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camosun's student voice since 1990

safety

Camosun College student raises concerns about Interurban bike lane



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Camosun student Philip Marciniak shows where the bike lane on Interurban Road disappears under mud; Marciniak wants to see the corridor become safer for cyclists.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

A Camosun College student is concerned about the state of the bike lane on Interurban road near Camosun College's Interurban campus.

Third-year electronics student Philip Marciniak has been cycling to the Interurban campus for three years; he says that in November he came "within a foot or so, maybe a bit less" with a car after dodging a large mud puddle in the bike lane.

"It's a bylaw issue, which somehow means that it just doesn't get dealt with ever," says Marciniak. "I don't understand. The end result is just a really dangerous situation."

Marciniak says that the college could apply more pressure on Saanich.

"[Saanich] loves to say, 'Oh, we've got these active transportation plans,' [but] you look at the state of the bike lane that leads to the school and it's a total mess," he says.

District of Saanich spokesperson Megan Catalano says the district is aware of the debris that is being deposited on the roadway; when asked if Saanich knew who it was being deposited by, Catalano says, "I can't really elaborate further than that; no. We don't have a definitive answer on that."

"Our bylaw enforcement section is aware of the complaint, and the district is assessing whether there are any additional options available to address the road debris at that location," says Catalano.

Catalano says that Saanich has increased the frequency of street sweeping in the area in the meantime.

"We do only have one street sweeper, so we've increased kind of to the maximum allowable [fre-

quency] while keeping up sufficient service levels in other areas of Saanich," she says.

Camosun manager of campus sustainability Maria Bremner says that the college has written two formal letters to Saanich, as well as written numerous emails and made phone calls to the municipality. Bremner says that a company, which she did not name, based on Alan Road, is "somewhat responsible" for the situation.

MacNutt Enterprises is a topsoil provider based on Alan Road; they did not respond to requests for an interview.

Bremner confirmed that a Camosun student recently broke a bone after being struck by a vehicle about a kilometre from the patch of road Marciniak is concerned about.

"I think these are things that are important for anyone on that corridor to know about; these are issues," says Marciniak.

A lot of times when people ride and see similar problems, says Marciniak, they don't bring it up because "you think it's just something that you're experiencing."

"To know that there's other people that are getting injured, that are getting hit by cars, that are also experiencing these unsafe conditions—other Camosun students—I think it's important for the community to know," says Marciniak. "I think it's important for students to know, for the college to know."

Bremner says the college would like to see bike-lane issues on this corridor get fixed so that students can feel safe using active transportation.

"It's been an ongoing problem for quite some time," says Bremner, who says it's been an issue since she started at the college in 2012.

"It's a bylaw issue, which somehow means that it just doesn't get dealt with ever. I don't understand. The end result is just a really dangerous situation."

PHILIP MARCINIAK
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

Bremner, who is also a cyclist and has experience riding the stretch Marciniak is concerned with, says the big issue is debris, but also the topography of the landscape.

"We need a longer-term infrastructure fix on this," she says, adding that she requests regular street sweeping from Saanich. "It's a bylaw issue. We definitely would like to see some work done on that. We would like, in an ideal world, that that lane should be safe for cyclists. The college would like to see, obviously, arteries coming to and from both of our campuses to be safe and to encourage people to want to get on their bikes."

Marciniak—who says it is hard to believe Saanich can let this happen given the strong advocacy they take on active transportation—points to bylaw 8.07 out of the District of Saanich's Streets and Traffic Regulation Bylaw, which states "no person: (a) Shall cause, suffer or permit loose material to be deposited or accumulate or remain upon any sidewalk, street or public place."

Both Marciniak and Bremner say that part of the problem is also the volume of vehicles on the road, especially during rush hour.

"Traffic's backed up there, but you got cars backed up on the left side. You can't go into the lane; if

it's really bad or if there's rocks or gravel, you basically have to almost come to a stop," says Marciniak.

BC Transit recently put a new bus stop near the area of concern, right next to the bike lane that Marciniak says is "like a mud pit."

Bremner says that she will be prioritizing this issue.

"Given that the progress on this particular area has been so slow, it's definitely something that I would like to prioritize from my end to put further pressure on Saanich to address in a timely way," she says.

Marciniak says that he will continue to use the Interurban corridor, but he wants to see the problems get fixed.

"Somehow nobody can step up and see that it's an issue and get it dealt with," he says.

Marciniak says it feels like there's no short-term solution but the college could put more pressure on Saanich.

"Maybe if they raised this issue a little bit more," he says. "The college loves to say, 'We're all about sustainability, we're all about renewable energy.'"

Bremner says there is a "whole laundry list" of priorities in the Saanich municipality around active transport. She says the college would like to get this issue "bumped up in the queue."

"They've responded to the letters, but I think a true response would be doing something about it," says Bremner.

eyed on campus



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Camosun's new food truck, the Camosun Cuisine Machine, at Lansdowne.

college Camosun gets second-highest enrollment rates of former foster children in BC



FILE PHOTO

“The principles and values we have as a college about being life-changing and transformational is very much borne out with students who make this decision to come to us as part of their transition into adulthood.”

JOAN YATES
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Yates says that these students' fees are reimbursed to the college through the ministry, and that this program does not increase fees for other students.

“We're actually reimbursed the actual cost of those students attending,” says Yates, “and so the process is managed in part through our financial aid department in terms of the grants that are available to those students, but it doesn't come out of the college's budget.”

According to Yates, there are 76 students currently enrolled at the college through this program; Vancouver Island University has the most, at 83. Yates says there is no cap as to how many students the college will take, although the college is happy with the current number. She says that these students must

meet the admissions guidelines set out by the college.

“If students need some support to get into programs—any student, not just these students, we've got them,” says Yates.

Yates says that VIU has been participating in the program for several years longer than Camosun, who began a few years ago through private fundraising to support some students.

“That was reasonably successful but not sustainable,” says Yates, “and with the current government's shift to supporting youth and former youth in care, we've been at it, this is year two, I believe.”

While Yates doesn't specifically know what makes Camosun so successful with this program, she admits to having some theories.

“The big one for Camosun is that we have incredibly flexible programming,” she says. “So, if a student, for example, wants to get into a program but may be a little short on math, or English, or whatever, we have the capacity through Access programming to get students into the college.”

Yates says that another reason these students are coming to Camosun could be because the college offers a broad range of programming for southern Vancouver Island, or because of Camosun's average class size of 35 students.

“Again, it gives students enormous flexibility in terms of their choices,” she says. “And I think also we have a strong reputation in post-secondary for good wrap-arounds, good supports. So with small class sizes, for example, it means that those students can actually get to know instructors.”

Yates says the college has also had very good relations with the local K-12 school system, where some of these students are able to start their education.

“So, there's support that's coming from the school system saying, ‘Given your circumstances, Camosun might be a little bit of a better spot for you right now.’”

Camosun vice president of student experience Joan Yates.

KATY WEICKER
STAFF WRITER

Since 2017, the provincial government has been giving former foster children free post-secondary education, and Camosun College has the second-highest enrollment rates of these students of any BC post-secondary institution. Camo-

sun vice president of student experience Joan Yates couldn't be prouder. “The principles and values we have as a college about being life-changing and transformational is very much borne out with students who make this decision to come to us as part of their transition into adulthood,” says Yates.

know your profs

Julia Liska loves chili, hates rogue student calls in class



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Camosun College Health Care Assistant instructor Julia Liska.

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 Health Care Assistant instructor Julia Liska about dodgy parking, cornbread, and job satisfaction.

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

I've been at Camosun since 2011. I teach multiple courses in the Health Care Assistant program as well as do practicum.

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

Satisfaction in assisting students to be successful in a rewarding career in healthcare—especially those who may have had bad education experiences in the past or lack self-esteem. They can achieve so very much if given a little support.

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

I'm a pretty good baker.

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

I'm terrible at spelling.

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

Being able to work with the phenomenal staff (and students) in Health and Human Services. I love coming to work.

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

Having my new car hit not once

but twice while it was parked in the parking lot and I was teaching in the classroom (both times the person left a note on my car, which was good).

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

Hopefully more flexible education opportunities to meet students' diverse situations and needs. I would love to see more online course opportunities offered.

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

Hiking, cooking, gardening, spending time with friends and family.

9. *What is your favourite meal?*

Great chili and fresh homemade cornbread.

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

Student phones going off during class.

what's going on

by kathy weicker



FILE PHOTO

CamFest returns to both campuses this month.

MONDAY, JANUARY 7 AND
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

A frosty welcome

The Camosun College Student Society is hosting CamFrost, a welcome-back event for students (think CamFest with a winter twist). CamFrost will take place at the Interurban campus on January 7 and Lansdowne on January 9; the festivities go down from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on both days. Visit camosunstudent.org for info.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Beats from Vancouver to Mexico

Come check out a night of techno and house at the Copper Owl with Vancouver's Kasey Riot and Mexico's Black Kapp. Tickets are \$18 at the door, but \$15 if you grab one early; see copperowl.ca for more info.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11
AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Performances that heal

City of Victoria Indigenous artist in residence Lindsay Delaronde is using a variety of performing-arts mediums to create *Supernova: Performances that Heal*, an Indigenous showcase. Delaronde, along with an all-Indigenous cast, will combine traditional and contemporary storytelling to explore the world through Indigenous eyes. The event is \$30 and takes place at The Belfry Theatre; see belfry.bc.ca for info.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Snowed in in Victoria?

One of the biggest Canadian comedy shows, *The Snowed In Comedy Tour*, is coming to the Royal Theatre. Comedians Dan Quinn, Paul Myrehaug, Pete Zedlacher, and Debra DiGiovanni will be bringing the funnies; the show starts at 8 pm, with tickets starting at \$45. Info and tickets can be found at rmts.bc.ca.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 UNTIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Learning to read

Open Space is hosting Vancouver-based artist Chantal Gibson's

How She Read: Confronting the Romance of Empire, an exhibition with a heavy emphasis on text. There will be a free opening reception from 3 to 5 pm on Sunday, January 13. Visit openpace.ca for additional info, and see our full story next issue.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

Fight bullying and mental-health stigma

Spoken word poet Shane Koyczan will be at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium for a performance and Q&A at 5 pm on Wednesday, January 16. This performance is part of UVic's Mental Health Awareness Week; it's free and open to all, but tickets—which you can get at tickets.uvic.ca—are still required.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

It takes two... sometimes it just takes one

Come get sad at the Copper Owl with three local acts: indie/shoegaze solo artist Groceries, chill-rock duo Looelle, and indie folk solo artist Wired to the Sky. \$10 for this night of talent, which starts at 8 pm; see copperowl.ca for more info.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

Concert with a cause

Local singer-songwriter Vince Vaccaro is performing a concert to raise funds for vet care for his beloved pup Alaska, who is having health issues. Concert for Alaska will be a night of acoustic music featuring Vaccaro and guests. The show begins at 7:30 pm at Fort Tectoria (777 Fort Street). Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased at vincevaccaro.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

What a drag!

Local drag artists from Victoria and Vancouver are coming together with drag stars Vanessa Vanjie Mateo and Farrah Moan for *It's Just Drag at The McPherson Playhouse*. This all-ages show starts at 9 pm; tickets start at \$53 and can be purchased at rmts.bc.ca, where you can also find information about other upcoming events at the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse.



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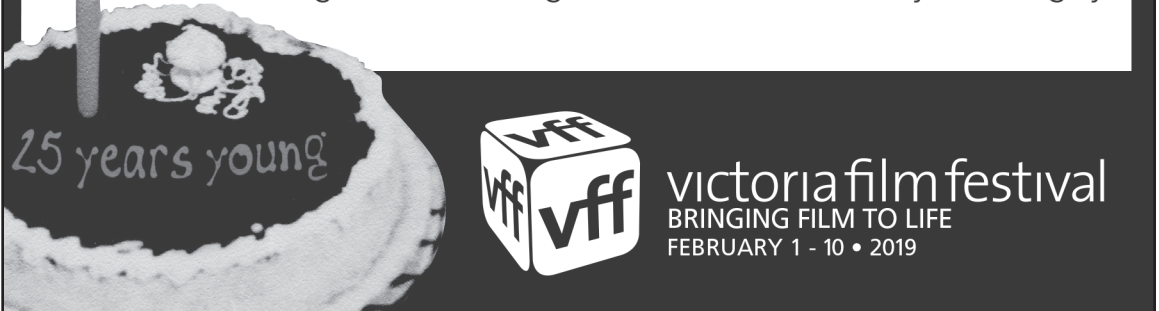
Italian director Andrea Magnani creates a great black comedy for his first feature-length film. *Isidorou*, once the golden child of car racing, finds new purpose transporting a coffin from Italy to the Ukraine. Yes, quirky humour ensues.

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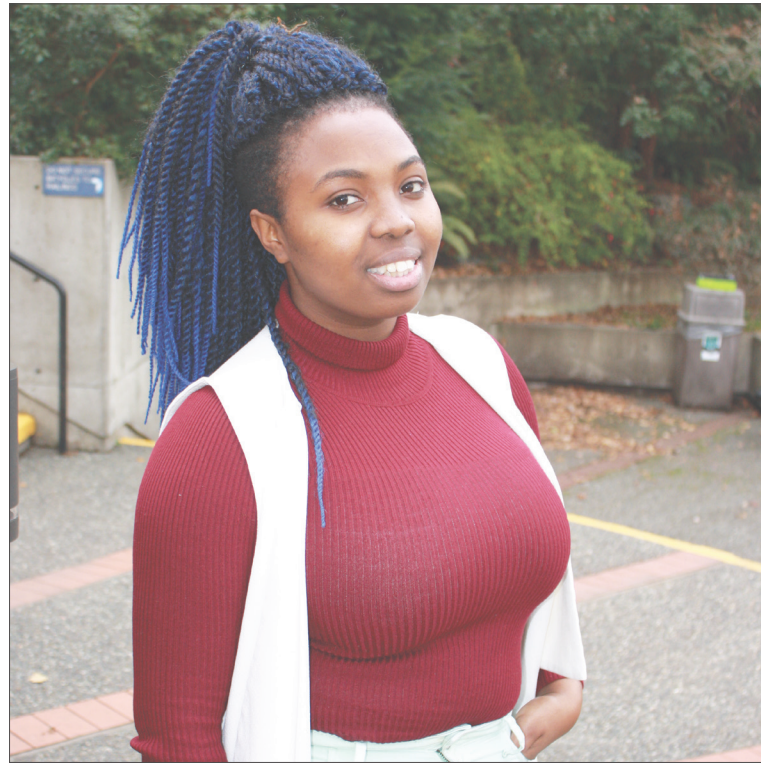
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Post-elections post-secondary

Now that student society and municipal elections have passed, what does 2019 hold in store for post-secondary life?

By Fred Cameron, features writer



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Camosun College Student Society external executive Fillette Umulisa.

The fall of 2018 was a time of political change for students here at Camosun. Elections have come and gone for both the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) and municipal councils on the lower island. We've also been given an option to reform our provincial electoral system with the proportional representation referendum. The referendum is a historical crossroads, and the rest of the country is watching closely.

These changes all impact students, from what bike lanes Saanich council approves to what student organizations your student society joins. So where are we headed in 2019? I caught up with some of the people making these decisions to find out.

The CCSS election was of great importance. A total of 697 students voted to decide on who will fill some of the roles within our student government. There were also two referendum questions: one asking whether or not we should join the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and one asking about what to do with money that had been collected for Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) membership fees after the CCSS were expelled from the CFS in June of 2018.

CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte and external executive Fillette Umulisa agree that the CCSS election is very important because it's one of the ways that students can express themselves democratically.

"Through participation, students learn about democracy, but also have an influence on the college, because you want to potentially influence policies," says Turcotte. "The CCSS has quite a bit of influence in terms of the direction the college chooses, or doesn't choose at times. That is why student government is so important, because who else is going to speak for the students?"

Umulisa says the decisions of governments and policymakers affect students at Camosun, but as individuals our voices aren't always heard.

"Not everybody can just go up there and do it on their own," says Umulisa,

"so they need people to represent them. People who have the courage and strength to speak on behalf of other people. Hence, student governments exist to help the students who can't stand up for themselves, or don't have the time to go forward with concerns and issues and be heard. The CCSS is here to advocate and guide people through their lives as students."

The student society has two elections every year; campus directors are elected in the fall, and there are bi-elections in the spring.

"We do have a number of new representatives that will be coming to the table," says Turcotte. "Hopefully the fresh faces will bring a desire to learn, and also to participate in governance. I hope that they will be proposing new ideas. Sometimes ideas are great, and may not have been tried at the college before."

Turcotte says that new ideas come from the students, so the CCSS election is necessary for progress.

"Ultimately, I've always felt that it is the responsibility of the elected members of the board of directors to be proposing things that are going to

"We do have a very robust planning piece that's been completed, and I'll invite you, and any of the students at Camosun, to have a look at that and give us your feedback."

FRED HAYNES
SAANICH MAYOR

make me slightly uncomfortable," says Turcotte. "If they're not doing that, they really aren't doing their jobs. I am at a different point in my life. I really enjoy advocating for students, and I've been doing it for a number of years, but it is that youthful energy and activism that helps student societies and other organizations progress."

In terms of historical significance, the "yes" vote in the referendum to join CASA could prove to be paramount for generations of Camosun students because, as both Umulisa and Turcotte say, it gives us a voice on the larger issues on a national level.

"Camosun is a small college by Canadian standards, but we have hopes of amplifying our voice to have influence nationally, so we hope to amplify our voice through CASA," says Turcotte. "We were doing that previously through the Canadian Federation of Students, but that opportunity is no longer open to us, because there was a falling out. We are no longer affiliated with that organization. The federal government has a lot of influence on issues that impact students, from funding faculty to student loans."

Umulisa says that the CASA affiliation strengthens the CCSS because the student society can focus on internal issues at Camosun while CASA represents Camosun students on the larger, federal issues.

"Not everyone can stand up to the federal government or the provincial government," says Umulisa. "If I was to advocate for student housing at Camosun I would talk to the minister of housing in BC. If it's something bigger than just Camosun, we have to talk to the federal government, but how am I, as a student at Camosun, going to reach out to the federal government? CASA is a path to what is impossible for us to reach."

So what should we expect for 2019? Turcotte says it's hard to say, because that depends on what the elected candidates might be interested in.

"It differs a lot from year to year," says Turcotte. "Sometimes you have people who don't really have a desire to do anything more than what's already being done. They just want to ensure that the CCSS is operating in an accountable manner. That's a good thing, too. Other times you have people elected that are really striving to do new things or reach different students that we don't normally interact with as well as we would like to. I am hoping that we get some of those people, too."

Umulisa says she is excited because the incoming group reminds her of her beginnings with the CCSS.

"From my experience on the board as Lansdowne director, I would go to meetings, but I did not fully understand what student government does, and what our purpose really is," she says. "But it comes to you, and you learn to look at things in a selfless way. You look at things with all possible explanations. New people bring new ways of looking at problems, so it is always in our best interest. I am really happy to have new people on board and I'm really excited to work with them."

Meanwhile, off campus, municipal elections were held on Saturday, October 20. In total there were 8 councillors and a mayor elected in both Victoria and Saanich, as well as a referendum on whether or not Victoria and Saanich should form citizens councils to discuss the possibility of an amalgamation of the two municipalities.

Both Lansdowne and Interurban campuses are situated in Saanich, under the jurisdiction of new mayor Fred Haynes.

"The Saanich electorate has elected nine independent members of council," says Haynes, "eight of them who are new; I'm a new mayor. We're going to embrace new ideas and new ways of thinking. If you look at who was elected, the age of those who were elected, it's a very significant demographic shift in the members of council, and one must expect that to affect how we view things like housing for young working people and individuals. The imperatives for transportation, the imperatives for economic development, and, now, green space. We will certainly expect some new ways of envisioning the steps forward for Saanich."

The voters in the Capital Regional District's two biggest municipalities gave a very clear message. Haynes and Victoria's incumbent mayor Lisa Helps agree that the recent election has a few key issues that are very relevant in the lives of Camosun students.

"The platform I ran on was to bring more housing opportunity for working families, individuals, and students," says Haynes. "Housing is a big part of it, as well as improvements to transportation and road safety, and working on our green space and agricultural lands, not just in terms of protecting them but trying to revitalize our farming."

Down the road in Victoria, Helps ran on a very similar platform.

"I think there are three key things on our council's agenda that we heard loud and clear," says Helps. "The biggest issue in the campaign was affordable housing. We're already pulling out all the stops we can to support, incentivize, and partner to create more affordable housing."

The province of British Columbia recently announced 588 units of affordable housing in Victoria and Helps says that three out of five of those projects have city land as part of them.

"Those [units of affordable housing] range in income from people who are on income assistance to working people, so there is a whole range of affordable housing," she says. "Some one bedrooms starting at \$579, some one bedrooms starting at \$700. What we will see in the next decade is more affordable housing built, without question."

One of the issues faced by Camosun students is the distance between campuses, and the travel that goes along with that; Haynes says that Saanich

"Fred [Haynes] and I do have an appointment to meet to talk about a variety of things, but housing will certainly be on our agenda. As far as student housing, it has been something that I have wanted to see at Camosun since I arrived here."

SHERRI BELL
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

has an ambitious active transportation plan. (For more on student concerns on Saanich bike paths leading to the Interurban campus, see page 1.)

"If you want to go to our website you can find all of the current bike paths, and the planned bike paths going through five or 10 years," he says. "Also how we are trying to coordinate that with other cities, like Victoria, View Royal, and Oak Bay. We do have a very robust planning piece that's been completed, and I'll invite you, and any of the students at Camosun, to



FILE PHOTO

Camosun College president Sherri Bell.

have a look at that and give us your feedback. Are our priorities that we've identified the same as the priorities that you might have as students? That public consultation was completed and it was very extensive, but there is still room for input and conversation."

The issue, Helps says, is more about making Victoria livable again. "Affordability is about more than just housing," she says. "It's about the cost of living more generally, so the other thing we are working on is the continued rollout of the bike lane network. People will have more and better

"Ultimately, I've always felt that it is the responsibility of the elected members of the board of directors to be proposing things that are going to make me slightly uncomfortable. If they're not doing that, they really aren't doing their jobs."

MICHEL TURCOTTE
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

low-cost options for getting around. People won't necessarily need to have a car. We are also really working hard on better and more frequent transit."

Haynes says that the other key issue in Saanich is economic development. "We want to make sure people have the opportunity to find jobs that they're being trained in," he says. "The job market is pretty hot right now, but we struggle to fill those jobs because we need more housing that is affordable for individuals and young working families."

There was also a provincial referendum deadline of December 7, which gave voters in BC the option of reforming our electoral system in favour of proportional representation. Turcotte thinks that a "yes" vote could help ensure that every election vote counts. (Referendum results were not available before this issue went to print.)

"Currently, we have a system in Canada that allows a party to get elected to a majority government with about a third of the vote," says Turcotte. "Because of the way that the vote is distributed, they are able to capitalize in a number of ridings and get elected. It's troublesome, from a democratic accountability point of view, when the system is designed to essentially create majority governments with less than the majority of support. I think it will allow young people and students to become more engaged with the system if they think they can make a difference. Right now, many young people are disillusioned with the system, and they don't think there is anything they can do to make a difference."

Camosun president Sherri Bell says that Haynes contacted her shortly after being elected and that the two will meet to discuss various issues that impact students.

"We, as a college that has been in the city for almost 50 years now, work with whoever is elected, and are happy to do that," says Bell. "The municipal elections don't necessarily affect us as long as we can continue the kind of relationships we've had in the past with other councils and mayors. This looks really positive. Fred and I do have an appointment to meet to talk about a variety of things, but housing will certainly be on our agenda. As far as student housing, it has been something that I've wanted to see at Camosun since I arrived here."

Haynes says that we've seen some results from his term as a Saanich councillor already, as the University of Victoria, working with the province, has made an announcement of 620 new units of student housing. Haynes hopes to find similar results working with Camosun.

"At Camosun, you have some land assets, and we have talked about housing options, but in a gentle way when I was a councillor," says Haynes. "What I found was that Sherri Bell is open to talk about a whole range of items that can best benefit the campus experience and the student experience. Just by way of example, I am the council liaison to UVic; it's a formal position. I would like to talk to your president about having a similar position for one of our councillors to be a liaison to the Camosun campuses to make sure that there is enough good quality conversation on the needs of the campus life at Camosun."

There has already been some discussion of student housing on Camosun campuses, and Bell says that the college has been working on a preliminary proposal to submit to the provincial government about student housing.

"We have a lot of work to do on it, but we've been going back and forth with the ministry in looking at the possibilities for housing at Camosun," says Bell. "We're not a university, and we don't have a track record with housing, but we would love to put in housing."

Bell adds that consulting company Scion did a feasibility study last year about student housing at Camosun.



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Camosun College Student Society executive director Michel Turcotte.

"What they found in doing the research with students and also looking at the community at large is that we could support housing on both Lansdowne and Interurban campuses," says Bell. "We would probably start at Lansdowne, and then move to creating housing opportunity at Interurban. Right now we are certainly talking to our municipal partners, talking to government, looking at options for perhaps some grant funding as well as loan funding to move forward with housing. That's not going to happen overnight."

Haynes says that they need to look at what Camosun's housing needs are and look at the costs, because provincial funding won't cover the whole cost of on-campus housing.

"For example, let's say Camosun came forward with a request to make 200 or 400 [units of] on-campus housing," says Haynes. "What's the cost of that? How would that be funded? The UVic experience was that the provincial money wasn't all of the money, it was part of the money. Does Camosun have any alumni funding? What other sources of funding can you bring to the table? That's where Camosun, hopefully, can be nimble, and there's no reason why students themselves can't also be nimble."

Bell says that Camosun hopes to talk to the provincial government in the new year about what the college's financial options are for on-campus housing.

"Our students are very different than UVic students, when you look at the demographics," says Bell. "At UVic about 75 percent of the students come from outside of this area, whereas about 75 percent of our students are from the lower island. Our students are also a little bit older on average, so the kind of housing they want is different. We don't have any designs. We're not that far along yet. We are basically saying to government that we are really interested in student housing, so we've put a proposal in, and we'll see where it goes."



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Saanich mayor Fred Haynes.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Victoria mayor Lisa Helps.

music

The Trews share their secrets with Canada



KAYLA ROCCA

The Trews are getting ready to bring material from their new album, *Civilianaires*, to Victoria.

KATE WOOD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Trews have a secret, but they can't keep it much longer. The rockers are ready to take their sixth studio album, *Civilianaires*, on tour, and lead guitarist John-Angus MacDonald is at home in Hamilton, Ontario, savouring the moments before the band share their latest work with the rest of the country.

"I think the happiest we are as a band is when our new record is finished, but the world doesn't know about it yet," says MacDonald.

"That's a peace of mind that I wish on everybody in the world to experience. Just knowing that you're confident, you're happy with the work, and it's just yours, for now."

The Trews participate with Pledge Music as a platform for pre-sales of their albums, as well as exclusive items and experiences; MacDonald is grateful for the support from fans but says the band has had to reconsider some of their more elaborate offers.

"We just went overboard on everything you could purchase,"

says MacDonald. "Like buy a street-hockey game with the band, you can buy a house concert, or buy this and that, I'll do a guitar lesson with people... We just got really over the top with all these different ways you could generate funds to make your record, but then you realize you have to go out and do all that stuff afterwards, and that just led to such an insanely full plate."

But those experiences they had with their fans, although at times inconvenient, were still incredibly fun for the band.

"I think the happiest we are as a band is when our new record is finished, but the world doesn't know about it yet."

JOHN-ANGUS MACDONALD
THE TREWS

"It's always usually a really great vibe to actually be that face to face with a bunch of your fans," says MacDonald. "The street hockey stuff was super fun. We actually got out there and squared off with some fans and we usually won, I don't think I'm lying about that. Maybe we lost one out of five, but I think we usually won. They might have been letting us win; I won't discount that."

For a band whose members have known each other as friends and family for most—if not all—of their lives, change is inevitable. For example, MacDonald says new drummer Chris Gormley has helped the band to rediscover their strengths.

"I guess he just reminded us to capture the essence of what we are at our best," says MacDonald. "That was exciting and it remains exciting, like now every show feels like an exciting happening again, as opposed to just another show. And a lot of that's just in your own head, but sometimes it takes somebody to rattle you out of your own head, and that's certainly what Chris has done for us."

Another change for MacDonald is his approach to writing about love. It's been a learning experience

for MacDonald—who has a long history of writing songs about heart-break—to incorporate optimism into songs that otherwise may feel hopeless.

"We're trying to take this approach more lately in our career," says MacDonald. "It takes a little step further to make it not cynical, not accusatory, or not, like, combative. Leave a light at the end of the tunnel on, because that's sort of the responsible thing to do as you become older and older in this world. I remember Gord Downie saying something very similar to that when I was talking to him about songwriting. He was like, 'I'm over the fuck-you songs, I'm done with fuck-you songs, I need hope at the end.' It doesn't mean I'm all roses and buttercups and this sort of thing. Life's hard and life is full of tragedy, but I think the responsible thing to do at a certain point is to leave the light on at the end of the tunnel. Leave a shred of hope at the end of the rope, cause that's what keeps us all going."

The Trews

8 pm Tuesday, January 22
\$32.50, Capital Ballroom
thecapitalballroom.com

podcast

Podcast hosts Taggart and Torrens bring show to Victoria

"[Our podcast is] just kind of our weekly conversations and I think that people buy into it just by virtue of our personalities and just the kind of stupid stuff that we come up with to fill the hour."

JEREMY TAGGART
TAGGART AND TORRENS

JESSICA HO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jeremy Taggart and Jonathan Torrens are taking their wildly popular *Taggart and Torrens* podcast on the road. The podcast—which has almost 4 million downloads and has been awarded the Canadian Comedy Award for Best Audio Show or Series—is a musical and comedic celebration of Canadian media and culture in which Taggart and Torrens share stories from their unique experiences in the music and film industries, respectively.

The two have such a strong connection with their country and what it means to be Canadian that they even created a new term for it: "Canadianity." While the in-depth definition of this term can be found in their recently published novel, *Canadianity: The True North Strong and Freezing*, Taggart describes Can-

adianity as including Canadians' stereotypical identity as a happy, nice, and easygoing population. However, Canadianity also refers to the strong, veiled confidence of Canadians.

"We are a very forgiving nation, but at the same time we are also understanding of what we have and the great things that make this country one on the best on the planet," says Taggart.

Taggart is the former drummer of Our Lady Peace, a Canadian rock band who sold millions of albums worldwide and won the most Much Music Video Awards ever awarded to a group or artist. Torrens is most well known for playing the character J-Roc in *Trailer Park Boys*. The two met through mutual friends who were Torrens' castmates in the *Trailer Park Boys* and stayed connected through the years.



CHRIS MALLOY

Jonathan Torrens (left) and Jeremy Taggart are the duo behind the *Taggart and Torrens* podcast.

"We decided that our conversations back and forth every week just as friends were making us laugh so much that we figured, 'Why don't we record this?' and that would be the podcast," says Taggart. "That really is what the podcast is—it's just kind of our weekly conversations and I think that people buy into it just by virtue of our personalities and just the kind of stupid stuff that we come up with to fill the hour."

Dine Alone Records has recently signed the duo, and their next undertaking will be an album expected to be released in fall of 2019. Each song will be based on

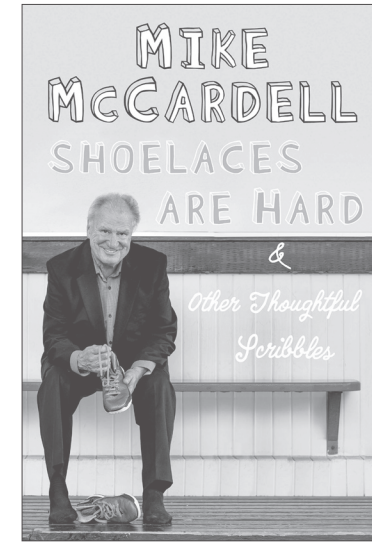
a character from their podcast; the two proud Canadians are excited for a new creative outlet to reach fans. Of course, the creation of an album is not unknown territory for Taggart.

"The kind of funny thing is that by [Our Lady Peace] happening at such a young age, at 17, 18, 'normal' wasn't really normal for me," says Taggart. "I was very lucky to be very successful with OLP at an early age; that was kind of my college or university. That era of my life was spent on the road and touring and learning life that way. My perspective from there was kind of that hopefully I'll still be doing

Taggart and Torrens
7 pm Thursday, January 17
\$22.50, Capital Ballroom
thecapitalballroom.com

review

New book too scribbled to have impact



TRULY HUNTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Shoelaces are Hard: And Other Thoughtful Scribbles is a book of anecdotes written by CTV News investigative reporter Mike McCordell. It's a heartfelt collection of stories written during McCordell's search for his favourite kind of reportage: human-interest stories.

From the clothesline of a woman named Linda to a young autistic boy who believes that anything can be done if you stick to your guns, McCordell has found stories in every corner of life. These stories are told with such compassion and thoughtfulness, it's difficult to criticize them. However, it's not impossible.

Despite the heart with which the stories are told, they read as being unedited. This may be due to the story format—the title describes the stories as being "thoughtful scribbles," after all—but, as a writer, it's not easy to connect with half-edited work.

The unedited feel of the "scribbles" comes mainly from word choice. Sentences that could have easily been cut or edited seem to go on and on and on—sort of like this sentence—with words shoved in here and there to mimic the way that people speak without ever actually saying anything more than what could have been said in just a few short lines (phew!).

Despite the difficulty with which I waded through the sentences, I did find kernels of wisdom that struck me as honest and important. Unfortunately, none of them stuck with me. Due to the unpolished nature of the sentences, I was too busy analyzing the book's technical faults to fully absorb the nuanced wisdom that McCordell wants to share. This is a disappointing aspect of the work, as there is quite a lot of worthwhile material inside *Shoelaces*. Regrettably, the writing won't get out of its own way and as a result the material doesn't shine.

Although I enjoyed many of the quirky and touching anecdotes that *Shoelaces* has to offer, I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the technical aspects of writing; McCordell's writing style is simply too distracting.

If you're looking for a heartfelt read, you're better off picking up a book that is polished and cohesive. Unfortunately, *Shoelaces* is not that book.

New Music Revue



Mike Field
True Stories
(Independent)
4/5

Imagine if Miles Davis met Bad Religion in a bar and they then decided to mix a shot of world jazz with a side of Banner Pilot into their drinks and start singing. This sums up "Mechanic," the first track on Canadian jazz trumpeter Mike Field's fourth album, *True Stories*. That combination may sound a bit unpleasant in theory, but listening to it is energizing, and never predictable.

I wish more artists had the guts to write like this guy. Thanks to his original style, this album truly stands as its own; the tunes often feel like something written for a Quentin Tarantino film. It can almost be too much at times: my first impressions of "The Hotel by the Mansion" made me furrow my brow because of the intense genre mixing, but moments later I found myself cranking the volume and

I wish more artists had the guts to write like this guy. Thanks to his original style, this album truly stands as its own; the tunes often feel like something written for a Quentin Tarantino film.

tapping my foot. It was fierce and had no barriers.

"Tu Vuo' Fa' L'Americano" is mostly pleasant, fast-paced reggae/jazz, while "Road Trip" returns listeners back to the punk realm.

The album loses steam a bit in the second half, but finds life again with "West Side of Town" and finishes thoughtfully with "Autumn Lovesong."

Every song on this album is very different from the last, and I'm confident in saying that most people will love at least one song here. *True Stories* is a creative, diverse album that makes me smile every time I listen to it.

-ADAM MARSH

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STR8TS

No. 216 Medium
3 9
4 8
4 6
6 2 7
6 5 1
8 4
7 6 3 1

Previous solution - Easy
2 4 1 3 8 6 7
2 1 3 6 7 8 5
1 2 5 8 6 7 4 3
8 6 7 5 3 4
8 7 6 4 5 1 2
9 8 7 5 4 3 2 6
3 6 5 4 1 2 9
4 5 3 1 2 9 8 7
5 4 1 7 2 3 9 8

How to beat Str8ts - Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But...

You can find more help, tips and hints at www.str8ts.com

SUDOKU

No. 216 Medium
1 9 4 6
5 1 8 3
9 4 1 7 8
6 8 7 8
3 2 9 5
2 6 3 1 2
6 3 1 2

Previous solution - Tough
3 4 8 5 2 7 1 6 9
9 1 2 8 4 6 3 7 5
6 7 5 9 3 1 8 4 2
2 3 1 6 5 9 7 8 4
7 5 4 2 8 3 9 1 6
8 9 6 7 1 4 5 2 3
5 2 7 4 9 8 6 3 1
4 8 3 1 6 5 2 9 7
1 6 9 3 7 2 4 5 8

To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

If you like Str8ts check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store.

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.



Let's Talk?

by Katy Weicker

Resolutions worth keeping

OMG, peeps: I can't believe it's already 2019 and we're back at it again. Hope everyone had a safe and happy New Year's.

As we enter a new year, many of us will have made a resolution of some kind. If you're anything like me, and you're reading this in the latter half of the publishing cycle, I'm guessing your resolve is slipping.

As we enter a new year, many of us will have made a resolution of some kind. If you're anything like me, and you're reading this in the latter half of the publishing cycle, I'm guessing your resolve is slipping.

2017 one and not my 2018 one (also known as the great closet purge that simply resulted in bags of clothes in the back of my car that I still need to donate.)

So, here are my five 2019 resolutions:

1) Speak up against injustice when I see it. This doesn't have to turn into a hero complex. It's not my job to rescue people, but it is my job to be an ally where and when I can.

But this year, with everything that's been going on, I feel like it might be time to recommit to resolutions, with the hope that they will stick with the same integrity as my

2) Stop lowering my voice when I say I'm a feminist. It's not a dirty word and should be celebrated. My name is Katy, and I am a FEMINIST!

3) Be open-minded. I don't have all the answers (just ask my



The Chopping Block Chronicles

by Justin Bennett

Fermented foods are the superfoods of today

Fermenting is an ancient technique that has been used to preserve food for centuries, and it's seen a major resurgence over the last few years.

It's basically a bible for those who wish to learn the ways of ferment. The book features hundreds of recipes, techniques, and tricks to making your own kombuchas, misos, shoyus, soy sauces, pickles and other fermented goods.

What makes this ancient technique so culturally relevant today? It may have to do with something known as probiotics.

For those of you daring enough, there are starter kits out there that run fairly cheap, and I highly recommend you give it a shot.

Probiotics are microorganisms that promote healthy gut activity; they are typically found in items such as yogurt and beverages like kombucha.

If you're all about convenience, there are plenty of local producers of fermented products, such as kosher dill pickles, sauerkrauts, kimchi, and even some hot sauces.

Many people report that drinking or eating items containing probiotics make them feel healthier, with science backing these claims up: probiotics help with better digestion and help break down nutrients more effectively.

There are plenty of local producers of fermented products, such as kosher dill pickles, sauerkrauts, kimchi, and even some hot sauces.

You can find probiotics in anything fermented that has not under-



Health with Tess

by Tess Syrawik

Why you should reduce your cow consumption

We've all heard about our carbon footprint, global warming, rainforest degradation, and the threats these have to everyone's favourite floating rock, Earth.

damage to the environment, and plant-based alternatives have even less of a negative impact.

Here's the number-one way for you to reduce your carbon footprint that won't take up additional time or resources: reduce your cow intake.

It's not just the cow meat that takes a toll; eating pigs and birds is less environmentally damaging than eating cheese and drinking cow milk.

When a student draws up to the counter, they are faced not with the kind smile of an employee: anyone in a wheelchair is faced with a wall of candy at eye level.

Did you know that consuming cow meat is more environmentally damaging than driving a car? It's

Communication Error

by Nate Dawne



Colours of language

You can sleep when you're dead, but you're not dead, and you cannot sleep.

things they're intended to represent, but colour is just a word. So, what does that have to do with sleeplessness, you might say? Well, I must respond with: what is sleep? Don't be fooled into thinking that sleep,

We must walk around in black and white, being followed around by our shadow, our spectre, our only

Language becomes dull when trying to communicate the feeling to others, so much so that we may forget what orange, yellow, and blue are—they are simply words to us, forever lost and never found.

friend: insomnia. But where did all of the colours go, and why are we left with nothing but the sleepless bodies of our cries for help?

death, and ghosts of sleepless bodies are any different from each other. In other words, we only try to understand any number of these things through conventions of language, by attempting to understand the present, but all of those only exist through words, don't they?

Being awake for too long may make you feel as if you're dead—or that you wish to soon be. The many colours we usually see start to bleed from us, leaking like oil from a car wreck. Language becomes dull when trying to communicate the feeling to others, so much so that we may forget what orange, yellow, and blue are—they are simply words to us, forever lost and never found.

As we stroll through the days wishing we were asleep—or at least capable of it—does that mean we are trapped between sleep and death, incapable of either, yet somehow able to remember what colour... was? The truth may be that our language that we thought was capable of our expressions never held our colours to begin with, that colours have not bled from us, that we are only recognizing for the first time that we were always colour blind.

What is the exercise of speaking if what you are feeling has become white-washed and robbed of its colour? If we no longer see in colour then what is a colour wheel to us? Colours are not words, sleep is not death, and we must no longer let the spectre chase us; instead, we must do the chasing.

Rainbows seem like great things to work toward, but we have no control over the rain we must endure before the rainbows appear. Let us not be haunted while we're still alive. Death is inevitable and, by virtue, so is sleep.



Campus Access

by Kelsey Worth

Bookstore access concerns

Like many of the spaces on campus, Camosun's Lansdowne bookstore is not without its faults in regard to access issues.

ing these issues, the height of the counter already has a fix. Trouble is, it isn't easy to spot, especially for new students trying to figure out 1,000 other things at once.

At the bookstore, getting through the shelves of books is a tight squeeze, but it's not so tight that one can't make do. The big display table right by the doors is a little bit troubling to manoeuvre around, but it too can be done.

Although it probably isn't common knowledge, the wheelchair access counter in the bookstore is around the left side of the checkout, next to the drink fridges and behind a display stand. The sign for the counter is pitifully small and can only be seen if one is standing near the side of the checkout, which also presents an issue for those with visual impairments.

As usual, it comes down to lack of space. However, these are minor issues of inconvenience rather than impossibility. The biggest problem isn't actually obvious until you proceed to the checkout.

Upon my discovery of the access counter, I noticed a large box had been discarded right in the space, a clear sign that the counter gets little use or attention.

When a student draws up to the counter, they are faced not with the kind smile of an employee: anyone in a wheelchair is faced with a wall of candy at eye level.

While these are relatively small issues in the grand scheme of things, they still matter. Perhaps Camosun could enlarge the existing sign and add something closer to the store entrance.

While the temptation of sweets does drain the willpower a little, it isn't enough to draw attention away from the fact that seeing over the counter is impossible; payment also becomes an issue because of this.

Considering that there is an access point already in place, one could argue that the problem is non-existent or has already been modified to provide access. The trouble is that there's nothing practical about this access point.



First Things First

by Tiegan Suddaby

Hurry up and wait(list)

I can't begin to describe how insufferable it is to check your place on a waitlist. Because of this, I have a few pieces of advice for you.

class you prefer. Plus, you might get to experiment with classes you never expected to take. But hang on, slow down; don't go too wild. Put some of those waitlists back. True, putting your name on the list is equal to getting your foot in the door, but remember some people do need the class more than you. Be considerate.

First, as you might have guessed, the lower the number, the higher your chances are of getting in. "Well, duh, Tiegan," you say. "That's, like, what a waitlist is. Tell me something I don't know." I'm sorry that I pointed out the obvious, but this is linked with a general tip: if you're in the top five, you'll probably get in. (It's a general theory, so don't hold me on that.)

My third tip: stay on the waitlist. One of the first classes I wanted to take was already up to seven people on the list. My prospects were bleak, so I did the completely illogical thing and dropped the class before I even went to it. After realizing how that decision would affect the rest of my schedule, I signed up again. Luckily,

Secondly, go wild with the waitlists! Your waitlisted classes might overlap, but at least it gives you time and opportunity to choose which

some people dropped before class began and I got to sit comfortably in fifth place on the list.

My final tip is to attend the class while you can. To know that someone else has a better chance getting into a class you want but isn't taking advantage of that opportunity is infuriating. Class isn't about competition and it's certainly not about negatively affecting your education, or someone else's. If you're not attending the class, why wait for it?

So, once you head to your waitlisted class at the beginning of the semester, don't sweat your placement. It might not work out in your favour all the time, but next time, keep your priorities in order.

NEXUS HUMOUR
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Submit samples to: Nexus, 201 Richmond House, Lansdowne campus, or email editor@nexusnewspaper.com

JUST BECAUSE THEY SWIPED RIGHT DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT.
Sexual violence and misconduct can never be part of student life. It will not be tolerated. Make campuses safe for everyone, play your part.
BRITISH COLUMBIA

overheard at nexus 2018 word search

Every issue, we take a quote heard around the office, remove the context, and place it for everyone's entertainment/horror as *Overheard at Nexus* in our masthead. It's a tradition we've been doing for years and years; here are some words pulled from our 2018 installments. Read 'em and weep.

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.

AFTERLIFE BEARDS CANDLESTICK DISS FARM FISH FUCKING GUNS KILL KNIVES LEGAL LICKED MOIST NIPPLES ORGASM POLAND PORCUPINE TONGUE TUTU VOMIT	K	Y	E	U	W	L	B	P	I	F	O	Y	A	Z	Q
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	D	G	U	N	S	I	E	U	L	L	I	K	O	L	A
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	Z	E	O	G	S	S	I	D	I	H	D	B	S	M	C
	Q	I	P	U	P	W	F	V	N	O	E	S	I	K	V
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	F	N	U	L	O	V	I	C	I	N	H	G	V	M	M

contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Let's see if you can find this copy of a previous issue of *Nexus* that 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 behind a pillar in the hallway behind the bookstore, in the Fisher building.

Bring this one to us if you find it; we've got gift cards, shirts, and more for the winner to choose from!

PENGUIN & PEACOCK

I think I've finally found balance in my life

I just spent the last hour staring into the abyss

And now I'm going to go spend an hour staring into the sun

By Jayden Grieve

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NEXUS Web Exclusive

What's happening at nexusnewspaper.com

Week of December 17, 2018, top five most read stories:

- "Sugar plum fairies dance at the Royal in *The Nutcracker*," December 1, 2018
- "*Unpacking the Bags*: A letter from an international student to Victoria, BC," November 21, 2018
- "History being made: Camosun College Student Society joins Canadian Alliance of Student Associations," December 3, 2018
- "Brazilian student athlete brings his experience to Camosun Chargers," February 21, 2018
- "Sweeney Todd mainly a victory from beginning to end," August 3, 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!

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Katy Weicker
Staff writer for Nexus newspaper. Her Left's Talk? column examines feminist issues, and her stories often look at arts and entertainment through a feminist framework.

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