

# WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF CAMOSUN?

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# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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25 years ago in Nexus  
returns in September

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#### SEND A LETTER

*Nexus* prints letters that are 250 words or less. *Nexus* reserves the right to refuse publication of letters. Letters must include full name and student number (not printed). *Nexus* accepts all letters by email to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. We reserve the right to edit all letters.

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "There's nothing worse than a squished banana."

COVER PHOTO:  
Greg Pratt/*Nexus*

## student editor's letter Future thoughts

It's a scorching summer afternoon at *Nexus* HQ. I'm doing my best not to perspire on my wireless keyboard. Managing editor Greg Pratt has just heated up his lunch in the microwave (as if we need anything else radiating heat) and is jamming out to his usual background death metal; music is our gasoline.

We've been keeping busy, even though the paper scales down to being published once a month in the summer. The web-exclusive stories that hit our site every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer help us keep you informed on what's going on.

And here's what's going on for this issue's feature story: we asked students and staff what they would like to see in the future of Camosun College. The answers were all over the map, and they can all be found on page 6 (and see *Speak Up* on this page for some more student thoughts on the matter).

Be sure to flip over to our news section on page 3 to read about Camosun's new mental-health stigma reduction project, which is kicking off in September on both campuses.

Speaking of both campuses, on page 5 there is a preview of CamFest, the Camosun College Student Society's annual September bash. It's designed to be a good ol' welcome-back bash for students; *Nexus* will be there with a volunteer sign-up sheet, which is exactly how I ended up getting this job in the first place. (And, as a very nice bonus, meeting the love of my life.) (Not Pratt—the death metal was too much for me.)

Back in the arts section, contributing writer Mikayla Russell wrote about the Vitoria Free B-Film Festival; see page 8 to get the scoop.

If you've got ideas for what we should be covering, if you want to start volunteering for us, or if you just feel like saying hey, stop by the office (Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus). We want to hear from you.

Who knows? It might change your life like it changed mine.

Adam Marsh, student editor  
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

## open space

### In defence of smartwatches

PASCALE ARCHIBALD  
STUDENT EDITOR

The interconnectivity that comes with smart devices is amazing, but sometimes they are too demanding of my time. That's why I love the idea of a go-between. I'm talking smartwatches; it's a new twist on an old idea, and it's the perfect way to stay in the loop while avoiding unnecessary distractions.

We've all gone to check the time on a phone, get distracted answering a few emails, checked Facebook, watched a YouTube video, and then, only after putting down the phone, realized that we forgot to check the time. Or there's the scenario of two people out to dinner and neither of them are talking or even looking at each other; they're both staring at their phones.

Additionally, in trying to be a conscientious student, my phone is permanently on silent, so I miss a lot of calls and don't get to messages right away. Having an intelligent

piece of tech on my wrist that keeps me inconspicuously in the loop is pretty amazing.

Yes, some people say that the smartwatch fad is just that, a fad—just one more device to add to the already heaping pile of new tech gadgets—but glancing at your watch in a social situation is less obtrusive than pulling out a smartphone. Smartwatches allow you to decide in a split second if that incoming message is really worth the interruption.

I look forward to the day when smartwatches can help maintain health through simple notifications, like monitoring insulin for diabetics or glucose levels for hypoglycemia, or reminding you to drink water, because that headache you're experiencing? That's dehydration.

Smartwatches are here to stay, and that's fine by me. I'll gladly sport a piece of tech that has at least some of the capabilities of a tricorder on my wrist any day of the week.

## open space

### Question everything

JAYDEN GRIEVE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For the sake of oneself and for the sake of society at large, it's becoming increasingly important that we question the rationale behind everything we do.

The human brain acts as a composite of all the information it has taken in, and a great deal of that information is completely subconscious. Why do we prefer certain colours? Why do some words sound silly to us? Things like this are completely harmless, but rarely can a person explain why they have these preferences.

Consider a puddle of your cat's vomit—you have possibly already cringed. When your furry feline friend deposits a nice helping of yesterday's kibble onto your floor, it's an unpleasant job to clean it up.

Why? The contents of your friend's stomach are really not likely to harm you in any way. Cat vomit doesn't even smell particularly bad. You think that it is gross because you have been told that mushy things that come out of stomachs are gross. If you can truly look at your brain and say, "Why do you think this is gross?" you may realize that, deep down, there is no reason, and that's the first step to cleaning up vomit without cringing.

Now, some people may have a perfectly valid reason to hate cat vomit, but it's important to question whether you have a reason.

And if anyone doubts their ability to overcome, ask someone how they'd react to having feces on them before they have a baby, and then ask them again after they've had a baby for a couple months.

When people are able to question the small, they are much more likely to be able to question the big: "Why do I buy certain products?" "Why do I treat women this way?" "Why do I hate certain people?"

Racism, sexism, and other prejudices are born from swallowing—consciously or subconsciously—the hatred spat from other people who themselves are likely unsure of the motives behind their bigotry.

Doing something because it's what you've always done is simply unacceptable.

You have to know why you are doing it.

Knowing yourself is the first step toward bettering yourself, and if we are able to take a glance into our inner clockwork, we may be able to set ourselves on the path to becoming better people, and a better society at large.

Question everything, friends.

## letters

### Addiction addition

I agree with the premise of the opinion (Re: "Arresting addicts not helpful for anyone," July 13, 2016 issue). I disagree, however, with the specific statement that addiction "is in the addict's brain chemistry."

The more exposure I have to this area as a therapist and educator, and it's been 23 years now, I realize that addiction is created not by individual brain chemistry but an individual's response to a set of circumstances in their lives that is difficult to manage for many different reasons. Inability to connect with others seems to be at the heart of what is taking place with addiction, and we see this as a growing problem with the issues arising around pornography, social media, technology, and gambling.

We as a society are creating the problem, and addiction will never go away until we learn what is behind addiction, and it doesn't start with looking at the brains of "addicts," it starts with looking at why we reject others and create divisions between ourselves and other people.

ANDRE SERZISKO  
VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

### CFS chuckles

(Re: "The other side of the divide," July 13, 2016 issue) You print [Canadian Federation of Students national chairperson] Bilan Arte saying (paraphrasing) "I think we continue to interact with BC same as other places." Comically untrue.

MRBCSTUDENT  
VIA TWITTER

## SPEAK UP

What would you like to see in the future of Camosun?

BY ADAM MARSH



SHARON YUAN

"I would like to see more food at the cafeteria. They don't have much food, and most of it is not good. Also, I think they should recreate the visual-arts building; it's very old."



SAMANTHA HILL

"It would be really great if the college would follow through on the content it teaches; there are nutrition classes, and then you walk into the cafeteria and there are things that aren't actually feeding the building blocks of your brain."



ANDREA REYES  
SALAZAR

"A more equipped gym, more formal. It feels abandoned."



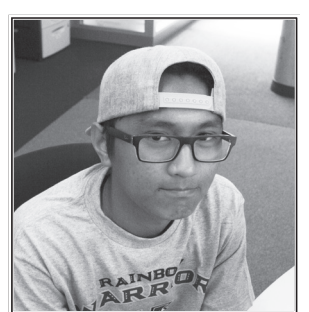
DAVID CARR

"More community events on campus."



MARTIN ASECE

"The school is a good school, but they should make room for more arts. I'm currently taking an English class, and then maybe I'll get some program support for visual arts."



JESLEE MANIH

"Courses should be free for domestic students."

mental health

## New Camosun project aims to fight stigma for students



FILE PHOTO

Camosun student Melanie Winter wants to help get rid of the stigma surrounding mental-health issues.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun College is hoping to raise awareness for students struggling with mental health, substance use, or learning challenges through the Living in Our Shoes: Mental Health and Substance Use Stigma Reduction Project, which will run from September to February on both campuses. The project will consist of lunchtime talks where a panel of three or four people who have obtained a degree of stability in their mental struggles will speak about their experiences and self-care strategies that help them cope.

Camosun College Student Society women's director Melanie Winter—who lost her father to suicide nine years ago—says Camosun is “fighting stigma one student at a time.”

“I was volunteering in suicide prevention, and so I just decided,

you know, we all struggle with something, and if we just had more conversations about it, maybe we could open that dialogue,” she says. “I’m not saying that would ever change my dad’s circumstances, but had the conversation been around when I was younger, maybe it wouldn’t have happened.”

years of my life,” she says. “It definitely left me feeling like, ‘Why wasn’t I enough? Why couldn’t I save you?’ It was a really great education piece in understanding, compassion, and empathy.”

Winter says she is hoping her work in promoting mental-health awareness will help people realize

“There are a lot of people out there that have mental-health [challenges] and learning challenges that perhaps we don’t know about.”

**ALLISON MCLEOD**  
LIVING IN OUR SHOES

After nine years without her father, Winter says that she can now “turn around and put that pain into purpose.”

“It was at those developmental

that the answer lies in compassion, and that suicide does not get rid of the pain for those struggling; it merely passes it on to loved ones.

“For me, helping other people

“I was volunteering in suicide prevention, and so I just decided, you know, we all struggle with something, and if we just had more conversations about it, maybe we could open that dialogue.”

**MELANIE WINTER**  
LIVING IN OUR SHOES

is what helps me just come to terms with what happened,” she says. “Maybe they can see the pain it’s causing and they won’t do it to their own kids.”

Camosun Nursing instructor Allison McLeod is part of the college project; she says mental health has always been a big part of the nursing program at Camosun.

“Any time I’m teaching anything, I’m trying to relate it to [mental health]. If you have a patient in for heart challenges or cardiac functioning, it doesn’t mean they don’t have a mental-health challenge along with that. Or do they have a learning challenge? How are you going to approach their education around taking care of their health?”

McLeod—who has lived with ADHD for over 20 years—says combating mental health is “a full-time job on top of a full-time job.”

“It is about hard work, but there

are a lot of people out there that have mental-health [challenges] and learning challenges that perhaps we don’t know about. I’d like people to start talking about that more, saying, ‘I’m successful, I’ve got a great career, and I’ve been struggling with anxiety for the last 20 years,’ that it does take hard work, but it also takes a lot of skill, a lot of support, and a lot of strength. And people can do it.”

McLeod says the only thing that comes from feeling shame and embarrassment around mental health is more suffering.

“I think people deserve a lot of respect for the amount of effort they put in, not just for getting through the day,” says McLeod. “I’ve had people come forward, and say—these are employees—they come forward and say, ‘I want to tell my story.’ I think it’s really important for students to hear that they can do it, that they can get through it.”

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Camosun launches new edible garden at Interurban

There’s a new edible garden at Camosun’s Interurban campus. The garden will allow students in cooking programs to include more local and fresh herbs, among other things, into their cooking. The garden is located outside the Culinary Arts Centre. See our full story on the edible garden in the web-exclusives section of [nexusnewspaper.com](http://nexusnewspaper.com).

### Camosun mourns passing of instructor

Camosun College’s flags were at half mast on July 15 in honour of

Electrical instructor Bob Hammer. Hammer worked at the college from 1989 until 2000 and from 2005 until June of this year. Hammer passed away on July 10.

### Camosun Chargers golf player wings big in Vancouver

Camosun Charger golfer and Business student Brady Stead won this year’s Vancouver Open Armature Division tournament. Stead, who had the highest GPA among all student athletes at Camosun, shot a total of 152 at the BC Amateur Championship, landing him at eight over par. See [camosun.ca/sports/chargers](http://camosun.ca/sports/chargers) for more Chargers info.

### Good news, bad news for Camosun cyclists

The municipality of Saanich is working on making Lansdowne Road more bike- and pedestrian-friendly. The particularly death-defying stretch between Richmond and Shelbourne should soon be a lot less horrifying to navigate. Unfortunately, construction is expected to last until the end of summer, so best to avoid that stretch for now if possible.

### Food education continues in CRD

The Capital Regional District board has voted to continue their

outreach and education services agreement with the Victoria Compost Education society. The agreement, which will extend to December 31, 2019, aims to educate people on waste reduction, composting, local organic food production, and harvesting their own food.

### Funding increases for homelessness partnering strategy

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is expanding their agreement with the federal government to include additional funding for the region through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The strategy

is geared toward reducing and eliminating poverty in the region. The CRD is eligible to receive an additional \$793,652, which will bring the total to \$3,918,767, to span over a five-year agreement ending March 31, 2019.

—ADAM MARSH

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

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

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

While you’re at it, we’re also on Facebook and Twitter, you know...

Find us as [nexusnewspaper](http://nexusnewspaper.com) on all three. See you there!

services

## Camosun's shuttle bus to run again in September



“[Camosun] created a bus to bridge that gap that should be filled by a public service but isn’t.”

**RACHAEL GRANT**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

The Camosun Express shuttle bus takes students between the two Camosun campuses; it will be up and running again in September.

**PASCALE ARCHIBALD**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Over the past two years, Camosun College has provided a shuttle-bus service to students, faculty, and staff for access between the Lansdowne and Interurban campuses. It's the Camosun Express, and it's going to be up and running again in September.

Camosun College Transportation and Parking operations assistant Darcy Neu says the shuttle-bus project was initiated as a way to reduce the number of cars travelling between campuses.

“Part of the transportation demand management plan and the sustainability plan was to try and

look at alternative transportation and then also to reduce the demand for parking,” says Neu, “so the shuttle bus serves both those purposes; that was definitely a bonus in getting it here as a service offered.”

Camosun College Student Society external executive Rachael Grant is a Camosun student who relies on the shuttle bus; she says that although there is a public bus that services that route, the Camosun Express is a much easier way to get between campuses.

“The student society does a lot of advocacy around transit, and [the shuttle bus] has actually been one of our speaking points when we are lobbying for higher-quality transit

for students,” says Grant. “Our transit system is lacking in ways that Camosun has stepped up, and [Camosun] created a bus to bridge that gap that should be filled by a public service but isn’t.”

Even though the shuttle offers an easy way to travel between campuses, Grant has noted how unused the service is at times.

“It’s often a fairly empty bus,” says Grant. “There are definitely students who regularly use it and benefit, so that’s cool. I feel like if more people knew about it, they would use it. It’s difficult to communicate to all students that this service exists, but I definitely see some folks using it on a fairly regular

basis and benefiting because taking [BC Transit route] number 8 can be less convenient.”

This lack of ridership is not lost on Neu, who says she is working hard this year to get information about the shuttle bus out there to potential riders.

“This year, ultimately, what we want to do is have it being utilized by anyone who can use it, especially during those off-peak times,” says Neu. “It would be great to have people realizing that it’s there. I know that in the past, from what I’ve heard, some people didn’t know about it, so we are really wanting to get the word out.”

This year’s schedule has not

been finalized, but Neu says that students, staff, and faculty will indeed again have the shuttle service to look forward to.

“Last year, it started in September and then went until the late spring and then just followed the Camosun calendar,” says Neu. “This year, it will certainly be running in September; we’re just finalizing times.”

Since it launched in September of 2014, the Camosun Express has provided service to 17,439 riders, according to the college.

General information on the shuttle and the finalized schedule, when it’s ready, will be available at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

know your profs

## Camosun Biology instructor Sarah Cockburn just says no to raisins

**PASCALE ARCHIBALD**  
STUDENT EDITOR

*Know Your Profs* is an ongoing series of profiles on the instructors at Camosun College. Every issue we ask a different instructor at Camosun the same 10 questions in an attempt to get to know them a little better.

Do you have an instructor that you want to see interviewed in the paper? Maybe you want to know more about one of your teachers, but you’re too busy, or shy, to ask? Email [editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com) and we’ll add your instructor to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue, we talked to Camosun Biology instructor Sarah Cockburn about her love of cycling, her dislike of raisins, and her awful in-class artwork.

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

I’ve been teaching in the Camosun Biology department for three years.

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

I find working with people to

be very rewarding, especially when I get to spend the day discussing science and learning about biology. I find it very rewarding when even one student leaves a class thinking differently about the world around them.

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

I ride my bike to work every day. I feel very fortunate to live in a place where I can ride all year long. A no-car day is a good day. I would love to see more people out on their bikes.

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

Probably how bad I am at drawing. I use the whiteboard a lot when I teach, and I always have such awful drawings. I’m sorry!

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

Probably the day I got a continuing contract. I used to ride my bike by Camosun and think how amazing it would be to teach here. I love my job and the Camosun community. I feel very fortunate.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun College’s Sarah Cockburn admits that her in-class drawings are awful.

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

Hmm, I’m not sure anything bad has really happened to me yet. Give it a few years...

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

I would love to see post-second-

ary education be accessible to everyone. I’m not sure what that would look like, but I believe everyone has a right to education.

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

A good weekend would consist of a good cup of coffee, a yoga class, a run, and a trip to the library.

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

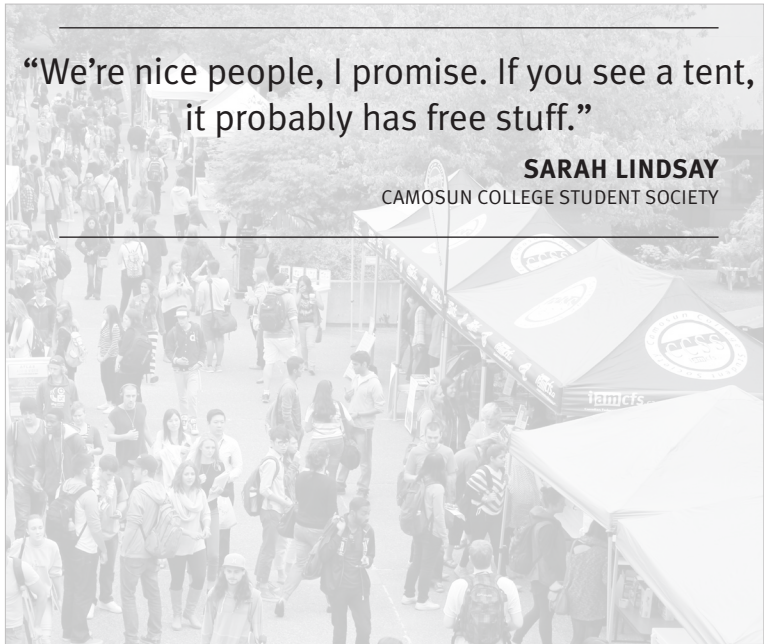
I love food. I think, right now, local strawberries and ice cream. Does that count as a meal?

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

Inconsiderate people really get to me. And raisins in oatmeal cookies. Well, really, raisins in anything.

event

## Student society's CamFest to hit Camosun campuses in September



"We're nice people, I promise. If you see a tent, it probably has free stuff."

**SARAH LINDSAY**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) is bringing their annual start-of-semester celebration for Camosun College students to both campuses in September, and they're promising a whole lot of fun this year. The events, happening September 6 at Lansdowne and September 8 at Interurban, are going to be carnival-esque good time, says CCSS student services coordinator Michael Glover.

"Camfest is like a big welcome-back party, really," says Glover. "You know, free food, enter-

tainment of various kinds, tents, a lot of information on the college, all that kind of stuff. It's information, free food, and fun."

Glover says Camfest is "very much like a transitory corridor," particularly at Lansdowne.

"It's very mobile," he says. "People aren't going to stand and deliver performances, just because people won't be there for it. The whole thing is grab and go."

CCSS Interurban campus executive Sarah Lindsay stresses the importance of students taking advantage of all that CamFest has to offer by going up to the tents and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Students taking in some of the fun at a previous year's CamFest, this one at the Lansdowne campus.

seeing what is on display.

"We're nice people, I promise," she says. "If you see a tent, it probably has free stuff."

Lindsay says that even if you're a student who takes classes off campus, you can still attend CamFest.

"Take advantage of what we have to offer, and all the fun," she says.

CCSS external executive Ra-chael Grant says that CamFest is a

great opportunity for students to get to know what resources are available to them at Camosun; it's also a good way to connect with students and the CCSS, she says, adding that the CCSS will be launching a new app for students at the event.

"It's going to be an app that any Camosun student can download," she says, "and it's going to be a really great way that students can connect with each other. We're really excited

about launching that in the fall. It looks like it's going to be a great day for each campus."

**CamFest**  
10 am to 3 pm,  
Tuesday, September 6 and  
Thursday, September 8  
Camosun Lansdowne (Sept. 6)  
Camosun Interurban (Sept. 8)  
[camosunstudent.org](http://camosunstudent.org)

clubs

## Camosun animal-rights club gets active



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun student Rhonda Hemstreet.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun Environmental Technology student Rhonda Hemstreet cares about animals. She cares about animals so much that she co-founded the Camosun Animal Ethics Club to get a dialogue flowing about a more animal-friendly diet and, as a result, an ecologically friendly diet.

"There's a lot of sustainability implications with meat eating and the meat and the dairy trade," says Hemstreet.

Hemstreet says that the meat and dairy industries contribute greatly to greenhouse gases. For example, she says that a meat eat-

"Animals are just totally marginalized, neglected, and abused."

**RHONDA HEMSTREET**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

er on a bicycle can have a bigger ecological footprint than a vegan in a car.

"A lot of people don't know that," she says. "They want to be green with their choices but they don't know how huge it is."

Hemstreet, who has been a vegetarian for four years, says that a lot of people just don't take responsibility for their choices.

"It's just, 'Oh, this is available to me; I'm going to eat it.' And we don't really think about the consequences of that," she says.

Hemstreet—who adds that the club will also look at Bill C-246, the Modernizing Animal Protections Act—says that vegetarianism is not just about ethics for her.

"I've felt way better both ethically and physically; my health, as well," she says. "It was a great choice."

Hemstreet says that things are slowright now for the Animal Ethics Club, but once fall arrives, regular meetings should get underway, as well as more initiatives around campus.

"We're going to really try to get meatless Mondays in the cafeteria and just raise awareness through that on the greenhouse gasses and the sustainability effects of being meat free," she says.

Hemstreet says that it was frustrating that the club got going just as the winter term ended, but she looks forward to things getting busier in the fall and hopes that the club will grow to both Camosun campuses.

"We would love, once we're established, to get something going out at Interurban as well," she says. "That would be huge, because that's where the culinary department is."

Hemstreet says that although sustainability is important in her field of environmental technology, for her, it really comes down to how the animals are treated.

"Animals are just totally marginalized, neglected, and abused, and it doesn't matter if it's a cow, a cat, a dog, a rabbit; they all can feel, and they are living, breathing, bleeding beings," says Hemstreet. "They need to be respected a lot more than they are."

### what's going on

by greg pratt

**UNTIL SATURDAY, AUGUST 13**

#### **Much ado about lame headlines using "much ado"**

The Vancouver Island Shakespeare Arts Society is performing two Bard plays (one comedy, one tragedy) at various venues until August 13; this year it's *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Othello*. Check out [vancouverislandshakespearearts.com](http://vancouverislandshakespearearts.com) for more information.

**UNTIL SUNDAY, AUGUST 28**

#### **Mommy madness**

*Mom's the Word* is a play about motherhood today, and all the ups and downs that go along with it. It's at the Belfry during August; see [belfry.bc.ca](http://belfry.bc.ca) for ticket prices and more information.

**UNTIL SUNDAY, AUGUST 28**

#### **Looking back, looking ahead**

*Modernization in Meiji Japan (1868-1912)* has a pretty straightforward name, so if this sounds intriguing, check out this Art Gallery of Greater Victoria exhibit; see [aggv.ca](http://aggv.ca) for more info.

**UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

#### **Visual transmissions**

*Trans-Pacific Transmissions: Video Art Across the Pacific* is an exhibition of work from various Pacific Rim artists. It's open at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria until September; see [aggv.ca](http://aggv.ca) for more info on this and other events at the gallery.

**UNTIL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16**

#### **Yes, that kind of kinky**

*Kinky* is a display of ancient Chinese and Japanese erotic images taking place at the Art Gallery of

Greater Victoria. See [aggv.ca](http://aggv.ca) for more information on this and other happenings.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 11**

#### **Get dead**

Dead Ranch are hitting up Logan's with their brand of rock and roll. That's loud, noisy, heavy rock and roll. Next show after Victoria looks to be a burger festival. Cool. See [loganspub.com](http://loganspub.com) for the lowdown.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17**

#### **That's a lot of voices**

It's a performance of Brahms' *A German Requiem*, with a 250-piece choir to boot. The Claire Coupland Band will also be appearing. Tickets are \$20 for this concert, which starts at 8 pm and takes place at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, located at 900 Johnson Street. Tickets are available at [ticketfly.com](http://ticketfly.com); for more info email [hilaryc@shaw.ca](mailto:hilaryc@shaw.ca).

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22**

**TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

#### **Three decades of life on the fringe**

The Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival is back for another round of live performances. This year, Fringe celebrates 30 years of bringing a variety of live theatre to local audiences; see [intrepidtheatre.com](http://intrepidtheatre.com) for the scoop on what's playing and what it will cost you.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 26**

#### **Metal hearts**

Medevil play metal and come from Chilliwack, and we're not sure what else you are really looking for in a night out. The headbanging goes down at the Copper Owl and will cost you \$10; see [copperowl.ca](http://copperowl.ca) for more info.

# College at a What does the future

Sometimes it feels like Camosun College is at a crossroads, wondering which way to go next. Will the institution focus on trades and job-skills training, or will it be more arts-based? What is the role of international students? How do the college's sports teams fit into all this?

We thought we'd wrangle a range of people—from Camosun students to Camosun College Student Society employees to the college president—to get their thoughts on where the college should be heading in the future.

The responses varied from unexpected, like the merging of two campuses into one, to common themes, such as a hope for more funding from the government. Whatever paths the college takes in the future, one thing is clear: there are a lot of very passionate people—staff and, importantly, students—guiding the way.

## Pascale Archibald

**Nexus newspaper student editor/Camosun College student**

I would like Camosun College to stay realistic about what it is and what it has to offer students. There should be no delusions of grandeur here; there should be a line in the college mandate stating that it is not a university and that that's a-okay.

It is a college, and for many students that means that Camosun is just a stepping stone to get to another institution. But for some, Camosun is a place where they can start and end their educational career. It is a place where students can actually get training for on-the-job skills, practical skills that will make the Camosun-trained student be chosen over a theory-filled university graduate.

I like to believe that Camosun will remain doing what they do best, and keep training students in practical things, while staying small, quaint, and innovative. It seems that whenever I hear an update on youth in the workplace, all I hear is that students do not have appropriate training for the job force. At one time, a young twenty-something could graduate with a degree—any degree would do—and they could get a job, and have on-the-job training, or so I've been told.

That, unfortunately, does not seem to be the case anymore, and, as a result, the need for institutions like Camosun, I believe, will only grow in the future. It's a good thing to attend a college like Camosun; this is where people get that much-needed practical training that everyone seems to be calling for.

## Sherril Bell

**Camosun College president**

I envision Camosun's future to be one where every graduate walks across our convocation stage with the knowledge and self-confidence that they can indeed challenge and change our world.

We've recently completed our new Strategic Plan for the college, which is our guide, our mandate, over the next five years, to build on, improve, and create truly life-changing learning opportunities for our students.

The student experience is one of our main goals through this plan. We are still working on what the complete "student experience" actually looks like, but one of our key focuses is to improve on our experiential learning opportunities. Experiences like co-op education, internships, practical lab work, and field-school opportunities abroad—we want to take these applied-learning options to a new level so that as many students as possible have the opportunity to directly connect their classroom education to tangible real-world experiences.

Supporting creativity and innovation for students is another of our major objectives. For example, we are now developing an interaction lab at Interurban campus. This lab will focus on solutions-based learning as industry clients bring their real-life product challenges to the table for analysis and creative, technical problem-solving by our students.

Camosun College is a special place, and I truly believe our future is one where every student is actively engaged and encounters that "aha" moment. Those moments may take place in a classroom or in the community or while tackling important issues such as sustainability and truth and reconciliation. Camosun students will be well prepared and will contribute to our ever-changing world.

## John Boraas

**Camosun College vice president, education**

I'm excited about the future of Camosun College—one in which Camosun continues to be a college of and for the communities we serve, stepping up to meet the needs and aspirations of the learners we serve.

I envision our future to be one in which our understanding of community has grown—where we are a leading college in British Columbia's aboriginal communities; present in Victoria's social agencies and supporting access to education for those with challenging circumstances or finances; and continuing to graduate learners in a variety of fields that are ready to contribute to the local and global opportunities of tomorrow.

I envision growth to include a burgeoning school for the arts. Learning that includes enhanced opportunities to partner with local agencies, business, or industry to apply learning is the norm.

The demand for technology programming continues to multiply, and we have grown the technology programming to meet learner and industry needs. Victoria as a tourism destination continues to support the college to deliver a greater range of hospitality- and tourism-related courses. Our commitment to health and human services programming remains strong, with a growing connection to community and inter-professional approaches to training as well as an expanded role in preventive health.

Our commitment to program excellence is strengthened, as is our ability to provide expanded services for students—at the front end of their entrance to the college as well as while they complete their studies.

We continue to grow the number of dual-credit students who begin their education at Camosun while completing their high-school credits. We will continue to invest in existing programs as well as the programs that emerge over the coming years. Spaces for synergistic learning will be a priority for the college's planning as we create learning labs for students to socialize and learn alongside faculty, staff, and other students, as well as administration.

I also hope that we continue to see students who value critical thinking and contribution to society and who continue to criticize and challenge college and other leadership. I also hope that we see growth in the funding for the important work being done in post-secondary education.

## Rachael Grant

**Camosun College Student Society external executive/  
Camosun College student**

When asked what I would like to see for the future of Camosun, I'm conflicted. There is the ideal, but the reality I see coming to pass if we continue on the path we are currently on is also worth mentioning.

I often hear feedback about how things could be better at Camosun, and the financial aspects of being a student are always predominant: the high cost of parking, food, and student fees.

Another common criticism is the lack of means to connect with other students. We need to see a Camosun that is structured in a way that allows more opportunities for students from any field of study to connect. We currently have no spaces for students to socialize, like campus residences or a pub.

The cost of attending post-secondary is rising, and students with lower income are being left behind. Government funding continues to decrease, putting the expansion of program offerings, campus facilities, and student life on hold. Should this trend continue, the student body at Camosun would shift primarily to individuals already capable of paying for school without incurring student debt.

We need a Camosun that is adequately funded by our government. At the end of the day, the Camosun I'd like to see is one that fosters a post-secondary experience that is not a product to be purchased. Students should not be seen as consumers, and education should not be seen as a commodity.

# crossroads

## What does the future hold for Camosun?

**Adam Marsh**

**Nexus newspaper student editor/Camosun College student**

It's important to keep the college well rounded academically so that it remains well rounded in other aspects, including, if I may be boldly vague, its overarching humanity, because the people that roam Camosun's halls and fill the cafeteria line-ups at lunch are the people who make the college what it is as a whole.

We don't see the college's board of governors at work, but if the board didn't have a well rounded group to work with... you can fill in the blanks.

Some of the best and most enlightening conversations I've had have been with students who have transferred from Welding or Engineering into the humanities or arts. Why? Because they think differently from me and therefore can educate me in a way that I (and many of my English-major classmates) can not. It's the value of education, after all, to be able to choose how to think about any given scenario that is placed in front of you.

It's an issue that is a whole lot bigger than the college, but it starts with this: giving students a chance to be heard. My opinion is one of thousands at the school, and my opinion matters if you want it to, or if it is backed up by a number of students so great that you can't ignore them saying the same thing.

So in the future, I hope there will be more of this: a chance for students to be heard in a way that may or may not advocate change, or to say something direct that undeniably forces an inventory.

**Graham Matthews**

**Camosun College Recreation and Athletics Coordinator**

I know this is not reality, but in a dream world, or possibly far into the future, Camosun would consolidate into one central campus. In my perspective, this would enable more efficient use of college resources and funding. It would also create a real sense of campus community, allowing for better communication and connection between all college employees and students.

A vibrant college with residences and a new health building (which is currently in the planning stages) at Interurban, plus new student centres on both campuses, focused on student activities—social, spiritual, recreational, fitness, intramurals...

Opportunities to assist students in maintaining a balance between academics and the challenges of everyday life while on campus.

The completion of the vision for the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE) on the Interurban campus, with the addition of the third gym and expanded fitness, classroom, training, research, office, and storage areas. It's desperately needed, as all programs (including academic, athletic, and community) are outgrowing the current facility space at PISE.

The addition of Chargers intercollegiate men's and women's soccer programs and other sports at the college.

I hope the college continues to focus and build upon creating a meaningful and positive learning and working environment for students and employees.

**Michel Turcotte**

**Camosun College Student Society executive director**

I want Camosun's future to be bright, inclusive, progressive, and relevant. I dream of a day when the government properly funds education, when all students do not pay tuition, and when full-time students receive a study support grant to attend school (it currently exists in Scandinavia). I want to see the day when international students are welcomed solely for the diversity and cultural enrichment they bring to our campuses, rather than as a needed source of institutional revenue.

I want an institution where courses and programs are responsive to the needs of the community and where the main motivation behind course and program change is not to increase tuition revenue. I would love to see a college where students have more than token representation on the board of governors and education council, and where they receive academic credit for participation in governance activities.

My vision of the future includes students not having to work three jobs to pay their way through school and where they have the time to participate in on-campus activities. I want to see a college where "student life" is more than just a buzzword to be thrown out from time to time, and where there is a vibrant and fun life outside of the classroom. Most of all, I want a campus where there is mutual respect at all levels and where students again have the time and freedom to regain their traditional role as the social conscience of the nation.

I hope to again see a day when many students are engaged in political and social causes, and when they feel the freedom to challenge prevailing orthodoxy and hold those with power to account.

**Geoff Wilmshurst**

**Camosun College vice president, partnerships**

Camosun's amazing history has provided us with the essential framework for the future. We are already the most comprehensive college in British Columbia, and my wish would be that we remain that way with even greater scope in the future. Our educators are some of the best in the province; every student survey, domestic and international, ranks our instructors as one of the top reasons to study here. We need to continue to support our academic team to continue to provide education excellence.

In the past five years, Camosun has witnessed the tripling of the number of international students, representing more than 70 countries. I am really proud of that diversity and think it's key to the future success of any post-secondary institution in Canada. My hope is that we'll see even greater diversity going forward, including seeing more of our Canadian students taking up the opportunity to study abroad through Camosun's many overseas programs.

Camosun offers some of the most unique courses and programs in Canada. Our Engineering Technology programs are just one example of this. Nowhere in Canada is there an equivalent program that can land a student at UVic or UBC after just two and a half years. We need to design even more of these incredible pathway opportunities that will continue to give Camosun the programming edge in terms of both quality and innovation.

Camosun has been shy to trumpet its successes beyond Vancouver Island. We are among the largest colleges in BC and one of the largest post-secondary institutions in the province, larger and more comprehensive than many of the province's universities. It is my hope that, while continuing to serve our community, we can also reach out to the other regions of BC and Canada to become a college of destination.

**Joan Yates**

**Camosun College vice president, student experience**

This has been a wild summer. The world is dealing with major issues that have consequences beyond what we could imagine—think of Brexit, Louisiana, Munich, Trump's rise, new global statistics outlining even higher youth unemployment, Turkey, and on and on. It can be hugely overwhelming, especially as much of this is not good news.

So what do we do? Well, folks way smarter than me talk about how the best way to counter many of these issues is by ensuring that people are educated so that they see all sides, bringing reason to these crazy times. An educated society really is the only answer. And that's where we all play a role here at Camosun.

It's not just about jobs, although a strong and skilled workforce certainly offers stability; it's also about us all doing the work needed to think and then act in ways that support what we want for this world. That's what we do at the college every single day.

For example, there's planning underway for how the college addresses the recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to address the wrong done to generations of aboriginal people in this country. It's hard work but is an important example of how we at Camosun can begin to move things in the right direction.

So if I look at our future, what excites me most is the opportunity for positive change. That can be big and global in nature, but much of the change that I find the most inspiring is smaller. It's about changing ourselves to be better. And it is very personal. From the individual to a society, people here create ripple effects for our community. Being part of this is what Camosun is about. For our future, we need to get even better at this, because goodness knows the world needs it.

And that, I think, is where the hope lies.

big screen

## The Victoria Free B-Film Festival returns with drive-in movies



PHOTO PROVIDED

People enjoying last year's Victoria Free B-Film Festival at the BC Legislature buildings lawn location.

**MIKAYALA RUSSELL**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Attention moviegoers and theatre regulars: one of Victoria's more unique festivals is returning. The Free B-Film Festival shows a variety of films—from blockbusters to less-remembered flicks—in outdoor spaces around the city. This year has some new surprises in store, and festival organizer Donovan Aikman is happy to talk about them.

“The Victoria Free B-Film Festival

started in 2001 and has fun family-friendly genres that are in the B genre of movies,” says Aikman. “We’re not trying to do the big dramas or the Oscar winners, necessarily; we are trying to do action, adventure, and comedy.”

What started as a three-day festival with 300 guests has grown to an eight-day fest with 8,000 attendees. But before it was known as the Victoria Free B-Film Festival, it was a different, much smaller event.

“We actually started as a different event called Hot Reels, and we were going to do an outdoor sing-along to *The Wizard of Oz*,” says Aikman. “Hot Reels only lasted for one year.”

Victoria has been used in multiple movies and television shows in the past few years, and it's a great city to watch—and screen—movies in, too.

“Victoria is a great city because [residents] are smart and enjoy

“We aren't necessarily showing *Ghostbusters* or *Top Gun* for the millionth time, and [Victoria residents] are willing to come down and see a crazy little movie from 1986 that we dug up from the archive.”

**DONOVAN AIKMAN**  
THE VICTORIA FREE B-FILM FESTIVAL

arts and culture and are willing to try new and different things,” says Aikman. “When we do an event like Free B, we aren't necessarily showing *Ghostbusters* or *Top Gun* for the millionth time, and they are willing to come down and see a crazy little movie from 1986 that we dug up from the archive.”

The three locations for the festival this year are the BC Legislature lawn, the Cameron Bandshell at Beacon Hill Park, and Broadmead Village, with hopes to reach more families in the Central Saanich area. The Legislature lawn is a particularly exciting location for the festival, says Aikman.

“The Legislature lawn is our newest screening location and is a great one because it is such a broad space and is such a great place to kick off,” says Aikman. “The Legislature staff has been really great and supportive of us being there, and the space feels very open.”

Along with the interesting loca-

tions, the film fest is also bringing people a drive-in movie for an extra dose of nostalgia (or, if you're too young to remember them, a history lesson).

“This year we are really excited to be doing a drive-in, where people can drive in with their cars, and we will have a radio transmitter so people can actually tune in to the radios, just like the old drive-ins.”

So, this festival gives people free outdoor movies and a fun drive-in experience, but there is one catch.

“We're giving you free movies,” says Aikman, “but you have to bring your own snacks, blankets, and flashlights; that's all there is to enjoy it.”

The Victoria Free B-Film Festival  
Until Saturday, August 27  
Free, various venues  
[freebfilmfest.com](http://freebfilmfest.com)

music

## Metal band Necronomicon finds happiness in extremity



MYRIAM FRANCOEUR

The members of Quebec black/death metal band Necronomicon are happy, really.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Necronomicon vocalist/guitarist Rob “The Witch” Tremblay says that there is nothing he hates more about being in a metal band than practicing guitar by himself. The frontman says he feels out of sorts if he is not on stage playing for fans with his fellow band members.

“I'm not the kind of guy sitting at home playing guitar,” he admits. “I hate that. I literally hate that.”

Even faced with long stretches on the road—such as the one that sees him hitting Victoria this month

with his bandmates—Tremblay prefers the touring life.

“It's going to be a long run,” he says of the band's upcoming touring cycle. “We have two tours back to back. So we're going to be out pretty much for two months. But I really like being on the road. I'm pretty much a road guy.”

Necronomicon have been around since 1988, and Tremblay says that their new album, *Advent of the Human God*, draws on the early days with a new twist.

“We're pretty much continuing

what we're doing since we started with [2010 album] *The Return of the Witch*. It's not like we're trying new stuff,” he says. “It's more like we're doing what we started with at the beginning.”

Tremblay attributes much of the band's growth to changing recording technologies, as well as the band's relocation to a more populated part of Quebec.

“We have more resources. Back in the day, we were living in the mountains up north, and there's nothing there,” he says with a laugh.

“When you want to work in the music industry, you need to get the fuck out of there.”

Meeting a large array of musicians—from classical to metal—when the band settled in Montreal is what allowed Necronomicon to play the way they want to, says Tremblay. He admits that the dark sounds found in this new album are representative of part of his personality but says that he actually needs to “feel at peace” to be able to compose this type of music.

“Some people, when they compose, they do that to release some tension; they're really in a pissed-off mood or whatever,” he says. “They're upset. Me, personally, it doesn't work like that. I need to be zen, actually.”

Tremblay says that the happier he felt, the easier the creativity of the new album came to him.

“The album, even if it sounds really dark... well, people are saying it's dark, I don't see it as dark,” he says. “I see it as really powerful. So if we go with the personal aspect, I can say that I'm happier in my life than I was before.”

Necronomicon  
Friday, August 19  
The V-Lounge  
[facebook.com/necronomiconmetal](https://www.facebook.com/necronomiconmetal)

### New Music Revue



La Chinga  
*Freewheelin'*  
(Small Stone Recordings)  
4/5

La Chinga is a hard-rock trio from Vancouver, and their music has psychedelic power. Fans of classic rock bands will agree that their new album, *Freewheelin'*, is a success, for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, its theme and songs are cohesive, making for a great listening experience. When I spin the album, I feel like I'm driving a car down on a prairie highway. All of the songs on the album are played with an undeniable passion.

Secondly, the music has a very strong rhythm, and one that fits in nicely with the album's theme: listening to it, I associate it with the sound of an engine. The songs create images of roarin' old cars running down a wide road.

However, I cannot give it a full five out of five. When I listen to the album for a long time, my spirit feels nervous, and my brain feels very tired. But this isn't specific to La Chinga; it's a common problem with hard rock. I hope that La Chinga can find a suitable balance between passion and softness.

-HE WEI





## weird and wonderful word search

I just can't get enough of those weird and wonderful words! Maybe you'll tack on a few of these beauties to your already-stellar vocabulary while you spend some time futzing.

As always, stop by the *Nexus* office (Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus) if you complete this word search to pick up a prize.

ARGLEBARGLE  
BLATHERSKITE  
BRUXISM  
CACOETHES  
EMACITY  
EUCATASTROPHE  
FUTZ  
HODDY-NODDY  
OPSIMATH  
SCOFFLAW  
SCREENAGER  
STERNUTATOR  
TAPPEN  
THALASSIC  
ULU  
ZOOLOGY  
XENOLOGY  
WOOPIE  
WOWSER  
YLEM

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

contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Turns out Camosun students love a good scavenger hunt. Trick is to make it hard enough.

Let's see if you can find this copy of the last issue of *Nexus*, which we hid somewhere at Camosun College.

The first person to find this

copy of the paper and bring it in to our office (201 Richmond House, Lansdowne campus) wins themselves a free prize!

We'll give you one hint: this one is hidden somewhere on the Lansdowne campus.

Happy hunting!

# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

## Starting at Camosun in September?

## Join us.

## No experience necessary!

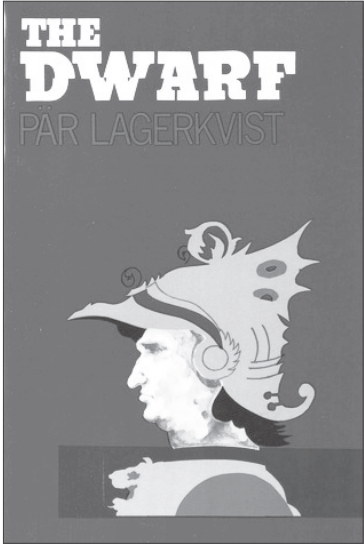
If you're interested in volunteering at an award-winning student newspaper, stop by our offices at Richmond House 201 on the Lansdowne campus, or contact us by email ([editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com)) or phone (250-370-3591).



Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

Of dwarfs and princes



Confronted by the horrors of two world wars and the rise of totalitarianism in many countries in Europe, Lagerkvist's response was to delve deeply into the nature of evil and the question of how it can reside side by side with good in human nature.

deeply into the nature of evil and the question of how it can reside side by side with good in human nature.

Much of his work takes a dark view of the world. His first book of poems, *Anguish*, contains lines like "Anguish, anguish is my heritage/ the wound of my throat/ the cry of my heart in the world." But in *The Dwarf*, Lagerkvist takes a more light-hearted approach.

Piccoline—sold into slavery by his mother when she found out he was a dwarf—serves an Italian prince who rules a city-state in Renaissance Italy. From his vantage point as a social outcast who is also an "insider," Piccoline comments on the vain hopes, the absurd beliefs, and the foolish wars (which he happens to think are glorious)

that the humans around him (he believes that dwarfs are another race from humans altogether) engage in.

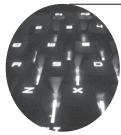
"I have noticed that sometimes I frighten people," he writes in his diary, noting that "what they really fear is themselves. They think it is I who scare them, but it is the dwarf within them, the ape-faced manlike being who sticks up his head from the depths of their souls."

Written during the height of WWII, *The Dwarf* is not just a political analogy of the horrors of war, but also an insightful look at human nature itself.

**Lagerkvist must-read:**  
*The Dwarf*  
(UVic library code: PT9875-L2D93)

"Human beings need flattery; otherwise they do not fulfill their purpose, not even in their own eyes," said Piccoline, a 26-inch-tall dwarf who is the strange and misanthropic anti-hero of Pär Lagerkvist's 1944 novel *The Dwarf*.

Lagerkvist—who was a Swedish poet, novelist, and playwright in the first half of the 20th century—won the Nobel Prize in 1951. Confronted by the horrors of two world wars and the rise of totalitarianism in many countries in Europe, Lagerkvist's response was to delve



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

An end to the foxes?

A couple of issues ago, I wrote about former NBA player Rick Fox and his entry into the e-sports scene. Since then, his team Echo Fox has had some ups and downs in its play in all the different games they partake in.

Most noticeably, the *League of Legends* branch of the team has been performing atrociously. Ending up at 1-17 after the regular season puts them at the bottom of the barrel not only in the *League of Legends* Championship Series (LCS) standings, but in many global power ranking lists as well.

Since the switch to best-of-three matches in the LCS, the foxes have

clearly been unable to adapt to the multiple strategies that literally every other team has. Since they are at the bottom of the standings, they (along with the teams ranked at 8th and 9th) will have to face off against the strongest amateur teams for their jobs and for what they love.

If they lose, the foxes will be kicked out of the LCS and forced to play at least a year in the amateur scene. Only then will they possibly be able to make their way back to the LCS.

Of course, this is all if they don't make it through their promotion matches. As a supporter of the foxes, I—and a small amount of

other people—hope to see them find their stride and buckle down against whichever team they play against.

The potential is there for the foxes, but if they're unable to perform in best-of-three games in the LCS, it scares me to wonder if they're able to survive the test that is being thrown at them.

I've also noticed that the foxes are lacking a strong fan base. Having that support and love from your fans often helps to reinvigorate players and pulls teams through their dark times. With the team having such a small fan base, fans like me will have to start coming out of their holes to really cheer the foxes on.



Of the Land - local indigenous voices

by Gabriel Underwood

Indigenous reality

Living as an indigenous person today is seemingly not so bad for most people, but it isn't as great as everyone thinks for every person. We all have variable experiences.

It is not possible to just put someone in an indigenous box—you don't have an indigenous experience; you have a human experience. There are opportunities out there for indigenous people, but these opportunities are at the other side of the bridge. But not everyone even has a bridge; most don't, actually.

I was fortunate with the system; it helped me today, it helped me yesterday, and it will continue to help

me because of poor living conditions, or family situations, or having no running water, or being up against a system that works against them and classrooms that don't accept them. Not every reserve is big and in a town.

For every cliff to cross there is a bridge, yes, but some have rotted out; some have burned; some aren't safe to walk across. Some places are untouched and never had a bridge in the first place.

I was fortunate to have one ready for walking, so for me indigenous living is great. My community is relatively healthy, the town I live in suits my needs, and people were

I got into school; thousands of others didn't. I navigated through the campus with support; hundreds of others didn't. When I graduated my first year, only a few others did.

me for the next little while. I had to work for it and still do, but it was there for me. All the stars aligned.

I lived next to a band with post-secondary programs and that had adequate funds for some of us to use. I got into school; thousands of others didn't. I navigated through the campus with support; hundreds of others didn't. When I graduated my first year, only a few others did.

The reasons why vary: it could

there to help me along the way. But not everyone has all of those opportunities, because the system doesn't exactly work for us. Most of the time it works against us.

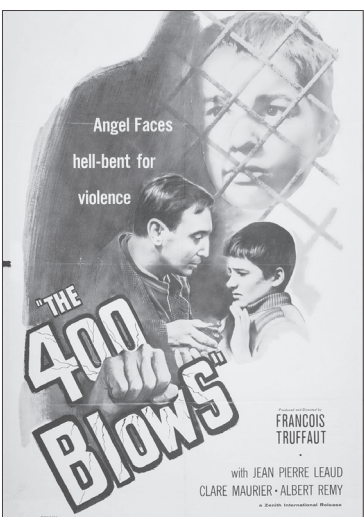
I bring all this up because it isn't easy being an indigenous person today. I am happy to have had the support, but remember that although I'm one person you see doing well, there is an army of people behind me who don't even have water.



To See or Not to See

by Finlay Pogue

The 400 Blows and the beauty it gives back



This is a film for people who appreciate the deceptively simple and the silent beauty in the unsaid.

just getting home from a night of debauchery; if you're reading this while you sip gingerly on a cup of coffee, I advise that you turn to the hangover's best friend, Netflix. This isn't a film for a casual vidy or for a last-minute perusal.

*The 400 Blows* is a 1959 black-and-white French film (yes, with subtitles) about a young boy (played masterfully by a 14-year-old Jean-

Pierre Léaud) struggling to grow up in world dominated by dominating adults. But if you can find it in yourself to take the time and use your mind to digest what Truffaut is saying—and how he says it—you'll have discovered pure cinematic poetry.

This is a film for people who appreciate the deceptively simple and the silent beauty in the unsaid. For example, Truffaut guides us serenely through the winding, cobble Parisian streets, and we're left with the feeling that this film is in a perpetual state of early morning; the streets rarely bustle, but instead lie in wait for Truffaut's camera to glide down them. It gives the film an intangible beauty that at the same time carries with it the cruelty that can be life.

That said, *The 400 Blows* is also peppered with humour (following a 14-year-old boy around is guaranteed to produce a few laughs), and often the viewer is swept away in the various hijinks that ensue. Truffaut has a keen eye for boyhood antics, and it makes perfect sense that *The 400 Blows* is semi-autobiographical.

The film's score—composed gorgeously by Jean Constantin—meshes the poignant and the peppy. There might have been a slight disconnect in the film, as it juxtaposes youthful exuberance and familial strife, but Constantin's score is able to bring both halves of the film together perfectly. Music is able to much more easily shift from sadness to happiness than a film is because it has no plot restraints—it's abstract—but when

placed alongside the structure of a film, music's abstraction is able to attach itself to the plot of the film and lend the emotions it evokes to the film's story.

*The 400 Blows* is a great-grandfather to modern films like *Boyhood* (2014), where plot is forgone for feeling. Both films follow a boy's evolution through childhood, and although they tell specific stories of specific people, they're also able to touch on elements of growing up that resonate with everybody.

However, like poetry, *The 400 Blows* gives little more than what you are willing to put into it; if you want merely to zone out, I suggest the new season of *BoJack Horseman*. If you want a film that can make you really feel something, *The 400 Blows* is just the ticket.

*The 400 Blows*  
5/5

François Truffaut's *The 400 Blows* (1959) is not a film for those

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