



PAGE SIX



Camosun College spends \$230,000 on fired president

page 3



Camosun Chargers golf team gets season started

page 4



***Sin City* serial returns, with a new twist**

page 8

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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SEND A LETTER

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

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I think there's a serious mistake in the new issue, there's a part of a story missing... oh, wait, I forgot to scroll down. Ignore this phone call."

COVER PHOTO:
Housing crisis: Jill Westby/Nexus
Camosun spends \$200,000: File photo
Camosun Chargers: Kevin Light
Sin City: David Bruce

student editor's letter Taking stock

As Van Morrison promised they would, the leaves have come falling down. Autumn has arrived, and with it that feeling that school has officially begun, and a moment to stop and take inventory of life.

Writing the editorial is always a good inventory of time and work. It seems like just yesterday I was sitting here in the *Nexus* office typing away, trying not to perspire too heavily in the summer heat, and rambling on about how quiet the campus was. Well, now my phone (which I hate, I might add—if I could throw all the cell phones in the world into a gaping, white-hot, emerald pit, I would) tells me it's a crispy eight degrees out, and the campus is humming with students. So buckle in; time changes things. But *Nexus* is one constant you can rely on.

Feature stories are really the heartbeat of the paper, and I love them. I can dive headfirst into the trenches of journalism; the story can develop in a naturally timed, more humanistic way than, say, a news story. Not that news stories aren't great—they are. But given the time-sensitive nature of them, they aren't necessarily stories that the writer lives with and carries beneath a heartbeat for an extended period of time (a heartbeat that always beats a little faster come deadline day).

For the feature this time around, I spoke with current and former Camosun students on the housing crisis that Victoria is dealing with, and how it affects students; check it out on page 6.

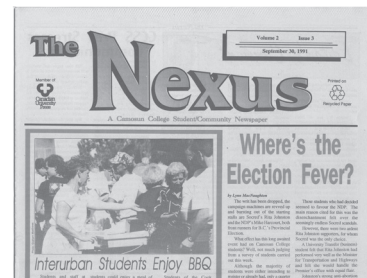
Over on page 3, contributing writer Josh Christopher took on a news story that students will find very interesting: despite constant budget woes around campus, the college spent over \$200,000 on their ex-president last fiscal year, a president who had her contract terminated for reasons that Camosun has still never revealed to students.

On page 4, staff writer Adam Boyle wrote about the Camosun Chargers golf team and how they're kicking off their season. Over in the arts section, local artist—and former Camosun student—Megan Quigley told us where the meat of her creativity comes from; see page 9 for the lowdown.

We're thrilled to debut our new column, *Calculated Thought*, this issue, written by Sean Annable; turn to page 11 to learn a thing or two about student finances. As always, the issue is full of other stories, puzzles, columns, comics, and more. Dive in, and we'll see you in two weeks.

Adam Marsh, student editor
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback 25 years ago in *Nexus*



Still not hiring: The story "Record number of students out of work this summer" in our September 30, 1991 issue talked about the number of students who had struggled to find employment over the summer. This has clearly been an ongoing problem, and we have no happy update, as it's still a very real part of the student struggle here in 2016.

And you thought 2016 had a lot to be offended about: A story (written by a young Naomi Klein) we ran from a national news wire in this issue talked about people being

offended over slogans that University of Toronto orientation day leaders were painting on peoples' shirts. I mean, if you consider slogans like "I give stray dogs head" and "Blow me where I piss" offensive, that is. But don't worry, it wasn't all horribly insensitive: information about date rape was included in the orientation packages, as were shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Where there's a hole there's my pole."

Unfortunately, sick people will always do this: An anonymous and concerned reader wrote in to us in this issue lamenting how their classmates would show up to school sick, in the process getting others sick. And they weren't messing around: "Go home! Stay home! And ask your mommy to show you what Kleenex is," they wrote, before signing off with the pseudonym "Irate and Grossed Out."

open space Cut corporations from Camosun

JOSH CHRISTOPHER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The privatization of Canada's education system marches onward: Camosun College celebrated its opening day by turning into a shopping mall at CamFest. Our subservience to the corporations that dominate Canadian life was naked for all to see.

Entering the central walkway at either campus during CamFest, students were ushered through a gauntlet of corporate solicitation. They were lashed with sales pitches and pushes to divulge their contact information so they could be further squeezed for money. Students pay to come to school to learn; instead, they were minced through a corporate meat grinder built to churn out obedient workers and greedy consumers.

Numerous companies, organizations, and banks were all peddling their wares. The event felt like it was designed to get students used to the reckless urge to fork over their earnings for more mass-produced garbage.

CamFest is put on by the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS); Camosun provides the largest amount of sponsorship funding for the event, according to the CCSS, but the other sponsors are a lot of opportunistic corporations, ever eager to shape young minds into loyal consumers.

The citizen's servitude can also be seen in the education system itself. For quite some time it has focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), because that's what profits business.

In the void of government funding, with students milked dry for tuition money and myriad other fees, schools accept big money, in

the form of donations, that dictates which programs live and which programs die.

It's no surprise that it can sometimes be difficult to find classes in social sciences like history and politics. People taking such courses do not profit private capital, and such subjects are dangerous to the elite. People learning about a system that enslaves them would not be good for private businesses like the ones that were advertising at CamFest.

Disciplines like the arts are called "obsolete," despite all the beauty they have given to the world. There is no place for a modern *Mona Lisa*. All that fits into the economy of the future are more bronzed bull statues.

What will you do with a philosophy degree? English? What a waste of four years! And don't even think about sociology. How does that benefit business?

Yet these are the programs that teach young people the critical-thinking skills necessary to question the status quo. Such students learn to make the world a better place.

The college itself cannot be blamed as it flails helplessly, seeking ways to keep programs alive. Education is on life support, corporate taxes wane, and politicians lust after the end of their public service so they can go into the light of seven-figure corporate consultation as a reward for exemplary work.

It's the system that's broken, and it's the system that we must fix. The students shall inherit the earth; when that day comes, let us leave these corporate juggernauts where they belong—as an ancient relic to study in history class.

See page 5 for more *Open Spaces*

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

letters DRC move insensitive

I couldn't agree more with this article ("Moving Disability Resource Centre harmful to students," September 21, 2016 issue). The moment I entered the library and saw the DRC access front and centre, I thought, "Well, I guess I won't be using this resource this year, and if I do it will be a drive out to Interurban where it is a little more discreet." Completely insensitive. I'm definitely not broadcasting my learning disabilities. Thanks for putting it in words, and hopefully we will see some change sooner rather than later.

LYNN

VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

SPEAK UP

How do you feel about the Victoria housing situation?

BY ADAM MARSH



KATIE LYONS

"It definitely should be better. Our government should be focusing on the basic needs of everyone, especially the First Nations community."



CAM WINT

"I think it can be handled a lot better. What happened in Tent City wasn't exactly a prime example of what it should be."



NICOLE ALLISON

"It's a mess. There's not a lot of funding. The provincial government have not made that a priority."



DANIEL CUMBERBIRCH

"Prices are a little high right now, and it's really unaffordable for students at the moment."



KELSEY HAYS

"I don't think there's enough help. We still see so many people on the streets."



CORY MACINTYRE

"Places are charging more than they would have three years ago. It's like, 'Hey, I'll charge more, just because people will pay more.' I find that kind of greedy."

finances

Recently released figures show ex-president cost Camosun College \$232,404 in 2015/2016 fiscal year



FILE PHOTO

Kathryn Laurin in 2013; Laurin had her contract as Camosun College president terminated in 2014.

JOSH CHRISTOPHER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to Camosun College's recently released 2015/16 financial statements, the college spent \$232,404 on ex-president Kathryn Laurin's severance pay during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. \$163,834 of this was on salary, \$15,601 on benefits, \$16,939 on pension, and \$36,030 on vacation payout. Laurin's pay ended on February 29, 2016.

Laurin was fired in June of 2014, shortly after having her five-year contract renewed; she claimed at the time that her contract termination

was completely unjustified. As part of her termination, Laurin was to receive financial compensation.

After Laurin's contract termination, Camosun College hired interim president Peter Lockie and new president Sherri Bell.

The decision to terminate Laurin's contract was made by the Camosun College Board of Governors, who are appointed by the provincial government (the board also has elected student, faculty, and support staff representatives).

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Rachael Grant says that the CCSS

wants to have the college board explain why Laurin was fired in the first place (Laurin did not respond to a request to comment for this story).

"Where we would like to hear an explanation is from the Board of Governors, the body that made that decision," says Grant.

But Camosun College Board of Governors chair Russ Lazaruk declined to be interviewed for this story, saying via email, "I cannot comment as this is a personnel matter."

Camosun College chief financial officer Deborah Huelscher says that the college would rather have put

"We would like to hear an explanation from the Board of Governors."

RACHAEL GRANT
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

that money elsewhere, but acknowledges that they need to stick to the terms of the contract.

"We would prefer to invest those kinds of dollars in our students," says Huelscher, adding that "there's a contract and we have to honour the contract."

In *Nexus* stories published at the time, there was speculation that Laurin had her contract terminated because of her criticism of the provincial government cutting ESL funding. CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte says that if the college board had issues with Laurin, for whatever reason, they shouldn't have renewed her contract so soon before firing her.

"The fact that she was receiving money for so long [after her dismissal] would tend to support the argument that the reasons for her departure were not substantive," he says. "The reason she was terminated, we would have to assume in that case, was more to do with an approach to governance, perhaps, or something less tangible. Arguably, they shouldn't have renewed the contract if that was an issue."

Grant says that the amount of money that Laurin is getting is

"reasonable and necessary given her treatment." Camosun students have concern about this much money being spent on something they don't know the reasons behind, though. First-year Science student Rain Smith says that the circumstances surrounding Laurin's pay don't justify it as a reasonable expenditure.

"No reason for dismissal and having to pay out two separate presidents kind of seems like an unnecessary addition to the Camosun budget," says Smith.

Second-year Applied Chemistry and Biotechnology student Monica Alvaro Fuss says that information about why Laurin was dismissed needs to be given.

"I don't think it's right to dismiss a person on the grounds of nothing," she says.

First-year Nursing student Michaela Roberts says that Laurin, who is now working as Victoria Symphony Society CEO/executive director, is entitled to her compensation. However, like Turcotte, Roberts is unclear about why things were handled in this manner.

"I don't understand why they did that," says Roberts. "It's just a waste of money at the end of the day."

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun receives \$75,000 for partnership program

Camosun College has been working with the British Columbia Institute of Technology to develop a Marine Fitter program; both institutions recently received \$75,000 from the BC government to support the program. According to a press release, the funding at Camosun will enable a Camosun instructor to deliver the program in Victoria.

Free telephones at Camosun

If you lose your phone but need to make a call while on campus, don't worry: there are now free courtesy phones at both campuses. At Lansdowne, the phones are located in the main floor of Dawson, the second floor of the library, and the Fisher foyer. At Interurban, the phones are in the CBA atrium, Campus Centre, and the Jack White building. The Lansdowne library phone and the Interurban Campus

Centre phone are fully functioning lines, while the other four can only dial out to college phone numbers.

Get involved in the college

If you want to oversee college affairs, now is the time; voting for spots on Education Council and the Board of Governors in the 2016 by-election takes place on October 25 and 26 at Lansdowne and Interurban. Act quick, as the nomination period will close on October 7.

Camosun gets new alumni director

Emmy Stuebing is Camosun's new director for advancement and alumni. Stuebing is originally from Alberta and has over 20 years experience.

Camosun Chargers get national nod

Seven Camosun Chargers athletes received a Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association National

Scholar Award for their academic performance during the 2015-2016 season; 856 student athletes from across Canada were awarded in total. See camosun.ca/sports/chargers for more info.

Former Camosun carpentry chair passes away

Former Camosun chair of Carpentry Rick Glanville passed away on September 14 after battling cancer. As well as being chair, Glanville also served on the college's board of governors during his 25-year career at Camosun.

Camosun to co-host physiology conference

Camosun College and the University of Victoria are co-hosting the 49th annual Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology conference, being held from October 12 to 15 at the Victoria Conference Centre. Head over to community.csep.ca for more information.

UVic professor escorted off campus

On September 9, University of Victoria professor Jianping Pan was escorted off UVic campus by security after claiming he was unqualified to teach a course to his students. He has since been "relieved of his obligation to teach the course," according to an article in the UVic student newspaper *The Martlet*.

Student clean-up gets Styrofoam off shelves

Save-on-Foods has removed all the Styrofoam coolers from their shelves across the province because of environmental impacts, and students helped make it happen. UBC Okanagan students retrieved pieces of Styrofoam from near Lake Okanagan and showed photos of what they found to the company; Save-on-Foods listened to their complaints about the problem and then decided to make the switch, according to a press release from World Oceans Day.

McDiploma questioned

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) has some serious questions about a recent deal between Colleges Ontario and McDonald's. "This deal is based on a startling claim that the corporate training provided by McDonald's is equivalent to the entire first year of a college diploma," chair of OPSEU's college academic divisional executive RM Kennedy said in a press release. "We're just asking Colleges Ontario to show us how that assessment was made." Colleges Ontario has not responded to OPSEU's concerns.

-ADAM MARSH

Got a news tip? Email 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 last year, we started an Instagram account! Come say hello over there and see what we're up to online. While you're at it, we're also on Facebook and Twitter, you know... Find us as [nexusnewspaper](http://nexusnewspaper.com) on all three. See you there!

sports

Camosun Chargers golfers swing for the greens



KEVIN LIGHT

The Camosun Chargers golf team have their sights set on another strong season this year.

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

The Camosun Chargers golf team had a great season last year, and they're looking to repeat their success this season.

Chargers golf head coach John Randle says the skill is all there and that this team has the potential to have another great year, although he's honest in admitting that there are always challenges ahead.

"It's a new team with new struggles," Randle says. "We lost some great players this year, but other guys have really started to step up to the plate."

Randle is a veteran of professional golf himself; he says that his experience in the pro circuit helps to keep a strong trust-filled relationship alive between him and his players.

"I haven't really run into any

issues with players," he says. "I think that my history in golf commands a respect between the students and me."

With the team currently standing at first place in the Pacific Western Athletic Association (PACWEST) conference standings, the Chargers look to be in form and on track for another fantastic finish to the year.

Matt Matheson is one of the

"It's a new team with new struggles. We lost some great players this year, but other guys have really started to step up to the plate."

JOHN RANDLE
CAMOSUN CHARGERS



players keeping the team in good shape; Matheson and three of his teammates—Mac Keats, Scott Merriam, and Jeff Riches—are all currently in PACWEST's top 10 men's league leaders. Matheson says that he was feeling great coming into the season.

"We lost two great players, but knowing that all the guys from last year's national winning team were coming back was great," says Matheson. "We have a solid team, and I like our chances of repeating."

Of course, with any sport or extracurricular activity, juggling academics is always a tricky task, but Matheson says that it's not quite as difficult with golf as it is with other sports.

"It's a bit of a challenge, but since our season is short, it's not too bad to juggle all my responsibilities," he says. "I just need to make sure I leave time to finish my schoolwork."

Randle says that he's happy with the current form of much of the team and is looking forward to things getting even better for the Chargers golfers.

"We're seeing players already in form keeping scores low and playing well," he says. "A few more are shaping up to be in form, and when they get there, we will have a great team on our hands."

For the most up-to-date Chargers scores and other info, see camosun.ca/sports/chargers.

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know your profs

Helen Lansdowne gets old fashioned

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Know Your Profs is an ongoing series of profiles on the instructors at Camosun College.

This issue, we talked to Camosun prof Helen Lansdowne about keeping engaged, being technologically inept, and concern over the future of post-secondary.



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun's Helen Lansdowne.

1. What do you teach at Camosun?

I teach Asian studies, gender studies, and one course in sociology.

2. What do you get out of teaching?

Teaching keeps me engaged with ideas and the world around me, including the ideas of my students.

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

That I'm in love with learning, particularly learning about the world outside of where I live.

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

That I am technologically inept—although I think probably a few of my students are well aware of my failings in that area.

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

When students get turned on to the subject that we're discussing and want to pursue it further.

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

The cutting of several of my courses due to budget cuts.

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

I see technology taking over, and the actual old-fashioned way of sharing ideas and engaging in intellectual conversations face to face will be compromised. It worries me, as I'm a great believer in the Socratic method of learning.

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

I go up to my home on Gabriola Island and spend time hiking, gardening, reading, and eating.

9. What is your favourite meal?
Italian pasta or Thai curry or French cheeses... too many favourites.

10. Your biggest pet peeve?

Drivers who don't give cyclists the time of day; I ride to work every day and believe that everyone should share the road.

review

Local escape room thoughtful fun

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Escape rooms—sometimes known as prison rooms—are a relatively new form of entertainment, having risen to popularity in the last decade. The goal is exactly as the name implies: to get out of the room that you find yourself stuck in.

A vast majority of escape rooms centre on solving puzzles and using logic to ultimately find the key to the door and break out of your makeshift prison, sort of like being stuck in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Nancy Drew*, or *The Mummy*. Escape rooms have only started popping up in Victoria within the last few years; we thought we'd try one out to see if it gets the *Nexus* seal of approval.

Victoria Escape Games is located downtown and has several different "missions" to choose from. I had the pleasure of attending a public group on a Saturday night, and I must say that it was an enjoyable experience. My group was made up of 10 students, but even with all that brainpower, we barely made it out.

We were given an hour to get out of our room, and we managed to get out with only two minutes and 52 seconds left on the clock (which, surprisingly, was a high score).

When I told my mom about the night I had had, she cringed at the thought of being locked in a room



PHOTO PROVIDED

Nexus staff writer Adam Boyle (centre, standing) and his team.

for an hour. And the reality of it is, yes, you are locked in a room for an hour; it's not for everyone. The rooms aren't that small, but as the time ticks away, being locked inside that space can start to get to you.

For example, when I was in Korea on vacation recently, my friends and I took a trip to one of the many escape rooms in Seoul. The room we picked there was a secret-experiment-themed horror room, and, yes, it was as terrifying as you would imagine it being (Victoria Escape Games stresses that their rooms are not scary, and they weren't).

The room in Seoul was about half as big as the one here in Victoria and incredibly dimly lit. I can safely

say that if I had claustrophobia, I would've cracked in that room in Korea.

Here in town, Victoria Escape Games provides an experience that clearly aims to avoid that kind of panic with players. The room I was in was spacious and well ventilated. As extra incentive, students get 40 percent off with valid student ID for Victoria Escape Games' public rooms (a minimum of 10 students must book to get the discount for a private room).

Escape rooms are a growing industry that is, honestly, incredibly fun.

I recommend everyone try it at least once; thankfully, we have a great one here in our hometown.

open space

Government needs to stop valuing pipelines over treaties

MASON HENDRIX
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When a government enacts a treaty with a First Nations tribe and then turns around and breaks that treaty, it's swept under the rug with justifications or bribes, and it's time for that to stop.

I can't help but notice striking parallels between the fiasco in North Dakota, which is centred around the construction of a new oil pipeline on First Nations land, and the proposed construction of a new hydroelectric dam—dubbed Site C—in northeastern BC.

The North Dakota Access is part of a larger project called the Bakken Pipeline, which was announced in 2014 and has been gathering opposition from climate activists, landowners, and several First Nations groups.

The proposed Bakken Pipeline would be comparable in size to the rejected Keystone XL pipeline, and would run from North Dakota to Illinois, carrying approximately 470,000 barrels of crude oil on a daily basis.

Proponents of the pipeline argue that it would bring jobs and economic growth, but how many of those jobs would be going to people who actually live in these regions, and how many of those jobs would be permanent?

I know one thing for sure: what would be permanent are the changes to the environment that would occur during construction of the pipeline and the environmental catastrophe

that would ensue if the pipeline leaked.

The oil companies in North Dakota have hired security details as part of their response to peaceful protesters, who have been bitten by attack dogs and sprayed with pepper spray without provocation.

Of course, the government is on the side of the oil companies, breaking its oaths to the First Nations peoples, who have suffered enough, having endured the largest genocide on the continent and having most of their land annexed by foreign powers. Every time the government breaks a treaty, it only adds insult to injury and pulls us one step further from reconciliation.

Much of what is now North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wyoming was once part of the Great Sioux Reservation, created through the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851. The Treaty has been altered by the US government many times throughout the course of history, and if the Bakken Pipeline were to leak, there would be significant ramifications for the local First Nations people. This would certainly be a violation of the treaty.

If you have an ear for provincial news, you are probably well aware of the Site C project, which is currently in the early stages of construction and is located along the Peace River. No peace will be found in this awful case of injustice and oath breaking.

BC Hydro claims the dam will create enough energy to power 450,000 homes; the downside,

however, is that 83 kilometres of pristine river valley will have to be flooded, wiping out 5,550 hectares of land, around 70 percent of which is currently used for agricultural purposes.

Treaty 8 is a 116-year-old treaty between Queen Victoria and several First Nations of the Lesser Slave Lake area. The construction of Site C would violate the protected treaty rights and would severely impact the tribes.

The energy output that BC Hydro would gain from the Site C project will not even be required for another 20 to 40 years, making the dam an extremely pre-emptive enterprise with extremely sudden impacts.

Luckily, peaceful protesters in northeastern BC have not yet met the kind of armed corporate retaliation that those in North Dakota have faced, but both governments are surely guilty of the same desecration and indifference to First Nations' ancestral homelands.

I believe that with such a high environmental cost involved, the only correct thing to do would be to respect the wishes of the local inhabitants.

Unfortunately, the government doesn't feel the same way. If they had any respect for democracy and freedom, they would not be behaving in such a disrespectful and invasive manner.

Promises must be kept; land must be preserved.

Treaties must be respected.

open space

Make social media social again

TYLER MCCULLOCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As metal machines of death impatiently rage on to nowhere in an age of isolation and self-loathing, phones have become gods; the screen is the messiah's call. The outside world is just so mundane. Yawn as your brain splatters, and with your last breath be sure to take a selfie; the blood in your hair is so in. And as you die amongst a sea of phones posting your bloodied pulp of a body to the masses, your messiah speaks to you, blessing you with a final prayer: "Warning: low battery."

Social media consumes a large majority of our time. Over two-thirds of our day is spent sleeping, going to work and school, and other

We're constantly comparing our lives to the lives of people we see online. Every cherry-picked photo and witty remark reveals only a fraction of that person, but you don't realize that; instead, you compare your life to a news feed of highlights while simultaneously forgetting that your own profile is a highlight reel as well.

"But I only use it to stay in touch." Sure, but the majority of the people you connect with are close friends; even the lost connections are found, then lost again.

Social media can act as a platform to showcase passions, businesses, and charities; it can be a place to voice opinions and support those making a difference. Huge changes in the world have hap-

Social media is transforming us into a non-committed, I'll-just-stay-at-home-or-reply-later society. It's become the norm for plans to fall through.

responsibilities. What free time is left is frequently spent in front of a screen engaging with no one.

Sure, we all need to tune out and shut off our brains for a while, but if it comes at the expense of missing out on real-life experiences, then we're really missing the social part of social media.

We're socially connected, yet we see less of the people we know. Social media is transforming us into a non-committed, I'll-just-stay-at-home-or-reply-later society. It's become the norm for plans to fall through.

Social media has dehumanized communication, becoming the middleman between connections to the point where we forget that the people we're messaging are real human beings, not just a profile picture and a line of text. We feel less obligated to someone when we can't see their face or hear their voice.

pened because of mass social-media awareness.

However, these things are the minority. Likes and re-posts aren't saving lives.

Trolling, hate, and bullying thrive in this virtual world. These toxic behaviours are only simple annoyances to some, but these actions can truly affect the well-being of others.

Social media is moulding our culture and boxing us in with windows of distraction.

There's another window, though—it's all around you and it doesn't fit inside your pocket. It's where the highlights of your real life exist.

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Camosun students prepare to launch *Elsewhere*

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their graduation show, program, Elsewhere has an fit. Talking with two

The educate

How Victoria's housing crisis h

In September, Mary Rickinson was registered to be a University Transfer student at Camosun College; she had finished her course selection and paid her fees. But Rickinson had nowhere to live. Like many students, her fingers were crossed that karma would work its magic and a place would appear, but nothing showed up. After a few weeks of long, anxious nights, Rickinson realized what her only option was: she had to withdraw from her Camosun courses and live out of a minivan with her dog and fiancé.

"There was no way that I, as a student, could afford to educate myself and to have a home," says Rickinson. "I was fully employed while I was living in this van. It was completely not feasible to live there."

Rickinson and her fiancé made the decision to move to the Comox Valley and attend North Island College. To put it in the simplest terms possible: Victoria's housing market pushed Rickinson right out of Camosun; Camosun lost a student because of the housing market.

Making freedom out of chaos

Rickinson describes the process of trying to find a place to rent in Victoria as being "incredibly disheartening." She says she tried continuously, for months, with no success. So she lived in her van.

"Camping in a van for the summer is fine. It's an adventure. But trying to educate yourself in a van is absurd. Victoria does not have a housing strategy yet. It's clear that one is desperately needed."

As one measure to try to improve the housing situation in town, the City of Victoria is thinking of removing the minimum square footage requirement to decrease costs. Rickinson says that "putting people in cages" is not the answer, and going lower than the 355-square-foot minimum is pushing it.

"I believe the quote that [Victoria mayor] Lisa Helps used was it's 'low-hanging fruit'. It's not even fruit," says Rickinson. "You're talking about putting people in, essentially, cages. How is a human supposed to comfortably survive in less than 355 square feet?"

Rickinson says that the 15 percent Foreign Home Buyer's tax that Metro Vancouver put into effect didn't help matters; she says it actually made it worse for people trying to rent in Victoria because Vancouver buyers set their sights on the island.

"It was already hard, but after Vancouver put in that 15 percent... there were bidding wars on apartments that we had scheduled interviews on and couldn't even get to because the first few people that had seen it started to bid against each other for monthly rent."

She says that for students, the issue of housing is directly related to all other aspects of life, including school.

"If your housing isn't secure, there's no way that your food is secure, there's no way that your education is secure," she says. "It's all intertwined."

Rickinson says that Camosun has been discussing building residential units at Interurban for years, and that if that's what it takes for some students to have food and educational security, so be it.

"There's no reason why the students shouldn't have safe housing. I couldn't even imagine my course load in a van in the rain with a dog and a fiancé," she says. "That's crazy."

Commutin' for Camosun

If you're not a morning person, don't even think about complaining about an 8:30 am class to Camosun first-year Psychology student Ricardo Hardin, who lives in Chemainus. Hardin rises each day at 4 am to catch the number 66 bus from Duncan to make it to his morning class on time. He says he's exhausted at the end of each day and does his homework on the bus ride back so he can fall into a slumber when he gets home.

"At the end of the day, I'm tired; I'm exhausted," he says. "I stay at my friend's house in Victoria maybe once a week, and that's a help, but I want to be here [in Victoria]. The living situation here is so hard."

Hardin adds that he is debating taking out a loan for a house in Victoria, just so "I can have money right in my hand the second I see

a spot that's open, so I could pounce on it. And that's stressful, man."

Hardin's education at Camosun is paid for by a sponsor; he says that living in Chemainus is "the only really affordable option" because the thought of having to pay for a car—after insurance, gas, and upkeep—is a scary one. But commuting over the Malahat day in and day out on public transit is taking its toll, he says.

"It's hard to take the bus, and I want to live here," he says. "At the same time, it's so stressful to meet up with my expectations for my [First Nations] band of having good grades."

Hardin says that the main things his housing problems have taken away are freedom, a sense of independence, and any hopes of having energy for anything besides getting to and from Camosun.

"It's not my main priority to have a little bit of free time, but I just like to be a little independent once in a while and not have to work around the schedule of everybody else," he says. "For me, it's a real struggle to get from here to there; it's been a mission, and it's taught me a lot about how to keep my priorities straight. But it's really bringing me down."

Hardin says that banks and foreign investors play a big role in the housing crisis and points out that everybody, no matter their socioeconomic status, is impacted by what's happening.

"I would consider everybody affected," he says, "even up to the people who are just graduating out of this college. It's a really big problem for Victoria and Vancouver right now."

Hardin says that he wants Camosun students to know they are not alone if they are feeling "out of sorts" on how they are going to "make it to their next year in college."

"I see a lot of the stress in all the other students as well, just in their own schedule going back and forth, even if it may not be getting up at four o'clock in the morning."

Hardin says that he's not the only Camosun student who takes the number 66 bus from Duncan every morning. He feels Camosun should have some sort of student housing setup, which he says would be an investment.

"Even if they didn't have their own building for residency, maybe they could partner with some local building to help students coming in and out of there."

Hardin says he has seen places that are completely vacant, and he thinks that would be a perfect opportunity.

"Prices are too high," he says. "Nobody can afford them. Even if they are in an all-right area of town it's still just a little too high for most people to afford."

"There was no way that I, as a student, could afford to educate myself and to have a home."

MARY RICKINSON
FORMER CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

Too much isn't enough

Students are no strangers to working around the clock. But Camosun first-year pre-social work student Mellissa Pelletier nearly worked herself into the grave—literally.

Before she started at the college, Pelletier was working 90 hours a week while homeless and living out of a backpack; she developed severe abdominal pains and was ordered to stay on bed rest by doctors. The pains—which she says were purely stress-induced due to working so much and having no place to live—went away in time, but not before she hit rock bottom, both physically and psychologically.

"I filled a hiking backpack with all the necessities of life and basically spent the next three months couch-surfing between friends' houses while looking for a place to live," she says.

Pelletier says that her head space at the time made things harder, and so did the actions of a former roommate.

"It was very stressful; it was very scary," she says. "I had just moved out of my parents' house, and my roommate was just not a very good person," she says.

The roommate in question? Pelletier says he informed her in the

last week of February that he was moving out. "I was working 90 hours a week, she says she was without the financial help of li

"It caught me, obviously, very off-balance. I was working 90 hours a week, it made it very difficult," she says. "I actually ended up getting really sick and ending up in hospital while trying to work 90 hours a week."

The sickness wasn't purely physical. Pelletier used the government resource Plan BC, which allowed her to get medication for her mental health—which she says was strained by homelessness—covered.

"It was just the stress of working 90 hours a week and not having a house," she says. "I never really had my own space; I never had time to de-escalate."

Pelletier says that one of the biggest underlying problems of the housing crisis for her is the quality of the few places that are available. Living in a house where she puts it, "in the wintertime, the windows would move in the living room," is not the kind of citizen should have, she says. It wasn't about the money, but that all the options available were a bunch of men she didn't know, which she says is the calibre of the housing crisis.

"I could afford a house, but it was just not the spaces that were open would be a group of three dudes."

She says that one of the keys for finding a place to live is to have friends who of

friends who of

"It's really hard

feel like you are

"Especially when

your first try."

Pelletier str

fault if they find

pointing to Vic

"Then, if you

young people

they're still tryi

themselves," she says, "it just makes it

Pelletier says that putting student housing in place can help a little, but that it wouldn't do much to solve the problem.

"There's just not enough [houses] available. It's absolutely ridiculous. I think it would be a good system in place to protect students."

"It's really hard because you're young and you are failing as an adult. You're that young and i

Camosun College Student Society president Rachael Grant says that lack of affordable housing is a major issue and adds that Camosun should do more than that sort of thing if they could.

"That's been something that our generation has done since the early '60s, establishing student residences; there's also an issue with how the system currently restricts institutions like Camosun

ed homeless as impacted Camosun students

Story by Adam Marsh, student editor

Photos by Jill Westby/Nexus

iving out in seven days. Even e couldn't afford to live where living with someone.

guard, and while working 90 she says. "I was quite stressed, sick. I was in and out of the a week."

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hard because you definitely e failing as an adult," she says. en you're that young and it's

resses that it is rarely a person's d themselves in that situation, toria's notorious vacancy rate. ou count in the fact that most are on a strict budget, and ng to figure out so much about t very difficult."

t housing on campus would uch to fix the bigger scope of

in general and the pricing is e nice if there was some kind

ou definitely feel like lt. Especially when t's your first try."

MELLISSA PELLETIER
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

Political gridlock

ciety (CCSS) external executive of campus housing is definitely osun would put money toward

overnment hasn't prioritized ent housing on campus in the e in that the government cur- n being able to borrow money.

So the college is in a weird place where they can't borrow money, and because [housing is] very expensive, that's not something they can just absorb, cost-wise."

Grant says that because of government policy, Camosun's only option is a public-private partnership, which she says is not something the college is going to do any time soon.

"Those are a problem because it leaves them in a space where the college doesn't have a lot of say over how that building would be run. Often, in those types of situations, the cost of living there is very high for students and doesn't actually create any form of revenue for the institution itself."

"For me, it's a real struggle to get from here to there; it's been a mission, and it's taught me a lot about how to keep my priorities straight. But it's really bringing me down."

RICARDO HARDIN
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

(The Alliance of BC Students, which Camosun students are not members of, organized a protest in Victoria on Tuesday, September 27 to try to raise awareness of the situation regarding government getting in the way of post-secondary institutions building student housing.)

Grant says the issue that really needs addressing is the lack of affordable housing; she says what the CCSS would like to see the government do is "either give funding so residences on campus can be built, or remove the restriction on institutions like Camosun to be able to borrow money, because if the college was able to borrow money, they would do that."

BC Housing is a government agency that provides assistance to renters in the form of subsidies and subsidized housing. ABC Housing spokesperson offered the following comment via email:

"BC Housing is willing to work with post-secondary institutions and would consider proposals for affordable rental housing geared to students. We may also consider incorporating student housing into existing affordable rental housing buildings within appropriate distance to post-secondary institutions. Students can apply to BC Housing for affordable rental housing units. We will evaluate each application based on eligibility requirements, which includes age, income, and how much financial support the individual receives."

A public policy issue

As the CCSS' Grant says, the on-campus housing issue for students comes down to the government all but putting a brick wall between Camosun residences and homeless students. Rickinson says that Camosun, as a whole, seems "very aware of their students' needs."

"I don't think the actual institution of Camosun College is deaf," says Rickinson. "They do what they can with restrictions at every corner. The government is deaf to everyone's needs but their own. I don't believe that they have the pulse, at all, on the working-class British Columbian, or the low-income British Columbian, which is what our province primarily is."

Rickinson says that she has not seen a government, except for a brief NDP stint, attend to the needs of younger or working-class people.

"I've heard a bunch of rhetoric, and I've heard a bunch of lies, but haven't heard anything that translated into services," she says.

Rickinson believes that the entire province needs to implement "a 15 percent home buyer's tax" to keep the province in such a place where the safety of its citizens is addressed in terms of shelter.

"We've seen an immediate alleviation of the housing crisis in Vancouver since that tax was in place, but now those buyers who are looking for investments are going to go everywhere else they can. It was just a shift of the problem, and if it isn't dealt with *en masse*," she says, "it's not going to improve."



theatre

Kirsten Van Ritzen returns for another round of *Sin City*



DAVID BRUCE

The *Sin City* improv serial aims to entertain regulars as well as those who just stop in for one show.

MASON HENDRIX
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Actress/comedian Kirsten Van Ritzen has starred in a plethora of plays, acted in television commercials, and toured with a live theatre troupe.

But Victorians most likely know her as the creator of and actress in her own live theatre improv show, *Sin City*.

Van Ritzen and her partner moved to Victoria in late 2010; just a few months later, they created *Sin City*, and they have been performing here ever since. Every year, a new

installment is introduced, with a new setting and new characters.

"It's always been a passion," says Van Ritzen. "My partner and I, we created this format. We did it in Edmonton for several years; then, when we moved to Toronto, we did it there. Then we found our way to Victoria, and we started the company here with these local improvisers, who were amazing."

Van Ritzen says that the plot of *Sin City* isn't incredibly complicated and stresses that even though it's a serial, people can come for just one night and enjoy it.

"You'll laugh a lot, you'll be entertained, and it will be super easy to figure out what's going on," she says.

Van Ritzen says that theatre in Canada doesn't pay well for those working behind the scenes, but if it's your love, you do it anyway. Financial security can be an issue, but she says that's the price you sometimes have to pay in order to live your dreams and practice your passion.

"It's ups and downs when you're a Canadian actor," says Van Ritzen. "People think you're either famous

"I love improv because you don't know what's going to happen, and you're completely trusting in the other people you're on stage with."

KIRSTEN VAN RITZEN
ACTRESS

or you're not; there is actually a lot of in between, where you're a working actor and you have a lot of good years that are lucrative and you have a lot of years where you've got day jobs."

Van Ritzen has been a dedicated actress since she graduated from university. She fondly remembers spending part of her first year touring Saskatchewan in a van during a frosty, snow-gripped winter.

"I majored in theatre, and in my first year out of the gates I got professional work," she says. "I toured Saskatchewan in the winter, which is about as brutal as you can imagine. We were travelling in a van to northern Saskatchewan; at 7 in the morning you load your set into some high-school gymnasium and do a show at 9 in the morning, and get on the road and go to the next town. It's kind of a rite of passage for a lot of professional Canadian actors—your first year, you do touring for young audiences."

Aside from improv, Van Ritzen's other great passion is stand-up comedy. She teaches a class on stand-up, and some of her graduates have gone on to perform around the world. Instead of feeling nerv-

ous or catching stage fright when performing, Van Ritzen thrives in her element and finds performing in front of a live audience to be enthralling, regardless of whether it's improv or stand-up.

"I love improv because you don't know what's going to happen, and you're completely trusting in the other people you're on stage with," she says. "That's the addiction for us, the adrenaline of not knowing what's going to happen. We look in each other's eyes and then something amazing happens that neither of us expected, and, to me, that's the rush of it. Stand-up is a different kind of rush, because it's the relationship just between you and the audience, and you're in charge of what's going to happen. You get your laughs or you don't get your laughs, but you're completely on your own for that."

Sin City

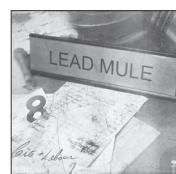
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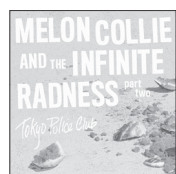
Lead Mule
Parts & Labour
(Independent)
4/5

Yarmouth, Nova Scotia's Lead Mule has put a modern twist on early '90s rock with *Parts & Labour*, their second LP. The album combines intricate three-part harmonies, snappy riffs, and choruses that the listener can't help but sing along with.

Vocalist/guitarist Mat Bridgeo brings something to the table with his singing that can best be described as the metaphorical lovechild of Bush's Gavin Rossdale and Panic! at the Disco's Brendon Urie; it may seem like an incompatible pairing, but *Parts & Labour*'s title track and "Semi Automatic" brilliantly showcase this hybrid of styles.

Throughout the LP, Bridgeo's vocals float effortlessly across meticulously crafted and melody-laden tracks, each one offering up something different than the last. This album starts out strong and ends off on a softer note, leaving the listener with a strong sense of contentment and satisfaction.

-KENNIDY ANDERSON



Tokyo Police Club
Melon Collie and the Infinite Radness (Part 2)
(Dine Alone Records)
4/5

Ontario indie rockers Tokyo Police Club are back with the second part of their two-EP series, *Melon Collie and the Infinite Radness*.

The five-song EP dives straight into their trademark garage-rock sound from the very first track, which is an enthralling way to set the tone for the EP. The record doesn't sound too polished or pop-like, which is a positive thing in indie rock.

The EP is infused with youthful vocals and upbeat instrumentals; the downfall of the somewhat repetitive sound is that it might leave you feeling somewhat melancholy if you're not a fan of indie rock. But, for my money, this is excellent indie with a rad summer vibe and is definitely worth checking out.

This lyrically thought-provoking EP is a solid four out of five, its only flaw being a lack of variety, with the record sounding like one long improv jam session on a familiar—but awesome—musical theme.

-MASON HENDRIX



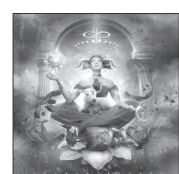
Fatal Jamz
Coverboy
(Lollipop Records)
3.5/5

Even if Fatal Jamz' lead singer Marion Belle and his previous outfit Bowery Beasts are all completely new to you (like they were to me), you'll swear you've heard their catchy glam-pop hooks and '80s keyboards before. However, this is Fatal Jamz' first full-length, having only released two EPs earlier this year.

Lyrically, the 10 tracks revolve around love and fame, and they're played with a sincerity that suggests the band doesn't take themselves too seriously but still worked hard recording this over no less than three years. Indeed, the craft on this album demonstrates a level that only comes with years of putting your heart into your work and not giving up on a dream.

The influences that come through in *Coverboy*—Bowie, The Cure, Thin Lizzy, and Mötley Crüe, oddly enough—are recognizable but not derivative. This is love with tongue in cheek. It's easy to cruise to, and I'd like to hear more in the future.

-PATRICK NEWMAN



Devin Townsend Project
Transcendence
(New Damage Records)
4/5

The Devin Townsend Project is a five-piece metal band—led by Townsend, of Strapping Young Lad—from Vancouver.

Transcendence is the group's seventh album and has a very diverse array of songs, ranging from metal tracks to tunes with an almost-mystical ambience.

A handful of songs on the album have few lyrics, which puts emphasis on the execution and meaning behind them; the execution is so well done that at parts it feels as if they have quite literally shoved you back with vocal and musical projection.

The lyric-rich songs are also very powerful; "Higher" in particular resonates with me, with its esoteric and poetic delivery.

This album portrays a very interesting mixture of metal and gothic vigor that will appeal to those who are already metal fans as well as those new to the genre.

-JORDYN GOODWIN

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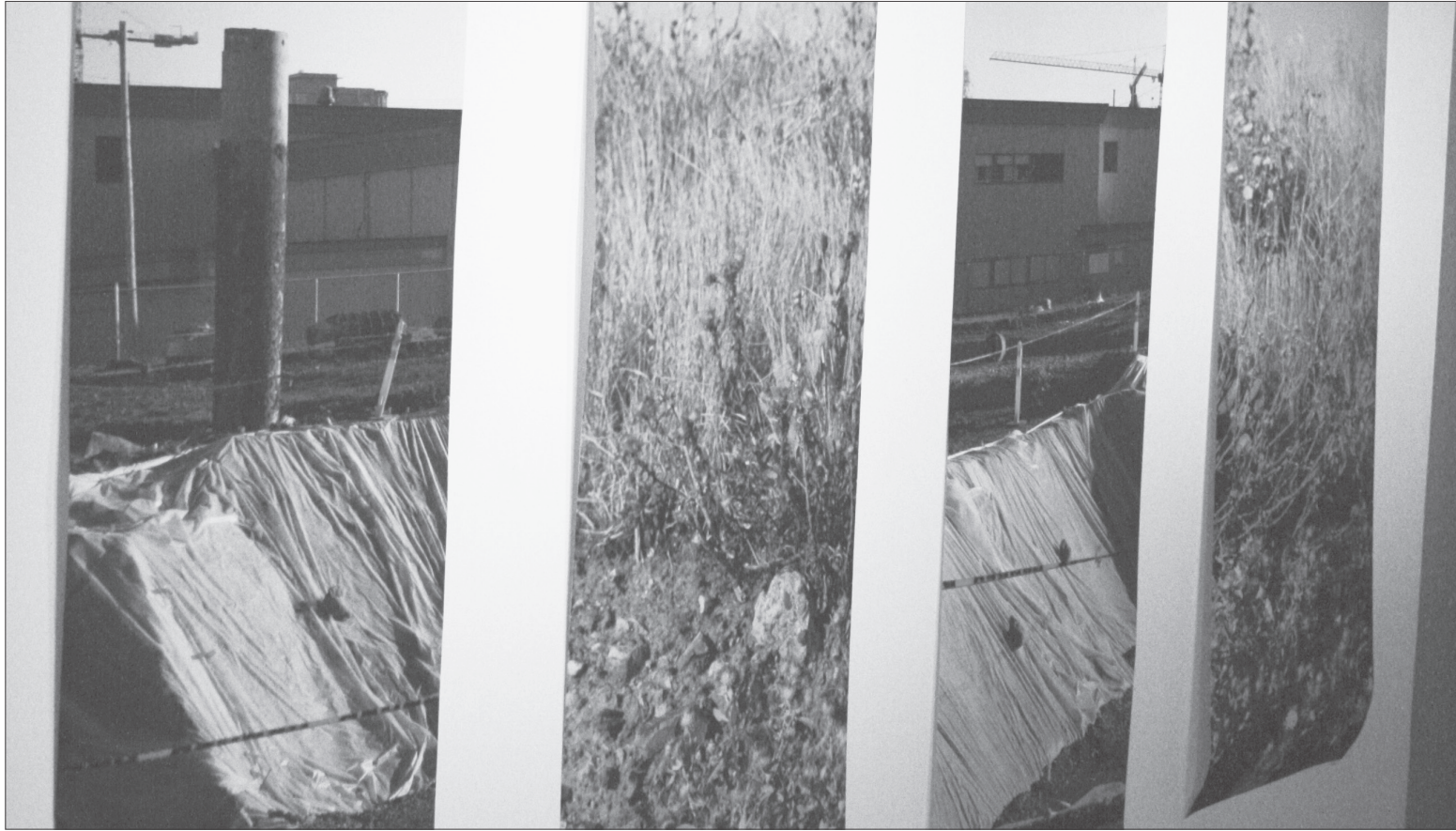
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visual arts

Camosun resident artist captures time and culture in her work



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Camosun artist in residence Megan Quigley's *Mother Tongue* project is up now at Camosun's Lansdowne campus.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Megan Quigley graduated from Camosun's Visual Arts program last year and is now bringing her skills back to campus through Camosun's Van den Brink residency.

The residency allows a graduate from the last three years of the Camosun Visual Arts department to work on a project for two months with access to the college's art studios.

Quigley says that the project—which is called *Mother Tongue* and will be on display in the foyer of

room 117 in the Young Building on Lansdowne campus until October 14—is “an investigation of the process of learning language.”

“[It’s] a process of negotiating cultural identity, diaspora, and a relationship to place,” says Quigley.

Quigley’s artistic medium of choice includes embroidery onto tarp; she says that she’s really interested in how materials relate to a process.

“I’m less interested in creating objects that maybe present themselves as art objects,” she says, “and rather more interested in under-

standing how material has a certain reference or a certain memory to it.”

Due to the tactile nature of what she does, Quigley says she has always had a soft spot for construction materials and how they can intertwine with and act as an aid to “the process of transition.”

“I think that the way in which—specifically in Victoria—one might relate to construction materials is if you’re walking down the street, for example, and you encounter a building that is being demolished or being built, and you see tarps or you see displaced ground,” she

says. “It makes you conscientious of the fact that the place that you’re in is in flux, and is also constructed and built.”

As far as how that lends itself to her process as an artist, Quigley says that the city she lives in, the ground she walks on, and the buildings she sees can “call attention to the different processes that transform our relationship to place.”

Quigley has combined some of the materials in her project that she sees in construction zones, such as tarp and Tyvek, with photography of the city. But even with something

“I’m interested in understanding how material has a certain reference or a certain memory to it.”

MEGAN QUIGLEY
ARIST

as basic as landscape photography, Quigley puts her own creative spin on things.

“Instead of going and taking pictures of the landscape, I’ve done a series of durational videos,” she says. “I’m presenting it as a still, but one that is also kind of breathing.”

Quigley says that it is a “slippery line” between a durational photograph and a durational video.

“It’s just a straight shot, so there’s no camera movement, and there’s not a lot of movement in the subject,” says Quigley. “In this way, it might have more of the characteristics of a photograph, but it’s still a video.”

The video in this case—of a cliff along Dallas Road—is still for the most part, but it has, as Quigley puts it, “glimmers of movement,” such as water and wind rustling trees. Quigley says that she is really interested in addressing the boundaries between video and still shots.

“I’m really interested in notions of hybridity as they relate to material, but also how that can then broach into conversations of locations and identity.”



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<p>30</p> <p>CAROLYN MARK'S HOOTENANNY 4PM - 8PM / FREE</p>							<p>31</p> <p>HAPPY HALLOWEEN NO MEANS NO TRIBUTE</p>	<p>ORIGINAL - AUTHENTIC - UNIQUE - OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK</p> <p>MONDAY - FRIDAY : 3PM - 1AM SATURDAY : 11AM - 1AM SUNDAY : 11AM - 12AM</p> <p>(250)360-2711</p>				






canadian press style guide word search

We (generally) follow the rules of Canadian Press, which sometimes results in strange conversations around the office: is yeti capitalized? Is there a hyphen in scuttlebutt? How the hell do you spell "picnicker"? We put together a list of 20 unique, odd, and Canadian words from the Canadian Press style guide for this word search.

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

CLANGOUR FERVOUR HUMOUR MANOEUVRE PANTYHOSE PECCADILLOS PICNICKER PIECEMEAL RIPOFF ROLLOVER SCUTTLEBUTT SEATBELT SIZABLE STATCAN STOCKPILE TRAVELLING TUQUE UFO WHISKY YETI	T B Q N F P I W V B E V Q T V
	E Q S V A M C X F A E N Q G L
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	O T O T V T O E K S C R I F E
	M S U O T E N S L I O P C R L
	U V U Q U L I A N T T L Y O L
	H R N V U H E C P C S H A L I
	D I R F W E I B T I C S W L N
	H E O N V P N N U L J E Z O G
	L A E M E C E I P T F F V V X
	C L A N G O U R Y O T G K E N
	E L B A Z I S R I P O F F R R




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HARD TO BELIEVE

A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE KILLING OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE FOR THEIR ORGANS IN CHINA

FREE SCREENING OF "HARD TO BELIEVE" AT CAMOSUN COLLEGE
 Gibson Auditorium, Young Building, Room 216 (Lansdowne Campus)
 Thursday Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. (FREE ADMISSION)
 Screening will be followed by a panel discussion/audience Q&A

At Ease with Japanese - student club column

by Aaron Stefik/Japanese Conversation Club

Have you ever wondered how to become friends with Japanese people? What you should or shouldn't do around them? What they find fascinating about people outside of Japan? What makes Japan so interesting? Some topics that the Japanese Conversation Club discuss include...

Bowing: In most Asian cultures, bowing is a very important show of respect. We can teach you the differences that each type of bow presents to people in Asia.

Kitchen/food culture: In Japan, there are many rules to pay attention to while dining, including how to use chopsticks, what to say before and after eating, and how to respect the host.

Common courtesy: What to do when arriving at a friend's home, how to introduce yourself, and what to do when paying for things.

Gift giving: What to say when giving them, how much to pay for them, and what kinds of gifts are expected.

Dating: What to say when you like someone, where to go on dates, and how to define what a "date" is to Japanese people.

Junior-senior relationships: How to respect people with age and experience differences from you.

Festivals: Only the biggest and best country-wide parties in Japan.

Origami: How to make almost anything out of paper.

Tatemaeh/honne: The real, inside look at Japanese social norms.

Anime/manga: What is trending among the young generation?

Come on down to the Japanese Conversation Club, Fridays from 3 pm to 5 pm in Wilna Thomas 204.

No amount of Japanese language or cultural knowledge is required.

PENGUIN & PEACOCK



Do you think men and women can be friends?

No

...I also don't think men and men or women and women can be friends

You're a very sad person

Good thing they invented valium, eh?

By Jayden Grieve



SMITH VS SMITH
BY MATT SMITH!

CONTENTED SIGH

YEUCH! BABY, YOUR BREATH STINKS!

OK, I'LL GET UP AND BRUSH MY TEETH...

NO...! STAY AND CUDDLE ME!

JUST DON'T BREATHE!


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SEX QUIZ


A FUNDRAISER

October 17 · Northern Quarter · 1724 Douglas St.
 Doors at 5:30PM · Quiz by Benji at 7PM

Funds raised for Island Sexual Health. 35% of proceeds from food and drink generously donated by Northern Quarter. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.



islandsexualhealth.org



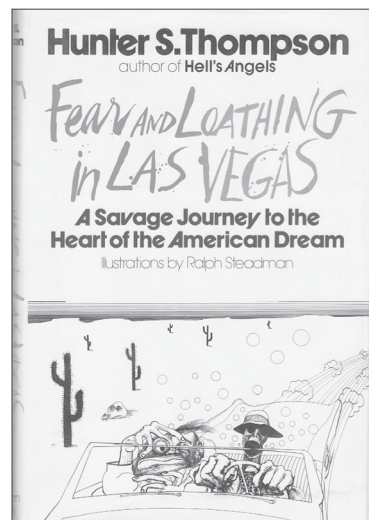
NORTHERN QUARTER



Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

Going gonzo with Hunter S. Thompson



Thompson's innovation was to actively involve himself in the action he was reporting. "Buy the ticket, take the ride," he wrote, and he proceeded to do just that.

In 1971, Thompson published *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, and the "gonzo" writing movement was born. The book is a semi-fictionalized account of a reporter travelling to Las Vegas to cover a district attorney convention and a desert motorcycle race. The narrator spends most of his time on drugs, grappling with chaotic disappointment at the state of his generation.

What made the book unique was the way Thompson placed himself as a character in the centre of the action. The "new journalism" movement had already produced a style of reporting that rejected the idea of an objective reporter. Truman Capote, Joan Didion, and Thomas Wolfe all wrote books and magazine stories in which they observed themselves observing the action.

Thompson's innovation was to

actively involve himself in the action he was reporting. "Buy the ticket, take the ride," he wrote, and, he proceeded to do just that.

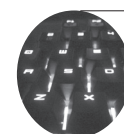
By the early 1970s, the failure of the hippies' counter-culture revolution was a common theme among the new journalists. Thompson's drug-addled, frenetic style reflected the chaos and disappointment of this latest failure of the American dream. It also represented a type of desperate hope that out of the ashes of the hippies something new would emerge. After all, he reasoned, "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."

Hunter S. Thompson must-read:

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas
(Public Library Oak Bay Branch: 920.573 THO)

"I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me," Hunter S. Thompson, the father of gonzo journalism, once said.

Thompson first gained notoriety as the writer of *Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs*, a book he researched by spending a year riding and hanging out with the Hell's Angels; he was severely beaten when the Angels realized he was using them for his own personal gain.



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

Smeb best player in world

When I originally wrote this, I planned on doing a ranking of the top five players at *League of Legends* World Championships. As I was writing, it hit me: I would run out of room just trying to talk about how awesome Song "Smeb" Kyung-ho is.

The 21-year-old top laner is the best player in the world right now. Some might say, "Now, Adam, what about Faker?" Fair question, and thanks for asking; Faker is the greatest player of all time, but not the best in the world right now.

Now, honestly, Smeb is the backbone of Korea's ROX Tigers. His ability to carry games with

hardly any help and utterly demolish his opponent in lane—to the point of them often going on tilt for the whole series they've played—has landed him the reputation of someone you do not want to face off against.

Smeb, who was part of the original lineup of the Tigers, showed hardly any promise at the start of his career. After leaving his starting team, Incredible Miracle, due to poor results over the course of two years, he joined the Tigers and destroyed anyone in his way.

Leading into the 2015 worlds, the Tigers were not the fan favourites. Still relatively unknown to the

western world, it wasn't until they swept European favourites Fnatic 3-0 that viewers really started to view them and Smeb as a serious threat. The Tigers finished second in the tournament, falling to SK Telecom T1 in a 3-1 match.

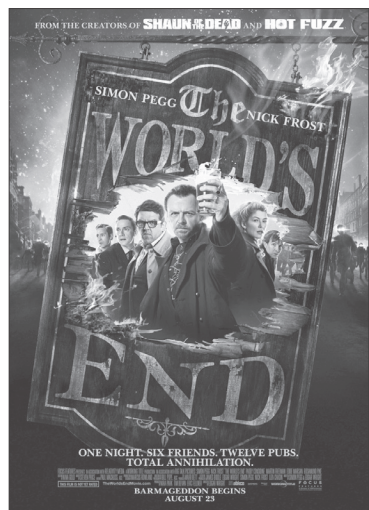
In 2016, the Tigers stormed through the spring and summer splits, with Smeb winning back-to-back MVP titles. Now, the Tigers head into worlds as the top seed and with Smeb being the best player in the world; they look ready to finally win. What was just out of reach previously can—and probably will—be snatched up by the Tigers this year.



To See or Not to See

by Finlay Pogue

The World's End wide awake and wonderful



What sets *The World's End* apart from its brothers *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz* is its tone, which substitutes young-man's courageousness for middle-aged weariness.

make us laugh. (And, at the risk of being branded an old fogey, I'll say that Wright achieves this in a much cleaner, more civilized manner than many films today.)

His Cornetto trilogy (*Shaun of the Dead* (2004), *Hot Fuzz* (2007), and *The World's End*), co-written with Simon Pegg (who also stars in them) is his best work. These movies have the comedic nuances of the great *Arrested Development*, in the far superior movie format; of the three, *The World's End* demonstrates both of these points most emphatically.

The opening sequence is nothing shy of brilliant, Wright setting the tone with his usual fast-paced editing and use of decidedly clever scene transitions. Throughout the film, the Wright/Pegg writing team packs in as many jokes and references as possible, and the musical selection is so integral to the film that it is often written into the dialogue. Even the colour palette is engaging (unlike, say, the dull *War Dogs* [2016] or the bland *The Free State of Jones* [2016]), with the picture saturated and moody—the blacks black, and (most import-



Calculated Thought

by Sean Annable

Student tax changes afoot

Students who are inclined to save will feel the crunch from recent changes to federal student benefits.

The education and textbook tax credits save working students up to \$558 per year. Analysts argue that this doesn't help students who may not be able to afford the up-front costs of post-secondary education (you have to wait for the tax refund), and worry that since the credits are not income-tested, benefits mainly go to wealthier students and their families.

As of January 1, 2017, these tax credits will be no more. Replacing them will be an increase to the Canada student grants for low and middle-income families. These grants offer \$3,000 (up from \$2,000) and \$1,200 (up from \$800) to low- and middle-income families, respectively, for those who qualify.

The federal budget proposes that the money saved by slashing these tax credits will fund the increase to the grants. There's a caveat: you must be eligible for federal student aid to qualify for the grant.

However, this leaves out some

students who may meet the income requirements. If a single, financially independent student makes less than \$24,144 a year, they meet the income requirement for the low-income grant. Students are assessed as in need of funding based on the equation "educational costs – student resources = financial need."

Let's say a student has an income of \$20,000 and has no assets (cash, RRSPs, a car, etc.), and their assessed need is \$5,000. Up to \$3,000 is awarded under the grant, and the remainder will be a loan. If a student with the same income has assets exceeding that need of \$5,000—say, \$3,001 in the bank and a used car worth \$2,000—they are assessed as needing \$0 in financial aid, and no grant is awarded.

Was the tax credit fairer? Although it is admirable that this change aims to provide a larger benefit to those more in need, one could argue that taking away the tax credit ignores those who are savers and own some assets, even if it is only a safety net and a rusty Hyundai.

contest

Find the hidden Nexus and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

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

The first person to find this copy of the paper and bring it in to our office wins themselves a free prize! Happy hunting!

The World's End (2013)
4/5

Edgar Wright has made a name for himself by making razor-sharp, tightly wound comedies that do what most comedies of late don't do:

antly) the ambers amber. No film has ever made me want a good old-fashioned pint more than *The World's End*, which is in no small part due to the photography—it's rich, warm, and delicious.

But what sets *The World's End* apart from its brothers *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz* is its tone, which substitutes young-man's courageousness for middle-aged weariness.

It's in this shift that *The World's End* achieves more than just 90 minutes of laughs. There are undercurrents of sadness and questions about the meaning of life running beneath the alcohol-fuelled madness that tramples about on the surface.

And, yes, in keeping with the Cornetto way, there are wild and zany left hooks in the story that many may take as opportunity to

write the film off. Do not do this. Or at least *try* not to do this.

I know that there are aspects here that will not appeal to everyone; after all, it is a—I'll just say it—sci-fi comedy. But, whereas most sci-fi films get rather carried away in their own worlds, *The World's End* makes it clear that it knows that its sci-fi element is a tad idiotic, and therefore never loses sight of what its message is.

In the end, that message is one of unity—unity of friendship, family, humanity—and the, frankly, idiotic measures humans will go to sometimes to attain and prolong their sense of unity.

It's a funny point, but one that stuck with me for its truth and honesty, making *The World's End* one of the few comedies that I've appreciated for more than its sense of humour.

what's going on

by adam boyle



DAVID LOWES

Next to Normal is a rock musical dealing with heavy subjects.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 UNTIL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**

No silver bullets here

Mating Dance of the Werewolf gets us all into the Halloween spirit with its spookiness, humour, and really weird take on stalking someone. Showing up in a Halloween costume nets you a free cookie and drink. It goes down at Theatre Inconnu; tickets are \$14, but students get 'em for \$10. Visit theatreinconnu.com for more info.

UNTIL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Rocking about touchy issues

Langham Theatre gets its first-ever rock musical with *Next to Normal*. Tackling issues like drug abuse, grieving, and ethics, the show—which is centred on a suburban family dealing with mental illness—brings rock songs to the table to help address these subjects. Tickets range from \$26 to \$32; see langhamtheatre.ca for the lowdown.

UNTIL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

History through opera

Pacific Opera Victoria returns to the Royal Theatre with a political thriller. *Simon Boccanegra* is a story about Boccanegra, a 14th-century Genoa pirate turned duke, and his struggles with the chaos of politics. Written

by 19th-century opera composer Giuseppe Verdi, this opera aims to showcase Boccanegra's more humane side. Tickets are between \$25 and \$135; visit pov.bc.ca for more info.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

You're feeling very sleepy

The Camosun College Student Society is bringing comedic hypnotist Scott Ward to Camosun's Lansdowne campus. The event goes down in Young 216 at 6 pm; tickets are \$5 and are available at the Camosun bookstore. See camosunstudent.org for more info on this and other student society events.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Evening on Cook Street

For those of you who don't—or can't—spend Thanksgiving with your families, the Cook Street Activity Centre is serving a traditional turkey dinner, with the added bonus of music bingo provided by Ron King. There will also be prizes at the door, games, and more. Tickets are \$18; for more info, visit cookstreetvillage-activitycentre.com.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 UNTIL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Playing behind bars

What happens when the entire world

stops dreaming? That's the subject matter of *Sleeping Giants*, which William Head on Stage is presenting at William Head Prison. Tickets are \$20; see whonstage.weebly.com for more information, and keep your eyes peeled for our review of this play on nexusnewspaper.com.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

Upbeat breakups

Montréal's Basia Bulat is on tour across Canada and will be stopping off at Lucky Bar. She brings songs from *Good Advice*, her fourth studio album, with her; they're breakup songs that she hopes are upbeat instead of depressing. For info on this and other upcoming concerts, check out luckybar.com.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17 UNTIL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Ecological open readings

J.B. MacKinnon will be providing ecological insight with this series of readings at UVic and Open Space. The local food movement, which MacKinnon will be speaking about, is something well worth being educated on, as it impacts all of us. If you're interested in learning about food and ecology, or just want to sit in on something, admission is by donation, and there are three readings at various venues. See openspace.ca for more info.