

# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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## THE LONG ROAD TO CAMOSUN

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first sponsored  
student refugee

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#### SEND A LETTER

*Nexus* prints letters to the editor. *Nexus* reserves the right to refuse publication of letters. Letters must include full name and student number if a Camosun student (not printed). *Nexus* accepts all letters by email to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. We reserve the right to edit all letters.

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "Here, let's have a freckle contest."

COVER PHOTO: Jill Westby/Nexus

## student editor's letter

### New year, new stories

Exams have come and gone; so have Christmas and New Year's. Who knows what 2017 will bring? All we know is that we didn't slow down much during the holidays this year. We've been hard at work with web-exclusive stories over in Richmond House 201 throughout December, and now we're ready for a new year of *Nexus*.

We kicked off 2017 by talking to Camosun's first sponsored refugee student, Kabwari Chomba. The feature is staff writer Adam Boyle's first, and he did a great job. Turn to page 6 for the lowdown.

Over in the news section, we got the latest update from the college about the student complaint we reported on last issue; see page 3. Also on page 3, contributing writer Quinn Hiebert wrote about how Camosun College has reached their financial goal for the TRADEmark of Excellence campaign.

Meanwhile, in our campus section, contributing writer Aaron Stefik caught up with two Camosun students who are voicing their concerns regarding social issues via YouTube; we caught up with them on page 5. We also interviewed a Camosun student who used his past struggles to help net himself an award in a recent student writing contest; see page 4 for that story.

Speaking of Stefik, his new satire column, *Dearest Reader*, debuts this issue; head back to page 10 and get ready to laugh. It replaces *Lit Matters*, which we reluctantly say goodbye to as writer Keagan Hawthorne leaves Camosun. Thanks for all the good literature talk, Keagan; we'll miss it.

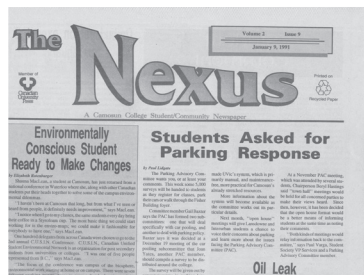
We're always around if you want to come for a visit or drop us a story idea. It is you, the Camosun students, who make the paper what it is, so raise your glasses and give yourself a pat on the back for doing what you do. And keep doing it.

See you on January 18 for our next issue, and keep checking nexus-newspaper.com for web-exclusive stories until then.

Adam Marsh, student editor  
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

## flashback

### 25 Years Ago in Nexus



GREG PRATT  
MANAGING EDITOR

**There's no news like bad news:** The cover of our January 9, 1992 issue featured not one but two grim headlines: "Oil leak contaminates Lansdowne" and "Camosun arsonist sentenced." The latter talked about how a person who had been setting fires around the Lansdowne neighbourhood had been sentenced to 10 years in prison, while the former talked about a smell of fuel oil being a tip-off that there had been a leak at the Lansdowne campus. Turns out it was quite a leak: between 1,000 and 1,300 gallons of fuel oil was calling soil and storm drains around the campus home because of the leak.

**Student society makeover:** The story "Student Society working on image" talked about how the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) had changed: "We've become more relaxed," said Jennifer Graham, who was CCSS president at the time. "People aren't looking over their shoulders... We're more easy-going; less political. Communication doesn't flow as easily if you're tense." Graham apparently felt strongly about this: "If there's one personal challenge for me this year," she said, "it's to change the image of the student society."

**Playboy?:** The story "Council provides umbrella to Camosun clubs" talked about a few clubs that were active on campus at the time before throwing out this curveball while discussing the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship club: "The IVCF are dedicated to pursuing a Christian lifestyle while attending college—no small feat considering Camosun made the pages of *Playboy* before it was officially chartered." No idea what that's all about, but we're looking into it.

## open space

### Camosun board needs to explain why they terminated president's contract

MASON HENDRICKS  
WEB EDITOR

A public post-secondary institution needs to operate with transparency and responsibility to the public. When former Camosun College president Kathryn Laurin had her contract with the college terminated in 2014, the reasons were never made public by the college's board of governors. As per the terms of her contract, she continued to receive a severance payment until February 2016. The total sum of Laurin's severance pay amounted to \$232,404.

*Nexus* filed a freedom of information request to find out more information about why Laurin had her contract terminated; we received a heavily redacted file, with most of the information regarding the circumstances of Laurin's termin-

that Camosun chooses to spend, especially when that amount of money totals nearly a quarter of a million dollars over a two-year period. The current president of Camosun, Sherri Bell, was being paid at the same time that Laurin was collecting her severance; paying for two presidents was a gross waste of money that could have been spent on more pressing affairs, especially considering we don't know why that money was spent.

What sort of precedent does this set for Camosun? Now that it has happened once without much resistance, it may happen more in the future, which would be a detriment to the students of this college.

The head of the University of Saskatchewan's School of Public Health also had his tenure revoked in 2014—and was even escorted off

This has gone on long enough: I call upon Camosun College's board of governors to make public the reason for terminating Kathryn Laurin's contract.

ation censored. The college has said that because it's a personnel matter between Laurin and the board, they can't give further details.

But that's not good enough; there needs to be a certain level of transparency in circumstances such as these. Since taxpayers are the ones footing the bill, I believe we have the right to know what transpired in the time leading up to the decision to fire Laurin. The money that she received as severance could have been better allocated to benefit the campus and its students. For instance, the Young building is in dire need of repairs, and it currently remains under construction, as it has been for years. Another problem is the disappearance of programs such as the Applied Communication Program or funding for ESL at Camosun.

The bottom line is that students should benefit from the money

campus by two security guards—after speaking out against that school's new strategic planning process.

We can't let this happen; presidents and professors of learning institutions should not be fearful of criticizing the school when they disagree with executive decisions. That may not be the case here, but we won't even know until the Camosun College board of governors tells the public what happened—which, as the board of a public institution, I feel they should.

I say this has gone on long enough, and I call upon the college's board of governors to make public the reason for terminating Laurin's contract.

Until then, all that is known for sure is that this ended up costing everyone a lot of money, and we—including those who paid for it—have no idea why.

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!

## SPEAK UP

What would you like to see more of in your student newspaper this year?

BY ADAM MARSH



JON OSBORNE

"More opinion pieces on social issues that affect us as students."



GRAEME DUFOR

"A little bit more on mental health challenges and how those affect students—decreasing anxiety and stress and different ways to go about treating it."



RICARDO HARDIN

"A little more sports. There are a lot of talented athletes here that I've seen around, and I want to see them in the newspaper."



AMERICA BLASCO

"I'd like for there to be pieces around what's happening in terms of fast-food organizations, and looking at food security for students."



MEGAN HOWSE

"Sometimes it's hard to search things online, so maybe having the top classes of different [programs], that kind of thing."



LYNDSAY JEFFERY

"Draw attention to the amount of stress and the lack of programs here to reduce it. Exam time is the only time that anyone really cares about it."



## safety

## Camosun College on Philippines complaint: “The matter is now closed”



FILE PHOTO

The college isn't releasing details about a recent student complaint.

**GREG PRATT**  
MANAGING EDITOR

We previously reported that a Camosun College faculty member had been suspended after a student complaint related to an incident that happened on a school trip to the Philippines; a recent *Times Colonist* story is now saying that the faculty member who was being investigated was Nursing instructor Stephen Bishop and is also reporting that a full-time instructor has resigned as a result of the investigation, but the college isn't releasing any details.

“I cannot confirm details as it is a personnel matter,” says Camosun vice president of student experience Joan Yates, who would not confirm or deny if it was Bishop who was being investigated or who resigned.

“Students directly impacted have been informed directly by us.”

Bishop has not replied to a request for comment for this story; he told the *Times Colonist* that he's not ready to speak with anyone at this time. Emails sent to his work email get an auto-reply directing people to his personal email and phone number.

Yates provided *Nexus* with a copy of the college's official statement on the matter:

“Camosun College takes the safety of our students very seriously. After receiving student complaints, the college contracted a third party investigator to conduct an independent investigation.

The college has taken the appropriate internal measures and

the matter is now closed. As this is a personnel matter, the college is unable to disclose any further information.”

In November, Yates told us that the third party was independent of Camosun and was investigating the matter, but also wouldn't say then who the faculty member was.

“The college did receive a student complaint and we took it seriously,” she told us, but couldn't give details about the complaint.

The trip took place from April to June of this year; called the Camosun Philippines Field School 2016, Bishop was listed as the instructor for the field school on the Camosun site. Details about the trip were taken off of Camosun's website as of November 25.

## finances

## Camosun College surpasses funding goal for trades buildings

**QUINN HIEBERT**  
FEATURES WRITER

Camosun College has reached their \$6.5-million funding goal for new buildings and renovations at the Interurban campus. The college—which raised the funds through its TRADEmark of Excellence campaign—exceeded its goal by \$1.5 million.

A large chunk of the fundraising went toward Interurban's new Centre for Trades Education and Innovation. TRADEmark of Excellence campaign director Angus Matthews says students should take a look at the new building.

“It is a truly dramatic building that really upgrades the appearance of what trades education looks like,” says Matthews. “I think there'll be a lot of pride in that for students. I think it'll attract a lot more students saying, ‘Hey, the trades are a lot more sophisticated than we realized; these are great jobs.’”

Some of the college's trades programs were previously crammed into Interurban's Jack White and John Drysdale buildings, as well as two “temporary” buildings that are roughly 20 years old. Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Rachael Grant says there is a significant lack of college funding from the provincial government.

“It is important to remember that institutional funding from

“As I'm saying to private donors all the time, do you want Camosun to be as good as the government can make it, or as good as the community can make it?”

**ANGUS MATTHEWS**

CAMOSUN COLLEGE TRADEMARK OF EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN

our provincial government is at an all-time low,” says Grant. “That is a responsibility from our government that has been lacking for some time. It's important that students have resources.”

Matthews says the reality of funding is that while the government has supported Camosun in significant ways—the most recent being a contribution of \$29.2 million to the construction of the new building—the TRADEmark campaign has had to appeal to donors.

“As I'm saying to private donors all the time,” says Matthews, “do you want Camosun to be as good as the government can make it, or as good as the community can make it? We really need the community to help with the extras, and that's what this campaign's done.”

Students and student education have been a large focus of the campaign; for example, when Babcock Canada president Mark Dixon presented Babcock's \$800,000 donation to the college, he brought 14

Camosun graduates with him (Babcock Canada manages maintenance on navy submarines). Camosun director of applied research and innovation Tim Walzak says the Babcock interaction lab—to be housed in the Jack White Building—will be designed to consolidate equipment and create a space for collaboration.

“That's part of our vision here,” says Walzak. “Most of our grads are going to work in smaller companies or in different kinds of institutions or local community partners, and in those cases, they're working as part of an interdisciplinary team. But we don't teach them as part of an interdisciplinary team. This is an opportunity to bring those disciplines together while the students are being educated in order to give them a better skill set, to be more employable when they're finished at Camosun.”

Of the \$6.5 million raised, a little under \$1.5 million has been invested in the college's Coastal Skills Initiative and West Coast Women in



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun TRADEmark of Excellence campaign director Angus Matthews.

Trades program; Matthews says that only nine percent of trades students are female, compared to almost 50 percent females in other programs.

“There are a lot of women with an interest in trades,” says Matthews. “Had there been a program with a mentor, a network of other women in trades, scholarship support, maybe bursary support for tools or boots, better daycare, I bet a lot more women would have a real interest in trades. With the skills gap, we desperately need underrepresented groups recruited; women would certainly be one of those.”

Matthews says West Coast Women in Trades will be a collection of services in terms of support, mentoring, and job placement.

“That's the next battle for women,” says Matthews. “It's one thing for them to choose to be educated at Camosun in the trades; it's another thing for them to be accepted on the job sites.”

The final donation of \$10,000 came from students, through the CCSS. Matthews says it was a lovely way for Camosun to tell donors that students are also supportive.

“It is being added to the scholarship funding for trade students,” says Matthews. “We've talked a lot of big numbers here, but for the student society to have endorsed what we're trying to do by contributing, and by helping us invest in students, it's one of the very meaningful gifts we've received and one we hugely appreciate.”

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Former UVic professor pleads guilty to smuggling steroids

Former University of Victoria computer science professor Gautam Srivastava has pleaded guilty to illegal-steroids smuggling. But a judge stayed the case—meaning Srivastava will not be charged, or have a criminal record—because, he said, the case had gone on longer than necessary. Srivastava is cur-

rently a faculty member at Manitoba's Brandon University.

## Niagara College in hot water over discrimination accusations

Niagara College in Ontario is facing a possible censure situation if it does not resolve issues around forced gender segregation at its Saudi Arabian campuses. If the

censure follows through, future faculty will be asked by the Canadian Association of University Teachers to not accept positions at the college. Moreover, current faculty will be requested to not accept honours or take part in conferences held at the college.

## Campus cafe shut down over ad

Verita's Cafe at Ontario's Wilfred Laurier University has been

shut down by the university's graduate students association after the cafe posted a help-wanted ad. The catch? The ad said they were looking for a “a new slave to boss around.” The ad, which was intended to be perceived in jest, resulted in operator Sandor Dosman being escorted off campus by security guards. The university said that they support the decision; however, many students are upset, and Laurier ethics professor Byron Williston said the

graduate students association are acting like “spoiled children” and “behaving like petty bullies.”

-ADAM MARSH

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

Want to be a news writer? No experience necessary! Email us or stop by our office (201 Richmond House, Lansdowne campus) today!



post-secondary

## Camosun student writes contest-winning essay inspired by troubled past



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun student Justin Scott recently took home a \$1,000 prize in a post-secondary writing contest.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

He's a Camosun student now, but eight years ago, at the age of 25, Justin Scott wasn't, and he was sick and tired of being sick and tired.

Suffering from an addiction to methamphetamine and going through spiritual despair, Scott says he decided to go to his parents and isolate himself from his fellow drug users.

Today, the Open the Doors contest (part of a campaign to lower tuition costs and make education more accessible in BC) gives students a chance to tell their post-secondary stories. Scott used his experiences to enter in the contest and came out a winner. For his contest entry, Scott wrote in his essay—which won him the third-place \$1,000 prize—that the itch to use and abuse drugs was still there, but that he's currently winning the battle with addiction, having been clean since 2008. Scott says post-secondary was a key factor in his recovery.

"I was a meth user for ten years," says Scott. "I pretty much

just locked myself away from everybody I knew for a long time."

Many success stories include treatment, meetings, and therapy; Scott says that wasn't the path he chose.

"After 10 years of just losing everything in my life, I decided to quit and was able to just stop," he says. "I had a business and cars and a house. I really lost everything."

After the detoxification process, Scott yearned for a sense of meaning and inertia that he says drugs robbed him of.

"Post-secondary education was really what saved my life after getting clean," he says. "I didn't have education, or a job to go to, so I really had to work myself up to getting to post-secondary education. Having money to be stable with, actually having something to go to every day and do... keeping myself busy was probably the saving factor that kept me off of drugs."

Scott graduated from the Health Care Assistant program at Camosun in 2011. But five years later, he realized a change of pace was

needed; he's now back at Camosun, in his second year of Electrical Engineering.

"It was quite the journey to reset my life and get into school, because I didn't have any support," he says. "I couldn't get a student loan because I had no financial history. So I got a real job and was able to prove I was worthy of a loan."

Camosun College Faculty Association (CCFA) president Al Morrison says that the CCFA was one of many BC faculty associations supporting the Open the Doors campaign. Morrison says that opening the doors to education, much like the name of the campaign suggests, is vital.

"All colleges are coming together, basically wanting to share a message with the politicians, be it the current party in power, or whatever; we just want to make awareness of the challenges that students are facing in post-secondary going toward the May election," says Morrison. "We thought we would do that through a campaign where students shared their stories."

environmental issues

## Camosun gets sustainability nod



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun's Jonathan Siqueira.

**ADAM BOYLE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun College recently placed 10th in the Associate's Colleges category in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)'s 2016 Sustainable Campus Index.

The college uses AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). In January of 2016 Camosun College got a STARS silver rating for its sustainability achievements.

Camosun College acting manager of environmental sustainability Jonathan Siqueira says that this award is a way to gauge Camosun's sustainability progress, which is also what STARS does. Although STARS is a voluntary program, Siqueira sees being involved in it as a way for the college to be even more active with sustainability.

"We're not required to do this," he says. "It's in the interest of sustainability and getting some markers for where we're at and where we need to improve. I think it's great."

Siqueira says that the recognition is a great start and considers it a victory for the college.

"I think in many ways sustainability is new to all of us; there are still lots of challenges to overcome in terms of being better at it," he says. "With that said, I personally believe that being sustainable takes time."

It's not something you rush into." Camosun College Student Society sustainability director Shauna Nedelec says that it's impressive that Camosun got this award, taking into consideration the size of the college.

"Given that we're so small, it's quite the achievement, considering we don't have as much resources as some of the bigger schools in Canada," she says. "I was quite surprised we were 10th, but, then again, British Columbia is one of the greenest places in Canada, if not the greenest province. So I think it's quite an accurate rating."

Nedelec hopes that this will bring on some friendly competition between colleges and universities and that it will help people become more aware of sustainability and how they can help.

"It's all about how driven each individual student is," she says. "I know I found it hard to get students to do stuff for Camosun, and a lot of the people that I know at the Lansdowne campus are taking maybe one or two classes, and they come and go. It's one thing to have ideas, but to be able to put them into motion is what really counts."

Nedelec says that she would also would like to see the Camosun board of governors do more in terms of sustainability for the college. She adds that she has a few ideas of her own that she'd like to see put into action.

"I know [Camosun president] Sherri Bell is quite into sustainability for a business and education model," she says. "I was thinking about talking about a policy for sustainability and the way resources are pooled—things like equipment and materials—and have it more regulated so we aren't wasting what we don't need to. It's amazing how many little things could add up to make something more sustainable."

know your profs

## Camosun's Brian Young wants the college to help students try something new

**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](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com) and we'll add them to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we caught up with Camosun Criminal Justice prof Brian Young to talk about his pet turtle, his thoughts on students taking something new at school, and his previous life as an interpretive dancer.

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

Criminal Justice, and I've been here for 24 years. Freaky, but true.

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

A small pittance.

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

Absolutely zero. I am simply the purveyor of all things criminal law. My past as an interpretive dancer drifting from lowly bar to lowly bar in Oregon is my business.

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

Damn it. That last answer.

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

I haven't been fired yet.

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

That they haven't fired me yet.

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

It's a booming business. I'm a huge fan. I don't care what you

take, but take something. Expand your mind and take an untravelled path to see where you end up. I wish Camosun made doing that a bit easier.

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

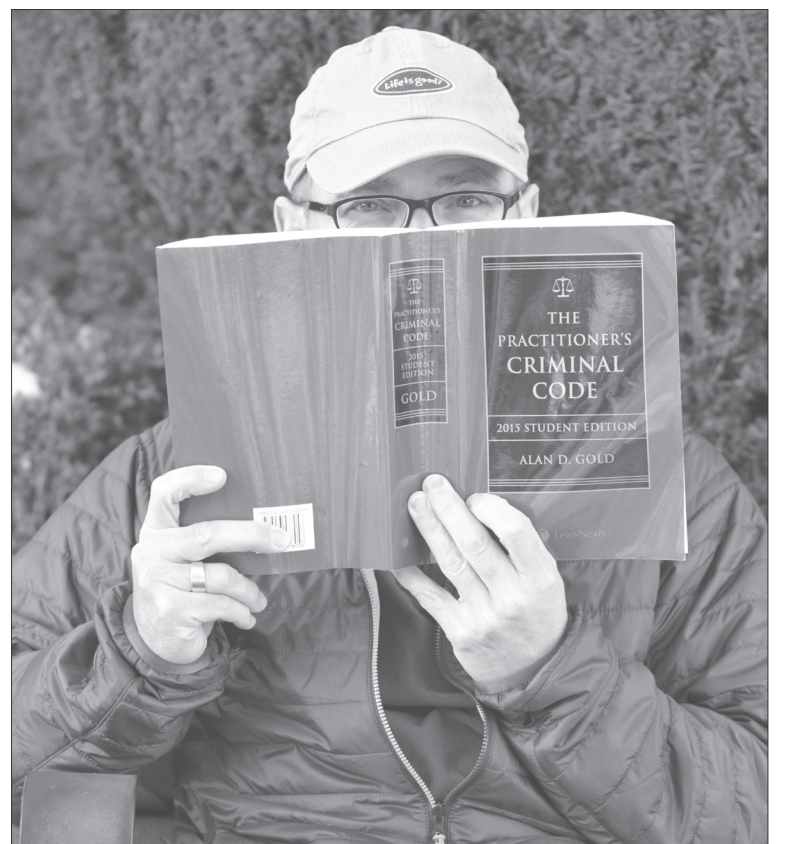
Track down where students work and harass them. Actually, not too far from the truth. It's hard to get a cup of coffee or tube of caulking without bumping into one them. Which speaks volumes for job prospects in criminal justice.

9. *What is your favourite meal?*

Anything not cooked or served by a current or former student; I feel secure in dining and have no fears of food poisoning.

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

I don't have any pets. The last one I had was a turtle and I thought he died so I flushed him down the toilet.



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun's Brian Young is back there somewhere.



social issues

## Camosun students use online media to facilitate social discussion



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

One of the creators of *The Social Matters* watches one of their videos on YouTube.

**AARON STEFIK**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun Sociology students Orianna Hartley, Adam Jenkins, and Linda Derkacz united in November to embark on a project they had been inspired to take on right here in the classrooms of the college. Struck by the degree to which they felt that certain societal issues went insufficiently examined, the young academics decided to create an online web show, *The Social Matters*, to create a forum where such concerns could be addressed and discussed openly and frankly.

“It all started with being in our Sociology 100 class,” says Hartley. “Our teacher always said, ‘The social matters,’ and we want to let everyone know that what happens in society actually does matter to us. We care, and we want to help people and educate people on what’s going on. The first [episode] was just for a project to get some bonus marks, and the episodes we’re doing now are because we really enjoy what we’re working on. We’ve been getting some really positive feedback.”

Topics covered so far include perceptions of physical appearance

and mandated dress code, and the effect of self-mutilation within intimate relationships. Hartley and her companions view the series as a way in which to educate a wide audience—both within the college and off campus—on issues that go unnoticed by the public at large, due to their ubiquity as elements in everyday life. Hartley says it’s important to recognize problems that easily go unnoticed.

“People are really blinded to social problems because they don’t realize that they are problems, or they just don’t have enough edu-

“It all started with being in our Sociology 100 class. Our teacher always said, ‘The social matters,’ and we want to let everyone know that what happens in society actually does matter to us.”

**ORIEANNA HARTLEY**  
THE SOCIAL MATTERS

cation,” says Hartley. “So we just wanted to educate people on this.”

*The Social Matters* has come into being amidst a growing international culture of online intellectual exchange, where an ever-rising number of individuals choose to express themselves via YouTube and other similar video-sharing platforms. Hartley points out that the contemporary world is “very social media-driven.”

“I think it’s a really good way to publicize yourself nowadays,” she says. “We also wanted our viewers to feel that they could just come and watch us, and not feel obligated to go somewhere else to talk about it.”

Despite its beginnings as a class project, *The Social Matters* quickly evolved to concern itself not merely with examples of social injustice or evolution on the Camosun campuses, but with the larger psychosocial and sociopolitical elements that drive them both here and elsewhere.

“When we first started, we just

wanted to aim it toward the college, but now we’re getting more of the public in, and we want to expand it,” says Hartley. “It’s more from larger society; we’re very macro in it. We just want to cover a wide range.”

Hartley also makes clear that the gender balance represented within the show in the form of Jenkins’ and Derkacz’s contrasting views was a conscious decision.

“We really just wanted to have both points of view and give an equal opportunity,” she says. “We also want to get more people involved, maybe have guests to talk about what their experience is with something, get a broader expanse.”

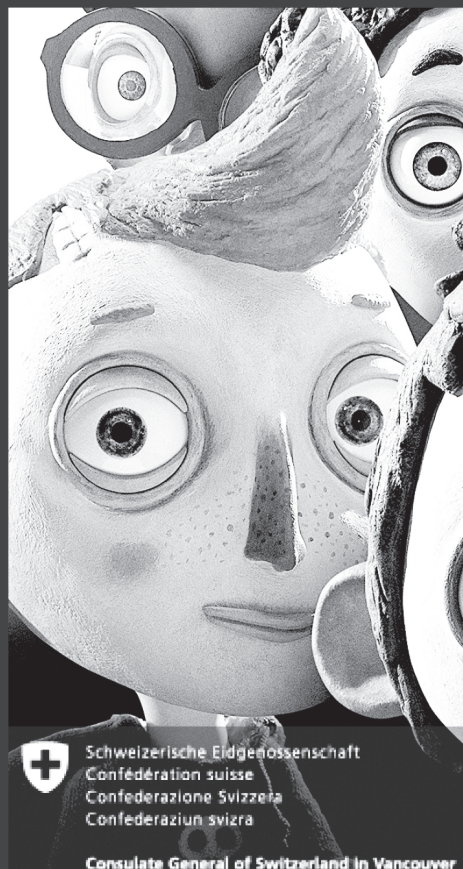
Moving forward, the series is intended to become a jumping-off point for discussion and mutual acceptance for all students interested in making a difference.

“If they ever feel unclear about something, we’re here for them,” says Hartley. “We care about social issues. The social does matter.”

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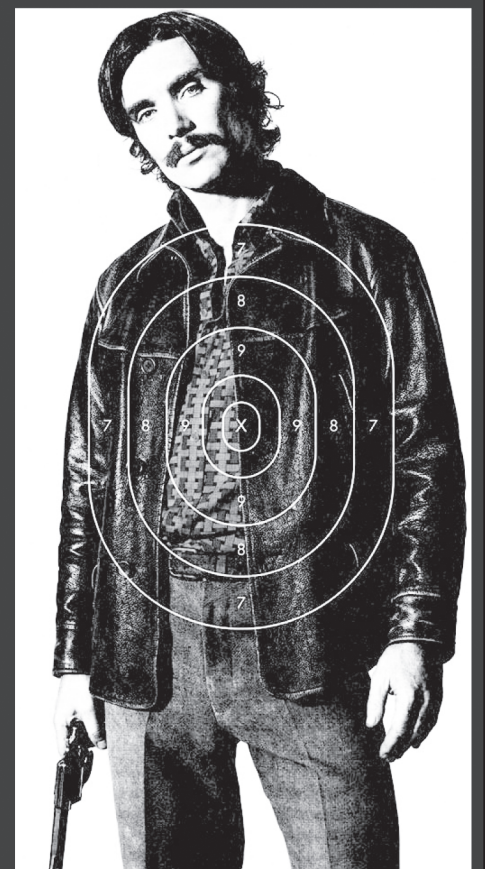
PERSONAL SHOPPER



MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI



THE HOLLOW CHILD



FREE FIRE



# The long, long road

## How the college's first sponsor



Kabwari Chomba between classes at Camosun's Lansdowne campus.

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"In the Congo, there isn't much chance for peace."

**KABWARI CHOMBA**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

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"You could find that there are not nearly enough books for everyone [in the refugee camps in the Congo]; you'd have maybe around 10 people sharing one book at any given time. Imagine sharing one book with 10 or 15 people; it's very hard."

**KABWARI CHOMBA**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

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It wasn't easy for Kabwari Chomba to get to Camosun College. Chomba—who arrived at Camosun in August 2016 as the first student brought to the college by the World University Service Canada Student Refugee Program (WUSC)—was born in a refugee camp in the Congo.

"In the camp, life is not simple. There are no jokes, we depend on the food we are given, we buy soap to wash our clothes, and buy books for school," says Chomba, who is in the Business program at Camosun. "In school there, you would find that in one block and one classroom there are maybe 120 students. You could find that there are also not nearly enough books for everyone; you'd have maybe around 10 people sharing one book at any given time. Imagine sharing one book with 10 or 15 people; it's very hard."

The process for selection through WUSC is incredibly hard, too. WUSC takes students who would be able to succeed in English-speaking post-secondary institutions; students who are interested in applying for WUSC aid have to take intense English tests and graduate from high school. Add in struggles due to a lack of textbooks, getting little help from a teacher, and the challenges of everyday life in the refugee camps, and a picture starts to get painted of just how hard it is to be eligible for WUSC sponsorship. Chomba never gave up, though, and he made it through those tests.

"For the selections, maybe 20 people from the camp will be picked," he says. "From there, you're tested more. You need good grades—really good grades. It was difficult for me to complete my education and how I had to wait for the WUSC committee to help me to come to Canada. It was a very, very long road for me to come."

### Helping hands

Jonathan Perritt-Mo'ungaloa is the main coordinator for the Camosun branch of WUSC. What started off as a Sociology program with some friends quickly turned into an aid program that now has roots in Camosun. After a referendum was passed in the October 2015 Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) student elections asking to raise the student levy to support the student-refugee program, Perritt-Mo'ungaloa and the other members were able to help choose who would be Camosun's first student from their program.

"WUSC is a very large organization," says Perritt-Mo'ungaloa. "They have committees all over the country in most major colleges and universities. The organization has people who work in the camps throughout Asia, Africa, and the Middle East; they help out and go there regularly and offer a program and have these tests and whatnot to do with English proficiency."

Perritt-Mo'ungaloa says that the process involved is to make sure students are on par when they come to Canada and go to post-secondary here.

"What happens is the organization sends us out four dossiers and the local committee at the schools ranks [from] one to four exactly what student would be best suited for the city and school they are going to," he says. "The head office makes the final decision after we recommend one to them."

CCSS external executive Rachael Grant says that the student society supports the collection of the fees from students that help fund the program.

"Surprisingly, I don't think there were any issues that came up when trying to get the program started," says Grant. "The referendum went very smoothly; it passed, and Camosun students democratically decided that this was something worth putting fees toward. The program is a very worthy cause, and I'm very excited about it and to be able to bring in a refugee student and give them an opportunity to have an education at Camosun."

### Life on the move

Life in the camps was hard for all the refugees who lived there. They were often living off small amounts of food; the structures in the camps didn't offer much help, either. "When the rainy season comes around, you cannot live in houses then," says

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# oad to Camosun

## ed student refugee made it here

Story by Adam Boyle, staff writer

Photos by Jill Westby/Nexus

ba. “The buildings are not in good condition and sometimes the buildings are made of so when the rain comes, you cannot go home because the rain ruins the buildings. When ble, maybe I’d like to donate some money to build new structures. Children used to go to l without eating. There was a program to make porridge; I used to eat a lot of porridge in l and without that porridge it would’ve been difficult for me to survive.”

Chomba didn’t always live in the refugee camp in the Congo—he moved around growing til he was able to leave the continent and travel to Camosun. Through the help of chauff-at airports and with a map in his hand, Chomba managed to leave Africa behind and ollege here at Camosun.

lived in the Congo until 1994 and then from there I lived in Tanzania in another camp 001, when I moved to Malawi [and lived there] until 2016. I did most of my schooling awi because in the camp there is a school that has support from Jesuit Refugee Service.ponsor most of the big primary and secondary schools in the camp and they provided h a lot of books and help.”

Chomba had never left Africa before; he had never been on a plane. Travelling across the to get to his new home was a completely new, and completely scary, experience for him. travelled from Malawi to South Africa and South Africa to London. Then from London I take a plane to Calgary, and then I finally arrived here in Victoria,” he says. “The whole as about two days in length and by the time I got here, I was incredibly tired. I got out plane in Victoria and wondered to myself where the sun went. I was really nervous the me I got on the plane. A passenger sitting next to me helped me out and told me not to and calmed my nerves a lot.”

Chomba says that he, sadly, didn’t get much of a chance to explore and experience the cities untries that he travelled by plane to. He was constantly ready to go to his next plane’s ust like anyone else getting through multiple flights.

“We didn’t have enough time to look around, really,” he says. “We were just in the airports we waited for another plane to come. I had an address of where I was going, and at each t there was someone to pick me up and show me what flight I should catch and where I go. At each airport the person has a sign and then they take you and maybe buy some nd then help you find your gate.”

### Escaping corruption

Perritt-Mo’ungaloo and the crew at Camosun’s WUSC committee aren’t done their work yet. The WUSC committee still provides Chomba with one important thing: friendship. Perritt-Mo’ungaloo says he frequently spends time with Chomba and ues to check up on him and make sure he’s okay; he says he considers Chomba a friend ully enjoys spending time with him.

“I really didn’t know what to expect,” says Perritt-Mo’ungaloo. “Once they get here, you f just accommodate them in any way that you can. I really didn’t know how he was going pt to living here in Canada, and so far it’s been great, honestly. You know, me and him connect, and all the committee connects with him really well. We all hang out with him often, and with all the support he just seems to be really happy.”

Perritt-Mo’ungaloo says that Chomba isn’t actually alone here in Victoria. Multiple other e that Chomba knew before happen to be living here as well. This was all news to Per-o’ungaloo, who says that he was grateful to see that Chomba’s transition was an easy one. He actually knew a few people when he arrived here in Victoria, people from the refugee and that he grew up with that already lived here in Victoria,” says Perritt-Mo’ungaloo. the fact that he does have people he knew when he was growing up and that he does hat quick sense of community, it’s just super nice to know that he does have that here.”

Chomba believes that there are many issues back in Africa that are resulting in hundreds of es losing their loved ones and their homes. The government, as well as disputes between ribes, all play a big part into the situation there.

“For example, in the Congo, there isn’t much chance for peace there because you have people living differently according to where they live,” says Chomba. “One kind of people live in one town, the next kind of people live in another town, so we have our own tribes there. Each tribe has no love for one another. There is also no peace because the government of Congo; they don’t know how to govern the country in terms of peacemaking. They just love their own job but they don’t love the citizens. For example, if you have places that export gold, you’ll find that the government doesn’t protect them. It’s very difficult for someone to survive. For example, the police, you don’t stop for. They don’t receive a good salary, and when they’re on duty, they could find some rebels or some gangs of people from other countries and help them with transporting things. And because of that, the government doesn’t care; it doesn’t pay well.”

Coming to Canada was more than Chomba could have asked for. With all the hardships he has had to endure and all the struggles he went through, he feels incredibly grateful to the WUSC committee for raising money for him and for recommending him to the WUSC head office.

“It was like a dream come true,” he says. “I might not have come here and got what I want-ed in life, but [I did] because of the people at the WUSC committee. All the fundraising and campaigning, I hope that it continues for the next student to come. I’d like to see a program where maybe they send some students back to a refugee camp in Africa.”

### What happens next?

**T**he WUSC will be a long-term program that lasts well past all of our times at Camosun. They already have plans for the next student to be brought over, likely in September. “Everything that is afforded to the student in the WUSC program is part of the fee, and that’s just going to be an ongoing thing,” says Grant. “We’ve discussed the possibility of raising the price of the levy to accommodate more than one student per year, but since the program’s in its first year, there’s a lot of learning to do first. We have to set the groundwork first and get a strong support before we can start looking at expanding the program to accom-modate another student. From what I’ve learned about WUSC and how they select students in the program, it sounds like they go through a very respectable process; I’ve heard nothing but good things about the program.”

Perritt-Mo’ungaloo says that this has been one of the most life-changing things that he’s ever done, and says that seeing Chomba happy is one of the best feelings ever.

“It’s changed my life in a lot of ways,” he says. “I went to Camosun not really expecting to be really involved, and just the fact that I threw myself into WUSC and into the student-refugee program, it’s just been so rewarding to work together with all the people who have made this happen and all cooperate together and to know that we are making a difference. To see students who are living in these refugee camps and then are coming to Canada and being super happy like Chomba is, and just to know that the reason they are in Canada and going to school and bettering their lives, it’s just so rewarding to see that. To know you’ve been a part of that has just been so life-changing, and I’ll never forget it, honestly.”

As it does for every student, Chomba’s time at Camosun will come to an end at some point. When the WUSC brings refugee students over, the students are granted permanent residency status by the government of Canada. When they’re done with school, they can choose to do whatever they’d like to do, be it working, travelling, or raising a family. Chomba says that he wants to make a difference in the community and the world.

“Once I complete my four years, then I should find a job here,” he says. “After I find a job I’d like to do donations for my friends back there in the camp, so that they could get assistance and buy books and help children and the orphans there. I’m an orphan, and maybe I could get a program assisting people there that don’t have parents.”

“[Coming to Canada and Camosun] was like a dream come true.”

**KABWARI CHOMBA**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT



stand-up

## Snowed In Comedy Tour returns to Victoria for more laughs



PHOTO PROVIDED

Snowed In Comedy Tour funny guys Paul Myrehaug, Pete Zedlacher, Dan Quinn, and Craig Campbell (from left).

**ADAM BOYLE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Things often look bleak during Victoria's rainy and cold winter months. Wintertime sadness, illness, and general hatred of our city's weather all set in and people start to ask themselves, "Why must we live in such gloominess?" Well, Victorians can stop asking themselves that now, because the annual Snowed In Comedy Tour is returning to town.

Just for Laughs winner and Snowed In Comedy Tour organiz-

er Dan Quinn says that people in town have been very supportive of the tour.

"It's getting more fun every year because people know us and we're getting that response when we walk on stage," he says. "We walk on stage and it's like, 'Oh, this guy's coming; I love him!' Victoria's the biggest venue we play on tour; they've been supporting us from day one."

Quinn says that things are going well with the tour so far this year,

with ticket sales in most places doing better than last year.

"Our ticket sales on opening weekend were double what they were last year," he says. "I think Victoria will mostly be the same, but in most other places sales were over what we did last year. We're just selling out way faster this year."

Quinn admits that the future of the tour is an ongoing concern for him, but he's grateful that, along with new performer additions every time around, each year has been, he

"I've got to be honest—every year I think, 'Oh, wow; that was amazing! That's probably as good as it's ever going to be.' Then the next year we go back and it's even better."

**DAN QUINN**  
SNOWED IN COMEDY TOUR

says, as fantastic—or more fantastic—as the last.

"I've got to be honest—every year I think, 'Oh, wow; that was amazing! That's probably as good as it's ever going to be.' Then the next year we go back and it's even better," he says. "It's my favourite time of the year, and I can't imagine doing anything else."

Quinn hopes that at some point they get some exposure that would allow them to play to audiences across Canada comparable in size to the one here in town.

"We're still expanding," he says. "We're now in 45 cities this year; our goal is that we'll get some national exposure that would allow us to play to large audiences right across Canada and maybe into the US or around the world. It's a pretty good show—you've got four guys that are really at the top of their game, and audiences respect that. So it'd be nice to get that and get the exposure and perform night after night."

Quinn is no stranger to travelling around the globe performing stand-up; he says that his previous experience travelling to places like Amsterdam allows for him to play some interesting shows.

"It's pretty cool, you know," he says. "I was a farm boy, so for me to be able to go around the world and travel to places that I never thought I'd be able to get to, and not only go there but be able to do a fun show, is great. Amsterdam actually was very interesting—I just dropped into a comedy club and they put me on. It was an all-Dutch night, so I was the only guy speaking English. I'd watch other guys go up and I didn't understand them but the crowd would laugh, so I figured, 'Well, that must have been funny.'"

Snowed In Comedy Tour  
8:30 pm Saturday, January 14  
\$42, Royal Theatre  
rmts.bc.ca

art

## UVic prof uses video games to challenge art

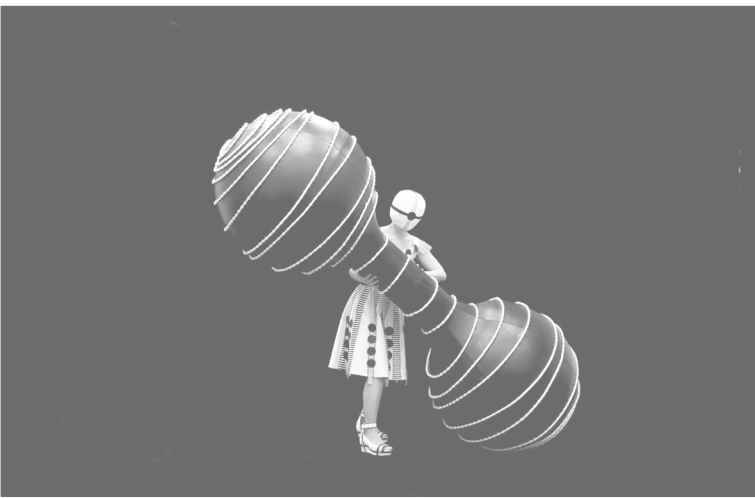


PHOTO PROVIDED

A still from one of Megan Dickie's pieces in *One Way or Another*.

**DAVID MCEWAN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Megan Dickie's motivation to become an artist came early: her father worked in architecture and construction, and her mother was a schoolteacher. Dickie—who is also an assistant professor of visual art at the University of Victoria—always created things as a child and, she says, had a hunger for drawing, which continued into her adult life.

"After I finished my undergrad degree I had other creative jobs," she says. "I worked as a graphic designer; I worked for a commercial gallery. It was at that point that I just realized that I would prefer to do my own work and work for myself instead of doing creative work for other people."

The purpose of her artwork is to

cause the viewer to be critical of our society, but, she says, it's not always as serious as that sounds.

"My art practice is about questioning things, maybe trying to look at certain modes of being and trying to subvert those things," she says. "I'm fascinated by those moments in human behaviour where the logic of our minds or maybe the social norms that we're used to are pushed to the wayside and we experience things more in a humorous way or in a light-hearted way."

*One Way or Another*, an exhibit of Dickie's artwork at Open Space, employs video games as a means of questioning the competitive structure of contemporary art and our enduring fascination with watching human struggle. The project consists of sculptures and a video

trilogy that takes inspiration from 1980s video games.

"The project uses 1980s video games as a visual platform for the works; those are the video games I grew up with, like *Donkey Kong* and basic Atari games," she says. "So I've used that as a visual strategy for a project, but it has the look and feel of a video game and the character's constantly failing and dying, then [the character] pops up on the screen again and tries again."

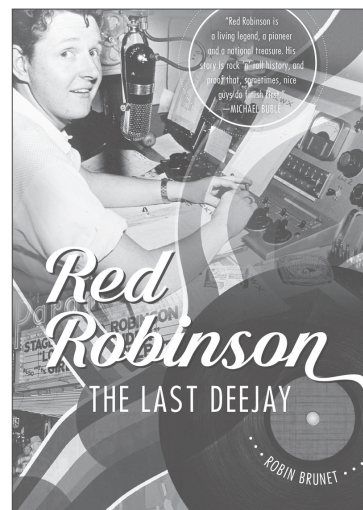
An older work of Dickie's was based on a complex math equation regarding how five circles can come together; for the piece, she kept building the circles in modes of five until they started to make a sphere. She took that form and made it into a giant playful piece, *The Jiggler*. It's an example of a serious idea with a fun delivery.

"I see people looking at my artwork. It's a slight moment people choose to almost go to a child-like state and embrace something fun," she says. "I find that people are very guarded, especially in gallery situations. You see people in the gallery with their arms crossed in front of them and then, all of a sudden, they see that something is playful."

*One Way or Another*  
Friday, January 13  
to Monday, February 20  
Open Space  
openspace.ca

review

## New book highlights Canadian radio broadcaster's celebrity life



**JENNIFER WYATT**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I had no idea what I was about to get into when I started reading *Red Robinson: The Last DeeJay*. I had never heard of Robinson, and I didn't know that Canadian radio had such a fabulous past; all this, and I was raised in the very same city that Robinson made famous.

The book is a biography of Robinson's life and work as a radio broadcaster but reads like a who's who of celebrities who have crossed paths with Robinson. There are tons of rare photos and rarely heard stories of the shenanigans—which would be unheard of in today's celebrity world—that Robinson and his celebrity friends got up to together.

The book progresses through various stages of Robinson's life, recounting interesting anecdotes

The book lets the reader see, page by page, how one man changed the face of Canadian radio.

and letting the reader see, page by page, how one man changed the face of Canadian radio and put Vancouver on the media landscape of the time. It's incredibly interesting to read about what went on behind the music scenes in Vancouver and Victoria.

However, after a while, every chapter seems to just blend together and be more of the same. Despite being a short book at just over 200 pages, it was hard to not find an excuse to put it down and do something else.

*Red Robinson: The Last DeeJay* is best suited for readers who are very interested in reading what famous people said to a trusted friend when the cameras were not in their face and finding out obscure facts about musicians and Canadian music history.

Still, after finishing the book, I'm glad that I read it. I would recommend the book to anyone who is a fan of Robinson or who enjoys reading biographies.



recap

## A Nexus look back at the year that was 2016



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Some 2016 issues of Nexus.

Like every year that has ever happened, 2016 was a big one, filled with notable events, small victories, plenty of insects in unappealing places, etc. Before we march forth into 2017, here's one last look at the year that was by way of each Nexus staffer's list of their top five favourite things of 2016, as well as an added bonus: one thing that they don't want to see this year.

**Adam Boyle, staff writer**

1. Taking on my first feature story for Nexus
2. Managing to, somehow, never get a parking ticket
3. Travelling outside of North America for the first time

4. Only breaking my phone once
5. Turkey sandwiches at the cafeteria

Something I don't want to see in 2017:

The total collapse of the United States of America

**Mason Hendricks, web editor**

1. Relaxing in the sun at Gonzales Beach
2. Dancing to '90s music at Lucky Bar
3. Hiking Alpine mountain ranges
4. Harambe
5. Writing for Nexus

Something I don't want to see in 2017:

More amazing artists dying

**Quinn Hiebert, features writer**

1. Some of my plants aren't dead yet
2. Camosun's librarians
3. Cat-ear headphones that light up blue
4. *Tomb Raider's* GOTY Edition
5. The table in the library that had puzzles and cat colouring books; one was cats in hats

Something I don't want to see in 2017:

Trump, but it's too late for that

**Adam Marsh, student editor**

1. The chatty cashier guy in the cafeteria wearing gym shorts on a freezing cold December morning
2. Squashing earwigs with managing editor Greg Pratt
3. Benedict Cumberbatch's mad libs on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*
4. Watching the maintenance crew feed the turtles in Fisher
5. Greg's badass metal suggestions to get us through deadline day

Something I don't want to see in 2017:

The college spending a fortune on presidents, yet leaving the Young building hanging (literally, in some cases).

**Greg Pratt, managing editor**

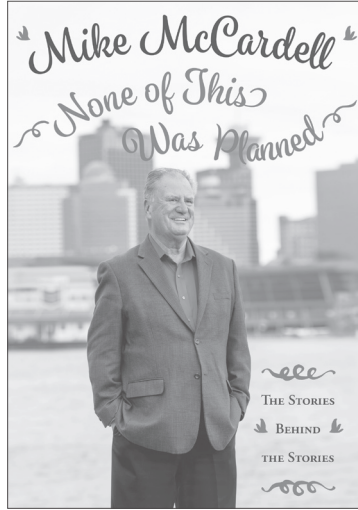
1. Nexus totally killing it, issue after issue; great work, team!
2. First BMX-ramp jumps and separating ideas into paragraphs: being a proud dad
3. Seeing a movie I wrote on the big screen at the Roxy
4. Propagandhi's triumphant return to Victoria
5. Me not being kidnapped by a cult

Something I don't want to see in 2017:

Me being kidnapped by a cult

review

## None of This Was Planned leaves bad taste in mouth



**CALISTA PEARSON**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In *None of This Was Planned*, reporter Mike McCardell writes about the people he's met while trying to get stories on the streets of Vancouver. The characters he talks about range from inspirational to odd.

When I read the title and found out what it was about, I was excited to read this. And while I started off loving the stories, I was disappointed as the book—McCardell's 11th—went on.

The feel of *None of This Was Planned* is very conversational; it seems, for the most part, like someone who is telling all of his life stories to the reader. Now, while

There's decent writing in *None of This Was Planned* and I quite enjoyed the first half of it, when McCardell wasn't spending too much time talking about his other books.

this is very nice and relaxing, it gets old about halfway through the 319-page book.

I also found that the author threw in too many references to his previous books, which was unpleasant. It felt like McCardell was trying to make me go buy them, and it left a sour taste in my mouth.

There's decent writing in *None of This Was Planned* and I quite enjoyed the first half of it, when McCardell wasn't spending too much time talking about his other books. *None of This Was Planned's* downfall is how similar all of the stories felt in the second half, along with the large amounts of what are basically advertisements in the writing.

# JANUARY 2017

## LOGAN'S PUB EVENTS

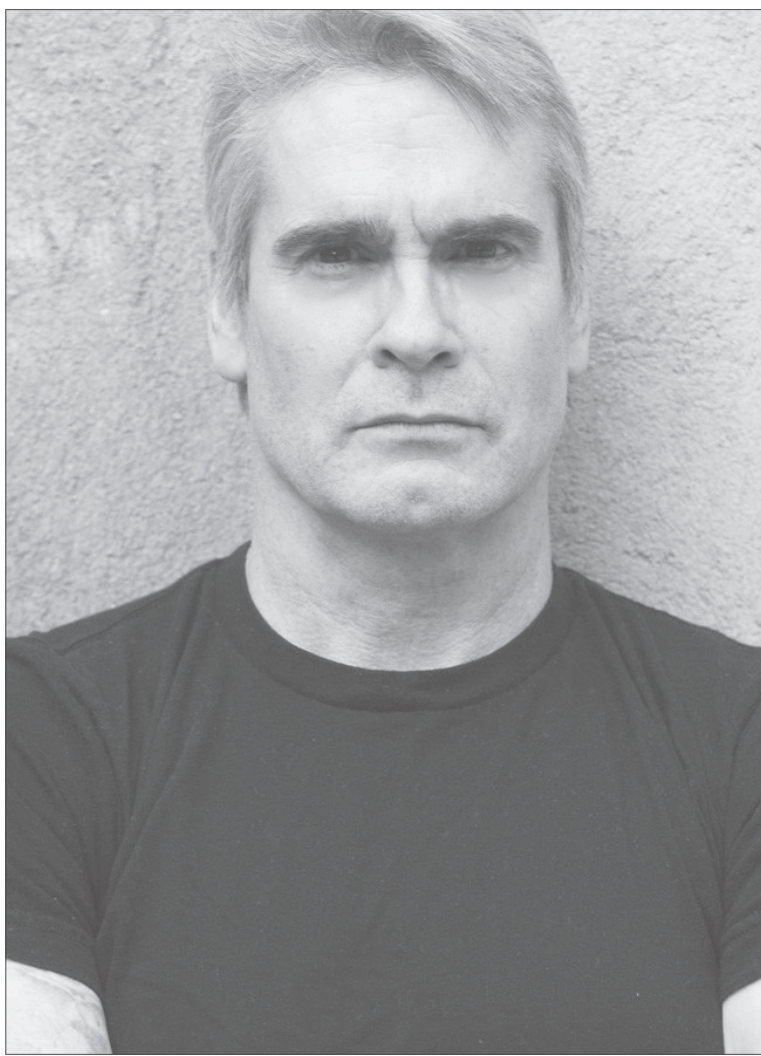
Mon - Fri: 3PM - 1AM  
Saturday: 11AM - 1AM  
Sunday: 11AM - 12AM  
facebook.com/loganspub  
(250) 360-2711

1 SUNDAY	2 MONDAY	3 TUESDAY	4 WEDNESDAY	5 THURSDAY	6 FRIDAY	7 SATURDAY
HAPPY NEW YEAR	ORIGINAL	GRAYON WALKER'S KARAOKE 9PM	7PM @ \$7 SEE MENU: FACEBOOK.COM/LOGANSPUB	STAY TUNED EVENT T.B.A. FACEBOOK.COM/LOGANSPUB	LOVING NAKED CHILLEN NOVEL SUZ 9PM / \$10	HOLOCAUST LORD ROADRASH LIBERATIA EUTHANIZED 9PM / \$10
8 CAROLYN MARK'S HOOTENANNY 4PM - 8PM	9 AUTHENTIC	10 GRAYON WALKER'S KARAOKE 9PM	11 7PM @ \$7 SEE MENU: FACEBOOK.COM/LOGANSPUB	12 STAY TUNED EVENT T.B.A. FACEBOOK.COM/LOGANSPUB	13 STAY TUNED EVENT T.B.A. FACEBOOK.COM/LOGANSPUB	14 EVES OF DESTRUCTION PRIVATE PARTY
15 CAROLYN MARK'S HOOTENANNY 4PM - 8PM	16 UNIQUE	17 GRAYON WALKER'S KARAOKE 9PM	18 7PM @ \$7 SEE MENU: FACEBOOK.COM/LOGANSPUB	19 STAY TUNED EVENT T.B.A. FACEBOOK.COM/LOGANSPUB	20 ROBERTS HALL NOTHINGNESS 9PM / \$10	21 BUZZARD LP RELEASE 9PM
22 CAROLYN MARK'S HOOTENANNY 4PM - 8PM	23 OPEN 7	24 GRAYON WALKER'S KARAOKE 9PM	25 7PM @ \$7 SEE MENU: FACEBOOK.COM/LOGANSPUB	26 MUSICAL BINGO 9PM	27 ELECTRIC CONDOR 9PM	28 11TH ANNUAL JAY BROWN MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER 9PM
29 CAROLYN MARK'S HOOTENANNY 4PM - 8PM	30 DAYS A WEEK	31 GRAYON WALKER'S KARAOKE 9PM	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Logan's</p> <p>1821 COOK</p>			



what's going on

by adam boyle



Henry Rollins is bringing his spoken word to town on January 5. PHOTO PROVIDED

UNTIL SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

**Going from door to door**

A story about three generations of women, *From Door to Door* is a comedy being held at Congregation Emanu-El synagogue. Focusing on the loss of a mother's husband, the play expands on the roles of a grandmother, mother, and daughter and how each one affects the others. For more info, head to [congregationemanuel.ca](http://congregationemanuel.ca); tickets are \$20.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

**His war**

When he's not screaming in your face, legendary punk rocker (do the words "Black Flag" mean anything to you?) Henry Rollins is talking, which is exactly what he's going to be doing on Thursday, January 5 here in town at this spoken-word event. Hear Rollins talk about his life, current events, and more at the Alix Goolden Performance Hall; tickets are \$35.50, doors are at 7 pm, and more info can be found [vcm.bc.ca/alix-goolden-hall](http://vcm.bc.ca/alix-goolden-hall).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

**Bringing Russia to the Tally-Ho**

Russian-born blues artist Arsen Shomakhov travels from his new home of Vancouver to play at the Tally-Ho Sports Bar and Grill on Saturday, January 7. Shomakhov is said to take inspiration from artists such as Muddy Waters, Jimi Hendrix,

and Howling Wolf. Tickets are \$20 at the door; see [tallyhosportsbar.com](http://tallyhosportsbar.com) for info.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

**Get schooled**

Join local musician Stephen Fearing at this songwriting workshop for musicians; it runs from 11 am to 4 pm and will set you back \$100, which includes a ticket for Fearing's album release concert on January 14. The workshop will be held in Esquimalt; email [leah@go-artist.com](mailto:leah@go-artist.com) for venue or other information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10 AND WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

**Short stories for the winter**

Author Leanne Simpson is coming to Open Space to read from her collection of short stories at this event, which is being co-presented by Camosun College. Author Thomas King says Simpson brings "passion and commitment to her storytelling"; if you enjoy short stories, this event might be for you. Admission is by donation; details can be found on [openspace.ca](http://openspace.ca).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

**Spanning multiple genres**

Local musician Stephen Fearing is celebrating the release of his latest album *Every Soul's a Sailor* by playing a concert at the Dave Dunnet Community Theatre, located at 2121

Cadboro Bay Road. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door; visit [go-artist.com](http://go-artist.com) for details.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

**Now that's pressure**

A Night of Bowie is billed as "the ultimate Bowie experience"; check out this tribute performance and let us know if it lives up to those lofty words. Tickets are \$40, and it goes down at 7:30 pm at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney; see [nightofbowie.com](http://nightofbowie.com) for more information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

**Hike off the holidays**

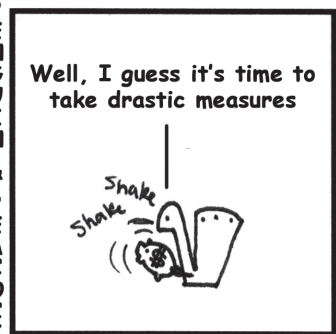
Looking to lose some unneeded holiday weight? Join a CRD regional parks naturalist for a hike around Durrance Lake and check out some local wildlife while you're at it. Dress smart: waterproof footwear is recommended. Check out [crd.bc.ca/parks-events](http://crd.bc.ca/parks-events) for information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

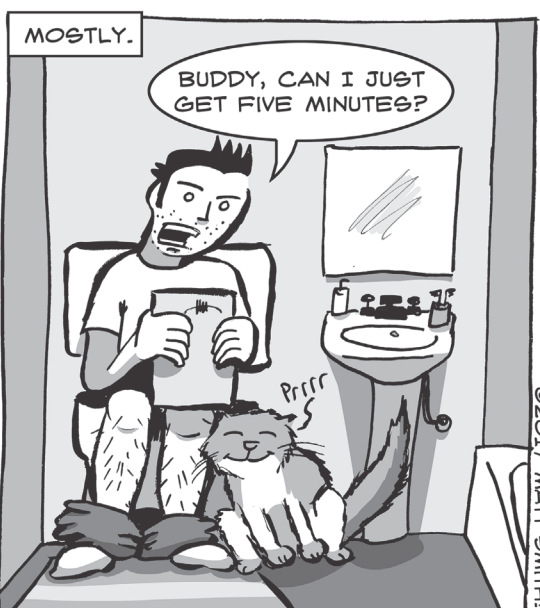
**A fable with life lessons**

Axis Theatre—known for its unique use of masks and puppets—is performing its new play, *Hamelin—A New Fable*, at the University of Victoria's Farquhar Auditorium on January 15. This comedy about spoiled twins also features live music and just might have some life lessons in it, too. Tickets range from \$15.50 to \$22.50, and details can be found at [axistheatre.com](http://axistheatre.com).

PENGUIN & PEACOCK



By Jayden Grieve



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Web Exclusive **NEXUS**

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Week of December 19, 2016

Top five most read stories:

1. "It's always the season of the witch in Victoria," Oct. 23, 2012
2. *Smith vs. Smith*, Nov. 30, 2016
3. "Camosun College faculty member under investigation," Nov. 25, 2016
4. "Camosun College Nursing program switches to competitive entry," Sept. 4, 2013
5. *As I Was Saying*: Cougar just another sexist term for women, Jan. 7, 2015

New, web-exclusive stories:

"Local artists explore loss through creativity," a look at Miles Lowry and Georgia Angelopoulos' new exhibit, *A Broken Hallelujah*, which is up now at an art gallery that doesn't exist in the physical world.



**Dearest Reader**

by Aaron Stefik

## A proposal: Camosun College needs a dress code

Dearest Reader, Doubtless it is of great concern to you, as it is to myself, that Camosun College finds itself making a foray into another semester while sorely lacking any form of dress code, insofar as such a thing might be both mandated and practiced in a unilateral fashion.

Your relief will then be palpable that I am to assuage such copious omission with a fresh proposal, and to do so in a fashion which befits the rational and unbiased standard with which we must approach such a controversial subject.

In keeping with the forward-thinking nature of the college's new sexual-harassment policy, it's perhaps judicious to draw the bulk of attention to the garb of women. This is traditionally found the least agreeable element of any dress code to the proponents of both logical extremes, from they who call for the female to wear whatever she

### Engineering students must dress in *Star Trek* uniforms for easy identification.

wishes to those who demand with equal vehemence that she remain modest, lest a distracting shoulder blade be revealed to titillate an unsuspecting innocent man.

In deference to the oft-touted virtue of fairness to both parties, I propose that all women be directed to wear potato sacks, whose rugged and comfortable burlap construction will be found both affordable and of aid in concealing the modesty of both legs and abdominal regions. Conversely, a lack of sleeves will ensure the undiluted freedom of women's shoulders to parade openly at will, which, so far as I am able to glean, would satisfy the root purpose of the former argument.

Those who find themselves fired by the boldness of my plan

are directed to read the article in its entirety upon its inevitable acceptance and codification within the campus rules.

Other inclusions are the ordinances that men must henceforth wear hijabs that cover the entirety of the face, so that the fairer sex might be spared his verbal immodesty, and that engineering students dress in *Star Trek* uniforms for easy identification.

It was written in better days that "he who rejects change is the architect of decay." I possess the utmost faith in the body of students that decay will be disallowed, and that the adherence to logical argument contrary to all immediate emotional instinct will be observed wherever such issues arise.

**The Bi-weekly Gamer**

by Adam Boyle

## Shaking up the play styles in *Hearthstone*

I've been pretty deep into playing *Hearthstone* for the past month. An online card game made by well-known company Blizzard, *Hearthstone* tests players' knowledge of the vast number of creative and unique card types the game has.

It pits two players against each other in a game within a game; each player can choose from nine different heroes, who each have different "class cards" and "hero powers." From there, those playing create a deck of 20 using whatever cards they have.

At the start of December, *Hearthstone* released its newest expansion. *The Mean Streets of Gadgetzan* completely changed the play styles of players. Centred

around three different gangs, the expansion introduced tri-class cards, playable by three select heroes only. In addition to that, they added some serious game-changer cards. New cards that summon a jade construct that gains in power for each jade card you play, cards that buff up the strength of your minions, and a slew of new spell cards that gave the mage and priest class some serious buffs.

I've been experimenting with different decks and play styles; one of the hugely popular decks right now is a dragon priest deck centred around controlling your enemy's play style and then finishing them off with your more powerful dragons.

All these gameplay changes have translated pretty heavily into the competitive scene, as well; pros need to adjust their own decks fast enough and learn to play against some of the really annoying decks out there (I'm looking at you, pirate warrior).

As time goes on, more and more counter decks will come into play—decks centred on making your opponent draw cards until their hand is full so that they have to discard them might see niche use again; demon warlocks could be used to counter druid decks.

One thing's for sure—the game remains as fun as ever and is one of the easiest games for anyone to get into.

**Calculated Thought**

by Sean Annable

## New risk to housing market

As of January 1, first-time homebuyers can apply for a loan from the BC government to help with that pesky mortgage down payment. Cleverly dubbed the B.C. Home Owner Mortgage and Equity Partnership program (HOME Partnership), it has specific stipulations: the person applying for it must

have economists and pundits worried when looking at Canadians' record-setting household debt. Governments responded to swelling debt and unaffordability with big changes over 2016; foreign-buyer and vacant-home taxes in Vancouver were approved, and mortgage-lending criteria was made

### High-ratio mortgages have economists and pundits worried when looking at Canadians' record-setting household debt.

be a first-time buyer of a principal residence that costs less than \$750,000 (good luck, Vancouverites), they must have a household income less than \$150,000, and they must have saved enough for at least half of their down payment. They must first be pre-approved for a high-ratio mortgage (less than 20 percent down), and meet the above criteria, and—presto—they get a government loan that is interest free for five years, payable over the next 20 years at current rates.

Maxing out at five percent of the purchase price—\$37,500 if you push it to the \$750,000 sticker price—the program effectively lets some buyers get away with a 2.5-percent down payment, while the government chips in the other 2.5 percent to reach the five-percent minimum required to be approved for a mortgage.

These high-ratio mortgages

more stringent and based on a "what if rates rise?" scenario.

These measures were meant to cool and reduce risk in heated markets. What does this new program do? Increases demand in those very markets—which tends to increase prices—and increases risk to participants who borrow with more leverage.

Current sellers will benefit by the bump in demand and price, but borrowers are set to buy when the market is arguably at its peak in many places and interest rates are set to inch higher.

I applaud that the government wants to help first-timers get over the hurdles of home ownership, but whether or not this is the most prudent course of action remains to be seen.

And, it's worth remembering that provincial elections are just around the corner. Coincidence?

## NEXUS HUMOUR

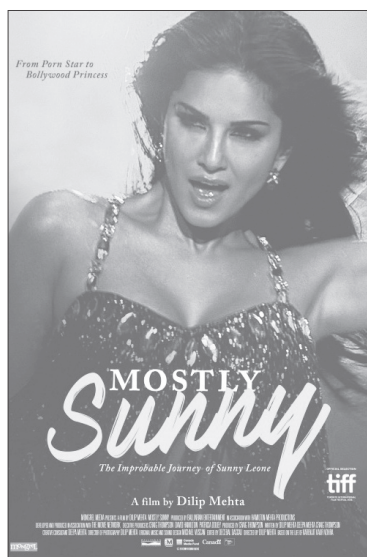
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**To See or Not to See**

by Finlay Pogue

## Mostly Sunny with a 66-percent chance of banality in new documentary



*Mostly Sunny*  
2/5

On the surface, the documentary *Mostly Sunny* (2016) is about the journey that adult-film star Sunny Leone undergoes into the world of Bollywood in her attempt to branch out from her taboo genre. However, her journey is presented

as one much less about spiritual or even artistic fulfillment than it is as one about the desire for, above all else, fame and fortune. The film's unquestioning bias toward Leone renders it incapable of asking real and truthful questions, and it therefore has little more to say than one of Leone's avid fans might.

This is unfortunate, because in the bones of *Mostly Sunny* is a great story—a story of family and religion, a story of rejection and acceptance, a story of the inevitable change that comes with great wealth. The film also might have touched on the cultural disparities between American and Indian lifestyles and how they—instead of her natural talent—might account for Leone's unparalleled fame.

But instead the film is too enamoured—star-struck, even—with Leone to question why or how a Canadian-born porn star would be so accepted within Indian culture; the film is satisfied to attribute the phenomenon to Leone's winning disposition.

Likewise, *Mostly Sunny*, directed by Dilip Mehta, digs no deeper into Leone's past than to ask fairly predictable questions about her family and early life, and as a result receives fairly predictable answers in return. I got the impression, again, that Mehta was worried about prying—worried about how Leone would react were he to ask questions any more complex than the ones you might ask her at a dinner party. It's a perverse and debilitating reluctance for any documentary filmmaker.

In lieu of asking the difficult questions about her past, Mehta opts to focus on Leone's present, a dangerous choice, as most of her interviews are conducted with her lounging on expensive leather sofas or strolling around her LA mansion—neither of which humanize her in the slightest, but, rather, have an alienating effect on the audience. How are we meant to sympathize with such a fabulously wealthy person?

This isn't to say that celebri-

### The film is too enamoured with Sunny Leone to question why or how a Canadian-born porn star would be so accepted within Indian culture.

ties aren't people too—but it's the filmmaker's job to make their lofty problems seem like our problems too. Mehta fails to do this, and as a result the film begins to slip into reality-television territory, gawking at—not analyzing—Leone's extraordinary life.

For example, we're taken to Leone's hometown of Sarnia, Ontario, where we see her as a relatively normal human being. The film also shows us her life as a superstar in India, and the contrast between the two places, and the two sides of Leone, is fascinating.

However, the film makes no attempt to bring the two sides together, or to provide insight as to what the divide must be like for Leone, and therefore comes across not as an attempt to understand the star more

deeply, but as a fun fact, a sound bite meant to humanize someone who's left most of humanity behind.

Paul Thomas Anderson's *Boogie Nights* (1997) comes to mind as a film that looks at adult-film stars and tries to understand what it is that makes them who they are. Though not a documentary, it too looks at characters that rise from humble beginnings up to the burning lights of fame and tries to understand them as people, which makes us understand them as people as well.

But perhaps *Mostly Sunny* never set out to be a film concerned with the truth and relatability of its message; maybe its goal was merely to point in wonderment at a shooting star, and, if that's the case, it succeeded.



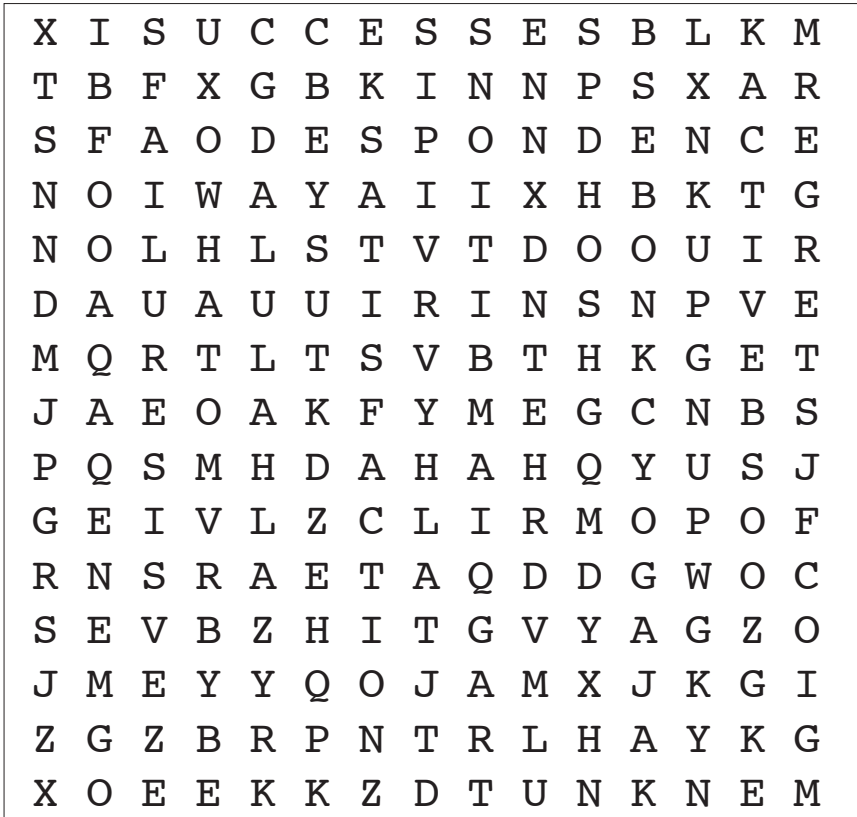
new year's resolutions word search

It's that time of year: time for the paralyzing self-doubt and hopeless fits of ennui brought on by attempting to live up to new year's resolutions. But while the companies capitalize on everyone's self-consciousness, our advice to you is to just skip it all and love yourself no matter what. And if that means cracking open a beer and relaxing on the couch, do it; you deserve it.

And if it means you no longer want your beers, bring them to us. We deserve it.

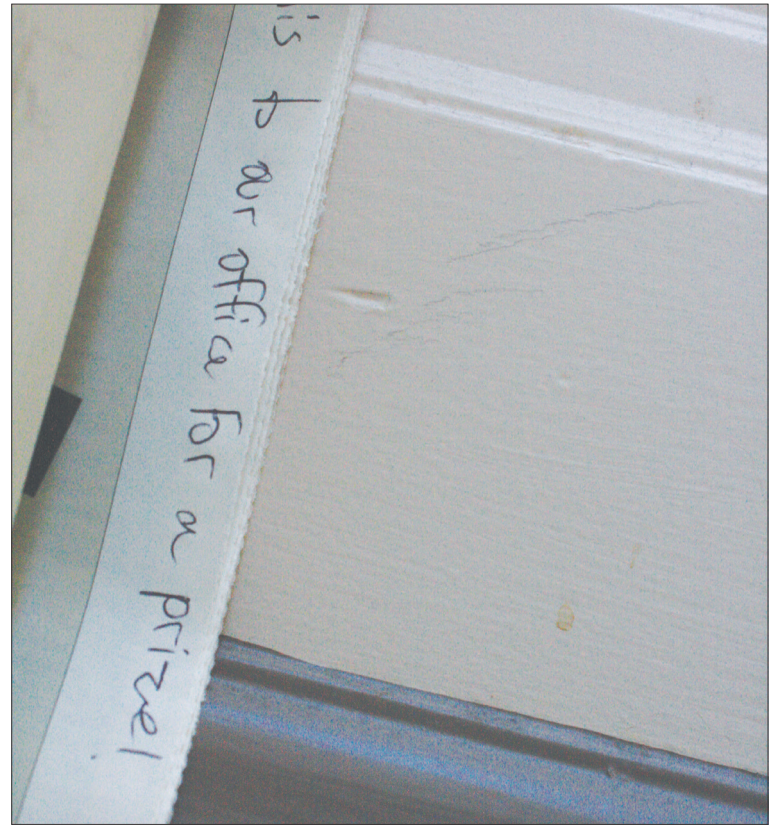
Find the words on the left in the puzzle on the right; as always, stop by the *Nexus* office (Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus) if you complete this puzzle to pick up a prize.

- ACTIVE
- AMBITIONS
- BEER
- COUCH
- DESPONDENCE
- DOUBT
- FAILURES
- GYM
- HEALTHY
- HOPES
- LAZY
- PARALYSIS
- REGRETS
- RESOLUTIONS
- SATISFACTION
- SUCCESSES
- TEARS
- UNHEALTHY
- VITAMINS
- YOGA



contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



ADAM MARSH/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 hanging out in between two grey cabinets on the first floor of Wilna Thomas.

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

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**Adam Marsh**  
Student editor for *Nexus* newspaper. Marsh has covered issues such as students successfully protesting tuition raises and student issues surrounding the federal election.

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