

## A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO VOTING

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# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

Next publication: October 7, 2015

Deadline: noon September 30, 2015

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

Location: Lansdowne Richmond House 201

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "Are we supposed to move the decimal point over three times because there are three zeroes? Can you just get a goddamn calculator?"

COVER PHOTOS:  
Elections: Pascale Archibald/*Nexus*  
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Beer fest: Pascale Archibald/*Nexus*  
Chinese art: Provided

## editor's letter

### X marks the spot

September is always a time of big, fun, exciting change around Camosun. Classes are in and there's an undeniable excitement in the air. But there's also something else in the air, creating an unmistakable feeling of anticipation: the federal election.

For our feature story, contributing writer Rebecca Davies took a close look at not only what students need to know about voting but also what they should know about who they're voting for. So head over to page 6 to find out about the mechanics of making your vote heard (what ID you need to bring, what counts as ID, etc.) and what some of the major parties have to say about issues relating to students (tuition, pipelines, etc.).

Then, head over to page 3 to read student editor Pascale Archibald's story about recent funding for indigenous learning at Camosun. Page 4 has contributing writer Rachael Grant's story about how Camosun's school of access is trying to adapt after recent cuts to Adult Basic Education funding.

Beer! Who doesn't like reading about beer? Head to page 5.

And, hey, can we just grab you for a minute before you get too busy with your classes? Swing on by our office or email us to chat about becoming a *Nexus* volunteer writer. No experience necessary, no obligation required. You could write the next feature story that inspires a student to get out and vote, or the next lifestyle story that inspires a student to drink beer. It's your student paper; get in touch to find out how to add your voice to it.

Greg Pratt, managing editor  
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

## flashback

### 25 years ago in *Nexus*



Did you know we are celebrating our 25th anniversary this year? The first issue of *Nexus*, known back then as *The Nexus*, came out in September 1990; we're relaunching the *20 Years Ago* column as *25 Years Ago* to celebrate.

**Commenters anonymous:** Our September 19, 1990 issue was our second issue, and in it we asked, as we still do today, for you to send in your thoughts in a letter to the editor. We also asked—and this might seem shocking to people so used to online comments today—to not hide behind anonymity: "The letters that get preference will be the ones that say... This is who I am, this is what I think!" We'd like to keep that challenge going today: letters with names attached to them will always pack more of a punch than those without.

**Was it ever easy?:** Remember how this summer you and your friends were talking about how

hard it was to find a decent job? Turns out it was 25 years ago, too. "The unemployment rate was out of control this summer," then-chair of the Canadian Federation of Students Jane Arnold said in the story "Students had another tough summer." "Students just couldn't find jobs," Arnold said, "period."

**A coming-of-age story:** Our outgoing interim managing editor at the time, Brian Vallee, wrote in his editor's letter that the paper was an infant with great potential to grow. Looking at what *Nexus* has accomplished over the years—winning awards for our investigative work into missing aboriginal women on the mainland; having a direct impact on college policy, such as smoking areas, that we reported on; becoming a springboard for student volunteers to go on to work in media—I think it's safe to say that the infant grew up all right after all.

## open space

### Anti-choice shames women into motherhood

REBECCA DAVIES  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I hovered over an ominous white stick last weekend: something so small and simple; something that could change the course of my life in a moment. As I watched a faded pink line appear, I wondered if I had the strength to walk past protestors shaming my choices over my own body. (By the way, my test turned out to be negative—or positive, depending on how you see it.)

A Christian, anti-choice organization called 40 Days for Life are returning to the island to set up for over five weeks across the street from the local Vancouver Island Women's Clinic. Their goal is to end abortion, and they aim to do it through prayer and fasting.

People who use the Bible as an excuse to be anti-choice do so with the belief that an embryo, a fleck of a being, is still human. Abortion is murder, they say; murder is sin. Perhaps they forget that not everyone believes in the idea of sin, or that not everyone believes that a fetus is the same as a child. Their beliefs do not rule my bodily autonomy, and my choice is none of their business.

I get it: they're doing what they see as saving people and children. But this group's antics are far from

Christian. I counter-protested with the group Pro-Choice Victoria in the spring, when 40 Days for Life were protesting here, and I can tell you that being prayed at and told to "save my soul" while a man videotapes us from across the street just doesn't convey the compassion I think religion is supposed to promote.

Sex only for the production of children turns people with uteri into machines and shames us for experiencing pleasure—patriarchy at its best.

Women's clinics provide more than just abortions: they offer contraception, support, sex education, and other necessities unique to women's health—actual concrete services that reduce unexpected pregnancies. Pray all you want, but it's not going to teach a teenager how to use a condom.

Don't get me wrong—I love children and think motherhood is a beautiful role. I just don't want to bring children into this world that I cannot care for. The foster-care systems are over-worked, and unless babies can live off Mr. Noodles, my student budget can't afford it.

What anti-choicers don't seem to understand is that sometimes abortion is the only choice.

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

## letters

### Degree dilemmas

Poverty sucks (re: Postsecondary on empty stomach, August 19, 2015 issue)! Perhaps better to just work and not bother with trying to get a degree...why starve yourself?

College and university are not the only way to get an education. Life is a great teacher. How many people who took out student loans actually got to work in the fields they studied for?

If you will look for wisdom, it will find you!

KATE

VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

Life can give a lot of experience, but the reality of the workforce is that life experience doesn't replace having postsecondary experience. It does no good telling people who live in poverty to work rather than go to school; us poor folks get stuck doing jobs that pay below the poverty line.

No one is discounting life experience, but it isn't accredited by employees and society in the way it ought to be, which forces us poor folks to get tens of thousands of dollars into debt to get out of poverty. Let's fight for accessible education.

JENELLE

VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

# SPEAK UP

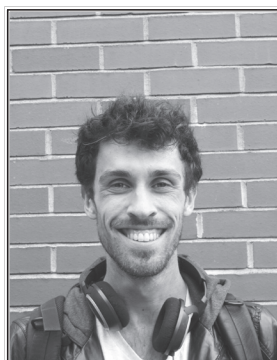
Are you going to vote in the federal election?

BY SARAH TAYLER



CHER STEPHENS

"Yes, because I want to make a difference."



BENJAMIN SMITH

"You bet. I think it's time for a change, and I'm hoping a lot of the youth feel the same way. One of the things I'm hopeful for is I think the polls might be more off than ever."



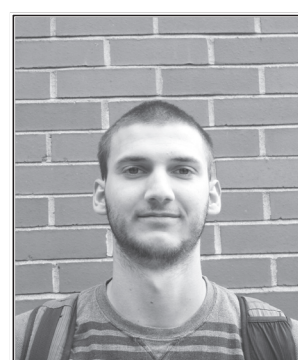
YOLANDA SUN

"No, because I don't have the right to vote. I'm an immigrant but I didn't get a Canadian passport."



JERRY CHU

"I'm not sure. I'm new here; I don't know."



NICO TURNER

"Dunno yet. I guess I'm not aware enough."



KEELY BOYKO

"I'm from the Yukon, so I don't think I can vote here."



## college

# Camosun receives government funding for aboriginal services

**PASCALE ARCHIBALD**  
STUDENT EDITOR

The Ministry of Advanced Education recently announced a \$3.7-million investment toward the creation of a more welcoming learning environment for aboriginal postsecondary students in BC.

There are 25 public postsecondary institutions in BC, and Camosun College is one of 11 that will receive funding. The college will receive \$390,600.

Minister of Advanced Education Andrew Wilkinson explains that the decision processes that went into funding allocation and the future of Aboriginal Service Plans funding were the result of a competitive Expression of Interest process open to all public post-secondary institutions in BC.

“The ministry is currently looking at options to expand the program to other institutions by 2016, and Aboriginal Service Plans will be ongoing,” says Wilkinson.

Camosun College Aboriginal Service Plan projects coordinator Tanya Kirkland says the \$390,600 allocated to Camosun will help in meeting specific goals.

“We applied for funding because it’s an incredible opportunity to be able to provide additional programs, services, and supports for indigenous students at Camosun College,” says Kirkland.

The Ministry of Advanced Education also has specific goals they would like to see realized. By 2020/21 they hope to see a significant increase in credentials awarded to aboriginal students.

“The goal of the Aboriginal Post-

“That’s a big part of the work that’s done here, to reflect indigenous ways of knowing and being and doing within the college system, within the classrooms, and within the structure itself.”

**TANYA KIRKLAND**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan is to increase credentials awarded to aboriginal learners by 75 percent,” says Wilkinson. “The plan includes a range of programs and supports to help aboriginal learners complete their studies and go on to future success.”

According to the ministry, there has been a 23-percent increase in credentials awarded to aboriginal students from 2009/10 to 2013/14. Aboriginal Service Plans are just one initiative the ministry has created to help aboriginal learners in BC: the aboriginal community-based Delivery Partnership Program and

the Aboriginal Training for Employment Program have also received funding in the last few years.

Camosun College Student Society external executive Andrea Eggenberger is pleased to see some action toward helping aboriginal students in BC.

“It’s nice to see some action happening behind the Truth and Reconciliation commission,” says Eggenberger. “People were really wondering, is there going to be anything behind this? And it’s nice to see that yes, there is funding behind this, there is a plan happening, that goal is being realized.”

Eggenberger says that this is



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

**Camosun College’s Tanya Kirkland.**

an important way for the province to be allocating finances.

“It’s not just about providing grants,” she says. “It’s about providing services that are important to aboriginal learners.”

Wilkinson says it’s important that the government work with aboriginal and First Nations people.

“It is critical,” he says, “that all levels of government, and indeed all Canadians, work in partnership with First Nations and aboriginal people to address the challenges faced by communities, including

socioeconomic gaps and healing.”

The funding Camosun is receiving will help to provide aboriginal students a better sense of belonging during their postsecondary experience, says Kirkland.

“We call creating a better sense of belonging at the institution indigenization,” says Kirkland. “That’s a big part of the work that’s done here, to reflect indigenous ways of knowing and being and doing within the college system, within the classrooms, and within the structure itself.”

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Camosun board gets new chair

The Camosun College board of governors recently elected Russ Lazaruk as board chair. Lazaruk has been a member of the college’s board since 2011, and has served as vice chair since 2014. He is also a member of the audit, finance, external relations, and executive committees. He succeeds Marilyn Pattison, who served as chair since the fall of 2013.

### Camosun athletes earn national scholar status

22 Camosun Charger student athletes recently received the 2014–2015 National Scholar Award from the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA). This award goes to students who have managed to achieve an honours standing over a full academic year. To see the full list of the student athletes who kicked academic butt, as well as other Chargers info, go to [camosun.ca/sports/chargers](http://camosun.ca/sports/chargers).

### Camosun Chargers golf season off to a good start

The Camosun Chargers started off the 2015 PACWEST golf season

with a 12-stroke win at the University of British Columbia–Okanagan Invitational in Kelowna. Two women’s and seven men’s teams challenged the 18-hole, 6,885-yard Bear Course at the Okanagan Golf and Country Club. Over the two days, the men’s Camosun Chargers finished in the top 3.

### Camosun dental clinic looking for patients

Camosun College’s dental hygiene students are looking for new patients. Non-Camosun students pay \$60 for appointments; hygiene appointments for children cost no more than \$20. The students provide customized preventative services and are fully supervised by licensed, experienced faculty. For more information or to book an appointment, visit their clinic on the Lansdowne campus, go to [camosun.ca/smile](http://camosun.ca/smile), or give them a call at 250-370-3184.

### Former Camosun president finds a place with Victoria Symphony

Kathryn Laurin, Camosun College’s last president, has been appointed by the Victoria Symphony Society as the executive director and

chief executive officer. Her career as an academic and professional musician and her extensive experience as a senior administrative executive got her the appointment, according to a press release sent out by the society.

### Getting postsecondary students to the polls

A new campaign aimed at encouraging students from across the province to vote was launched at Douglas College’s New Westminster campus on September 15. Created by the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia, This Time We Decide focuses on getting students to pledge to vote; it also offers reminders and provides information on registering and accessing advanced voting. See our feature story on page 6 for more details on this campaign and the federal election.

### Conservative candidates decline debate

The South Island Conservative candidates declined the University of Victoria Students’ Society’s invitation to their all-candidates debate on October 7 (see events section for more info on the debate). South island candidates from the NDP,

Liberal, and Green Party have all accepted invitations to the event.

### First Nations against Clayoquot Sound salmon farm

Earlier this month members of Ahousaht First Nations blockaded Cermaq, a Norwegian-based corporation, in their attempts to install a new open-net salmon farm at Yaakswiis, just north of Tofino. On Monday, September 21, Cermaq left the area. The Ahousaht Fish Farm Committee oppose any fish farms at the Yaakswiis location because of concerns around proximity to rich seafood resources such as clam beds and wild salmon rivers. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans approved Cermaq a new tenure in Ahousaht First Nations territories in July.

### Public submissions on wastewater issues

The Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALW-MC) recently announced that Kim Cholette is their new wastewater fairness and transparency advisor. Cholette will review submissions from the public to ensure transparency, impartiality and objectivity in dealing with the Liquid Waste Management Plan. To contact Chol-

lette visit the feedback forum at [crd.bc.ca/fta](http://crd.bc.ca/fta).

### Innocence groups raise awareness

On October 2, marking the one-year anniversary of the creation of Wrongful Conviction Day, innocence groups and other organizations will promote awareness about wrongful convictions worldwide. The Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted launched this day internationally

**-PASCALE ARCHIBALD**

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*We want to hear from you!*



college

## Camosun deals with Adult Basic Education changes



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun's Ian Humphries says the college is committed to keeping Adult Basic Education an option for all.

**RACHAEL GRANT**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the school year now in full swing, Camosun College campuses are back to being busy and lively. But for some students, particularly those looking to access Adult Basic Education (ABE), this September might be a bit different.

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) is expressing concern over recent changes to how students can access ABE.

"In December, the provincial government decided to add tuition fees to Adult Basic Education," explains CCSS external executive Andrea Eggenberger, "and this change comes into effect of-

ficially at Camosun College this September."

Camosun College dean of access Ian Humphries says that this decision is shifting how funding is dispersed.

"Recently, institutions have been given the okay by the ministry [of Advanced Education] to charge tuition," he says, "and they have increased the thresholds for the [provincial government's] Adult Upgrading grant, so they are trying to put the money into the hands of the students."

However, Eggenberger feels that government funding won't prove to be so comprehensive.

"The provincial government

has created a grants system for students that is needs-based," she says, "however, this program is very limited. You have to be living well below the poverty line in order to qualify for it. For those students that don't qualify, Camosun has created a grant program called the CUB [Camosun upgrading bursary] grant. However, students are still slipping through the cracks."

Humphries insists that Camosun has been, and continues to be, committed to keeping ABE programming an option for all students.

"It started with the board of governors making a pretty resounding declaration that we wanted to continue to support ABE and

"We are trying our best to make sure that every student is aware of the funding available. There are lots of students with lots of challenges, and it's definitely a desire to support them as best we can."

**IAN HUMPHRIES**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

domestic ESL [English as a Second Language] students, and the administration ran with that, and that's when we came up with the Camosun upgrading bursary, or CUB."

Humphries says that the college is at about 80 percent of the enrolment rate of last year, but despite those numbers being down, he says the majority of Camosun students will qualify for funding.

"We estimate that at least 90 percent of our school of access students will qualify for an Adult Upgrading grant, or what we set up at Camosun, our upgrading bursary."

Eggenberger insists that this programming is an essential part

of what Camosun College offers. She says ABE is a "stepping stone to post-secondary education for many students," and can be a life-changing experience for them, which she says can lead to better employment and more meaningful contributions to society.

And Humphries wants to stress that, although with these recent changes there is now "another layer a student would have to deal with," Camosun College is "trying our best to make sure that every student is aware of the funding available. There are lots of students with lots of challenges, and it's definitely a desire to support them as best we can."

know your profs

## Camosun political science instructor Mona Brash gets students politicized

**GREG PRATT**  
MANAGING EDITOR

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

Do you have an instructor that you want to see interviewed in the paper? Maybe you want to know more about one of your teachers, but you're too busy, or shy, to ask? Let us help you out: email editor@nexusnewspaper.com and we'll add your instructor to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we talked to Camosun political science instructor Mona Brash about politics, science fiction, and casserole.

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

I teach Political Science. The courses are Canadian Government and Politics, International Conflict, Politics and Law, and Local Government. My newest course, which will run again in January, is called Politics and Pipelines. I have been teaching at Camosun since 2009. Before that, I taught at UVic and at the Esquimalt Navy Base for Royal Military College.

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

It is gratifying to see students learn about our government and politics, how things work. Most come to class with limited or no knowledge about this, which is why we are here—to help them learn. To see students take an active role in lobbying government, joining non-government organizations, and even becoming involved in politics at any level (some have run for office!) is wonderful. My best memories are of the students I have met who had a hard time in their late teens and early adult years and came to Camosun and flourished.

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

They already know an awful lot about me. Because I teach first- and second-year courses, I get to know them well and they get to know me.

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

They know that if they bring up amalgamation or fixed election dates, I will "discuss" those for quite a while!

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

There is no one "thing." There are so many days when students show a real interest, participate in exuberant discussions, and provide an insight of which I never thought. Those are the days when I know what a privilege it is to work with our students. I leave the classroom and can't believe I actually get paid to do something so fun and so rewarding.

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

The worst thing that ever happened was when the provincial government cut Camosun's budget. That resulted in four Political Science sections per year being cut from our offerings. That means we have fewer instructors here and fewer courses from which students can choose.

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

I see a continued lack of appreciation by government of the role of arts and sciences in education. Ironically, at some point, business will demand more of a focus on it as they realize how important critical thinkers and writers are to them and society. Then the government may listen.



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Don't ask Mona Brash a question if the answer is on the syllabus.**

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

I like to go for long bike rides with [husband] Clarence [Bolt, Camosun history instructor], followed by a coffee and muffin at our local coffee shop. I read the papers thoroughly to bring current and relevant stories back to my students. I also like to garden, read science fiction (it is so political) and political biographies, and go to Vancouver to visit my children and granddaughters every month. I love to have dinner parties a few times a year.

**9: What is your favourite meal?**

My comfort meal, when life throws nasty curves or those politicians are really upsetting me, is a chicken casserole with lots of broccoli and carrots, served with rice and a nice glass of cold milk. Essential in my home is that that dinner is followed with three dark-chocolate-covered almonds.

**10: What's your biggest pet peeve?**

In school, being asked a question if the answer is in the syllabus. Outside of school, disinformation from politicians—how awful to deliberately tell voters something incorrect about our system of government.



drinks

# Nexus looks back, through the haze, at the Great Canadian Beer Festival

**PASCALE ARCHIBALD**  
STUDENT EDITOR

This was my first year attending the Great Canadian Beer Festival, and let me tell you, it did not disappoint. I was very pleased to find when I arrived that all 65 breweries in attendance were Canadian.

The crowd of people that poured onto the field when the bell rang, announcing the opening of the gates, were just a few quick strides short of running in their mad dash to be the first in line for tokens and, of course, the amazing selection of craft brews.

And when I say amazing selection, I'm talking 249 different beers. There was no way that I was going to be able to try all of those beers. If my math is correct, that would be like consuming 83 beers in a span of six hours. Since I wasn't keen on poisoning myself, I made a list of the beers in the handy beer festival guidebook that sounded absolutely lovely or just right up my alley.

Now, I have to mention that I really enjoy craft beers, so I had tried many of the brews that the local—and some not so local—breweries had brought; as a result, many amazing brews didn't get on my list.

I should also mention that I took many notes, and the first few notations are quite detailed. For example, I tried a sour beer from Dageraad Brewing called De Witte Sour Witbier and noted that it had a nice beer taste, as opposed to a more typical sour, cider-y taste; the

effervescence felt delicate, and it was fruity without the sweet. I also noted to myself to buy it if I ever found it in the store.

That was by far one of the better sets of notes. Turns out, I'm quite the lightweight, and my careful note taking degraded rapidly into 'good's and 'nope's with multiple Os and exclamation marks (oh, well; I tried).

That being said, even under the influence of so many amazing (and, let's face it, some not-so-amazing) brews, I did manage to note a few faves.

33 Acres from Vancouver, BC makes the great 33 Acres of Sunshine. This beer I for sure would get again; it was light and crisp and pretty much the perfect beer for a hot September day at beer-fest. This brewery also makes a 9.2 percent brew called 33 Acres of Euphoria that was amazingly deadly; boy, did that pack a punch.

311 Helles Lager from Coal Harbour Brewing was a pleasant surprise. This was a really nice, light, sweet-ish beer that I noted as nectar with a star beside it (it must have been good). I also tried their Woodland Witbier and, on its own, it wasn't getting many stars in my book. But when paired with Taco Justice's Brutus the Barbarian, two thumbs up all the way. I guess some beers just need companionship.

If you're at all into beers, then you're probably aware that sours have been a trend in craft breweries for the last couple of years. This year



PASCALE ARCHIBALD/NEXUS

**This year's beer fest featured enough good beers to make our writer's tasting notes less than legible.**

was no different, and many brewers brought a sour to the festival. A few were particularly enjoyable, like Vancouver's Granville Island Brewing's Gosebumps, which was lightly salted and only slightly sour.

One brew that caught my attention was the Kettle Sour Spruce Tip Ale from Victoria's Loghouse Brewery. This brew was impressive because it actually tasted like spruce

tips! I'm totally the type of person who eats the new tips of conifer trees while hiking, so it was a really pleasant surprise to find that they had gotten the flavour exactly right. (The brew even left that acidic feel on your teeth that spruce tips do.)

And I have to make note of the porta-potties: I hate them, I really do, but at this event there was some serious ingenuity on the part of the

event planners. There were separate urinals for drunken men so that the ladies didn't have to use peed-on toilets, and there were hand-washing stations set up in front of the toilets. Thank you, thank you, thank you to whoever suggested that at the event planning stage!

All in all, this was an impressive event that craft-brew lovers should attend next time around.

campus happenings

## Dunkin' for a cause



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

As part of a United Way fundraiser on Camosun College's Lansdowne campus on Friday, September 18, Camosun College Student Society executive director Michel Turcotte took the plunge.

Turcotte's last words before a *Nexus* staffer sent him into the water repeated times were, "I thought newspapers were supposed to be fair!"

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# The 2015 federal election: who

Story by Rebecca Davies, contributing writer

Photo by Pascale Archibald/Nexus

In October, Canadians can vote for the party in their riding that they believe should run the federal government. However, there are some changes this year, and students should be sure they know about them.

The Fair Elections Act, introduced by the Conservatives, makes alterations to the way voters identify themselves and where they live. Analysts, scholars, and politicians across the country have spoken out about how the changes make it more difficult to vote, and, in turn, discourage voter turnout.

“The lower your socioeconomic income and economic background, the less likely you are to vote,” says Camosun College Political Science instructor Dan Reeve. “Paradoxically, those with lower income are more dependent on the whims of government. Every time you make it more difficult to vote, whether the registration seems more arduous or difficult, it really affects those people.”

A campaign called This Time We Decide, which encourages youth to vote, stresses the importance of taking advantage of advance voting, which is happening from October 9 to 12. This way, if there are any discrepancies with voter identification, the person voting has time to return to the polls on October 19.

“The Elections Act really makes it harder for certain demographics to vote. It appears to be a way to suppress the vote in Canada,” says Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia (CFS-BC) chairperson Simka Marshall (Marshall is also involved with the This Time We Decide campaign). “Students can really change the outcome of this election, but it’s hard to get to the poll when you’re not totally sure of what ID you need.”

Some skeptics of the Fair Elections Act claim that making it more difficult for people to vote was a strategic political move by the Conservative government, who don’t typically get a large youth vote.

“The rules, they’re deliberately not that clear, because Harper wrote the rules, and he doesn’t want young people voting,” says Green Party of Canada leader Elizabeth May.

Conservatives claim that the Fair Elections Act prevents voter fraud, but Reeve thinks the threat was nearly nonexistent in the first place. Studies of the last federal election, for example, show only four cases where voters may not have been who they said they were.

“The reason the Conservatives gave for making it harder to vote was this bogeyman, someone voting for someone else,” says Reeve. “They put up barriers that will affect the people who need to vote the most, in order to prevent a small amount of fraud.”

But Elections Canada-BC spokesperson Dorothy Sitek doesn’t think the changes to the Elections Act will affect student voters, as long as they register early. (If there is any confusion or inquiries, elections.ca is a resource to register and find voting information.)

“It’s important to ensure that voters have as many options to vote as possible, and that has not changed,” says Sitek. “The important thing to remember is to prepare in advance as much as possible. Register ahead of time, make sure you get a voter information card in the mail which has important information on where and when to vote.”

Students who live at home with their parents part time and live somewhere else while studying need to decide which address to use while registering. Voters need to bring government-issued photo identification with their current name and address to the polls.

“Students need to remember, wherever they choose, those are the candidates that are relevant to that student,” says Sitek. “Also, the vast majority of Canadians will use their driver’s licence. If students are voting with their home address, and that’s where their licence is valid, that will work for them.”

Of course, for students new to the province, or moving within the province in early September, it may be difficult to get photo ID that matches the address used when registering. Those voters need to bring two pieces of documentation.

“If the address on their driver’s licence is different from their home address, they need two forms of ID,” says Sitek. “One form will need to have their name and their current address, and the second one just has to have their name, and that could be their student ID, or a utilities bill.”

Another main concern with the Elections Act is that restrictions have been removed on how much money parties can accept from outside supporters. Money now plays a larger role in this year’s election; Reeve says it is a more Americanized way of doing things.

“The idea was the less big-money played a role in politics, the better democracy we would have,” says Reeve. “The Elections Act really turns our election into a more American style. More money, more free spending. If you’re a big company and have millions of dollars to contribute, they don’t think governments should stop you, and that is a very American sentiment.”

## The candidates

Not only do students need to figure out for. It’s a matter of finding a party to trust in the political system. Platforms below, but voters are encouraged to visit party

## The Green Party

The Green Party is making a promise a long way, as Elizabeth May, the leader of the party in the riding, occupies the only seat they

education will come from the money saved by

“It’s a completely broken system,” says May. “It’s a financial issue, where they really have no family income, and it’s decided by a needs-based test.”

The Green party also wants to tackle youth unemployment with a program that should encourage employers to hire young people.

“This will create job opportunities for young people to get that first leg up to have experience, to have a job.”

The Greens are also offering a universal child care program from the NDP’s program, as the Greens are a party that who provide child-care facilities in the workplace.

“We are strongly in favour of workplace child care,” says May. “The amount of enhanced child care income tax credit and there’s tons of data showing that workplace child care works.”

The party, as always, has an extensive environmental program so they can start to take a stand against climate change.

“The key issue for the country is to address climate change as an economic issue, as a sustainability issue, as a social issue. We can work together as a minority government. I think we should want to take credit, as long as we have a real plan.”

## New Democratic Party

The NDP is all about change. Murray Rankin, the party’s future for students under the current government, and an inability to purchase real estate.

The NDP will start by implementing a \$15 minimum wage and spreads to provincial governments in the future.

“I want to be clear on this: obviously, as a student, you’re in a workplace,” says Rankin. “It will still affect health care, telecommunications, banking. We need to get the provincial government to do it as well. Let’s get it done.”

As far as tuition goes, Rankin stresses that the NDP is committed. What the NDP promises is steady, reliable funding for colleges and universities. The federal government can’t do it.

“If you’re wealthy, the benefit’s taxed back into the system. There are 70,000 more women working in the economy, which is great for the economy,” says Rankin.

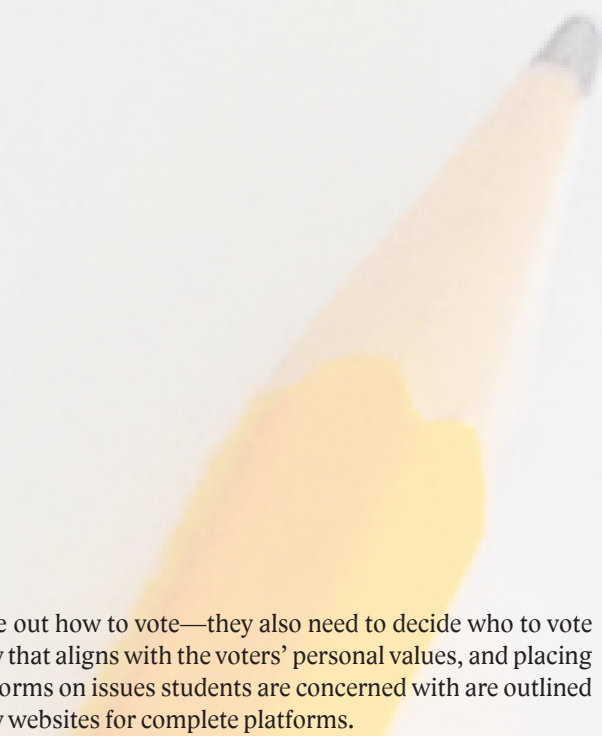
“It’s about people who are just getting started in the workforce, or people who are just getting started in the workforce and it takes away stress from people.”

The NDP is strongly opposed to pipeline development in Alberta and Enbridge and thinks that Kinder Morgan is far from the best option.

“Climate change can be an opportunity, not a crisis. We can create great jobs that we could create in clean technology. A project does not have a climate change lens in the first place. The process to involve communities. It’s just not good.”



# What students need to know



...e out how to vote—they also need to decide who to vote for that aligns with the voters' personal values, and placing ...orms on issues students are concerned with are outlined ...y websites for complete platforms.

...of free tuition for all by the year 2020. They'll need to come ...der of the party and candidate in the Saanich Gulf-Islands ...have in the House of Commons. She says the funds for ...no longer tracking down students to pay their debts.

...May. "We'll start with free tuition for everyone that has a ...y support and need help to get post-secondary education,

...n unemployment and promises to implement a job corps ...hire more youth.

...ng people, whether they're students or not, by providing ...hire young people," says May. "That is great to really help ...that first job on your resume."

...child-care program, but May says their program differs ...also offering tax breaks for companies and corporations ...ace.

...ild care because it enhances the parent-child bond," says ...reases when the parent can drop in during the work day, ...nce child care increases employee productivity."

...nvironmental platform, and May hopes they can win more ...climate change.

...s climate change as not just an environmental issue, but ...as a survival issue; we have to address it," says May. "We ...don't care if a PM [Tom] Mulcair or PM [Justin] Trudeau ...success for climate."

## Party

...Rankin, the Victoria candidate for the party, paints a grim ...t government. With increasing debt and unemployment, ...ate or plan a family, young people need some help. He says ...nimum wage for federal employees, and hopes the trend ...re.

...a federal government, we can only deal with the federal ...undreds of thousands of people that work for shipping ...hope that if the federal government does it, it may persuade ...nding by example is how confederation works."

...at education is also the responsibility of the provinces. ...nding for provincial governments to spend on colleges ...affect child care, and the NDP plans on implementing a ...s the program has been very successful in Quebec.

...e, and if you're not wealthy this is an enormous opportun- ...nce the affordable child-care program was introduced, ..."It's self-financing, and it's really important to students, ...ork force—they don't have to make a sacrifice with their ...ple's lives."

...velopment. Rankin was a legal advisor to groups against ...r too political to do thorough environmental reviews.

...not just a challenge, for our economy. Think of all of the ...ogy," says Rankin. "As for Kinder Morgan, this particular ...he review, doesn't involve First Nations, hasn't had a fair ...oing to work."

## Liberal Party

**T**he Liberal Party is focused on families and increasing the number of people who are classified as being "middle class." Cheryl Thomas, the Liberal candidate in the Victoria riding, says that they will start by offering \$16,400 per year, tax free, to families with children.

"We don't need change, we need things done better," says Thomas. "That money will literally pull families out of poverty. The money will come from the difference in the way we're taxing people, and taking the money that is already being used for the Conservative plans."

The Liberal party has been criticized for their support of the pipelines. Thomas defends that decision and stresses that we can't just stop using petroleum products immediately. The Liberals have developed a thirty-year plan in order to invest in environmental research and decrease our reliance on fossil fuels.

"We try to be pragmatic, and one thing that the Liberals offer is we're not ideologues. Do you like the car you're driving? Do you like your computer? These are all petro-chemical products. The bottom line is, we are still reliant on fossil fuels, and the pipelines are the safest way to transport it," says Thomas.

The party was also under fire earlier this year when the Conservatives introduced Bill C-51, an anti-terrorism bill that puts the privacy of Canadians at risk. The Liberals voted for the bill despite nation-wide opposition.

"The Liberals thought that there were pieces that we needed to support," says Thomas. "We knew if we just opposed it, the Conservatives wouldn't listen to anything we had to say about amendments. We fought for those amendments, and we got four of them, which were really important in protecting people's privacy."

Like the Green Party, Thomas knows that marijuana legalization is an important issue for Victorians. The NDP promises to decriminalize it, but Thomas doesn't think that's enough to tackle the real issue.

"We want to control the quality, and control access to it. The NDP will tell you decriminalization is all that's needed. That just means that police won't be charging as many people, but it's not going to help the whole situation."

## The Conservative Party

**C**onservative representatives did not respond to multiple phone calls and email requests to comment for this story by deadline.

## Your vote matters

**Y**outh not voting creates a cycle: governments think youth don't care, and so don't design platforms to meet their needs. In turn, youth feel ignored and think that it doesn't matter whether they vote or not; they feel their voice won't be heard. The Green Party's May acknowledges that today's young people are burdened with more debt than previous generations, and that they need to get involved.

"I finished university with a very small student debt, and it wasn't interest bearing. The current situation for young people is completely outrageous, and one reason young people keep being ignored by political parties is that it is assumed that young people don't vote," says May. "We have to tell young people that it does matter, every vote counts."

Camosun's Reeve hears all kinds of excuses from students as to why voting isn't for them, one of them being that they don't feel that they can trust politicians to implement their promised policies.

"No party is all lies," he counters. "It's an easy way out. You don't have to marry a political party, it's a friendship, and sometimes your friends do something you don't agree with, and you can call them on that. You can't be mad because they didn't follow through, because things change."

The issue isn't necessarily to get students to vote, as they tend to vote more than youth who aren't in school. It's a matter of showing students how to vote.

"Because of the record of this federal election it seems that there are a lot more people that are just fed up with the way the environment is being treated, or how high poverty rates are across Canada," says CFS-BC's Marshall. "BC has a really important role to play in the next federal election. There are going to be a lot of ridings that are going to be really close in BC, and the student vote can really change the outcome of that."



film

## Weekend of films at local theatre highlights indigenous voices



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Boy tells the tale of a child's father returning from prison and how the reality isn't as amazing as expected.**

**ALYSSA KOEHLER**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After the popularity of the indigenous film program at the 2015 Victoria Film Festival (VFF), The Vic Theatre decided it was time to bring Victoria audiences an international series of films by indigenous filmmakers. So, that's exactly what will happen from September 27 to 29 at The Vic.

The three-day event puts the spotlight on indigenous artists telling their own stories, subject matter often overlooked by mainstream films.

VFF and Vic Theatre programmer Donovan Aikman says that a diverse and enthusiastic audience has been attracted to the screenings of indigenous films at VFF, and they don't want that to stop now.

"We're trying to keep some of that momentum going on through the year," says Aikman. "We're very blessed to have Michelle Latimer as our programmer; she's super on top of the filmmakers that are making a difference in the indigenous film-making world."

*Sol*, screening on September 27, is a Canadian movie directed by Marie-Hélène Cousineau and Susan Avingaq. The film is an investigation of the death of Solomon Uyarasak in police custody in 2012. The Inuk actor and musician is said by the police in Igloolik, Nunavut to have committed suicide while in their custody, but many in the community suspected murder.

"It's a very heavy documentary," says Aikman, "but a very important look at how criminal cases are han-

dled and the repercussions in the community, something that really doesn't get discussed enough."

On September 28, *This May Be the Last Time*, an American film directed by Sterlin Harjo, will be screened. The movie looks at the mysterious disappearance of Harjo's uncle in Sasakwa, Oklahoma in 1962. At the time, members of the Seminole community searched for him and sang songs of encouragement to support each other.

Through this, the movie tells the story of Creek Nation hymns, and those who keep this style of singing alive. Aikman says that although the documentary "involves a death, which is not a positive thing in and of itself," it is also a story about how music is "a transformative and powerful force." After the show

there will be an audience discussion led by CFUV's *Native Waves*' co-host Troy Sebastien.

*Boy* closes off the fest on September 29; the movie, which is set in the '80s, is directed by Taika Waititi, and is New Zealand's highest-grossing film of all time. The main character, Boy, is 11 years old; he's a serious Michael Jackson fan living with his grandma.

When Boy's father suddenly returns from prison, Boy couldn't be more thrilled—having built up an imaginary heroic father figure in his mind—until the reality of the incompetent hoodlum he's presented with sinks in.

"Australia and New Zealand have a strong cinematic history into themselves," says Aikman. "This one was a huge hit in New

Zealand; it didn't really get as much play here."

Aikman says that he feels strongly about promoting indigenous films and filmmakers, given how underrepresented they are in the mainstream.

"Even still, there's a strong tendency for non-aboriginal filmmakers to make films for indigenous and First Nations people," he says, "and there may be collaboration, but it's still sort of speaking on their behalf, so promoting people using their own voices is important."

Indigenous movies at The Vic  
7 pm, September 27-29  
The Vic Theatre,  
808 Douglas Street  
thevic.ca

art

## Art gallery exhibit looks at the lives of Chinese literati



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Qiu Ying's *A Scholarly Gathering in a Garden* is just one of many pieces on display at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria's *Treasures of the Chinese Scholar's Studio* exhibit.**

**JAYDEN GRIEVE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Our city, relative to its size, has long had an incredible variety of opportunities for its residents to take in many forms of cultural expression; the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV) has been a constant provider of these chances.

One of the AGGV's current exhibits, *Treasures of the Chinese Scholar's Studio*, promises to uphold this tradition.

"It's a good show," says AGGV curator of Asian art Barry Till. "It's very academic, and a lot of people seem to be enjoying it."

*Treasures of the Chinese Scholar's Studio* boasts beautiful calligraphy, paintings, artifacts, and other paraphernalia from the studios of

Chinese scholars from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.

"We have a lot of outstanding artifacts. There must be about 250 objects in the show, maybe more," says Till. "We have the second largest and second most comprehensive Asian collection in Canada, and that's why we can do specialized shows like this."

Till goes on to say that the gallery put on a similar show 13 years ago, but that it had been on both Chinese and Japanese scholars.

Since then they've received so many donations that it was possible to put on a show centred specifically on the uniqueness of the Chinese literati.

"There were what you call academic painters who went to work in

the courts, and they were very stiff. This is very free," says Till. "The literati weren't professional painters. They were amateurs, but often their paintings were more valuable than the professional academy painters'."

The literati were people who loved to hang out with their friends, have a little drink, and create something beautiful.

"They were opening up their minds and showing off to their friends to try and elevate themselves as intellectuals," explains Till.

The wide variety of items on display provides a good view of the literati lifestyle.

Till says that he is proud of the quality of the show that the gallery has put together, and he believes

that it will be a fun experience for anyone who comes to see it.

"It's not necessarily only the most expensive things you're going to see in the show; you are going to see what the literati loved to do," he says. "It shows their great love of education, and what they had to go through to get their education. It shows what their lifestyles were like, and it's kind of fun in that it shows you another aspect of ancient Chinese culture."

"The literati weren't professional painters. They were amateurs, but often their paintings were more valuable than the professional academy painters'."

**BARRY TILL**  
ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA

*Treasures of the Chinese Scholar's Studio*  
Until November 15  
\$11 for students, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria  
aggv.ca



review

# Despite rain, Rifflandia 2015 and BreakOut West weekend a success



KEAGAN HAWTHORNE/NEXUS

Mother Mother rocking Rifflandia to a close on Sunday night.

**KEAGAN HAWTHORNE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Even though there was intermittent rain all weekend, Rifflandia 2015 was a success. The festival, now in its eighth year, brought 230 musicians to the city for four jam-packed days of music spread throughout Victoria from September 17 to 20. Orchestrated by local production company Atomique Productions, Rifflandia transformed 22 locations around the city—from parking lots to sports fields—into festival stages.

The lineup this year included something for everyone, hosting hip-hop, EDM, country, folk, rock, and pop shows. The addition of the BreakOut West festival and the West Coast Music Awards brought a truly national focus to the event. And, as usual, Phillips produced their signature festival beer, Rifflandabrau.

The festival's musical nerve center, Royal Athletic Park, had the nice, family-friendly atmosphere typical of an outdoor music festival. Dozens of vendors and food carts filled the playing green; during the sunny breaks there were barefoot kids and families galore.

The weather was only partially cooperative, and Friday in the park was a bit soggy. Add to that the fact that Chromeo, the Friday-night headliner, took sick and cancelled at the last minute, and it wasn't the greatest Friday ever.

On Saturday, however, the sun was out and so were the fans, an estimated 3500 of them. A big hit was Calgary-born Kiesza, who commanded the attention of the crowd from the side stage with a high-energy set. She was outdone only by the evening's headliners, Modest Mouse, who thrilled the audience.

Out of respect for the North Park neighbourhood, the park stage finished by 9:30 and crowds of music-lovers spread out across the city.

They were undeterred by the rain, which began just as Modest Mouse finished up. An especially popular location was the Phillips Brewery yard, where hundreds lined up to see Kytami's wild electric violin. The Capital Iron parking lot next door had DJs spinning electronic dance music all night long, and, in a more intimate setting, local boy Mike Edel played a max-capacity show in the Northern Quarter.

The festival wrapped up on Sunday evening with headliners Mother Mother. The performance was energetic but a day of intermittent rain seemed to have dampened some of the enthusiasm of the crowd from the night before.

Rifflandia is great at making the festival an integrated part of Victoria's cultural scene. There are Victorians who resent the crowds and the noise, but noise levels are carefully monitored and kept in check.

The family-friendly nature of the festival is appreciated, and getting my groove on next to seven-year-olds riding mom's shoulders made dancing to Modest Mouse and Mother Mother all the more enjoyable.

While Rifflandia is a festival that's all about the fans, BreakOut West is as much of a music industry festival as it is a music listening festival. Now in its 13th year, BreakOut West visits a different city annually, hosting workshops, performances, galas, and culminating in the West Coast Music Awards.

This year the musical performances were sprinkled throughout the Rifflandia lineup. Several special genre showcases highlighted jazz, country, classical, and children's musicians.

The festival also includes several days of conference workshops and industry meet-ups, where producers, agents, and musicians rub shoulders and talk about the state of the industry. Conference topics

this year included social media, touring, and running your music as a business.

Alvin Jahns, one of the partners of Stony Plane Records from Edmonton, was in town to discuss the future of music sales.

"The whole world of the music business is changing so fast these days," says Jahns. "The technology

changes, but so do the fans. CD sales were down, and now downloads are down, too. In fact, CD sales have once again surpassed downloads, because everybody is moving to streaming music. The question for us is, how do you make money off of streaming music?"

BreakOut West culminated Sunday night with the West Coast

Music Awards gala, hosted this year by CBC personality Grant Lawrence.

Lawrence came onstage dressed as Captain Cook; his jokes were a little awkward at times, but the lineup of performers sprinkled throughout the ceremony was excellent. Thankfully, all the recipients kept their speeches to a minimum.

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KEAGAN HAWTHORNE/NEXUS

BreakOutWest had a classical showcase at St. John the Divine.



music

# Sarah MacDougall: the Nexus interview

**KEAGAN HAWTHORNE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sarah MacDougall, a Swedish-born singer/songwriter who now calls Whitehorse home, comes with a long list of accolades. For example, her music just won her the West Coast Music Awards Roots Solo Recording of the Year prize (which she's no stranger to: she also took it home in 2012) for her latest release, *Grand Canyon*. We sat down with Sarah before this year's West Coast Music Awards to talk to her about her life and her music.

*In the song "Cold Night," the effects of winter on the landscape seem to mirror the effect of loss on the singer's heart. Is your artistic process linked to landscape?*

Well, that's a metaphor, but it definitely affects me. That song was written at a time when I was walking a lot. It usually helps me write—to walk, and to move. So maybe that's why the landscape becomes such a big part of the process. I'm not just sitting in a room, I'm actually moving around.

*There is a stereotype that Nordic people are strongly influenced or shaped by their landscape. Do you think that the landscapes we inhabit affect the people we become?*

I think so. If you're from a Nordic country you're always very close to nature. It's not like if you're in Toronto, in southern Ontario, where it's all kind of suburb and ugly everywhere. That's going to have a very different effect on you than growing up in Iceland, or in the Yukon, or anywhere where you have much more of a closeness to nature.

*The themes and undertones of Grand Canyon are dark and brooding. On your website you describe it as having sounds of a "hopeful outsider trying to figure out their place and make sense of the world." Are you that outsider?*

I think I've always felt like an outsider in many ways. Growing up in Sweden I had an immigrant parent, and then coming to Canada it was the same. I didn't understand the humour; I didn't understand

the references. When I'm on tour I'm always on the outside looking in to other people's lives. So yeah, it's probably me (laughs).

*You also say it's about fear, hope, love, and forgiveness. What brought you to write this album? Whom did you have to forgive?*

Not one specific person. There's some love stories in there, and there's forgiving yourself for things that you've put yourself through. For me, the record is about figuring out where I am, and who I am. I have these different homes, the Yukon and Sweden, and at the same time I'm never in either. So on purpose I used a lot of Swedish themes on the record. I don't know why, exactly.

*The album opens with "I Want to See the Light," a song about racist shootings in Malmo. Do you think the world is a darkening place?*

I think I felt that when I wrote the song. Europe has been quite dark for the last few years, although I feel a bit more hopeful now. I think a lot of people are overwhelmed, busy in



KEAGAN HAWTHORNE/NEXUS

Sarah MacDougall playing live at this year's Rifflandia.

their own worlds and scared. We're so isolated because we're constantly on our smartphones, connected in this weird way. With "I Want to See the Light," I wanted to see more connection and realness.

*What is the role of art or the artist in bringing connection or light?*

I think that's a huge part of art. Most of the art I like and think is successful is bringing some kind of light, even if the art is dark, or

touching on really serious subjects. It gives you a connection to the world, a reference to history. It lets you know that you're part of something. And I think art is extremely important in that. Imagine not having any art. That's a dark world. I can't even imagine.

Read an expanded version of this interview online now at [nexusnewspaper.com](http://nexusnewspaper.com)

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## canadian spelling word search

What's more frustrating than trying to remember what is the Canadian spelling of words like "gray" or "fiber"? Doing a word search where you need to find both Canadian and American spellings of said words. Have fun!

Bring the completed puzzle in to the Nexus office and grab a prize for your hard work!

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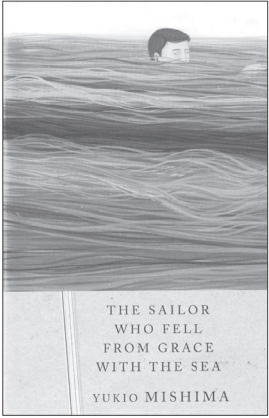




Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

## Yukio Mishima finds true beauty



Robinson writes with a touching consideration for these small details of existence.

“True beauty is something that attacks, overpowers, robs, and finally destroys,” wrote Yukio Mishima, a Japanese author who is as famous for his death at age 45 as he is for his prodigious literary output.

It is hard to overstate the expanse of Mishima’s life. Considered the most important Japanese author of the 20th century, he published over 100 books of poetry, plays, novels, essays, and short stories. He directed and acted in films, was known as a bodybuilder and model, and established a private militia based on traditional *bushido*, or samurai, principles.

Mishima was also politically outspoken and a critic of the westernizing of Japanese culture. In 1970 he and four members of his militia entered a military base in

Tokyo and tied the commanding general to a chair. Mishima then addressed the assembled troops from a balcony, extolling the historic power and glory of the Emperor.

When Mishima finished, he stepped inside and committed seppuku: ritual suicide by disembowelment.

Mishima left behind a rich body of avant-garde literature. His writing broke both stylistic and cultural boundaries, blending traditional Japanese aesthetics with western ideas and a modern, innovative style.

In *The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea*, Mishima explores the notion of absolute morality from the perspective of a gang of violent children who are staunchly loyal to their own moral code, even

when it puts their behaviour at odds with the adult world.

His writing often touches on dark themes—death, disillusionment, sex, and obsession—and his characteristic close attention to imaginative detail doesn’t shy away from the uncomfortable aspects of his characters’ psyches.

But the brilliance of Mishima’s prose is that readers may find their own dark corners illuminated. It’s sometimes uncomfortable, but it always leads toward a fuller understanding of the self.

**Yukio Mishima must-read:**  
*The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea*

(Lansdowne library code: Lansdowne library: PL 833 I7 G613)



The Functional Traveller

by Sera Down

## Organized chaos

We’re all familiar with the saying, “Packed like a can of sardines.” I myself have certainly used this phrase before but, admittedly, living amongst the diluted populace of Victoria, have not truly experienced any situation near claustrophobic. A crowded Victorian bus often constitutes several people standing metres apart while four people accommodate an eight-person bench with their various personal items.

The Japanese, however, take this saying very literally. Anyone who has been to Shibuya’s famous crosswalk can attest to the utter insanity that metropolitan Japan can offer. The best example, however, is the glorious web that is the Tokyo Metro.

Tokyo Metro and its partner infrastructure (Shinkansen bullet train and JR Line) are the veins through which commerce, business, and life in Tokyo flow. Each station is the size of a moderately sized strip mall, often covering several city blocks, which people have to expertly navigate to make a connecting train. Foot traffic is controlled by rumble strips running through the entire station to encourage the correct flow of traffic and queues. Each line has its own gate, which people queue for at peak rush hour to access the line.

This is where our story begins.

You descend the stairs to the station and queue for the escalator. You finally make it down the escalator. There is a long queue for the ticket machine. You must then enter your chosen gate. Queues have accumulated with people waiting to scan their ticket or rail pass. Another escalator. A double queue, side by side, clogging any fast-moving traffic.

You have finally reached your gate, but... now you must queue for the train.

This is not rush hour. However, 8:30 to 9:30 am is. I take the train at this time, daily, for class. With my nose buried deep in a stranger’s armpit, and an elderly woman grappling at my backpack, more people pile into the train. Uniformed men with surgical gloves push everyone inside to prevent limbs being caught in the doors. The air is heavy with humidity, sweat, and breath, weighed down by the frigid air conditioning blasting from above.

The Japanese navigate life with the fluidity of a school of fish, keeping in order within even the busiest of metro stations.

I now know what it truly means to be a sardine.



Look

by Melanie Didrich

## Mindfulness

Either everything is for a reason or nothing is—it’s a world of pure chance or coincidence.

But as I look around every day I realize that I probably fall into the group that believes that everything happens for a reason, that the world isn’t just stuck hobnob on the tip of a planet without rhyme or reason.

I’m a sucker for sentimental bullshit.

I watch the seasons change, the colours turning, and I realize that I am changing, too. I hear the crunch of the leaves’ cries under the heels of my shoes, and I know their death is a new beginning. I taste cold and cool air just faintly on the tip of my tongue, and I know I am changing and autumn is coming.

There is a world that surrounds the season. It has spiders weaving thicker webs, squirrels gathering up acorns and loot, and children begging their parents to stock up early on Halloween candy. The dawns are full of the colour purple and the dusks are full of the colour pink.

I carry my 35-pound shiny black school bag from building to building, feeling the pull of the muscle spasmjerk, cascade, and quiver, and I see the world. I see the crowds of students in the courtyard lingering and laughing, renewing old friendships and creating new ones. I see the bookstore lineups decrease and the cafeteria lineups increase as their pizza releases the greasy smell of melted cheese into the halls of Fisher.

I see how lovely our grounds are kept. No garbage. No clutter. No smoking.

I am mindful to the world, to the smallest of the small. Rilke wrote, “Live the questions themselves,” and I know he meant everything. I know he meant that the priority in life is to find all of the little things that seem like nothing but really are the most cherished moments of my life.

Either everything means something or nothing does.

This is the way it has to be.

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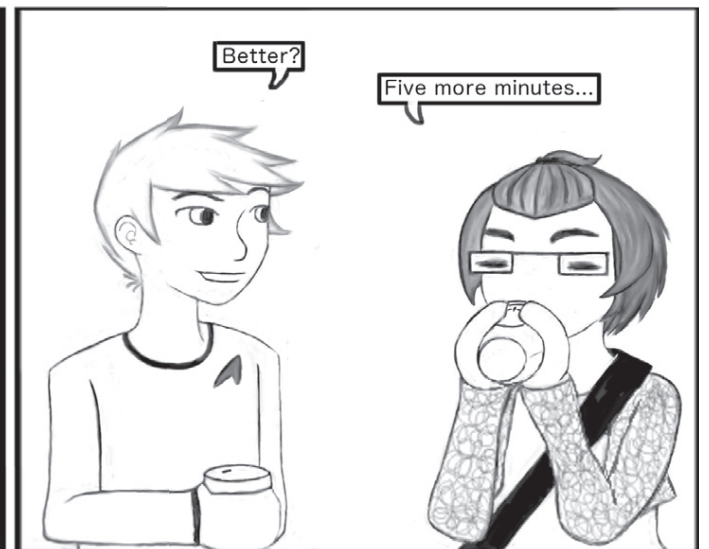
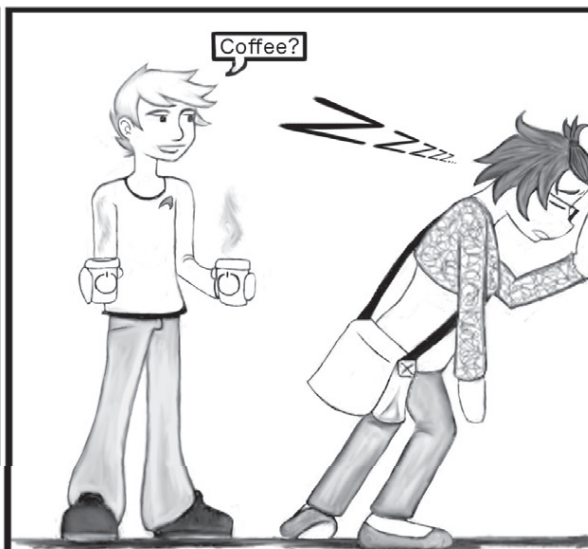
Lan: 6:45 PM Thur, Paul 216      Int: 5:15 Tue, Campus Ctr 320

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The Everyday Student



By Audrey D. Greenlees



what's going on

by pascale archibald



PHOTO PROVIDED

Concealer are playing in Victoria on September 26, when they'll be at the Copper Owl with Rae Spoon.

UNTIL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

### Mamet's scathing comedy hits the stage

Victoria's Belfry Theatre celebrates its 40th anniversary season with writer David Mamet's comedy

*Speed-the-Plow*. Tickets range from \$23 to \$48 (students get 25 percent off) and can be found online at [tickets.belfry.bc.ca](http://tickets.belfry.bc.ca). For performance times, other ticket discount information, and more info on the play itself visit [belfry.bc.ca](http://belfry.bc.ca).

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

### Let the debate commence!

UVic students will be hosting a moderated debate on science and technology between local federal election candidates. Come out to see

Bob McDonald moderate the debate in the Bob Wright Centre at UVic. The event will run from 7 pm until 9 pm and will cover a variety of topics, including clean water, medicine, databases, and bridges. Visit [uvic.ca](http://uvic.ca) for more information on this event.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

### New take on sustainable eating

Michelle Catherine Nelson, author of *The Urban Homesteading Cookbook*, will be visiting Victoria on September 24. Her book offers an alternative view to industrialized food production with a focus on the ease of ethical eating. She will be at Russell Books, located at 734 Fort Street, for a demonstration and signing session that will run from 7 pm until 9 pm. More info on the free event is at [russellbooks.wordpress.com](http://russellbooks.wordpress.com).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

### Mechanical ingenuity strikes again

Interurban students enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering Technology program will be showcasing their inventions from 10 am until 2 pm at the basketball court at Camosun's Interurban campus. The event is free and open to all. There will also be a BBQ where attendees can buy a burger, chips, and pop for \$5. For more information on this event visit [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

### Good things come in threes

The Diversity Advisory Committee of the Camosun College is sponsoring a series of workshops that will be held at the Lansdowne campus. *Did We Sign Up for This?* looks at the aspirations of international academia and the emergent challenges staff and faculty face. This event runs from 10 am until 11 am in the Fisher building, room 100. *Four Reasons It Is so Hard to Make Meaningful Friendships with Canadians*, and *the One Reason You Can't Give Up* is self-explanatory (we think), and it is scheduled from 11:30 am until 12:15 pm in the Young building, room 216. *Vital Soft Skills for Prosperity in the Canadian Workplace* delves into the skills needed to advance in a profession that probably won't be taught in class. It will be held in the Library and Learning Commons, in room 151.

For registration and more information visit [camosun.ca/about/diversity/learning/workshops](http://camosun.ca/about/diversity/learning/workshops).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

### Made in BC

Maria Tippet will be launching her latest book, *Made in British Columbia: Eight Ways of Making Culture*, in UVic's Fine Arts Building at 7:30 pm. The book explores the idea that an artist's work can affect the way we see ourselves and the world around us. The event is free to attend and refreshments will be served. For more information visit [uvic.ca](http://uvic.ca).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

### Dentistry, for free

Victoria's sixth annual Dentistry from the Heart event will be held at 4400 Chatterton Way, Suite 206, on September 26. The event registration begins at 8:45 am; patients will be seen by dentist Dr. Crapo and his team until 5 pm. This is a first-come-first-serve charity event, so if you're in desperate need of dental attention, you'd best be going early. More information can be found by calling 1-800-617-2933.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

### If in doubt, conceal

Concealer describes their sound as the collision of "sleazy rock and roll and proto-punk" with "emotionally naked post-folk"; they will be performing at the Copper Owl, located at 1900 Douglas Street. Doors at 8 pm; more information on this event can be found at [copperowl.ca](http://copperowl.ca).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

### Love is in the air

Indie rock band Fast Romantics will be performing at Lucky Bar, located at 517 Yates Street. Doors are at 8 pm; advance tickets are \$10. More info is at [luckybar.ca](http://luckybar.ca).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

### I wonder if they will see elves

Join a CRD regional park naturalist for a guided walk in the forest from 1 pm until 3 pm and an interpretive tea tasting of local plants. The event is geared toward adults and will be at the Francis-King Regional Park. Pre-registration is required (before October 2); it costs \$7 to sign up. Call 250-478-3344 to register.

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