something new."

Victoria Film Festival  
February 5 to 14  
\$2 membership required,  
see website for movie prices  
victoriafilmfestival.com



PHOTO PROVIDED

Margot from the movie *Dan and Margot*, which will be screening at the Victoria Film Festival.



ROMMY GHALY

*Sandwich Nazi* is also showing at the film fest.



art

## Camosun Visual Arts students to display art at Lansdowne campus

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Students from Camosun College's Visual Arts program are displaying their artwork in three spaces around the Lansdowne campus this month. The works will be on display as of February 16 in the entrance foyer of the Lansdowne library, on the second floor of the library, and at a space between Young 111 and 117.

Camosun Visual Arts instructor John Boehme worked with Camosun in order to make the art displays happen.

"Art is an integral way in which we understand ourselves in a complex world," says Boehme. "The exhibition of works allows for the opportunity to challenge and engage a wider community."

Nancy Yakimoski, also a Camosun Visual Arts instructor, says it is great to see students who are "so invested" in their program doing what they're doing "because they want to, not because they have to."

"Part of this idea," says Yakimoski about the art installations around campus, "was to gain more visibility by having the work in the library and the hallways where people are coming and going. The students make the art, but then

"The idea that other people in the college get to see the students' work and have a moment with it, where you might recognize part of yourself, is great."

**NANCY YAKIMOSKI**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

part of my course is to give them the skills to install the work. It's all very student-centred."

Yakimoski says she gave her students three options when it came time to do the projects that are being displayed on campus.

"They could take the genre of still life, and then respond in a contemporary way," she says. "And still life in photography has been making this amazing resurgence in the last five years."

For the second option, students could take a painting of their choice and respond to it in a modern way, or, as Yakimoski says, "restage it with a twist." The third option was

to do a portrait of an artist, which, Yakimoski says, students found surprisingly difficult.

"A lot of students said, 'I'll do that one,' but to stage a portrait of an artist is really difficult work. Each of the projects had very different demands."

Yakimoski says one of the best parts of Visual Arts at Camosun is how it displays the diversity around campus.

"Part of the college is dedicated to cultural excellence and also to diversity," she says. "We have international students in our programs, we've got First Nations students; their ideas, coming from such diverse backgrounds, are voices that we get to see articulated in a variety of mediums, which is always exciting."

Yakimoski says the effect of the art around campus to the average passerby is a subjective experience, but hopefully a unifying one that creates familiarity through the creativity of the work.

"The idea that other people in the college get to see the students' work and have a moment with it, where you might recognize part of yourself, is great. And it's always exciting to see part of yourself in somebody's artwork, in somebody's writing, in somebody's perform-



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

**Camosun's Nancy Yakimoski says students' art displays their diversity.**

ance. I think that just kind of brings us all closer together."

Camosun Visual Arts student Megan Quigley says the fact that her program is interdisciplinary is both the best and most challenging part of it.

"There are a lot of postsecondary art programs where you go and you study painting, and you study drawing, but because our program is interdisciplinary, it's more about learning the best tools to enhance your practice, as opposed to becoming a master at one. I find that it takes a lot of flexibility, but it's also, for me, the most rewarding part of our program, because it's equipping us to be really versatile in our practice."

Quigley says that Victoria has "a really rich but fickle" arts community and that she would like to see more of her peers out showing their work.

"I think Camosun is a bit of a well-kept secret in the community," she says, "and I think the calibre of work is regarded as very high."

For her project, which will be on display on the second floor of the library, Quigley says she chose to create an abstract series in photography using textiles for subject matter.

"It's harder to do than you would think it is," she says with a laugh, adding that it's important to showcase the art around campus. "Art isn't meant to be hidden away."

### contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Who doesn't love a good scavenger hunt? Take your mind off your studies for a few minutes and see if you can find this copy of the last issue of *Nexus* that we hid at Camosun.

The first person to find this copy of the paper and bring it in to

our office (201 Richmond House, Lansdowne campus) wins themselves a free *Nexus* 25th anniversary T-shirt!

We'll give you one hint: this one is hidden somewhere on the Lansdowne campus (Interurban, we'll get to you soon). Happy hunting!

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review

## Raffi wins over kids and adults alike at recent Victoria show

**MIKAYLA RUSSELL**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Saturday, January 16, “Beluga grads” and children alike gathered at Victoria’s Royal Theatre to sing along with Raffi (Beluga grads are adults who have grown up with Raffi’s music). As soon as the children’s entertainer walked onto the stage, it was obvious by the smile on his face that he was excited and ready to entertain the audience.

From the first strum of the guitar, the songs we grew up listening to filled the theatre, and children of all ages sang along to their favourite tunes.

You can tell that Raffi has been in the entertainment business for a while by his stage presence and his ability to put a smile on every face in the crowd. Every song was accompanied by silly dances, the occasional animal noise, and, of course, the banana phone.

The audience got the chance to let their voices be heard during a sing-along of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” with Raffi harmonizing. Raffi had a really good grasp on keeping the younger audience members entertained with his quirky jokes, one standout being purposely matching un-rhyming words during “Down by the Bay,” causing bellows of laughter from the children correcting him. Speaking of children, when they got restless,

You can tell that Raffi has been in the entertainment business for a while. Every song was accompanied with silly dances, the occasional animal noises, and, of course, the banana phone.

Raffi brought the audience to their feet, singing and clapping along to the beat of the song.

All the classic Raffi tunes brought back nostalgic memories to Beluga grads in the audience, some of whom have their own kids now. The songs remain favourites through generations; that’s an achievement in itself.

As the show drew to a close, the audience welcomed Raffi back onstage for a few encores. Overall, the concert was well put together, and it helped me reminisce about the songs I used to sing as a child.

Raffi didn’t just entertain a theatre full of children on a Saturday afternoon; he brought out the child in all of us.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Go to [nexusnewspaper.com](http://nexusnewspaper.com) to see our recent interview with Raffi.

### NEXT ISSUE

The pro-choice/pro-life debate continues on campus.

Camosun students voice concern over tuition raise.

Camosun College launches its new mental-health strategy.

Lack of healthy options in college vending machines questioned by students.

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The Vic Theatre



Victoria Lean’s debut feature film lays out five years of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Attawapiskat First Nation, ON, perpetrated by De Beers and the Harper Government.

#### SEE MORE GREAT MOVIES:

The Devil’s Horn · Almost Holy · The Grand Song · Fire Song · Grubstake Remix · Tricks on the Dead · Mazar-e Sharif · Our Little Sister · Into the Forest · O, Brazen Age · The Brand New Testament · Rams · Foodies · Sergio Herman: F\*\*\*ing Perfect · Oddball · The Sandwich Nazi · The Girl in the Photographs · Stories of the Sierra Madre · Hermits · The Lobster · Sexy Short Films · and much, much more...

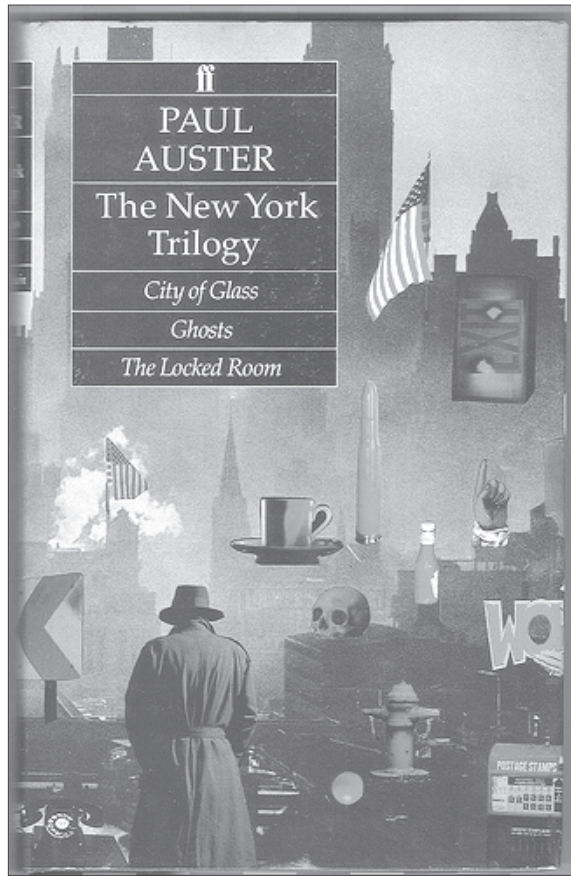




Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

## Paul Auster's identity collage



Many of Paul Auster's books explore common themes: the search for identity, the role that chance plays in shaping our lives, and the importance of stories as a method of dealing with life.

"Reality is a great deal more mysterious than we ever give it credit for," said Paul Auster, an American novelist, essayist, and translator who is probably best known for his existential detective novels, collected as *The New York Trilogy*.

Auster, who began writing in the early '80s, is impossible to pin to a single genre. Yet many of his books explore common themes: the search for identity, the role that chance plays in shaping our lives, and the importance of stories as a method of dealing with life.

*The Invention of Solitude* was Auster's first prose work and is a

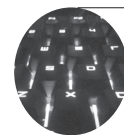
meditation on the character of his real-life father, a man who was more distant to Auster than many of the fictional characters he encountered in books.

He explores his father's life through a series of anecdotes and speaks about "the anecdote as a form of knowledge." Facts, especially when they are about people, are more readily available to us—and are more useful to us—when they are encapsulated in narrative, even if it is only an anecdote.

The piecing together of identity from the fragments of experience is also a theme in *City of Glass*, the first novel in *The New York Trilogy*.

In *City of Glass*, Daniel Quinn is a writer who is thrust (by chance) into the role of impersonating a private detective. Quinn, who has become increasingly estranged from himself, must try to hold on to what's left of himself while taking on the various personae related to the case. His fiercest opponent becomes the ability—or, rather, inability—of language to do what we expect it to do, which is to fit stories to our experiences, and with these stories to name ourselves.

**Paul Auster must-read:**  
*City of Glass*  
(UVic Library: PS3551 U7C57)



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

## A struggle against the meta

Back in November, I wrote an article on *Guild Wars 2* and the then-newly released expansion pack. Since then, many fixes and updates have been dumped on the player base. Two big changes are the revamp of player-vs.-player (PvP) ranked matches and Elite Specializations, which aim to allow players to explore new ways to play their favourite class by giving them access to new skills and abilities.

Both changes have been met with praise and outrage. Specializations were seen as direct upgrades to classes, and some had ridiculously high damage or sustain that quickly became "meta" for PvP matches. The PvP overhaul was also met with mixed results, as players quickly exploited a few loopholes in the system to boost themselves past what their normal ranking should've been, allowing an awful player to be seen as at the top one percent.

Although both changes had negative aspects to them, they brought some fantastic changes to the game and made some less-played classes fun to play again. In addition, new rewards gave meaning

to competitive PvP matches and, for the most part, made matches more fun to play with your friends.

Sadly, though, these have worn out as time has gone on and people have shied away from fun play styles, as they aren't meta and don't have a high win percentage for matches. Players now resort to high health and high armour play styles, which draw out games and make spectating incredibly boring.

Thankfully, the developers of the game have a solution.

January 26 was the first rollout date of their new quarterly balance patches. Among other things, loopholes in the PvP system were addressed, and matchmaking was fixed so games would be more even. On top of this, every single class had changes in some way. Some aimed at reducing damage or sustainability while others changed to open up play styles that might've been unused in the past. The impact of these changes will not be seen for a little while, but when they appear, hopefully they will create a better environment that helps *Guild Wars 2* flourish.

## humour

### The cats have taken over Instagram, and their owners are weird

**MIKAYLA RUSSELL**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I don't want to alarm you, but there's something you need to know: cats have taken over Instagram.

Now, while it's true that we're all guilty of seeing these cute fur buddies on our smartphones and double tapping our favourite Instacat, there's a problem at hand, and it too might cause alarm: there are humans posting these pictures.

Ever since Grumpy Cat started showing her face everywhere, these strange humans took to social media to get their cat out into cyberspace; there is profit to be made if your cat goes viral, after all.

As much as I enjoy finding and following these humorous cats' Instagrams, I could never get to the point of actually managing my cats' media accounts for them, and I'm more than positive that my cats, being the passive, sassy creatures they are, are fine with that.

There are always going to be competitive pet owners who are convinced that they have the cutest cat in the world and would never let anyone tell them different. A couple of years ago, before cats became an internet trend, you'd be laughed at for starting an Instagram account for your cat. Makes sense.

Now, don't get me wrong: there are still some people who won't understand you, but I suppose if the cat collar fits, let it jingle. So, if you really want to take the plunge and become your cat's publicist, here are a few tips.

If you love your feline enough to make it a social-media meme, you really have to play the role of your cat. Pretend that you've just landed the role of your cat in a blockbuster movie; you have to put your feet into

the paws of your cat. Your bio and every post have to reflect your cat in every way; otherwise, your cat will be misportrayed and fake, sort of like the Kardashians. I don't think your cat would appreciate that.

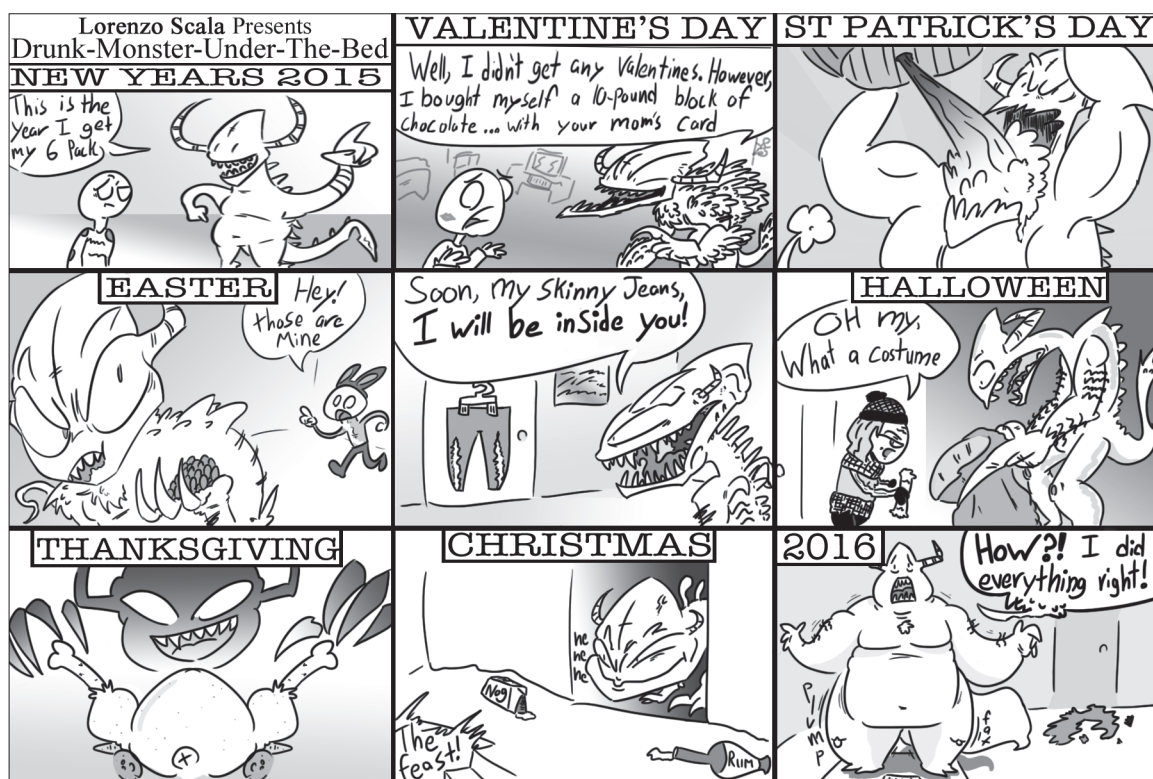
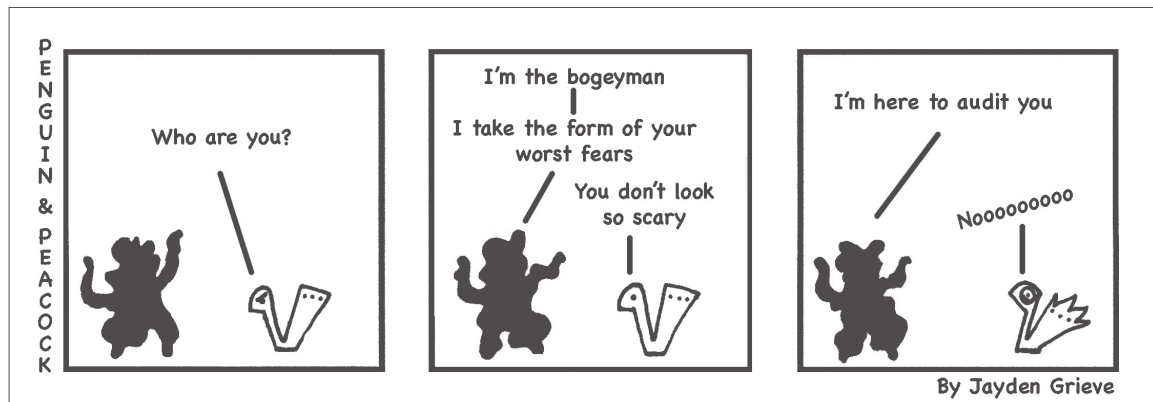
Now, one important thing to remember about the pictures you post is that they have to be staged properly. You have to make your cat's posts artsy so they get more likes and a more creative flow. If the photos aren't original and unique, you won't have breakout Instagram fame like Lil Bub, which could cause feline envy and tension across scratching posts everywhere.

You're also going to want to make sure you keep up with your cat's Instagram. Post regularly! First off, you should already feel entitlement, being your cat's personal publicist, and second of all, cats are narcissistic and want their face posted and recognized so they can roll in the catnip of their success.

Using pre-timed applications and setting up your week's Instagram posts all at once is a great way to make sure each one is tied into your theme, because, let's face it: your cat isn't getting any younger. And neither are you. You both need this 15 minutes now.

You know, when cats open their own accounts and reach a noticeable following and fan base, it really shows how amazing the power of the internet is. People talk about the benefits of the internet: bringing people together, responding to emergencies, and fostering greater compassion by allowing communities a voice they wouldn't have had otherwise.

I think it's time we get real and add "making your cat famous" to that list.



adverb word search

“The road to hell is paved in adverbs.” – Stephen King

You might find yourself incredibly pleased to find the dreaded “ly” at the end of these words, because if you find all 20 of the adverbs below and bring it in to the office, you’ll get a seriously cool prize! Seriously!

- BOASTFULLY
- DEADLY
- FAITHFULLY
- GROTESQUELY
- INQUISITIVELY
- KINDLY
- MADLY
- NERVOUSLY
- OBEDIENTLY
- OBNOXIOUSLY
- PERFECTLY
- POLITELY
- READILY
- SELFISHLY
- SERIOUSLY
- SLOWLY
- SOLEMNLY
- STEADILY
- STERNLY
- VIVACIOUSLY

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

what’s going on

by pascale archibald



PHOTO PROVIDED

Old Man Luedecke.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Rally against student debt

Join students protesting against student debt at the legislature. Things get started at 11:30 am at Centennial Square; at 12 pm the rally starts at the BC legislature. The rally is being held by the Camosun College Student Society and the University of Victoria Students’ Society; see uvss.ca/educationisairight for more info.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

This old man, he played two

Old Man Luedecke is coming to town to play not one but two shows at the Northern Quarter, located at 1724 Douglas Street. The Nova Scotia banjo player will be performing at an early dinner show at 7:30 pm, followed by a regular show at 10 pm. Visit northernquarter.ca for info.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Classic pop-culture flicks return

Cineplex will be hosting its seventh annual celebration of pop-culture films this February. In this Canada-wide film festival, the company will be showing a week of sci-fi, fantasy, and cult fan hits in theaters. The reduced price of \$6.99 per film is pretty enticing, especially with a line-up of classic movies such as *Labyrinth*, *Inception*, *Ghostbusters*, *Mad Max: The Road Warrior*, *The Thing*, and *The Dark Crystal*. Visit cineplex.com/digitalfilmfest to see the complete list of movies and times or to purchase tickets.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Every evergreen is green!

Ever wonder why Victoria is just so green? Find out with a free guided walk in Francis King Regional Park. A Capital Regional District guide will divulge the secrets of the evergreen from 1 to 2:30 pm, and all you need is to be eight or older to attend. If you’re interested in joining the walk, head over to the Nature Centre at the park, just off Munn Road. For more information visit crd.bc.ca.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Devonian exploration

No, unfortunately, this doesn’t involve time travel. Instead, it is a wonderful guided walk through the stunning Devonian Regional Park in Metchosin. The walk will take place from 1 to 2:30 pm, and those participating need to be over six years old. The meeting point is at the information kiosk in the parking lot off William Head Road. More information can be found at crd.bc.ca.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Hiking the potholes of Sooke

And by that I mean the Sooke

Potholes Regional Park, of course! This free, guided, adult hike will give potential hikers a chance to explore this wonderful park and really challenge the guide’s knowledge of the local flora, fauna, and history. Pack a lunch and wear your sturdiest hiking shoes (and don’t forget that water bottle). Call 250-478-3344 by February 9 to pre-register. More info at crd.bc.ca.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Gathering to end violence toward women

The Moose Hide Campaign’s annual gathering to end violence toward both aboriginal and non-aboriginal women and children is taking place at 9 am at the Victoria Conference Centre, located at 720 Douglas Street. Men can participate by taking part in the one-day fast in honour of women and children living in violence. For more details, head over to moosehidecampaign.ca.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Electrified cat’s tail...

...is in fact the name of a very common moss found in this area. To find out more about the plush mosses so readily spotted around here, check out this guided adult walk through Francis/King Regional Park. The fee is \$7 and the walk will run from 10 am until 12 pm. Space is limited and pre-registration is required; call 250-578-3344 to sign up. For more information, visit crd.bc.ca.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Market Mardi Gras

The Victoria Public Market at the Hudson is hosting a Mardi Gras night, with live bands and carnival performers. \$45 advance tickets are available through Roast and Lyle’s Place or online at ticketfly.com. The event is for those over 19 only; doors are at 7 pm. For more information visit the Victoria Public Market at the Hudson’s Facebook page.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Horth Hill hike

Just at the tip of the Saanich Peninsula lies the beautiful Horth Hill Regional Park; come explore it on this guided walk. The journey is tailored to those eight years of age and older and will require a sturdy pair of hiking shoes. If you’re interested in attending this walk, meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot just off Tatlow Road. Visit crd.bc.ca for more information.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

J and J get lucky

Canadian singer-songwriters Jenn Grant and Joshua Hyslop will be bringing their tunes to Lucky Bar on February 16. Tickets are \$12.50 and doors are at 8 pm. Tickets are available through Lyle’s Place and ticketfly.com. For more info on the show visit luckybar.ca.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Blues, folk, and soul

New Brunswick’s Matt Anderson is bringing his powerful voice and his diverse musical talents to Victoria with a performance at the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium at the University of Victoria. Ticket prices range from \$23 to \$39; the show starts at 7:30 pm. Buy tickets online at tickets.uvic.ca or call the box office at 250-721-8480.

CHINESE

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## Lucky Village

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