

NEXUS

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CAMOSUN'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1990

THE BROKEN LEASE

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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "If I don't finish this story soon I'm going to have a nervous breakdown." [A day later:] "I can't deal with this story anymore." [A day later:] "This story has to be fucking over now."

COVER ILLUSTRATION: Sebastien Sunstrum

student editor's letter

Keeping tabs on student housing

It's been just over a year since we did a national-award-nominated cover story about Camosun students who were impacted by the housing crisis that was starting to get out of control in Victoria at that point. I'll never forget the stories Camosun students were brave enough to share with me: one rose every day before the sun to take the bus from up island to get to Camosun; another lived and studied out of her car with her fiancée because there was no housing available. (She had to drop out of Camosun and go to school at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, where there is more reasonable housing available.)

It seems unthinkable to try to get your educational needs met when your more basic needs of shelter and warmth are in question. But people do it; I bet people do it every semester. It has to make it harder to do well academically, but it goes to show that where there is a will there is a way.

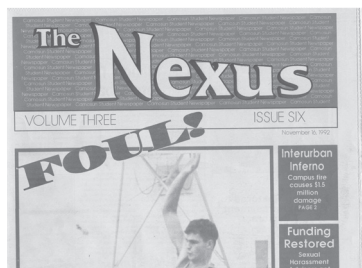
The question of housing on Camosun's campuses has long been up in the air. It's probably a good time to revisit that, because the housing crisis only seems to be getting worse, with reports surfacing of students from Camosun and the University of Victoria sleeping in cars back in May due to the 0.5 percent vacancy rate.

This issue's feature focuses on how the issue of student housing has changed; the stories told in there will make you cringe and be grateful for what you have... unless you're sleeping in a car, too. They'll also make you wonder how students go to school while not having a home, or while living in illegal, and unsafe, housing situations.

Adam Marsh, student editor
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

25 Years Ago in Nexus



Fire hits Interurban: Our November 16, 1992 issue had a story about a fire that destroyed the carpentry shop in Interurban's Drysdale Building. The fire happened in the early morning hours of Wednesday, November 4, and, unfortunately, firefighters didn't get to the scene as quickly as they could have, as the alarm that went off alerted them to the Ewing Building on Interurban Road... which doesn't exist. Firefighters came to the Ewing Building, located at Camosun's Lansdowne campus, before going to Interurban, where they took care of the fire. The cost of the damages was \$1.5 million.

Going green, even back then: Everyone says they were a forerunner in green initiatives, but it's safe to say Camosun was doing pretty good pretty early on, as a story

in this issue proves. In the piece "Camosun wins green awards," writer Jennifer Adsett talked about how the college had recently won two awards for environmental initiatives: the 1992 Go Green Air Quality award and the BC Hydro PowerSmart award. Of course, here in 2017, the words "BC," "Hydro," and "smart" make every single resident of BC shudder, but that's a whole other story for a whole other time.

Sexual harassment advisors re-funded: The college was also leading the way in student safety, although it was a close call: this issue's story "Funding restored to sexual harassment advisors" was about how Camosun's sexual harassment advisors were relieved to have their funding back after a brief period of worry that they would have to shut the service down due to that funding being taken away. "We feel completely supported by administration, especially in this time of limited resources," said coordinator of sexual harassment advisors Marilyn Bowker, a quote that made us ponder the grim question: when it the last 25 years has it not been a time of "limited resources"?

open space

Logic must always prevail

JAYDEN GRIEVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In an argument, a participant puts forward evidence as proof of their point. In theory. Today, many arguments are made poorly, appearing as a Swiss cheese of logical fallacies. Some, like an ad hominem argument—aimed to discredit the arguer and not their points—are put forward maliciously in an attempt to win the argument through chicanery, but, often, a person isn't fully aware of what they are doing.

Anecdotal evidence is "proof" that someone is right, despite little or proper research. It's usually used to suggest that because the arguer has observed something, that something exists pervasively throughout a population. For example: "Can smoking really be that bad? My father's smoked two packs every day for 30 years and he's fit as a fiddle."

It may seem obvious that this is not a good argument, but the unfortunate truth is that not only is it widely used, but also it's often respected and unchallenged. The 45th president of the United States has a habit of using this particular fallacy; many politically biased media outlets—on both sides—seem to believe that there is nothing wrong with publishing this sort of "proof."

Unfortunately, anecdotal evidence isn't always wrong. Some observations are very astute, despite the scope of their study; some observations, by happenstance, fall within what has generally been accepted. This is dangerous, as it reinforces the perpetrator's belief that this sort of logic produces solid ideas.

Ultimately, it is easy to fall prey to such a clever predator; after all, we are entities of the flesh, slaves to our own senses. Who can you believe if you can't believe your

own eyes? But this is why research and the expansion of horizons are so important. The expansion of a person's knowledge base means not only that they are more likely to have an opinion that is backed up by fact, but also that they will be able to recognize when they are wrong.

One of the most dangerous pieces of this problem is that the purveyors of this type of evidence do routinely believe that what they are saying is true. Their self-centric worldview is so dominant that it fails to acknowledge the uniqueness of their own circumstance and the fact that the situation outside their protective halo is not always equivalent to their own.

A particularly vexing example for me is that people who are well off have a tendency to make the argument that because they worked hard to get where they are, or because they started from the bottom, that's possible for everyone. This excuse is used to deny the needy access to resources that could have a grand impact on their quality of life. In fact, a lot of these arguments take the form of "Well, I can do it, so they should be able to." To expect that all people are equally capable despite differences in resources perpetuates, among other things, sexism, ableism, and racism.

The burden of correcting this ignorance falls on all of us, the parents, teachers, friends, and children... anyone who has a possibility of educating those who fall victim to their own misguided belief. People are naturally averse to criticism; they will, inevitably, get defensive if they are told that they're wrong, but if you're able to break through their walls and enlighten them they will live a more genuine existence, and we will be one step closer to equality, and one step closer to justice.

letters

Transit talk

Same thing at UVic, one stop from the depot they begin at (re: "Transit tribulations," November 1, 2017 issue). You either knock a bunch of people out so you can get on or miss three buses before you can get on one. Absurd.

AVARITIA VICE
VIA FACEBOOK

corrections

In "Camosun Video Games Club gives students a chance to unwind" (November 1, 2017 issue), we incorrectly identified Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) student services coordinator Michael Glover as former CCSS website manager and secretary Michael Subasic. We apologize for the mistake.

SPEAK UP

What do you feel makes a good instructor at Camosun?

BY ADAM MARSH



EMMA MERCER

"When they're willing to put in the time after class, whether it's scheduling an appointment with them or it's during their office hours—if you're having trouble, you can come and they can explain it."



ELIAS DEL VALLE

"Someone who takes the time to critique someone's work, even when it's already good. Even if I get an A+ on an assignment, I'll still have really good feedback on what I can still improve upon. I think that's important."



RACHEL TRENCHARD

"One who really cares about their students and wants us to succeed so gives us all the resources possible."



FUMYYA SUZUKI

"For me, if they really try to encourage students, then that's a good teacher right there. When I ask something they don't just answer once; they answer more than once, even though I didn't ask them. That's great."



ZACHERY MCCANN

"The ability to break down complex information into bite-sized pieces that even a child can understand."



ENOLA EUGENE

"I like when they give a lot of examples and have a lot of office hours, because most of them have a lot of students."

social issues

Alt-right posters found on University of Victoria bulletin boards



ADAM BOYLE/NEXUS

Anti-Racist Action UVic organizer Tyson Strandlund.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Posters promoting alt-right websites and displaying a known anti-Semitic symbol were found on bulletin boards in the University of Victoria's Cornett building in late October. The posters featured an image of a white family with the words "Those who hate us will not replace us," with the word "those" in triple parentheses, an anti-Semitic symbol. The poster displayed links to alt-right websites and read: "Defend Canadian heritage. Fight back against anti-white hatred. A message from the alt-right."

University of Victoria Student Society (UVSS) interim director of outreach and university relations

Pierre-Paul Angelblazer says the act of putting these posters up is "foul garbage." Angelblazer says the UVSS is trying to respond to this in an intelligent way that accounts for the motivation behind the poster, which at this point is still unclear, because whoever posted them has not claimed responsibility.

"How do we reinforce the idea to students who may have been adversely affected that we are, for the most part, a welcoming campus and do value diversity?" he says.

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Mitchell Auger-Langejan says it's surprising people in Victoria have opinions like those on the poster. He calls the appearance of these

posters disappointing, especially at a university.

"A university's supposed to be a place where forward thinking takes place, and it's good that we have free speech," says Auger-Langejan. "I don't think that we should confuse these posters with free speech. Sometimes arguments for stuff like this is that people should have the right to think these things. Certainly they're permitted to think that. The problem lies in that it's a very harmful opinion, and it's documented that it's been harmful. We don't need to prove that it is. We already know that it's hurt people."

Auger-Langejan says the solution lies in opening up a dialogue with the people whose beliefs are represented on posters like these.

"I think that the people that post them, in a way, must know that they are hateful," he says. "What we can do to deal with this kind of thing is talk about it. What are these people afraid of? Are they worried that they'll be replaced by people that are foreign to them? We could pose simple questions to them: has anyone who's Jewish ever harmed them? Do they know why they feel that way? What's bringing these thoughts on? Opening a dialogue, even with people who have shocking opinions like this, is, ultimately, the best thing we can hope to do."

Auger-Langejan says it's not far-fetched to worry about this hap-

"If it can be said that there's an upside to any of this, it's that there's been a much greater interest in actively fighting racism from the students at UVic."

TYSON STRANDLUND
ANTI-RACIST ACTION UVIC

pening at Camosun. (He encourages any students to email him if they want to talk, regardless of their beliefs on the matter.)

"If it's at UVic it's probably in other places, too. It's definitely possible this was just one person. It might be that, but it might not," he says. "If it were to come to Camosun, the concern remains: does this person have really harmful opinions, and do they want to hurt other people? If that's the case, then we have to consider where their place is at the school. Can we study alongside people that have this, in my opinion, irrational hatred of other people? Is that something we'll accept as a college? And I think the answer is no."

Anti-Racist Action UVic organizer Tyson Strandlund says that he has spent an overwhelming amount of time deleting hate messages from the group's social media accounts since the posters were found.

"We were flooded right away," he says. "Hundreds of really hor-

rifying, absolutely grotesque statements."

Strandlund says that he is not sure who these people posting the hateful comments are, or if they are even in Victoria (posters similar to the ones found at UVic have been found at other Canadian post-secondary institutions). The organization has "since banned and deleted many of the comments because they were just so awful," says Strandlund.

"If it can be said that there's an upside to any of this, it's that there's been a much greater interest in actively fighting racism from the students at UVic," he says. "I'd like to see, obviously, whatever it takes to be done to stop this from happening and to severely punish anybody who is found to be responsible."

Anti-Racist Action UVic is holding a meeting in room B025 of UVic's Student Union Building at 6 pm on Wednesday, November 15; anyone can attend, whether or not they are a UVic student.

NEWS BRIEFS

New award in Camosun trades

The founder of Kinetic Construction has a new Camosun College award named after him. The William Gyles Award in Civil Engineering Technology recognizes a Camosun student who has completed their first year and has aspirations of a career in construction. Kinetic Construction and the Camosun College Foundation created the award, to which Kinetic pledged \$5,000 over five years. Gyles is also on the Camosun board of governors.

Camosun faculty member awarded

Camosun School of Access faculty member Richard Zajchow-

ski has been given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Learning Specialists Association of Canada (LSAC) as a result of over 40 years of work in the post-secondary sector. The LSAC helps implement learning theory in higher education.

Camosun students serve a hot meal to those in need

Camosun College Hospitality Management students recently served a three-course meal to the less fortunate at Our Place in Victoria. The menu included pork tenderloin, green beans, and squash. Over 600 meals were served.

Rental ideas

Post-secondary students can give their ideas about new funding

to help with affordable renting through a contest being held by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Cooperation (CMHC). The winning submission will receive \$10,000. The deadline is April 30, 2018; go to cmhc-schl.gc.ca for guidelines and information on how to apply.

Get involved with new library

The City of Victoria's Name That Library campaign allows citizens to say their piece on what the new James Bay branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library should be called. Voting can be conducted online at victoria.ca/namethatlibrary or by emailing namethatlibrary@victoria.ca with a short explanation of why you think the name suits the library.

Smart conference comes to town

The South Island Prosperity project (SIPP) will host the first of two Smart South Island Symposiums on Saturday, November 25 at the Victoria Conference Centre. The symposiums will give citizens the ability to address one challenge the south island region faces; the challenge can be anything from personal health to traffic issues—or, say, the housing crisis.

-ADAM MARSH

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Got a news tip? Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com.

Eye on the National Student Movement

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

1. When Camosun students pay their tuition each semester, \$2.25 goes to membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). That fee is collected by the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS), which remits it to the organizations. However, between 2014 and earlier this year, the CCSS remitted \$202,305.11 of CFS fees to the BCFS. The BCFS is holding this money from the CFS because the BCFS claims the CFS owes the BCFS an estimated \$1 million. The CFS claims the BCFS has "no authority" to withhold those fees, as Camosun students were told the money was going to the CFS. The BCFS and CFS are separate legal entities. Representatives for both organizations did not respond to requests to comment on this situation.

2. In the spring, the CFS received a petition from Camosun students to begin the process of Camosun students' defederation from the CFS. The CFS is looking into whether the petition was valid, but even if it is, the next step—a referendum to vote on defederation from the CFS—cannot happen with outstanding CFS fees. That means that, until the BCFS gives the CFS the aforementioned Camosun student fees it's holding, Camosun students cannot defederate and are paying monthly membership fees to both organizations.

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student politics

New CCSS First Nations director talks travel, educational journey



ADAM BOYLE/NEXUS

Camosun College Student Society First Nations director Katelynne Herchak.

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

The dust has settled and the results are in for the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) student

council elections. CCSS First Nations director Katelynne Herchak says that although she's a returning member to the CCSS board, she's just as excited to be there now as

she was two years ago when she was first involved with the CCSS.

"I'm very excited to win this position," she says. "It's the first time I've run in the election. I have been a representative before, but I was appointed it about two summers ago, so the election process was a lot different than the appointal process. But it was really fulfilling to get out there and have people actually care enough to vote. I kept my campaign pretty low-key. I'm in the Indigenous Family Support program, so I reached out to people in my class. But I also reached out to people who aren't in my class because their perspective matters to me as well."

Herchak says that she never thought that she was a post-secondary person to begin with, but, thanks to some friends and some time in other classes, she eventually landed in the program she's in now.

"I graduated from Spectrum Community School in 2013," she says. "A couple of my friends dragged me into Camosun to apply to college. I started off by taking some general courses, but then I started taking some Indigenous Studies courses, some Criminal Justice courses, and some others. I took some time off to go do an internship in South America; I was in Colombia for four months. I really enjoy education, and I know it's really important for the workplace. I found that the Indigenous Family Support program was really up my

"I'm really enjoying Camosun; I've made a lot of friends and I get to be a part of some policy work that goes on at the college, which is a real privilege."

KATELYNNE HERCHAK
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

alley in that you just get to work with people and be a support for them. I'm really enjoying Camosun; I've made a lot of friends and I get to be a part of some policy work that goes on at the college, which is a real privilege."

Herchak says that the four months she spent in Colombia were some of the best times of her life. She says that although the country is so different from Canada, she wasn't fazed by it at all; instead, she was inspired by the comings and goings of daily life and by how their community worked.

"I really like South America; it's given me a new perspective on Canada, not just as an Indigenous person of Canada, but just how collective Colombia was, in an individualistic sense. It seemed like more people cared about each other more, and that's something I miss," says Herchak. "Even their education system is different. It was really interesting to go and speak in schools about Canada and teach kids, which

was a lot of fun. I, obviously, miss the weather, too. It's a real eye-opener to what privileges we do have and what disadvantages we have at the same time."

Herchak says that she hopes to increase the voice of the indigenous students currently at Camosun while she's in the CCSS First Nations director position.

"I hope to bring more of a presence to indigenous students and more open resources for us. I listen and care about their educational journeys, and their personal journeys, and I want to be able to help as best as I can," says Herchak, before offering this bit of advice to students who run for a position on the CCSS board: "Do it because you want to make a difference. It doesn't have to be just for the college, but whether it's for the community or something else, do it because you want to help somebody. As long as you help one person, you're making a difference. Don't give up and don't feel intimidated."

know your profs

Camosun's Cuma Yilmaz on mental stimulation and remembering the past

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.

Do you have an instructor that you want to see interviewed in the paper? Email editor@nexusnews-paper.com and we'll get on it.

This issue we talked to Camosun Electrical Apprenticeship Training instructor Cuma Yilmaz about understanding students, trying to learn guitar, and how the future of post-secondary can help the environment.

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

Electrical Apprenticeship Training. I've been here almost six years.

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

Satisfaction when I see students succeed. I also like the mental stimulation of it.

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

Often, I look at students in my class and remember how I felt during my apprenticeship a long time ago. I understand their daily challenges outside of the classroom. Our

job doesn't end when we get home; we always care about our students' well being and want all of them to succeed.

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

That I have been contemplating to learn to play the guitar for years now, but I still haven't started. This bothers me because usually I don't procrastinate with anything else in life.

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

One day I received an email from a former student thanking me for the extra effort I put in my lessons and lab activities. That made me feel very good.

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

I'm not sure if there is a bad thing that has happened to me here. Teaching at Camosun has taught me a lot. I don't see the odd daily challenge along the way necessarily as a bad thing; it's helped me grow as a person.

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

I think that post-secondary education will become increasingly more important. In addition to the traditional role post-secondary education has played, it will also

help fill the gaps in the globalized workforce. The last 20 years have created a growing demand for a well-trained and flexible workforce. For the individual this will mean more post-secondary training, more often. I think that the meaning of the word "career" has shifted already. I also see an increase in technology tailored more toward the individual's schedule. As much as I truly believe in the social values of a classroom setting, I do see the virtual classroom already. I think our jobs will change a lot over time; I try to concentrate on the positive effects of this electronic revolution. We've already saved millions of trees by cutting back paper publishing, and if teaching and learning can be facilitated from the comfort of our homes one day, there will be much less traffic and pollution.

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

I love to go for long hikes in the bush. I work on my car, or sit in a cafe downtown and relax.

9. *What is your favourite meal?*

That's not easy to answer; I like so many. If I had to pick one I think it would be tabouli—funny, I never liked it as a kid.

10. *What is your biggest pet peeve?*

Unkindness.



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Camosun Electrical Apprenticeship Training instructor Cuma Yilmaz.

student initiatives

Camosun student data crunches for causes with old computers

“A house is not meant to have 60 or 70 computers running all at the same time. Right now I have about 30 going, and I actually have had to cut that down because I’m a student. I live off oatmeal.”

TRISTON LINE
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Those who have the ability to manipulate and change technology have power in today’s technology-driven society. And Camosun Computer Networks Electronic Technician student Triston Line is using that power for good.

Line collects old computers—he has over 60 at his house—from organizations and uses their data-crunching power for research projects. The projects—which Line has done for organizations as large as Harvard—have focused on cancer cell mapping, HIV/AIDS research, and childhood cancer research, among other things. (A representative from Harvard did not return a request for comment.)

“When the data comes in to me, it’s very mechanical,” says Line, who is 18. “I don’t have to know, really, what it means; however, I do have to know how the programs work, I have to know how to optimize their functionality within the

systems so that their mechanical work can be done as best as possible. So, from my point of view, it’s more of a computer science point of view.”

Line says that sometimes he likes to look at the results after the institution he provided the data to has published the findings. He adds that without the data, there is no research.

“They could not have published it without the data I processed,” says Line.

He could be doing this work for his own entertainment, but, for Line, the fulfillment lies in helping others.

“Childhood cancer is something that I really find touching, and I don’t really like the idea of people being affected by such diseases, especially at a young age,” he says.

The biggest challenge for Line has been power—not the kind people sometimes crave, but electricity.

“A house is not meant to have 60 or 70 computers running all at

the same time. Right now I have about 30 going, and I actually have had to cut that down because I’m a student. I live off oatmeal,” he says with a laugh.

Line’s data-crunching pastime also contributes to another passion of his: keeping e-waste out of the landfills. Line says that e-waste is an \$18-billion-a-year industry, and it’s not right that so much potential gets thrown away.

“Electronics should not be going to third world countries and, basically, being dumped into a landfill and harming people. There are a few towns in China where there isn’t clean water for about 50 kilometres. They actually have to truck in clean water. That’s disgraceful,” says Line. “We shouldn’t be doing that. There’s black fields out in Africa where they just burn the electronics. I don’t think that’s very nice.”

Even recycling programs don’t cut it for Line—he says the companies get grants and use most of their money to ship the e-waste to another country and still have money left over.

“That’s where that \$18 billion comes in,” he says. “It costs a lot less to ship them to someone else and make it someone else’s problem than it costs to recycle them responsibly.”

So Line does what he can to reduce his role in e-waste by finding a role for computers that others deem junk and fixing them up to become fully functioning machines. When



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun student Triston Line is using old computers for a good cause.

he can’t make use of certain parts, he takes those parts to certified recycling depots. It’s behind-the-scenes work, but that’s how it goes: the data processing industry tends to focus on the process instead of the people, but that’s fine by Line.

“There’s not a whole lot of display on that front,” says Line. “[People] more or less talk about how it’s done more than who did it, which is a little bit unfortunate for me, but in the end, it’s all going to a good cause.”

student clubs

Camosun student SCUBA Club makes diving affordable for students

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Diving is an expensive recreational sport. Just ask Camosun SCUBA Club founder and president Rebecca Gloat. Gloat, a third-year Environmental Technology student, says that one dive costs roughly \$75, depending on what kind of equipment you need. But, because they are a registered club through the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS), the CCSS covers half that cost, with the divers having to pay only the other half.

Gloat says that because diving is so expensive, there’s no way she would have been able to do it on a student budget without the CCSS helping with funding.

“It dramatically reduced the cost,” she says.

Gloat fell in love with diving when she was 12, after her parents got her diving lessons for her birthday; she says that Vancouver Island is hard to beat when it comes to diving.

“One of the best cold-water diving spots in the world is right here on Vancouver Island, so it was kind of natural to put [the club] together,” says Gloat.

Diving requires a licence, but there are options if divers don’t want to get certified.

“We had people that joined that weren’t certified and we planned a couple of snorkelling trips that you

“We’ve taken a lot of people on their very first dive out in cold water and they just love it.”

REBECCA GLOAT
CAMOSUN SCUBA CLUB

didn’t have to have a diving licence for,” says Gloat.

Gloat says that the experiences to be had in the water in this part of the world are really something special.

“When I moved here the first thing I did was sign up to do a sea lion dive out at Race Rocks, and that was really awesome,” she says, adding that it was one of her best dives. “The sea lions will come up to you, and they’re really curious. They’re like big puppies. They’ll kind of nibble on your fins, and you’ll turn around, and they’ll blow bubbles in your face.”

It was Gloat’s most memorable experience in the water; she says the

size of the sea lions is not something to be taken lightly.

“They’re huge,” she says. “The males will be the size of a grizzly bear. It was very cool. I thought it would be scary, but when we got down there and we were with them, they’re not intimidating at all. They’re very playful and curious.”

There are about 20 people in the club; Gloat says some dive occasionally, while the die-hards go every time. (Search Camosun Dive Club on Facebook for more information on the club.)

“We’ve taken a lot of people on their very first dive out in cold water,” she says, “and they just love it.”



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Camosun SCUBA Club founder and president Rebecca Gloat.

The broken lease

Camosun students are struggling to study in a house

As any Camosun student who has tried to find a place to rent in the past year knows, Victoria is in a housing crisis. There are too few rentals, and they are too expensive. The vacancy rate is a miniscule 0.5 percent. Camosun students are clamouring to find places to live while pursuing their studies, and they're suffering for it: their studies are suffering; their mental health is suffering. What is to be done as demand becomes greater than supply? What alternatives to this situation are available? What is being done to control the market?

And when will Camosun students be able to worry about their studies instead of worrying about survival?

WHAT GIVES WITH THE HOUSING MARKET?

The housing costs in Victoria are going up with the price of real estate, which has been significantly rising the past couple years, says newly elected Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Mitchell Auger-Langejan. Single detached homes will be approaching \$1 million in the next few years, he says, which is similar to what happened in Vancouver. He says that the people who buy these places sometimes finance them by renting them or by using them as investments in order to get more property as a source of income and a way of building equity.

"It's a way for investors to store money and it's a way for people who are looking to get out of renting between

storing money and equity," says Auger-Langejan. "It's a fairly safe investment, especially in a place like Victoria, and what that's doing is that it's raising the costs of rents very significantly. It's not uncommon to go onto a forum like UsedVictoria and look for housing and find one-bedrooms that are going for \$1,500."

First-year Camosun University Transfer student McKayla Meyer had to move in with her aunt after moving to Victoria from Prince George.

"I came here and I kind of expected to just find a part-time job and take some classes, but I realized you can't work part-time and afford a place," she says, "so I'd have to either commit to school and get a good student

loan where I could afford that, or rely on friends and family to help out, so my aunt agreed to let me live there as long as I'm going to school."

Unfortunately, this struggle to find housing is common among Camosun students, who are often trying to balance getting an education with finding a place to live. Or, in some cases, they can't even find a place to live.

"I came here and I kind of expected to just find a part-time job and take some classes, but I realized you can't work part-time and afford a place."

MCKAYLA MEYER
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

STUDENT SNAPSHOT

First-year Nursing student Mark Dos Santos found himself couch surfing as a result of the housing crisis. He came to Victoria in mid-August and found there weren't many good housing options for September; things were really expensive and decent dwellings were already taken. This led him to have to share his friend's apartment for about two months.

"The hardest part, actually, was not having a fixed address for ID and stuff like that," he says. "I still have my ID from last year, when I was at school; you can't update the ID unless you have an actual tenancy agreement and stuff like that. So when you're couch surfing, you just don't have a permanent address, which gets kind of weird with paperwork, shipping; it makes it kind of hard."

Dos Santos managed to find a place for November, but only after checking 10 different apartments and many other different houses and other living situations. While he feels confident in his selection, he says it's hard to find a place, as they get taken very fast.

And even if students happen to find a place, who's to say it will be secure? First-year Digital Communications student Sharon Hill found what she considers to be a "nice place" near the Royal Jubilee Hospital, but she'll have to move soon: the owner has decided to put the house up for sale. That leaves Hill hanging, because she has six months to go before the end of her program.

"Because rents are so high, I can't afford to get my own suite," she says. "And when you're living in a shared accommodation, there's never any real stability in that, because one person can just up and move, and that would leave you homeless or stuck trying to find a way to get a roommate."

And if renting is such a bleak picture, home ownership, Hill notes, is "not even a thought." For now, she's focused on finding anywhere at all to live until she finds a decent enough job to cover the high costs of living and rent in Victoria. Then there's the little matter of illegal housing.

STUCK WITH A HALF-MADE HOME

First-year University Transfer student Isaac Barrios has dealt with his fair share of substandard homes. Coming to Camosun as an international student from Panama, his experiences with housing in Victoria have often been on the sketchy side.

"I have a place, but I'm trying to find another place because all of these have been, like, illegal suites, basically," he says. "Not the first one, but afterwards, they were all illegal suites."

After getting out of his first house, Barrios rented a place with a friend as his landlord, who proved to be a little problematic. While he was paying the \$600 rent, another person occupied the room that he was to stay in. He says he had to sleep in the living room for two weeks, as he had nowhere else to go.

"I was couch surfing and it kind of sucked," he says. "It was a weird relationship with this guy because he was

my friend, but also my landlord. I'd be trying to do my homework on the floor next to my couch—and he'd just got to be a good friend, and also don't want to get kicked out."

Barrios' current living conditions are an example of the market.

"My bedroom wall isn't even really a wall to the rest of the house, kind of odd, being made to pay \$550 for not even a room."

He says that the amount of noise he can hear from his neighbours is frustrating, as he goes to bed early, and his sleep is disturbed.

"I've talked to them, like, 'Yo, can you guys please talk to your landlords, so there's a huge language barrier there and they don't know; it's a culture thing. So now he's having construction on one section, and you're not supposed to do that.'"

Barrios doesn't think he differs much from domestic students, as four out of the eight people he's met during his housing search have the same issues. He considers himself an oddity amongst international students because of his culture and his good grasp on English. He says that so many international students struggle in this culture.

"I had to help my Bangladesh roommate around with his homework, look out for that, look out for this."

Auger-Langejan says that he's living in an illegal dwelling because he could use his rights as a tenant to have it investigated.

"I spent the last year or so looking for a new place, but I couldn't find one, so I had to rent out very, very unconventional spaces—like, they're in old buildings, they're refurbished very hastily and very cheaply in order to make money."

Auger-Langejan says there are some legitimate places, but they're all in a big lottery against other people, trying to get a place by going in with a few roommates renting a floor of a house. In the last few months, he says, he's had very little luck finding another place.

"Everything in the house is fairly poor in quality," he says, "but I'm staying through because the plumbing in the building has never been fixed, so I'm just up going to the rec centre for a couple of months to shower."

Auger-Langejan encourages students to keep looking for a place, pointing out that students need a healthy and safe place to live.

"If you're a student, you need a secure place to live. You need light, there isn't a draft running through your house, you need homeowners that have been established in Victoria and that these are actually no longer something that is guaranteed."

The housing crisis means there could be lineups of students waiting for a place, or it could mean that owners start asking for things that students can't pay for.

"It's not a want, it's a need," he says about housing. "There are barriers, it's very, very exclusive, and people need these things."

With such a large housing demand from students, the idea of campus residences on campus. The students I spoke to say it hasn't yet come to fruition. Camosun's first attempt at student experience Joan Yates says that when they first started, therefore, there was no need for dorms. But times have changed.

"We've been aware that housing in general has been a problem for a demographic that's young, and affordable housing is what we need. It means that someone working full-time does," she says. "The vacancy rate is extremely low right now. So it's a bit of a combination of things. We've been looking at residences in some capacity."

There's been a lot of dialogue about campus housing in the past year, gone through with residences is because the college has a lot of classroom space but not dorm space.

Under provincial laws, post-secondary institutions are required to help them build residences on campus. The new NDP government is looking at affordable student housing (minister of municipal affairs and housing interview requests for this story).

Story by Felicia Santarossa, features writer
Illustration by Sebastien Sunstrum, cover illustrator

ing crisis out of control

network—and because I had no privacy, I’d just be doing my best to come and vent his problems to me, and I’d be like, okay, I’ve heard that.”

of what some students have to deal with in the current housing crisis of the house,” he says. “It’s like a curtain with the door. It’s not a wall.”

an upstairs makes him wonder if his ceiling has any insulation. “If the landlords will still be making noise late into the night, he says. “Can we just keep it down?” They’ll be like, ‘Oh, yeah.’ It’s Chinese for ‘I don’t want to hear you.’ It’s also an emotional language barrier there,” he says. “I don’t want to be outside the house because he’s building a second floor in the house.”

domestic students, saying, “It’d be kind of just the same situation,” he says. “For international students struggling with these issues, it’s not just about the housing crisis but also about the ability to understand Western culture. Some international students find it hard to “manage themselves in a new environment.”

with the whole housing situation, like, ‘You’ve got to read this, understand the situation, and then you can rent.’ It’s a complex and that “the house isn’t zoned to be rented to tenants.” He says that “it’s been very, very hard to find a place,” he says. “They’re not really meant to be apartments; they’ve only been built to make rental revenue to take advantage of the housing crisis.”

places students can rent, but he says it’s difficult because students don’t live in the places they all need. He says students would have better luck finding a place to rent, but he says it’s tough no matter what. Over the past eight years, he says, “This summer, I had the ceiling in my bathroom fall off. It had to be replaced. That took some time for them to fix. I did end up staying in a different place while they were working.”

ing for a new place even if the housing situation is quite bad, he says. “You need a place that doesn’t make you depressed, has natural light, proper heating... They need these basic amenities that I think people take for granted, and I don’t think that they realize that they need as a renter in Victoria,” he says.

of people checking out a place and then engaging in a bidding war. “It’s not something you can avoid getting, so, in creating these spaces, you need to be realistic.”

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REVISITING CAMPUS HOUSING

in Victoria students, a possible solution is to create dorms or residences. “I spoke to for this story agreed, which left me puzzled as to why Camosun has been looking into dorms for a while; Camosun vice president says that since the college was founded, students tended to come from nearby areas, but that has changed.

been an issue for students as a whole because they represent a large portion of the population. “And, of course, [with] Victoria’s housing crisis, the vacancy rate is high. A lot of things that have occurred, and as part of that, Camosun has been looking into dorms for a while; Camosun vice president says that since the college was founded, students tended to come from nearby areas, but that has changed.

ng, she says, although the major reason why Camosun has not been able to build more dorms is that it is not publicly funded; historically, funding agencies would fund the construction of dorms.

ns are limited in their ability to borrow money, which would make it difficult for them to build more dorms. “The provincial government has been making promises about creating more affordable housing, but it’s not been happening. Selina Robinson did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Yates says that housing on campus at Camosun could serve other purposes as well, which is why she’s not concerned by the fact that students are only here for a shorter period of time than students at, for example, the University of Victoria.

“In the summer, where we’re a little less busy, that would be an opportunity for summer programming,” she says. “That would be a whole different audience. Or even conferences, where we could be bringing people in. Currently, we don’t have any capacity for that.”

CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte says residences are a key component in aiding the housing crisis because of the very fact that some students are only here for a year, which is difficult to deal with in the current rental market.

“Also, some of the municipalities are trying to help by making it easier to increase rental stock that’s available out there,” he says, “but, ultimately, it’s a tough market, and it’s going to remain a tough market in the short-term because Victoria is a popular place to live and go to school.”

Meyer says that she’s avoided dorms or hostel-type living situations in the past, but, as long as the shared facilities are reasonable, she says that it’s an option.

“If there’s a dorm where maybe you have a shared main kitchen, something in your room where you can do your own basic cooking, and maybe your own toilet or something so that you’re not waiting... those are two things that have kept me out of looking at a residence type of situation. Otherwise, I’d be totally down for it,” she says.

At this point, says Yates, Camosun is assessing need for dorms. She also points out that, on average, students at Camosun are generally a bit older than students at UVic, so Camosun might look at different arrangements, like living with families.

“So we’re quite open to exploring it, once we get all the data in about what would be the best scenario,” she says. “I can’t tell you what the living situation arrangement would be like at this point because we don’t have that work done yet, but we will get there, I think, in terms of having a better idea.”

RUNNING OUT OF SPACE

Ultimately, says Turcotte, there’s no shortage of people coming to Victoria for school and jobs, but space is running out.

“You have a lot of people who are moving here to work or for various other reasons, and a limited amount of land space in the central core,” he says. “I mean, there may be more room as you move up toward Langford—it’s hard to increase the density quickly in the main core—and there even is some resistance by existing residents to do that.”

But Victoria mayor Lisa Helps remains optimistic about the situation.

“The government has released its first budget focused on housing people who are homeless with modular housing, and I hope that in the February budget next year we’ll see significant new funding for affordable housing,” she says. “The province is committed to building 114,000 new rental units across the province in the next 10 years, so that will help. I’m optimistic that they’re going to deliver what they said they will, and that’ll help students.”

Helps says that Victoria’s tent city can be viewed as a cautionary tale, and that no one wants students living in insecure housing. When students are in school, their job is to focus, do well, learn, and take everything in, she says, not to be worrying about where they’re going to live next month.

“I don’t want to live in a city or in a region where students are couch surfing, so we’re certainly doing everything we can at the local level and trying to encourage the province and the federal government to do the same, so that we’ll have a secure housing market, so that we have secure students who can do well and succeed, graduate, and get jobs and live in Victoria,” she says. “So it’s all part of an ecosystem, and, certainly, part of my message is that if there’s anything we can do at the City to help students in their battle for housing, we’re certainly happy to do that.”

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LISA HELPS
VICTORIA MAYOR

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comedy

Local comedy scene bustling with amateurs and pros



PHOTO PROVIDED

Vancouver comedian Jy Harris' career got started when he lived in Victoria.

FRED CAMERON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

He stood on the stage—next to Jerry Springer—shirtless, with red tassels hanging from his nipples, and realized it was a little late for second-guessing as millions watched around the globe. The studio audience chanted, “Jerry! Jerry! Jerry! Jerry!” The moment is still legendary in some circles; it marked the arrival of Jy Harris.

Harris is a comedian from Victoria, now based out of Vancouver. He made his way to the national comedy circuit at a time when there was no scene in Victoria, no place for aspiring comics to hone their craft.

“My career started in 1999,” Harris recalls, “after going down to the Tally-Ho. It was this bar by Mayfair Mall where all the local drunks would hang out. I saw Darryl Lenox, an amazing comedian from the States who was living in Canada for a while. I just thought this is something I want to do. I love stand-up.”

With no place to perform, the writing was on the wall: Harris had to leave the rock if he wanted to have any hope of making a name for himself.

“The first time I did it, I wasn’t quite 19, so I borrowed a friend’s ID and went to Yuk Yuk’s in Vancouver,

and I was terrified. I did my first set as Tony Dierick. My first time was a trainwreck. I moved over to Vancouver when I turned 19 and did it for a year or so, and it got less and less nerve-wracking each time I went.”

Since then, Harris has toured nationally, performed across the US and Europe, had a special on Comedy Now, worked on *The Jerry Springer Show*, and even made his way to acting in films.

For years, local comics either moved away or travelled to the mainland to perform. The talent was there, as well as a growing audience, which left a gaping hole to fill on the island.

“We opened Hecklers about 10 years ago,” says Hecklers Bar and Grill owner Aaron McGough. “[Comedian] Pete Johansson had approached me about doing comedy in the past. I looked him up online and thought he was very funny. We had been open for about six months when we realized we needed something to do, so I gave Pete a call.”

Hecklers opened up on Gorge Road and made Victoria a destination for comedians—touring comedians headline the venue every Friday and Saturday night.

“I’ve watched about 1,000 comedy shows now,” says McGough. “Victoria is a nice place to visit and Hecklers has a decent reputation now, so we pretty well get our pick

“My career started in 1999 after going down to the Tally-Ho. It was this bar by Mayfair Mall where all the local drunks would hang out.”

JY HARRIS
COMEDIAN

of the comedians who tour Canada. We have really good acts coming up—I can’t recommend Michelle Shaughnessy enough, Tracey MacDonald, Dave Merheje is great. I’m excited.”

Indeed, the comedy scene has exploded in recent years in Victoria, with events popping up all over town. There are amateur nights and improv classes just about any day of the week; as a result, a subculture of aspiring comics has emerged.

“Shane Priestly and Myles Anderson are a step ahead of the rest,” says McGough, “because they’ve been doing it for a lot longer. I’m not counting Mike Delamont, Sean Proudlove, Wes Borg, and Jason Lamb because they’ve been comedians for a long time. For up and comers, it’s Shayne Priestly, Myles Anderson, and Chelsea Lou.”

There are amateur nights across town and workout rooms where comedians can try out new material and refine their game. Quincy Thomas is the organizer of the Bad Mama Jama Show, a mixture

of music and comedy at Vinyl Envy (the next one is on Friday, November 24), and a bi-weekly 4:20-friendly show at Terp City. Thomas says the local scene is pretty good right now, noting that there’s live comedy happening no matter the day.

“Ratfish, Mondays; Logan’s, Tuesdays. Wednesdays, the Mint is always packed. I can get up at Ratfish Thursdays and then the big acts [are] at Hecklers on Friday and Saturday,” says Thomas. “There’s comedy every night of the week.”

Some of the brightest stars in comedy will appear on Victoria’s stages in the coming weeks. Just For Laughs is bringing its Alternative Comedy Tour to the McPherson Theatre for two shows on Saturday, November 18. The shows are headlined by T.J. Miller, of *Silicon Valley* and *Deadpool*, with special guest Rhys Darby of *Flight of the Conchords*. On Saturday, December 9, the controversial Jim Jefferies—one of the most popular comedians of his generation—will perform at the Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre.

stage

Retired director returns to theatre and revives play for our day

ELIAS ORREGO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Langham Court Theatre director Judy Treloar is returning from retirement to direct Michel Tremblay’s play *Les Belles-Soeurs*.

Starting her career as a young actress in New Zealand, Treloar went on to teach theatre and direct plays in England, Australia, New Zealand, and Victoria. She taught English, theatre, and drama at Glenlyon Norfolk School for 24 years before retiring.

In 1973, Treloar began acting at Langham Court Theatre; between 1978 and her retirement in 2014, she directed 25 plays there. Now, Treloar is ending her passionate, lifelong career in theatre... for the second time.

“I had directed Janet Munsil’s *Pride and Prejudice* at Langham and I thought that was my final play,” she says. “So I said goodbye. Then this came up.”

Langham Court has been home for Treloar for a long time, and she’s happy to return to the director’s seat there once more. The theatre, which is currently in its 89th season, holds a lot of personal history for Treloar. As a mother of three, she would attend the plays there while she raised her children. The drive there would clear her head and revitalize her passion for theatre.

“In a way, it’s a relief for everybody to come to the theatre for the night and forget about your other life,” Treloar says.

“It’s just an amazing opportunity to have all these women on stage, without any men. If there were men there, they would be telling them where to go and what to do. They get to talk about their lives, their children, their husbands, their priests—it was quite controversial when it was first written.”

JUDY TRELOAR
LES BELLES-SOEURS

Les Belles-Soeurs will be the grand finale of a year commemorating Canada’s greatest playwrights in honour of the nation’s sesquicentennial year. Treloar says that Tremblay is thought to be one of the greatest Canadian playwrights, if not the greatest.

“First of all, [you] need to see anything by Michel Tremblay,” Treloar says. “I wrote in the program notes that you have to ‘lean forward and listen,’ because you must listen to the words and to who the women [in the play] really are.”

Written and produced in 1965, the play follows the conversations and confessions of a group of women living in a tenement in Montreal in the ’60s. It’s set in the area Tremblay grew up in and reflects his observations of the time. With an all-female cast, the play depicts the harsh reality of being a woman in a male-dominant society, but also reveals the determination

and strength of these French-Canadian women.

“It’s just an amazing opportunity to have all these women on stage, without any men,” says Treloar. “If there were men there, they would be telling them where to go and what to do. They get to talk about their lives, their children, their husbands, their priests—it was quite controversial when it was first written.”

The uniqueness of an all-female cast creates a sisterhood on and off the stage for Treloar and her cast. There have been times to recall their common past and times to bond throughout the rehearsal period, she says.

“We’ve all gone down memory lane with our moms and our grandmas and our sisters,” says Treloar. “It’s made me remember my family growing up. My dad was always the boss. My mom would say, ‘Wait ’til your father gets home’; that used to scare us. All of our memories have



PHOTO PROVIDED

Les Belles-Soeurs has good messages for youth, says director Judy Treloar.

come back of what it was like when we were young.”

Humorous but painfully nostalgic for her generation, Treloar says the play is just as relevant—if not moreso—for college students today. *Les Belles-Soeurs* recognizes women who suffer as a result of inequality in society and pays tribute to women and men in any age who fight for equality.

“This is still happening all over the world,” Treloar says. “Men

are telling women what to do... Open the paper and look at all the stuff about women who are being abused. This is such a good thing for young people to see—to stand up for yourself and not be afraid.”

Les Belles-Soeurs
Various times,
to Saturday, December 2
\$17 student tickets,
Langham Court Theatre
langhamtheatre.ca

art

Victoria's Robert Youds uses everyday items to explore time

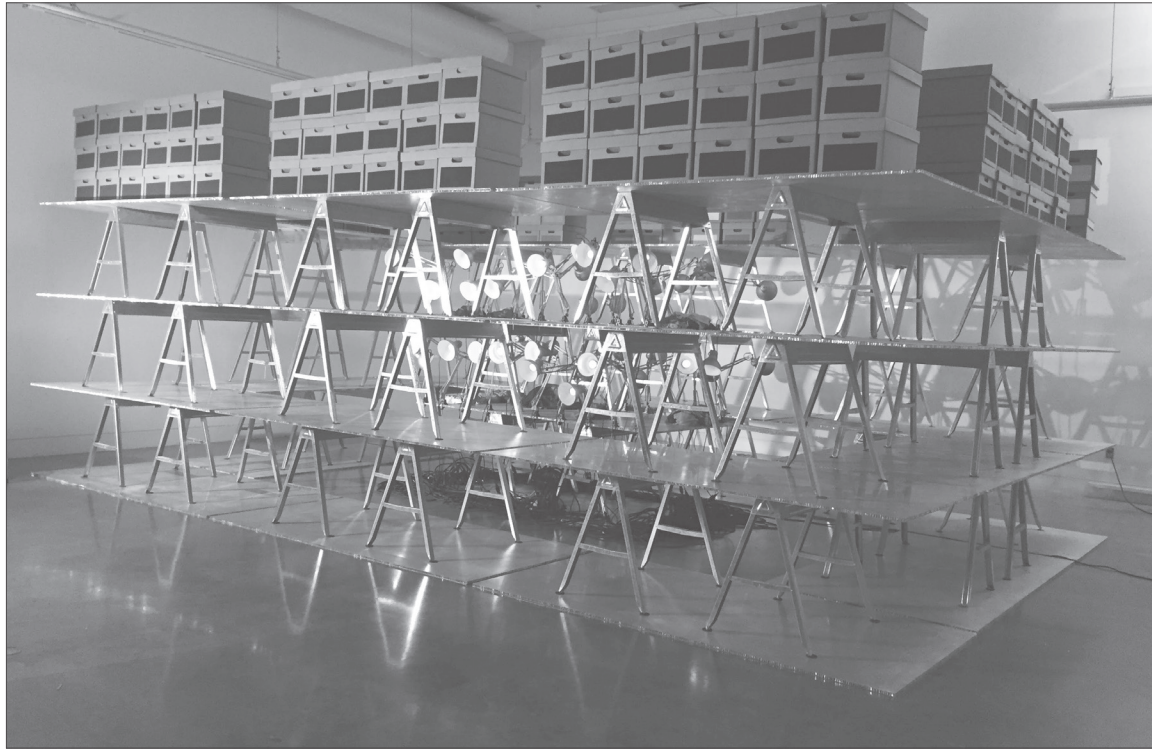


PHOTO PROVIDED

Local artist Robert Youds is examining time in his new exhibit, *For Everyone a Fountain*.

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Victoria-based artist Robert Youds took a different approach than most artists to his new exhibit. Youds, who is also a Visual Arts professor at UVic, spent a year on his new exhibit, *For Everyone a Fountain*, which he describes as a blend of architecture, art, and landscapes; it consists of many objects that we use in our day-to-day lives.

"In a way, the piece references architecture—it's a sculpture that wants to be a building that wants to be a landscape," says Youds. "It's all built out of sawhorses and tabletops, although the materials are all metal. The tables make a structure out of

that, and then there is also a light component that are task lamps, like the kind you use on a desk. These have been programmed to talk to a computer through a string of code, which then photographically reads images, and, in turn, the lamps light up with different colours."

The idea of *For Everyone a Fountain* stems from Youds wanting to explore the idea of what consciousness is and how humans view the world around them.

"I'm interested in urbanism and how we live; I also wanted to explore consciousness and what it is, where it resides, and how we accumulate knowledge," he says. "I also wanted to explore the kind of objects we col-

lect as memorabilia and the way we look at both new and old buildings as a kind of measure of time."

Youds hopes that viewers spend the time to take in the experience of his piece. He also says that he'd like people to question what it is that they value in their lives but don't fully appreciate. He feels that the piece will allow people to reflect on themselves a bit.

"The piece invites a kind of experiential condition around it, with the allure of watching something change before your eyes. It also questions what we take advantage of in our society, such as things like cellphones as a form of communication, which some people

"In a way, the piece references architecture—it's a sculpture that wants to be a building that wants to be a landscape."

ROBERT YOUDS
ARTIST

arguably might say are extensions of ourselves," says Youds. "So it sort of questions where that sense of self is, how artificial intelligence is changing how we understand consciousness."

Youds says that the exhibit's name has many meanings; one is a nod to a piece of 20th century modern art called *The Fountain*, which Youds describes as "a urinal [the artist] put in a gallery context... It changes the way we perceive everyday objects in the sense of art."

Youds says that his exhibit is also an opportunity to think about time.

"The tables stacked are my idea of a measure of time," he says. "I always tell people that no matter where you go, the first thing you do is always set up, and you usually do it in the simplest form, and that's a desk and a lamp. I used these tabletops stacked on each other as a sort of measure of someone's life: the number of times you move, change homes, that type of thing."

For Everyone a Fountain
Until Saturday, December 16
Free,
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
aggv.ca

music

Black Wizard gets heavier than ever on new album

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Black Wizard drummer Eugene Parkomenko's passion is in sitting behind the kit, and for good reason: his father played drums, and he followed close behind his old man. But Parkomenko does more than play drums for the Vancouver stoner/doom metal band—often, he'll hum a guitar part he wrote into his phone and let his bandmates take it from there.

"All three of them play it together back at me, and then I'm just like, 'Holy shit. That's what I wrote?' It's hard to believe," he says. "They'll add a second harmony or whatnot and then [bassist] Evan [Joel] will do an insane bass line underneath, and it just comes together so fast. Those guys are such pros."

Black Wizard's 2016 album *New Waste* is very diverse, with heavy moments, rockier parts, and some mellow lines thrown in the mix as well. Parkomenko says the band strives to make each album vastly different from the last, and says that *Livin' Oblivion*, which will be out in February, is a lot heavier than their other albums. He says that a lot of Black Wizard's inspiration for past albums came from '70s output by bands like metal legends Judas Priest.

"There's no shame in having chill songs, ballad songs," he says. "The band is still a heavy metal band, but we just look up to bands like that so much—'70s Scorpions and '70s Priest, especially—we don't really care if anybody doesn't like the chill stuff and thinks it's lame. The new one is definitely 80, 90 percent metal."

Parkomenko says the transition into heavier sounds was not necessarily a conscious one, but it was one the band rolled with.

"We had just been playing with so many heavier bands, I guess we just subconsciously started writing heavier stuff," he says. "We didn't even really notice until the nine songs were done and seven of them were very heavy."

The band will be touring Europe in 2018 to promote *Livin' Oblivion*; Parkomenko says it can get hard living in tour buses, but it's all worth it.

"Sometimes you want to kill each other," he says. "We're still brothers and we do everything together pretty much like half of the year. We hang out together more than our girlfriends and parents, so we kind of have to make it work."

But those struggles are a small price to pay for being able to see the world. And a drink or two can help out along the way.



MILTON STILLIE

Black Wizard are bringing beer, beards, and big riffs to town this month.

"I'm still not complaining," he says. "We chose to do it. We just try to stay positive; we bicker and complain, but once we get to the venue, we all get excited, finally, because it's the one thing we want to do all day. The rest of the time is just kind of a lull. The drinks help."

He says the band has never had a bad show in Victoria, and calls the city a second home.

"It should be a good show," he says. "Adam [Grant], our lead singer, his little brother's band are coming to open for us. Killer Deal; they're an awesome band."

Black Wizard
Saturday, November 18
\$13.50, Capital Ballroom
(formerly Sugar Nightclub)
sugarnightclub.ca

New Music Revue



Matt Mays

Once Upon a Hell of a Time
(Warner Music Canada)
4/5

It's been five years since the release of *Coyote*—which won the 2014 Juno for Rock Album of the Year—and Halifax singer/songwriter Matt Mays has picked up right where he left off. His sixth studio release—and second solo effort—is a great album, full stop.

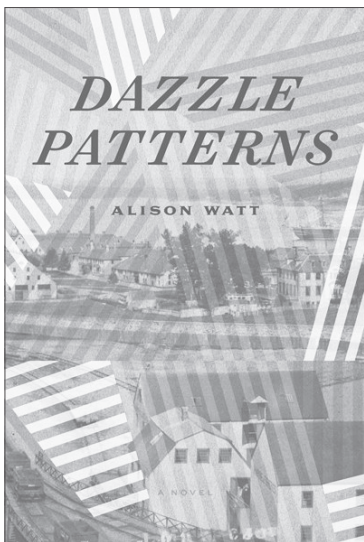
Once Upon a Hell of a Time offers a window into the life of Matt Mays. He takes us on a wild ride of poetic memoir, delving into love, loneliness, and loss—and the resulting self-medicating—all the while remaining true to his own style of rock, which is reminiscent of Matt Good and Joel Plaskett.

On first listen, the album seems to lack a radio hit like 2012's "Take It on Faith," but solid tracks littered throughout *Once Upon a Hell of a Time* will grow on the listener. The album has a complex, mid-'90s Canadian-rock sound, highlighted by the first single, "Faint of Heart," and deep cuts like "Station Out of Range" and "Ola Volo."

-FRED CAMERON

review

Dazzle Patterns illuminates the colours of war



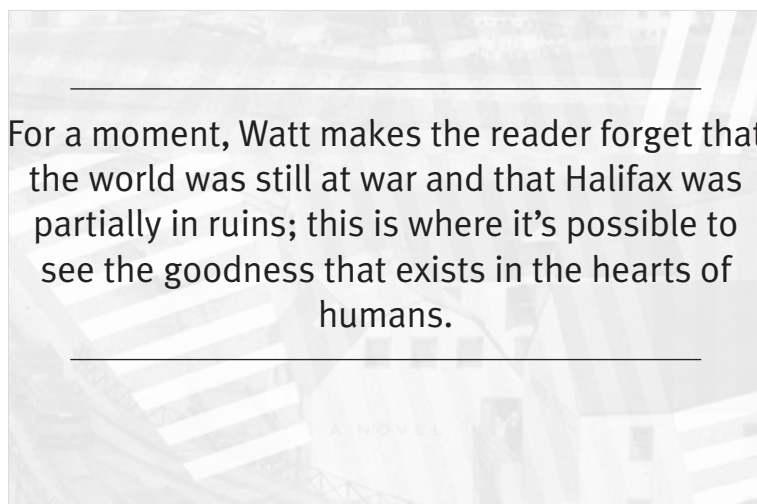
RENATA SILVA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Alison Watt's new book *Dazzle Patterns* takes the reader on a jour-

ney back to the year 1917. The setting in which the narrative takes place does not promise a positive experience: the town is Halifax, and the world is experiencing the terrors of World War I. The population of Halifax feels the consequences of the destruction when it suffers through the very real and now-famous Halifax Explosion, which killed and wounded thousands.

The story in *Dazzle Patterns* follows the life of Clare Holmes, who is preparing to work for the Red Cross while she waits for her fiancé, Leo, who is fighting in France. Clare sees all her dreams collapse after being struck by the explosion; she might very well represent people who struggle to survive in places and times where war kills all certainties and plans for the future.

The narrative is dark, but it



For a moment, Watt makes the reader forget that the world was still at war and that Halifax was partially in ruins; this is where it's possible to see the goodness that exists in the hearts of humans.

gradually brings elements of hope and evolution that only appear in extreme times. Clare begins to take an interest in the art industry and takes classes at an art school; the beauty of painting acts as a counterpoint to the painful and

cold reality of war. Here, the reader notices some changes happening in the characters, and the book shows people helping themselves, being supportive, and raising a family in a destroyed city.

For a moment, Watt makes the

reader forget that the world was still at war and that Halifax was partially in ruins; this is where it's possible to see the goodness that exists in the hearts of humans.

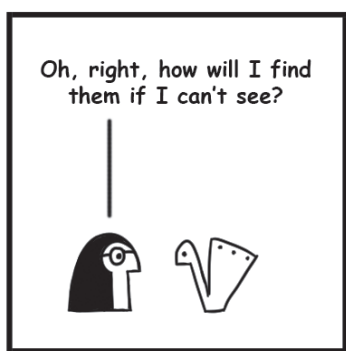
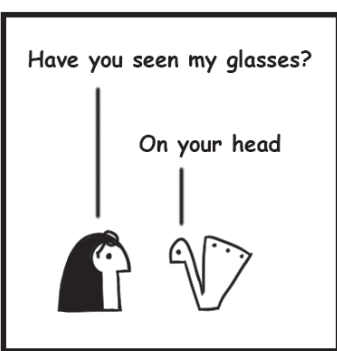
Perhaps the characters' new dreams would not have come out were it not for the war.

But then new situations are brought to light and the dark colours come back, making the reader remember that the scene is not a romantic or a joyful one; uncertainty and mistrust still exist.

Dazzle Patterns is not easy reading. Many times throughout it, the reader can almost feel as if they were actually in Halifax, and they'll want to get out of there.

The book shows the suffering of a world at war and proposes reflection on the consequences of acts of violence.

PENGUIN & PEACOCK



By Jayden Grieve

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 below a lonely paper cutter on the first floor of Ewing.

Who will find this hidden *Nexus*? Bring it to us once you find it; we've got gift cards, shirts, and more for the winner to choose from!

NEXUS

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What's happening at nexusnewspaper.com

Week of November 6, 2017

Top five most read stories:

1. "Transit tribulations," November 1, 2017
2. "Satirical revue about Canada fun and educational," November 6, 2017
3. "Presidential hindsight: Catching up with three of Camosun's past presidents," August 16, 2017
4. "Camosun Video Games Club gives students a chance to unwind," November 1, 2017
5. "Camosun College Student Society elections bring in new board members," November 1, 2017

Web-exclusive content:
A review of musical revue *Canada, it's Complicated*; a look at Swans' new Thomas Uphill Amber Ale; a review of play *The Madwoman of Chailot*; a review of movie *The Road Forward*.



Mind Matters

by Cindy Peckham

Don't get tripped up by success

Success can really trip us up. Consider this: getting a post-secondary education is about more than just gaining a new set of skills. It's a life-changing endeavour. It has the potential to provide us with a great sense of accomplishment and pride when we reach our milestones and hang our hard-earned credentials on the wall. But what happens when we fall short of our goals, or, when, despite our best efforts, things don't go how we planned?

It would be a perfectly normal response to feel down and think about what went wrong and what we could have done better. However, if we dwell for too long or our thoughts start taking a negative—rather than reflective—spiral, skewing the way we view ourselves and our abilities, and even leaving us feeling like failures. That's not doing anyone's mental health any good.

The trick to beating this is as simple as changing the way we think about success. Most of us

Nobody is going to discount the experience of climbing a mountain by only talking about what it's like at the top.

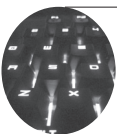
measure success by looking at what we haven't achieved yet and then only allow ourselves the pat on the back when we have actually done it. In doing so, we tend to overlook something important: success is not a destination—it's a journey.

It's akin to climbing a mountain and reaching the summit. Nobody is going to discount the experience of climbing a mountain by only talking about what it's like at the top. Each step taken on that mountain is a success in its own right, no matter where, when, or how the climb ends. In fact, there are many people who have climbed mountains who have never actually reached the top.

This same idea applies to success. Every action we take toward meeting our goal is important and noteworthy. Focusing on all the different things we did to meet our goals can help keep things in perspective and give us that sense of accomplishment, even if we didn't make it all the way.

This can also help us to stay motivated and keep trying, because we're focusing on the bigger picture instead of narrowing our eyes on just one part of it.

Lastly, remember this quote by English conductor Colin R. Davis: "The road to success and the road to failure are almost exactly the same."



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

Overwatch lands close to home

When game developers Blizzard's smash hit *Overwatch* hit online markets last year, no one expected how successful it would be. While the game's honeymoon phase went on, Blizzard cashed in big time.

Then, as with most games, popularity began to waver and the community began to gradually get upset.

While the game remained fun and had a decent amount of new content added over the months, the lack of balance updates and, in some cases, the developers doing exactly the opposite of what they should've done—like easing up on their rules for restricting chat and banning players—caused people to feel neglected by Blizzard. On the esports front, spectator tools were terrible and viewership for competitive *Overwatch* had plummeted drastically.

Enter the *Overwatch* World Cup, Blizzard's latest attempt at reviving its viewership and remaining a top

It made me proud to see my country's team finally make a name for Canada in esports.

contender among esports. With the viewership low and the *Overwatch* League concerning fans and investors alike, Blizzard had to use their now-annual event to show off to the world that they're listening and taking things seriously. Ultimately, Blizzard delivered by implementing new spectator tools in its system that allow for replays to be slowed down, paused, and properly viewed.

But, for me, the real story behind the World Cup wasn't the spectator tools; it was the matches and results. I myself haven't played more than one or two matches of *Overwatch* for months, but the allure of this tournament isn't lost on me. This was one of the only esports tournaments to properly have country-versus-country games; seeing that Canada had a team and had made it into the knockout stages

made me really want to watch and cheer for my team, even if I hadn't been playing.

Taking place at Blizzard's annual convention, BlizzCon, the World Cup matches sure did deliver. Canada made a strong push right through to the finals, where they came face to face with esports overlords South Korea. While Canada managed to take a game off of the giants, the team was unable to knock out the final boss.

Overall, the final result didn't disappoint me; it made me proud to see my country's team get close and finally make a name for Canada in esports, after being lumped in with the USA for so long. Silver medals are nothing to be ashamed of.

If this is how competitive *Overwatch* looks, I'm excited for the future.



Unpacking the Bags

by Renata Silva

What happens after graduation?

We as international students have spent so much time choosing and planning our studies in Canada that we often forget to think about what we're going to do after school is over. The tip is to not wait until the last month of classes to start thinking about the next steps. The path you follow during your program is critical to a successful path after graduation.

The first thing to make sure you do is network with students, teachers, and college employees. Interaction in the teaching environment can open doors for future employment opportunities or for going on to get more education. Students can take advantage of everyday life to demonstrate what

they are capable of and how they behave in professional settings. After all, it's very difficult for you to be recommended by people who do not trust your work.

If your plans are to stay in the country to work, you should start thinking about which area you would like to work or study in. With this idea in mind, you can start researching companies in the industry to identify what kind of professionals companies hire. This helps you adapt to this specific profile by developing skills or doing extracurricular activities. It's even possible to schedule a conversation with managers and employers of companies that you would like to work for in the future.

Another option that can place students in the job market is a co-op. This is a temporary job in your area of study where you can gain the experience you need to find work in the future. It's worth asking employees of the college about the various co-op options that may exist in your area.

Lastly, a friendly reminder to not forget to renew your visa; a student visa is only valid for a certain period of time. Some students may apply for a Post-Graduation Work Permit, while others must get the Work Permit.

Since these things take time, it's better to research what type of visa you are eligible to apply for sooner rather than later.



Calculated Thought

by Sean Annable

Offshore banking back under scrutiny

Remember the Panama Papers? Named for the country of Panama, where law firm Mossack Fonseca (MF) operates, the Panama Papers are 11.5 million MF documents leaked in 2015 that detail offshore financial dealings of wealthy businesspeople and political figures.

The leak was significant because many political leaders were found to be hiding wealth from the public. Protests in Iceland led to the ousting of prime minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson after the leak showed he held investments offshore that were not declared when he was elected. Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif was disqualified in July of this year for concealing assets his family held that were exposed by the papers.

As well, the leak brought attention to complex offshore structures that allow people and businesses to avoid paying tax to their resident countries on income from investments and businesses.

Now we have the Paradise Papers: again, a massive leak of some 13 million documents, this time sourced from Appleby, a Bermuda-based law firm that specializes in offshore legal services. A statement from the Appleby website says this was not a leak from an employee, but an "illegal computer hack." The firm denies any wrongdoing and claims that this is politically motivated journalism against the offshore industry.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), which has led the reporting on both leaks, states on its website that there are "legitimate uses for offshore companies and trusts. We do not intend to suggest or imply that any people, companies or other entities

included in the ICIJ Offshore Leaks Database have broken the law or otherwise acted improperly."

Herein lies a problem. As Barack Obama put it when speaking on tax reform and global tax avoidance when the Panama Papers leaked: "The problem is that a lot of this stuff is legal, not illegal."

What the Panama Papers—and now the Paradise Papers—are trying to bring to light are the consequences of our business leaders and politicians using offshore accounts to pay less tax and hide wealth from the public, which can lead to questions of fairness and conflicts of interest.

At the time of writing, the biggest Paradise Papers revelation for Canadians is that three former prime ministers—Jean Chretien, Paul Martin, and Brian Mulroney—have been found to have offshore dealings that have raised questions.

Also of particular scrutiny is the fact that the federal Liberal Party's former chief fundraiser, Stephen Bronfman, has been named in the papers as having moved millions of dollars to offshore companies owned by his godfather—and former fundraiser for the Liberals—Leo Kolber. Bronfman has denied any wrongdoing.

In April of this year, the ICIJ was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for its work on the Panama Papers. Triumph turned to tragedy in October when Daphne Caruana Galizia, a journalist and blogger, was killed by a car bomb in Malta after years of reporting on the Panama Papers and their possible ties to corruption in the Maltese government.

As the Paradise Papers are sifted through, there are sure to be more controversial stories.

housing crisis word search

Look, nothing at all about a housing crisis is fun, but at the very least we can make a word search out of it and put the whole situation to at least some good use. Right?

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 something from our pile o' prizes (which includes gift cards to local coffee shops, *Nexus* T-shirts, books, CDs, and more).

- BASEMENT
- CATASTROPHE
- COMPLAINTS
- CONTEST
- CRISIS
- GREED
- HEALTH
- HOUSING
- ILLEGAL
- LANDLORD
- MONEY
- REGULATIONS
- RENTAL
- ROOMMATES
- SARDINES
- STRESS
- SUFFERING
- SUITES
- UNFAIR
- UNSAFE

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

what's going on

by adam boyle



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Road Forward plays at The Vic Theatre on Saturday, November 18.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Doing the deed

The Original Deed is a historical drama about the Congregation Emanu-El synagogue, being performed at—where else?—the Congregation Emanu-El synagogue. The story shows conflict, love, and loss among eight family members and their lawyer as they try to save the synagogue. Tickets go for between \$15 and \$20; details about the show can be found at ticketrocket.co.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18
TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Returning to the festival

The third annual Victoria International Jewish Film Festival is coming to the Roxy Theatre. The fest is showing feature films and documentaries from around the globe. Details can be found at vijff.ca.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Walking the road

The Road Forward is being presented at The Vic Theatre this month. This musical documentary explores and explains the civil rights history of Canada's First Nations. The show uses song to connect past and present. Tickets are \$10.48; details at victoriafilmfestival.com.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

American pop-up

The United States Consulate General in Vancouver is hosting a pop-up

consulate here in Victoria for any American citizens. Staff at the event will be providing a variety of services ranging from notarial services to passport applications. For questions and appointment bookings, email vancouveracs@state.gov.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

A roller-coaster of a career

The Victoria Historical Society is hosting a talk with author Michael Layland about the life of Philip Hankin, a former governor of British Columbia. The talk is at James Bay New Horizons, located at 234 Menzies Street; doors open at 7:15 pm and admission is free. For more info, visit victoriahistoricalsociety.bc.ca.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

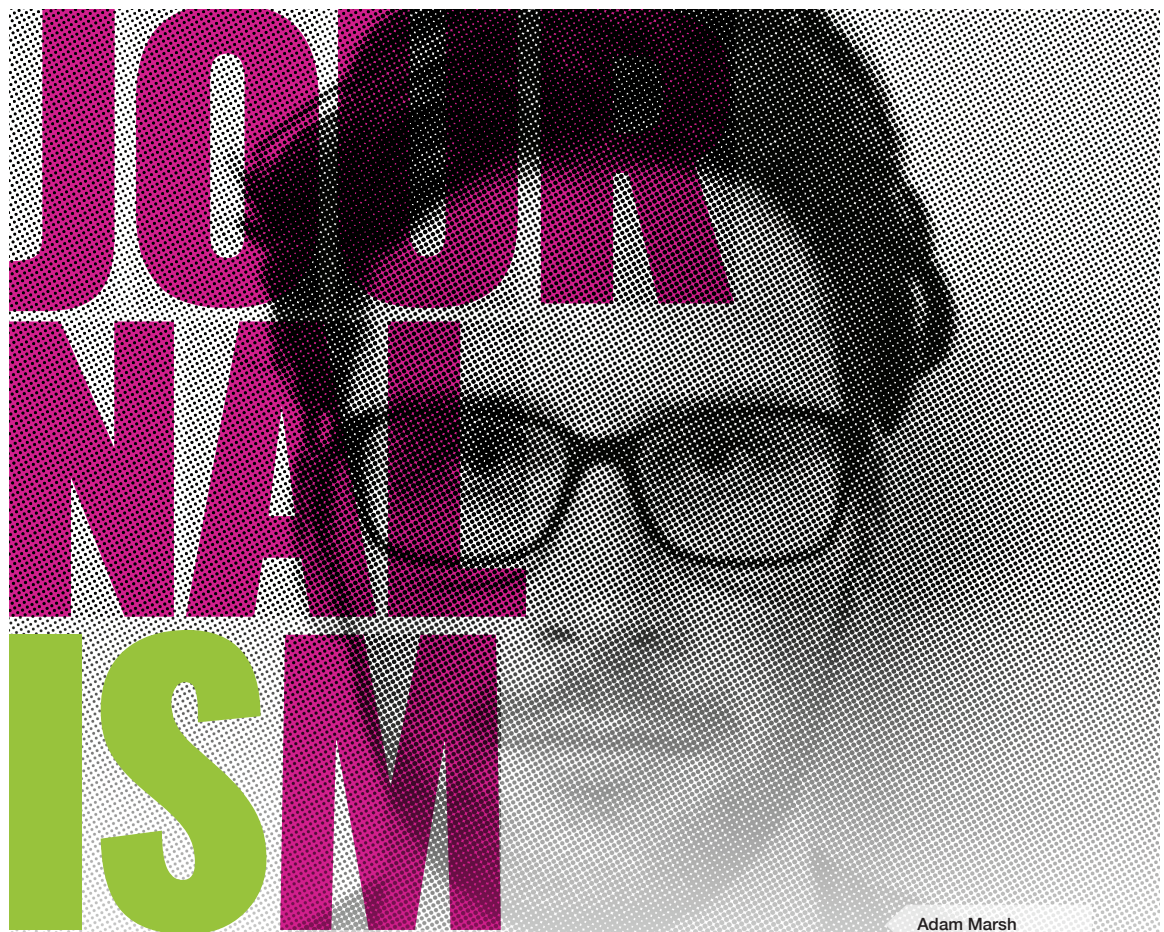
Hungary explained

The adult education committee at the Congregation Emanu-El synagogue is hosting a talk with author Endre Farkas. Farkas will be talking about what has and hasn't changed in Hungary since the Hungarian uprising against communism. Admission is by donation; the talk is at 7 pm at the synagogue. Head over to congregationemanuel.ca for info.

UNTIL TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Yes, they wood

Wood We is an exhibit at Fortune Gallery with pieces created by two best friends—local artists Richelle Osborne and David Smith—using wood and acrylic. For more information, visit fortunegallery.ca.



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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