

**\$23,850**

Approximate cost of a bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Camosun for a domestic student

**\$70,000**

Approximate cost of a bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Camosun for an international student

**The cost of being an international student**

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# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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*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: "He discards the condom—whomp."

## student editor's letter

### Takin' care of business

2016 was truly an incredible year here at *Nexus*, with stories about mental-health issues, abortion, the provincial fentanyl crisis, gender-neutral bathrooms, and Camosun students using ADHD drugs to help them study. To help us with the occasionally frightening responsibility of covering hard-hitting, uniquely styled, student-centric pieces, we've brought on a new feature writer for the first time in about a half-decade or so.

In this issue, that writer, Quinn Hiebert, looks at the touchy subject of why international students pay so much more tuition than domestic students do. This one has been on the backburner for a long time (well, it's been up on our ever-handy whiteboard, which myself and managing editor Greg Pratt occasionally will be caught staring at for minutes on end in search of a good idea), and we field a lot of complaints about why students from abroad pay such significant sums to come here, so we did what we do best and started asking questions of the right people. Head over to page 6 to read what we found out.

Camosun students are saving greenback by the bundle with BCcampus' Open Textbook Project, and the college recently placed second in a province-wide rating of institutions that are using free texts; turn to page 3 for more details. But don't stop there: there's so much more—including our new *Know Your Writers* column, where you can meet *Nexus* staff and volunteers—to check out this issue.

It's an interesting feeling to watch life at Camosun slide by during a winter as barren and cold as this. Students enter and exit the cafeteria, try to make the best of long, coffee-fuelled study hours, and file through the doors of Richmond House 201 to volunteer where time allows. I'm most at home here at my desk with metal on constantly as though it's the oil that keeps the engines of *Nexus* running, but I'm also a student who has readings to do, classes to attend, and life to try to make sense of, usually to no avail. But knowing and respecting what is going on around me is a start. That's what we do, and we do it for you.

Adam Marsh, student editor  
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

## flashback

### 25 Years Ago in Nexus



#### GREG PRATT

MANAGING EDITOR

**Former Camosun student involved in manslaughter, fraud:** Stories like this don't come along too often, and that's a good thing: our January 20, 1992 issue talked about the case of a former Camosun student who had allegedly murdered someone, dumped their body into Telegraph Cove, and then assumed their identity to drain their bank accounts. When police attempted to find the student, the student flew to Hong Kong, where his multi-millionaire father lived. The student refused to return to Canada to explain his actions, the story explains, but eventually did return to Duncan to visit a friend.

The friend called the cops on him, and they arrested him while he was sleeping in the guest room.

**Straight to hell:** The *S'No Man's Opinion* column in this issue, written by, ahem, "Alakson Snow," went off the rails about the state of the music industry: "The record industry has turned our once male-dominated civilization into a virtual cornucopia of angst-ridden rap rhythms that are flowing in a generically clad express lane straight into the gates of hell." Well, it took about 15 years after this column saw print, but, yes, the music biz did drive straight into hell, and it struggles to survive to this day.

**Anything to make parking better:** We talked to Camosun students in this issue about parking issues at the college. Of course, no one was happy, but what isn't as obvious is what student Jason Crockett told us: "I feel that parking could be a lot better than it is," he said, adding, inexplicably, "Maybe some sort of sci-fi way of getting here."

## open space

### Camosun College students should leave the Canadian Federation of Students

#### HE WEI

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun College students pay \$1.11 per month to be members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). But what help or benefits are Camosun students getting from the CFS at this point?

I think Camosun College students should leave the national organization.

First of all, the money should be used for more important things. If the Camosun College Student Society could use the money for something else, it would be a big help for the school and for the students that go to it.

Although \$1.11 is not too much, if the money cannot be used effectively, I do not want to pay one cent. After paying the fee, I don't feel I get any benefits from being a member of the CFS, so what's the point?

After I pay tuition fees, I can study and gain more knowledge; I don't know what paying into the CFS does for me.

Camosun students also pay \$1.11 per month to be members of the British Columbia Federation of

Although \$1.11 a month is not too much, if the money cannot be used effectively, I do not want to pay one cent. After paying the fee, I don't feel I get any benefits from being a member of the CFS, so what's the point?

Students, so even if we left the CFS, we would still not be alone.

Also, it's worth noting that the CFS is not the only national student organization in Canada, so if Camosun College students left the CFS, they could still have the option to join a different national student group.

Even if they don't, I still think Camosun students should leave the organization. If nothing else, at least they'll save \$1.11 every month.

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!

## letters

### Cinematic consensus: condition critical

Hard to fathom how anyone could think *Interstellar* worked on some level that this film [*Arrival*] didn't [*To See or Not To See: Arrival* almost awesome, November 16, 2016 issue]. Having seen both, I came away with the opposite impression. *Arrival* is everything *Interstellar* tried to be, but wasn't.

PAUL PIASKOSKI

VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

## SPEAK UP

Do you feel Camosun should make public the details of a student complaint regarding a trip to the Philippines?

BY ADAM MARSH



#### ROSA OMCEL

"No. They should be anonymous. If it's a sensitive issue, then I think that person has a right to their anonymity."



#### RAMAN BHANGU

"Yeah, I think they should. It's going to get around anyway. They probably just don't want to wreck their reputation."



#### EMIL REHAK

"No. I think it should be handled internally. I think if students want to make a complaint public, they should just do it themselves."



#### CONNOR LINKES

"If they are personal and don't directly affect the school, I'd say no. But because we don't know what happened, it might be better if people at the paper know, and filter whether or not it should be a story."



#### VIVIEN BARR

"Oh, yeah. If there's some kind of issue going on on field trips, that is kind of concerning."



#### RODDIE JIROUX

"I think the complaint could be public, but the student stay anonymous for personal reasons."



## education

## Camosun ranks second in BC Campus Open Textbook review

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun College recently placed second in BCcampus' annual review of the Open Textbook Project. Camosun Plumbing and Pipe Trades instructor Rod Lidstone spearheaded the project at the college; he says students will continue to save money with open resources—such as free, online textbooks—in years to come.

"I'm curious where we will come out this year. We may, in fact, be on top," he says. "We've got over 50 adoptions [a course or program recognizing open textbooks], and it's impacted over 950 students at Camosun."

Lidstone says the top three colleges that are utilizing open textbooks—Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Camosun, and Okanagan College—are smaller academic institutions, compared to bigger universities. Lidstone says smaller institutions can sometimes be more willing to face change.

"At Camosun, I think one of the reasons we're so high is that [due to] the size of our institution, the instructors really have a good feel for the feedback from the students and seem to connect with the students quite closely, being a smaller college. Sometimes the bigger institutions seem to get more committed to the publishers and not wanting to change the way of doing business."

Lidstone doesn't know the exact reason many of the bigger institutions are not as high up on the list, but he says there is a correlation between institution size and willingness to try new things that help students.

"It seems to be that there's

"Sometimes the bigger institutions seem to get more committed to the publishers and not wanting to change the way of doing business."

**ROD LIDSTONE**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

something going on there," he says. "The ones that are the highest users of open resources are not the biggest institutions."

BCcampus senior manager of open education Amanda Coolidge says that the choice of materials used depends on communication between faculty and BCcampus.

"The way it works is we track adoption numbers, so we identify which books have been adopted by various faculty," she says. "And so when the faculty let us know they've adopted a book, we then track how much the commercial textbook costs and how many students were in the classroom and then identify what the cost savings is for that particular course in that particular term."

Coolidge says that Lidstone has been instrumental in the process of adoption at the college.

"We've been really pleased to see the work done by faculty and staff at Camosun and their dedication to the open movement," she says. "Rod Lidstone has been a real advocate and champion for open education."

Lidstone says that it's a great feeling to help students because

many of them struggle with the costs of higher education.

"I think it will continue to grow," says Lidstone. "The trades side of the open textbooks is in its infancy, and many more of the trades in Camosun, as well as across the province, are adopting the open resources."

Lidstone says that in years to come, students will begin to expect that textbooks will be accessible for free.

"All the students in this day and age are aware of open resources," he says. "They all use Wikipedia. They're becoming more and more educated to those open resources that are available, and as they become aware of those, they'll start to see that the quality of those resources gets better and better. There will be an expectation that their faculty should be using these resources and saving them money."

Getting the Open Textbook Project to this point at the college has not been easy for Lidstone, who admits that there have been some troubles.

"The biggest challenge is someone will be committed to an existing textbook that may come pre-pack-



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

**Camosun College's Rod Lidstone believes in open textbooks.**

aged from publishers with PowerPoints, lesson plans, and quizzes, and so the path of least resistance is for that faculty to continue to use that textbook," he says.

Lidstone says that with the Trades Access Common Core classes, for example, there are vari-

ous electronic elements—such as animation—to go along with the online text.

"It will become more of a package besides just the textbooks," he says, "and that's what faculty needs to see before they're willing to make change."

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Camosun student reels in the fish

Camosun Environmental Technology student Rebecca Golat recently received some legal tender from the Stewardship Community Bursary program, which is awarded every year by the Pacific Salmon Foundation. The program gives cash to students in programs that deal with aquatic stewardship or salmon conservation; the students need to have environmental-stewardship-related volunteer work

on their resume to be awarded the bursaries.

## Charges laid in Camosun thefts

A string of theft and breaking and entering here at Camosun College and at the University of Victoria that took place in late November and December 9 through 12 of last year is being dealt with by the Saanich police, according to a Saanich Police press release. Officers gathered evidence from the crime scenes, as well as \$3,000 dollars

worth of belongings, and charged one person with one count of break and enter and two counts of being in possession of stolen property. The accused will be in court again on January 18, 2017.

## Kinder Morgan pipeline approved

The provincial government has granted approval of the Kinder Morgan pipeline proposal. The Camosun College Student Society is concerned about the environmental impact of the pipeline, but the

government says that conditions—which include paying the province between \$25 and \$50 million, depending on operational capacity and frequency—have been met.

## Pedestrians urged to report sidewalk issues

Local pedestrian advocacy organization Walk On, Victoria recently launched an online step-by-step guide that allows citizens to report potentially dangerous and inconvenient walking conditions on Victoria's sidewalks. Head over to

walkonvictoria.org and click on "I want to report" to get started.

**-ADAM MARSH**

*Got a news tip? Something happening on campus we should know about? Email 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!*

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations last year, we started an Instagram account! Come say hello over there and see what we're up to online.

While you're at it, we're also on Facebook and Twitter, you know... Find us as nexusnewspaper on all three. See you there!



post-secondary

## Camosun College focuses on coastal issues with new program



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun College TRADEmark of Excellence's Angus Matthews.

**ADAM BOYLE**  
STAFF WRITER

Inspired by the coastal life around BC, Camosun is beginning a new program focusing on the trades element of marine and coastal culture.

With the Coastal Skills Initiative program, Camosun is hoping to become one of the province's top post-secondary institutions when it comes to coastal skills and marine education in the trades sector. Camosun TRADEmark of Excellence campaign director Angus Matthews says that this program was brought to fruition because of the growing need for coastal skills.

"Various industry leaders and

communities have gotten in contact with us about aligning our trades program with the pressing needs of the coast," says Matthews. "We kept hearing that people would like to see us focus more on coastal issues."

Matthews says the program will help students prepare for some of the courses and career paths that they may be looking to move into after they're done here at Camosun.

"Things like the construction of marine infrastructure, such as marine plumbers, electricians, and welders who'd be working in the shipbuilding world, are the base of the program," he says. "We're also spreading into the coastal side of Transport Canada for things like

deck officers and bridge officers for BC Ferries. This led into things like oil spill response, coast guard work, and the whole world of safe transportation."

Matthews says that this program has allowed Camosun to look more locally to the coast instead of looking east toward the mainland of Canada, which is what other post-secondary institutions have been doing.

"This program causes Camosun to look north and south down the coast rather than inland into Alberta," says Matthews. "We really saw a focus for Camosun to look along the coast, and that's kind of how Coastal Skills emerged."

One example of a specialized area of the program is marine electronics. Matthews says that marine electronics isn't just in the ocean; it also offers work on the shore, working on tracking and communications for vessel-management systems.

"Everyone is fixated on the future and the possibility of more tankers on the sea; what we are doing is filling in the existing gaps," he says. "Our students are very much in demand for all of the existing systems."

The Centre for Trades Education and Innovation at Camosun's Interurban campus got some new toys, too. According to Matthews, nautical students will get hands-on learning with the new navigation simulator.

"In the new trades building we

"This program causes Camosun to look north and south down the coast rather than inland into Alberta."

**ANGUS MATTHEWS**

CAMOSUN COLLEGE TRADEMARK CAMPAIGN

have a 12-station navigation simulator where 12 computer stations can allow nautical students to actually experience operating a vessel in relationship with each other rather than in isolation. They can do situations with five or six vessels and a ferry crossing the bow and all sorts of scenarios."

Matthews says that it's very hard for some potential students to come all the way to Victoria; for these students, Camosun will actually send an instructor to them for training, which, Matthews says, will work to strengthen their community.

"We're finding a series of nucleuses in small coastal communities where we can send an instructor and do a six-week program to get the student through their foundation program. These students are much more likely to stay in their communities and contribute to the redevelopment and reconstruction of their community."

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Rachael Grant says that the chance to send an instructor off campus

for this program will open up some great opportunities for students unable to move or commute to Victoria for school.

"It could definitely be a barrier to education if you're located in an area that's not near a post-secondary institution," she says. "It's excellent to hear that Camosun is looking into options to bridge the gap for students that don't live near a post-secondary institution."

Grant believes that although the program is funded through support from corporations like BC Ferries and Ralmax instead of the government, students shouldn't worry too much about these companies pushing their own agendas.

"It can be a potential concern, for sure, but there is a practice that exists where a corporation contributes funding for a particular program at a post-secondary institution to, essentially, train their workers in a post-secondary setting so they don't have to," she says. "For this particular program it would really depend on how the curriculum is taught."

know your profs

## Talking '80s new wave and crime analysis with Camosun's Ray Lonsdale

**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 Criminal Justice prof Ray Lonsdale to talk about being a seasonal instructor, loving the '80s, and the involvement of corporations in the future of post-secondary.

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

I've been at Camosun for eight years now. I teach in the Criminal Justice department. I'm a sessional instructor, usually instructing one course per semester. I have a full-time job as a crime analyst with the Victoria Police Department.

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

Simply... joy and excitement. Criminal justice is a social science,

so it's about applying knowledge to understand the world around us and then using that applied knowledge to effect change. So, personally, I get great joy out of watching students transform from not knowing to understanding, and not because they have the correct answer but because they asked questions. I'm also excited to see our students become tomorrow's thinkers and problem solvers.

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

I am constantly watching, reading, and listening, wondering how I can incorporate what I just saw, read, or heard into one of my lectures. Learning for me is an everyday thing. I'm never satisfied with saying "I don't know." If I don't know, I take that statement as my first step to go find out. If I'm driving or riding my bike, I'm usually doing one of three things: wondering how or where some drivers got their licence, singing to '80s new wave, or thinking about an issue and debating both sides... always out loud.

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

Well, I'm not really around the college a lot, so many students don't know me all that well. But if I had

to pick one thing I would say it was that I love the '80s.

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

Other than the engagement with students on ideas, I would say—pardon me if this is cliché—it's been, and continues to be, getting to know the people I teach with in the Criminal Justice faculty. We chat, we laugh, and we discuss ideas. After a week of hearing and analyzing the five percent of the bad within a community, coming to Camosun and seeing fellow instructors and interested students is awesome.

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

As a sessional instructor I am not affected by much. But, in general, I would say decisions based on systems and quantification rather than people and policy.

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

I see it to be under continuous attack, directly or indirectly, through governments, from corporations and consultancy firms wanting job applicants—automatons—who know systems and procedures, rather than individuals and citizens who can learn and think critically and creatively. If we don't stop this

ever-increasing and gaining-momentum move toward a corporatist and managerial model, we will end up with a system beyond financial and creative reach for all of our citizens. Our colleges and universities were set up to be public institutions—see *Public University Bill of 1849*—and were designed to graduate conscious citizens free to examine their life, free to ask questions, and free to doubt so as to make the world we live in that much better. Our public education system should be pushing ethics, the advancement of ideas, and the move toward a greater egalitarian idea of ourselves, accepting of all cultures, languages, and people. Instead, we find ourselves fighting ideologues and talking about debt, accepting budget cuts, and forcing fundraising. A post-secondary educational system should be excited about promoting the next wave of leaders, teachers, artists, scientists, thinkers, and entrepreneurs to Canada and the world rather than producing the next wave of debtors struggling more to pay their loans than to change the world.

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

Well, I would like to say I get a large bag of sour cream and onion chips and a glass of red wine and



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun's Ray Lonsdale.

watch the Toronto Maple Leafs on *Hockey Night in Canada*, but that usually starts and ends with stress, so I'll say in the colder months I ride my mountain bike or snowboard. In the summer, I ride my road bike or play golf. My wife and I will take our dog for walks in and around the Greater Victoria area, and then I usually end my day with a book at a local coffee shop.

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

Anything with noodles and sauce and a glass of wine; it is a large glass.

**10. What is your biggest pet peeve?**

Hypocrisy.



student groups

## New Camosun student club explores engineering



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Society of Extraordinary Engineering Machines club leader Derek Smith.

**MASON HENDRICKS**  
WEB EDITOR

Camosun College is home to a brand new student club this year—the Society of Extraordinary Engineering Machines. The group is composed of student engineers who decided they should create a student club where they can mingle and come up with fun ideas related to their interests.

“There are two engineering programs at Camosun—the Engineering Bridge and the Engineering Transfer,” says club leader and first-year University Transfer student

Derek Smith. “The Engineering Bridge is almost completely at the Interurban campus, so we have just a small group of us, and it’s kind of hard to talk to other people when nearly all the people you associate with and the people in all of your classes are engineers in the transfer program.”

Smith has worked on a variety of personal projects in the past, including building cars. However, the group’s goal isn’t to build a vehicle; rather, it’s something ripped straight from the pages of a history book.



“We’re totally willing to take on more people. This club is still relatively new, so we have a lot of room for new membership.”

**DEREK SMITH**

SOCIETY OF EXTRAORDINARY ENGINEERING MACHINES

“Basically what we have been doing is kind of developing plans for different models of trebuchets [a medieval siege engine, similar to a catapult]. We’re throwing golf balls and water balloons,” says Smith. “The golf balls are for our competition, so we can see whose trebuchet is the best, and the water balloons are just for fun.”

Smith says that the group is definitely open to having more members.

“We have 15 signed up on our group list right now, but I can submit more—that wouldn’t be a prob-

lem—and we’re totally willing to take on more people,” he says. “This club is still relatively new, so we have a lot of room for new membership.”

Camosun student Struan Eamer is also a first-year University Transfer student; Eamer came up with the original idea to create the group.

“This is my first official year of engineering, but it has always interested me,” says Eamer. “I’ve always enjoyed the designing and building aspects of it. Even when I was a kid I enjoyed tinkering, and I’d try taking things apart and then reassembling them.”

Eamer welcomes newcomers to the group, saying that it’s not necessarily a club just for engineering students.

“Derek has a history of modifying cars, and I’ve got a couple motorcycles and cars that I’ve fixed up,” says Eamer. “I’ve built catapults and slingshots, but I’ve never built a trebuchet before, although I guess that’s kind of the fun part, figuring it all out. The group isn’t exclusively for engineering students; if anyone else is interested, it would be awesome to get more people involved for next term.”

# NEXUS

camosun’s student voice since 1990

Starting at  
Camosun in  
January?  
Join us.

No experience  
necessary!

If you’re interested in volunteering at an award-winning student newspaper, stop by our offices at Richmond House 201 on the Lansdowne campus, email [editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com), or call 250-370-3591.

community

## Post-secondary staple Peter Verin dies at 71

**GREG PRATT**  
MANAGING EDITOR

If you live in Victoria, there’s a good chance you’ve seen, if not had a conversation with, Peter Verin.

Verin was a staple in the post-secondary community, living on the grounds of the University of Victoria for many years.

Verin was known for carrying a large amount of items around with him in his shopping cart, including lots of reading material; he was always happy to stop and talk philosophy or some other academic matter, and he always wanted to learn about what the other person had to say.

When I did a radio show at CFUV at UVic as a teenager, Verin was often hanging around and was always a pleasure to stop and chat with. Even as time went on and we didn’t cross paths for sometimes years at a time, Verin would always remember my name and stop me with a smile.

Going back even earlier than that, I’d see Verin when I was a kid, and he would always be happy to stop and talk, even though the lessons he was giving me were going way over my head.

This month, Verin died the day before he turned 72 after being taken to the hospital for a fall. His charming demeanour and encyclopedic knowledge will be missed; the lesson he leaves behind about living life on your own terms will not be forgotten.



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

A makeshift memorial for Peter Verin is up at Quadra and McKenzie.

There is a makeshift memorial for Verin up at a bus stop at Quadra and McKenzie. A memorial will take place at noon on Thursday,

January 19 on the grounds of the Telus building on that same corner.

Post-secondary in Victoria will never be the same without Verin.



# The cost of being an inter

## Like it or not, international students are paying much higher

### Estimated cost

The cost of this program from start to finish is approximately:

Bachelor's degree

\$23,850

International students

\$70,000

All prices are estimates.

These prices cover tuition, student fees, textbooks and other supplies.

### Estimated cost

The cost of this program from start to finish is approximately:

Post-Degree Diploma

\$10,500

International students

\$23,200

All prices are estimates.

These prices cover tuition, student fees, textbooks and other supplies and are based on a full-time program including internship.

### Estimated cost

The cost of this program from start to finish is approximately:

Certificate

\$5,800

International students

\$17,150

All prices are estimates.

These prices cover tuition, student fees, textbooks and other supplies.

A rewarding career

As a Cabinetmaker, you can earn an average annual salary of \$33,000 to \$44,000 per year.

Next time you're walking down a hallway at one of Camosun's campuses and see a burnt-out light bulb, don't sweat it: the college has enough money to replace that bulb, thanks to the tuition paid by international students. But is it fair for international students to be paying for lighting, maintenance, and whatever else their leftover tuition fees go toward? I've been coming to the realization that Camosun isn't getting the funding they need from the government, but is it okay for them to grab funds from international students?

When I spoke with international students for this story, they were—to a person—overwhelmingly positive toward Camosun as a supportive learning environment, even though they were also frustrated and, in the words of one student, feeling exploited, as though Camosun was asking for their blood.

What struck me talking to these students is that it seems like every international student comes to Canada looking for better opportunities and higher learning with supportive teachers—a second chance. In return, Camosun charges them more than they charge domestic students and tells them that, for an extra \$850 a month (plus a \$225 application fee), they can be part of a homestay environment. With homestay, they are supposed to get a room in a house, daily meals, and a home environment where they can learn Canadian culture and the English language.

But for international students, the reality is sometimes very different. Their homestay doesn't feed them, fails to meet the student's criteria, or imposes strict rules; one student I spoke with told me that their homestay was telling them what they could and couldn't eat. They have to take classes part time so they can work to pay for living arrangements, increasing the length of their studies... and their debt. Or they must depend on their family back home, causing some students to feel like a burden.

Add to that Victoria's current housing crisis and low minimum wage, and the aforementioned high tuition fees, and it becomes clear that some international students are finding the road to a better life more difficult than they expected.

“Some people may say that [international students are] being fleeced, but all of the money they pay to the institution goes back into the institution to create the atmosphere that they want to be in.”

CHRISTIAAN BERNARD  
CAMOSUN INTERNATIONAL

### CREATIVE REVENUE SYSTEM OR HARASSMENT?

At first glance, Camosun's differing tuition fees for domestic and international students appears to be a case of grabbing as much money as possible from international students to make a profit. Unlike domestic students—whose tuition can't be raised by more than two percent a year as per government regulations—international students seem to be at the mercy of an institution that needs more revenue.

Camosun International (CI) director Christiaan Bernard says that he wouldn't call the money made off of international students a profit, as Camosun is accountable to the government for every dollar they spend, even if those are dollars coming in from international students.

“It all has to go back into the institution to provide either services, more courses, more sections... Part of the reason international students want to come here is because we have those services, we have the computer labs, we have the equipment for engineering, we have the support,” says Bernard. “So it's really going back into the system to give them what they're coming here for, as well as providing additional services for the domestic students, because part of the reason the international students are coming here is to also study the Canadian students. It all kind of works together to support reasons why international students would want to come here, and to also help them be successful once they're here. Part of that success is not just academic, but having opportunities to interact with Canadian students, get Canadian culture, and get the skills that will help them in their future.”

But some international students still feel taken advantage of. Business student Rishav Jain goes even further with the word he uses to describe how he feels Camosun treats international students.

“It's actually harassment, you could say,” says Jain. “I feel like when you come to a new place, you always want to pay not less, but comparatively. Equal.”

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) international director Srijani Nath says that while most international students have budgets based on the overview Camosun supplies, costs are higher than expected.

“With most international students, the amount of tuition fees we are paying here, it's unbelievably more than people can afford,” says Nath. “Before coming here, most of the students have a set budget that they know they're going to spend on the tuition fee, but at the same time, they're not really fully prepared about the rent and about the food expense, and about the other expenses that come with the studies—for example, books and your study materials. The college definitely provides them an overview, but, still, it's way more.”

For students like Riccardo Tavazzani, who's in his second year of the Criminal Justice program, Canada has a lot of opportunities, so the positive outweighs the cost. Still, he does acknowledge the drastic difference in tuition between domestic and international students.

“I understand it; I just don't feel it's very good because it's a lot more,” says Tavazzani. “We're not talking about \$1,000, \$2,000... we're talking about seven times more than a domestic student. But what can I say? It's Canada. I don't really like to pay more, but if I have to? Canada is the only thing that I want in my life right now, so I'm willing to pay.”

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Nath says that colleges have their own kind of funding—different from universities—and that this makes tuition policies at colleges unique.

“The revenue that comes out of the international student tuition is one of the major sources of revenue that is put toward the growth of the college toward the end of the fiscal year,” says Nath. “It's a very planned program, which definitely goes by the needs of the situation.”

And with the increase in international students, Bernard says that Camosun has been able to support the college.

“Some of those services are more counselling to support students' success,” says Bernard. “[Development] have been created, and Engineering I believe there are also some LPN [Licenced Practical Nurse] programs. The rest goes into general revenue to support the college. It's not just keeping lights on in buildings and repainting walls.”

Nath says that international students get a lot of support, but she says that Camosun makes more investments toward them than the increased costs.

“We have a homestay counsellor who takes care of their homestays as part of the requirement, and similarly, we have our international counselling staff.”

well as providing support for students who have problems with the domestic students. The domestic students get guidance on their academic health and well-being. A part of the cumulative average is more. A tax that Bernard says is national

offices on both campuses that are there to support students.

“In those offices, we have various people who can help. So if they're having some type of problem, maybe an intensive emotional [problem], or they can't communicate in their native language, we try to help them on campus, so we can't necessarily do it for people outside the institution who can help, it's

Searching for a breakdown of the college's revenue website, the list includes tuition, non-tuition fees, supplies, with optional homestay costs.

“The revenue that comes from international student tuition is one of the major sources of revenue that is put toward the growth of the college toward the end of the fiscal year.”

CAMOSUN

tune of \$55,982,333). However, they don't suffer from the same situation. Camosun website says that, for example, the approximate cost of a Transfer student is \$3,000. The same amount for a diploma student is approximately \$14,700. A rough calculation shows that for each domestic student pays in tuition, and the approximate cost of an international student is paying \$5,400. These numbers are very approximate, as the college website says. As another example, a Business Administration student; it's \$70,000 for an international student, but it's simply the difference between a student's total tuition and the system for international students.

“The \$46,000 difference, most of that would go back into the college,” says Bernard. “And anything that's left over goes into other programs, more selection of courses. So, for example, if there are courses being offered at Camosun, the funding to create those courses, the international students had paid their total. The funding for the programs. And sometimes it's services; some of the services aren't cut. So they use anything left over, it goes into various reasons or needs.”

Nath says that the differing tuition fees between domestic and international students is an and-take situation. (A spokesperson for the Ministry of Education says that the government does not provide funding for international students.)

“Most of the grants are toward the domestic students, but we have a way where international students can apply for grants.”



# International student

Story by Quinn Hiebert, features writer  
Photos of Camosun College website by Greg Pratt/Nexus

## Higher tuition than domestic students are at Camosun College

Students attending Camosun over the past several years, stabilize services—and add additional ones—to the existing services, more services in the library, more services in the student center. I know that more sections of ELD [English Language Development] have been created with the excess tuition left over. Practical Nurse] positions that have been created, and the entire institution. So it could be IT services, it could be other things.”

“I want more services from the school and require the school to do what domestic students, two factors that help explain the difference.”

“I take care of students, so she’s in charge of arranging the services, taking care of all the other formalities,” says Nath. “In the student center, where students can talk about their academic—academic issues, and they’re there to guide them. We have special academic advisors, which is not the same as academic advisors for domestic students’, but we have a separate one that is all for international students. They are exclusively for international students to help them with their programs, about their permit, about their academic issues and their health benefits and extended health benefits that student council provides us. So a lot of the tuition fee is divided into a lot of miscellaneous expenditures. It also includes some of the services. I would say the total amount that goes to all of the services makes it more expensive. And, of course, I believe part of it is also because of the way we as international students pay over our tuition fees.”

“Bernard says the tuition that’s left over from the high international student fees is also for the services of the international student support international students.”

“I know who speak most of our students’ native languages,” says Nath. “One of the problems that’s beyond the scope of education, when they’ve run into a problem and it’s easier for them to contact someone to facilitate that for them. We have 80-plus cultures represented here, but we do have the ability to contact other people if needed.”

### THE BIG REASON

“The college’s international tuition fees over at the Camosun include non-instructional fees, medical insurance, books, and other expenses. There is no explanation as to what everyone wonders when they see the numbers: why do international students pay more than domestic?”

“Here’s the main reason: the provincial government gives Camosun money to subsidize the education of Canadians (in fiscal year 2015/2016, that amount was to the tune of \$10 million).”

“The provincial government subsidize international students’ education. The Camosun’s approximate annual tuition fee for a domestic University of British Columbia student of time in the same program will cost an international student \$23,850. The calculation shows that the government gives Camosun \$13,850 per student. Add on the \$3,000 that a University Transfer student pays, the true cost of that education is \$9,220, which means international students pay \$80 more than the true cost of their education (note that tuition fees and other expenses differ between programs). The true cost of a domestic student bachelor’s degree is \$23,850 for a domestic student. That’s a difference of \$46,150. Bernard says the current subsidized system for domestic students and a user-pay system for international students.”

“I would like to go to the cost of offering programs to the student,” says Nath. “Afterwards goes into providing services the college provides. In the post-degree diploma programs that are now being offered, those were from revenue/tuition left over after the programs were created. Whatever was left over, that was used to create new programs. Sometimes it’s to ensure a program that’s being offered is not a loss into general revenue and costs. The college uses it to subsidize international students’ education.”

“The difference between domestic and international students is a given. The Ministry of Advanced Education confirmed to Nexus that the funding for international students, only domestic.)”

“I know that’s not the best,” says Nath. “A few of them are programmed to be there, but they can’t apply for it and can access it. That’s why we, as part of the student council, have campaigns and petitions where we are trying to talk to the government and the officials about the lowering of the tuition fee, and, at the same time, increasing the grants. International students, we have lesser, almost very limited grants. Less grants makes education less accessible for our students, without a loan.”

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### THE UNSUBSIDIZED LIFE

“While it’s true that some students—international and domestic—rely on their parents for support, that isn’t true of all students. Domestic students may be able to find funding through grants and scholarships, but that isn’t an option to many international students. Nath says many international students rely on their part-time jobs to get by.”

“Even though some of the students can rely on their family for the tuition fee, most of the time, after a semester or two, students try to pay off their tuition fee with their own money,” says Nath. “For that, they are struggling to work hours that they can, making maximum use of that, and then paying off their rent, their food, their tuition fee with that. And that’s why it takes them a lot more time and a lot more struggle for them to finish their courses, which they could have finished way earlier if they were not really putting that much effort in part-time jobs or something else.”

“It’s actually harassment, you could say. I feel like when you come to a new place, you always want to pay not less, but comparatively. Equal.”

**RISHAV JAIN**  
CAMOSUN STUDENT

“Nath also mentions other expenses, such as some health expenses, that international students may not expect. After the usual costs—like rent and food—school can become a lot more expensive than the students planned for, she says.”

“So, a lot of them rely on part-time jobs, and a lot of the time they have no options, so they have to rely on some of the loans they have taken, and maybe even that doesn’t work out.”

Basil Jose, a recent Camosun graduate with a post-degree diploma in Business Administration and Marketing, says he had to ask for help from his family when he was attending the college.

“Even the education loan, it’s more than 10 percent interest,” says Jose, “so I asked for financial help from my family, so that I can repay them as soon as I can. For the first semester I’ll be asking, then trying to pay by myself for the second semester and the third semester, if possible.”

Jain, who would like to go to school full-time, is realistic about needing to find a part-time job. He feels lucky to have found Nath, who has helped him find—and pay for—the room he’s staying in.

“You can rely on someone else also, but most of the time, you must rely on yourself only for jobs and everything,” says Jain. “You don’t have many friends here when you come to a new place, so you can’t ask for money, or you can’t borrow things from your friends, as you don’t have many.”

But Bernard says that it’s important for people to understand how much international students are bringing to the institutions.

“They do pay significantly more, because they are not being subsidized by the federal or provincial government,” says Bernard. “Some people may say that they’re being fleeced, but all of the money they pay to the institution goes back into the institution to create the atmosphere that they want to be in. You can’t call it a profit because, at the end of the day, we’re at a zero balance, with everything going back into the institution. It’s up to the international students to determine if this environment is the environment that they want to be in. If it’s not, then they can leave and take their support for the environment with them. We have a very good retention rate, so I think they’re pretty happy with the fees being charged to them, the tuition being charged to them, and the environment here at Camosun. I came from another institution in BC, and it’s not even half as good as what Camosun is offering to their students. It’s pretty significant here.”

“Whether or not the people I spoke with agreed with the high international student fees, each interview ended on a positive note, with every student saying how much they love it at Camosun; they just don’t love the fees. Jose says he is happy with the quality of teaching he’s getting at the college.”

“At least in marketing, they are being more practical, and the connections which the professors have have also helped us in building our networks and gradually helping my current role in my job,” says Jose. “That was one great way in which I was able to quickly network with the Victoria communities. I find this school’s very interesting and very good for international students.”

Jain says he guesses he won’t be completing his two-year program within two years if he has to work at the same time, and he says that it will be difficult.

“It will be challenging, but at least it can make you more independent,” says Jain, “and you can get in touch with many people and you can learn a lot if you come to a different city and country. In India, you can rely on your parents, on your friends, that they can help you any time, if you have any problem—money or anything. But coming to a new place, it’s a whole new experience, and, at times, it can be a good one and also a bad one. So I’m just looking forward to a good experience.”

Tavazzani says that he was used to not having good grades back home, and he only decided to work harder before he graduated. Studying abroad was his second chance.

“I was concerned with my future back home,” says Tavazzani, “so I can find only positive things about the international living experience. For others, it’s less important because they are planning to go home afterwards. But in my case, I had to go through this so I was forced to work hard, to study hard, to apply what I learned, and to [further my] education. I rely a lot on my vocation because I like what I do; I like to help people because I think this world lacks empathy, because there are so many problems that we cannot even imagine that people develop in their lives. Learning things abroad is an incredible experience to me. I wish other people felt the same way.”

**Estimated cost**  
The cost of this program from start to finish is approximately:

Post-Degree Diploma

**\$6,900**

International students

**\$21,250**

All prices are estimates.  
These prices cover tuition, student fees, textbooks and other supplies and is based on a full-time program including internship.

**Estimated cost**  
The cost of this program from start to finish is approximately:

Advanced diploma with internship

**\$7,600-8,200**

International students

**\$18,575**

All prices are estimates.  
These prices cover tuition, student fees, textbooks and other supplies.

**A rewarding career**  
As a graduate with your B.A.Sc. or B.Eng. you can expect the following average annual salary:

- Civil Engineer \$66,000 to \$95,000
- Electrical Engineer \$95,000 to \$125,000
- Mechanical Engineer \$66,000 to \$95,000
- Mining Engineer \$125,000+

**Estimated cost**  
The cost of Professional Cook 1, PC-2 and PC-3 from start to finish is approximately:

Certificates

**\$6,050**

International students

**\$18,900**

All prices are estimates.  
These prices cover tuition, student fees, textbooks and other supplies.

**A rewarding career**  
As a professional cook, you can earn an average annual salary of **\$11,000 to \$33,000 per year.**



theatre

## From Door to Door explores multi-generational family issues



ROB MACKLEM

Three generations of women and the relationships between them are explored in *From Door to Door*.

**ADAM BOYLE**  
STAFF WRITER

*From Door to Door* is a new play focused around three generations of women in a family and how they each grow and adapt to their own situations. But how can such a small cast successfully perform as three generations' worth of char-

acters? Director Zelda Dean says she won't give away how they pull it off, but she says that the transition is seamless.

"It's a very tricky play to sum up," she says. "The scenes are very quick but very simple. We don't have any fancy production values or anything—no change of costume,

no props. But the actors walk effortlessly from one scene to the next, changing from somebody who is 75 to somebody who is 25. They do it in the snap of a finger. I won't give away how, though."

Dean hopes that the audience takes away some thoughts on family and how, no matter what, most of us

"We know more about our friends than we do our own family. I hope people walk away from this going, 'Hmm, I'm going to think about my crazy auntie and uncle and why they are how they are.'"

**ZELDA DEAN**  
FROM DOOR TO DOOR

will always have family to support us through whatever may happen.

"No matter how we feel about our family, they're still our family," she says. "We often don't understand why they are the way they are. We know more about our friends than we do our own family. I hope people walk away from this going, 'Hmm, I'm going to think about my crazy auntie and uncle and why they are how they are.'"

Finding people who could portray these characters was no easy task. Dean says that she and the crew were lucky with who they found, as they fit into the roles perfectly.

"Finding the actors that could handle this challenge was hard," she admits. "The actress who is playing the mother, she has to jump from the opening scene, where she is 90, to the next scene, where she's 10. So the three actors I have are all very remarkable."

Dean says there are many struggles involved in getting a story ready for production; she says that finding

out the meaning behind what the playwright is trying to say can be particularly challenging.

"The next hardest thing was finding the truth in this play," she says. "I've worked with many playwrights over the years, and when you have the playwright right there next to you, you know you're on the right track. But when you don't, and you've got a play as complex as this, one of the hardest things is being able to say what the playwright, hopefully, intended to be said. This particular play has been done with some lavish production values in some places in the world, and other times very simply. I took a very simple approach to it because I thought the words were so incredible."

*From Door to Door*  
Thursday, January 19  
2:30 pm Sunday, January 22  
\$20, Congregation Emanu-El  
Synagogue  
ticketrocket.co

theatre

## New play at Langham Court brings slapstick humour to the stage



DAVID LOWE

The cast of *One Man, Two Guvnors* bringing the zaniness.

**MASON HENDRICKS**  
WEB EDITOR

*One Man, Two Guvnors* is a play set in the '60s in Brighton, England that features slapstick situations and a skiffle band; the play features around 30 cast and crew members. Kyle Kushnar is the lead actor of the production, portraying the character Francis as he attempts to successfully moonlight for two governors, without either one of them catching on.

"Francis finds himself all of a sudden employed by two people and spends the entire day trying to get everything done for both of them, without them finding out about each other, and trying to win the heart of a lady at the same time," says Kushnar. "It's kind of like a British farce; there is lots of physical comedy, lots of slapstick."

Kushnar says he still feels as though he must continue to adapt and grow as an actor, and keep pace with the other performers as they do the same.

"Within this show the cast is so talented, and every rehearsal they are constantly trying new things, and it really ups your game," says Kushnar. "It's difficult to not get upstaged sometimes by the other actors. Just because this role is written as the lead character doesn't

"It's kind of like a British farce; there is lots of physical comedy, lots of slapstick."

**KYLE KUSHNAR**  
ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS

mean you don't have to work for that, and you've definitely got to earn that on the stage."

Although performing in live theatre is a passion for Kushnar, he quickly realized at a young age that he did not want to live the starving-artist lifestyle, so he works a day job to pay the bills and spends his leisurely time on theatrical endeavours.

"For me it goes all the way back to high school, and being a part of all these different high-school productions," he says. "After high school I went to theatre school; I thought that was kind of what I wanted to do for a living, but theatre school quickly convinced me otherwise. I much prefer the 9-to-5 security, the Monday-to-Friday kind of thing. I thought acting was a great thing to do, but I didn't want to rely on it for a living."

Kushnar has been involved in around half a dozen shows at Langham Court; this is his fourth per-

formance with current production director Roger Carr. While Kushnar originally comes from Vancouver, he loves the feeling of community and support that he's discovered in Victoria's bustling live-theatre scene.

"I think the arts scene here is like everything else in Victoria," says Kushnar. "It's just such a supportive community, and there is always so much high-calibre stuff going on, such as community theatre, professional theatre, contemporary theatre, plenty of improv. The variety is awesome and it's a really cool, awesome community."

*One Man, Two Guvnors*  
January 18  
to February 4  
\$16 for students  
(\$10 student rush ticket,  
15 minutes before curtain time)  
Langham Court Theatre,  
805 Langham Court  
langhamtheatre.ca



New Music Revue



**Beachheads**  
*Beachheads*  
(Fysisk Format)  
2/5

Norway's Beachheads are best known for having members of metal band Kvelertak in their ranks, but here on their debut album they veer far away from metal. Heavily influenced by power-pop bands of yesteryear, the band shows potential but is dragged down by mostly depressing lyrics and songs that just sound too much alike.

Opening track "Moment of Truth" features fervent power chords that are almost indistinguishable from the second track, "Break Me Down," which sounds like the third track, and so on. Most of the album continues in this vein with a few exceptions.

Things don't really change until halfway through the album, when the band channels one of their major influences, Teenage Fanclub, on "Give Me Some Love"—so much so that it actually sounds a bit like

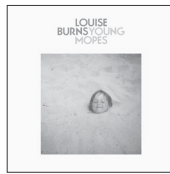
It's not enough to imitate one's heroes, especially when Beachheads clearly have talent.

Teenage Fanclub's "I'm In Love," which came out just a few months ago. While Beachheads may not have even heard this track when recording this album, the influence of their muses is certainly evident.

The band says they're influenced by trailblazing punks Hüsker Dü, but this doesn't help the album become its own creature. For any band to really stand out, they need to discover their own sound, even if they're trying to capture the sound of a particular genre. It's not enough to imitate one's heroes, especially when Beachheads clearly have the talent to play and write very earnest and heartfelt lyrics about love and loss.

These songs could be really good if the band had spent a little more time finding sounds that match the emotions they are trying to convey rather than forcing their lyrics to fit music they want to play. Hopefully Beachheads will find its own voice soon, instead of relying too heavily on those of the past.

-PATRICK NEWMAN



**Louise Burns**  
*Young Mopes*  
(Light Organ Records)  
2/5

Even though she's been involved in the music industry for nearly two decades, the sound Louise Burns has chosen for her latest LP, *Young Mopes*, doesn't feel quite right. It's fun and upbeat, with some meaning and emotion mixed in, but something's off.

The album feels too forced, too busy, and a little too '80s. Burns' voice is beautiful and unique but is consistently drowned out by the raucous instrumentation and persistent, rude percussion.

*Young Mopes* does, however, have some high points. The brave mixture of pop/rock with some country gives it flair, and Burns is a skilled lyricist. Also, the title track, despite having the same problems as every other song here, manages to break from its instrumental fetters and run free.

Let's hope that for her next album Burns will drain out some of the background noise and really let herself rise.

-JAYDEN GRIEVE



**Khodara**  
*Where's Your Love*  
(Independent)  
3/5

Khodara showcases her beautiful, soulful voice on her self-produced debut EP. Even though it's her debut, she's got some experience behind her: she trained in Rome, where she sang for two popes.

"Where's Your Love" is a disco-pop track that recalls the Donna Summer and Diana Ross sound of the late '70s but showcases Khodara's voice in a way that makes it more homage than derivative. "See You Later" is a dreamy little number that deserves to find a home on radio. "Trees" is smooth and sultry, while "Magic" closes things out on an upbeat note.

One can only imagine how hard it is to find your own place in pop music, and very few will ever be able to make it to the top no matter how talented they are. Khodara is talented, and it will be interesting to see what she could do with big production behind her.

-PATRICK NEWMAN



**Terrifier**  
*Weapons of Thrash Destruction*  
(Test Your Metal Records)  
2.5/5

"Fine"—that's the word that comes to mind when listening to *Weapons of Thrash Destruction*.

As a thrash metal fan, my first thought on the opening track, "Re-animator," was that it was awesome, with classic thrash characteristics at play. The vocals are stellar, the guitar riffs the musical definition of beauty.

But as the album wore on through tracks like "Violent Reprisal," I literally had to check what I was listening to because it sounded so similar to other songs on the album or to other thrash bands. "Bestial Tyranny," however, is a fresh song, with vocals that are not overpowering and that shed light on the band's other talents.

The talent is there, but the choice in composition felt a little on the lazy side, with the riffs and hoarse thrash vocals too repetitive. Every few songs they bring in an original sound, which shows promise but for now results in the tip-of-the-tongue feeling the album suffers from, never quite fully satisfying.

-ADAM MARSH




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what's going on

by adam boyle



DUSTIN RABIN

present and discuss topics on Israel and the Middle East at this monthly event. Drinks will be served free of charge; admission is by donation. Email heshi@me.com for details.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**Hands up if you know what a skiffle band is**

*One Man, Two Guvnors* is a play set in Brighton in the '60s that features a skiffle band, a madcap chase, gangsters, and a woman disguised as a man. The fun goes down at Langham Court Theatre; the cost for students is \$16. See langhamtheatre.ca for more info.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

**Tribute to a legend**

Dave Brubeck is one of the most influential jazz artists of the '50s and '60s, and now his music is coming to Victoria in the form of a tribute band. The Remi Bolduc Jazz Ensemble comes to UVic's Farquhar Auditorium on January 21. Head to uvic.ca/auditorium for details; tickets are between \$25 and \$35.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

**Men in tights**

The BalletBoyz will be coming to town to perform their latest two-part show; the group features 10

members from around the world. The show goes down at the Royal Theatre; tickets are \$29 to \$89. See dancevictoria.com for details.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

**Living with clay**

Coming to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria this month is *Life with Clay: Sculpture and Pottery by Jan and Helga Grove*, a pottery exhibit with a focus on the life's work of two local potters. Photographs and other objects of interest will also be on display to document the artists' work. For more info, check out agg.v.ca.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

**Out with the birds**

Merle Crombie is a former field assistant on Mandarte Island, which is home to a large population of song sparrows. Crombie will be discussing how the song sparrows have seen such great success in their population over the recent years at this Victoria Natural History Society event. The talk will be held at 7:30 pm in room 159 of the Fraser Building at UVic. Admission is free; see vicnhs.bc.ca for more details.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

**Growing the unions**

There were originally only a small group of credit unions in Victoria; over time, the financial institutions have grown to become quite

prominent around town. At this talk, which is at 7:15 pm at James Bay New Horizons Centre—located at 234 Menzies Street—the Victoria Historical Society will explore these unions and how they came to be. Tickets are \$5.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

**Still lost together**

Can-rockers Blue Rodeo are coming back for what seems like their annual appearance at the Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre. Tickets range from \$33.50 to \$83.50; see sofmc.com for more details.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

**Lunar new year on Cook**

Come for the screening of *Iron Road*—which focuses on the building of the Trans-Canada Railway and the hardship of one worker who falls in love with the son of the railroad tycoon—and stay for the dinner! Tickets are \$12; details are at cookstreetvillageactivitycentre.com.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

**Fisheries in Myanmar**

There has been a huge decline in catch rates in fisheries in Myanmar in recent years. At this event, Kenneth MacKay will be talking about these fisheries and how they've become so poorly maintained. The presentation will be held in room 159 of UVic's Fraser Building.

**Blue Rodeo are coming to town on January 26.**

UNTIL SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

**Performing people**

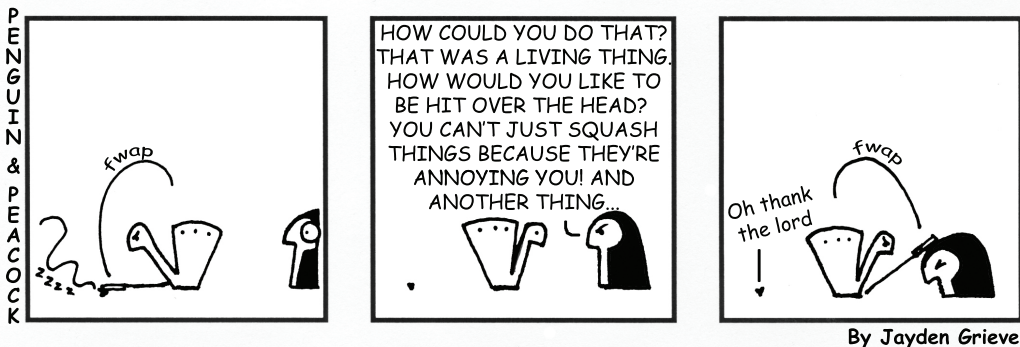
Check out the work of Camosun College Visual Arts faculty Brenda Petays and John G. Boehme, as well as alumna Grace Salez and emeritus Judie Price, in *Open Action: A Collection of Photographs and Relics from People Who Perform*, on display at

The Fifty Fifty Arts Collective. See thefiftyfifty.net for more info.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

**Drawings of the Middle East**

Congregation Emanu-El Synagogue is hosting talks by scholars and experts from around the globe to



By Jayden Grieve



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Web Exclusive **NEXUS**

What's happening at nexusnewspaper.com

Week of January 9, 2017

Top five most read stories:

1. "The long road to Camosun," January 4, 2017
2. "Camosun student writes contest-winning essay inspired by past," January 4, 2017
3. "It's always the season of the witch in Victoria," October 23, 2012
4. "Camosun College Student Society signs off against pipeline expansion," January 5, 2017
5. "Camosun College Nursing program switches to competitive entry," September 4, 2013

New, web-exclusive stories:  
"Camosun College Student Society signs off against pipeline expansion," a story written before the approval of the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion went through. Find out what your student society thinks about the matter at [nexusnewspaper.com/category/webexclusive](http://nexusnewspaper.com/category/webexclusive).

"Holy Fuck get unconventional," an interview with the Toronto band, who are anything but conventional in many respects.



**Dearest Reader**

by Aaron Stefik

## A proposal: Camosun requires philosophical reform

Dearest reader,  
The tendrils of controversy have, for much of our current decade, been inexorably wrapped around the popular topic of European colonialism, its propagation, and the means by which its dastardly influence may at last be wrenched from the shores of our great and multicultural modern nation. In the pinnacle of irony, an answer has presented itself from across the sea, in that shudderingly vile English land from whence the evil of the white man was amongst the first to emerge.

The student union of a prestigious London university has ventured the proposal that Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and all other such unabashedly white authors should be swept from the curriculum. This is clearly a splendid idea, and I hasten to beg not only that such an ordinance be not only implemented within Camosun College itself, but also that we might at last take strides in heeding the wisdom of the great thinkers of the Eastern world.

Confucius, for example, well known for his derision of the idea

The student union of a prestigious London university has ventured the proposal that Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and all other such unabashedly white authors should be swept from the curriculum. This is clearly a splendid idea.

of democracy and of the expression of the citizen, could easily have his school of thought brought into the fold merely by the immediate cessation of all student and faculty elections, the better that the rule of the college may fall to a single autocrat. For the latter position, previous Camosun president Kathryn Laurin's sterling and laudable record makes her the natural choice. Confucius' assertion of the need to control the expression of the individual could likewise be achieved by the regrettable but clearly necessary act of cancelling this very publication. Better still, the latter amendment will ensure that any views found contrary to the general will, and to the sensibilities of the student body, need never again

stain our experience both within the classroom and without.

All of this being accomplished, there remains one final task with which to cement the college's noble philosophical conversion. The traditional baseline of Western philosophy swept from the record, what is to take its place in countering the newly implemented Eastern tradition? A thorough combing of today's popular internet message boards will provide the answer in the form of their own material.

For what better ideas to comprise the stuff of new Western philosophy than those very informed ideas that first spawned the great academic metamorphosis that is about to occur? Dear reader, I cannot well imagine.

**The Bi-weekly Gamer**

by Adam Boyle

## Changing how bans work

Before every game of *League of Legends* begins, players take turns banning three characters per team in an effort to prevent certain players from playing certain characters and to prevent any counter-picks for their own characters.

This upcoming professional season, Riot Games will be changing this format to one in which 10 characters—five per team—are banned each game.

One of the biggest questions raised when they announced this was regarding why they were making the change. In their media release, Riot Games states, "We believe that offering more bans will encourage deeper character pools with more individual characters

seeing play—and that it'll make a fun and engaging draft phase for fans to watch."

They go on to say that although they've tested the new system internally, they'll be keeping a close eye on it and will be making changes if need be.

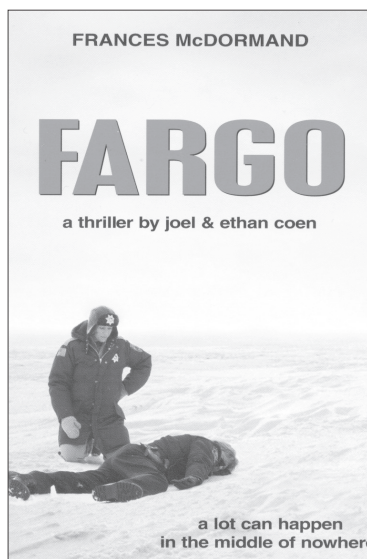
Currently, the last three players on the teams take turns banning one character each. After the bans have gone through, players take turns picking their characters in a back-and-forth format. However, with the new system, Riot could've just gone with a system where all 10 players ban back and forth. What they did, though, is unique and creative, and it will definitely help keep things interesting to watch.

In the new system, first phase will remain the same as the current ban phase. Following that, the first six players will pick their characters. After these players pick, a second ban phase will start, in which two more bans per team will be allowed. Lastly, the remaining players will pick their characters, and then the game will start.

These changes look great on paper—adding a second ban phase in between picking allows for diversity the level of which spectators haven't seen for a long time. When these changes go through, be sure to look for your favourite characters being played by the pros; it just might mean they're next on the list to get their power cut down by Riot.

**To See or Not to See**

## Fargo a film for the farrago of winter



*Fargo*  
5/5

As the thermometer scrapes zero and the ground outside crunches in the morning, dirt fro-

zen, mud like chocolate ice; as we battle against the air on our way to work or school, feeling it searing, charring skin; during this time of stone-cold toilet seats, the panic before the car's heating kicks in, a time when a hot coffee is more valuable than a 10-karat diamond, I turn to a film that puts these hardships in perspective: the Coen brothers' *Fargo* (1996).

The poor characters in this film put up with a lot—murder, extortion, and kidnapping, to name only a few—and they put up with it all in the middle of the forbidding snow fields of Fargo, North Dakota, a place desolate as the moon, a missed spot on a whiteboard.

At the same time, these people are some of the most resilient I've seen—tough like the hard-packed snow they tromp upon—and it's that quality that makes *Fargo* so fascinating. The characters aren't

beaten until they're dead, never giving up—even when they should—because in their world, to give up means to be swallowed whole by the great white beast that's beneath their feet.

And yet they're not Tarantinian characters—they aren't hardcore; they aren't masters, really, of anything; they aren't capable of blasting through a room of people, or fighting tooth-and-bone for sweet revenge; they're just people, struggling to do the best that they can in their inhospitable world.

Indeed, each character, snow-beaten, is as fragile as a new layer of ice, with an abundance of weaknesses that serve to humanize them—something crime films often lack. Films like *Snatch* (2000) or the *Oceans* franchise are populated with characters desperate to be badass, and while it may be entertaining to watch Brad Pitt punch out a man



**Calculated Thought**

by Sean Annable

## Students should think about investing

Investing is a daunting topic to learn about, filled with technical language, buzzwords, and acronyms (so many acronyms).

I'd like to talk about two of them: RRSPs and TFSA's. These are registered accounts in which your investments held inside grow tax-free.

Plunk some money into an Registered Retirement Savings

deceive you: this is not a savings account. There isn't a benefit—other than not spending it—to dumping money into this account, and letting inflation eat away at its real value.

You can contribute much less (\$5,500, currently) to this account annually, with contribution room accumulated from the year you turn 18—up to \$52,000, if that happened as of 2009. While you get no tax

For students, extra money to invest may not be a reality, but when the time comes, the Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) may be the better option for investing.

Plan (RRSP) (there are annual maximums), and contributions are tax deductible. Think of the RRSP as a tax-deferral account—you get a break now, at your current tax rate, and instead pay tax at the rate when you pull out the cash when you're retired.

The idea is to use this contribution room in your highest earning years, when you will most likely be earning much more than in retirement, to fully benefit from the tax deferral.

For students, extra money to invest may not be a reality, but when the time comes, the Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) may be the better option for investing.

"Investing" is the key word. Don't let the poorly named title

deduction for contributions, neither are you taxed upon withdrawal, and, unlike RRSPs, there are no sticky rules about how and when you can make withdrawals.

I encourage everyone to do their own research on what investments are right for them. It takes planning and research; you should have a goal with a timeline, understand the risks of each class of investments, and know your risk tolerance.

Next time, I'll share the take-aways from my own research, touch on risk, and lay out options for getting started. With home prices running out of control, and wage growth as stagnant as a murky pond, investing could hold the key to a more comfortable slide into old age.

## NEXUS HUMOUR

Campus

**You draw comics.**

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editor@nexusnewspaper.com

by Finlay Pogue

twice his size, or to see George Clooney be devilishly clever in his various heisting capabilities, at no point are these characters real—they are caricatures of exciting people—and so it is doubly refreshing to find a film like *Fargo*, one deep-soaked in crime and gangster films, and yet one that possesses the same spontaneity and grit of everyday life (or as we would imagine life in Fargo would be).

With characters like Marge Gunderson (Francis McDormand)—the hero, the pregnant cop, shrewd and genial—and Carl Showalter (Steve Buscemi)—the loosely unhinged, wild-eyed small-time crook—and Jerry Lundegaard (William H. Macy)—the skittering, deeply panicked, insecure car salesman, who unwittingly sets the story of hardship and bumbled ideas into motion—*Fargo* sets out to upset the characterization norms that films

of its genre fall into, and it does so spectacularly.

In this respect, *Fargo* is like no other film I've seen; it's determined to subvert inherent tropes, and yet it doesn't lose any momentum or get tangled and confused by the point it's trying to make. This is a film with a pure vision, one that the filmmakers are so confident in that it's translated with ease to viewers.

So, in these times of short days and pluming breath, I turn to *Fargo* because it reminds me how good I've got it. I sit back and admire what a wonderful, well-crafted piece of filmmaking it is while I relish the snow-free ground outside, the fact that I've only ever used a wood chipper for wood, and the knowledge that the Minnesotan mob is still in Minnesota. I take comfort in the fact that we are all people struggling to do the best that we can in our own inhospitable worlds.



web-exclusive stories word search

Did you know that we put up new stories every week over at [nexusnewspaper.com](http://nexusnewspaper.com)? Well, you do now. A new story goes up once a week, and we post stories online whenever there is breaking campus news that students need to know about.

Check them out, and also check out this word search, made up of words taken from some recent headlines from those web-exclusive stories.

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.

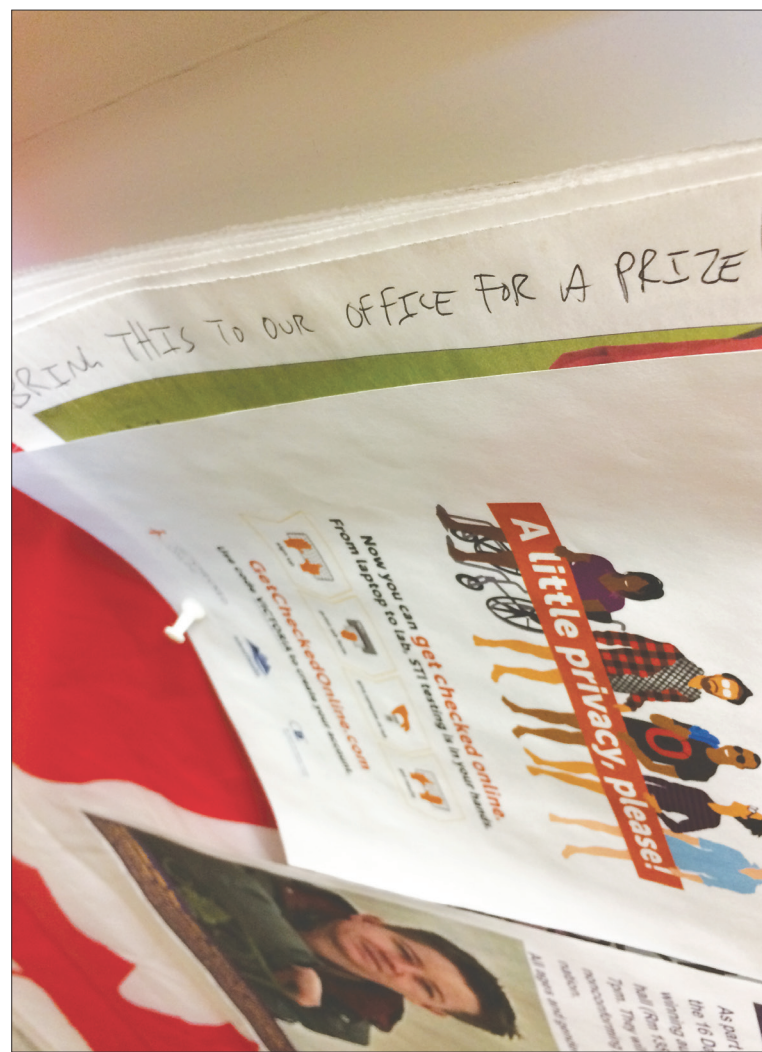
Have fun!

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- BRUTALLY
- CAMPUS
- CANADIAN
- CAUTIONARY
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- COMEDIANS
- CREATIVITY
- DRINKS
- FEDERATION
- GAMING
- GRACEFUL
- GRINCHIEST
- INDIE
- LEAVE
- MOVING
- POWERFUL
- STUDENTS

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contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



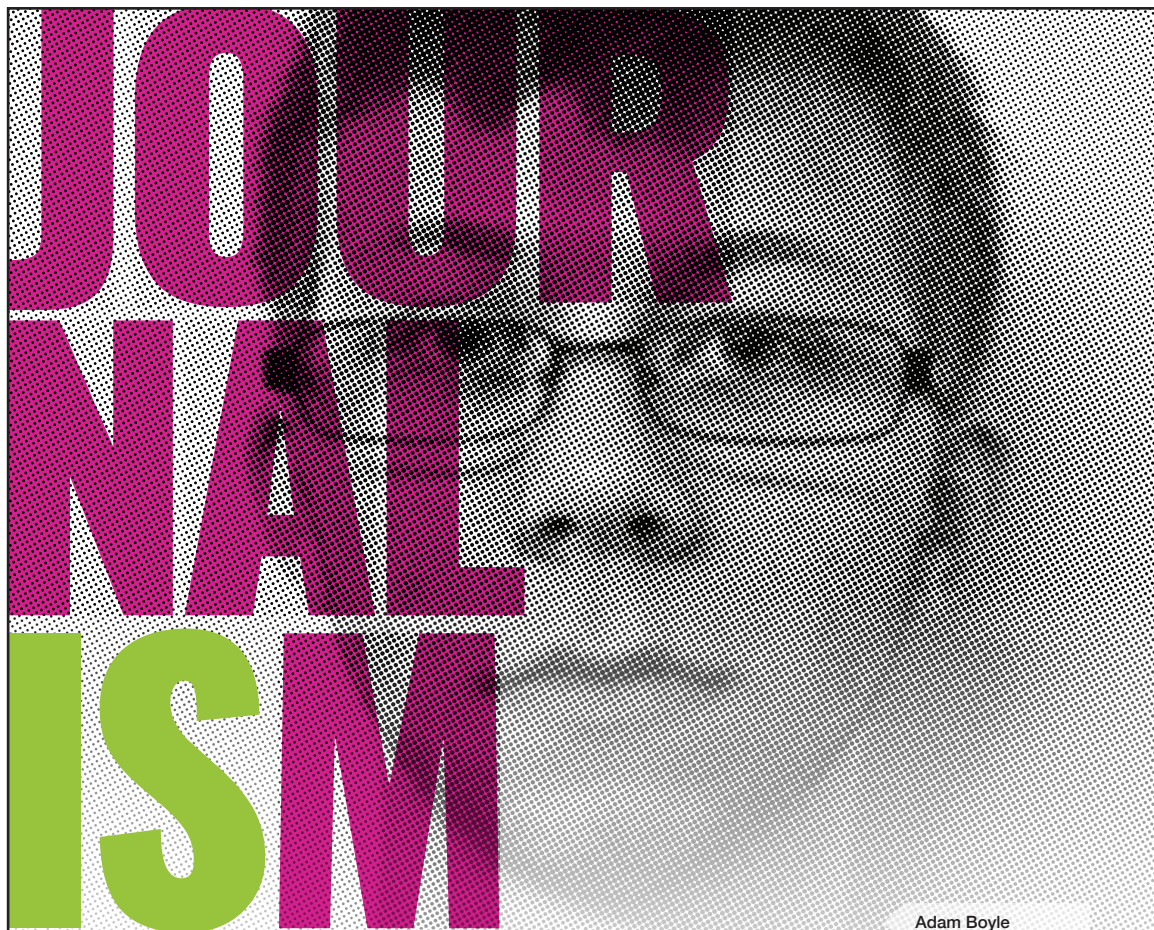
GREG PRATT/NEXUS

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 outside Young 315, peeking out at passersby from behind a locker.

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



Adam Boyle

Staff writer for *Nexus* newspaper. Boyle has reviewed local festivals and interviewed college sports teams, and writes a column about competitive gaming.

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know your writers

*Nexus* features writer Quinn Hiebert on gaming and jewelry



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

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 features writer Quinn Hiebert.

*What drew you to journalism?*

It was an accident. I've always wanted to be a writer and I was in a journalism class where it was suggested that students volunteer for *Nexus*. I wasn't sure I'd be any good, or even if I would want to continue, but I was hooked after the first article.

*What's the most awkward moment you've had while interviewing someone for a story?*

I was interviewing someone with a lot of experience being interviewed. We both figured out pretty quickly that none of my questions were relevant. It was the shortest, and most awkward, interview I've had so far.

*What would you say are the worst/best parts of your job?*

I love the challenge. I push myself to write things I don't like—news—or am too nice to do—reviews—or are just difficult—features. It's rewarding. The worst part is writing something that is physically painful.

*Why did you originally come to Camosun?*

A women's program sent me here to get out of the cycle of poverty and abuse.

*What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?*

I'm a huge gamer. When I'm not gaming, I like to read. I'm also pretty creative, so I enjoy making my own jewelry and colouring.

NEXUS

Your student voice.

Thanks for 25 years of support!