

international

Saudi Arabian students forced to leave Camosun College



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Camosun College Student Society external executive Fillette Umulisa says the CCSS is concerned about the situation.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

34 Saudi Arabian students studying at Camosun are being forced to leave the college before starting their fall classes.

Saudi Arabia has ordered all government-sponsored Saudi Arabian nationals studying in Canada to leave the country in response to tweets from Canadian foreign affairs minister Chrystia Freeland and Global Affairs Canada. Freeland tweeted that she was “very alarmed” by the arrest of female Saudi activist Samar Badawi and called for the release of Badawi and her brother Raif; Global Affairs Canada then tweeted that they were “gravely concerned” about the activists.

Saudi Arabia has taken several measures in reaction to the tweets, including freezing all Saudi state airline Saudia flights to Toronto, transferring Saudi patients to hospitals outside Canada, and ordering an estimated 15,000 Saudi students enrolled across Canada to leave the country and study elsewhere.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada media relations advisor Nancy Caron says that, from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada’s perspective, a foreign national with a valid study permit can continue to study in Canada.

“We can’t speak to the requests made by the Saudi government to its citizens studying in Canada,” says Caron.

Camosun vice president of partnerships Geoff Wilmshurst says his heart goes out to all Saudi Arabian students and their families, and that

Camosun is looking into working with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Bureau in Ottawa to see if the 34 students registered at Camosun for this coming fall semester can study at partner institutions in the UK.

“We really valued having those students that we had—more than 100 at one time,” says Wilmshurst. “We don’t know what’s going to happen to them in terms of what their next steps will be; we’ve been told that the Saudi Cultural Bureau—which is the education division of the Saudi embassy in Ottawa—will be assisting in relocation.”

But Wilmshurst knows that relocating to a different institution is not a simple thing to do.

“We certainly have communicated that we would be willing to assist to try to find partner schools that we have in the UK that might consider taking them,” says Wilmshurst. “We do want to be helpful.”

On August 7, Saudi students were given four weeks to leave the country. At the time of writing this story, Wilmshurst told *Nexus* that the students will be able to finish up their summer semester at Camosun before leaving. (No Saudi Arabian students responded to our requests for interviews for this story.)

“What we want to convey to them is we’re there to support them,” says Wilmshurst. “Our Camosun International department is setting up a team of people who will help begin to sort out their programs, and to see what we can do to assist them in terms of any kind of transfer.” (No one at Camosun

International was available to speak about the matter.)

Wilmshurst says that Camosun valued having the students in the college community and that the college doesn’t get many students from the Middle East; he hopes that if and when the issue is resolved, the students can come back to Camosun. Supporting the students, he says, will involve looking at each individual student’s academic record and providing paperwork for academic transfers.

“[We’re] trying to figure out, ‘What are the remaining requirements they have in order to get their degrees?’” he says. “We’ll certainly provide all that documentation—and any other documentation—those students can take with them so that when they are being offered an opportunity to go to an institution in another country, they can at least have all the proper documentation.”

Wilmshurst says that the college’s main concern is the students.

“We feel for them,” says Wilmshurst. “We really hope that whatever happens, they’re able to complete the studies that they’ve engaged in here.”

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Fillette Umulisa says the CCSS has concerns around the issue.

“We understand that the Saudi Arabian government does not appreciate being called out on human rights abuse and neglect,” she says, adding that the situation has escalated quickly. “I feel like it’s an issue that can be talked down if both

“We understand that the Saudi Arabian government does not appreciate being called out on human rights abuse and neglect.”

FILLETTE UMULISA
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

parties wish to come together and talk about it.”

Umulisa says that there isn’t a lot the student society can do to support the students in transition because this is a diplomatic argument.

“All we can actually do right now is hope that the Saudi Arabian government acts in the best interest of its students and not disrupt education for people who are not involved in this diplomatic argument,” she says.

The British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS), of which Camosun students are members, launched a Fairness for International Students campaign at Camosun on August 15 (see below). University of British Columbia Students’ Union Okanagan president Amal Alhuwayshil is from Saudi Arabia; she was at Camosun on

August 15 as part of the campaign announcement. Alhuwayshil says that there are over 250 Saudi Arabian students at the University of British Columbia.

“It is very challenging for both those students and the institution, as well as—I can imagine—for your students here [at] Camosun,” she says.

Umulisa says that the student society is really concerned about this situation.

“We’ll continue to support the ability for individuals and government to have discussions and engage in dialogue on issues of human rights around fear of retribution,” she says.

The CCSS supports Camosun students in every way possible, says Umulisa.

“If we’re able to do something,” she says, “we would definitely do it.”

eyed on campus



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) chairperson Aran Armutlu speaks at the launch of the BCFS Fairness for International Students campaign at Camosun College on Wednesday, August 15.

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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

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SEND A LETTER

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

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I spend a lot of time rolling around on the ground these days."

student editor's letter

National student movement musings

There are a lot of aspects of student life that go on behind the scenes that, considering post-secondary education is far from free, students should know about. For example, there's the fact that every Camosun student, until recently, paid \$2.25 a month to the Camosun College Student Society in membership fees for the national Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and provincial British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS); there's also the fact that that monthly fee may be going up in the future despite the fact that Camosun students are no longer members of the CFS.

In the three years I've been a journalist at *Nexus*, the national student movement has always been a contentious topic, one filled with controversy; in the newsroom, nothing gets the blood flowing like a story about the national student movement. After many hours spent asking students about their thoughts on the national student movement, I can say with confidence that the average student cares... if they know what's going on.

Very few media outlets report on these issues. That means that most of the onus falls on a student newspaper located in a small, nondescript office overlooking Richmond Avenue at the far end of Camosun's Lansdowne campus. And we love it.

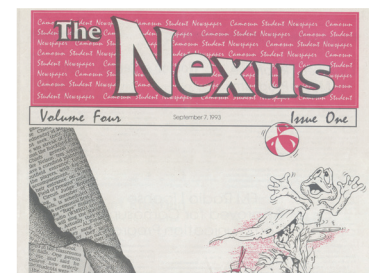
The CFS and the BCFS were duking it out for years regarding, among other things, outstanding student membership fees (see *nexusnewspaper.com* for details); but when the CFS formally expelled all BC member locals earlier this year, those issues found some resolution (although there's still the matter of the \$200,000 in Camosun student fees the groups were fighting over). Why? Because one party decided enough was enough. It was time to take your licks, learn, grow, and move on. But where does the movement move on to? That brings us to this issue's feature story. What does the future of the national student movement hold for students now that the CFS is out of the picture? See page 6 for the lowdown.

Regardless of what happens, we will continue to write about it, because Camosun students deserve to know what is happening with their money.

Adam Marsh, student editor
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

25 Years Ago in *Nexus*



GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

Still going strong: The story "Women's Centre opens" in our September 7, 1993 issue reported that the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) was opening the Women's Centre on the Lansdowne campus. The centre was then located in the Fisher building; the CCSS still runs the Women's Centre, which is now located on the main floor of Richmond House.

A dead signal: Back in 1993,

Camosun had just received a green light from the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) in the form of a campus/instructional FM radio licence for its then-up-and-coming radio station, at the time called CAMO. It was the first such licence to be issued in western Canada. CAMO later turned into AM station CKMO (also known as Village 900) but went off the air in March of 2012.

Have a seat: Our story "Students design furniture for the landscape" in this issue looked at the innovations of Camosun Fine Furniture students in a furniture contest. The college's Fine Furniture program is still going strong; see our recent story at *nexusnewspaper.com* about the program's 30-year anniversary.

open space

Students need to get involved to have their voice heard

TRULY HUNTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun's student government is a political force made up of our own bodies. We are the people who sit down at the table with organizations like the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) to speak as a collective voice on the things that matter most.

Camosun student affiliation with the CFS—which recently expelled Camosun students from the CFS due to ongoing clashes between British Columbia member locals and the national organization—is linked to our ability to obtain, for example, student rights, lower tuition fees, and freedoms for marginalized students. This makes us directly responsible for being informed and making sure we get what we need in negotiations.

Without knowledge and participation, we cannot do this.

Yes, we paid to be a part of this organization in exchange for their advocacy on a federal level. But despite having paid for their assistance, bemoaning problems that arise from poor or mishandled relations with the CFS seems pointless—or, worse, actively detrimental—if we have taken no initiative to learn about how it affects us and no action to ensure progress. It is time to get informed.

I spoke to 10 Camosun students recently about voting in the Camosun College Student Society elections last year; only one person said they had voted. That's a pretty small sample, so I won't claim to have any hard data, but, to me, that number doesn't look good. We don't

seem to care what happens to our education, our money, our country.

Almost half of us don't vote nationally, many of us don't vote at school—we're not doing our due diligence in securing the future, and we're going to pay for that out of our own pocket.

When you don't vote or make yourself knowledgeable about how the political system works, you're telling those in power, like the CFS, that you don't care what happens. You're making it clear that you won't advocate for yourself, and you become a victim of money grabs and power games by those who benefit from your silence.

You lose control of your political voice.

If you don't vote, lack of action also disqualifies you from the camp that has a right to complain about the problems that make your school life harder. You've shirked your responsibility to yourself and so you forfeit your right to moan when organizations like the CFS start behaving badly.

We are lucky enough to be students at a school where we're allowed to influence important decisions. Despite this, we take for granted the chance to make our voices heard, and as a result we lose our ability to do so. Getting involved is essential in learning how to advocate for your rights in the wider, crueller world outside college. However, more importantly, exercising your voice ensures that you can retain the freedom and ability to speak at all.

Read an expanded version of this piece at nexusnewspaper.com.

letters

Proportional discussion

"Some form of proportional representation" is an indicator of the general cluelessness in the electoral reform debate (Re: "Camosun College Student Society adopts proponent position on proportional representation," August 8, 2018 issue). Something a little more specific—and accurate—is called for.

No doubt "students at Camosun are intelligent enough to make the right choice for themselves." Unfortunately, [the upcoming] BC referendum does not offer them the right choice to make. All three options are determined to deprive voters of choice. That is because all options make the voters' choices for them, by making them vote in local districts or making them vote for a party. These are both impediments to choosing an order of most preferred individual candidates, from a good choice, proportionally elected, in multi-member constituencies.

RICHARD LUNG
VIA FACEBOOK

event

Camosun College Student Society welcomes students with CamFest



PHOTO PROVIDED

Students enjoying a previous year's CamFest at the Lansdowne campus.

KATY WEICKER

STAFF WRITER

Every year the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) rolls out the metaphorical red carpet at CamFest, a chance for new and returning students to get information about college-related programs and services, connect with friends, and score some free swag and eats.

"It's a place for students to meet new friends, engage with old ones, find out information on how to have a successful semester and a successful time at Camosun,"

explains CCSS clubs and events assistant Quinn Park.

Various groups, clubs, and services from off campus and on campus will have tables set up at CamFest—happening on different days at Camosun's Lansdowne and Interurban campuses—for students to peruse. The Camosun library, for example, will be on site to issue student cards and bus passes to both new and returning students.

"I'm really excited to see so many Camosun departments and

centres that have signed up for a table or spot at CamFest," says Park.

Park says that this year there are some new additions to CamFest, thanks to a successful partnership between the college and the CCSS.

"Camosun has been wanting to make CamFest, which is run by the student society—with assistance from the college, of course—appear seamless with Camosun's Welcome Week, which is run by Camosun," explains Park. "The folks that students will see that have a T-shirt

"[CamFest is] a place for students to meet new friends, engage with old ones, find out information on how to have a successful semester and a successful time at Camosun."

QUINN PARK
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

inviting students to ask them questions about Camosun are a part of CamFest for sure, but they are part of the Welcome Week."

Park feels that the seamless coordination of the college and the CCSS is in the best interest of students, allowing them a more fluid experience between the two events.

"The student society has run CamFest for quite a number of years," says Park. "Camosun has been increasing the size of Welcome Week. Last year was the first year they started to post these 'ask me anything' folks."

The addition of the Camosun College Welcome Week staff at CamFest last year proved to be a success, opening the door for the partnership to continue this year, something Park feels is a bonus for new students trying to navigate the overwhelming barrage of information they can face in the first few weeks of classes.

"I received quite a bit of positive feedback from students, and I'm all

on board for students to have a low barrier to asking the questions that new and returning students might have—whether that's where a certain location is on campus, or how to pay their tuition fees, or how to log onto the wi-fi, or where to print, or stuff like that," says Park. "These are all really important things for returning students' success, and the better access a student has to that, the happier I am. We've all had what we think are dumb questions, but lots of other people have those questions. It's good to have someone there to answer them."

CamFest will run from 10 am to 3 pm at Camosun's Lansdowne campus on Tuesday, September 4 and from 10 am to 3 pm at the Interurban campus on Thursday, September 6. There will be entertainment and games, and a free hot-dog lunch will be served from 11 am to 1:30 pm (or whenever supplies run out). Food trucks will also be on site this year.

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun hosts Mechanical Engineering Showcase

On Friday, August 24, Camosun College hosted the 2018 Mechanical Engineering Showcase in the atrium of the Centre for Trades Education and Innovation at Interurban. The showcase included the work of 52 graduating students from the Mechanical Engineering Technology program; the students worked in teams of four to build 13 contraptions, including a vertical bike rack, a cold-forming wood-bending machine, a prototype camp stove/BQ/lantern unit, and a low-cost cider production bottle filling station. See camosun.ca for a full list of the projects shown at the event.

BCFS launches new campaign

The British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS), of which Camosun students are members,

launched its Fairness for International Students campaign at Camosun on August 15 (see page 1). Speakers discussed the recent troubles between Saudi Arabia and Canada that have forced all Saudi Arabian students studying in Canada to leave the country (see page 1) and said that if tuition continues to rise at the current rate for international students—an average of 6.3 percent across Canada in 2017/2018—international students will find another country to go to school in. According to the BCFS, BC has the second highest tuition rates in Canada for international students.

Camosun director involved in statue-removal decision

Camosun College director of Indigenous Education and Community Connections Janice Simcoe was part of the committee that made the recent decision to remove the statue

of John A. MacDonald outside Victoria City Hall. MacDonald was Canada's first prime minister and a key figure in the residential school system; his statue was removed as a step toward reconciliation.

New bus route to go to both Camosun campuses

Students will want to keep their eyes open for the new number 9 route when bus schedules in Victoria change this fall. The route, called UVic/Royal Oak via Gorge/Hillside, will stop at Camosun's Interurban and Lansdowne campuses. Arrival times are designed to match class start times. Each Camosun student gets a bus pass through their student fees.

Study finds nearly half of student internships unpaid

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations recently released

results from a poll that found that nearly half of Canadian students are not getting paid for student internships. 1,000 people took the poll, which was conducted in July by Abacus Data, a polling and market research firm based in Ottawa.

Victoria homelessness-tally data announced

On Tuesday, July 24, the Capital Regional District announced the results of the Greater Victoria Point in Time Count, a tally of people experiencing homelessness in the Victoria census metropolitan area on the night of March 15, 2018. The tally shows that 158 people were counted as being unsheltered, 18 percent fewer than last count. 19.4 percent of people were over the age of 55, with 41 percent saying they experienced homelessness for the first time at 18 years of age or younger. See crd.bc.ca for more information on the results of the tally.

Local man charged in large fentanyl bust

Police have taken a large amount of cocaine, fentanyl, and several firearms from a house in Colwood, after a June 21 raid. Police spent a month following and investigating a man before arresting and charging him at the house. The fentanyl seized was said by police to have a street value of over \$1 million. The last Victorian charged for a similar quantity of fentanyl, Duc Khuong Pham, was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

-ADAM MARSH

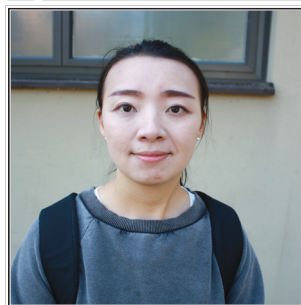
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SPEAK UP

Do you feel Camosun students should be paying members of a national student organization?

BY ADAM MARSH



WEI LI

"Most international students have certain conditions when they go to study abroad. They don't care about that."



FERNIE MEJORADA

"I think so, yeah. Camosun's a popular school here in Canada, and I believe that students should be the priority."



PIETRO STRUZZI MAZZOLLI

"Yeah, I think so, because getting the students together is essential for fighting for change, or for our rights."



KAI SAVAGE

"Yeah, of course. I can't see how that wouldn't benefit us."



SAAD IMRAN

"In a democracy, people are supposed to be the power. If it's something that would be important for the people then I don't think they'd have to pay a fee for their voices being heard, you know what I mean? That's just how a democracy works."



ELLA STEEN

"Sure. Anything that's going to lower [tuition] fees, why not?"

NEXUS

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know your profs

Maureen Niwa on her passion for justice and student success



KATY WEICKER/NEXUS

Camosun College English instructor Maureen Niwa.

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

This issue we talked to Camosun English instructor Maureen Niwa about students, spirituality, and smoothies.

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

I am fortunate to both teach in the English department and work in Assessment. Teaching first-year academic writing and literature courses allows me to help students develop their own style and voice in writing. Helping students craft their voices is like listening to an ever-changing, floating symphony: each voice is distinct and personal,

interwoven with its unique inflections and characteristics. Strengthening voices and clarifying views by removing clutter is one of my thrills in teaching writing. Learning about the sheer diversity and endless range of voices is also one of the pleasures of working in the area of Assessment at the College. I've been at Camosun as long as my first daughter, Musa, has been alive: 21 years. She was a baby when I had my first interview at Camosun for substitute teaching. I actually held her in my arms during that first interview. I knew Camosun was the place for me, since the interviewers didn't seem to mind that I came with a baby!

2. What do you personally get out of teaching?

Students, who have open hearts and minds, generously give me a part of themselves. I learn the highs and lows of their joys as well as their challenges and the breathtaking scale of their dreams. When I am teaching, I am learning from my students. I experience non-stop adrenaline highs that shift the ways I usually think when engaging with them. I am grateful for these moments—these sublime gifts—that

students may not even realize they are giving me.

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

I want students to know that I genuinely care about them—not just about their academic success but also about their commitment to make tangible, positive differences in the world. Once I know what moves them, I work tirelessly to engage and support them. I constantly create and adapt class materials and assignments to make these relevant for each class. Each class has its own community and culture, and I respect this reality. Also, I would like students to know that I can help them brainstorm career opportunities and advise them about career paths that might surprise them, and even inspire them.

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

[Laughs] I'm extremely shy and self-conscious. I grew up in a small prairie town with long empty gravel roads, pop-up gophers, and decrepit barns leaning into the wind. There were very few people on the landscape. I'm still not used to large groups of people, and honestly, I dislike crowds. Every time I walk into a class, I am extremely nervous and blushing on the inside.

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

I received a letter from an English 151 graduate. I was her first teacher. Because she worked all day, every day, during the week, and had two young children, we had to invent creative ways to meet outside of class. In the letter, she let me know that I became her teacher at the lowest point of her life. She had just lost her husband; she felt alone and overwhelmed with new responsibilities. She felt that she had no skills or job prospects. She was terrified about starting her education. In the

letter, she said that my support and encouragement helped her to turn her life around. She completed her college courses, as well as a degree at UVic in the health field. She now had a job she loved. She included a photo in which she was surrounded by her daughters, who are now teenagers, and her new husband. I could see her happiness shine out. I felt honoured to be acknowledged as someone who had played a part in making that happen.

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

A while back, Camosun Physics instructor Elizabeth Ploughman and I became obsessed with the idea of starting a seniors' college at Camosun. We travelled and researched extensively to put together a concept presentation. However, we only had a handful of Camosun people show up at our presentation, while the presentation on clickers, next door, was full. I laugh about it now, but I still think the seniors' college is a great idea. Our community is blessed with many lively seniors who have much to offer, but very few are found on our campuses. We could learn much from them.

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

Building spirituality is the future of post-secondary education. Many students today are choosing to take psychology, and I think that's a beautiful thing. Millennials realize that something very important is lacking in western society, and they are not afraid to look inside. They value spiritual growth as a viable way to confront the world's pressing problems. For me, spirituality is rooted in generosity and creativity—maybe even in creative ways to be generous. Spirituality can open doors in post-secondary education and confront, in incremental ways, the heinous acts and effects of settler culture, including colonialism

and climate change. I also believe that trans-disciplinary skills and knowledges with the power to direct political decision-making will be in high demand in the future. We may even have to employ artificial intelligence to this end, since some of human intelligence seems to be on a slippery slope these days.

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

Step aerobics. I teach it; I love it. It's my creative outlet. I write step choreography like poems and stories—that is to say, with many drafts. Step routines have segments with complications, rises, falls, emotional plunges, soaring heights, and unexpected twists, all spun to a stable underlay of the rhythm in super-loud music. You can get as crazy or as lyrical as you want.

9. What is your favourite meal? A smoothie!

10. What's your biggest pet peeve?

Injustice. My adherence to justice is reflected in my approach to marking. Students say I am a fair marker, and I am. But isn't it more than just letter grades and percentages? It's assessing the constructedness of variable situations, collaborating, communicating, exchanging views, and contemplating the best choices for everyone involved. Even as a young child, I have been outraged by injustice. When there is an obvious way to reverse injustice, and nothing is done, we all fail. Even those who benefit from injustice—and of course, such awful things do happen—fail, miserably, on the inside. Recently, I heard CBC's Rosanna Deerchild mention a white settler who decided to give back the land stolen by his ancestors to the Aboriginal people from whom it was taken. I wish that every instance of injustice could be handled in this way.

what's going on

by katy weicker

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22
TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Life on the fringes

With 47 shows from around the world, the Victoria Fringe Festival is offering a lot this year. This long-standing live-performance festival offers entertainment at a decent price. You must make a one-time purchase of a Fringe Festival button for \$6 to attend performances (the money goes to help offset the cost of the festival; ticket sales from individual shows go directly to the performers). For full Fringe Festival schedule and ticket information, visit victoriamfringe.com.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

Raising awareness about overdoses

The South Island Community Overdose Response Network is inviting the public to Centennial Square for International Overdose Awareness Day. Events start at 4 pm and include response training, free naloxone kits, food, music, a call to action and rally, and a candlelight vigil of remembrance. Search International Overdose Awareness Day - Victoria BC on Facebook for additional info.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Tag-teamin' it

The Copper Owl is hosting a night of local house music DJs, with Amaurotic, Bad Rabbit, Acranymph B2B TRUST, and DJ Marlee B2B Takahashi. The grand total is eight DJs performing tag-style in duos for four hours. Tickets are \$20 at the door, but \$15 advance if you're quick on the draw; see copperowl.ca for more info.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

All aboard

Over 100 boats are going to be docked in the Inner Harbour for the Victoria Classic Boat Festival from August 31 to September 2. Docks will be open from 9 am to 6 pm, and admission is by donation. Additional events and activities will be scheduled throughout the weekend. For a schedule and additional info, head to classicboatfestival.ca.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Do you believe?

Los Angeles' Magic! have Canadian roots, a song that was number 1

on Billboard for six weeks, and an exclamation point in their name... okay, that last one is kinda annoying, but the rest? Solid reasons to lay down \$27.50 to go see them play at Capital Ballroom on September 2. Tyler Shaw is opening; see atomiqueproductions.com for more info on this and other concerts.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Get in my belly

Esquimalt Ribfest is an all-weekend barbeque/fundraising event at Bullen Park in Esquimalt, with funds going to local charities and school-sponsored activities for the community's youth. In addition to ribs, there will be local entertainment, craft beer, cider, and wine, free kids' activities, local arts, and vendors. For more info, visit esquimaltribfest.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Getting hopeful

The Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope is a fundraising event to support those with ovarian cancer. In addition to the walk, there will be refreshments, barbecued food,



CHAPMAN BAEHLER

Magic! are bringing their smooth sounds to town on Sunday, September 2.

live entertainment, and more. The events, which are going down at Royal Roads University, start at 9:30 am. For registration and fundraising info, visit noca.convio.net.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Take a flying leap... down the CIBC building
Drop Zone Victoria is offering a

event

Great Canadian Beer Festival gets hazy as it enters its second quarter-century



"It's not the same market it used to be. At one time, we were the only beer festival in Canada, not to mention BC. Now there's probably 50 in BC alone."

GERRY HIETER
GREAT CANADIAN BEER FESTIVAL

MATT SCHMITZ

Attendees at a previous year's Great Canadian Beer Festival sample craft beer from Victoria and beyond.

GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

If there's one thing the Great Canadian Beer Festival (GCBF)—a local institution now in its 26th year—has no shortage of, it's beer (that was easy). But more is more, so those behind the GCBF have actually added more breweries this year, in the form of the BC Ale Trail-er and the Alberta Brewers Tent, which will feature a small number of Alberta breweries showcasing their beer and doing a collaborative cask.

Event co-organizer Gerry Hieter says that the BC Ale Trail-er is a

great way to include more breweries that didn't make the cut to be part of the fest.

"Because the last couple years in a row we've had so many more breweries than we've had space for those breweries, we've had to try to determine ways to decide who's going to come and who's not," he says. "Previously, we were doing a first-come-first-serve thing with the breweries, and that got to be a bit crazy. This year we decided to do a lottery. We put everybody's names in a bowl, and drew them out, and ended up with our normal 64 brew-

eries and two cideries. There were somewhere in the neighbourhood of about 20 breweries that didn't make it in."

Of those 20 breweries, 10 are represented in the BC Ale Trail-er, literally a trailer where provincial breweries will each bring one beer to serve fest attendees.

"We were contacted after the draw by the BC Craft Brewers Guild, who are involved in the [online craft-beer guide] BC Ale Trail. They asked us if we would partner with them to bring in 10 of the breweries that didn't make it into the [fest]

and feature those breweries in one area we call the BC Ale Trail-er. What we've done is we're bringing in 10 breweries over and above our usual lineup of breweries, and they're all going to bring one beer and they're going to pour it from a special refrigerated trailer over on the side of the festival, which brings our numbers up considerably; we'll actually have about 76 breweries in total this year."

And of those breweries, it's a safe bet that a decent number of them are going to have hazy IPAs, the latest trend in craft-beer circles. Cloudy and thick, the popular drink takes the alcohol level of an IPA and removes the bitterness.

"Trends are changing rapidly in the beer industry right now," says Hieter. "It's almost a bit stupid, really. But last year, we had a lot of sours—we still do have quite a few sours—but what is the big phenomenon right now are what we call hazy IPAs or northeast IPAs. There's a lot of fruit character to them. They've become so popular that within a year and a half, two years now, they've basically eclipsed regular IPAs in popularity. We have a lot of those coming this year."

But don't worry if your tastes run a bit darker—if your palate needs malts, not hops. Hieter says that some world-class dark beer will be at the fest, too.

"There's a dark mild from Riot [Brewing, from Chemainus] com-

ing that won the World Beer Cup gold medal," he says. "It's considered to be the best mild in the world."

With 25 years behind it, the fest has seen craft beer's rise to popularity and acceptance—although, surprisingly, things are just getting tougher for the fest, Hieter admits.

"It's not the same market it used to be," he says. "At one time, we were the only beer festival in Canada, not to mention BC. Now there's probably 50 in BC alone. There's breweries on every corner now, in every town in BC. There's events happening everywhere. On any given weekend, somewhere in BC there's an event of some nature.

For us the challenges are primarily Ribfest and Rifflandia. All of a sudden we've gone from having no competition locally for that week or two weeks to now having nothing but competition. We're seeing it become more and more difficult every year, so we're just doing our best to have a good dozen new breweries and lots of well-picked, well-chosen beers and beer styles to keep people interested."

Great Canadian Beer Fest
4 pm to 9 pm
Friday, September 7
12 pm to 5 pm
Saturday, September 8
\$40 per day,
Royal Athletic Park
gcbf.com

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Where do we go from here?

What the future holds in store for the national student movement

“There have been some concerns around how finances are used in organizations such as this one, and we are absolutely transparent in that, and support the continued transparency in that for both us as well as any other organization that is using student money to advance federal advocacy.”

MANJEET BIRK
CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

It wasn't that long ago that each student at Camosun College paid \$2.25 a month to the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) in membership fees for national and provincial student organizations. The CCSS would give half that amount to the national student organization the Canadian Federa-

tion of Students (CFS) and half to the provincial student organization the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS, formerly Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia, or CFS-BC). The money went to the student groups so they could, among other things, lobby government regarding student concerns such as lower tuition and accessible post-secondary education.

After years of disputes between the CFS and BCFS over, among other things, allegations of corruption in the national organization and withheld student fees, the CFS voted to expel all BC member locals from the CFS at a national general meeting on June 9 of this year. (Of particular interest to Camosun students is the \$200,000 of Camosun students' CFS fees that the CCSS delivered to the BCFS, which then refused to give it to the CFS, as the CFS owed the BCFS money—part of which was also Camosun students' membership fees. The BCFS also claimed that as a provincial component of the CFS it was entitled to the money; the CFS claimed the BCFS did need to remit the fees to the CFS. The BCFS held the money instead of spending it.)

Despite the implications of expulsion, the two entities parted in a relatively amicable way. Expulsion is the only option in the CFS bylaws for members to defederate besides holding a referendum at the institution in question; however, a referendum cannot be held if a member local owes fees to the CFS. According to the CFS, Camosun students had outstanding fees, as the CCSS had remitted the \$200,000 in CFS fees to the BCFS. Because Camosun students were unable to hold a referendum, according to the CFS, expulsion was the only way for Camosun students to no longer be a part of the national organization.

It's a lot to figure out, so here it is in nine words: Camosun students don't belong to a national student organization. However, on Monday, August 13, the CCSS voted to have a referendum in the fall (an exact date has not been set yet) where students can vote on whether or not to become paying members of the other national student organization, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). It's a new day for the national student movement, and for Camosun students. But what does it all mean?

No one watching wallets

The idea of Camosun students paying fees to organizations like the CFS and BCFS is interesting. Every single one of you students busted your backs to be able to pay those fees, but the reality is that unless you're involved with student politics or pay incredibly close attention to detail (the breakdown of Camosun student fees is available at camosun.ca), you probably didn't even know the meaning of the term “national student movement,” let alone where your money went.

Put simply, the national student movement is a concentrated effort of student groups across the country who campaign to get student concerns heard at the federal level.

CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte says there is strength in students working together nationally.

“If students are not working together on the national front, students risk losing benefits that are provided by the federal government, or having it diminished,” says Turcotte. “It's when students are not paying attention nationally that aggressive things happen in terms of federal policies.”

Turcotte says that even though education is a provincial responsibility under the Canadian Constitution, the federal government plays a key role in funding, student loans, and research.

“Without that, the institutions would suffer,” says Turcotte. “What the federal government does matters. If you're working together nationally,

you also know what's happening in other provinces, and you're better able to respond and effectively apply pressure to all governments in Canada to be fair and reasonable to students across the country.”

Turcotte says that he believes that if the CCSS joined CASA, it would show that the CCSS supports students working together across the country. However, Turcotte also hopes that the CCSS will still be able to work with the CFS on certain things, such as issuing International Student Identity Cards (ISICs), which is done through the Canadian Federation of Students-Services (CFS-S), a branch of the CFS.

“I would still like the student society to be able to issue ISIC cards, and to be able to make a deal with the Canadian Federation of Students in that regard,” says Turcotte. (A spokesperson for CFS-S declined to speak for this story but told *Nexus* in an email that ISICs are available to all CFS members through membership and to any other students who are not members of the CFS for an annual fee of \$20.)

CASA executive director Manjeet Birk says CASA welcomes new members, and that she is open to working together with other student organizations.

“I think we're in a new day and age,” she says. “I'm a new executive director here at the organization, and I'm very keen to see how we can be more supportive to students, and I think part of that is ensuring that all organizations who do advocacy for students are working together, and being on the same page so that we can provide the best, most coherent advocacy when we head out to Parliament Hill every year.”

However, CCSS external executive Fillette Umulisa says that the CFS and CASA working together would not be a good idea, considering the history of the national student movement.

“It turns out the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations was actually born from the CFS; it was members that were displeased with the CFS that formed CASA,” says Umulisa. “The idea of them working together as a collective organization, it's kind of not clicking for me. It doesn't click at all.”

Umulisa admits that what the future holds is anyone's guess, but she says that for her, right now, the CFS and CASA are not compatible.

“As much as I can see, these organizations would not work as a collective; not in the near future, at least,” says Umulisa.

Birk says it was apparent from a brainstorming session at CASA's last conference, held in Vancouver in July, that student needs these days are different than they have ever been.

“We need to approach things in a unique way to build upon the advocacy that we already do,” says Birk.

The July meeting focused on many things, including disability and access issues, access to meaningful employment through apprenticeship programs, and reducing tuition. Birk says CASA is looking to use a grant-based model to help lower tuition for students.

“We're still in the research phase,” says Birk. “The board of directors, the membership, and our home office staff continue to research and determine what the best leveraging point will be to go to Advocacy Week [where CASA members meet with government officials] this year.”

Birk adds that it will be a couple of months before she will be able to verify how much CASA is aiming to get tuition lowered by, but students from coast to coast, she says, have very similar concerns.

“We got to see [at the meeting] some of the ways in which their college concerns mimic each other across the country and the ways that they are very similar in different places and then the ways that they are dissimilar,” she says.

One concern *Nexus* has heard from students is the fact that there is no governing body or board that oversees the organizations that make up the national student movement.

“We aren't formally observed by anyone else,” Birk confirms. “We don't answer to any other organization or association.”

A spokesperson for the provincial government's ministry of advanced education told *Nexus* that the government does not typically intervene in situations of conflict between student organizations. The spokesperson said the government has no oversight or authority on the matter.

Birk says that CASA is “strictly in compliance” with the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*, which ensures that financial statements are available online; CASA provides its statements through an external auditor.

“There have been some concerns around how finances are used in organizations such as this one, and we are absolutely transparent in that, and support the continued transparency in that for both us as well as any other organization that is using student money to advance federal advocacy. Right off the bat, that would be my number one priority: to ensure that student funds are not being misused,” says Birk, adding that she would not be opposed to having a governing financial body or federal agency in place.

A matter of fees, a matter of focus

Turcotte says CASA's student fees are “considerably less” than any student organization the CCSS has been a member of.

“Joining CASA would be affordable,” says Turcotte. “You join organizations like the Canadian Federation of Students or CASA or the BCFS because you want to engage in that political work and engage in advocacy.”

Birk says CASA's membership fee structure is very different from the CFS', as it's based on the student enrolment rate and on the size of the institution.

“We have a cap,” says Birk. “No member association ever pays more than \$55,000 [per year].”

According to the CASA website, CASA has a fee of \$2.89 per student per fiscal year for institutions with enrolment numbers between 12,001 and 20,000 students (for the last fiscal year; Camosun's enrolment was 18,650, according to a college spokesperson).

Camosun students remain part of the BCFS despite the fact that they were expelled from CFS. BCFS chairperson Aran Armutlu says the CFS expelling member locals in BC doesn't affect how the BCFS operates in the province.

“We will be operating basically the exact same way as we have been,” says Armutlu, “and providing all of the member locals in BC the representation, services, and the advocacy that we do.”

Armutlu says the BCFS will also be advocating for student issues at a federal level; this is done, he says, in similar ways at a provincial level.

“That's meeting with the federal MPs, the provincial MLAs, and taking the time to be giving our feedback,” he says. “That's things like submitting to the Select Standing Committee on Finance [and Government Services] so that our submissions are being heard when the federal government is making their budget.”

Armutlu says there are a lot of student issues beyond the cost of tuition and interest rates on student loans. One concern that has been raised to *Nexus* is the CFS' increasing focus on identity politics over student issues.

“‘Student’ is such a term that's encompassing in so many ways,” says Armutlu. “So many different types of people can be a student. The principle of our organization is to advocate for accessible, high-quality, public post-secondary education. That's what we do.”

But “accessibility” can mean a wide variety of things, says Armutlu, from cost to safe spaces for students on campus.

“We have our campaign work against tuition fees, and working to see more grants in BC, and wanting more funding to our institutions—looking at textbook costs and those things. We also work on issues like equity and consent culture, because they are important issues,” he says. “There is a balance that needs to be struck there, and I think—at least for our organization—we've been pretty good at being able to find that balance.”

Armutlu says the BCFS will continue to operate the way they have in the past.

“You can't just do work on tuition fees,” he says. “Accessible education means more than just the cost of education.”

Armutlu says he would like the national student movement to focus on fighting for post-secondary education.

“What their priorities are going to be is up to them. I think a lot of how we do our work—and how a lot of other student organizations do their work—a lot of that is brought up by the membership,” says Armutlu. “We have our general meetings where the business of the federation is discussed, and it's really set and mandated by the members. In my eyes, I hope that the national student movement is also operating at that level, where it's students and the members of those organizations that are really helping prioritize what those organizations are working on.”

Camosun fourth-year Accounting student Caitlin Le says that as long as student organizations help students get what they are promised, then paying to be members of those organizations is a good idea.

“If it's actually helping, then we should be paying for it,” she says. “But if it's not that effective, then, no, I wouldn't pay for it.”

For first year Nursing student Fatuma Abdullahi, membership in national organizations comes down to keeping post-secondary accessible.

“Yes, I think we should pay it,” she says. “I believe they should be paying for more accessibility.”

Second-year Business Administration-Accounting student Christine Comrie says that she definitely feels the CCSS should be part of a national student organization.

“It's extremely important for student-organizing lobbying efforts,” she says, “but, given our history with the CFS, I would say no [to joining the CFS]. I don't know much about [CASA], but I'd be very interested and excited for them to possibly pursue that option.”

Speaking of fees... they're going up

Now that Camosun students are not members of the CFS, Armutlu says the BCFS membership fee will be changing to include the amount that Camosun students previously paid to the CFS. The new amount of a maximum of \$9.14 per semester came about, says Armutlu, from a resolution passed at a January 2016 BCFS general meeting (according to those meeting minutes, available online, the increase will take effect no later than December 31, 2019). As mentioned above, the CCSS collects \$2.25 per month (scheduled to go up to \$2.29 per month as of September 1, 2018) from each Camosun student; they split that money in half, and half goes to the BCFS for membership fees, while the other half went to the CFS for membership fees. The full amount will go to the BCFS when their fee increase comes into place. Armutlu says that the aim with the fee change is to have a net zero change for students, as the amount they pay per month will stay the same.

“That fee increase is due to the members recognizing that we want to continue doing a lot of this work that we're doing, and also there's new work that they want us to be doing, so that fee increase is sort of reflective of that,” says Armutlu, adding that the BCFS has always done federal work. “It's a combination of continuing to do that work, but then also because the BCFS

now are able to operate on our own, and we can take on new things that members want us to take on, and it gives that freedom to do that.”

However, Umulisa says that it doesn't make sense for the BCFS to receive the combined amount of CFS and BCFS fees collected by the CCSS, considering that the BCFS is going to keep working the same way it always has.

“To me, I feel like it's a rushed decision,” she says. “Just because you think unions have money that should be spent on something else doesn't mean, ‘Oh, give it to us!’”

Umulisa says that the fee raise would be fair if the BCFS were bringing students new services or plans to justify it. She says that if there were a conference or if the BCFS were expanding, it would make sense to raise Camosun students' membership fees. But Umulisa says that the BCFS' services, to her knowledge, are remaining more or less the same.

“As of right now, in my knowledge, it's like, ‘Oh, this is the money you were paying to the CFS; it's not being put to use, so we're just going to double our fee.’ Right now I feel like even if they double their fee, everything's going to be the same.”

CCSS board members voted on the BCFS fee increase at the aforementioned 2016 BCFS general meeting.

“That [January 2016] bylaw change was supported by the majority of the delegates from the Camosun College Student Society that attended the meeting,” says Turcotte.

Turcotte adds that it would benefit students if the national movement developed in such a way that it became normal for the CCSS to work with both the CFS and CASA, and that breaking down those barriers comes down to a cultural shift.

“I don't think that students should be siloing themselves in terms of who they work with, and I look forward to a day where students can break down those various barriers between various groups and find ways either for those groups to work together, or for students within those groups to work together in order to protect the interest of students both nationally [and] provincially,” he says, adding that an international student movement is not out of the question.

As with all things in this world, the national student movement is forever changing; CASA's fees are quite a bit lower than CFS' fees, but if the CCSS does join CASA, it remains to be seen what differences or similarities will be in store for students at Camosun.

Right now, most students—a group of people who are typically smart and hard working—stare blankly when asked about the national student movement. Allegations of corruption are behind us, rising fees are ahead of us, and the future of the movement is about to take a turn, but no one knows which way just yet.

Although Umulisa is opposed to the national student organizations working together, she says that both the CFS and CASA could benefit Camosun students if they work separately from one another.

“As much as we've been expelled from the CFS, I would personally love to work with those guys on some of their campaigns because they match our needs as Camosun College students and the student society.”

If differences could be put aside, says Umulisa, it wouldn't be that big of a deal to work together toward achieving a common goal, which is why the CCSS will be having a referendum in the fall on whether or not to join CASA.

“As a student union,” she says, “it's best to work collectively to achieve our common interests.”

As an example of the unpredictable tides of change, Turcotte looks at what's taken place just this year with the national student movement and Camosun students' place in it. He says that times and politics can change, often with unpredictable results.

“I never thought that the Camosun College Student Society would not be a member of the Canadian Federation of Students,” he says. “I never thought that I would live to see that day.”

“We have our general meetings where the business of the federation is discussed, and it's really set and mandated by the members. In my eyes, I hope that the national student movement is also operating at that level, where it's students and the members of those organizations that are really helping prioritize what those organizations are working on.”

ARAN ARMUTLU
BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Story by Adam Marsh, student editor
Photo by Katy Weicker, staff writer

music

Broken Social Scene move ahead with 30 or so feet on the ground

“We had a day off in Caldwell, Idaho, so we played in someone’s living room.”

BRENDAN CANNING
BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE

DONNA RIBAROVSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brendan Canning is one of the most down to earth and genuine souls walking among us, and he also just happens to be one of the founders of Toronto’s celebrated indie rock band Broken Social Scene. The band—which is more like a collective than a traditional rock band—is returning to Victoria on August 31, and Canning hopes that locals will leave the show with a sense of liberation.

“Hopefully, it’s some sort of cathartic adventure. You want to be able to go to a show and just rock out,” says Canning, who plays bass, guitar, and keyboards and sings in the band. “Just let something go. Leave something that you brought into the auditorium and walk away a freer person.”

Broken Social Scene released their fifth album, *Hug of Thunder*, last year. The band is known for having a lot of members, and Canning says the lineup on the album consists of “something like” 15 members, including Canadian indie pop singer/songwriter Leslie Feist and Metric lead vocalist Emily Haines.

“We’re generally eight on stage,

and then four, five on crew, and then we often pick up stray horn players, which we’ve been doing pretty much everywhere we go,” says Canning about the band’s touring lineup.

Broken Social Scene took a break in 2011 before reuniting for *Hug of Thunder*. New band member Ariel Engle, a singer married to Broken Social Scene guitarist Andrew Whiteman, fits the vibe perfectly.

“Going forward with the band, and when we did this record, it just made the most sense that Ariel was going to be a full-fledged card-carrying member with the Broken Social Scene,” says Canning. “Just kind of a no-brainer decision.”

After their reunion, Canning turned his house into a studio, transforming his living room into a jam space and recording studio. Although Canning admits there are always going to be challenges with this band, he also recognizes that nothing is forced.

“We just try to go at whatever pace it goes,” he says, “and with this next album coming down the pipe, it will be a little bit quicker than the last one because [last time] we really had to start from the ground on up.”

While members of the band are



NORMAN WONG

Toronto’s Broken Social Scene are back after some time off, and they’re still moving ahead.

getting used to being in each other’s spaces again, they still have a unique bond that has lasted over 18 years.

“You spend more time with your bandmates than you do with most people,” says Canning. “You get to know how to push each other’s buttons just like a family, or a collection of marriages, or however you want to analyze it.”

The initial collaboration process on *Hug of Thunder* started with the band’s five core members, and then they started slowly adding people in. Canning says there are many subtleties involved in the collaborative process.

“It can be a difficult beast to wrangle,” he says, “and if there is too much combative behaviour, then it’s just going to sink the ship eventually.”

But the ship is still afloat, and

for all the right reasons: at the end of the day, there’s still a demand and a desire for the members to go out and play fun gigs.

“We had a day off in Caldwell, Idaho,” says Canning, giving an example of this, “so we played in someone’s living room.”

Meanwhile, Canning has been spending a little bit of time in Banff working with bands as well as with the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in a mentorship role.

“It was a nice opportunity to work with some younger artists and get inspired by what they are doing,” he says. “We started this program out there called the Indie Music Residency, which finally got its plug pulled, but we had a good run there for a little while.”

But it always comes back to Broken Social Scene. Throughout

the years, this band has stood the test of time and made an honest connection with their fans.

“I think the goal is just to try and put on a good show, and if you can—if the gods of sound let you hear everything on stage that night and if everyone’s a good listener that night on stage—then I think that’s kind of the musical goal,” says Canning. “Just try and have performances that are meaningful and connecting and not disorienting for the crowd in any way, and just really try and deliver the best possible version of the band.”

Broken Social Scene
Friday, August 31
\$39.50, Capital Ballroom
(Sold out)
sugarnightclub.ca

music

Victoria singer/songwriter Rae Spoon’s new album all about the lyrics



DAVE TODD

Singer/songwriter Rae Spoon’s new album has a theme of connection.

KATY WEICKER
STAFF WRITER

Rae Spoon is an old pro when it comes to releasing albums. With a new tour about to launch and their ninth album, *bodiesofwater*, set to drop at the beginning of September, the Victoria-based singer/songwriter is returning to lyrical roots set deeply in imagery after exploring several other genres.

“Even though some albums go further into pop production, electronic, I like to keep making these albums every once in a while, just because I really like the format, and I think it really showcases the lyrics and stuff,” says Spoon. “If I feel like the material needs that kind of a setting then I’ll definitely pick that kind of presentation.”

The album has a strong theme

of connection, whether it’s between people, between ourselves and our own bodies, or between us and the environment. Spoon says that using lyrical images to showcase the concepts of both connection and discovery is inspiring, given the current environmental and political state of the world.

“There’s so much coming up now about protecting water, especially here on the coast. You know, water and the ocean is ever-present in our lives in Victoria, so I think there’s some environment [themes on the album],” they say. “When I first came up with the concept, I actually wanted to write songs for a concert in a pool, which is something I’m still working on with this material.”

Spoon ended up recording *bodiesofwater* before the pool concert could come to fruition; it might see the light of day in spring of 2019, however. In the meantime, they’re excited to hit the road in support of the new album. While there won’t be a pool on stage, they’re enthusiastic to be collaborating with Respectful Child during the upcoming tour. Spoon says the tour’s set list will focus on *bodiesofwater*, including one popular, and foul-mouthed, song.

“Do Whatever the Heck You Want” is definitely a crowd fa-

vorite—especially when I use the F-word,” they say with a chuckle. “That’s definitely the song that people have responded to. It’s catchy and it’s just a loud, fun song.”

Spoon—who has a deep love of indie music—finds inspiration in old-school Canadian bands.

“I work with a lot of them on my record label that I run out of Victoria,” they say, “folks that I’ve been playing shows with for years, or folks that have been around or just kind of running things their own way. But also, I really love it when artists connect with their communities and do other types of community art or support other artists; that’s my fave type of people.”

An emphasis on community is near and dear to Spoon’s heart, and it shows: the musician is hopeful that everyone is able to connect with the lyrics and meaning of the songs on *bodiesofwater*.

“I think I wish people would just listen to my music,” they say. “They don’t need to know anything about me. That’s the goal. If you’re a good songwriter, hopefully people don’t need to know who you are, necessarily... I like people having their own input on songs; then the message is more for them.”

With the ever-growing importance of an online presence, the extensions of an artist’s commun-

ity have grown and evolved since Spoon began making music.

“I think for artists starting out, it’s different than it used to be,” they say. “People could maybe listen to a song on a website when I started out.”

Then there’s college radio, a vehicle that has been instrumental in getting Spoon’s music into the community over the years.

“College radio plays a big part in keeping DIY artists in touch with each other,” says Spoon, who also acknowledges how supportive the arts scene in Victoria is. “It’s been great to be here.”

As someone who has toured Canada extensively over the years, Spoon is no stranger to life on the road. That being said, while Spoon has visited many of the cities on this upcoming tour before, there is one new element to tour life for the artist this time around.

“The thing is, I just learned how to drive,” they say, “so, this will be the first time actually driving myself. So that’s what I’ve been looking forward to. I’ve been practicing a lot.”

Rae Spoon
6:30 pm and 8:30 pm Thursday,
September 6
\$15, Vinyl Envy
vinylenvy.com

event

Downtown Victoria Buskers Festival gets into the rhythm



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rhythm Works are performing at the Downtown Victoria Buskers Festival.

FRED CAMERON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Downtown Victoria Buskers Festival will take over stages throughout the downtown core

from August 30 to September 3.

One behind-the-scenes change that those watching the performers won’t necessarily know is that last year’s talent organizer, Michele

Montgomery, has stepped into the position of festival organizer, a role that includes talent scouting.

As is the tradition, buskers don’t get paid to come here; Montgomery says that the festival does cover their travel, but once they get here, they are working for donations. There are 11 acts coming from all over the world for the festival.

“I think quirky, unique, world-class talent is the best way to describe it,” says Montgomery. “It’s fun and there’s something for everyone. These acts are world-class. They have been seen on *Australia’s Got Talent* and [at] the World Buskers Festival. They’ve toured the world, and they’ve never been here before, so it’s something fresh.”

Toronto’s Rhythm Works are performing at this year’s fest; led by Troy Sexton, they’re a drumming group that uses a mixture of

percussion, dancing, and comedy in their shows.

“Previous to doing a bunch of busking, I performed with the Broadway group Stomp for about 12 years,” says Sexton. “I toured the world playing with Stomp. Since 2010, I’ve had my own company, which is Rhythm Works, and we do busker festivals all over Canada for the summertime, and then during the school year we perform in schools and do a bunch of outreach work all over the country within the youth prison system, and then up in reserves and in schools. We try to promote good mental health through the arts.”

Sexton says that because he spent many years with Stomp, he was used to a theatre audience, but street performers always mesmerized him.

“It’s an amazing form of the-

atre,” says Sexton about busking. “You have to work a little bit harder as a performer to keep the audience, and keep them entertained, and hope they pay you at the end. I took it on to learn how to do it and just threw myself in the deep end a few years ago and put an act together. I watched the veterans and learned as much as I could. Also, with our show, we like to show that you can make music with everything... We use whatever’s around us. If there’s a street sign, we might jump on the pole if it sounds good. We use the space in different ways, and it makes it super fun.”

TROY SEXTON
RHYTHM WORKS

“Everyone loves to make noise,” says Sexton, “and I try to organize it so before they know it, it sounds good. It just goes to show that anybody can learn.”

Audience members should prepare to get involved—Sexton says that drumming is a very contagious way of engaging young people, and the group sells drumsticks with hopes that people will keep playing after the show.

“Everyone loves to make noise,” says Sexton, “and I try to organize it so before they know it, it sounds good. It just goes to show that anybody can learn.”

Downtown Victoria
Buskers Festival
Various times,
Thursday, August 30
to Monday, September 3
Free, various venues
downtownvictoria.ca

stage

Ted Talk meets Kafka and theatre at Victoria Fringe Festival performance

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

What do you get when a TED Talk meets a short story? A theatre production born from Franz Kafka’s German short story “Ein Bericht für eine Akademie.”

Kafka was known for using humour to address dark topics on a human level; thematically, those topics appealed to Austrian director Myriell Meissner, who chose Kafka’s work to adapt into her theatre production *How to Become a Human in 5 Years* because of the universal human themes the work tackles. The production is done in a unique way in the form of a TED Talk combined with theatre, says Meissner.

“The whole thing started because I was searching for a show, or a theatre piece, that was kind of humorous and also sort of political in a way. It’s the kind of work I like to do,” says Meissner, who studied theatre performance at Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

Kafka’s work reaches people, she says, and allows both Meissner and audience members to reflect in ways that they might not necessarily feel comfortable doing without the humour.

“People kind of shut down more [when humour isn’t there],” says Meissner.

Being from Austria, Meissner looked into some other German plays first but found that they tend-

ed to focus too much on German culture for an international show; she looked at American plays and found that they, too, were difficult to relate to on an international level.

“And then I found Kafka,” she says. “His texts are pretty universal. He’s known for being an existentialist writer with pretty dark humour. I stumbled upon his texts and I loved it immediately.”

Kafka’s short story, originally published in 1917, focuses on an ape named Red Peter who learns human skills to integrate himself into the human world. Sometimes stories, plays, and movies get very casually translated into another medium, becoming almost unrecognizable, but Meissner says this production is relatively close to the original text and that she wanted to stay true to the language in Kafka’s work.

“I started with a literal translation of the text, which is a lot about, ‘Where can we use this?’ and thinking about all the different meanings in Kafka’s language that are usable,” says Meissner. “It’s one of the most important things about him.”

From Meissner’s depiction of words on a page, her own creativity came knocking.

“From that, I built the concept for the show, which is this TED Talk,” she says. “The whole concept is really basic.”

The title of the Kafka story, translated into English, is “A Report



PHOTO PROVIDED

How to Become a Human in 5 Years reimagines Kafka by way of a TED Talk.

to an Academy,” so the medium needed to work for giving a presentation, says Meissner; she felt a TED Talk was perfect for that.

“The TED Talk has this very funny medium of, ‘We’re going to talk spreading ideas... I don’t really have much to tell you, but here’s my story. And I don’t really have anything scientific to tell you, or maybe not really what you want to hear,’” says Meissner.

But Meissner didn’t want the show to be just a TED Talk, so she combined the TED Talk format with the theatrical and storytelling

elements above into *How to Become a Human in 5 Years*.

“The TED Talk is the right frame, but the show really breaks out of it,” says Meissner. “It was a very intimate work between a director and an actor.”

How to Become a Human in 5 Years
(at the Victoria Fringe Festival)
6:45 pm,
until Sunday, September 2
\$9, Downtown Activity Centre
intrepidtheatre.com

New Music Revue



La Chinga
Beyond the Sky
(Small Stone Records)
4/5

Beyond The Sky, the third album from Vancouver rockers La Chinga, is a masterpiece full of life, freedom, and, most importantly, good pure rock.

“Nothin’ that I Can’t Do” is an ideal way to kick off this incredible album. The guitar work is on par with Slash’s, and the vocals are up there with Myles Kennedy of Alter Bridge and Slash’s band, and sound strikingly similar, with heated, working-class growls that hiss into the pleasure centre of the brain.

It’s not all high-octane rock, though: La Chinga isn’t afraid to slow things down for a few bars, only to then thump listeners over the head with amazing, full-bodied, and powerful riffs.

The album struggles to maintain life partway through, but somehow it never dies, proving that this band is capable of expanding well past the Vancouver music scene.

Parts of some songs, such as “Keep on Rollin’,” go on longer than they need to, but the flexibility of the vocals and guitars is this band’s heart and blood and makes for a fresh and worthwhile sound that is scarce in rock music today.

—ADAM MARSH

music

Blackwood Kings pride themselves on genre jumbling



CLAYTON IKUDA

Victoria reggae/dub/ska band Blackwood Kings are working on a new release, set to come out early next year.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Victoria's Blackwood Kings have always taken a very unique approach to playing reggae, dub, and ska. Ever since drummer Michael Luis, lead singer Chris Zielonka, and guitarist Noel Anstey went to school together, they knew the reggae scene was their cup of tea.

"We were into all sorts of things," says Luis, "whether it was punk, or metal, or jazz, or hip hop. I think it was just from going to ska and reggae shows—especially in Victoria, there's a good community behind the music, and it's a music with a really interesting history."

Luis says that ska and reggae have interesting qualities in their musical makeup; he points to a specific instrument and what it brings to the overall sound as an example of how the genres are different from others.

"The bass plays the melody, which I think is an unusual quality," he says, "and it had a really great live community that we wanted to be a part of."

And the genres have no shortage of hardships to be overcome, most notably that they push even the most encompassing of boundaries. Luis says there are positives and negatives to all this.

"Listeners who have an eclectic palate, who listen to punk, or jazz, or prog rock, or whatever, they think we're an interesting band," he says. "I think the negative of doing that, though, is in trying to appeal to so many people, you then, by extension, appeal to nobody. We might be too reggae for someone who likes prog rock, and we might be too prog rock for someone who likes reggae. It's more self-deprecating. If I were a fan of diehard Jamaican reggae, I probably wouldn't like Blackwood

Kings. We'll gladly admit that it's not an authentic reggae experience; it's our little version of the genre."

Luis says it's a challenge to bring in lots of different ideas and have them sound cohesive.

"On one hand it's really cool, because you appeal to a very specific type of music fan," he says. "On the other hand, though, it's sometimes hard to find an audience."

Looking ahead, the band has a new release coming out early next year; it was originally scheduled to be a five-song EP, but Blackwood Kings' creative juices are flowing.

"It might be nine or 10 songs instead of just five," says Luis. "It will depend how it goes. But so far, we're ahead of schedule."

Blackwood Kings
8 pm Thursday, September 6
\$10. Copper Owl
copperowl.ca

Guess what I did!!

I glued a zucchini and a tomato together. I call it a tomacchini

BREAKING:
HAS GMO GONE TOO FAR?
What is this ugly science?

Click Click Click

By Jayden Grieve

back to school word search

Hello, new and returning Camosun College students! Every issue, we run a word search in the paper; if you complete it, you could win a prize. This time around, the words in the search are about all things back-to-school. Have fun!

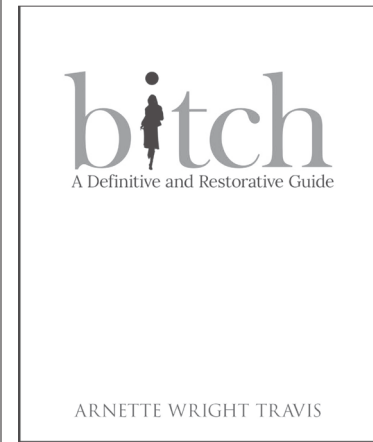
Find the words on the left in the puzzle on the right; as always, stop by the Nexus office (Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus) if you complete this puzzle to pick up something from our pile o' prizes.

- CAMFEST
- CAMOSUN CLASSROOMS COLLEGE
- DEBT
- DEGREE
- EXAMS
- EXPENSES
- FRIENDS
- FUN
- INSTRUCTORS
- LINEUP
- LOAN
- MONEY
- NEWSPAPER
- POSTSECONDARY
- RENT
- STUDENTS
- SYLLABUS
- TEXTBOOKS

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

review

New book examines use of word "bitch"



ARNETTE WRIGHT TRAVIS

KATY WEICKER
STAFF WRITER

After spending our last issue immersed in all things feminist, I was both excited and trepidation-ridden to read *Bitch: A Definitive and Restorative Guide* by Arnette Wright Travis. Trepidation because everything I thought I knew about feminism had been challenged while working on last issue, and I wasn't sure I was ready to upend the apple cart again.

That being said, I was pleasantly surprised by how easy a read *Bitch* is. Travis delves deep into the origins of the word "bitch," the societal implications of using—and accepting—the word, and the movement to reclaim the word "bitch" in the name of equality for women. She infuses anecdotes about her own life into a well-woven tapestry of women's rights.

From the suffragette movement to Trump versus Clinton to #metoo, Travis combs American history in an effort to understand and explain the oppression of women at the hands of society and the government.

The historical timeline of the fight for equality for women is cleverly interspersed with discussions on the word "bitch" and how it is used. While I am guilty of using the word in each of the ways she describes (in anger; in describing a strong woman I feel threatened by; in describing a wimpy dude; in reclaiming a bad-assed attitude), Travis' microscope allowed me to see the potential damage of hurling out such a familiar word.

My aha moment came when Travis describes how water molecules react negatively to harsh words; therefore, if we are composed mostly of water, she hypothesizes that negative words can have effects on a cellular level. Not everyone agrees that this is scientifically accurate, but her logic is simple, refreshing, and accessible.

While some could argue that *Bitch* doesn't give enough attention to intersectional feminism (despite Travis self-identifying with the ideology), I appreciate that she doesn't try to cast the net too wide. The reality is that this topic cannot be contained to 150 sparsely filled pages. Travis picks her battles and fights them, venomously.

My only real issue was with the physical quality of the book. The spine was stiff; I had to crack it (the horror!), leaving the pages fanning, never to close properly again. After one read, it looked like it had been passed around a group of 20 women as opposed to spending two days in my purse. But I'll forgive the poor construction for a well-executed book on feminism and equality.

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, the issue was hidden on top of some lockers on the ground floor of Wilna Thomas.

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 Web Exclusive

What's happening at nexusnewspaper.com

Week of August 20, 2018, top five most read stories:

- "Open Space: On whether or not to be a mother," August 8, 2018
- "New Music Revue: Sky Parallel deliver magic in music," August 8, 2018
- "New Music Revue: The Temperance Movement reach new heights on third album," August 2, 2018
- "New Music Revue: Tony Molina channels classics with concise flair," August 8, 2018
- "Redefining the F word: What it means to be a feminist Camosun student in 2018," August 8, 2018.

Plus, head to our site to check out web-exclusive stories!

Check it all out at nexusnewspaper.com, and find us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook today!

VICTORIA'S HIDDEN Escape office



Unpacking the Bags

by Renata Silva

Living with minimum wage

As you may already know, it isn't easy to be a student, work part time, pay all your bills, and still save money at the end of the month. Today, I'd like to show some alternative ways to thrive as a student while working part time and receiving minimum wage. How do I know that's possible? Because I do it. I must say that it won't be easy, but it is doable if you hang tight on your budget and get away from your comfort zone.

First, let's assume that you have saved enough to pay for your tuition. So, now you have to worry about day-to-day life.

My first tip is to reduce your major bills, such as your rent and groceries. Instead of renting a full

apartment, try to rent a room in a building that's not in one of the more competitive neighbourhoods to rent in. Also, make sure to choose a place with good access to public transportation, so you avoid having to take a cab.

The second tip is in regard to your groceries. Usually I go to three different places to get the best deal for all the items I need. It might take longer, but you'll see the difference at the end of the month. Another place I save money is on my phone bill: I decided to not have a plan that has data on it simply because those plans are more expensive.

However, we all deserve to have some fun and entertainment sometimes, so we need to be able to

afford to go out with friends. But that's where our money can vanish without us realizing. So, my tip is this: instead of just avoiding going out, figure out how much you can spend that month, taking into consideration all your fixed expenses. Try to choose places to go that will fit within your budget. I know that seems a lot of trouble, but if you want to be financially independent, you need to consider these tips.

Here's how I organize my expenses on a daily basis: 50 percent is for my rent, 15 percent is for utilities, five to 10 percent is for going out, and the rest I save for future plans, clothes, or other unexpected expenses. The key is to make a budget and organize yourself.



House of Columns

by Joel Satre

Less really is more

"Less is more." It's a phrase we hear tossed around for everything from corporate slogans to lifestyle choices. The statement is overused for good reason: because it's true. As students, we have an omnipresent balance of packed academic calendars, work, and life itself. This isn't all that natural, and it certainly is overwhelming for our mental health and overall happiness.

Just as a bare minimum, without any unforeseen events, this balance makes life challenging for any student. But if you throw in health complications, family affairs, volunteerism, and just about anything else under the sun, then we can be at a breaking point. This is, obviously, never good.

Academics should always remain a student's primary goal, as it's the key to their future. The educational institution needs to facilitate this as much as possible. While much of this struggle and subsequent toll on our mental well-being is directly related to financial status, the institution itself can do more to help students.

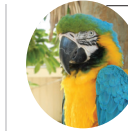
And this is where "less is more" comes back.

Studies have shown that a smaller workload and a less jam-packed schedule not only relieve stress and improve mental health but also lead to higher productivity. This is certainly true in the workplace, so how can it be all that different on campus? In businesses

and countries with shorter work hours, happiness and work outcomes go up, not down.

Finland is consistently ranked as the top nation in the world for quality of public education, yet the students there have no homework and have far fewer school hours than students in other countries do. This may be only for their grade-school-aged population, but why couldn't it also include those in higher education? After all, we have more on our plates than children do.

It's time for colleges to explore these ideas, and to explore what works best for students. Asking these questions is critical, and so is taking a break away from the demands of life.



Let's Talk?

by Katy Weicker

A basic love of pumpkin spice

There's a tangible shift about to happen. The air is getting cooler at night, we're all heading back to school, tank tops will soon be replaced (or at least layered) with button-down flannels, and Instagram is about to be flooded with images of rusty red foliage and pumpkin spice lattes (PSLs).

Love them or hate them, PSLs are one of the official signs that fall has arrived. For years I have delighted in the majesty of the

kin spice vodka in my freezer and a container of pumpkin spice bath-room spray. (No, just no. Trust me.)

I also have five or six bottles of sugar-free pumpkin spice syrup that I stockpiled last year after I decided to make my own PSLs upon discovering exactly how many calories are in a PSL (not to mention how much money I was spending on my PSL habit).

And every time I make them and the telltale combo of nutmeg

I like pumpkin spice, so what? But I'm also not—I would like to repeat, NOT—basic.

PSL. As a September baby, and as someone who lives for the vibrancy of leaves changing and the sweet, earthy smell of fog rolling off the water, autumn is my favourite time of year; these sweet, spicy drinks are a symbol of this shift.

PSLs have been a part of my fall routine for as long as I can recall. And for years, my fellow autumn lovers embraced them.

Then a shift happened. It wasn't a knee-jerk movement. It was a slow infestation: candles, air freshener, lip balm, beer... The scent permeated September, claiming the fall and catering to millennial female consumers.

I'm not going to lie—I've fallen victim to it over the years. Somewhere in the bottom of my backpack I have a pumpkin-pie lip balm. I have an unopened bottle of pump-

and cinnamon hits the air, someone inevitably judges me for it (even if it's just my cat crinkling his nose at my cup), and I feel just a little bit basic.

The reality is, I shouldn't give a crap what others think. I like pumpkin spice, so what? But I'm also not—I would like to repeat, NOT—basic.

I don't post inspirational quotes on Facebook (unless they really speak to me on a deep level); I don't wear yoga pants all the time (when all 15 pairs I own are dirty, I'll wear jeans to do laundry); I'm not a slave to Snapchat filters (except that one that takes five years off my face—that one is gold). I just love pumpkin spice.

So allow me this one basic vice. Well, this, and my love of hashtags, because #sorrynotsorry, right?



Communication Error

by Nate Downe

Words are not enough

Do you know what your emotions, feelings, and thoughts are, or are they simply noise to you? Are they permanent and possibly universal things? If you cannot communicate something like your thoughts or feelings to someone else—if you do not have the words for them—then do you know them? Do they even exist?

To put it another way, perhaps the most important part of good communication is the ability to transfer knowledge clearly and to have a mutual understanding of what one another is saying. Obviously, for someone to understand you, you first have to understand yourself. To know something, you must be able to describe it—describe it with words. At least, that's what we are led to believe.

One way this is done is to describe something like an idea or an object you "know" but don't have the proper words to adequately communicate to another person. You can try to replace one incorrect word for another—a symbol for another symbol—although this just goes around and around in circles. Similarly, it's like attempting to describe a delicious meal to someone; you "know" what it tastes like, although any attempt to capture how it tastes in words does it no justice. Thus, you cannot describe it—you do not know it.

In another case, let us suppose that you were to describe the most wonderful experience you can recall. Now, in addition, you were to describe the worst experience you can remember. Both the former and the latter don't exist. That is to say, all you have just done is described (and oversimplified) experiences in the expression of words, signs, and symbols. As hard as you try and as much as you desire, the present moment cannot resurrect past experiences through non-present language; it can only create new ones.

Do you ever talk to yourself? What a silly question: of course, you constantly do. But why? Perhaps that is just what people do: talk, rationalize, and communicate verbally. If we were to take a moment to listen to a heartbeat, or attempt to feel our socks on our feet without moving our feet, you may find that all happened without the use of language.

To state that all worries, for example, are imaginary would be ridiculous—but, in a way they are, and it isn't as ridiculous as it may sound. What are worries? They are words. What are words? They are signs, things that stand in for other things—they are not the things themselves. To experience worry is the same as experiencing glee; the only difference is what we name them.

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September 14, 2018
2:30 – 4:30pm

Centre for Trades
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