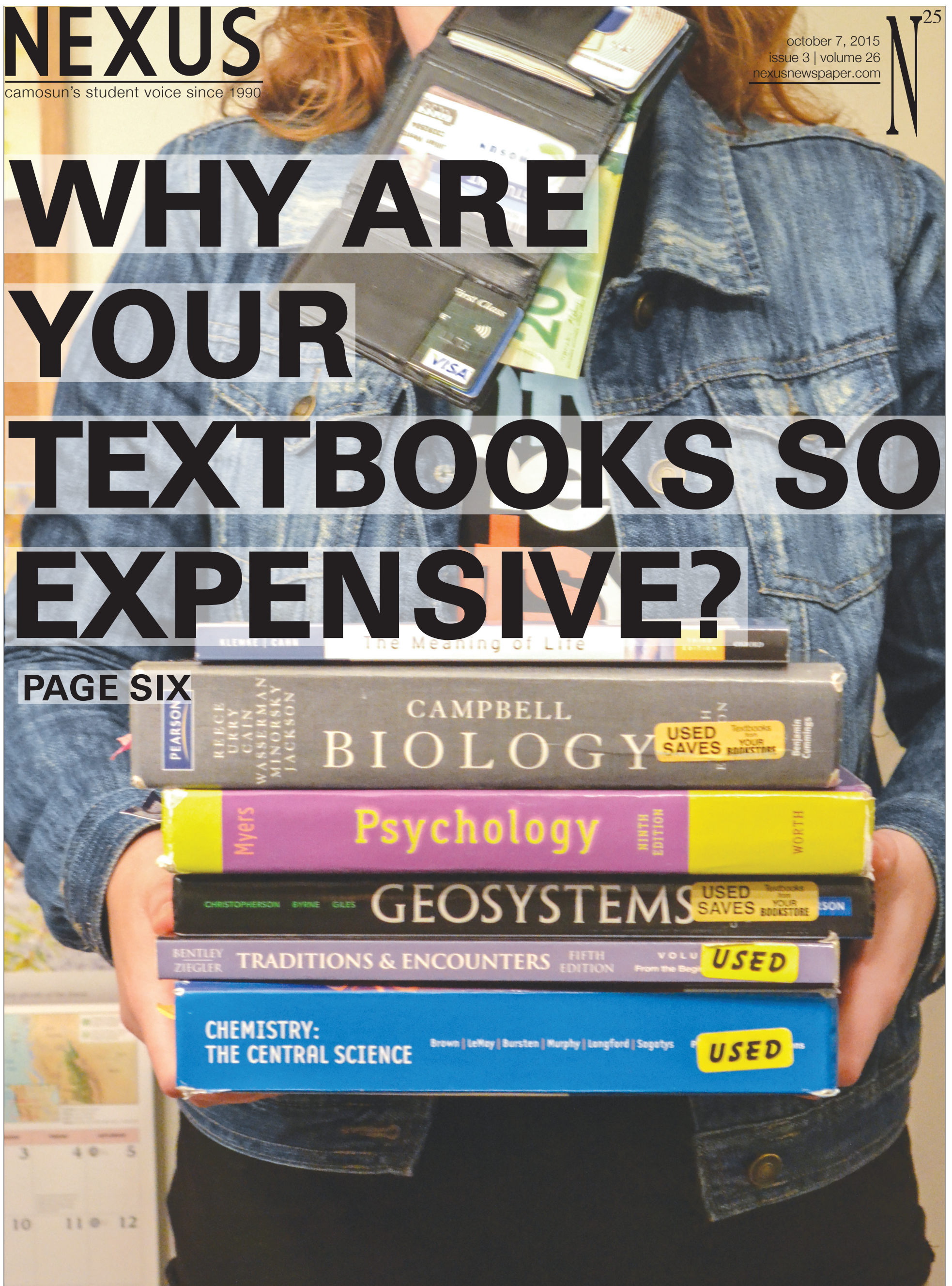


WHY ARE YOUR TEXTBOOKS SO EXPENSIVE?

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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

Next publication: October 21, 2015

Deadline: noon October 14, 2015

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

Location: Lansdowne Richmond House 201

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SEND A LETTER

Nexus prints letters that are 250 words or less. *Nexus* reserves the right to refuse publication of letters. Letters must include full name and student number (not printed). *Nexus* accepts all letters by email to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. We reserve the right to edit all letters.

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "They were lunkhead '80s metalheads with huge muscles running around with anti-racist skinheads, with trouble always following them and getting into lots of fights. Normal stuff."

COVER PHOTOS:
Textbooks: Jill Westby/*Nexus*
Camosun refugee program: Jill Westby/*Nexus*
Chargers golfers: Kevin Light
Batman: Provided

editor's letter

25 years of kicking ass

Anyone who knows me knows I don't like to self-promote too much. Heck, I'm the guy who insisted on *not* putting our name on our 25th anniversary logo. We're living in a world where we can't quickly check social media while going to the bathroom (oh, come on, as if you don't) without being bombarded by people pushing their product/brand/garbage at you. Last thing you need is one more organization talking about themselves in your personal space.

Having said that, we're 25, and we're proud of it, and we're celebrating.

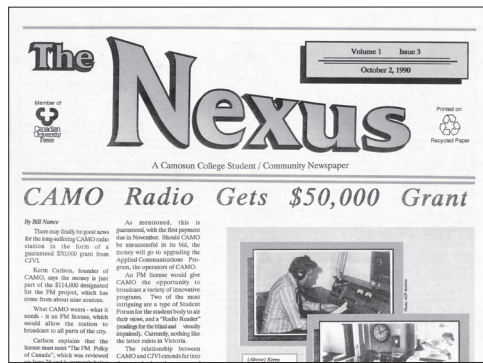
We want to give you a free donut (or cookie). And a pen! And a free newspaper! Well, we're always free for you, but we want to put a newspaper in your hand and thank you for reading. Let us do just that on Thursday, October 22 from 10 am to 2 pm at Lansdowne campus, in the main courtyard area outside of Fisher and Ewing. You know what? You've been so awesome to us: have a free coffee, too.

And come tell us what you think of the paper. I'll be there along with our incredible board members and volunteers and student editor and everyone who works around the clock to make your student newspaper a really special one. But let's never forget it is *your* paper. So come tell us what you like, what you don't like, and, mainly, come let us give you some free crap for being the best readers any newspaper could possibly hope for. Our October 21 issue is going to have a special retrospective story on the paper's history, so be sure to grab it, and be sure to come say hello on October 22! Hope to see you there.

Greg Pratt, managing editor
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

25 years ago in Nexus



Did you know we are turning 25 this year? That's right: the very first issue of *Nexus*, known back then as *The Nexus*, appeared on stands around Camosun in September 1990. So we're relaunching our *20 Years Ago* column as *25 Years Ago* and starting back at the beginning...

Changing attitudes: In the editor's letter in our October 2, 1990 issue, we talked about how the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) was doing a good job in acting on the students' behalf when negotiating with the college. 25 years later, we gotta hand it to the CCSS for still lobbying around the clock for Camosun students. We also gotta give a birthday shout-out

to the CCSS, who is also turning 25 this year!

Even adjusted for inflation, we're jealous: In "Single parent students speak out," we profiled a Camosun student, Randy Leonard, who was a single parent of two children. In the piece, he mentions his three-bedroom townhouse in Royal Oak, which was in a Capital Regional District housing complex. The rent, including hydro? \$198 a month.

Daycare delays: You hear about huge waiting lists for daycares these days, but apparently that's been a concern for a long time: a story in this issue mentions that Camosun's daycare had a three-year waiting list.

open space

The new liberal puritanism

The quest for an environment in which nobody is ever offended will leave everybody reeling from self-conscious censorship.

KEAGAN HAWTHORNE

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to a recent article in *The Atlantic*, American universities are under siege. Apparently, the current generation of students feels entitled to an education scrubbed clean of any ideas, words, or works of literature that may in any way trouble one of their number. They are pressuring teachers to limit discussion of offensive topics and make reading lists that contain "triggering" subject matter optional.

I don't know that things are so dire here in Canada, but I think the warning would be well heeded. There seems to be a new kind of puritanism that prioritizes the needs of an overly sensitive few above the general public's right to free and easy banter. Self-consciousness and self-censorship are required lest you say something not in line with the broadest (and blandest) of accepted opinions. But the quest for an environment in which *nobody* is ever offended will leave *everybody* reeling from self-conscious censorship.

The problem is that this reshaping of public debate is born out of fear—fear of seeming indifferent to a radical pluralism of needs—rather than a policy aimed at raising the level of discourse for all.

And here lies the irony: accommodating the widest range of sensitivities leads to the narrowest range of discussion. We can learn from what offends us, and we can

come to grips with our demons and fears if they are brought into the light of day.

Additionally, the sanitization of public debate risks us not being able to find joy even in the face of oppression. If we can't laugh at ourselves and our problems (for fear that somebody might take offense), how can we hope to move forward with solving them? Where will be the space for friendly needling or raucous banter?

Of course, everything I'm saying boils down to a line drawn somewhere in the middle of two camps. On the one hand you have the thoughtless, completely unfiltered disgrace of frat-boy hazing rituals and redneck rhetoric. But on the other hand there is an overly self-conscious culture that bans *The Vagina Monologues* for not being inclusive enough and restricts classroom discussion to topics that will be "emotionally safe" for all participants.

I had a high-school teacher who always said a student's right to be late to class ended where the other students' right to learn began. The same criteria should be applied here: an individual's right to not be offended ends where society's right to meaningful, healthy, and respectful discussion begins. Discussion about a world that is sometimes offensive. Discussion that someday might come up with a way to make that world a better place.

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

NEXT
ISSUE: N²⁵

SPEAK UP

What are your thoughts on the price of textbooks?

BY SARAH TAYLER



NICOLAS LOPEZ

"They're ridiculously expensive. For, let's say, math or calculus, I don't think it's worth \$120 for one textbook for one course."



BRUCE TURNER

"They're way too much, considering I use it for four months. Second-year chemistry textbook: \$170. I'm gonna use it for maybe two months, and then what? I can maybe get \$50 for it?"



SHYANNE SMITH

"Expensive. They need to lower it. For us to get our education and to get to where we want to be is pretty expensive."



REBEKAH CONSTANTINE

"They're rather expensive. I understand why, though. As long as students can sell it back, I suppose it's okay. It would be nice if it was lower, though."



JUAN AORREGO

"I think they are quite expensive. I get my textbooks from Amazon. They're a little cheaper. And I don't have to, you know, go out of my bedroom."



ALEXANDRA HAGGSTROM

"I think that some of them should be lowered a little bit, because some students can't afford them. They need to be affordable for everyone."

college
New chair elected to Camosun College board of governors



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

Camosun College board of governors chair Russ Lazaruk.

PASCALE ARCHIBALD
 STUDENT EDITOR

Russ Lazaruk was elected as the new chair of Camosun College's board of governors on September 14.

Lazaruk has been a member of the board of governors for the last four years, and he has held the position of vice chair since last year.

Current Camosun board of governors vice chair Ron Rice says he nominated Lazaruk for the position of chair because of his experiences over the last few years on the board.

"He's been great to work with," says Rice. "I certainly look forward to his leadership over the next few

years. He's very thoughtful; he's well spoken. I think that being even-tempered is very useful in a chair, and I'm encouraged by how well he's done in this position."

Rice isn't the only one at the college who thinks Lazaruk is right for the job. Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Andrea Eggenberger is pleased to see someone with such a diverse background as chair.

"I'm glad to see someone who has community involvement in their background," says Eggenberger. "He's mainly worked in finance and investment, but we see that he does a lot of community work, for example, in the public libraries or

the Victoria art gallery. I'm really glad to see someone participating in multiple facets of the community. It implies that they appreciate the value of each academic program that Camosun offers and can see that artists and musicians add as much to the economy as nurses and accountants. So we're really glad to see someone with a lot of community involvement and a lot of varied community involvement, and someone who's been on the board for a while too."

"If I had a broad goal, it's to help the college and encourage the college to continue being excellent in everything it does."

RUSS LAZARUK
 CAMOSUN COLLEGE BOARD
 OF GOVERNORS

The position of chair is quite important to board meetings no matter the organization, according to Eggenberger.

"A chair is really vital to the efficiency of the meeting," she says. "Without a chair the meeting could go on forever and never really resolve an issue. So we are really glad that Mr. Lazaruk has previous chairing experience with other boards on Salt Spring Island. He has also been on our board for a couple of years, so he knows just how it works, which is really good."

Camosun's board of governors sits at the top of the college's hierarchy. Lazaruk explains that it's a governance board, so they aren't involved in the college's operational details.

"We deal with the budget, which is actually developed by the executive team and the finance department, and then approve that," he says. "That's probably our number one role; the rest of our role as the board of governors is strategic, so ensuring there's a strategic plan and the general direction of the college."

Second in command at the college is the president, who deals directly with the chair, says Rice.

"The chair on this particular board chairs all of the meetings and interprets the will of the board," says Rice. "He is the liaison between the president and the college and the board. I always try to imagine an hourglass—everything has to go through the president to get to the chair, and then everything has to go through the chair to get through to the board. So he is the go-between between us and the college."

The most important thing the board can bring to the college and achieve within board meetings is a common vision, according to Rice.

"I think the biggest part of it is trying to find a shared vision," says Rice. "So, making sure that everyone's perspective and opinion is considered. I think really it's about keeping an eye on the goal rather than how the decision is made or how long the conversation has to be, just as long as the goal is reached."

Those goals, according to Lazaruk, are to keep the college as comprehensive as possible.

"If I had a broad goal, it's to help the college and encourage the college to continue being excellent in everything it does," says Lazaruk. "It's a strive toward excellence in everything that we do, and I don't mean excellence in terms of being a Harvard or something like that,

but whatever we feel that our role is. We are very much a comprehensive college, and those services that we deliver to our students, whether it is student services or education learning, are done in the best way possible."

"I'm really glad to see someone participating in multiple facets of the community. It implies that they appreciate the value of each academic program that Camosun offers and can see that artists and musicians add as much to the economy as nurses and accountants."

ANDREA EGGENBERGER
 CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT
 SOCIETY

Lazaruk says that last year's strategic sessions really focused the board's direction for Camosun College.

"I think that we've probably given more focus to our goals," he says. "Last year, after having gone through the strategic issue sessions, we reaffirmed that we are a comprehensive college and that we serve a broad range of students and student needs, everything from Access and Adult Basic Education right through to University Transfer and of course our applied degree programs. That's what a comprehensive community college does."

NEWS BRIEFS

BC students pledge to vote

Just two weeks after the launch of the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia (CFS-BC) campaign This Time We Decide, over 4,200 postsecondary students have pledged to vote across the province, according to CFS-BC. The campaign focuses on first-time voters and uses social media and modern technologies to send reminders and information about the upcoming election to those who have pledged. More information can be found at thistimewedecide.ca.

Microsoft Office free for students

Back in March of this year, Microsoft Office announced it was

making Office free for educators and students across Canada. During their launch of Office 2016, Microsoft said that since that announcement in March only 10 percent of eligible students have taken advantage of the free offer. To be eligible, students and educators have to be affiliated with an eligible educational institution, of which Camosun College is one. Find out more at office.com.

BC government fails students

The BC government recently revealed that an unprotected hard drive containing sensitive data pertaining to 3.4 million students has been lost, according to a press release sent out by the Canadian Federation of Students-British

Columbia (CFS-BC). The missing data dates back to 1986 and includes grades, mental health assessments, student loan data, and birth dates, says CFS-BC. This is not the first time the government has misplaced private student information. In 2013, a federal government hard drive containing information on nearly 600,000 Canadian student-loan recipients went missing and has yet to be recovered. Neither hard drive was encrypted.

New housing for the homeless in the works

Cool Aid Society's Help End Homelessness campaign aims at creating 360 new supportive-housing apartments for the homeless. Currently, development on three different properties will provide an

extra 164 living spaces by the end of 2018. This is only 45 percent of their campaign target of 360 new supportive-housing apartments. See coolaid.org for more information.

Our Place receives donation from United Church of Canada

The United Church of Canada gave \$500,000 to Our Place during their annual general meeting on Thursday, September 17. The donation is the start of a legacy fund that will go toward a community centre aimed at supporting Greater Victoria's working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted, and homeless citizens. Don Evans, the executive director of Our Place Society, said in a press release that the

legacy fund will generate income for years to come and will help change many lives. More information can be found at ourplacesociety.com.

-PASCALE ARCHIBALD

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

Want to be a news writer?

As long as you are a Camosun student, you are eligible to write for Nexus, your student newspaper.

Stop by our office (Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus), email us (editor@nexusnewspaper.com), or call (250-370-3591).

We want to hear from you!



college

Students aim for refugee-sponsorship program



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

These students want to see a refugee-sponsorship program start up here at Camosun College.

SARAH VOWLES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Western University Service of Canada (WUSC), a student-based and student-run non-governmental organization that has a chapter operating out of Camosun College, is hoping to start a refugee-sponsorship program through an official Camosun student refugee program. The program would place a sponsored refugee student at Camosun College.

"Sixty-one schools across Canada already fund this program," says WUSC member Jonathan Perritt-Mo'ungaloa.

Some participating schools have received funding from businesses, allowing them to sponsor more students.

"Most schools will sponsor at least one student a year, but there is the ability to have more depending on how much funding they get—through a levy, for example," says WUSC member Jenny Little. "But we are starting small, with one student a year, and seeing where we can go from there."

This program, if it goes through, will be financially supported and organized by the student body.

"It is going to be student-funded," says Little. "The goal at the

October [Camosun College Student Society] elections is to have the students agree to add \$1.50 to their student levy each semester, which is like 40 cents a month. It's nothing, and that will fund the entire program."

The students are granted landed immigrancy, and the program covers tuition, housing, food, social supports, and more.

The program is still in the works, and they still have hurdles to overcome, a significant one being getting enough initial support from the students.

"We've got about 300 signatures so far, and the student society wants us to have 500 signatures by the end of September," says Perritt-Mo'ungaloa. "Once we gather all those signatures by the end of this month, then the student society will decide if it is feasible for us or possible for us to be on the ballot."

Little is optimistic, saying they already have the program in place, as well as a majority of the funding.

"If we go through with this upcoming election, then we will be good to go to have someone landed by next November," she says.

Camosun College international director Geoff Wilmshurst says that

Camosun International is "very happy" that this WUSC chapter has formed at Camosun, and he adds that Camosun International are very supportive of the refugee-sponsorship program.

"As a former WUSC refugee-sponsorship program coordinator I know that this is the ultimate life-changing experience for both the sponsored student and the sponsoring group," says Wilmshurst. "Camosun International has committed to covering the cost, through a scholarship, of two semesters of tuition for the sponsored student and assisting the [WUSC] local committee with the tools they will need to assist the student once they have arrived in Canada."

WUSC has some ideas for future generations of Camosun students, such as the Shine a Light program, which focuses on giving girls access to education.

The process to determine who would be chosen as a sponsored refugee would be based on a selection process to decide who would fit in best at Camosun. In the end it is the students who will decide if the refugee program is a success.

"It's all contingent on whether or not people do go out and vote," says Little.

know your profs

Chris Ayles marks hard for a reason

GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

Know Your Profs is an ongoing series of profiles on the instructors at Camosun College.

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

This issue we talked to environmental tech instructor Chris Ayles about his reputation as a picky marker, beard-growing, and the bad habits of dogs.

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

I teach geography, mainly within the Environmental Technology program, but also some University Transfer courses. This includes natural hazards, geomorphology, weather and climate, environmental geography, and a bunch of field skills, such as map and compass navigation and stream assessment. I have been here since spring 2002—over 13 years!

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

I enjoy talking to students about geography! Geographers have a different way of seeing the world—not just as a backdrop for daily life, but as a living, functioning system. It's very satisfying to help open students' eyes to that.

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

I seem to have a reputation as a picky marker, but it's not because I'm mean. Part of our job as instructors is to nurture students' thinking, communication, and professionalism, and being a little tight with the marks stimulates progress there. But life would be easier if I just gave everybody an A.

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

ET students who have been at field camp with me for a week know I can't grow a good beard.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun's Chris Ayles.

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

One year, the graduating class of ET students invited all their instructors out for dinner, and gave us thank-you cards and gifts (cans of near-beer; it's an inside joke). It was really touching, and I still get a bit choked up thinking about it.

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

I once got ejected at full speed from a motorboat driven by a student. Mostly, the bad stuff around here is just everyday bureaucratic annoyances. The classroom is an amazing cure for that.

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

Some people think that with the explosion of the internet, easy access to infinite information makes traditional education unnecessary. I'm not so sure, because it takes time, training, and guidance to become an effective independent learner. Also, education keeps getting less affordable, with budget cuts and tuition hikes putting colleges and students under a lot of financial pressure. I hope society and government re-awaken to the value of education.

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

Hanging out with my wife and two young boys is number one. I also try to squeeze in some kind of exercise—mountain biking, hiking, kayaking, or hockey, mainly.

9: What's your favourite meal?

Takeout Indian curry.

10: What's your biggest pet peeve?

My own tendency to procrastinate. Also dog shit in my front yard.

LEAD THE CHARGE

CHEER ON YOUR TEAMS!

HOME OPENERS

VOLLEYBALL - Friday, Oct 16 vs VIU - 6pm & 8pm

BASKETBALL - Friday, Nov 20 vs Quest - 6pm & 8pm

CHEER ON YOUR TEAMS!

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HOME OPENERS
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 CHECK THE CHARGERS WEBSITE FOR GAME SCHEDULE camosun.ca/chargers

sports

Camosun Chargers golf team starts season strong

KAITLIN WOODS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2015/2016 PACWEST golf season has begun, and the Camosun Chargers golf team has claimed its third consecutive win on home turf.

The Chargers golf team, who took home silver in the provincial and national championships last year, hosted the Camosun Invitational at Bear Mountain Golf Resort and Spa on September 26 and 27. They finished with a team score of 554, 21 strokes better than the University of Fraser Valley Cascades, who came in second with a score of 575.

Chargers golf veterans Brady Stead and Jeff Riches led the team, tied with individual scores of 67, three strokes under par.

John Randle has been head coach of the golf team since 2008. He admits that the teams are different over the years, even if his coaching style isn't.

"Maybe I'm a little more relaxed, at times," he says. "The team is arguably the best team I've had since I've been here, which is saying something. We've had a lot of good teams, a lot of good players. I think from one to seven we've got the best team I've ever had, which makes my job a whole lot easier."

The last golf season had the Chargers consistently coming in second place, but last year's frustration is this year's motivation.

"The team is arguably the best team I've had since I've been here, which is saying something."

JOHN RANDLE
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

"We measure ourselves against ourselves, what we're capable of," says Randle. "Whether we're leading or trailing, it's all about how we can get closer to our potential, so with that sort of mindset it makes it easier to keep looking forward, rather than looking back at the near misses."

Fifth-year veteran Brady Stead makes it clear that pressure will only fuel the team as they face the upcoming season.

"Pressure is a good thing, and it can really fuel you to play the best golf you've ever played," says Stead. "For a lot of us, it's our last crack at a national championship."



KEVIN LIGHT

The Camosun Chargers golf team is looking to have a season to remember this year.

Randle says the team dynamic is an important part of even a sport like golf, which in some ways is more of an individual sport.

"We make decisions as a team—how we're going to play each hole, what our strategy is. We have team meetings every night when we're on the road, and we compete against each other in practice," says Randle. "There's plenty of team dynamics. But when the gun goes off its pretty much five guys fighting their own battles."

Stead has a slightly different view, saying it's an individual sport but no one is really alone.

"It's an individual game, but we all know that we have each other's backs," he says. "If one guy is struggling, another guy will pick him up. I think we would all do that for each other, and I think that it's a great thing to have in a team."

The season is looking good so far for the Chargers golfers, and Randle attributes it all to his players.

"The players play, the players

get all the credit, and this group of guys is working hard, taking it seriously, and conducting themselves well," he says.

Stead is just as optimistic as his coach, and he's got his eye on the prize this season.

"If each of us go out and win the battle against ourselves and the battle against the golf course, that's really when we have our best chance to win," he says. "If we can do that then we have a really good chance of winning gold this year."

campus happenings

Orange shirts raise awareness at recent event on Lansdowne campus



GRAYSON MORTIMER/NEXUS

GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

On Wednesday, September 30, Camosun College employees

and students wore orange shirts to support residential school survivors and their families.

The day featured an event on

Lansdowne campus where people were encouraged to eat fry bread and sing the *huy ch qu* song to show their support for and to honour the

150,000 survivors of the residential school system. The event, which took place at Na'tsa'maht (the Gathering Place), was part of Orange

Shirt Day; it's held on September 30 to represent the day children in residential schools were taken away from their homes.

what's going on

by pascale archibald

Read an expanded version of this with more events at nexusnewspaper.com/

UNTIL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Family hilarity at Langham Court

You Can't Take It With You is a comedic dive into the lives of a batty family that has unusual views regarding normality. This play originally premiered on Broadway in 1936 and won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1937. *You Can't Take It With You* is showing at the Langham Court Theatre, located at 805 Langham Court. Student tickets are \$19; the show starts at 8 pm. To purchase tickets or for more information visit langhamtheatre.ca.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

Seal speaks

Mental Illness Awareness Week is being recognized at Camosun College with a talk from TEDx presenter

and mental health and wellness expert Brent Seal. Seal will talk about his experiences dealing with schizophrenia, his interactions with the mental health system, and his brush with suicide. Seal is now a mentor to young adults with mental illness. The event runs from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Camosun's Lansdowne campus, in room 216 in the Young building. More information can be found at eventbrite.com or icmha.ca.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Art behind bars

The inmates at Metchoshin's William Head Prison have put on a performance every year since 1981; this year they will be performing *Here: A Captive Odyssey*, a historical play based on archival research and oral stories of William Head with inspiration from the book *Quarantined*, in which inmates find themselves time-traveling through the history of William Head. The show begins at 7:30; arrival times are extremely strict,

with the gate only open from 6:15 to 7:15. Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased in advance, either at Windrush Gallery (4357 Metchoshin Road) or online. More information is at whonstage.weebly.com.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Horses with feathers

Indie folk band Horse Feathers from Portland, Oregon are going to be joined by River Whyless at the Roxy Theatre for a night of live music on October 11. Advance tickets are \$22.50 and are available at Lyle's Place and ticketfly.com; the event starts at 7 pm. More info can be found at bluebridgetheatre.ca.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 TO SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Silent entertainment

Wonderheads is a theatre company that performs wordless and in full-face masks. Their latest play, *LOON*, tells the story of a lonely janitor

with a child-like imagination and fascination with the moon. This play is a mix of physical theatre, comedy, and pathos, all wrapped up in a love story. Opening night is at UVic's Phoenix Theatre at 8 pm; tickets are \$15 for students. Visit finearts.uvic.ca/theatre/phoenix for more information.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Comedy at Camosun

The Camosun College Student Society is bringing Yuck, Yuck's standup comedy to Camosun College; come laugh with comedians Abdul Aziz, Jonathan Baum, and Suneer Dhaliwal. The show starts at 8 pm in Fisher 100, but the licensed lounge opens at 7 pm if you want to indulge a bit beforehand. Tickets are \$10 and are a fundraiser for campus clubs; they are available at the Lansdowne cafeteria or the Urban Diner at Interurban. More information on this event can be found at camosunstudent.org.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 UNTIL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Art anti-matters

Media art festival Antimatter is back with film and video screenings, expanded cinema performances, and public art installations; there are over 150 film and video works this year. To find the complete Antimatter program guide, visit antimatter.ca.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Taking it out on ivy

Friends of Uplands Park and the Greater Victoria Green Team want you to come and vent your frustrations by ripping out invasive species, namely ivy. Bring gloves and whatever gardening tools you think may help with the job and sign in at the Beach Drive entrance to Cattle Point. Event runs from 1 until 4 pm; refreshments will be provided. For more info contact Margaret Lidkea at 250-595-8084.

Peeling back the t

A look at why exactly textbooks are so exp

Story by Jayden Grieve, contributing writer

Photos by Jill Westby/Nexus

Textbooks are a big part of the life of any student; many students have one or two of them with them at all times. But there is a love/hate relationship between a pupil and their textbooks. They help us learn and succeed, but they can cause us an awful lot of grief: they are very heavy and cost a lot.

How much do they cost? So much that the price is actually deterring students from taking certain courses.

“I find that any textbooks for the science programs are extremely unaffordable,” says second-year Arts and Sciences student Jessica Havers. “They make me choose less science courses, for sure. And I’ve had to eat a lot of canned food for a few weeks a couple times because of them.”

Havers’ story is all too familiar for many college students. Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Andrea Eggenberger says that she knows a lot of students don’t buy textbooks because they’re too expensive. End result? Lower grades.

“We see a lot of students sharing the textbooks with their peers, or going to the library, or simply not using the textbook at all and getting by with a C or a B when they could be getting an A,” she says. “They’ve become a thing which students see as not necessary. It’s unfortunate because you get a lot of knowledge out of textbooks and more depth to the content that your teacher talks about in class.”

So why exactly do these textbooks cost so much? What’s being done to change that? And what resources are available to help students?

What’s in store?

Jill Eriksen, course material buyer at Camosun College’s Lansdowne bookstore, says that the markup situation with textbooks is the same as it is in many retail setups: they get a discount from the publishers and add what she claims is a very small margin when they sell them.

“Publishers will raise the prices month to month,” says Eriksen. “What we’ve tried to do to minimize our prices is to order large in some titles so we can keep the price set.”

There are a number of costs that have to be considered when setting a price. Eriksen explains that the bookstore works to do whatever they can to keep costs low for students while also trying to make money to put back into the college.

“Most of the publishers now, even the Canadian ones like Pearson and McGraw[-Hill], have all their warehouses in the States. We are in the farthest possible spot from most of these publishers, so we pay high shipping costs,” says Eriksen.

“We’ve tried to minimize this by going with companies like BC Mail for shipping, piggybacking onto government instead of private companies to be able to get some cuts in shipping.”

The school subsidizes part of its budget with the proceeds from the bookstore; because the school is set up as a teaching institution with no beneficiary, that money is put back into the school and toward the students. Money spent on textbooks outside of the college does not have this effect on the school’s bottom line.

“Anything which is revenue for the bookstore goes back into the college,” explains

“Even more than affordability, we have to focus on results. Our philosophy is that we want to make things as affordable as possible, but our number-one job is to help students improve their results.”

BRIAN BELARDI

TEXTBOOK PUBLISHER MCGRAW-HILL

Eriksen. “You go down into the States and you see a Barnes and Noble across from the college, and there’s nothing going back into the school.”

Though the school does prosper from textbook sales, there is also an understanding that students don’t always have a lot of money. In accordance with this, Eriksen says the store does as many different things as they can to help lower costs. For example, there’s the multimedia access cards sometimes sold with textbooks.

“Some publishers only sell textbooks to you with the access card, but you might see examples in our store where we’ll list the book as a choice of options, either with the access card or the book on its own,” says Erickson. “When the access card’s required, the textbook is almost the add-on in some of these situations.”

Erickson also states that they sell the access cards separately and try to keep an extra-low margin on them, as they are “just a printed piece of cardstock.”

But at what cost?

The price always seems to be the bottom line that students care about. Although the bookstore claims to keep a very low margin for its textbooks, many of them still cost a hefty amount. It can be difficult to visualize exactly what contributes to the bulk of this price, and it’s hard to put a price on knowledge, besides saying that it’s too expensive. In reality, there is a lot of work that goes into the construction of a textbook.

“The vast majority of the cost comes from developing the knowledge that starts as the basis of our content, finding preeminent scholars in each field, and working with them as they develop the content,” says Brian Belardi, director of communications at textbook publisher McGraw-Hill (one of the major Canadian textbook publishers; multiple phone calls and emails to two other major Canadian publishers were not returned by deadline), “then following all the way through into piloting the content in classrooms and providing support.”

Belardi explains that there are other costs as well. On the operations side, the physical books have to be printed, bound, shipped, and stored. As far as digital goes, there is the cost of software development and some of the fees that come with different multimedia resources. Despite this, McGraw-Hill realizes it won’t sell any books if its prices are too high.

“We know that it doesn’t matter how good an education solution is; if no one can afford it, it is not very useful,” says Belardi. “We also are very keenly aware of the stats about student debt and the difficult financial position that attending college can put students and their families in, so we’re very eager to make our products as affordable as possible.”

This establishes a difficult task of finding a balance between keeping costs low and providing good quality books, a common conundrum in the publishing industry. Belardi says that McGraw-Hill is always keeping its mind on its mission to help students perform well in school, and that sometimes comes at a cost.

“Even more than affordability, we have to focus on results,” says Belardi. “Our philosophy is that we want to make things as affordable as possible, but our number-one job is to help students improve their results, to help them get a better

grade, do better on a test, graduate on time, and to get the car back for their college investment.”

Use it or lose it

One subject that gets students as upset as textbooks are the used-textbook scene. Accordingly, the numbers of students buying used textbooks back. Accordingly, the numbers of students buying used textbooks back. Accordingly, the numbers of students buying used textbooks back. Accordingly, the numbers of students buying used textbooks back.

“Used textbooks are bought from both students and wholesalers. We buy used textbooks back four times a year at exam week, and we give 50 percent of the new price. Once we obtain as much as we can from those people, we sell them back.”

She goes on to explain that the past couple years have seen a decline in used textbook sales. This is due to a number of reasons, the most prominent being that people are buying used textbooks which they originally paid top dollar for. This creates a market of used textbooks which are not being used, generating no value for the student, the store, or the publisher because there aren’t enough used ones for everyone.

“We’d like to see more people come to buy-back,” Eriksen says. “We’d like to see more people come to buy-back, which has a very small margin. Ultimately, we’d like to see more people come to buy-back.”

E for effort

New frontiers are always being sought out to help achieve this balance of cost versus quality. In recent years e-books have become the latest way for students to save a few bucks on textbooks. This may be part of the answer to the problem of costly texts, as e-books lack many of the costs of the physical versions while retaining the same quality of knowledge.

“We’re trying to operate in the space that figures out where those two curves of affordability and effectiveness intersect,” says Belardi. “In the higher-education market last year we crossed the 50-percent threshold as far as cash revenue, with more than 50 percent of our revenue coming from e-books.”

Although e-books are said by some to be the learning tool of the future, many students still feel the need to be able to flip through paper books. Many students still feel the need to be able to flip through paper books. Many students still feel the need to be able to flip through paper books.

“We do have a biology textbook that costs \$190 US in college. The e-book version is \$85 US,” says Belardi. “Now, that’s a subscription and not a one-time purchase. The price from print to digital.”

This is the downside of e-books for students and the school, for e-books only last for a set time before running out, effectively

Read ’em like an open book

Let’s not forget one important aspect of textbook cost: the cost of the content. It isn’t lost on Camosun College.

“Throughout time we’ve always felt as students that the cost of the content is a major issue,” says John Boraas, Camosun College vice president education. “I would say it’s a pretty common theme across a lot of publishing houses close. I would say it’s a pretty common theme across a lot of publishing houses close. I would say it’s a pretty common theme across a lot of publishing houses close.”

The costs of school alone, without including textbooks, can be a significant burden. The costs of school alone, without including textbooks, can be a significant burden. The costs of school alone, without including textbooks, can be a significant burden.

“We’re a major participant in the provincial open resource initiative. We’re a major participant in the provincial open resource initiative. We’re a major participant in the provincial open resource initiative.”

This represents the beginning of a revolutionary new phase in education. This represents the beginning of a revolutionary new phase in education. This represents the beginning of a revolutionary new phase in education.

“Textbooks are a necessary asset to every course, but they’re not always the best use of money,” says the CCSS’ Eggenberger. “Teachers at Camosun College would like to see it utilized a lot more.”

Ours is not the only school looking to cut costs for its students. Ours is not the only school looking to cut costs for its students. Ours is not the only school looking to cut costs for its students.

“Kwantlen Polytechnic University has an excellent open source textbook resource where teachers go in and can find an intro to business law, and it’s totally edited by teachers and is available for a decent cost without having to pay through the nose.”

The provincial government is working to bring more open source textbooks to the province. The provincial government is working to bring more open source textbooks to the province. The provincial government is working to bring more open source textbooks to the province.

“Our government is putting students first through its open source initiative,” says Andrew Wilkinson. “By this fall, approximately 8,000 students will be using open textbooks. Currently, more than 90 open textbooks are being used in second-year areas such as math, chemistry, and business, to name a few. An additional 30 open textbooks are expected later in the fall.”

“I would say it’s a pretty common theme across a lot of publishing houses close. I would say it’s a pretty common theme across a lot of publishing houses close. I would say it’s a pretty common theme across a lot of publishing houses close.”

Textbook price tags

expensive, and what students can do about it

...er that they want. We want to help them earn a return on

...prices is how little money they get when selling their old
...ents selling their textbooks back are falling; add to that the
...n't what it used to be.

...alers," says Camosun's Eriksen. "We have the student buy-
...f the book's used value and then sell them at 25 percent off
...people we look to buy the new books from the publishers."
...a drop in people selling back their textbooks. She attributes
...ople don't feel they are getting enough money in return for
...eates a paradox where many textbooks sit under students'
...r other students who end up having to buy new textbooks

...n explains. "We do, in fact, make better profit off the used
...y, we sell more used because they're cheaper."

...d say it's a pretty competitive field and
...ly [textbook publishers] are for profit;
...e businesses that are looking to make
...money."

JOHN BORAAS
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

...more coming from digital than print."

...of the future, it's hard for some students to give up their
...pages and write notes within the book. However, the positive
...the financial savings makes e-texts a tempting idea.
...lege bookstores. We offer a digital version of that book for
...purchase, but you are looking at a significant decrease in

...although not for the textbook companies: the subscriptions
...ely eliminating the used market.

...panies: they are businesses trying to make money. This fact

...that we're being gouged a bit by the textbook companies,"
...The publishing industry is struggling; we've certainly seen
...etitive field and certainly they are for profit; they are busi-

...be very shocking. Fortunately, the school understands this
...dents decrease costs. A huge part of this across Canada is

...ce textbook project," Boraas says. "BC is a real leader in
...ur faculty have been involved in creating an open biology

...ase in the student/textbook relationship. Open textbook
...e for free online (some already is). Teachers can choose to
...udent body oodles of money.

...y really don't have to cost the atrocious amount that they
...ege do try to utilize the free open textbook resource, but we

...dents in innovative new ways. Camosun could take some
...Eggenberger.

...ource program right now," she says. "They access this excel-
...n edit their texts. So you'll have an intro to macroeconomics
...nd it's a completely free resource. They can even print these

...e"
...resource textbooks to BC's schools.

...n textbook initiative," says Advanced Education Minister
...ts in British Columbia are expected to have saved up to \$1
...xtbooks are available. These range from popular first- and
...kills and technical subjects, as well as adult upgrading. An



This is good news, although one wonders how the government can justify its continuing cuts to the funding of schools while also taking away one of the schools' sources of revenue. But even though there will be money lost over this on Camosun's end, Boraas says that they are just happy to help the students.

"As government funding declines and becomes a smaller part of our overall budget, there are things we need to do to bring revenue into the college, and certainly the bookstore is one of those things that gives us some portion of our operating budget," explains Boraas. "Anything that diminishes resources is a concern, but we are absolutely committed to moving to as much online open textbook resources as we can, and we'll deal with the reality of the funding as we go."

Reservations for two

Camosun's library also provides another useful resource: reserve texts. Most of these textbooks can be checked out for up to two hours, but there are some available for 72-hour loans.

"We've always provided reserves," says Camosun director of learning services Sybil Harrison. "I would say we've probably increased the number that we provide access to over time. I think we've increased the number for a couple reasons, most importantly the demand. More students are asking, so that's why we provide them."

These textbooks can be very helpful, especially in cases where a teacher is only going to use a text a couple of times throughout the course. The library does its best to keep an up-to-date collection of relevant textbook editions and receives them a variety of ways.

"Often an instructor will have a copy themselves that they have received from the publisher, so the instructor will give us a copy of the textbook," Harrison explains. "The second way we get them is that each year we get a list of all of the textbooks, and we check to see what we have in our collection, and we move anything needed out of the regular collection and put it in the reserves. Another thing we do, usually based on the request of an instructor, is we'll consider purchasing it for the collection."

Unfortunately, there is no specifically designated budget for reserve textbooks, so the library has to use any excess funds from their main budget if they want to purchase them. Many factors come into play when choosing what textbooks they buy.

"If there's a need for a book we buy it; we don't just wait for someone to give it to us. It's sort of a balance you need to seek," Harrison says. "It's a really high turnover and the books are moving in and out and many students, for a variety of reasons, really depend on the reserve collection."

The library does its best to keep up with the times, but the lack of a separate fund for reserves isn't the only thing keeping them from starting a reserve e-book collection.

"The big challenge with an e-book reserve is licensing," she says. "Publishers have made it very difficult for libraries to do that. They would prefer people to be buying the book, so it's a licensing challenge; it's not so much about a lack of desire for us to do something like that."

Harrison has no doubt that the library will continue to provide an affordable option for students for a long time to come.

"We're not replacing textbooks, but we know there are so many different circumstances," says Harrison, "and what's most important to us is to ensure that students get access to the materials they need."

The bookstore's Eriksen says that it's an interesting time, with digital "flying through the roof" while there are still students who want their textbooks to be printed and in their hands.

"Open resource is growing, and that's great," she says. "I really support free education where possible. I'm a strong believer that the textbooks and course materials are very important for success in a course. Hopefully, everything that a student takes home is useful and has value in that it's going to make them do well. The point of the materials is that they're going to prove to be useful for you in your learning."

literature

Camosun alumnus Kate Rooper writes young-adult novel



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kate Rooper (left) and her sister Leah co-wrote the new novel *Jane Unwrapped*.

AIDAN EHRENBERG-SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun alumnus Kate Rooper has done many things so far in her life—she’s a blogger, a former fashion model, and a self-proclaimed “crappy part-time employee”—and right now she’s focused on her new young adult novel, *Jane Unwrapped*, which she co-wrote with her sister Leah.

But her road to success began in a very different industry.

“I modelled for six years,” says Rooper. “My sister entered a model-

ling contest when she was about 16 years old and it sort of spiralled into this big thing. We went to Toronto to go see an agent. We ended up working in Toronto, New York, Milan, and Tokyo. We did that for a few years, until I decided I wanted to go to school. Writing was always our number-one passion; modelling was just this random thing that sort of happened.”

Jane Unwrapped, which comes out on October 12, follows the adventures of Jane, a teenager who, after a science experiment goes

wrong, finds herself heartless in the Egyptian underworld, developing a crush on King Tut.

“We’ve been writing together since we were little kids,” says Rooper. “We’ve written several other [unpublished] novels together. Leah went to Seattle and saw this exhibit on King Tut and came back, telling me, ‘Oh, I have this really cool story idea...’ We both got super excited about it, started writing together, and that’s how it spiralled into the actual novel.”

Although Rooper has high

hopes for the book, getting to the point of publication certainly came with its fair share of struggles. She says that being persistent is key to being a writer.

“Leah and I received over 100 rejections from publishing agencies before we were able to get our first novel published,” she says. “You have to have a tough skin. A primary reason for a number of those rejections is that our manuscript wasn’t quite polished enough.”

For Rooper, there was no doubt that her postsecondary experience

at Camosun was helpful in her pursuit of writing as a career.

“I worked on a psychology degree, so I had a ton of electives to go along with that,” she says. “I had a writing class, along with several others, taught by Laurie Elmquist. Her feedback was just so awesome. The way Laurie teaches, she doesn’t make it feel as though she’s judging; instead, she’s trying to encourage those really creative parts of you. I still have some of her critiques, which I often reference when I’m writing.”

“Leah and I received over 100 rejections from publishing agencies before we were able to get our first novel published. You have to have a tough skin.”

KATE ROOPER
AUTHOR

review

Speed-the-Plow rips Hollywood cynicism apart

DAVID COOPER

Speed-the-Plow does not pull punches at Hollywood attitudes.

ALYSSA KOEHLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

David Mamet’s *Speed-the-Plow* is an viscerating satire on Hollywood cynicism that underscores how little has changed in the film industry since its first staging on Broadway in 1988. Directed by the Belfry’s Michael Shamata, it features Brian Markinson, Vincent Gale, and Celine Stubel in a spare set that evokes *American Psycho* and its themes of masculine aggression channelled through business competition.

Bobby Gould (Markinson), freshly promoted to head of development at a film production company, is approached by a colleague, Charlie Fox (Gale), with an incredible offer—a big star will leave his studio to make a film with them if they can get the green light by tomorrow. Add a not-too-challenging script, a flavour-of-the-month co-star, and some girl, and they’ve got a hit on their hands!

While they’re counting the money they’re about to make (don’t forget the sequels!), Gould’s temporary secretary, Karen (Stubel), starts asking the tough questions—for example, is it a good film? Bless her heart.

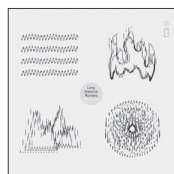
Markinson’s magnetic performance shows the Hollywood exec’s conflict between ideals and self-preservation—between making the meaningful art piece and making the film that makes money.

Stubel’s passionate delivery speaks to society’s need and desire for meaningful art, while Gale’s frenetic coaxing of Markinson’s character to not make a decision that will end with him living “in a packing crate” pulls the audience along with the polar shifts of the producer’s moral compass.

Speed-the-Plow
Until October 11
\$23-\$48, Belfry Theatre
belfry.bc.ca

New Music Revue

Three albums show off Canada’s diverse east-coast sounds



Long Distance Runners
Elements
(Independent)
3/5

Elements, the third album from Newfoundland rockers Long Distance Runners, blends folk, country, psychedelic, and classic rock sounds. The band delivers unique arrangements of guitar, bass, and percussion with synth and horns, creating a very eccentric sonic landscape.

The punchy bass lines and shimmering guitar leads take centre stage: “You Gotta Remind Me,” the best song on the album, is a fine example of this.

The group’s propensity for experimentation does not always work in their favour, most notably on the oddly robotic album low point “Ivory Towers.”

Vocally, the band serves up typical indie-rock fare, but with a greater emphasis on harmonies than many of their peers. The singing is passable on its own, as in “Asleep Awake,” but things truly shine when the rest of the band chimes in to create a rich chorus. The lyrics aren’t poor, but are rather dime-a-dozen.

If you’re looking for some folktinged indie rock, you can do much worse than *Elements*.

-JAKE WYATT



Paper Beat Scissors
Go On
(Forward Music Group)
3/5

Halifax-based Tim Crabtree’s second effort under the Paper Beat Scissors name is a worthwhile listen for melancholic flannel-wearers and timid vagabonds alike.

He describes his music as “hobo electro,” and although the hobo aspect is definitely believable, I wish more of the latter could have been on display—commit, damnit!

Crabtree’s voice is thin, high, and mildly gritty and brings to mind artists like Will Oldham, Sufjan Stevens, and The Tallest Man On Earth.

His lyrics are obtuse (example: “Lost in jaws/your sense chewed out”) and the instrumentation is rich and layered, including euphoniums, bassoons, and lap-steel guitar.

While this is all well and good, I found myself enjoying the more minimal arrangements over the crescendo-ing walls of ambient whatnot.

Go On’s best tracks are “Bundled,” “Unfazed,” and “When You Still,” which was the best utilization of the hobo-electro aesthetic.

-ADAM DJILALI



Quiet Parade
Quiet Parade
(Independent)
3/5

Each song on the second album from Halifax indie rockers Quiet Parade is full of deep guitar riffs and fierce percussion. The instruments run together flawlessly, with some songs whisking my mind away to happier times.

“Running Out of Time” is an ideal example of this chemistry: the song is an upbeat tune that radiates a warm feeling reminiscent of lying in the grass on a warm summer day.

Unfortunately, the vocals don’t always leave a good impression on the listener.

The album’s first track, “All My Time,” has a superb set of riffs and sounds that flow together. Trevor Murphy’s vocals, though, do not. At times they are scratchy and rough; other times they are sleepy and out of place.

All in all, Quiet Parade does something absolutely amazing with their instruments and showcases their talent incredibly well.

With a few tweaks, this band could be on a fast track to Canadian fame.

-ADAM BOYLE

play

If We Were Birds doesn't back down from tough subject matter

JESSICA WILLIAMSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If *We Were Birds* director Wendy Merk claims that this particular production is going to be one of the most difficult plays she's ever directed.

The play has graphic sexual violence and centres around the theme of rape used as a weapon of war against women. But Merk has the skills necessary to pull it off, having experience with duties as varied as singing, acting, and directing.

"I studied theatre at the University of Victoria, and then I was cast in a musical for the first time," says Merk. "And I thought, 'I'm not a singer'—apparently they thought I was. So that's what evolved and, actually, when you're an actor, it's crucial to have as many skills as you can."

Being a female director is a challenge in itself. Facing sexism and reviews missing the key point of the director's work is something Merk deals with on almost every production she works on.

"A lot of times what happens is that people don't remember that there's a director of the play, so they will comment on the acting, and they might comment on the set design, but someone giving a review will rarely comment on the directing," says Merk. "They don't get it; they don't realize that the person in charge of all the casting

and everything is actually the director. They don't even mention it. So, actually, it's not so much that I've been criticized as a director, but just been ignored as a director."

Merk usually directs plays with old-fashioned themes or ones set in eras past. However, *If We Were Birds* tackles subject matter and includes scenes that are different from what Merk usually deals with, including a rape scene.

"We, of course, don't really talk about rape a lot; people don't want to think about it."

WENDY MERK
IF WE WERE BIRDS

"That's a pretty new area, because most plays aren't going to be depicting stuff like that," she says, "which is interesting because we all know that rape happens all the time. It's not just in war times; it's in everyday life. But it's something that we, of course, don't really talk about a lot; people don't want to think about it."

Merk has also worked in Toronto and says that despite Victoria being a wonderful city, the audience is not necessarily big enough to sustain a



CLAYTON JEVNE

Director Wendy Merks says *If We Were Birds* is one of the most difficult plays she's ever directed.

substantial artistic theatre career here.

"There are a lot of artists that work here and if you think you're going to make it big here, you totally won't, because there's not enough

of a base of people to buy tickets," she says. "So, probably move to a bigger place. But you have to balance quality of living with your career; you have to decide what's more important."

If We Were Birds
Until October 17
\$14/\$10 for students, Theatre Inconnu, 1923 Fernwood Road
theatreinconnu.com

Music Bingo Mondays @ 7:30

\$6 MARTINI'S & APPIES

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theatre

Play combines Batman and *Downton Abbey*

ALYSSA KOEHLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Lord of Misrule and his psychotic henchmen have taken you and the staff of Arkenham Abbey, an insane asylum in the English countryside, hostage. Your only hope for escape is the Knight Watchman, with whom the asylum inmates have demanded a meeting. As a dedicated foe of all criminals, you can be sure he will respond... but will he survive what the Fool and his gang have in store for him?

Rest assured, this is just the happenings of *Arkenham Abbey*, a play taking place at Craigdarroch Castle that mashes up Batman and *Downton Abbey*. Local theatre veterans David Radford and Christina Patterson of Launch Pad Productions adapted it from various Batman comics such as Alan Moore's *The Killing Joke* and Grant Morrison's *Arkham Asylum*, as well as some of their own original inspirations, and the *Downton Abbey* television series. A Batman of the inter-war period (known as the Knight Watchman in this interpretation) battles the likes of the Fool, the Puzzler, the Straw Man, and Pantaloon, all of whom are English-accented and in 1920s garb.

"We had to build our own unique vision of the Batman mythology with its own style and personality, so we decided to set it in the 1920s," says Radford. "I like the post-Edwardian look—it's got a classy look to it—and then we stumbled onto the idea that it should be *The Dark Knight meets Downton Abbey*. So in order to stay away from the copyright we decided it would be England instead of America, and all of the characters would have English accents, either upper class or lower class, depending on who they are in the show. That's what creates the *Downton Abbey* vibe."

Radford and Patterson's site-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Arkenham Abbey shows a whole new side of the caped crusader.

specific theatrical work began when they worked as historical interpreters in Barkerville, BC. There, they expanded from re-enactors telling factual historical stories to staging plays such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in and around the buildings, with the audience moving with the actors from scene to scene.

"We sort of fell in love with the idea," says Radford, "so we wanted to continue on doing that here in Victoria with the Castle shows."

In this story, the asylum inmates have taken hostages and demanded the Knight Watchman appear for a meeting. They've decided they want to prove a point—that he, a costumed crime-fighter, is just as insane as they are. From the top of the castle downward, it's a descent into madness as the psychotic criminals torture and terrorize our hero, with the audience following from room to room.

"Castle shows are very different from any other theatre experience you're going to have because it's very intimate—you are four feet from the actors," says Radford. "It's

not like you're sitting in the back row of the theatre; it's quite real, right there. And because of that, it does have these moments that are very intimate and can be very scary. We are doing the show at Halloween, so there's torture, there's murder and mayhem."

Radford hopes that *Downton* fans will be just as interested as fans of the Caped Crusader, even though Lord Grantham is not present.

"We do have our own Lord," says Radford, "the Lord of Misrule, which is what the Fool represents. He's the high-status character, and through that you have a servant, staff... because the play is about duality, you have some characters that are both high class and lower class almost at the same time. We do the gothic horror part of the story, and the class system part. That's the fun and the insanity of it all."

Arkenham Abbey

8 pm Thursday, October 15 to Saturday, October 31
\$28, Craigdarroch Castle
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review

Laci Green tackles rape culture



PHOTO PROVIDED

Laci Green recently spoke at the University of Victoria about rape culture.

PASCALE ARCHIBALD
STUDENT EDITOR

It was surprising how many people were at the University of Victoria's Farquhar Auditorium when I arrived to see Laci Green speak on September 30. The line of people waiting to get into the auditorium was so long it doubled back to the doors of the room. I was quite literally within comfortable speaking distance of the ticket attendant even though I was at the back of the line.

I had seen a few of Green's YouTube videos online before this event and thought they were well done, informative, frank, and quite funny. Green, who hosts MTV's YouTube channel Braless, is a self-proclaimed sex-education activist; she approaches the topic of sexuality in a fun and educational style.

Green, who holds a certificate in date violence and rape crisis counselling, tackled the really big, heavy topic of rape culture well with a prepared, lecture-style presentation. It seemed like she rushed a bit, but I'm guessing she normally has more time allotted for her talks than the hour she got at UVic.

Her presentation was very much a campaign to bring awareness to the issue of rape culture. She broke down the culture of rape into four components: tolerance, victim blaming, gender roles, and trivializing. Unfortunately, much of

the information in her lecture was based on US statistics (although still interesting: for example, she mentioned that the most vulnerable citizens are disabled women, with one in three reporting sexual assault).

It was clear that the audience in attendance was fully engaged; there was a moment when Green was talking about how girls and women who are sexual-assault victims are blamed for what happened and asked the crowd what they had been taught as girls to avoid rape. My first thought was, "I was never taught anything to avoid rape." Then the audience started yelling out all the things I had actually been taught over the years. Don't wear a ponytail; don't wear provocative clothing; don't wear makeup; don't drink; don't walk alone. There were many more; it was a very powerful moment.

She also talked about how men and boys very rarely report sexual assault, and if they do they are usually not taken seriously. So, while women and girls are accused of being whores if they are assaulted, men and boys are ignored.

The bottom line, according to Green, is that rape culture and the threat or act of rape is about sexual domination and a way to exert power and control over someone else. It comes down to equality; we still have a long way to go.

nexus writers word search

We randomly picked the names of some of our wonderful *Nexus* writers to make up the words to find in our word search this issue. Bring the completed puzzle in to the *Nexus* office and grab a prize for your hard work! Better yet, bring it to us at our free donut day on Thursday, October 22 and get... a second free donut!

- ADAM
- ARCHIBALD
- AUDREY
- BOYLE
- GREENLEES
- GRIEVE
- HAWTHORNE
- JAKE
- JAYDEN
- JESSICA
- KAITLIN
- KEAGAN
- NOVA
- PASCALE
- SARAH
- SAWATZKY
- VOWLES
- WILLIAMSON
- WOODS
- WYATT

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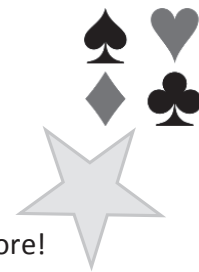
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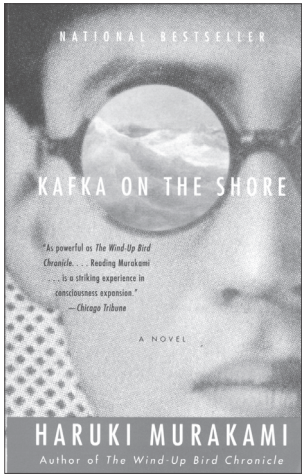
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Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

Haruki Murakami's fusion fiction



With uncanny skill Haruki Murakami blends a highly realistic style with elements of the surreal and the absurd, and he mixes genres such as hard-boiled detective fiction with Shakespearean romance.

"The good thing about writing books is that you can dream while you are awake," Japanese author Haruki Murakami once said.

Murakami's books, often featuring a dream-like blend of realism and surrealism, have sold millions of copies worldwide and made Murakami a literary superstar in his native Japan.

But the literary life came as a surprise to Murakami.

Growing up in Japan in the '60s, he felt stifled by the culture of the post-war era. Instead of reading the Japanese literature of his father (who was a lit teacher), he listened to jazz and read western fiction, falling in love with J.D. Salinger,

Kurt Vonnegut, Franz Kafka, and American detective fiction.

Murakami's distinctive style shows the influence of this cultural fusion: with uncanny skill he blends a highly realistic style with elements of the surreal and the absurd, and he mixes genres such as hard-boiled detective fiction with Shakespearean romance.

In *Kafka on the Shore*, an old man who can talk to cats sets off to find a mysterious stone that he knows nothing about, and a young runaway boy lives in a library and falls in love with a ghost. But the symbolic elements are carefully chosen so that they fit alongside the characters without a bump. They

are the innermost hopes and desires of the characters, and their presence in the world of the novel only enhances the reader's empathy with the characters and their struggles.

Murakami adds surrealistic elements to more closely mimic the tangled reality we experience in our daily lives. "I always hope to position myself away from so-called conclusions," he once said. "I would like to leave everything wide open to all the possibilities in the world."

Haruki Murakami must-read:
Kafka on the Shore
(Lansdowne library code: PL 856 U673 K33)



The Functional Traveller

by Sera Down

The sound of silence (is too loud)

It's a common perception in most countries that college students are the harbingers of disruption of the peace. While this is mostly true, well-behaved students often face an uphill battle against the stereotypes unwillingly placed upon them.

The invention of the modern dorm (or party-house, depending on how you view it) has mostly curbed the amount of contact necessary between normal society and the rowdy youth.

Some schools, like Camosun, still have not adopted the dormitory model of student housing, whether it be due to financial or social reasons. For Josai International University, the issue lies merely in finding space—the campus lies directly in the heart of Tokyo—and as such, Tokyo campus students are outsourced to a collection of apartment complexes in a small area named Funabori.

The town itself is quite similar in demographic to suburban Victoria, brimming with plump elderly folk and young families. Housing is composed mainly of blockish apartment complexes and traditional-style homes, often coated in a delicate frock of disrepair. But despite the high population density, neighbourhoods are unusually quiet. Any small sound can be

heard disrupting the chirping of cicadas in a canon of silence.

Wielding grocery bags full of Suntory highballs and obscure Japanese potato chips, my peers and I often indulge in a mild-mannered form of college party. Sitting around a small dining room table (often with one person borrowing a pillow or desk chair to sit on), we laugh, gossip, and discuss the shortcomings of our (barely) English-speaking professors because, let's face it, who can afford \$20 for the izakaya down the road? We have just as much fun, spending far less money.

Understandably, this is treason to the Japanese culture of silence. For the Japanese, home is a place of serenity, where even children settle into comfortable silence after a comparatively long school day. As international students, we are barbarians, crashing through the woods and bellowing foreign nonsense. Thus, a pattern of passive-aggressive warfare has ensued: we make noise past 10 pm, they call the police.

We sigh in defeat when we receive a letter dropped into our mailbox at some early hour about the ruckus we caused the previous night and that we need to be more respectful. I guess some things, like silence, really are lost in translation.



Look

by Melanie Didrich

Art, fun, and creativity

I was transported back in time last week to the land of elementary school field trips. Back then, *the field trip* was the holiest of holidays. Would our parents sign?

Of course, now, I'm 43. I can sign my own permission form, which is what I did, so to speak, when it was time to head downtown to see a banana collection at a local art gallery.

Artist Anna Banana had us all sit in rows and presented a slide show walking us through her 30 years of working in art and creativity. When it was over there were questions, and that is when the fun really happened.

Were there any questions? Yes: what was the weirdest item sent to her in the shape of a banana?

"A penis," she said. The whole class sat up. There were construction workers on the roof, but I'm certain they stopped working and had their heads hanging through the gallery's windows. "That's right," she calmly and softly spoke, "the

penis is inside the banana." And if we found it, it was ours to keep.

Chairs screeched. Those words began the immediate scavenger hunt to find the penis hidden inside one of the hundreds of banana-shaped items that Banana was giving away. Hours passed as whooping, laughing, touching, and searching made us art students exhilarant and excited in anticipation of finding the prize.

Oh, how I wanted that item! I mean, a field trip *and* a penis-filled banana?! I wanted it in the worst way, and I could not find it.

I found that I had returned to my childhood—in a good way. I had a day of forgetting I was a grandmother and that I had three grown daughters. I had rosy cheeks and I was giggling.

After two hours one of the girls found it. The room grew quiet as she walked it over to me. I stood and hugged Banana, and thanked her for the unexpected joys this field trip had brought to my day.

NEXUS HUMOUR

If you think you might be able to make folks laugh with a short comic every other week, then we'd like to see your work in print. Get in touch! editor@nexusnewspaper.com



by Nova Sawatzky

The Everyday Student



By Audrey D Greenlees

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