

# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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# THE NEW REVOLUTION

HOW TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING  
THE CLASSROOM

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Student society by-elections  
bring new students to board

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Camosun students get voice on  
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New musical pays tribute  
to Joni Mitchell

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# NEXUS

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "Did you know that Martha Stewart has sexed?"

COVER PHOTOS:  
Camosun's Young Building: Jill Westby/*Nexus*  
Student Society elections: Greg Pratt/*Nexus*  
Camosun students get transit voice: Jill Westby/*Nexus*  
Joni Mitchell musical: Peter Pokorny

## student editor's letter Plugged in, in class

In the last ten years, our world has witnessed a colossal technological revolution that's full of both pros and cons. That technological revolution has most certainly hit Camosun College classrooms; it's hit post-secondary globally. For example, you can get a degree from a Canadian east-coast university while sitting in a coffee shop in Spain.

The fact that technology has changed the way we interact with—and view—the world so much in such a short period of time is scary to me, but I must admit that after talking with a few Camosun faculty and students on the matter, it has made me second-guess my own thoughts on technology in the classroom. It will be interesting to see how generations to come react to the technological change that we've witnessed. Turn to page 6 to read our story on technology in the classroom.

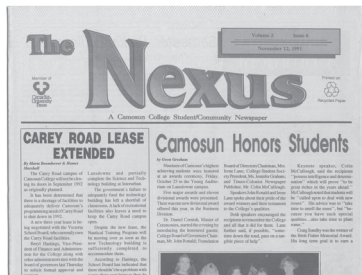
We've also got lots of student-based news stories this issue. Contributing writer Mason Hendrix covers the results of the Camosun College Student Society student-board by-election on page 3; on page 4, you can read contributing writer Quinn Hiebert's story about Camosun students having representation on the local transit board. Also on page 4 is a story about Camosun College giving a contribution to the student society's Walk Safer program.

Staff writer Adam Boyle caught up with Camosun student club Campus Closet to find out what they're all about; check out the story on page 5. Boyle also wrote about *In the Making*, an exhibit at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria featuring work by former Camosun students. Read all about it on page 9.

We'll see you again for our next issue on November 30, and if you've got something for us between now and then—be it a news tip or a completed word search—come on by our office at Richmond House 201 on the Lansdowne campus to say hello and have your voice heard.

Adam Marsh, student editor  
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

## flashback 25 years ago in *Nexus*



**Bound with surprising claims:** Here in 2016 we're used to seeing news stories about people being offended about, well, everything; a news story, for example, about someone claiming a toy sexually harassed them barely registers as being absurd anymore. But maybe it's not that new of a thing: in our November 12, 1991 issue, we ran a story talking about some concerns people had about a poster around campus for Camosun's *Bound with Glue Review* journal. The poster featured the words "free," "new," "improved," and "sex" in large, bold print, prompting Camosun's President's Advisory Committee on

Sexual Harassment to suggest the poster "constituted a form of sexual harassment." *Bound with Glue* insisted there was nothing wrong with the posters, which ended up being torn down around campus.

**2 out of 25 ain't bad:** We followed up the story about the contentious poster with an informal poll of 25 Camosun students asking their opinion on the matter. Our first question was if they considered the poster to be a form of sexual harassment: two said yes, and 23 said no. One Camosun student added, "Just because the word 'sex' is in it does not mean it's sexual harassment."

**A spark that will become the Chargers:** In this issue, the story "Camosun launches competitive basketball teams" talked about how the school was organizing a "soon-to-be-competitive" basketball team. Of course, we know them today as the school's Chargers, who have grown to include teams for men's and women's basketball, men's and women's volleyball, and golf.

## open space Bill C-16 not taking away rights

QUINN HIEBERT  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I'm tired of the opinion that Bill C-16 is about taking away a person's rights when it's about recognizing them. I'm tired of the fact that it is a certain type of person with this opinion, and I'm tired of the fragile male ego, the one that objects when others succeed in fighting for their own rights—the one that gets in the way of change.

There's this idea out there that if a group of people who are on the receiving end of hate crimes have laws passed in their favour, then someone else's rights have suddenly been violated. But rights aren't about taking away; they're about creating equality.

Equality is said to be at the core of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; equality ensures that

They don't always do the handiwork around the house and they aren't always the ones fixing the car. Chivalry is on its way out because women are independent, strong, and capable. The "world of man" is being shattered. Women are forcing change and men are backing them up because they want change, too. The definition of feminism has changed (again) to include fighting for men's rights.

No one likes to feel like they can't make a mistake, but this isn't about that. It's about legally backing a person or a group of people—specifically, a group of people who would benefit from having a change to the charter that includes their gender identity or expression.

Nowhere in Bill C-16 does it say that freedom of speech is being violated. It states that evidence must

There's this idea out there that if a group of people who are on the receiving end of hate crimes have laws passed in their favour someone else's rights have suddenly been violated.

everyone is treated with the same respect, dignity and consideration, and is treated without discrimination. There are those who think that this endangers their freedom of speech, or that they will be attacked if they make a mistake.

Now, it's easy to forget that there are some things that men just don't have: fair access to their children, for example, or the ability to be involved in their children's lives without gender discrimination. The courts must keep in mind the fact that abusive men—who are generally so charismatic that they get their children anyway—are out there. It's an imperfect system; good dads lose their kids while abusive or neglectful mothers gain custody. But it also protects women who are trying to flee abusive situations.

Men are losing; they aren't always the breadwinners anymore.

be given that shows the offence was motivated by bias, prejudice, or hate based on gender identity or expression.

As someone who identifies as non-binary, this is important. My gender-identity rights are violated all the time. It's more likely that a person will refer to me as a female than call me by my gender-neutral pronouns. I've been told that I will always be viewed as female because that's the body I was born in, that I must compromise on my pronouns, and that I need to be more feminine. So I know that humans have issues treating each other with dignity and respect.

The government must put rules in place so that discrimination is harder to get away with. It's extremely unfortunate that there are those who can't see less discrimination as a good thing.

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!

## SPEAK UP

Do you think Camosun students should still be a part of the Canadian Federation of Students?

BY ADAM MARSH



### MORGAN JOHN HIDES

"I feel it's good to be part of a bigger collective, because then you've got a lot more support from other places and other areas if you need it, and if you branch off you're on your own."



### SIMONE TARDIF

"I can see that it could be important for us to leave if we are seeing problems with it, but I still think it's important to have a backup to help us out."



### KARNVEER SAMARA

"I think it's more beneficial to just be part of the British Columbia one [British Columbia Federation of Students] instead of the Canadian one, especially if there's already movements around trying to stop this."



### DANIEL CRABBE

"It's definitely something we should look into, for sure. I'm kind of leaning towards maybe not being part of it."



### KIRSTEN WONDERS

"Off the top of my head, just based on what I know, I would say I'm indifferent."



### ALYSON GILL

"It's a tough one. If we're not getting anything good out of it and we're paying money, maybe we shouldn't be a part of it."

## politics

## Student society by-elections bring in new student board members



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Voting day for the Camosun College Student Society by-elections at the Lansdowne campus.

**MASON HENDRIX**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) by-elections were held on Tuesday, October 25 and Wednesday, October 26; at both campuses, Camosun students voted in new student representatives to the CCSS student council.

Callum Harrison was elected as the Lansdowne executive, Srijani Nath the international director; Draco Recalma is now the First Nations director, and Ellen Young is the new off campus director.

Rima Durah, Mitchell-Auger Langejan, Malcom Rorvik, and Wyatt Matthews were elected as directors-at-large for the Lansdowne campus, while Chris Lineham, Sukhdeep Kaur, Bikramjit Singh, and Arpit Gulati were elected as Interurban's directors-at-large.

CCSS external executive Rachael Grant says she is looking forward to working with the new student representatives to improve the lives of students. She says, however, that she was hoping that more students would have voted this year.

"We're always looking to up our voter turnout; however, it continues to be rather low," says Grant. "Something that we are looking into down the line is online voting to increase participation. Ideally, it would be great to see more students at the polls, and that's something we continue to strive toward."

437 students voted this year during the elections; 247 students voted at the Interurban campus, and 166 students voted at the Lansdowne campus. 24 votes were also cast at the Saanich Adult Education Centre. Despite the low numbers, Grant

believes that it is very important for students to come out to the polls and cast their ballots.

"It's important that students vote because the board of directors at the student society makes important decisions in regards to students; also, we're entirely funded by student money," says Grant. "So these students are representing you; these students are making decisions with the money you spent when you paid your tuition. It's in the breakdown when you pay your tuition; there are student fees, so being able to participate in our elections means having a say in who gets to represent you, and that's really important."

Nath, the new CCSS international director, was ecstatic when she realized she had been elected to her position. She says that, to her, it was more than just an election.

"These students are representing you; these students are making decisions with the money you spent when you paid your tuition."

**RACHAEL GRANT**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

"This position gives me a great opportunity to really connect with the school, and to the students," she says. "It gives me a chance to listen to them and do something beneficial for all of us. I feel much satisfaction being an international student in a school like Camosun, where everyone has always been so helpful."

Nath believes that tuition fees are too high, and that government grants should be more accessible. She says the CCSS wants to try to lower tuition fees and ask for more grants for students.

"That is one of the major policies that the student society has worked toward for the past few years," she says, "and I have helped them and will continue to help in their outreach programs."

New off campus director Young has been serving on the board of directors since 2013, but in a different position.

"Ever since I started at Camosun I've always run for Interurban director, because that's where I was situated, but this semester I'm working as a co-op student," says Young. "So I work during the day until 4 pm, then in the evening I have a couple

of classes, and I found out that a lot of campus services close around 4 pm, so I'm never able to get there on time to access those services. Then I realized, 'I bet hundreds of other students have the same story.' So that's what inspired me to run, when I realized that these services are closing way too early, and I just did not realize that until I became a co-op student."

Young says that it felt good to get elected again, and she looks forward to implementing positive changes for the school.

"I'm compelled by the opportunity to make a difference, and I just want students to know that there is someone who is willing to speak for them," she says.

Grant believes that the elections went very well overall, and she says that there were no unforeseen complications.

"There were a lot of contested positions, which is a really positive thing to see," she says. "The wonderful thing about working on the board with the student society is that it can be anything you make of it. So I'm really excited to see what our new reps bring to the table, and I'm excited to get to know them."

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Former Nexus writers on reality show

Camosun (and *Nexus*) alumni Shawn O'Hara and Shane Priestly are part of a new reality comedy special called Building the Room that follows a group of comedians through the writing, production, and promotion process of their show. According to a press release, the comedians will have to promote their show through word of mouth and face-to-face skits, as opposed to using social media. Producer Shiraz Higgins was given \$50,000 in grants to kickstart the project; production for the show will begin in mid-November.

## More trades funding for Camosun

The British Columbia government has given Camosun \$5.2 million in trades funding for the year. The funding will allow 2,047 seats in a number of programs, including automotive technology, sheet

plumbing, electrical, and many more. The investment was through the Industry Training Authority.

## CCSS helps students during holidays

If, like many Victorians and many students, you're struggling to make ends meet as we approach the holidays, the Camosun College Student Society will be handing out Christmas hampers for students in need; the hampers will contain food and other useful items. Email [rantg@camosun.ca](mailto:rantg@camosun.ca) to add yourself to the list of students who need a hamper; specify at which campus you'd like to pick your hamper up. The CCSS will give out the hampers after December 1.

## Camosun on the research map

Camosun College boosted its research income by 44.2 percent for a total of \$2.3 million in the 2015 fiscal year. Canada's top 50 research colleges had \$168.7 mil-

lion in research income in the 2015 fiscal year, a small 0.5-percent jump from last year.

## Man arrested at Lansdowne

A 28-year-old Victoria man was arrested at Camosun's Lansdowne campus on October 31. The man was dressed in camouflage clothing and was carrying what appeared to be a real firearm, although Saanich Police later confirmed that it was not real. The man will appear in court in mid-December, according to Saanich PD.

## Camosun offers new work-experience program

The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation is working with Camosun to offer a new work-experience pilot program for students enrolled in the Office Administration certificate program. The program started in September of this year.

## Chargers fall short

The Camosun Chargers basketball teams were hopeful coming off of season-opener wins in Nanaimo, but they couldn't keep their momentum going. The women put up a strong fight, losing to the Vancouver Island University (VIU) Mariners on Saturday, October 29 by just one basket for a final score of 53-51. On the same night, the men lost 89-77 to the Mariners. Both games were held at VIU in Nanaimo.

## Interurban buildings closed

The Centre for Business and Access and Technology buildings at Interurban will be shut down for electrical upgrades all day on November 26. The upgrades require power to the building to be cut.

## Confidentiality violation questioned

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is concerned about a court order in Que-

bec that would require professor Marie-Ève Maillé at Université du Québec à Montréal to disclose the names of people who participated in a research project, saying that doing so would violate the participants' confidentiality. CAUT executive director David Robinson compares this to journalists needing to protect the identity of anonymous sources and says that the university should "do everything in its power" to aid its employee in keeping the identities of sources private. The company that the professor researched, Éoliennes de l'Érable Inc., filed a motion to get Maillé to present the names of research participants.

-ADAM MARSH

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

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 on all three. See you there!

transportation

## Camosun students represented on Victoria Transit Commission

“No one likes to be passed up when they’re trying to get to class. It’s talked about at every meeting and there are efforts being made to address it.”

**RACHAEL GRANT**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

**QUINN HIEBERT**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun College students will have a say on the Victoria Transit Commission (VTC) board this year. Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Rachael Grant currently holds the student representative position on the VTC board; last year, the position was held by Kenya Rogers, then University of Victoria Students’ Society (UVSS) external executive (the two student societies alternate having a representative on the board every year).

The position does not have voting power, but Victoria Transit Commission chair Susan Brice says that the commission has been well served by the students.

“We knew that they would have valuable input in student issues—that goes without saying—but we have found them to be just full and valuable members of the commission,” says Brice.

Last year, Rogers brought forward a motion that would give all incoming Syrian refugees in Greater Victoria a free one-year bus pass; she hopes that it will be mandated when it comes up for review.

“It doesn’t necessarily directly pertain to students, but it was something brought to the table by the student rep at the time,” says Grant.

The student representative position has also brought up issues around transit safety, resulting in an installation of security cameras on buses. Rogers says that the topic came up when talking to Unifor Local 333, the union that represents Greater Victoria bus drivers, about drivers’ safety while advocating for longer transit hours.

“The service hours that exist right now aren’t conducive to students being able to get home safe from downtown on the weekends,” says Rogers. “If you work in the service industry, or if you want to stay for last call, there’s not that many buses that will get you home. We dropped off over 5,000 signatures—postcards that were written for the transit commission—asking for late-night transit.”

Brice says that there’s currently a request in with the government for a two-cent increase to the gas tax to help BC Transit get the funding that they need to increase late-night hours.



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun student Rachael Grant is the student representative on the Victoria Transit Commission board this year.

Even though the student representative can’t vote, Brice says that since the commission is a small group, every voice has an equal weight in the discussion.

“We are a group that tends to build by consensus,” she says, “rather than just necessarily by vote.”

But both Grant and Rogers say that the position needs to be one with voting power.

“That would be a meaningful statement that students are an important part of transit in the Greater Victoria area,” says Grant.

Addressing buses passing by students is an ongoing issue that continues to be brought up in meetings.

“Pass-ups have been a problem

for a really long time,” says Grant. “One interesting thing about being on the commission is learning in a lot more detail why that is the case. It’s much more complex than just adding more buses to a route. It’s often an issue of not enough government funding. No one likes to be passed up when they’re trying to get to their class. It’s frustrating. It’s talked about at every meeting and there are efforts being made to address it.”

The Victoria Transit Commission had supervisors on the buses during the first week of classes to talk to students and gather information.

“I was grateful for that because it wasn’t just a matter of getting statistics on a sheet,” says Brice. “I

was able to talk to senior staff who had actually been on the bus that morning and seen the pass-ups.”

This year, Grant is working on getting a discount bus pass for students during the summer months. For now, Brice—who says that she hopes that students can appreciate that the UPass rates stayed the same during the recent transit-fare review—says that the student voice is valued.

“We’re always interested in hearing first-hand any issues and recognize that students, like everybody else, have busy lives,” says Brice. “Hopefully, we’re representing their needs, but there’s always an option to write to the commission or come down to a commission meeting.”

safety

## Camosun College contributes \$10,000 to student society Walk Safer program



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun College Student Society student services coordinator Michael Glover in one of the Walk Safer golf carts.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun College recently contributed \$10,000 to the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) Walk Safer program.

The program assists students who want to be escorted to or from their car or between Camosun’s buildings; Walk Safer staff also patrol the campuses in the evenings. Walk Safer is staffed primarily by work-study students and volunteers.

“We asked for the college to make a further contribution, and they did,” says CCSS student ser-

vices coordinator Michael Glover. “They stepped up to the plate.”

Glover says that this latest college contribution helps keep staffing a bit more consistent, which has long been a struggle for Walk Safer.

“The program has been dependent on volunteers for years, but volunteering has sort of gone up and down in terms of what people can commit,” he says. “So we’ve been trying to stabilize the program, and the college has given money to that effect for a number of years.”

Glover says the donation allows more students to patrol campus.

He says he is still trying to extend the program to more locations throughout campus; he also wants the program to have longer hours; it currently runs from 6:30 pm to 10:20 pm at Lansdowne, and from 6:30 pm to 10:10 pm at Interurban.

“We’re here a good chunk of time after people have left,” says Glover.

Walk Safer Lansdowne shift supervisor Shannon Soares says the root of the job lies in keeping the Camosun grounds and its people safe.

“Everyone says no place is safe

enough, and it’s true,” says Soares. “We’ve had some people talking to us and they’ve been not necessarily physically, sexually assaulted, but they’ve been looked at in inappropriate ways. People have some pretty scary stories.”

Soares says that Walk Safer gets around 15 calls on an average night but says that it varies, with some nights seeing “about 40 people” calling, while a recent night only had two. He points out, though, that the majority of high-volume nights are due to bad weather, particularly at Interurban, where the campus is more spread out, making for longer walks between buildings. Still, he says that Victoria—and Camosun—is less safe than people think.

“[Victoria is] not as safe as they actually make it out to be, and Camosun isn’t either,” he says. “Even though all people may not actually come and use the service, just the fact that they know we are available to them, I think, makes

life so much more comfortable, you know?”

Soares says that doing a job that centres on the comfort and safety of others is very meaningful.

“It feels good,” he says. “We don’t only help people. Sometimes people just want someone to talk to; people come to our table and just talk to us.”

Soares says most of the time, people and events around campus are fine, but that’s no excuse for not being prepared.

“The only worry I have is people not taking enough precautions,” he says, “because they think everything around them is safe.”

The Walk Safer table is located at the entrance to the Fisher building at Lansdowne and at the main entrance to the Centre for Business and Access at Interurban.

Walk Safer staff and volunteers do approximately five campus rounds per night in golf carts at each campus.

“Camosun stepped up to the plate.”

**MICHAEL GLOVER**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

college groups

## Campus Closet student club first of its kind at Camosun



CATHERINE MACK

The future site of Campus Closet HQ, where they will be loaning business attire to students for free.

**ADAM BOYLE**  
STAFF WRITER

Although the name is vague, Campus Closet is very clear on its goals. One of Camosun's newest student clubs, Campus Closet consists of a group of volunteers that are opening a shop of sorts to provide Camosun students a place to borrow business attire for free.

Once they have the shop open (they are hoping for January), students will be able to rent out suits, dresses, or anything else formal for job interviews, presentations, or events.

Third-year Camosun Human Resource Management student Breanna Veale is on the executive board for the club and says that they

are currently putting energy into what their store is going to look like.

"One of the classes that's involved is designing what the store will look like and what the layout will be like," she says. "We don't intend for this to look like some thrift store with clothes thrown around everywhere; we're going for a much more modern approach."

"We don't intend for this to look like some thrift store with clothes thrown around everywhere; we're going for a much more modern approach."

**BREANNA VEALE**  
CAMPUS CLOSET

The idea of a campus clothes-rental place isn't new. Universities and colleges around the USA and Canada have been embracing the idea of providing students under financial stress an environment in which they still can go and attend formal events even if they can't afford the clothes. The idea for the Camosun club came out of the Business program.

"We have to do service leadership," says Veale, "something where we are demonstrating our leadership skills. It has to be a leadership position, too. My instructor posted something for the Closet Club on [Camosun online learning management system] D2L, and I think myself and one or two other people joined right away."

The members of Campus Closet

hope for the club to be sustainable and to provide clothes for students for years to come. Veale says the club is going to be a great opportunity for students because it's free and because it offers other student-friendly services to go along with the free clothes offered.

"Students just can't usually afford business clothes," she says. "It's nice because we are completely free. So students can come in, pick out an outfit, and try it on—we'll have change rooms so they can just try things on—and then they can take it for a week, and then they can bring it back. We also take care of all the dry cleaning, so students don't have to worry about that. They can just take the clothes, wear them for whatever they need, bring them back in a week, and we do the rest."

know your profs

## Camosun's Chris Avis on post-secondary for work or for pleasure

**ADAM BOYLE**  
STAFF WRITER

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

If you have an instructor you'd like to see interviewed in the paper, but perhaps you're too busy to ask them yourself, email [editor@nexus-newspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexus-newspaper.com) and we'll add them to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue, we chatted with Camosun physics prof Chris Avis about mental health, his fashion sense, and post-secondary education leading directly into the workplace.

**1. What do you teach and how long have you been at Camosun?**  
Physics; six years.

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

I love that I have a job that makes use of my interest and my education. I tend to naturally be a bit introverted, and teaching's been a great means of personal growth for me—it's made me more confident and a better public speaker. I also really enjoy engaging with students and watching light-bulb moments occur when they start to grasp challenging concepts.

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

I'm a big advocate for mental health. There's far too much of a stigma around it in society and it stops people from seeking help and coping strategies that would really improve their lives. I've struggled with stress and anxiety and had to work very hard during my education, so I can really empathize with what students are going through with their academic workload. I'm a Camosun Healthy Minds ambassador and I want students to know that I'm there to listen if they want someone sympathetic to talk with.

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

My fashion sense is, um, questionable at best.

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

Becoming a continuing faculty member. I love teaching at the college, but it was tough as a sessional employee coping with the employment uncertainty.

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

I can't think of any one specific thing, but I'd say it can be really hard to not take work home with

you, both literally—marking—and emotionally. It's hard to watch students struggling with courses or with difficulties in their lives and not empathize with them.

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

I think there'll be more of an enrolment shift toward degrees and diplomas that lead more directly into the workforce. These days students often have to make pretty major financial sacrifices to pursue an education, and more are wanting to make sure it's worth their while at the end of it. That's totally understandable, but at the same time, it's a bit sad that it seems that there are fewer and fewer students out there taking courses just out of interest and getting an education without a thought to where it might necessarily lead.

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

I run, hike, and cycle for exercise. I enjoy reading, photography, cooking, and listening to film music—yes, weird taste in music, I know.

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

I do most of the cooking at home, so anything that someone else prepares is great. If I had to choose, anything Mexican is awesome.



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun physics professor Chris Avis says he has weird taste in music.

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

Cellphones and social media. We're more connected than ever, but it seems like these technologies

make conversations ever more shallow and vapid. I feel that they're degrading our ability to genuinely communicate one-on-one in a meaningful way.

# A CONNECT

## How technology is changing

**W**e're in the midst of a technological revolution that is changing the way we communicate, think, and, perhaps of most relevance to Camosun students, learn. People are glued to their electronic devices more than ever; in some ways it's replacing face-to-face communication. Life in the classroom has changed, too, with more and more students ignoring unwritten rules around using their personal technology for personal purposes—texting, for example—in class.

Just a few short years ago, texting in class was considered equivalent to passing a note between friends while the teacher was talking. Now, students are more or less free to text unless specifically told otherwise by the instructor, and instant messaging is being used as a tool by more and more instructors to communicate with students.

The effects of technology are widespread right here at Camosun, with some blessing it, and others cursing it.

### The pros and cons of technology

**C**amosun Sociology instructor Peter Ove says he doesn't get on his students' cases for texting or using social media in his class, but he points out that the ones who do will often see their marks suffer. But he's no technophobe: Ove uses D2L, Camosun's online learning communication platform, to interact outside of class with his students; through D2L, they can hand in assignments, join discussion boards, and access class lists. He also prides himself on setting up paper-free courses.

Ove says that it is often easier for people to blame technology as a culprit for the declining social niceties we see as a result of people being absorbed in their phones when, in fact, the underlying problem can be something different entirely.

"They've got a term for it—technological determinism," says Ove. "As if we assume it's technology that's changing our culture, and you know what? It's super easy because it's apolitical. You don't have to think of any economic, or political, or cultural questions. We can just think, 'Oh, it's a new technology, it's neutral.' It's never neutral. Technology is never neutral; it always has some effect. It's there for the purpose of creating money."

Ove references the introduction of robots into automotive factories, where the robots have now largely replaced humans on the worksite.

"It's just a technology, but it's taking away people's jobs," he says, "and the reason the companies wanted to do it was because it saves money."

Camosun Political Science instructor and Social Sciences chair Daniel Reeves recently returned from a conference that centred on how technology can better learning for students. Reeves says that the idea of students finding ways to distract themselves during class is not one that is specific to cellphones or the massive technological revolution that has engulfed society for the past decade. And, like Ove, he embraces some classroom technology: Reeves uses a program called Poll Everywhere that allows students to text answers to his questions. The answers immediately appear on the screen at the front of the class. To Reeves, it's about catching up with the times before they catch up with him.

"Part of it is instructors meeting students where they're at," he says, "getting students to use their phones as a tool to take learning forward."

Perhaps phones in the classroom are not always a barrier. Reeves says a combined approach to teaching—one that does not cater to one side of the pro- or anti-technology argument—is in order.

"Students are at a different place than they were 15 years ago," he says, "because their environment—for most, but not all students—is more technologically encased."

There's admin benefits, too: Reeves says technology can reduce redundancies in the classroom and also lessen the risk of losing students' work.

"What's interesting and fuelling it, to me," he says, "is using technology in specific and unique ways to take us to places that we couldn't get to without it."

The program used for students to text their answers to teachers rather than raising their hands is ideal for some learning styles.

"What this allows," says Reeves, "is I can ask questions like 'What don't you understand?' Typically, if you ask that to a group of people and expect them to raise their hand, they're not going to do so. No one wants to raise their hand and say, 'I'm the idiot.'"

The anonymity of Poll Everywhere allows the self-conscious student, the student, or perhaps the student who is having a bad day to communicate in a confrontational way. It also helps students to feel less alone in their ignorance.

"People can feel a little bit better about saying, 'I don't understand this,'" Reeves. "It's instant. It goes up on the screen instantly, and that allows students to go, 'Oh, there are other people who don't understand this.'"

### Social media and texting distract

**O**ve says he does not stop his classes when he sees someone with their phone down and their thumbs tapping like Morse code along a lit-up screen. "It's a controversial issue among instructors because some people are pro-new-media-technology in the classroom," says Ove, mentioning Facebook and Twitter in particular.

Ove says he does not use Facebook or Twitter for class-related matters, and imagines it would be hard to do so in a professional way.

"I think it's important that students have a venue where they can connect outside of the classroom," he says. "I try and strive for paperless courses, so, obviously, I think there's a role for electronic technology."

Ove acknowledges that using Facebook or Twitter to engage students can open up a whole new can of worms, and says that he doesn't use them.

"You have to do so responsibly," he says. "I don't use it, not out of any ideological reason, but just because I don't have the time."

Ove says that the micro-blogging format of Twitter can unnecessarily complicate social, economic, and political issues, so much so that people can often become lost to the real issues at hand. He says the problem is not technology, but a cultural change.

"Facebook is never going to be enough to really deal with an issue," he says. "I think it's enough to make a good joke."

But Ove is also quick to point out that no one has the right to say what another person value in their day-to-day life.

"If people enjoy providing updates," he says, "or enjoy reading the updates from their friends, do I think that's ruining society? Not necessarily."

Ove used to teach high school, which he says is much different than teaching at college. He says that one of the biggest differences between high school and post-secondary is the independence of each student—the fact that they are now sitting in a class of their own accord.

"The student brings themselves," he says. "I think we have a duty to make the content interesting and relevant content. You want to show up to class and not participate as long as it's not disturbing to other students, I don't see the problem."

While Ove gives his students the freedom that adulthood merits, and has plenty of other things to worry about besides students texting in his class, he says he struggles to understand why some students would pay for a course and then not attend it.

"To be honest, the students who are in class texting are at least there," he says. "The reality is lots of students just don't show up, and I don't understand why. It means, if they're daydreaming but not on their phone, is that any worse than being on their phone?"

"I think in some ways technology is a good tool, but when it comes to your personal cell phone, it's probably bad for learning."

**SHONA MOCKFORD**  
CAMOSUN STUDENT

# TED CAMPUS

## g the classrooms of Camosun

Story by Adam Marsh, student editor  
Photos by Greg Pratt/Nexus

, it's a new technology,  
neutral. Technology is  
s has some effect. It's  
e of creating money."

**PETER OVE**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

### Sink or swim

**R**eeves enjoys white-water canoeing in his spare time and says he often uses it as a metaphor to explain technology to his students. If you just float with the river, he says, then you will end up crashing or hurting yourself. You can

back-paddle to go slower than the river, or you can paddle forward to go faster than the river, "but you can't just be in the river," Reeves says, "because the river will then take you into the rocks."

"So that's how I feel about technology," he continues. "There are times to paddle backwards and resist its flow, and there are times to paddle forward."

Reeves says it comes down to treating his students like the adults they are and trusting that they will use technology in the classroom to advance themselves—or, as he puts it, paddle forward.

"Do I find students not on focus? Yeah," he says. "But that's not some new phenomenon that just happened this generation. Students have always found ways to zoom out."

When he sees students use their phones as tools to help educate themselves in new ways, it helps Reeves feel confident that people can harness the tools around them for good. When he sees a student "zoom out" because of technology, he says it is their loss but adds that, considering that computers and phones are here to stay, we might as well utilize them.

"Unless I want to really change how I teach, I can't [say], 'We're going to take this computer on your desk and we're going to throw it away; we're just going to pretend it's not there.' To me, that doesn't seem like a wise option. Are there dangers with it? Of course there are. Are students going to get distracted? Of course they will. But I bet on the fact that most of my students are going to be adults and realize that if they're not paying attention, that's their loss."

Second-year Camosun Criminal Justice student Shona Mockford says that one of her teachers—Statistics prof Susan Chen—provides every student with a clicker at the beginning of class that allows her to answer multiple-choice questions without raising her hand or speaking.

"I think it's a good way for me to learn because I don't feel worried about if I'm right or wrong," she says. "It's just more about learning."

However, Mockford says that although she likes being able to use a clicker, she learns far better in classes where teachers attempt to put strict rules on personal cellphone use.

"Then it's not even an option for me to be able to look at my phone," she says. "I don't think you should be able to [use your cellphone] in any class. I think in some ways technology is a good tool, but when it comes to your personal cellphone, it's probably bad for learning."

### When tech hits the library

**C**amosun director of learning services Sybil Harrison says that she, like many others, is one with her iPad and phone. But while technology has widened the scope of the library's database by a long shot, Harrison says there is still a place for good old-fashioned book reading.

"I'm a huge fiction reader. It's my great escape; it's what sort of fills my life with joy," says Harrison. "All that reading, I do in print."

Harrison doesn't find picking up an e-reader to read for pleasure as satisfying as feeling the pages of a book between her fingers, or the smell of the ink floating up from the page. Tangible books are her go-to when she wants to transport herself into a different reality from the one of day-to-day life.

"I think we often think about the digital revolution as only what's happening on the computer or on our iPhone," she says, "but digital technology has fundamentally

changed the production of books itself. In fiction, there's a lot more use of images and photographs. Books are different than they were."

Harrison is a fan of technology use in the classroom and in the library, saying that online databases give students access to millions of resources, as opposed to a more limited amount among the stacks of hardcovers and paperbacks on the shelves. Still, she is quick to rhapsodize over the importance of "being discriminating" when it comes to finding accurate and accountable sources online in an era of information overload.

"Libraries are still the same," she says. "Different tools, but we're still doing the same thing we've done for hundreds of years. We provide access to a whole range of materials, and we always say it doesn't matter what the container is; if it's a print book or it's electronic, it's the same thing. Libraries are about exposing and bringing access to a whole range of information and also creating a space where people can come together and interact with that information."

The different experiences offered by technology—such as being able to access the daily newspaper every morning via Facebook—are extremely invigorating for Harrison, but she still needs

her time with books. And she says she's not alone.

"I know many people who are like me," says Harrison.

Camosun students are still checking out books from the campus libraries, with 52,223 books checked out of the Lansdowne and Interurban libraries last year.

"We're holding steady," says Harrison. "Our circulation of print materials isn't growing, but it's steady, and it has been steady for a number of years. It's lower than it was, say, in the early 2000s, and we dropped down a little bit around 2010. But we've been steady ever since." (Harrison says the Camosun libraries check out 187,324 e-books a year, adding that some publishers stayed with the e-book format and some went back to print.)

As for what awaits students after this current age of technology and information, Harrison references a quote from Charles Eames, a 1950s-era designer.

"He was a really brilliant early thinker, a lot about information. Some of his early thinking anticipated hypertext in the web," says Harrison. "One of his lines was that after the age of information, there is the age of choice."

With people living in a frenzy of technology, it's up to each person to decide which parts of modern technology are imperative, which are a choice, and which ones they want to distance themselves from. But one thing is for sure: technology in the classroom, and the effects of it, are here to stay. You can love it or hate it, but the world as we know it is changing before our eyes—and so is the classroom.

"Do I find students not on focus? Yeah. But that's not some new phenomenon that just happened this generation."

**DANIEL REEVES**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

performance

## Musical celebrates the work of Canadian folk legend Joni Mitchell



PETER POKORNY

*I Think I'm Fallin'* director Michael Shamata (right) says the time is right to talk about Joni Mitchell.

**LYNN WOHLGEMUTH**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Given that Canadian folk singer Joni Mitchell had her career peak in the '70s, why would Camosun College students care about *I Think I'm Fallin'*, a new musical playing at the Belfry? *I Think I'm Fallin'* director Michael Shamata says the time is right to talk about Mitchell, with Bob Dylan recently winning the Nobel Prize in Literature; he points out that, in his opinion, Mitchell is as good as, if not better than, Dylan. "And she's Canadian," he says.

"Her words are as relevant today as they ever were. And the songs are personal, and there's also a great kind of social aspect to her songs as well."

Shamata, who has been directing musicals since 1995, says that rehearsing for the musical was a great chance to enjoy Mitchell's lyrics.

"Sometimes the music is just so pretty that I don't hear the words as clearly because the melodies are so catchy and fantastic," he says.

Jonathan Gould is one of the

actors in *I Think I'm Fallin'*; he discovered his passion for the stage at a young age.

"[My father was] sort of a children's magician, as a side thing, so we always used to be his little helpers, and it got us into performing and singing," he says.

Gould discovered Mitchell when he was in high school; he says that because his school experience was a bit different than the experiences of those who went through the public school system, so was the music he was exposed to.

"Joni Mitchell's words are as relevant today as they ever were. And the songs are personal, and there's also a great kind of social aspect to her songs as well."

**MICHAEL SHAMATA**  
*I THINK I'M FALLIN'*



"Because I went to a performing-arts high school, the music we listened to wasn't the Backstreet Boys of the day or NSYNC, it was the folk artists like Led Zeppelin, Leonard Cohen, and Joni Mitchell, and, you know... that was cool. I was 14, it was cool to like Joni Mitchell, and even if you didn't really want to, that was the type of music we should be listening to, as artists."

As for what Gould's role is in *I Think I'm Fallin'*, he says he'd like to leave a bit of an element of surprise to that, but he does say that no one in

particular is playing Mitchell during the musical.

"Nobody's playing her, *per se*," he says, "but there's a movement and a storytelling that's happening through the order of the songs and how Michael has crafted it together."

*I Think I'm Fallin'*  
Until Sunday, December 4  
\$20-\$53, Belfry Theatre  
belfry.bc.ca

stage

## *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* draws upper-class parallels from eras past



DAVID LOWES

There's more than a little bit of today in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, which is set in the 1780s.

**QUINN HIEBERT**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sex is a weapon of manipulation. At least the two rivals in the play *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* would have you believe it is. But the play—Christopher Hampton's stage adaptation of the Pierre Choderlos de Laclos novel—is much more than that, says director Fran Gebhard.

"The play is set in the 1780s,

just before the French revolution," says Gebhard. "Hampton wrote it in the 1980s, just before the turn of the century, and, for him, there were correlations there. For us, being far past that, those correlations are different."

Costume designer Graham McMonagle has incorporated both elegance and style into the costumes, with complicated layers, subtle colour changes, and glittery

hand-painted designs. McMonagle succeeds in bringing out what Gebhard calls a performative aspect, which was very pronounced in the upper classes—where reputation was everything—of the time.

"My idea is that the performative aspect, the soul, the interior of the person, there are layers on top of that, which we represent by the clothing," says Gebhard.

Gebhard says that the two afore-

"You can feel that there's a great love between these two people and if they could put their egos aside, they should end up as a couple. But they can't."

**FRAN GEBHARD**  
*LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES*

mentioned rivals in the play are evil, manipulative, upper-class villains. But they're villains she hopes the audience will love.

"They're verbally dexterous with one another," says Gebhard. "You can feel that there's a great love between these two people and if they could put their egos aside, they should end up as a couple. But they can't. They must keep jousting—or perhaps fencing is a better analogy, because there is fencing in the end."

This idea of layering is further represented, more subtly, in the set design. Gebhard describes the furniture as being somewhat realistic, but the shades make it seem like a "kind of cocoon world."

"We have beautiful ecru silk as a backdrop," says Gebhard, "drapery to mirror the idea of layering. You don't see it too much, but you can see there's a big swoop, and there's some layers of curtain, and there's another curtain that's further downstage."

When she was choosing this play, Gebhard was unaware that it was being played in Broadway and London; she says that this shows that she isn't the only one who sees the timeliness of the revival and the relevance in today's world.

"I feel that the audience will be able to relate the stars of this upper class to some of the people who have their 15 minutes of fame today," says Gebhard, "Not that they're necessarily evil; I'm not saying that. I'm saying that they are manipulative in creating a performative aspect of their life. That then becomes so interesting that their life is their theatre."

*Les Liaisons Dangereuses*  
Until Saturday, November 26  
(pre-show lecture at 7 pm on  
Friday, November 18)  
\$15 for students,  
UVic's Phoenix Theatre  
finearts.uvic.ca/theatre



exhibit  
**Former Camosun students get the spotlight in art show**



PHOTO PROVIDED

*It's In the Making* takes a look at the process artists go through to create their works.

**ADAM BOYLE**  
 STAFF WRITER

Several Camosun alumni have their work displayed in an ongoing exhibit, *It's In the Making*, at the Victoria Art Gallery, but what's on display is different than what's usually at art shows. Exhibit co-curator Nicole Stanbridge says that the exhibit is about how artists actually create their work.

"A lot of this show is about artist process and how they are working through their familiarity of materials," she says, "as well as how much risk they take and how much they push the potential of materials."

Three former Camosun students are currently involved in the exhibit. Stanbridge says that they were all noticed because of their risk-taking nature.

"Thinking about the artists in the show, they take risks and they challenge themselves and they learn through failure," she says. "You have to be willing to take risks and be open to where that takes you."

Nathan Bomford is one of the former Camosun students; Bomford, who graduated in 2001 from the Visual Arts program, collaborated with his brother and father on a piece centred on construction.

"We have produced a fairly large-scale installation, and it's mainly comprised of wood and various other construction components," says Bomford. "Essentially, what it looks like when you walk into the gallery is a bunch of lumber, and you can actually walk around the lumber and the environment we've built and kind of see how it unfolds."

Bomford says that this particular piece is different from what is normally found in art galleries due to its physical form.

"I hate to call it a sculpture, because it's not something you can merely see through imagery," he

"One of the most important things that I got out of my time at Camosun was just a real change in how to view the world."

**NATHAN BOMFORD**  
 FORMER CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

says. "It's something you can physically move through the space. It's an experience type of thing instead of strictly visual."

Bomford feels that studying at Camosun helped to drive him further with each art piece. He says it gave him a good baseline understanding of art as a practice, which he says is crucial.

"Of course, the faculty was great, and I feel very lucky to have been with the people I was with," he says. "But I think that one of the most important things that I got out of my time there was just a real change in how to view the world. Looking at things through the lens of an artist, it just really opens up so many different ways of looking."

Stanbridge and Bomford both see the difference between success and failure in the world of art as a matter of risk. Bomford says one of the best things about studying art in school is that you get the chance to make mistakes and work outside of your comfort level.

"It's a very positive thing, being

in an environment that allows you to fail, and that was something I struggled with," says Bomford. "I always saw myself as a good artist and because of that I didn't want to fail things. I think that's probably one of the most important things—just don't be afraid to fail."

Stanbridge agrees that experiencing failure and embracing experimentation helps to improve an artist's ability.

"It's a competitive world, and I think the thing with all these artists in our show is that they take risks and they challenge themselves and they learn through failure and experimentation. You have to be aware and curious of where that takes you, and I think in a lot of ways that's one of the biggest things about being an artist."

*It's In the Making*  
 Until Sunday, February 12, 2017  
 Art Gallery of Greater Victoria  
 aggv.ca

New Music Revue

**Redspencer relaxes, Rykka brings the party**



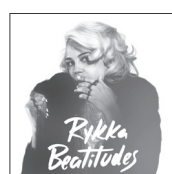
**Redspencer**  
*Perks*  
 (Deaf Ambitions)  
 3/5

While Redspencer is based in Melbourne, Australia, the indie-pop band's members grew up in northern New South Wales; the influence of that area's sunny weather can be heard from the first chord on *Perks*. This, Redspencer's debut album, is the perfect soundtrack for day trips in the summer, gazing at the horizon with no intention of going anywhere.

The songs tend to blend together, but it works, and the band doesn't try any spectacular vocal acrobatics, which suits their style.

The title track is filled with lulling guitar riffs and syrupy vocals, with lyrics mulling over existential matters. The single "Fuss" has wavy synths to complement the muddy

*Perks* is the perfect soundtrack for day trips in the summer, gazing at the horizon with no intention of going anywhere.



**Rykka**  
*Beatitudes*  
 (Cordova Bay Records)  
 3/5

Rykka's second album, *Beatitudes*, is an energetic alternative pop disc with electronic beats flowing throughout.

The Vancouver-born Canadian-Swiss artist's music feels just as international as she is, with some songs sounding more at home in Canada's music scene and others radiating their Euro-pop aura.

The entire album is fun and easy to listen to; it's one of those albums that you can put on random and be satisfied with any of the songs that start playing.

The lyrics are modern and Rykka's voice is beautiful, but, unfortunately, some of the songs overuse their electronic elements. The acoustic version of the track "Movies" is the better of the two versions included on the album; however, the original is still great, and makes me feel like dancing every time it starts playing.

*Beatitudes* is a strong album that would sound great either at a party with some friends or live in concert.

guitar work running through the track; it's got thoughtful lyrics, like "When you realize you've got nothing to hide/you won't be uptight," to boot.

"Interlude" provides an intense contrast; it replaces the laid-back attitude with fast-paced synthesizer beats and ethereal vocals; these give me a vivid image of a time-lapse video of Times Square at night.

The more upbeat "Gary" gives an early-U2 vibe (although more mellow than that band) with its deep bass lines, pulsing drumbeats, and jarring guitar closing.

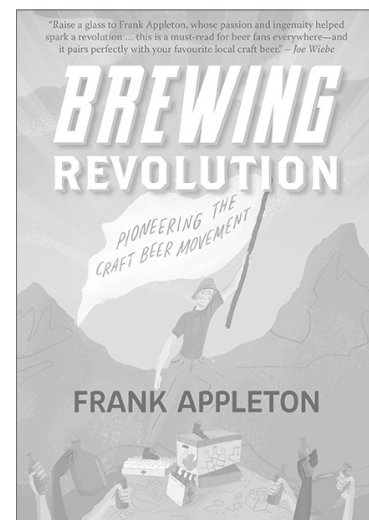
This album is a relaxed piece of pop, best heard while cruising on the highway in July; get it now, and save it for then.

-FELICIA SANTAROSSA

-JENNIFER WYATT

review

**Brewing Revolution goes down easy**



**PATRICK NEWMAN**  
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I don't normally read memoirs or biographies; I find they tend to be insipid and vain. However, when my editor asked me if I like beer—I do—and asked me to review Frank Appleton's *Brewing Revolution* (Harbour Publishing), I made an exception. I'm glad I did.

Starting out as a microbiologist in England, Appleton came to BC in the '60s and, thankfully, never left. The book recounts his adventures in brewing, from his beginnings with the big corporate brewers to helping open Canada's first craft brewery—Horseshoe Bay Brewing—in 1982. Appleton also

details the ins and outs of brewing and the history and science behind beer in *Brewing Revolution*, and he knows what he's talking about; if you've ever had one of the craft beers from Spinnakers, Swans, or Hoyne Brewing, then you've sampled a little bit of Frank Appleton.

Within the 210 pages of this book, readers will find themselves caught up in Appleton's easy and experienced prose. At times, you can imagine you're sharing a pint with the author and he's telling you his stories in person.

Appleton's ability to tell a story comes from years spent writing for BC newspapers and magazines while building a home in the Kootenays (one of those articles led to his involvement in the North American craft beer movement).

Readers may find it a bit hard to get past the Latin names of the many yeast and bacteria listed in the book, but that's about as challenging as it gets here. Even if Appleton's memoirs of a life in brewing may at first seem to be self-aggrandizement, there's no disputing the fact that he played a significant role in fermenting the brewing revolution in North America. I highly recommend adding this to your list if you're interested in brewing or if you want to check out a short read about BC history.

math word search

Lots of students who pass by *Nexus* HQ have a thing or two to say about math. As it turns out, it's never a good thing or two. Yup: everyone still hates you, math. And while we enjoy the satisfaction of a (simple) math equation completed, we can relate, as we're more words people than numbers people around these parts.

So, to celebrate this most maligned of subjects, we put together 20 math-related words to create this issue's word search.

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

- CONGRUENCE
- CONVEX
- CURVE
- DERIVATIVE
- EQUATIONS
- EQUILATERAL
- EXPONENTIAL
- FACTORIZATION
- FUNCTION
- MEAN
- MULTIVARIATE
- NOTATION
- PARALLELOGRAM
- POLYNOMIALS
- PROGRESSION
- RHOMBUS
- SEQUENCE
- SLOPE
- TETRAHEDRON
- VENN

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

contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



ADAM MARSH/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!

Where was last issue's hidden,

you ask? You know that hallway on the main floor of Fisher beside the bookstore? We snuck the paper behind one of the signs up on the wall, with just the edge poking out to say hello.

Who will find this issue's hidden *Nexus*? Happy hunting!



By Jayden Grieve



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Web Exclusive

# NEXUS

Hannibal Bures brings hilarity to Victoria

October 24, 2016 by Patrick Newman, contributing writer

Imagine someone laughing so hard that it registers as exercise on their Fitbit. After witnessing Hannibal Bures' live show at the Royal Theatre on Saturday, October 22, I wouldn't be surprised if that happened to some audience members that night. Having recently watched some of Bures' comedy specials on Netflix, I was hyped to be [...]

Victoria's Horror Escape offers frightful challenges for the season

October 21, 2016 by Mason Hendrix, contributing writer

As we enter the Saunders family demonic possession. My summer events that have taken place and

Tokyo Police Club light it up in Victoria

October 7, 2016 by Mason Hendrix, contributing writer

Tokyo Police Club returned to Victoria on October 4, this time playing the Aik Golden Hall, a former church with a spectacular vaulted ceiling and lovely stained glass windows. The Blues took the stage first, warming the crowd up with an electrifying performance that included their single "Six Down Low" as well as some lesser-known, [...]

Peaches unapologetically awesome, and unabashedly herself, in Victoria

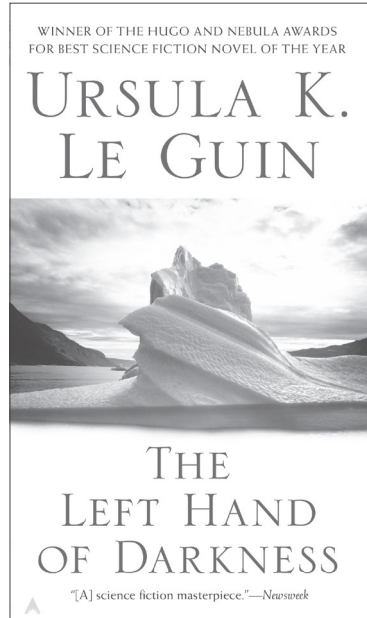
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Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

The genre-busting fiction of Ursula K. Le Guin



In *The Left Hand of Darkness*, published in 1969, Guin writes about a world in which human-like beings are sexually androgynous most of the time and live in a society without gender roles.

But she bristles at such restrictive categorization. “I’m a novelist and a poet,” she once said, “My tentacles are coming out of the pigeonhole in all directions.” And critics agree: Le Guin is now considered a literary master and was even included in *The Western Canon* by Harold Bloom, the most cantankerous critic of all.

What makes her writing so iconic is the masterful blend of fantastic settings and a close and loving fascination with human beings, with their foibles as well as their possibilities.

Many of her novels act as social experiments in which she is “trying on” the various possible ways humans and societies might operate. In *The Left Hand of Darkness*, published in 1969, she writes about

a world in which human-like beings are sexually androgynous most of the time and live in a society without gender roles.

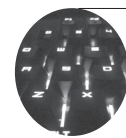
As instructive as her social experiments could well be, Le Guin denies providing answers for society to follow. “My impulse is less questing and more playful,” she said.

In the introduction to *The Left Hand of Darkness*, she wrote: “I talk about the gods, I am an atheist. But I am an artist too, and therefore a liar. Distrust everything I say. I am telling the truth.”

**Ursula K. Le Guin must-read:**  
*The Left Hand of Darkness*  
(Greater Victoria Public Library: science fiction)

“My imagination makes me human and makes me a fool; it gives me all the world and exiles me from it,” wrote Ursula K. Le Guin, one of the 20th century’s most successful world-hopping novelists.

Because many of her novels and stories take place on other planets or in times far removed from our own, Le Guin has often been pigeonholed as a science fiction or fantasy writer.



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

From one worlds to the next

Game developers Blizzard recently hosted their annual convention, Blizzcon. By far the most noticeable event at the otherwise boring convention was their *Overwatch* world cup tournament.

I talked about *Overwatch* in this column a couple of months ago, when the game was first released. In seemingly no time at all, it has fully flourished into an esports giant.

All the players on the world cup teams were picked by an online vote. Players were picked based on regional rankings in the competitive mode of *Overwatch*. Over 3,000,000 people picked 306 players out of a pool of 1,109.

With the exception of teams

from six countries that were invited to play at the tournament (Canada included), teams across the globe took part in an online qualifier tournament to participate. 10 teams were picked to compete at the event in Southern California in hopes of claiming the gold medal, obtaining an appearance bonus, and representing their country on a global stage.

Progressing on to the quarter-finals, Russia, France, Spain, Finland, South Korea, the USA, China, and Sweden all fought in a best-of-three format to see who would progress to the semifinals.

Coming out on top were Russia, Finland, South Korea, and Sweden.

These games all went by fairly quickly, and soon enough Finland and Sweden were both knocked out.

Heading into the final match, some big names—Serena Williams and Elon Musk, for example—showed up at the tournament.

The fight for third place was well fought; in the end, Sweden came out on top with a 2-1 win.

The finals, however, were played in a best-of-seven format between Russia and South Korea, with South Korea utterly destroying the Russian squad in a clean 4-0 match.

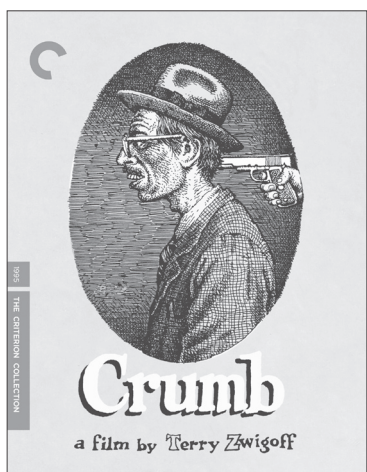
One thing that has become very clear from this tournament is that South Korea definitely has the skill to compete in first-person shooters.



To See or Not to See

by Finlay Pogue

Crumb a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma



What *Crumb* does best, though, is allow us to make up our own minds. We’re left to decide for ourselves who this man is—is he a hero? A pervert? A genius?

and ’70s, is a fiercely fascinating microcosm of idiosyncrasies including sordid perversion, familial dysfunction, and the pressures of unwanted fame. *Crumb* (1994) is the microscope that documents it all, and in doing so it shows us the warped soul of a stymied genius.

Many of *Crumb*’s scenes are similar in effect to rolling over a rotting log and watching in abject wonder as hundreds of thousands of crawling and slithering things creep away; at the end you’re left feeling

like you’ve seen something you shouldn’t have, something that was too captivating to turn away from.

In part, this can be attributed to director Terry Zwigoff’s indefatigable dedication to the film, a film no other director could have made. As longtime friends and bandmates, Crumb and Zwigoff’s relationship is important, as it points to the dedication Zwigoff brought to the project (which took nine years to complete); *Crumb* is a documentary of one friend by another.



Calculated Thought

by Sean Annable

New mortgage regulations may impact rental market

New federal mortgage stress-test regulations could increase the cost of rental housing.

In reaction to the worrying levels of rising household debt in Canada, finance minister Bill Morneau has cooked up a way to slow the debt buffet. As of October 16, buyers are evaluated on their ability to pay

a proposal to have banks share risk for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)-insured mortgages. The federal government backs 100 percent of CMHC-insured loans: it’s a requirement when buyers have less than 20 percent as a down payment.

This premium, paid by bor-

We may be in for even pricier digs, and higher competition, in the third most expensive rental market in Canada.

their mortgage based on the Bank of Canada’s benchmark rate of 4.64 percent rather than the significantly lower posted rates offered by banks.

Under the new rules, those with lower incomes may or may not be approved for anywhere from 20 to 30 percent less in terms of house value than they would have been before the change. These potential buyers may look to the rental market instead.

Greater Victoria already has a notoriously low vacancy rate, reaching 0.6 percent last October; look no further than *Nexus*’ own cover story in early October to see the struggles that students face in this market. Add more demand for rentals, and we may be in for even pricier digs, and higher competition, in the third most expensive rental market in Canada.

These changes come alongside

rowers, protects the lender against default. Banks having less risk—which is currently passed on to taxpayers—helps keep costs of lending down. That could change. With more risk, lenders are expected to compensate by raising rates.

While I was writing this piece, TD announced an increase of 15 basis points to its variable mortgage prime rate, making it the first time the bank has differed this rate from their base prime rate. We may see competitors follow suit.

Remember when I said that banks tend to follow changes to the Bank of Canada rate policy? Well, this is a rare example of a time when they stray. It appears that between our central bank, governments, and commercial banks, the threat of a deepening housing crisis has everyone playing whack-a-mole.

NEXUS HUMOUR

You draw comics.

Submit samples to: Nexus,  
201 Richmond House,  
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*Crumb* (1994)

5/5

The world of Robert Crumb, the reclusive and reluctant counter-culture comic visionary of the 1960s

## what's going on

by adam boyle



PHOTO PROVIDED

**A Tribe Called Red are coming back to town on November 19.**

**UNTIL TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6**

### Typos maybe acceptable

Camosun students will have their work on display at *Typologies*, an exhibit in which photography students were assigned to create a 100-photo typology of something. Check it out in the Lansdowne library mezzanine and beside Young 111 at the Lansdowne campus.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

### Bringing back comedy

Comedy superstar Dane Cook returns to the Just for Laughs Comedy Tour this winter, which is stopping off at the Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre. The show is sure to fill you with laughs; tickets range from \$35 to \$56. Check out hahaha.com/comedytour for details.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

### A current crisis

The refugee crisis in Europe is no joke; Victoria's Phoebe Ramsay spent around seven months volunteering in Greece to help those who had been pushed out of their homes. Ramsay comes to Congregation Emanu-El Synagogue on November 17 to share her stories. Donations are taken at the door, which is at 7 pm; see filoxenia-intl.org for details.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

### Garment grotesqueries

*The True Cost* is a documentary looking at how the clothes we wear have a global impact; head down to the BCGEU Hall at 2994 Douglas at 7 pm on November 17, plop those sweat-shop-made pants down into a seat, and learn a thing or two about the price beyond the tags. Admission by donation; see victoriafriendsofcuba.wordpress.com for more info.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

### Brace yourselves, Wintersleep is coming

Nova Scotia dreamy alt-rockers Wintersleep are coming to Sugar Nightclub. Aside from creating top-quality hazy indie rock, the band enlisted Rush's Geddy Lee to guest on a recent song, which is no small feat. Tickets for this concert, which will not feature Geddy Lee, are \$25; find more info at sugarnightclub.ca.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

### Code red

A Tribe Called Red are releasing their third album and going on tour this month; they'll be at Sugar Nightclub on November 19. A big part of A Tribe Called Red's sound is that they incorporate a ton of cultural identity

and heritage into their modern dance music. If you're interested in checking them out, tickets are \$26.50; more info on this and other events can be found over at sugarnightclub.ca.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

### In good company

Fresh off of releasing their debut album last month, the Tourist Company travels from the mainland to play at The Copper Owl. If you're interested in this band's indie-rock tunes, details on this show can be found at thecopperowl.ca; tickets go for \$10 at the door.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

### Hitting a high note

Toronto alt-pop group Highs visits Victoria's Lucky Bar on November 25. For details and ticket prices, visit luckybar.ca.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 TO**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

### Arts, crafts, and food, oh my!

Out of Hand has come to be a local holiday tradition in Victoria. Held at Crystal Garden, this artisan fair is a place to find fine crafts, foods, and entertainment. Markets are always fun to visit, and during this cold time of year, an indoor market is a great place to stay warm. Tickets are available at the door and go for between \$2 and \$10. For more info visit outofhand.ca or call 250-858-0375.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

### Showcasing the wreck

Punk rock may not be as mainstream as it once was, but it's still alive and headbanging. *A Fat Wreck*—a documentary being classified as a "punk-u-mentary"—outlines the history of California-based record label Fat Wreck Chords. A Q&A will be held after the screening with the film's writer (and *Nexus*' own managing editor), Greg Pratt. The movie comes to the Roxy Theatre on November 26; you gotta be 17 to get in (or bring an adult to vouch for you), doors open at 7 pm, tickets are \$12, and beer is available for cash only.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

### Canvassing her new album

Returning to Victoria, Brandi Disterheft is showcasing her new album, *Blue Canvas*, at Hermann's Jazz Club. Known for being unique on stage, Brandi often sings in both English and French during her performances. Tickets are between \$35 and \$38; details can be found at rmts.bc.ca.



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#### He Wei

Web editor for *Nexus* newspaper. Wei has covered college co-op programs, campus pubs, and offered advice for international students.

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