

WHERE'S THE MONEY?

\$200,000 of Camosun student fees is stuck between two student groups arguing over who should get it

A Nexus exclusive

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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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student editor's letter

Casting your vote

This issue, we decided to turn what was initially a news story into a feature, because it was just too student-focused and important to not. The subject? Over \$200,000 of Camosun students' money is, apparently, floating in limbo. We set out to find where that money is and what has been done with it. Turn to page 6 for the scoop.

Recent weeks have been a polling frenzy, with the provincial election as well as the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) election happening (see page 3). The recent CCSS election had its highest student voter turnout yet. If you got out to vote, good for you. If you didn't, well, here's hoping you see absolutely nothing that displeases you in Camosun student politics. Some people go by the "don't vote if none of the platforms appeal to you" ideology, and, while it would be a nice, tender world if that actually worked, non-voters complaining about politics are like chain smokers whining about having a stroke. If you don't like it, do what you can to change it and make yourself heard. Remember that, as a political science prof once told me, a spoiled ballot is better than not getting off your ass to vote.

Voting is becoming easier and easier for Camosun students. I voted while standing in line to buy cookies at the cafeteria. It took all of two minutes, and it was invigorating. It was empowering.

Voting is me doing my part in my society, in my province, in my college.

We cover all this and much more in this issue. Whether you're curious as to where \$200,000 of your student money has gone to or you just really want to read the comics (see page 10), enjoy the issue!

Adam Marsh, student editor
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

eyed on campus



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

The new path in front of Camosun College's Lansdowne campus.

25 Years Ago in Nexus returns in September



Something on your mind? If you're a Camosun student, send *Open Space* submissions (up to 500 words) to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. Include your student number. Thanks!

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I've got tiny reverse clown hands."

COVER PHOTO: Provided

open space

Bill C-45 a step in the right direction

MASON HENDRICKS
WEB EDITOR

The Canadian federal government announced earlier this year that they would pass new legislation by June 2018 that will regulate, control, and tax the sale of cannabis from authorized distributors. Decriminalization laws allowing for the personal recreational use of cannabis will also be put into effect, allowing a person to carry no more than 30 grams of cannabis in public and to grow up to four plants on their own property.

The piece of legislation being pushed through is Bill C-45, also known as the Cannabis Act; it would appear that the main objective of the bill is to keep cannabis out of

maximum of 14 years in prison. In stark contrast, the sale of alcohol to a minor in most provinces currently only carries a maximum sentence of one year.

Why would a person only have to serve one year for selling alcohol to a minor, while another person could possibly serve 14 for selling cannabis to a minor? The way in which society treats cannabis has always felt strange to me, especially considering the fact that cigarettes—which are known to cause cancer—are legal, but cannabis—which is used by cancer patients as a natural pain reliever—is illegal. This is irrationality at its finest.

Prohibition, as opposed to the actual drug use, is what fuels crime

Prohibition, as opposed to the actual drug use, is what is fuelling crime and violence, similar to the prohibition years in the US when violent crime rates skyrocketed.

the hands of young people, which, I think, most people can support. These new laws would accomplish this by restricting the underground cannabis market significantly, by legalizing the substance, and by pushing the illegal dealers out of the market... or at least that's the plan.

I support cannabis legalization. I support putting the illicit dealers out of business entirely. I'm in favour of higher tax revenue for the country, meaning more funds to allocate in ways that benefit our communities, such as infrastructure projects, accessible child-care programs, or other social services.

Bill C-45 has been called out by cannabis-legalization advocates for containing what they say are severe maximum sentencing laws—under the new law, the punishment for providing cannabis to a person under the age of 17 would be a

and violence, as it did during the prohibition years in the US, when violent crime rates skyrocketed. No one associates the tobacco industry with violence and crime; all it would take would be a government ban on the sale and consumption of tobacco to spark the rise of a flourishing underground tobacco market, which would bring with it the violence and crime associated with illegal substances.

Some people will always smoke tobacco, and some people will always smoke cannabis. We can either sell these things legally and benefit from the tax revenue and the safer regulations or we can prohibit them and allow criminals to get rich and sell unregulated substances.

I do not believe that all of the propositions of Bill C-45 are perfect, but I do think it is a step in the right direction.

NEXUS

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SPEAK UP

What outcome are you hoping for in the provincial election?

BY ADAM MARSH



SILINA SIGURSON

"Cheaper education."



GURBIR SIDHU

"I'm kind of hoping for the Liberals to get in. My dad is a business owner, so they can help him out with that."



ELIAS ORREGO

"I hope every party gets a seat. I'm leaning toward either NDP or Green."



SETH FISHER

"I've personally been supporting the Green Party. I've been following Elizabeth May and I think she's a really intelligent woman, and I believe in a lot of the things she has to say."



JAMILLE MORRISON

"I'm certainly hoping Christy Clark is gone."



CORY EMERSON

"Oh, god. I know who I voted for and I'd be happy if they won. I voted for the NDP."

student politics

Student society elections bring in record number of voters



FILE PHOTO

Camosun College Student Society external executive Rachael Grant.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

The recent Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) election, which took place from April 3 to 5, had three times the number of student votes cast compared with previous years' average turnouts. Out of 9,369 students currently registered at Camosun, 1,223 voted—a voter

turnout much larger than the CCSS average of approximately 400.

Rachael Grant has been re-elected as the CCSS external executive. Luke Mione got in as the CCSS Lansdowne executive, while Dana Campbell is the new Interurban executive.

Wyatt Matthews has been elected as the CCSS finance executive,

“It’s a position that I’ve loved contributing to. I’ve found a lot of passion in the work I’ve done with the student society as the role of external executive. I’m excited to be re-elected, and contributing again in that way.”

RACHAEL GRANT

CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

and Karen Kanoga is now the CCSS international director. Solomon Lindsay, who was recently interviewed by *Nexus* for his extra-curricular community activities, is the new CCSS sustainability director.

Chris Smithson is now the CCSS pride director, and Srijani Nath is the CCSS women’s director. Melanie Winter was elected as the CCSS students with disabilities director; Winter is also now the Interurban student representative on Camosun College’s board of governors.

The election ballots also had a referendum question, which passed. The question asked whether or not Camosun students supported a 25-cent-per-month increase in student fees toward the Walk Safer program. 679 students said yes, while 544 said no.

Grant says she is happy with the results, and says that, given that she has one more year of school left, she wanted to utilize her presence at the college while she can.

“It’s a position that I’ve loved contributing to,” says Grant. “I’ve found a lot of passion in the work I’ve done with the student society as the role of external executive. I’m excited to be re-elected and contributing again in that way.”

Grant says there is always room for improvement in a non-profit student environment.

“We’re definitely working on continuing to do that good work,” she says.

Grant says that the passing of the Walk Safer referendum is important to student life and safety on campus.

“It was really great to see such an overwhelmingly positive response to additional Walk Safer funding,” she says, “which shows that students value the service.”

The use of online voting for the first time in a CCSS election may have been the reason for the high number of votes that were cast. Grant says that online voting is

vital in today’s world in terms of accessibility to a voting platform for students.

“That was really exciting to see happen,” says Grant. “We definitely had a higher voter turnout than we’ve ever had, and that’s always really good to see; a lot more students had a chance to vote for who they want to see represent them.”

Grant is looking forward to continuing work in policy development for the student society.

“I’m excited to be working with a lot of new people on our board as well as several returning folks,” says Grant. “It’s a good mix of fresh faces and people who are wanting to continue. It looks like we have a really good team this year, and I’m excited to get to work.”

Grant says one of the key elements of her position is being present for the needs and interests of the students.

“All of the members of the board of directors work for the students, so if a student were to come to me, it’s my job to try and do my best to help accommodate what they’re looking to accomplish,” says Grant. “If they’re having issues, then I connect them to advocacy; if they want to fundraise for a particular cause, then I support that. I don’t really view it as a position of power as much as a position of empowerment and facilitating. I’m really excited to have the privilege of being able to do that again.”

NEWS BRIEFS

CCSS gets over 3,000 students pledging to vote

The Camosun College Student Society has collected over 3,000 pledges from students promising to vote in the May provincial elections. The CCSS worked with the British Columbia Federation of Students to try to get students to vote in the election.

Camosun approves operating budget

The Camosun College board of governors approved a balanced budget of \$130,763,519 for 2017/2018 at their April 7 meeting. The budget includes \$2 million for investments; infrastructure funding is expected to hit \$4.2 million this year.

Construction underway on new Interurban building

Drilling and blasting at the new Health and Science Centre site at Interurban is happening from Monday to Friday until approximately early June. Signals for the blast will consist of 12 short whistles, then a pause of around two minutes, after which the explosives will be detonated. There will be traffic control around the site restricting people and cars from walkways and roads adjacent to the construction site prior to the blasts.

Camosun works with Riverside

Camosun College recently developed a plumbing foundations trades training program to be implemented at Riverside College, located in Mission, BC. Camosun has allowed a Riverside instructor to observe their methods of teaching and has created the online portion of the program for Riverside. A \$49,980 donation from the provincial government and the Industry Training Authority launched the program.

Camosun receives two grants

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada’s College and Community Innovation Program has granted Camosun \$350,000 annually for five years to go toward the college’s Technology Access Centre, as well as \$143,757 to help fund the school’s composite research and education lab. The money will go toward, among other things, equipment, new technology, and staff. These grants are part of a \$37-million investment by the federal government in innovation and commercialization.

Camosun election results in

239 of 649 eligible faculty ballots were put forward by Camosun faculty in the most recent Camosun

College board of governors and education council elections. The election—which took place from April 3 to 5—had a participation rate of 38.5 percent, a 16.5-percent increase from their fall election. Student participation rates also increased to 13 percent. Students Dana Campbell and Isaiah Jurkuch have been acclaimed for education council; Melanie Winter was elected for the student seat on the board of governors.

Camosun prof New York-bound

Camosun Mechanical Engineering professor Jeffrey Stephen has been accepted to New York’s Circle in the Square Theatre School, where he will be working in a musical-theatre workshop throughout the summer. Stephen will walk the same stage as greats such as Dustin Hoffman and Al Pacino, who have also gone to Circle in the Square.

New Camosun dean announced

Debbie Hlady is Camosun’s new dean of arts and science. Hlady has been active at Camosun for almost 15 years, on the education council, as a faculty board member, as the chair of the English department, and as a teacher.

Camosun Express bus done for summer

The Camosun Express bus, which commutes between the

Lansdowne and Interurban campuses, has finished operating for the summer; the last day the bus operated was April 13. The Camosun Express will resume operation in early September.

Camosun students look out for youth

Camosun Marketing Project Management students recently raised over \$13,000 for Zambian youth. The money will finance 26 youth in Zambia who will be going to the Women for Change Rural Youth Exposure Conference in Lusaka, Zambia this August.

Victoria approves garden suites

Considering that Victoria currently has a vacancy rate of less than 1 percent, many renters will be pleased to know that Victoria city council recently approved the construction and rental of garden suites. The change is part of the Victoria Housing Strategy, 2016-2025; the strategy aims to improve availability and affordability of housing by diversifying housing types and costs and by educating the public on the housing crisis.

Rock The Shores on hold

The Rock The Shores music festival has been cancelled this year, but organizers said in a press release that it will return in 2018. According to a press release, issues

for the 2017 festival included a lack of available headliners and market competition with Canada’s 150-year celebrations happening this year. All ticketholders can visit rocktheshores.com to view their reimbursement options.

Saanich seeking public’s opinion

The Governance Review Citizen Advisory Committee has begun a Saanich governance review that will involve four public meetings focusing on government structure and policies. Citizens have the opportunity to provide feedback for the committee until May 31; visit saanich.ca/governancereview for more details.

Saanich council takes on Shelbourne Valley

Saanich council is moving ahead with the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan, which will involve both short-term and long-term changes to the area to make it more hospitable for pedestrians, cars, and people in general. The plan also includes restoring Bowker Creek, reconstructing 2.3 kilometres of sidewalk, and adding multiple bike paths.

—ADAM MARSH

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to fill us in.

Want to write news for us? Get in touch to become our next reporter!

college

Camosun leases off-campus building for trades training

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun College has leased a new building for trades training, but it's not at Interurban, and it's not at Lansdowne. The Camosun Coastal Centre, which is located on Songhees Nation Territory near the Esquimalt Graving Dock, will provide a place for Camosun students enrolled in marine-related contract training courses to further their knowledge in a hands-on way.

Camosun vice president of partnerships Geoff Wilmshurst says that the new 4,000-square-foot training centre consists of a computer lab and two classrooms that can hold 40 students each.

"The Coastal Centre is an opportunity for Camosun to have a closer interaction with marine industries in the Victoria area," says Wilmshurst. "The Songhees have leased a portion of their land to the federal government and we, therefore, are leasing the land from the federal government."

The building was constructed about five years ago under the name Industrial Marine Training and Research Centre; Wilmshurst says that, by leasing the building, Camosun is taking on "training relationships with many of the marine industries in the region."

"Many of the big companies, like Seaspan, Babcock Canada, and BC Ferries, as an example, are either

"The Coastal Centre is an opportunity for Camosun to have a closer interaction with marine industries in the Victoria area."

GEOFF WILMSHURST
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

working in the graving dock area or have some sort of facility down there, so they're often looking for specialized training programs in the marine industry, which we will now be able to offer them."

The Camosun Coastal Centre could also result in a new source of revenue for the college, with companies offering programming and the college offering Continuing Education courses there.

"We're starting to offer programming in supply chain management," says Wilmshurst. "Apex, which is a supply chain management organization, has come to us. We're now offering Apex training out of that space, and that's the kind of thing we want to do in the future."

Wilmshurst stresses that it's important to remember that this learning space caters to a group of students who benefit from hands-on workplace training.

"This is a different student group that we're dealing with. This is not your everyday student who

comes to Interurban or Lansdowne that's in a program, *per se*," says Wilmshurst. "It's really much more focused on what we call contract training and continuing education. Students that we're looking after there are primarily people who are already working and in industry that are looking for upgrading opportunities. We already do a lot of that kind of thing at Camosun. We have a very big Continuing Education program here and we do a lot of contract training as well. This facility gives us more capacity to do that and more ability to be specialized in the marine industry."

Wilmshurst adds that he has always felt continuing education opportunities like these are a great fit to Camosun, so when the previous lease holder and owner of the building approached him, he just couldn't pass it up.

"I thought, 'Wow, what an amazing opportunity for Camosun to be able to have a footprint in that world,'" says Wilmshurst.



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Camosun College vice president of partnerships Geoff Wilmshurst.

student politics

Canadian Federation of Students tensions continue over Selkirk College fees



PHOTO PROVIDED

Students at Castlegar's Selkirk College are members of the Canadian Federation of Students.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Tensions continue to rise between the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Selkirk College Students' Union (SCSU), with the CFS allegedly threatening legal action against the SCSU, according to a press release sent out by the SCSU on March 21.

The SCSU has sent a petition to the CFS asking to hold a referendum in which students would decide whether or not to leave the national organization, but the CFS says its bylaws prohibit the referendum from happening until outstanding fees are paid. (Camosun College

students are also paying members of the CFS.)

Students at Selkirk, which is in Castlegar, pay fees for membership in both the CFS and the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS). Fees for both organizations are given to the BCFS, who then are required to pass along the CFS' share to the national organization, according to a letter sent to the SCSU from the CFS' lawyer. According to CFS national treasurer Peyton Veitch, the BCFS hasn't passed along those fees, and until it does, the referendum can't happen; the SCSU says that this is why the CFS threatened legal action.

According to multiple sources, the BCFS is withholding the CFS fees because the CFS also owes fees to the BCFS.

Veitch says it's not true that the CFS threatened a lawsuit but that there was an ongoing dispute about the outstanding fees.

"It initially looked like a judge might have had to make a ruling on this issue," says Veitch, "but we're very happy that it appears we can resolve this issue without a court-imposed solution."

SCSU spokesperson Santanna Hernandez says that the SCSU did everything according to CFS bylaws, including paying the CFS fees

"What we're focused on is trying to give the students their right to vote, and this lawsuit has basically stopped that from happening."

SANTANNA HERNANDEZ
SELKIRK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

(to the BCFS). BCFS chairperson Simka Marshall says the CFS knows that the SCSU has paid its CFS membership fees. She would not comment on whether the Selkirk CFS fees have been given to the CFS by the BCFS (which is a separate legal entity from the national organization).

"Fees shouldn't be an issue," says Marshall. "They've been paid to the office here, and we are a component of the national organization."

Veitch says that students' money should be going to where they're told it's going.

"We have informed Selkirk College Students' Union that they should direct the BCFS to remit those fees as soon as possible to the federation," says Veitch, "for the simple reason that these are fees that students at Selkirk College paid with the understanding that they would be used to support national campaigns and services that the federation provides."

Legal documents sent from the CFS' lawyer say that the BCFS had to remit fees to the national

organization on or before March 21. Veitch says that, as of April 11, that hasn't happened.

Hernandez says that students at Selkirk are scared and upset that these legal complications are taking place. She also says that threatening legal action is a tactic the CFS often uses.

"What we're focused on," says Hernandez, "is trying to give the students their right to vote, and this lawsuit has basically stopped that from happening."

Veitch says that the BCFS must remit the SCSU's CFS student fees so that the SCSU can hold a fair and democratic referendum.

"It's a clear requirement of our bylaws that a referendum can't be scheduled unless outstanding membership fees are remitted," says Veitch. "And we want to make sure that students have an opportunity to participate in a referendum."

In February, members of the CFS showed up unannounced at Selkirk College to talk to students without the SCSU's knowledge, according to emails shown to *Nexus*.

employment

Camosun student shines through helping others learn



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun student Hebron Watson walked into a Camosun building because he was curious and ended up employed.

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Curiosity led second-year Camosun Computer Science student Hebron Watson down an unexpected path in life. It opened up doors for Watson, leading him to a job where he can be challenged and help produce some innovative study tools for students.

Watson says that it was through

some incredible luck—and curiosity—that he was able to land himself a job working at the Camosun Innovates applied research department as an application coder helping students learn through games and online programs.

“I had no idea what they did originally,” says Watson. “I just sort of felt drawn to the building, and one day I just walked in and asked

them, ‘Can someone tell me what exactly it is you guys do here?’ So I just had a conversation with these people, and I kept coming in, and they welcomed me. I told them I wanted to work for them, but they had no jobs since they mainly hired Mechanical Engineering students. They eventually ran into a situation where they needed a Computer Science student, so they hired me.”

“I just sort of felt drawn to the building, and one day I just walked in and asked them, ‘Can someone tell me what exactly it is you guys do here?’”

HEBRON WATSON
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

Working at Camosun Innovates is a constant test of Watson’s knowledge; right from the get-go, he was doing things he was unfamiliar with. He says that although it’s been tough, it helped him to get a hands-on experience in a line of work he loves.

“When I started, it very quickly became a very complicated task where I had to do math that I didn’t know and I had to learn programming tools I didn’t have,” he says. “It became a strain on my knowledge and it showed how much I didn’t know. Even still to this day, it constantly stretches my knowledge. I’ve come a long way and I’ve also learned a lot about deadlines and working with teams.”

Watson and the team have developed a few programs so far. Watson says that although these programs are for student use (and are available on the Camosun website) the team is creating open-source material that’s free for anyone to use, whether they’re a student or not.

“What we’re making is a collec-

tion of open resources for learning,” he says. “Our first program was a scaffold simulator game; part of the struggle is that you have to understand how the scaffold works before you build it. Basically, what we have so far are educational games that are a free product that Camosun is offering.”

Watson says that the team is developing programs to inspire innovation in classes and to help make educational resources more affordable.

“They’re also using the programs for online classes,” he says. “They’ve taken what was historically an on-campus class and turned it into an online one where you have an access key that you buy to get into the class. A big thing is that the programs are actually going to be used to reduce student fees directly—the engineers are working on, basically, a digital course pack where you just get a plastic card but you then use that to get access to all these online resources instead of having a big textbook, which is a waste of resources and money.”

know your profs

Camosun’s Larry Anthony weighs in on the future of post-secondary



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun College Biology prof and chair Larry Anthony.

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

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.

If you have an instructor you’d like to see interviewed in the paper, but perhaps you’re too busy, or too shy, to ask them yourself, email editor@nexusnewspaper.com and

we’ll add them to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue, we caught up with Biology prof and chair Larry Anthony to talk about keeping in touch with students, investing in students’ learning, and woodworking.

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

Second-year Biology; 10 years.

2. What do you personally get out of teaching?

I really love building relationships with my learners, making their experience fun and interesting, and helping reveal to them the amazing complexity and beauty of life.

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

I wish my students knew how much I want them to succeed, in my classes and in their academic futures after Camosun and in their lives.

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

I’m a terrible procrastinator in marking and I think I’m a little prone to rambling a little—or a lot—in lectures.

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

When my students last year prepared an unsolicited skit to show me what they learned and, I

think, also to tease me a little. They signed a huge thank-you card. I was touched by their effort and sense of fun, which highlighted the wonderful connection we had built with each other the whole year of classes together. We still find time to go to the pub together, which is so amazing and humbling.

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

Hmmm... that’s a hard one, because, overall, my experience has been so positive. I guess my worst experiences are marking exams when students do poorly.

7. What do you see in the future of post-secondary education?

I am both optimistic and concerned. I still see post-secondary education as a gateway to a great future, giving conscientious learners the critical thinking skills needed to help them distinguish truth from falsehood in local, national, and world affairs, and to make the sound, evidence-based decisions needed for the next generations. As a proud and unapologetic biology geek I also see it as a wonderful way to open learners’ hearts and minds to the beauty, complexity, and truth of the natural world. However, I’m concerned with the incredible cost of post-secondary education today. Together with the unaffordability of housing, many learners feel the need

to work long hours at jobs, often late at night, when they should be studying or, just as important, sleeping, to consolidate their learning. I am distressed at the short-sighted lack of public support for post-secondary education, especially in comparison with the public support I received as a college and university student. Our learners today are our future scientists, artists, novelists, poets, environmentalists, health professionals, and policy makers, and we need to invest in them if our society is to have the brightest future.

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

My wife and I love to cook great meals and entertain dinner guests. I also am an amateur woodworker and like to build furniture. I also enjoy watching the Montreal Canadiens hockey games, especially when they’re winning.

9. What is your favourite meal?

I do love a good burger and fries, but I think my favourite meal is a chicken curry my wife and I learned to make at a course we took at the London Chef here in town.

10. What’s your biggest pet peeve?

I can’t stand it when policy makers (at any level) make decisions inconsistent with the good evidence available. It drives me totally nuts.

Where's the money?

The Canadian Federation of Students claims \$200,000

Every semester, each Camosun student pays \$2.22 in membership fees to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Historically, that fee has been divided down the middle, with one half of it going to the CFS and the other half going to the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS), which is a separate legal entity from the national organization. The money is collected from Camosun students by the Camosun

College Student Society (CCSS), which then remits it to the provincial and national organizations; the breakdown of CCSS student fees on the Camosun College website says that the full amount goes to the CFS.

However, the CFS recently told *Nexus* that it has not received any Camosun student fees since 2014—an amount the CFS estimates at \$228,555.11—despite the fact that the CCSS has been collecting this money from students and saying it's going to the CFS. (After the CFS made this initial claim to *Nexus*, the CCSS paid the CFS in the amount of \$26,250 for their winter 2017 membership fees, and the CFS provided *Nexus* with the current approximate outstanding amount: \$202,305.11.)

CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte says that the reason the CFS hasn't seen this money is because the CCSS has remitted all outstanding fees—for the CFS and for the BCFS—to the BCFS. CCSS financial records shown to *Nexus* confirm that the CCSS has remitted to the BCFS \$211,953.27 of Camosun student fees designated for the CFS.

"The money that [the CFS is] speaking of is likely being held in trust by the British Columbia Federation of Students," says Turcotte. "The Camosun College Student Society has remitted all its federation fees for both the provincial and national organizations to the provincial office."

Turcotte says the reason the CFS stopped receiving fees directly from the CCSS—and from other provincial locals in BC—is because, according to the BCFS, the CFS owes the BCFS \$1 million as of this academic year.

"Any money over the past couple of years that has been paid to the CFS and BCFS portions has been paid to the provincial organization. At this time, the money has not been yet paid to the national organization."

MICHAEL OLSON

BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

"When we started most recently remitting the fees to the provincial office, the British Columbia Federation of Students—at that point it was called the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia—was owed a considerable amount of money by the national organization in terms of some dues remittances, as well as the componency fee, which is one-sixth of the national allocation," says Turcotte. "That was the context in which many BC locals stopped sending all their fees to national."

BCFS executive officer Michael Olson says that most of the student unions in BC have told the BCFS to withhold the BC mem-

bership fees from the CFS and claims that the CFS is withholding money that belongs to the BCFS. Olson says that some student unions are holding on to the money while others are asking the BCFS to hold it in trust. Olson confirms that the BCFS is holding Camosun student fees in trust but was unable to provide *Nexus* with the total amount of the Camosun student fees that the BCFS is withholding from the CFS before press time.

"Once we pay them, it isn't our legal responsibility whether or not they are dividied between the provincial and national organization. They have been paid. They left our hands."

RACHAEL GRANT

CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

"Any money over the past couple of years that has been paid to the CFS and BCFS portions has been paid to the provincial organization," says Olson. "At this time, the money has not been yet paid to the national organization."

CFS treasurer Peyton Veitch denies that the CFS has taken any money that belongs to the BCFS and says that the BCFS can not take Camosun student fees that should be going to the CFS.

Some important moments in the CCSS/CFS relationship

by Greg Pratt, managing editor

Discussions at Camosun College in regards to joining the Canadian Federation of Students get serious; a referendum is held and Camosun students join the organization, paying fees through the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS).

1992

An anonymous email is sent to people associated with the CFS and its provincial components claiming that the democratic election process at the 2014 CFS annual general meeting was corrupt. Members of the CCSS claim to *Nexus* that this is true; the CFS tells *Nexus* that it is false. The CCSS stops remitting CFS fees directly to the CFS, instead giving them to the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia (CFS-BC); staff members of CFS-BC stress to *Nexus* that it is a separate legal entity from the CFS.

2014

With tensions growing between many provincial locals and the CFS, the CCSS Lansdowne executive claims she was verbally abused and bullied at the 2015 CFS national meeting.

2015

The Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia, now the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS), to which all Camosun students belong, says in their annual general meeting agenda that it has "no confidence" in the CFS and calls for the resignation of CFS national chairperson Bilan Arte. The organization also starts looking into the process of terminating membership with the CFS.

2016

The CFS tells *Nexus* that the CCSS has not been remitting fees to them since 2014 and that the BCFS can not be holding on to the fees, which they are doing. The BCFS claims it is withholding the fees because the CFS owes money to the BCFS.

2017

Story by Adam Marsh, student editor
Photo provided

of Camosun student fees is not where it should be

“The BCFS has no authority to withhold those fees in the manner that they are,” says Veitch, “nor do they have any claim to those fees. These are fees that students pay under the assumption, and with the expectation, that they would be used to fund national campaigns and national services.”

“The BCFS has no authority to withhold those fees in the manner that they are, nor do they have any claim to those fees. These are fees that students pay under the assumption, and with the expectation, that they would be used to fund national campaigns and national services.”

PEYTON VEITCH
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

“We’ve communicated on a number of occasions that there is a requirement that locals have to remit those fees,” says Veitch. “It’s my understanding that BCFS has directed locals in the province to remit national membership fees directly to the BCFS and that those fees are being withheld by the BCFS.”

Olson says an end to the dispute may be possible, as long as the CFS first submits to the BCFS the \$1 million it is allegedly owed. Veitch denies that the CFS owes that much, estimating an amount of \$746,204.03, which includes provincial allocations, Kwantlen Polytechnic University provincial fees (Kwantlen has paid both provincial and national fees to the CFS), and miscellaneous expenses.

Veitch says that the BCFS owes the CFS approximately \$1,688,591.81, an amount that includes national

membership fees and fees for services; taking off the amount that the CFS owes the BCFS, Veitch claims the end result is that the BCFS owes the CFS approximately \$942,387.78. Olson was unable to verify the amount the BCFS owes to the CFS before press time.

However, the organizations are at a stalemate: while Olson says the CFS needs to be the first to pay the money it owes to the BCFS, Veitch says the BCFS needs to be the first to remit the money it owes to the CFS. Veitch says that the reason for that is because until the CFS gets that money, it won’t know what amount to give back to the BCFS in membership fees, as it’s a percentage of the total remitted amount.

“In the event that, at some point,” says Olson, “the people who work in the national office recognize and agree that they have stolen money for several years from the provincial organization, when they pay it back, the executive committee can give direction to do the same or to take action.”

The CCSS received almost identically worded letters in January and February from both the CFS and the BCFS asking the CCSS to remit all national and provincial fees to each organization. As mentioned above, at a CCSS board meeting on March 20, the CCSS decided to pay the CFS and the BCFS their January-March 2017 fees separately. As of press time, it was undecided how payments would be given out in the future, and the CCSS student fee information on the Camosun website still says that Camosun student fees are going to the CFS; the CCSS website lists the BCFS, but not the CFS, as an affiliate.

Olson says that fees for both the provincial and national organizations used to go through the BCFS office; around 2010, the BCFS agreed to a proposal from the CFS that would centralize administration of fees to the national office. However, Olson says that once tensions started growing between several BC student unions and the CFS, things changed.

“That system worked fine for a number of years,” says Olson, “with the BCFS getting its share of fees as well as supporting documentation on a regular and consistent basis, but in 2014, the CFS pretty abruptly stopped transferring BCFS its share of any of the fees, arguably as political retribution for some criticisms from BC member locals on the way they were operating the organization.”

As for where Camosun students’ money has gone to, CCSS external executive Rachael Grant confirms that the CCSS has given Camosun students’ CFS fees to the BCFS.

“It does look a little bit different,” says Grant, “but fees are collected from students and paid; things are complicated right now between the organizations.”

Grant says that the CCSS’ obligation ended when they remitted fees to the BCFS.

“Once we pay them, it isn’t our legal responsibility whether or not they are divvied between the provincial and national organization,” says Grant. “They have been paid. They left our hands.”

Veitch says the CFS has made numerous attempts to reconcile with the BCFS but claims that the BCFS has not shown interest in reciprocating.

The Camosun student opinion

Considering that this is Camosun students’ money in question, we went out and talked to students to see what they thought about this situation.

Nona Robertson, second-year Psychology student:

“I think it all comes down to greed. We deserve this money; we should have this money. It definitely seems like they’re not focusing on ‘what do we need to do to take care of the students?’ It’s more like ‘well, what do we need to do to get our money back?’ It’s not considering the students’ lives as much; it’s more considering the money. I think there needs to be discussion between the provincial, federal, and the students, so then the students can have more of an understanding of where the money’s going, so there can be a more clear discussion on the money.”

Jordan Radcliffe, first-year University Transfer student:

“Sounds super convoluted. If it’s not going to where it’s supposed to be going, obviously that’s wrong. The money should go to where it’s supposed to go, especially when it’s my money.”

Jarred Pyke, first-year University Transfer student:

“If you tell me my money is going to go somewhere and it doesn’t go to where it’s supposed to go, you’re kind of lying. It doesn’t really make any sense. I’m disappointed that they’re kind of lying. It sounds like people just aren’t following through on their responsibilities.”

Cory Emerson, third-year University Transfer student:

“It just seems really childish to be holding it back.

Maybe there’s more communication happening, but the way it sounds is kind of petty. That should be figured out now. A national and a provincial student association, those make a huge difference toward students. And if it hasn’t been sorted out since 2014, they need to get on that, because that’s money that should be being used, not just being held. I’m sure the BCFS wants to do stuff with the money they’re owed, but it’s all this money tied up that’s not helping anybody. That’s a lot of money. We’re all adults. It’s an awkward conversation, but they just need to go get a mediator, have the meeting, and sort it out, so that our money can continue to benefit us, rather than them just having a pissing contest.”

theatre

Born Yesterday's reboot shows timeless themes



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kassiani Austen plays Emma "Billie" Dawn in Blue Bridge Theatre's adaptation of *Born Yesterday*.

JAYDEN GRIEVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Reboots are currently seeing a grand renaissance, and for good reason. The familiarity of a classic story combined with the thrill of something novel makes for an exciting experience.

But this is nothing new: the theatre world has been capitalizing on this mentality for most of its history. *Born Yesterday* debuted on Broadway in 1946; in 1950, it was adapted for film, and actress Judy Holliday won an Academy Award

for her role as Emma "Billie" Dawn, the story's heroine. The play is now part of the program for Blue Bridge Theatre's 2017 People's Choice Season, which was decided on by votes from the public.

Kassiani Austen, who will be playing Dawn in *Born Yesterday*, is excited for the opportunity to be part of the show.

"It's a great role. The preliminary work I've been doing has been really fun," says Austen. "I did watch Judy Holliday's Oscar-winning performance, and I'm sure

there'll be some inspiration from that, but I really do believe that the strength is in the writing. When you work on a script like this that's well written with strong characters, it's going to be a really good production."

The show's story revolves around Dawn and a man named Harry Brock, who plans to buy up politics in Washington to achieve his desire for power and money.

"The character that I play, she's a showgirl who's been with this Harry Brock character for about 10

"People just watch the whole system collapse, and that's what's going on today; half the stuff that's happening would never fly normally, and people can't even catch up with it."

KASSIANI AUSTEN
BORN YESTERDAY

years," says Austen. "They've been in this long-term relationship and they come to Washington together. She's not dumb; she's ignorant, blissfully and happily so. She chooses to be ignorant. She doesn't want anything other than what she has."

When Brock decides that Dawn needs a bit of an education so she can hold a conversation with the politicians he's trying to woo, an opportunity for character development presents itself. Dawn surprises even herself as she sheds the chains of ignorance and shucks her passive role in favour of taking action.

"What ends up happening is that she ends up being extremely bright, and she learns so much and through the process of the play tries to set wrong to right with Harry, because she becomes so smart she sees through his plan," says Austen. "She goes through a huge character development; I think the most satisfying thing in the show is her growth."

Although it was written in the '40s, the plot and ideas of the play hold up to the test of time. Austen says she thinks the themes of pol-

itical corruption, purposeful ignorance, and overcoming the feeling of helplessness are particularly relevant today in regards to the political landscape we're facing. She hopes that the voters' choice of this play for this season is a sign that the public is aware of what's going on and hasn't given up the fight.

"I just think it's satisfying for the audience to see someone actively try to change their life and to become stronger," says Austen. "People just sort of watch the whole system collapse, and that's what's going on today; half the stuff that's happening would never fly normally, and people can't even catch up with it. There's a burden that comes with education, with shedding ignorance. You have to act on it; you can't just be a passive bystander. Billie, she acts."

Born Yesterday

Various times, Tuesday, May 30 to Sunday, June 11

Various prices, Blue Bridge Theatre at the Roxy
bluebridgetheatre.ca

music

Metal legends Annihilator embark on first Canadian tour in over two decades

"I worked very hard, but I didn't have to go through the hell most bands would have to go through for years to get it going."

JEFF WATERS
ANNIHILATOR

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Jeff Waters founded Annihilator in 1984 in Vancouver and went on to become a heavy hitter in the international thrash metal scene, but it's been 24 years since the band did a full Canadian tour. Waters is changing that now, though, bringing Annihilator through Canada, including a stop in Victoria.

Waters is proud to have stood the enduring test of time in the Canadian music industry, a feat that he says was not easy.

"The industry basically lost interest around '92 and '93 and venues were shutting down," he says.

But South America and—especially—Europe "didn't let go of us," says Waters. When he tried to get his foot back in the door years later, Waters says labels wouldn't take him in the face of new bands with fresh sounds. But he knew Annihilator still had value and purpose, so he found the businessman inside the musician and began self-promoting.

"Our sound is basically a collec-

tion of '80s thrash and heavy metal, so it's not exactly a groundbreaking style," he says. "It was a bit of a shock for me, but I just kind of said, 'Oh well; I'm doing well in other places.' Someone close to me said, 'Why don't you just phone the clubs and do your own tour?' Instantly, every club was like, 'Okay.'"

Since then, things have been on the up-and-up for Waters. Their latest album, 2015's *Suicide Society*, was nominated for a 2017 Juno in the Metal/Hard Music Album of the Year category; Waters says that, while this made him smile, he also felt mixed emotions, because he says the album isn't even one of their five best.

"Some of our best albums have been done over the last 20, 25 years and not been even discussed or mentioned," he says. "I knew *Suicide Society* was a decent record, but by no means would I call that one of our best albums. I found it strange because we haven't done a tour here, but it's an honour no matter how you look at it."



JASMINA VRCKO

Canadian metal lifers Annihilator are finally touring their own country again.

The band has gone through many changes since their debut album, 1989's *Alice in Hell*. Waters describes the early years as the band going from "the basement to the fancy tour bus to the nice first-class flights."

"I worked very hard, but I didn't have to go through the hell most bands would have to go through for years to get it going," says Waters, who credits his success to taking band matters into his own hands.

But with success came personal

struggles with alcohol, although Waters has now been clean and sober since 1999.

"I said, 'I just can't do this anymore; this is ridiculous,'" he says. "It was clearly an addiction. I just cold-turkeyed it in '99. I had no idea that alcohol withdrawal could be as brutal and as dangerous as it was when you stop cold turkey after being a real drinker, so I literally almost had a heart attack in the hospital. I had no clue on day two of cold turkey why it looked like

there was a moth or a butterfly in my shirt, and I realized it was my heart flying. It was going about 160 beats a minute. The scare of almost having a heart attack was actually the best psychological thing I could do for not starting ever again."

Annihilator
Tuesday, June 13
\$30, Distrikt
strathconahotel.com/venue/district

music
Hollerado return on their own terms



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ottawa indie rockers Hollerado are back with their first album since 2013.

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Tragedy can strike when least expected, as Ottawa indie rock band Hollerado found out when their guitarist Nixon Boyd was diagnosed with testicular cancer during the album’s songwriting process. Vocalist Menno Versteeg says that Boyd’s diagnosis was hard on the band but also helped them realize how important some things in life are.

“It was hard on Nixon,” says Versteeg. “It wasn’t an easy time, but he’s better now. Nixon saw it as a wake-up call about what you’re doing and that there’s no point in doing something that doesn’t mean something to you. That’s one of the reasons why it took us so long to make this record—we wanted to stand behind every single word we said and really feel like we gave it our all.”

Versteeg also says that they don’t care that it took them a long time to come out with this album, which follows up 2013’s *White Paint*. He says that they wanted the quality to be good and that they wanted to be proud of what they had created.

“It’s probably a dent in our career, taking four years to put a record out, but for us, that’s not what’s important,” he says. “We wanted to create something with a lasting impression, something that’s semi-permanent, something that we really mean. We’re not doing this for money; we’re doing it for the people who like it, and for ourselves.”

Versteeg has grown to not care about what other people think or about what critics say in reviews, but he accepts that the band’s music isn’t for everyone.

“We don’t care about the criticism anymore,” he says. “When we put out our second album in 2013, I was reading a review, and at that time I was having a really rough day. When I read the review, I literally burst into tears. It wasn’t even a bad review—I think the guy gave us 3.5/5—but I just felt that the reviewer said some things that were wrong, like that our influences were such and such band that I didn’t like, and I sort of just lost my mind. Now, I don’t care. The people who don’t like it, it’s not for them, and that’s fine.”

Hollerado recently toured in Europe, and Versteeg found out that it’s a different world of performing over there.

“It’s a lot more exotic playing in Europe,” he says. “The reactions for what is good there is on a different scale. When we played in the UK, we thought that everyone hated us every single show. It took us three or four shows to realize that, despite getting the odd heckle, the fact that they stayed and watched the whole show meant they loved us. France gave us a reaction like The Beatles would get. The Germans would come up to you and be like, ‘Oh, I very much liked your music. I will buy your CD’; another guy would come up to you and say, ‘I did not care for you one bit.’”

Hollerado
Friday, June 9
\$22.50, Sugar Nightclub
sugarnightclub.ca

review

Speakeasy mixed bag of emotions

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

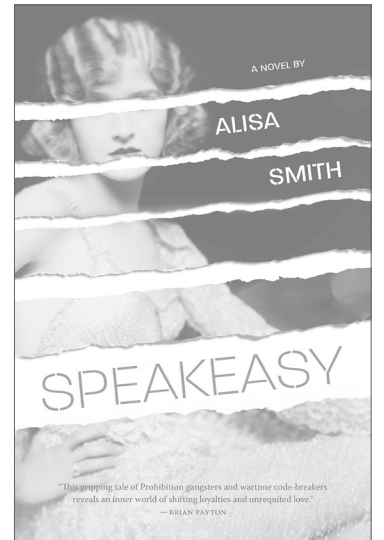
Vancouver-based author and journalist Alisa Smith’s debut novel, *Speakeasy*, deals with the Great Depression and World War II in a fresh and intriguing way.

From the cold-hearted code-breaker arrested because of the events of her past to the real-life cocaine-fuelled gangster Bill Bagley—a walking paradox who donates a portion of his stolen funds to charity—all of Smith’s characters have some unique elements to them, and they grow an admirable, enticing amount throughout this book. They were a pleasure to get to know, and the plot kept me eagerly turning each page of this gangster novel.

However, one of the narrators—Byron—is far too much of a passive pushover to be liked in the beginning of this book. He says little and does even less. As the book progresses, this changes, but he felt like a waste of page space at the beginning. There are far more interesting characters around him whose heads I would have rather had a glimpse into.

The local, old-fashioned, west-coast touch paints a good picture, and Smith writes moment-to-moment, appealing to the senses and, in the latter half of the book, the heart.

Looping back to World War II at the Esquimalt base is a nice touch to change things up, because if I were stuck in Byron’s head throughout



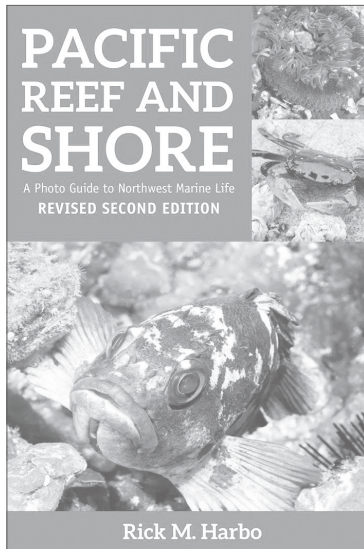
the whole book, I probably would have thrown *Speakeasy* across the room. The other narrator, Lena Stillman, is a fascinating, broken, empathetic person for whom my heart jumped onto the page.

Speakeasy is recommended for lovers of ’30s gangster stories and esoteric war novels, although one big critique is that the tone of the book changes arbitrarily; for example, characters suddenly start dropping f-bombs partway through the book.

This book is a mixed bag, with its pros just slightly outweighing its cons, but there are as many pleasures as there are subtle annoyances in *Speakeasy*. It may be a mixed bag, but it’s one I would recommend, with only a few red cocaine- and booze-covered flags hiding in the pages.

review

Photo guide explains marine life



Rick M. Harbo

PATRICK NEWMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Looking for something to do now that spring is here? Thrifty and adventurous students may want to pick up Rick M. Harbo’s nifty little photo guide *Pacific Reef and Shore: A Photo Guide to Northwest Marine Life* and hit the beaches and tidal areas surrounding our island.

This is a wonderfully easy-to-use guide to marine life from Alaska to California. Organized into groups and subgroups for quick reference, the book offers concise and important info on where to find and how to identify marine mammals (dolphins, whales, seals, otters), bivalves and lampshells (clams, oysters, cockles), crabs and snails and octopus (oh my!), and more.

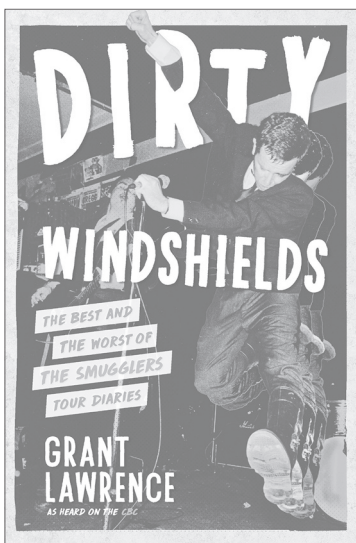
You won’t need a biology degree to identify the numerous species dwelling in tidal pools or swimming around the pylons of the local pier; this revised second edition is updated to include changes made to the scientific names of some species, but the common names are used for easy reference, with both names searchable in the book’s index. Some of the critters listed will be found only at depths visited by scuba divers and pirate ghosts, but I think it’s important that they’re included to understand the rich biodiversity in the oceans of the Pacific Northwest.

I grew up here and spent a lot of my childhood on the beaches of southern Vancouver Island, but I wouldn’t have been able to tell the Hairy Oregon Triton from the Northern Striped Dogwinkle, or known that three species of dolphins can be found swimming up and down the coast, before reading this book. The only thing absent from this guide is marine birds. It would have been nice to include them, if only so the casual explorer or tourist can differentiate the common seagull from the beautiful cormorant, or the bald eagle from the osprey.

I recommend this book; it will increase your knowledge of local marine life and may instill a greater appreciation for the beautiful and fragile environment we’re fortunate enough to live in.

review

Book explores highs and lows of ’90s indie touring



GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

Most Canadians know Grant Lawrence as a CBC radio personality or as an author, but, once upon a time, Lawrence spent his nights on stages of various repute—including those here in Victoria—as the singer for garage rockers The Smugglers. His new book, *Dirty Windshields: The Best and the Worst of The Smugglers Tour Diaries*, is a wonderfully honest and incredibly sincere look at what life was like for a modestly successful indie band in the ’90s.

Lawrence doesn’t try to hide the lows with the highs; even though The Smugglers ended up on very reputable underground labels and were known worldwide, he still confesses near the book’s end that the

Lawrence’s most moving moments as a writer come through loud and clear when he’s recounting the darker moments of trying to survive as an indie band in the ’90s.

band always felt like they were just on the cusp of what was happening and never the stars of the show.

One of the book’s most stunning moments comes near the end, when The Hives, who were friends of The Smugglers, hit it big. Lawrence recalls hearing the news after his band had just played a disastrous show and were experiencing a decline in popularity. He talks about how this was part of the beginning of the end for The Smugglers, and it’s one of the most touching and truthful moments I’ve ever read in a rock bio.

So is the moment when the band is on tour and the members call their moms to wish them a happy Mother’s Day. When they return to the van, they see one member hadn’t gone to use the pay phone; when pushed for a reason, he says that his mom is dead. Lawrence is left with the realization that the band members are out on the road rocking and rolling together but not really even getting to know each other.

Of course, there are highs as

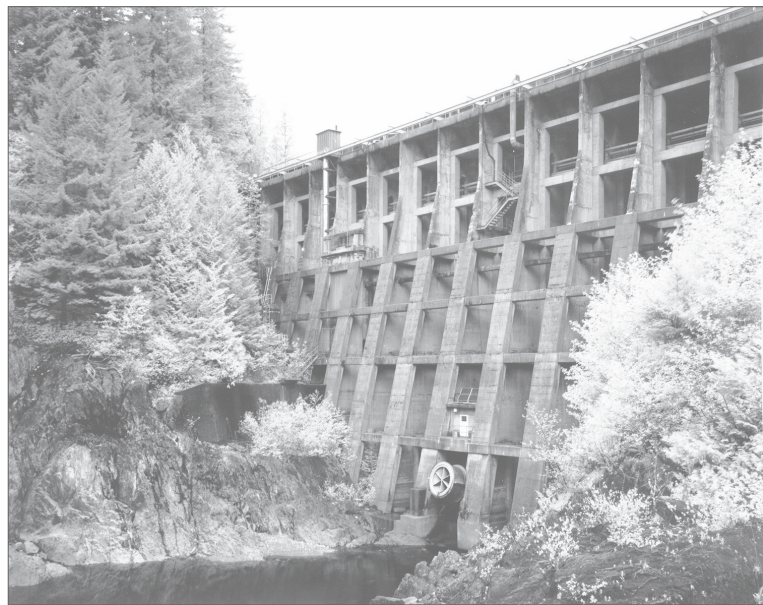
well—plenty of booze-fuelled good times and sexy decadence—but Lawrence’s most moving moments as a writer come through loud and clear when he’s recounting the darker moments of trying to survive as an indie band in the ’90s, the circumstances of which quite literally pushed Lawrence to the brink of sanity. At one point in the book, Lawrence recounts the time he jumped out into a busy highway in a panic during one particularly taxing drive with the band.

But Lawrence’s story ends on a positive and touching note. As I pretended that a tear wasn’t welling up in my eye while I made it through the last page and put the book down, I realized *Dirty Windshields* is easily one of the best rock memoirs I’ve ever read.

Grant Lawrence
(Victoria book launch for
Dirty Windows;
live performance by Bum)
7 pm Saturday, May 27
Free, Bolen Books
bolen.bc.ca

photography

Camosun's Michael McLean documents Diversion Dam's dire dilemma



MICHAEL MCLEAN

A photograph by Camosun's Michael McLean from his exhibit *JR*.

out nearby civilization, he wanted to find a vehicle to communicate his thoughts on the matter.

"The picture that that painted in my mind of living in one of those homes and constantly, in the back of your mind, thinking that there's this massive reservoir 12 kilometres away... An earthquake is a scary enough event as it is, but when you know that there's this wall of water that could be rushing down the mountain toward your home, it just painted an incredibly vivid picture in my mind," says McLean.

McLean uses various photo techniques in *JR*, including infrared, which allows him to capture artistic moments in time that would otherwise be undetectable to the human eye.

"That relates directly to the film stock that I'm using," he says. "Infrared actually doesn't pick up on the normal wavelength of life. When it was initially developed, it was developed for scientific and medical application."

McLean says that BC Hydro has made the area very difficult to get to, so he drives as far as he can and

"It's just really intriguing for me to learn more about the place and the way that people engage with the landscape."

MICHAEL MCLEAN
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

then starts hiking in. He starts early in the morning, walking in with his tripod and camera—around 40 pounds worth of equipment—to start shooting.

"I made a series of photographs from the dam site, and there was also some really interesting stuff on the way to the dams; there were shooting ranges. These are represented in the photographs [with] burnt-out mattresses and shell casings. It just became really rich, photographically, to look at that landscape and the way that people engage with it."

McLean says that the point of *JR* is not to make a judgement call; rather, it's just to document what is happening in that region.

"It's not that I'm in any way disparaging or trying to make a

negative comment about different types of ways that people recreate in that landscape," he says. "That's not really the point at all. It's just really intriguing for me to learn more about the place and the way that people engage with the landscape, and I'm doing the same thing."

Although McLean's engagement fuels his creative process, he says a sense of weariness—a feel of living off borrowed time—is present in the finished works.

"There's an appreciation for the ruggedness and the beauty of that place," he says, "but there's a certain element of danger in it, just with the knowledge that that dam is 100 years old. You get up close to it and the concrete is crumbling."

JR is online at mikeandrewmclean.com/works/jordan-river.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun lab technologist Michael McLean has been hard at work outside the classroom, working on his photography project *JR*. The project—which McLean is hoping to eventually turn into a book—focuses on the hamlet of Jordan River, which has been overtaken by BC

Hydro as they do a six-year seismic survey of the region. The survey is centred around the Jordan River Diversion Dam, located 12 kilometres upstream from the hamlet.

The results of BC Hydro's findings fuelled a creative spark in McLean. When he heard that the dam would collapse in the event of an earthquake, potentially washing



By Jayden Grieve

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Week of May 8, 2017

Top five most read stories:

1. "Camosun students divided as provincial election approaches," May 8, 2017
2. "Fitting Room and Snowfrog double bill does a lot with little," May 11, 2017
3. "New book captures spirit of Canada's centennial year," May 11, 2017
4. "It's always the season of the witch in Victoria," October 23, 2012
5. "Langham Court's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* a must see," April 24, 2017

New web-exclusive stories:

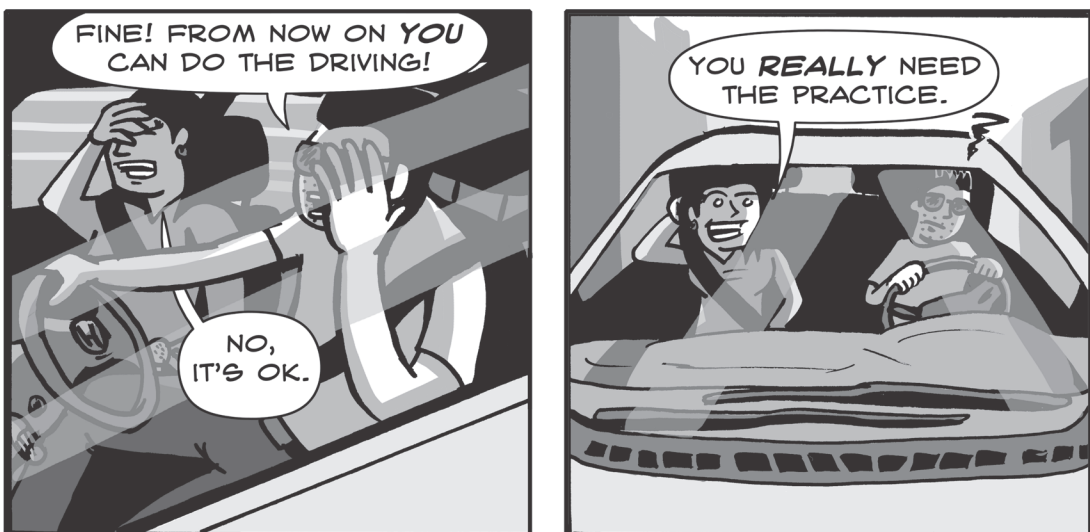
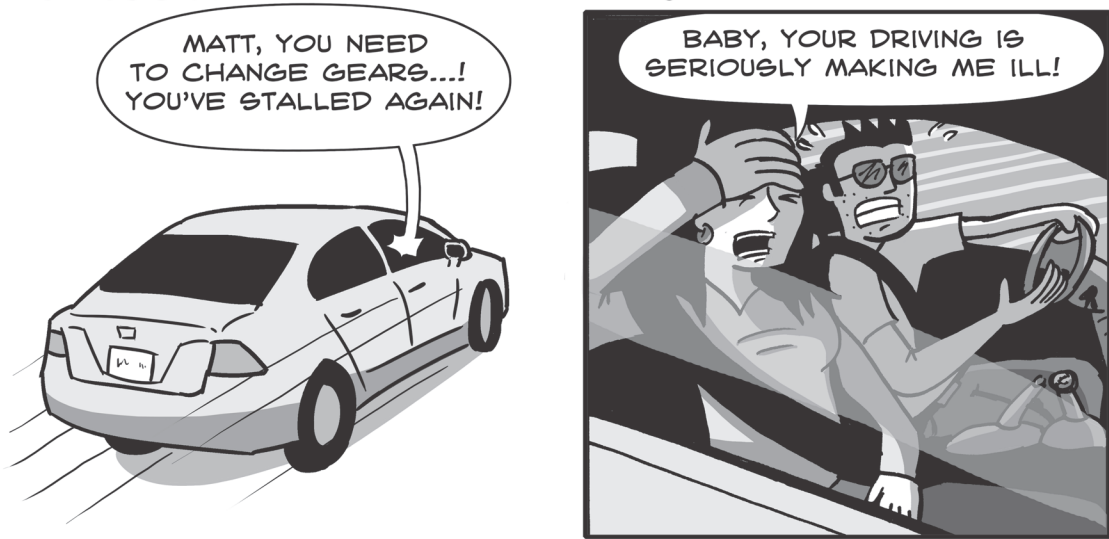
Reviews of *Fitting Room*, *Snowfrog*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Caretaker*, and *Alice Munro Stories*; coverage of the Camosun College Student Society elections and the Camosun Comic Arts Festival; previews of a slam-poetry event and a book written by a local author about Canada in 1967; a story talking to Camosun students pre-provincial election about their thoughts on what was going to happen on May 9.

Peaches unapologetically awesome, still underappreciated herself, in Victoria

September 30, 2016 by Patrick Newman, contributing writer
Filed under Arts, Web Exclusive

October 19, 2016
October 5, 2016
September 21, 2016
September 7, 2016
August 10, 2016
July 13, 2016

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student opinion

It's time for the Liberals to start listening

MASON HENDRICKS
WEB EDITOR

As an avid Green Party supporter, I do not regret my decision to vote for them in the recent provincial election, even if our lack of support for the NDP is what edged the Liberals into a possible majority victory. I don't support the policies of the Liberal party, but at the same time I was not adequately convinced that the NDP would have been much different for the people of BC. We need real change, and if the final tally doesn't result in a majority win for the BC Liberals, then we can bank on the Green Party and the NDP having some say on what happens in BC, which is better than another majority Liberal government forcing its policies—many of which clearly appear to only benefit the wealthy—upon us all.

A majority win for the BC Liberals would be more of the same at a time when more than half of the voting population is clinging to hopes of change. The final numbers of the election results will be made public in late May; if the Liberals don't win the extra seat needed to

fully control the government, let's hope the NDP and the Greens can get them to cooperate with the needs and the demands of the average citizen, instead of only governing with the priorities of the affluently privileged in mind.

The election was close, and the Liberals won by very small margins in some places, which makes me think that many voters are fed up with the current ruling party, especially considering that Christy Clark has been in power for 16 years. This election was business owners versus employees, economists versus environmentalists, homeowners versus renters.

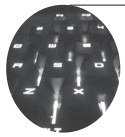
As a young college student from a middle-class family who quite frequently enjoys spending time out and about exploring nature and getting lost in the wilderness, I do not feel that Clark represents my interests, nor do I have any reason to believe that she will do so in the future. Clark and her party are an absurdly corrupt bunch, and I fear that many who voted for her may not even be aware of how drastic the issue really is.

I lay my hope for future environmental and economic prosperity in our province upon Green Party leader Andrew Weaver, as well his newfound Green Party allies in parliament.

I believe that if we keep electing Green Party candidates who, unlike the NDP and the Liberals, have never even had a chance to demonstrate how they would govern, it will be possible to swing the balance of power back from corporate interests and millionaires to the interests of the people. It's no small task, and not something that they can accomplish alone.

We do not need to vote for the lesser of two evils, like we are consistently led to believe. By voting based on our conscience, Green Party supporters have helped make history by electing a historic number of Green Party candidates, who I hope will be able to make an impact on the way in which Clark governs.

When the situation is grim and times are uncertain, just remember that it is always important to take the first step, even if you cannot yet see the whole staircase.



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

The love of the game

I've been writing a lot about live game tournament events, viewer numbers, and the passion of fans supporting their favourite teams. But to actually be one of those viewers—one of those shouting, rabid fans at a live event—was something I've never had the pleasure of experiencing until recently. Enter *League of Legends* and the NA LCS finals.

After a push to hold bigger *LoL* events in Canada, Riot Games—the developer behind the global sensation—announced that the NA LCS Spring Finals would be held in Vancouver, at the Pacific Coliseum. It took no time at all for me to jump on buying three tickets in the hopes that I could scavenge together two friends to be my live-

event wingmen. After the struggle of waking up as early as we could in order to get to the front of the venue lines, the surreal nature of what I was about to walk into hit me—I was going to watch five guys play video games against another five guys in Pacific Coliseum along with about 10,000 fans. When the doors finally opened, it was a mad dash to get in line for photos with the teams playing the next day in the finals.

Saturday was a great introduction to the energy of the event; merchandise was bought and free things were obtained. The actual matches went to the fifth game in a best-of-five match and kept me and the other fans on the edge of our seats the whole time.

But the real action was on Sunday for the first-place match. It was one of the most electric and uplifting experiences of my life.

The first two games were an absolute stomp for fan favourite Team Solo Mid, but, after some incredibly close games, their opponents, Cloud 9, came back and took it all the way to a deciding game five. In what was one of the most memorable games that's been played for a long time, Team Solo Mid finally came out on top.

The one thing I learned from the other fans is that we may be of different backgrounds, have different teams, and never meet, but we all share something in common: the love of the game.



Calculated Thought

by Sean Annable

Building trust in the digital world

Bitcoin, the most popular of crypto-currencies making headlines in the financial-technology world, is powered through a complex system known as a blockchain. This revolutionary technology is creating a buzz over its many possible applications in banking, accounting, law, and even the energy sector.

Blockchain technology can be tough to wrap your head around. It's a decentralized, digital, distributed ledger. The "ledger" could be the record of transactions from a digital currency—or any other database—that's distributed and can be viewed by all participants (if public and decentralized like Bitcoin) or by select participants (if private and not decentralized). Public blockchains have no central authority or single user that manages the system; a collective community keeps the ledger updated.

In the case of crypto-currencies such as Bitcoin, the blockchain is a network that verifies transactions through consensus, which is why *The Economist* has called it "the trust machine." When you transfer money or buy something online, a bank or credit card company usually processes the transaction. Rather than security such as account numbers and passwords, Bitcoin transactions use the sender's unique key to send an encrypted message to the blockchain to be verified.

Basically, users in the network with powerful computers, known as miners, must "solve the puzzle" based on a structure of rules to verify who the money belongs to and where it's going.

This system prevents "double-spending," where the same currency is sent or received twice. As a new "block" is created

from the transaction, the miner is rewarded with a small amount of newly mined bitcoin.

It takes a ton of computing power and electricity to solve these complex math puzzles. This has implications on how environmentally friendly the technology is, but it also adds to its security, since it would take a prohibitive amount of money, processing power, and electricity for any one user to control the network.

Ethereum is another blockchain system—with its own popular currency, "ether"—that has shown promise as a useful platform for wide-reaching applications. Currently, Ethereum is used to execute smart contracts. Like the trust system with transactions in Bitcoin, smart contracts can use encryption to execute agreements between parties without an intermediary, based on "if-then" functions.

For example, you could agree to rent a place through Airbnb using this type of system and send a deposit. When the agreed-upon deposit reaches the owner's account, the keycode to enter the apartment would automatically be sent to you, and the agreement could be set up so that if that keycode is not sent by a set date, a refund is automatically given to you.

This has limitless possibilities for applications in business, for executing complex purchases and deliveries, and for developing more secure voting systems and benefit disbursements in government systems.

This technology is exciting, complex, and not without its problems; the above is only a tidbit of the whole story. More next time on where this technology could be heading.



Cream of the Craft

by Patrick Newman

Twa Dogs and Riot bring an island IPA explosion with hoppy brews



PHOTO PROVIDED

The India pale ale (IPA) has, until recently, been the go-to beer for many craft brewers and craft consumers. The Pacific Northwest has excelled at recreating this old British style, which has a strong focus on hops over malt. This is

due in large part to the favourable growing conditions here for hops, not to mention newer hop varieties such as Amarillo, Azacca, Cascade, and Citra being developed along the west coast over the past few decades. The many different hops are responsible for all manner of flavours, such as blueberry, licorice, citrus, and pepper. Brewers have been going crazy with the limitless combinations, and the market has responded in kind. Here are two new and exciting entries to our island's IPA marketplace. Beware the flavour!

Twa Dogs
Seas Between Us red IPA
7% ABV
650 ml bottle or 6 x 355 ml bottles
4/5

Twa Dogs is the brand name of the brewing half of Victoria Calcedonian Brewery and Distillery (the other half makes a damn fine dram of whiskey). In operation for slightly over a year, Twa Dogs has been ramping up production from their facility out in Saanich and has several beers worth trying. Their newest seasonal is Seas Between Us, an IPA with a rich, red-amber colour and generous head when poured into a glass. It smells of cereal, malt, and toffee and has a beautiful combination of malt sweetness and hop bitterness, which blend together perfectly like yin and yang. The label and the story behind it got me thinking of friends living oceans away that I haven't seen in years and that I dearly miss. Got a little misty-eyed. Lovely brew.

Brewers have been going crazy with the limitless combinations of hops available in the Pacific Northwest and the market has responded in kind.

Riot
Junk Punch IPA
6% ABV
6 x 355 ml cans
3.5/5

Riot is causing a commotion just a little way up our beautiful island in Chemainus; after having tasted this, my first brew from their stock, it's not hard to figure out why. Brewers can take years to perfect a complex and sophisticated IPA, but Riot has managed to do it in mere months. This smells incredible: scents of citrus, mango, and guava

fruit hit you upon cracking the tab. Pour this into a sleeve or pint glass when you first try it and just inhale it for a minute or two. Smile, then take a nice healthy sip. This IPA is full of funky flavour up front; yum. My only gripe is a wee small metallic taste at the end of the finish that I wasn't thrilled about, but that may be because this comes in a can; I would really like to try this on tap somewhere soon. It's not quite a punch in the junk as the name suggests, but it's punchy enough to please your palate.

dirty windshields word search

We loved Grant Lawrence's new book, *Dirty Windshields: The Best and the Worst of the Smugglers Tour Diaries* (see our review on page 9). Considering the book is full of lively anecdotes, we thought we'd pull 20 random words out of it to create this issue's word search.

From cocaine to orgies, this word search is as rock and roll as the book it's inspired by.

Find the words on the left in the puzzle on the right; as always, stop by the *Nexus* office (Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus) if you complete this puzzle to pick up a prize.

Have fun!

ANACONDA
BEEFSTEAK
COCAINE
CRAZED
DIRTY
DRUNKEN
FLACCIDITY
FURIOUS
GREASER
HIPPIES
NAUSEATED
ORGIES
OUTLANDISH
REDEPTIVE
REPRIEVE
SKINTIGHT
SPEED
TONGUES
TUMULTUOUS
URINAL

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

what's going on

by adam boyle

UNTIL SATURDAY, MAY 20

From another perspective

Jocasta Regina is a retelling of the classic Oedipus story, this time from a different point of view. The play, presented by Theatre Inconnu, looks to challenge our views of rational thought. Tickets are \$10 for students; more details can be found at theatreinconnu.com.

UNTIL FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

Victoria Film Fest taking submissions

Entries are officially open for the 2018 Victoria Film Festival. If you're an amateur filmmaker and you have a film you'd like to submit, this is the event for you. Only films completed in 2016 or 2017 are accepted; all entries must be digital. For more information, visit victoriafilmfestival.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

Cycling info session

The Moving Saanich Forward team is presenting a draft of a pedestrian and bicycle network plan; the public info session will be held at Red Barn Market from 12 pm to 3 pm. Admission is free. Find more information at facebook.com/saanich.bc.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

TO SATURDAY, MAY 27

UNO returns

Intrepid Theatre's UNO Fest makes its return this year with everything from parties to salsa lessons. Various prices, locations, and times; for more information, head to intrepidtheatre.com.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

Helpful doctors at Camosun

Doctors Without Borders will be hosting a talk at Camosun to discuss collaboration, innovation, and action in regards to helping out countries and people in need. The event is at 6:30 in the Gibson Auditorium, located in the Young Building at

the college's Lansdowne campus. If you're interested in asking some questions or giving some input, check out msf.ca/events to register and for more details.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

A country divided

The Victoria Friends of Cuba will be screening Ashraf Mashharawi's film *Palestine Divided* at BCGEU Hall at 7 pm on Thursday, May 18. The hall is located at 2994 Douglas Street; admission is by donation. Additional details can be found at victoriafriendsofcuba.wordpress.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

Experiencing Africa

The African Village Experience is coming to the Archie Browning Sports Centre. This interactive event includes storytelling, singing, dancing, and a whole lot of food. Tickets vary in price; food is included. You can find more information at allevents.in.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

Let them eat cheese!

Hosted at the Crystal Garden, the Cheese and Meat Festival brings artisan vendors together to showcase their cheeses, meats, breads, and beers. Tickets are \$55; more details can be found at cheeseandmeatfestival.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

Investing in mental health

On May 24, the BC Schizophrenia Society is holding a fundraiser to help bring awareness to youth mental-health issues. The fundraiser will include Bernard Richard as a keynote speaker. Tickets are \$65; go to bcssvictoria.ca for more information.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

Who are the Woodmen?

The Woodmen of the World were a fraternal benefit society that aimed to provide, according to a press release for this event, "white men of modern means" respectability in life

and death. Diana Pedersen will be hosting the event and exploring how the association played into local history. The talk takes place at 7:15 pm at James Bay New Horizons Centre. \$5 for visitors and free for Victoria Historical Society members.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

Get dazed, get confused

Movie *Under the Maltworks* is a four-film series taking place at the Phillips Backyard. In addition to a screening of *Dazed and Confused*, a Matthew McConaughey impersonation contest will go down; tickets are \$20 and include a beer and what event organizers are calling a "potted surprise." More details can be found at victoriafilmfestival.com.

TUESDAY, MAY 30

Joint book operations

Authors Lorna Crozier and Rhonda Ganz will be at Munro's Books on May 30 to launch their newest collections. The doors open at 7 pm; admission is free. Details at free-hand-books.com/events.

TUESDAY, MAY 30

AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

Awarding the students

Camosun College is holding an awards ceremony in celebration of the accomplishments of trades students of this past year. The ceremony will be held in the atrium of the Centre for Trades Education and Innovation, located on the Inter-urban campus. The ceremony starts at 5 pm on May 30 and 6 pm on May 31. Admission is free; see camosun.ca for more information.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Comic crazy in Sidney

The Vancouver Island Comic Con is a new convention hoping to sate the geeky needs of the lower island. Chris Williams of Disney Studios will be speaking at the con; he's best known for co-directing 2015 Oscar winner *Big Hero 6*. Admission is by donation; for more details, check out vanislecomiccon.com.

contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Let's see if you can find this copy of the last issue of *Nexus*, which we hid somewhere at Camosun College's Lansdowne campus.

The first person to find this copy of the paper and bring it in to our office wins themselves a free prize!

Last time around, the issue was hidden in an inside nook leading to an exit on the side of the Fisher building.

Who will find this issue's hidden *Nexus*? Happy hunting, and bring it to us once you find it!

know your writers

Nexus cartoonist Matt Smith



EMMA SMITH

Have you ever wondered about the Camosun students writing the articles you read in *Nexus*? *Know Your Writers* will help you dive into the minds of the writers behind the stories.

This issue, we caught up with *Smith vs. Smith* artist Matt Smith to talk about versatility in comics, creative writing at Camosun, and living in Kuwait.

Like what you see of Smith's work in *Nexus*? Check out more over at smithvssmith.com.

What drew you to comics?

I've always loved telling stories. My background is in film, but even a short film takes lots of time and money. But comics are so immediate—you can have an idea and throw it down on paper and have something to show people right away. Comics are also very versatile—you can tell infinite stories in infinite ways.

Where do you usually take your inspiration from?

My favourite comics have always been slice-of-life stories. Even my favourite superhero comics are the issues where they sit around talking about how hard their superhero jobs are. So I draw comics about real life. I'm lucky that I live with a hilarious wife and two crazy cats. Readers really respond to the ridiculous relationship comics.

What would you say are the

worst and best parts of your job at the paper?

Being published in *Nexus* makes me feel like a proper cartoonist. It's great to have a webcomic, but there's something about seeing your comics in newsprint that makes you feel legitimate. It's amazing to know that every issue readers will be looking at my work, but I miss the reader interaction I get online. I do love knowing who is reading my comics and getting feedback, something I can't do with *Nexus* unless I spend all my time reading over everyone's shoulder on the bus.

What is your favourite thing about Camosun?

I've taken some amazing creative writing classes with Laurie Elmquist and Jodi Lundgren. Their classes really helped me refine my craft and get stories—which I will eventually turn into graphic novels—down on paper. And you can definitely see an improvement in my comics since I took Joan Steacy's structural drawing class.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Before moving to Victoria I spent four years in Kuwait, so I enjoy doing things that I can't do in Kuwait, like going to bars and watching uncensored movies. Kuwait is a very flat country with very little greenery, so I'm also grateful for being able to take hikes and see trees.