

Locals are brewing their own beer and planting their own veggies.

It's a **do-it-yourself** resurgence.

Why? page 6

CRUNCH TIME

Camosun College recently announced their 2012-13 budget. Say goodbye to three programs. Say hello to a 2% tuition fee increase.

page 3

Activist holds fashion/art show for change

page 5



Bombino brings six-string Africana to town

page 8

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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

EDITORIAL MEETINGS
 Come out to our weekly *Nexus* editorial meetings, where all Camosun students can get involved in their student newspaper. Meetings take place every Tuesday at 11:30 am in the *Nexus* office, Richmond House 201, Lansdowne. Call 250-370-3591 or email editor@nexusnewspaper.com for more information.

COVER PHOTOS:
 DIY: Nicole Beneteau/*Nexus*
 Fashion/art show: Marielle Moodley/*Nexus*
 Bombino: Photo provided

HELP BUILD OUR TEAM

NEXUS NEEDS STUDENT VOLUNTEERS



NEXUS

editor's letter

Don't let 'em get you down

DYLAN WILKS
 STUDENT EDITOR

We live in an era without heroes to fight our battles for us. Corporate governments rule our world, and the very laws originally intended to protect people are now being rewritten to suit the agendas of the corrupt.

It's bleak. In Canada we have a prime minister who has successfully won a majority government that can essentially do whatever it wants, and what it wants to do is sell out Canada's bountiful natural resources for short-term gains. And this is all happening despite massive public opposition.

It has been said that in order for evil to flourish, good people merely have to do nothing to stop it. Inaction is the worst route to take; inaction is what allows things to get worse. Never forget that everything Hitler did in Nazi Germany was legal.

We have to stand up for ourselves, and if need be, we have to do things ourselves. So in the spirit of doing it yourself, contributing writer Nicole Beneteau brings us a feature on DIY in Victoria (page 6).

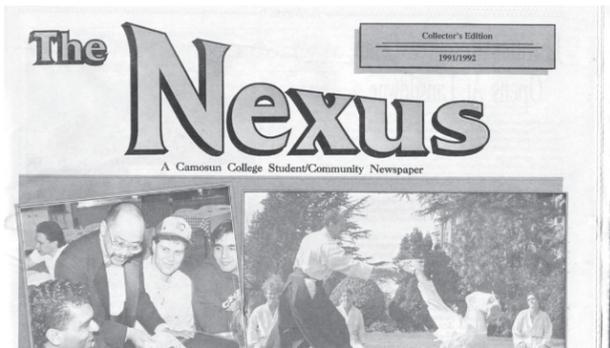
Nexus also covers all the latest and greatest arts happenings (contributing writer Lucas Milroy talks to Bombino on page 8), and a smattering of album reviews awaits readers on page 9.

Although this is our last regular issue of *Nexus* until September, keep in mind we will be printing two magazines, one in the spring (May 9) and one in the summer (July 11). They will be found in our boxes on campus, as well as our off-campus drop-off spots.

If you have any feedback on any of our articles this year, or the paper in general, please let us know by coming by our office in Richmond 201, Lansdowne. You can also reach us by emailing editor@nexusnewspaper.com or phoning 250-370-3591.

flashback

Twenty years ago in *Nexus*



Of stolen tents and glasses: Twenty years ago we put out the "1991/1992 Collector's Edition" of *The Nexus*, celebrating the best stories of the '91/'92 school year. Oddly, a theme was theft: one story detailed how a \$3,000 tent was stolen from the Camosun College Student Society, while another story talked about how \$4,424.84 worth of plastic glasses (yup, \$4,424.84 worth of plastic glasses) had been stolen from the cafeteria. The glasses were a most curious crime, as the thefts took place over an eight-month period, during which time the person or people responsible took almost 4,500 glasses. Yup: almost 4,500 glasses.

A suit and tie?: The deceptions didn't stop there. An article titled "Book bandit—Camosun's most wanted" detailed how a man wearing a suit and tie was walking around campus selling review copies of textbooks for a 10-spot, saying the money was going to "needy schools." The book bandit, who the article says was perhaps an agent for a shady used-book business, was never busted.

Fire, murder, general chaos: Elsewhere there are stories about arson (someone attempted to set fire to the Lansdowne campus' Richmond House, where the *Nexus* offices are), manslaughter (a former Camosun student kept his victim's body in the trunk of his car overnight), and oil leaks on the Lansdowne campus. The year punk broke? No way, this was the year that exciting news broke at Camosun.

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

This is our last regular issue until September; thanks for reading and for all your feedback this semester!

We'll have a couple issues on stands for the spring and summer semesters, featuring our best articles published in the fall and winter semesters, and our website is always being updated, so go to nexusnewspaper.com to keep informed! See you in September!

open space

Texting and driving needs stiffer punishment



JESSICA TAI/NEXUS

MEGAN GIBSON
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A lot of drivers have this narcissistic notion that they are the best drivers in the world. It's as if they believe Jeff Gordon taught them to drive, when, realistically, most drivers behave as if they've ingested Charlie Sheen's tiger blood.

Worse yet, some of these same people text behind the wheel, when the vehicle's actually *in motion*. It really ought to be illegal to text and drive. Oh, wait: here in Victoria, it is! There's even a fine of \$167 and a three-point penalty.

According to the BC government, over 1,300 drivers were caught from February 2010 to September 2011 texting or emailing with one hand and holding a steering wheel in the other.

So, in a 19-month span, only 1,300 people were ticketed in all of BC. This number seems a tad low. Makes one wonder how effective this law is. Drivers don't understand the severe impact that texting while driving can have.

In 2010, distracted driving was a contributing factor in 104 collision fatalities in BC, according to the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA).

More recently, in Quebec, a young woman drove into the back

of a truck while texting with her fiancé.

She's dead now. Imagine how awful her fiancé feels. Imagine if she had of taken more lives than just her own. He'd feel even worse.

The tragedy of it all is there will be many people who still won't learn. But no one would ignore the laws if the fines were heftier.

That's a loaded "if" because everybody's above the law these days. But enforcing the law wouldn't be an issue if there were a way to prevent it from happening. For instance, car manufacturers could work to create a mechanism, a mobile deactivator that electronically turns off cell phones as soon as the ignition is started.

And that's what society has come to: drivers need to be treated like children so they will behave and obey the rules. Misbehave and toys start being taken away. Continue to misbehave and privileges will be revoked.

Misbehave again, well, there's a nice 10 by 10 cell where a lengthy timeout could be served.

Maybe drivers would understand the stupidity of texting while driving if they had to spend time in jail with a seven-foot tall skinhead named Hanz.

Something on your mind? Send *Open Space* submissions (up to 400 words) to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. Include your student number. Thanks!

college

Camosun's budget increases tuition, axes programs

"It would be great if we didn't have to increase tuition, but the reality is that our costs have gone up proportionately more than two percent."

JOAN YATES
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

DYLAN WILKS
STAFF WRITER

Between the two percent increase in tuition, cutting as many as 46 staff and faculty, the shutting down of the college's radio station and the cuts or suspensions of three programs, Camosun's recently announced budget will have long-lasting effects on students and staff at the college.

Madeline Keller-MacLeod, Camosun College Student Society's (CCSS) Lansdowne executive, says the increase in tuition costs could result in students unable to afford education.

"We're committed to making education a right," says Keller-MacLeod, "and with every tuition fee increase, education is becoming more of a privilege."

Camosun College faces an initial deficit of \$2.5 million, due both to

the lack of an increase in provincial funding (which has been flat since 2010 when it was cut by 75 percent) and lower-than-anticipated non-governmental revenue generation.

Keller-MacLeod believes that the college is doing what it can to make sure students are impacted as little as possible, and the problem lies with the provincial government.

"The government has given postsecondary institutions a mandate to have a balanced budget every year and they have to try to make it not affect students," she says, "and that's impossible."

Joan Yates, executive director, communications and advancement at Camosun, emphasizes how hard the college is trying to avoid having students impacted by the cuts.

"It would be great if we didn't have to increase tuition," says Yates, "but the reality is that our costs have gone up proportionately more than two percent."

The budget calls for the cuts of 6.6 administration positions, 22.5 support staff positions, and 17 Camosun College Faculty Association positions, which is 46 people on paper, but Yates believes the actual number will be lower.

"Based on what has happened in the past in this organization—while that's a huge number, no question—with actual people, it comes way down," says Yates. "We will have people absolutely who are impacted,



FILE PHOTO

CKMO station manager Brad Edwards will be seeing the station shut down soon due to budget cuts.

but the [actual] number is less than half of that overall position."

Students interested in media have been hit particularly hard by the cuts. CKMO, Camosun's radio station, is being shut down and the Applied Communication Program (ACP) is being suspended, despite high graduate employment rates.

"Because we're not integrated with any other programs, they can cut us and no other programs are affected directly," says ACP instructor Kim O'Hare. "If you cut a biology teacher you affect the nursing program and the environmental program and so on. We're a stand-alone program. It's less complicated;

the effects of suspending ACP are contained."

ACP being suspended will leave a void in communications education on Vancouver Island.

"I don't think you can walk into

a media outlet on the island without running into an ACP person," says O'Hare. "And that's done. It's over now. Like everything else, we'll be relying on the mainland to provide our communications now."

Camosun's new budget

2% increase in tuition fees

46 jobs potentially cut

1 radio station shut down

3 programs cut or suspended

Apart from CKMO being shut down and the Applied Communication Program being suspended, the 2012–13 Camosun College budget is hitting the college hard.

Here are some other affected programs and services:

- In Student Services, the Learning Skills program will be cut. Other options for delivering some elements of this service are being considered. In addition, a re-organization of Student Services will result in reductions.
- Computing Science as a stand-alone program will be cut. Computing classes offered to other programs will continue.
- The English Language Development program will be reduced.
- The Network Electronics program will be suspended.
- 6.6 management positions will be cut, including associate deans.
- Information Technology will have positions removed in both management and support staff.
- Continuing Education/Contract Training areas that operate below cost recovery will be suspended.
- Camosun International will lose positions due to changes in its business model.
- Non-government funded areas, such as co-op and ancillary services, will also lose positions.
- Reductions will also be made in other departments of the college.

SPEAK UP What was your most memorable moment at Camosun this past year?

BY MARIELLE MOODLEY



ALLISON HAMMELL

"Being terrified of coming back to school."



NOAH TOPP

"Watching my friends dance and sing in banana suits while promoting the Dunlop House pub."



BRITTANY LYONS

"My fun and relaxing poetry class."



KIRA ANTINUK

"Being there to watch a baby being born with my nursing program."



SANTIAGO CAMPUZANO

"Moving from Columbia to be here at Camosun."



KELVIN LAW

"Running the restaurant in the Dunlop House."

volunteering

Making the summer count by donating time

MEGAN GIBSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The semester is rapidly coming to an end and most Camosun students will be scrambling to find a menial summer job to pay off those loathsome bills. But a lot of summer jobs lack relevancy towards a career aspiration.

For some students, the way around this is to volunteer. Camosun Sports Management student Sarah Smith spends the majority of her free time volunteering, not just in her area of study but also as her way to strengthen the community.

"In the summer I volunteer as a camp counsellor, I'm on the Victoria Goddess marathon committee as a volunteer coordinator, I've just signed on with the Greater Victoria Public Library to be a driver to drive books to and from people's houses who cannot get to the library themselves, I coached a kids' ice hockey

team, and I donate blood as often as I am able," she says.

Smith notes that as important as it is to excel in one's professional life, it's more important to help others who don't have the fortune of a professional life.

"I spend enough time focused on my life, so it's amazing how taking a little bit of time for someone else can rearrange my priorities and make me realize that young children, impressionable teens, or the disadvantaged are what need our attention," she says.

For those who cannot commit a lot of time but want to get involved, a good place to look is Volunteer Victoria. This organization even caters to students' area of study.

"We provide guidance for anyone who's looking for something in particular to fit with their career path," says program coordinator Leanna Hill. "Our website lists a

variety of volunteer positions that coincide with students' needs."

"It's amazing how taking time for someone else can rearrange my priorities."

SARAH SMITH
CAMOSUN STUDENT

Many of the positions available at Volunteer Victoria require an easy three-month commitment, some as little as two hours a week. The site lists numerous organizations, such as the James Bay Community Project, Alzheimer Society, CRD Parks, CFUV 101.9FM, and BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Wild ARC.

"Every six months we have a training program and 100 people can come," says BC SPCA receptionist Amy McLaughlan. "Right now we are full until August, but a lot of people don't follow through for one reason or another, so we are always accepting volunteers."

The BC SPCA requires a minimum six-month commitment, although longer is preferred (it's easier on the animals to have consistency). For students who cannot have a pet, being an "animal companion" is a convenient option. All it takes is a couple of hours a week.

Volunteering is a great way to network, but in the end it's about reaching out, touching lives, and giving back to the community.

"If I can take a little bit of time out of my day to help someone I absolutely will," says Smith. "It's vital to care for each other to make our community stronger."

NEWS BRIEFS

Students campaign for communications at Camosun

Students in Camosun College's Applied Communication Program (ACP), one of several programs affected as part of Camosun's 2012/13 budget (see page 3), have initiated campaigns to try and generate awareness and action. Save the Village! is a Facebook and Twitter campaign to try and save Camosun's campus radio station, which is part of the ACP curriculum and needed by the final class in the fall. The ACP Alumni Association is planning a YouTube video campaign called "What ACP means to me," featuring past and present graduates of the program. And finally, students and alumni from ACP have begun Twitter campaigns to draw attention to minister of advanced education Naomi Yamamoto's recent statement in *The Times Colonist*, where she asked "Do we need communications people in BC?"

South Vancouver Island Regional Skills Competition winners

Camosun recently hosted the South Vancouver Island Regional Skills Competition at Interurban, where 60 secondary students competed in six trades-skills contests. Gold-medal winners earned the right to represent the South Island region at the upcoming Skills Canada BC provincial competition in Abbotsford on April 30. For a full list of winners, check out skillscanada.bc.ca and look up the results by region.

Craigflower Bridge replacement delayed

Due to incomplete environmental and archeological reports, replacement of the Craigflower Bridge, which we reported on earlier in 2012, has been delayed for up to a year. The new scheduled start date will be between January and June of 2013.

Violent video games lead to cooperation

According to a new study from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, playing violent videogames doesn't affect how kids behave in the real world. In fact, according to the study, playing video games actually makes kids learn how to cooperate with others. Previous research showed that regions of the brain involved with inhibition and self-control would flare up during violent gameplay. But there still have been no definitive links connecting violent videogames with violent behaviour.

Brit buys \$2 million Warhol for \$5

A British businessman recently purchased an original Andy Warhol drawing at a garage sale in Las Vegas. The 1930s sketch, which the businessman purchased for \$5, is worth upwards of \$2 million. The sketch is of 1930s singer and actor Rudy Vallee, and due to the age of the piece could shift the birth of pop art back two decades.

-DYLAN WILKS

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benefit

Fashion show raises money for Africa



MARIELLE MOODLEY/NEXUS

Eric Mazimpaka of Siyon Studios and one of his paintings.

MARIELLE MOODLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A local gym will morph into a fashion show catwalk as businesses around Victoria pitch in to raise funds for various causes in Africa.

Emerge Squared, a fashion show taking place at Studio 4 Athletics, is being hosted by Siyon Studios, a local clothing/art company made up of young artists who are devoted to bringing awareness to social justice issues and help causes in third-world countries.

“Africa has been through so much, yet there is still an abundance of beauty and resources that it offers and we try to reflect that message in our clothing,” says Eric Mazimpaka, Siyon Studios’ co-founder and artist.

Local clothing companies and salons are donating their time to prepare the models that are hitting the catwalk.

“I’m excited to get all dressed up and help support a good cause,” says Leah Varga, a 17-year-old student from Mt. Doug Senior Secondary. “I hope that fellow Mt. Dougers will come support me and get interested in the cause.”

Second-year Camosun student Jelene Hofer is excited about watching models show off local fashions and seeing local artwork.

“I love the idea of this fashion show. I love going to events that are artsy, cultural, and support a good cause. I’m really looking forward to seeing all the different styles in the fashion show and picking up some fashion tips,” says Hofer.

Siyon Studio’s 2012 apparel is designed to create conscious thinking. They’ve fused ancient designs with newer shapes and concepts to create intricate stories and meaning behind each design.

“My paintings are graphically

altered into negatives by my partner Kevin Parks, who’s a graphic designer,” says Mazimpaka. “We silkscreen our designs on to shirts which we use as a medium to spread and support our message.”

One of Siyon’s recent designs called “Never Forgotten” features elephants and machetes, because elephants never forget, and the machetes represent the sacrifice of lives that have occurred in the world through war and civil unrest.

“We can never forget what cultivated us to where we are,” says Mazimpaka. “We can only grow from them, learn from them, and take tragedy and make something positive out of it.”

Emerge Squared
Saturday, April 21, 8 pm
Studio 4 Athletics
(715 Yates St.)
siyonstudios.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEXUS PUBLISHING SOCIETY

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012, 11:30 PM (NEW TIME!),

FISHER 200, LANSDOWNE

AGENDA

- I CALL TO ORDER
- 1.) RATIFICATION OF MEETING CHAIRPERSON
- II INTRODUCTION TO RULES OF ORDER
- III APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM
- V REPORTS
- 1.) PRESIDENT’S REPORT
- 2.) FINANCIAL REPORT
- VII ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT
- 1.) ADOPTION OF MAR. 31, 2012 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
- 2.) ADOPTION OF APRIL 2012 TO MARCH 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET
- VIII RESIGNATION OF CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS (EXCLUDING PRESIDENT AND TREASURER)
- IX BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS
- X ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE SIGN IN ON MEMBERSHIP LIST WITH VALID CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT ID IN ORDER TO VOTE AT THIS MEETING.

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DIY why?

By Nicole Beneteau,
contributing writer

If you've ever baked your own bread, knitted yourself some mittens, or planted a backyard carrot or two, you're part of a growing cultural revolution known as do it yourself, or DIY. Urban farming, home-brewing, independent publishing... the culture of DIY has infiltrated the lives of people the world over and is only getting stronger.

Although this renaissance of the homemade is experiencing a recent surge in popularity, the idea of DIY isn't new. Over 40 years ago, once the novelty of the industrial revolution wore off and dissatisfaction with the state of urban life began to set in, people started to seek alternatives to mass production and sought to separate themselves from previous generations with a lifestyle shift.

By the end of the 1960s, the movement toward self-empowerment and shared learning was in full swing with publications such as *The Whole Earth Catalog*, which provided readers with a resource for tools, services, and instructions on how to live self-sustainably.

Eventually, as is the case with all cultural trends, the impetus of the movement petered off with the onset of the 1980s, with many of those idealists settling into corporate jobs to pay the bills.

But, in the last decade or so, there has been a distinct resurgence of this type of idealism. The idea that we can take control of our lives by reducing our reliance on the corporate system is once again gaining popularity and manifesting itself in many different forms for many different reasons.

Gettin' down and dirty

Here in Victoria, one of the most visible ways people are participating in the DIY movement is through urban gardening. Whether it's a planter box of herbs on an apartment windowsill or a half-acre of backyard veggies, urban farming is becoming an accessible and desirable practice.

"A lot of people are realizing that we don't really know what's going into our food when it comes to imports from far away.

"This is urban farming in terms of changing food systems, as well as getting your hands dirty."

Gabe Epstein

Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers

Both buying from local farmers and growing our own food allows people to feel a bit of self-reliance," says Jill Dalton from Life Cycles Project, a local organization that, among other programs, provides Victorians with the tools and know-how to grow their own food.

But food security and self-reliance aren't the only motivating factors for urban farmers. Economics plays an increasingly significant role in the choice to grow one's own food.

"The affordability of local and organic food is an issue, too," says Dalton. "A lot of people who start gardening with us say 'I wanted to buy everything organic and local and I realized that some things are really expensive, so those are the ones I want to grow in my garden.'"

Though this trend toward do-it-yourself food production is on the upswing, the question remains about whether it will prove to be a passing fad. Gabe Epstein, local urban farmer and head of the Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers neighbourhood group, says urban farming will continue to gain popularity.

"With more and more consciousness spreading through the community about the value of growing locally, the quality of the food you get, and the community you build around it, I think more and more people will get into farming," says Epstein.

Even considering the peaks and valleys of the economy, Epstein says urban farming will hold its appeal. "This is not urban farming in the sense of making money. This is urban farming in terms of changing food systems, as well as getting your hands dirty."

BYOB: brew your own booze God bless the

In addition to influencing urban food growers, the much-maligned state of the economy has had a partial hand in popularizing the DIY movement of home brewing. Instead of paying inflated liquor-store prices, many Victorians are taking their hooch into their own hands by home-brewing beers and wines.

Gavin Welch, proprietor of the local shop Hobby Beers and Wines, has been in the business for 25 years and has seen the ups and downs of Victoria's

"You get to try things other people don't because it doesn't get put on the corporate scheme market."

Alex Slonimer

DIY brew maker

beer-making culture.

"We're going through a real increase in people starting out," he says. "If the economy goes down and people will make their own beer."

But it's not all about saving a buck. Home brewing also plays a part in home-brewing culture, says Welch. "People here like knowing how to make their own beer."

This interest in a natural approach to beer-making and DIY enthusiast Alex Slonimer, a day, DIY-er by night, Slonimer admits to making his own beer, but there are other reasons why.

"Mostly, it's fun to be creative," he says. "You can't actually buy anywhere else, so you don't because it doesn't get put on the shelves."

As someone who strives to include his own leather goods to grinding his own beer, Slonimer's resurgence in the DIY movement came from a satisfaction with popular culture.

"I think that for the past 50 years, we've been sucked into TV that things like hobbies and home brewing are just like, 'TV fucking culture.' Now people are just like, 'TV fucking culture.' They fill their time with something constructed by other people's creativity for them."

The desire to provide an outlet for his own creativity led Hal Niedzviecki to start *Broken Pencil*, a magazine of culture and the independent arts. Niedzviecki's own magazine was, at first, born out of a self-described "pretty weird shop" where there were more writers like him seeking publishing obstacles.

"I started to think we needed a place for general weirdness available," says Niedzviecki. *Pencil* is thriving in both print and online, providing a platform for underground culture and providing a space for makers and 'zinesters.

Running a magazine in an age where everything is being hurled into the sea.



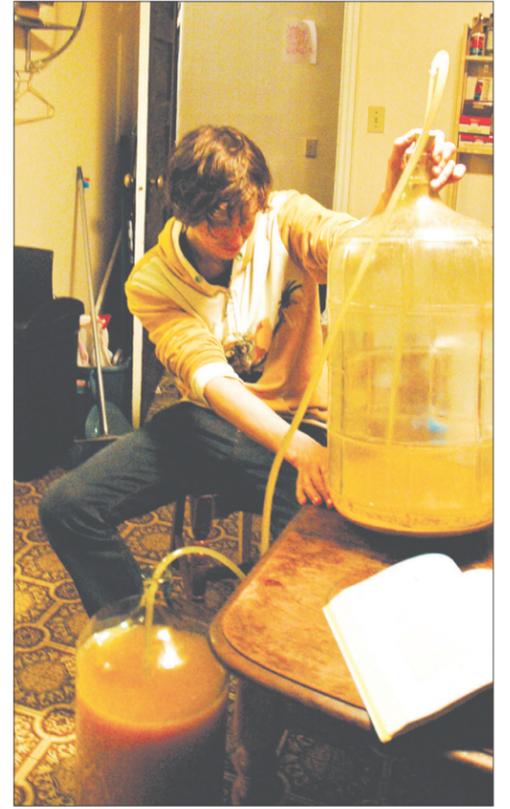
DAN SHUGAR

Locals at an urban agriculture workshop.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Hal Niedzviecki, Canada's DIY guru.



NICOLE BENETEAU/NEXUS

Victorian Alex Slonimer makes beer the DIY way.

“If you look back 100 years, everything was DIY. The last few generations have been a historical aberration where people weren’t making things themselves.”

Derek Jacoby

Victoria Maker Space

soothsaying about the great internet takeover.

“What everybody said, specifically about publications, was that the internet would sort of kill the desire to make things, to make the actual paper publications,” says Niedzviecki. “That actually didn’t turn out to be true. What we’ve seen, in the last five years or so, is a resurgence of people really wanting to make physical objects as the ephemeral, ethereal world of the internet becomes less satisfying.”

And it’s not just the print world. Niedzviecki sees an increasing need for the production of tangible objects across many creative sectors. “We are seeing a lot more people interested in crafts and from there, people making all kinds of things,” he says. “I know people are making their own board games and putting them up online so you can print them out. You see open-sourced plans for making your own farm equipment and things like that, without having to go to a corporate source.”

Here exists an interesting dichotomy. The recent flock towards DIY culture is a direct result of the information made available online, yet, at the same time, is in response to the impersonal, intangible world the internet has created. Niedzviecki points out that there’s a constant struggle between what the online community provides and the atmosphere of corporate dominance.

“The possibilities are there and I think we are going to continue to see a lot of really interesting innovations and projects,” he says. “At the same time, we consequently see the lockdown of culture, things that sort of stifle innovations, whether they be copyright laws or various cases of internet throttling.”

Hands on public property

For this reason, Derek Jacoby believes that the reclamation of technology is the key to the future of a thriving society. Jacoby, having worked as a Microsoft engineer, brought his passion for technology sharing back to the island in 2010 and started Victoria Maker Space.

This space provides otherwise hard-to-come-by tools and guidance for people to pursue unique DIY projects. Become a member and you can have access to the Maker Space’s 3D printer, laser cutter, woodworking tools, and even a blacksmithing forge. Jacoby points out that while

DIY is nothing new, this latest push toward self-made goods is an important one.

“If you look back 100 years, everything was DIY,” he says. “The last few generations have been a historical aberration where people weren’t making things themselves. We’re kind of hitting the other side of that cycle now where people are realizing they can get more control over their lives, can do more things for themselves when they have control over their own technologies.”

This shift is something that’s not only beneficial to the individuals who participate, but is an integral part of our growth as a culture.

“It’s something we really need as a culture is to make sure that the base level of competence in technology remains very, very high,” says Jacoby. “Pushing technology out to the grassroots and to the people who are most directly using it is a really important trend.”

Despite the perceived importance, some students feel that taking the DIY route is just not worth the time commitment.

“Things like gardening and brewing, they are things that you do when you don’t have other things going on, when you don’t have a job and school and volunteering,” says Camosun university transfer student Matthew Abney. “It’d be cool to be able to say you did this yourself, of course, but it’s kind of a trade-off at the same time.”

Others, like Kirsten Hundza, like the money-saving factor and the feeling of accomplishment DIY projects provide. “It just feels better to do something on your own and it’s cheaper,” says Hundza. “I’ve painted my room, I’ve painted a dresser. I’ve made a headboard and some side tables and a chessboard. I always tell people, ‘I made this; I did this.’”

Even for icons like Niedzviecki, finding the time for projects is a challenge. But the *Broken Pencil* founder still makes room for a little leisure in his schedule.

“I am an avid urban gardener,” he says. “I was making my own wine for a bit. I’m a do-it-yourself cook, making things like smoked salt or these big briskets that take 14 hours to make. I love to do all that stuff.”

For those who choose the handmade way, there’s a consensus that a life of DIY is one worth living. “There are so many things that I’d like to be doing,” says Niedzviecki. “I could go online right now and learn how to make my own sarsaparilla and I would love to spend half the day doing that. I kind of wish I didn’t have to make money so I could devote myself to these pursuits.”

Don’t we all, Hal. Don’t we all.

se in new economy goes down, disposable take more.”

. A general enthusiasm for natural living’s popularity. “It’s west coast people, looking what’s in their beer.”

h is certainly a driving factor for local Slonimer. Environmental scientist by ts that cost is a factor in his choice to er benefits that entice him to brew.

he says. “You get to make varieties of e. You get to try things other people e corporate scheme market.”

e DIY into everyday life, from making s own flour, Slonimer says the recent n can be attributed to a widespread dis-

on a broad scale, we have just been so es fell by the wayside,” says Slonimer. blows’ and there is more of a desire to ctive, to actually create things instead rced upon you.”

printing press

this kind of creativity is what spurred t, the Toronto-based magazine of ’zine edzviecki admits that the idea to start of a selfish desire to get exposure for t-stories.” But he soon realized that king an outlet in a world of corporate

publication that would promote the edzviecki. Over 17 years later, *Broken* online forms, devoted exclusively to a guide for fledgling writers, book-

en the fear of career death is regularly rts of anyone in proximity to the print industry, Niedzviecki has heard his fair share of



music

Bombino: the man behind the name

“My style will continually progress and I don’t think there will ever be a name for it.”

OMARA MOCTAR
BOMBINO



PHOTO PROVIDED

Omara Moctar, also known as Bombino, says it’s not in the African nature to focus on future dreams; he’s not even sure about tomorrow.

LUCAS MILROY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

To his friends and family he is Omara Moctar; to his fans he is Bombino.

But these are just names, titles given to him and placed upon him. So, who is Bombino? Well, the word “bombino” means “baby” in Italian, a dubbing that occurred when Moctar was the youngest member of his group when he first started playing guitar in 1990. However, this 33-year-old Nigerian songwriter and guitarist is certainly not a baby. As a survivor of the Niger rebel-

lions of the early ’90s, Bombino grew up playing against the odds. “It all started during the rebellions of 1990–1991,” says Bombino. “During the summer our dad took us to go to our aunt’s house in Tamarrasset, Algeria, and there my cousins and I would play at their house and they played the guitar, so it was there that I became really interested. It was something incredible for me to hear sounds that pushed me to learn it.”

After things with the rebellion cooled down a bit, Bombino went back to his motherland, Niger, and

continued to play guitar despite the nationwide ban on music. But his defiance wasn’t an act of political action; it was simply a passion to create the music that had grown to be a part of him. And that is exactly what he did. Bombino began developing his unique style of music.

“My style is a mix of jazz, blues, lots of rock, mixed with a traditional African style,” he says. “My style will continually progress and I don’t think there will ever be a name for it.”

Bombino’s music is taking him places he never imagined and

introducing him to many different cultures. But he hasn’t let his rise to international fame affect how he lives his life.

“Before I was at home and now I’m travelling a lot, but I still live very much like I lived in Africa, and that’s important. I want to encourage people and the country of Niger,” he says.

Although Bombino appears to be a man with a plan, this isn’t quite the case. He admits that he doesn’t know where his life will take him, but just hopes that wherever he is his homeland will be in better

shape and he’s able to take care of his family.

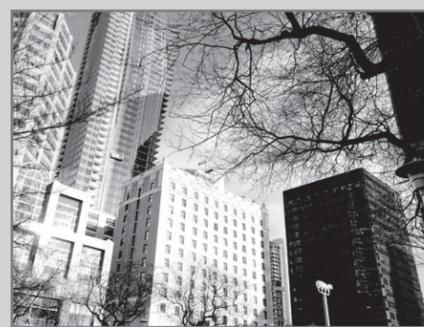
“It is not in the African nature to really focus on future dreams,” he says. “I don’t really know what I hope for. I’m not even sure about tomorrow. I hope in 10 years that Niger is in a better condition, and that I will have what it takes to support my family.”

Bombino
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media

Pitchfork uses old media model for success



“Writing for *Pitchfork* in the '90s was just a really different world.”

MARK RICHARDSON
PITCHFORK

ERIC BENT/THE LINK

DEMI BEGIN
THE LINK (CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY)

MONTREAL (CUP)—In a world where even the red, flowing *Rolling Stone* emblem is having trouble moving magazine copies off the rack, Mark Richardson is feeling optimistic about the future of music journalism.

Editor-in-chief of *Pitchfork*, the world's most visited independent music writing website, Richardson's at the helm of a ship that is retaining many tricks of the old media's trade.

Pitchfork maintains tight editorial control, doesn't have comment sections on its articles, and doesn't tweet back at its followers. In many

ways, it's still a magazine, rather than a website. And yet it's the de facto taste-making music site of the 21st century. A *Pitchfork* review can make or break a musical career.

Despite living and breathing music and music journalism, it took Richardson several years to refine his writing style. Then, in 1998, he went from odd writing jobs to writing steadily for the then-three-year-old website.

“You know it was very, very small back then, it was just this tiny thing,” he says. “So when I talk about writing for *Pitchfork* in the '90s, it was just a really different world.”

Fast-forward through the last

decade and newspapers and magazines are now in precarious financial positions, while the internet has taken over. *Pitchfork* itself is getting more than four million unique visitors a month.

“Print still has some advantages visually, with tactile experiences, and longer pieces, and those type of things,” says Richardson. Still, he acknowledges that the newspaper's heyday is unlikely to return, but he holds out hope for the industry, explaining that it simply has yet to figure out a new, more profitable, business model.

“I feel like there's a possibility that there's something looming that we haven't quite envisioned

yet, that will be of higher quality than things are now... At least, I hope so,” he says.

Pitchfork's success story is certainly refreshing to online journalists hoping to find some work in an industry of temporary gigs and unpaid internships. To them, Richardson has only one bit of advice: patience.

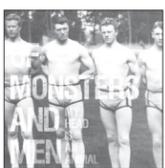
“If you love to write, and especially if you love writing about art and culture, there's nothing wrong with doing that part-time, for months or years,” he says, pointing out that publications will be willing to pay writers money for their writing when they're good enough to get noticed.

That being said, the one question every journalist is looking for an answer is simple; what does one have to do to get a job in the business? The answer, according to Richardson, isn't all that surprising: intern.

“It's not too much of a mysterious process, other than we're looking for people that want nothing more than to be involved in the world of music journalism, and also seem like they are going to work really hard,” he notes. “Making it clear that you want to do whatever you can to help is the best thing. Those are the interns you tend to notice more, pay attention to, and then eventually want to help out.”

New Music Revue

Of monsters, men, bats, runners, Italian metalheads, and Paul



Of Monsters and Men
My Head Is an Animal
(Universal Music)
3/5

My Head Is an Animal, the debut album from Icelandic indie folk group Of Monsters and Men, is full of anthems, reverb, layers, and choirs. It also sounds an awful lot like a band you may have heard before.

“Dirty Paws” sounds cannily similar to Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeroes’ “Home,” as do a half-dozen other tracks on the album. First single “Little Talks” is undoubtedly reminiscent of Mumford and Sons’ smash hit “Little Lion Man.”

Perhaps *My Head Is an Animal*'s driving guitars, insistent percussion, and layered vocals might be enjoyed on their own. This upbeat, bohemian indie folk is certainly charming and forest-adventure-worthy.

But *Of Monsters and Men* offer nothing new, and instead simply rehash the same anthem that's been done by bigger bands before them. Verdict: pretty but tiresome, like a dumb blonde waxing philosophical.

-ROSE JANG



Cancer Bats
Dead Set on Living
(Distort)
4/5

Dead Set on Living is the fourth album from Toronto-based metalcore band Cancer Bats. The album begins poorly with the lyrically childish “R.A.T.S.” but picks up steam after that lacklustre first track. “Bricks and Mortar,” “Road Sick” and “Breathe Armageddon” are all entertaining, showcasing crunchy Black Sabbath-esque riffs and raw, visceral vocals.

The sludge metal elements are far more prevalent on *Dead Set on Living* than on *Cancer Bats*' previous releases, sounding reminiscent of a more up-tempo *Weedeater*, rather than a Billy Talent sound-alike. This shift in sound makes *Dead Set on Living* the most memorable *Cancer Bats* album yet.

While this album is far from innovative, it's accessible enough for the casual rock fan and hardcore enough for metalheads. Above all, it's a satisfying listen, full of rock and roll war swagger and everything that makes metal great. *Dead Set on Living* is essential listening.

-JAMES DOWN



Lahmia
Into the Abyss
(Bakerteam Records)
3/5

On *Into the Abyss*, their first full-length, Italian melodic death metal band Lahmia lines up their clichés and proceeds to race through them, one by one.

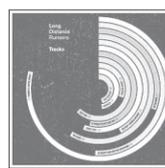
Into the Abyss isn't a bad album, it's just very similar to the late '90s melo-death craze that bands like Finnish shredders Children of Bodom, Finnish melodic death ragers Kalmah, and French Canadian act Talamyus did so well.

This disc boasts very crisp production, attractive riffage, and occasional yet tasteful clean vocal interludes. Unfortunately, what this album lacks is soul, humanity, and the odd fuck-up to remind the listener that this is indeed music for people by people.

Instead, *Into the Abyss* is a robot among many robots. And although there may be many like it, this robot is a part of an army, bent on the destruction of the kind of grimey, raw, swamp-like metal that I adore.

Lahmia: killmode engaged.

-ADAM PRICE



Long Distance Runners
Tracks
(LDR Music)
4/5

Hailing from St. John's, Newfoundland, this quartet is making music that's sweeping Canada, travelling past the Canadian Shield, through the prairies, over the Rockies, and finally crossing the Georgia Strait to Vancouver Island.

The Long Distance Runners have come out with their first full-length album, *Tracks*, which is an eclectic fusion of folk and rock with hints of the blues.

This new album demonstrates the growth of the band, made evident in the song “The Island” by the integration of a changing time signature and multilayered bridge. This advancement on the instrumental side, along with the well-developed lyrics that are exhibited in every song except the relaxing instrumental “Up the River,” takes listeners on a great musical journey.

So suit up, or down, pop this bad-boy in your boombox (people still have those, right?) and prepare for some excellent tunage.

-LUCAS MILROY



Paul Weller
Sonik Kicks
(Yep Roc Records)
3.5/5

Paul Weller, a.k.a. the mod-father and former frontman of The Jam and The Style Council, recently released the experimental *Sonik Kicks*, his eleventh solo album.

Weller manages to play myriad styles throughout this album, including psychedelic rock, folk, pop, and reggae. Never one to shy away from a little experimentation, Weller tosses in all sorts of funky sounds, including backwards guitars and anything else his newly sober brain could muster.

A self-professed alcoholic, Weller doesn't shy away from facing his demons. “Where you gonna run to?” Weller asks in “Paperchase,” before hitting a climax of overlaying sounds and ever-present spacey synthesizers.

Over the years, Weller's music could never be pinned to one genre. At 53, he's at that age where musical styles are irrelevant. Sometimes I wonder if he does it just for kicks... sonik kicks.

-DAN DARLING



Green Your World

by Kim Cummins
camosun students for environmental awareness

Bringing the farm to Camosun

There's something really satisfying about hitting up a farmer's market and making yourself a good meal. It doesn't happen often when you're a student on an Ichiban and Kraft Dinner budget, but when you spend the extra time and money, your body and brain love you for it.

Maybe you're like me, and all of the talk about GMOs, pesticide use, and industrial farming has kind of ruined the banana and passion fruit, but they're cheap so you go for it.

Most grocery store items travel an average of 1,700 kilometres and have been sprayed with... well, who knows what they've been sprayed with? On the flipside, it would be nice to buy organic, but that stuff adds up quickly, so it's not easy on a student budget.

Meanwhile, the local food movement in Victoria is budding. The general public's appetite for local food is growing. Yet, given the

affordability issues, is it possible for students to join the local food movement, eat healthy, and help support local agriculture?

Ta-dahhh! Introducing the Camosun Farmbox! Designed by members of CSEA, the farmbox program is dedicated to providing students, staff, and faculty members with affordable access to 100 percent local, organic produce at the Lansdowne campus.

Imagine having an assortment of über-fresh, organic groceries with recipes, info on local food-related events, and tips about cooking all there waiting for you to grab on your way home after class. The sweet life.

For more information on the boxes, please email farmbox-camosun@gmail.com or visit the Camosun College Student Society office at the Lansdowne campus and read over one of their signup sheets.



Double Teamed

by Dylan Wilks and Clorisa Simpson

Time to explore the porno beats

Pornography is becoming so mainstream, we decided it was time to *Double Team* it.

Clorisa: Here's the funny thing about pornography: my understanding is that it's abundant, and free, but if someone was like, "Clorisa, go find us some free pornography," I wouldn't really know how to do that. Google? I've never downloaded or ever really looked at pornography. I realize it's free, and abundant, and lots of people enjoy it, but I don't take advantage of how free it is.

Dylan: As a male, I do. There aren't many guys on the internet who don't know how to get porn. I have been on the internet with access to porn since it started. That was when I started looking; the timing was about right. When I'm in a relationship, I don't really watch or pay attention to it, but when I'm not in a relationship, I do. Guys are

so easily visually stimulated; I think that's why it has more of an appeal. There's no emotional connection to pornography. It has nothing to do with your mind; it's just straight up, "Do you find what is on the screen hot?"

C: I've met a fair amount of girls who are into it. I'm indifferent to it. I've seen it and stuff, and I can understand why it works for people, but when it comes down to it I'll never go find it on my own.

D: I used it to help repair a relationship once.

C: You're like, "Let's just watch some porn"!?!

D: Kind of. She had some sexual hang-ups and she couldn't stop herself from multitasking enough to enjoy what was going on. And so what we would do is we would watch some, and after that that would be the only thing on her

mind. We wouldn't watch it for an hour, we'd watch it for five to 10 minutes, and after that point it was the only thing on her mind and she could relax, get into it, and get off. It hugely helped our sex life, because up until that point she wasn't quite sure how to relax and get off, and it was preventing her from really enjoying it. It helped. We just kind of enjoyed it together; we watched a few movies, some of the really commercial ones, like *Pirates*.

C: You've actually watched that? I've never seen it.

D: The whole thing, all the way through.

C: I kind of want to just watch it. It's one of those movies I want to see just so I know. It's something you hear about so often it's a cultural reference.

D: To be honest, it's one of the funniest movies I've ever seen.

eye on campus

by Dylan Wilks

MONDAY, APRIL 16-FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Textbook buyback

The first of the two end-of-the-term textbook buybacks begins on April 16. There will be another buyback the following week, but that textbook you want to sell will probably no longer be taken. So don't miss it. Take your books to the campus bookstore during regular business hours. Check out camosuncollege-bookstore.ca for more information.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19-SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Jesus Christ Superstar

A group of local DIY musicians and fans of musical theatre are putting on a production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Metro Studio (1411 Quadra) from Thursday, April 19 until Saturday, April 21. It's Andrew Lloyd Webber, it's an epic, theatrical rock opera, and it's only \$15. What more could you possibly want? Showtimes are at 7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, with a 2 pm matinee on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at 2% Jazz (2631 Douglas) and Russell Books (734 Fort). Contact Kim at 250-507-

1847 or kim.persley@ameliaartists.com for more information.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

College-wide info session

It's that time of the month again, where you can come check out what Camosun College has to offer at a college-wide info session. Staff and faculty from Camosun will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on what programs are really like at Camosun. Most sessions run between 6-8 pm. Sessions are also campus-specific, so check out camosun.ca/learn/infosessions to find out where to go for sessions that may interest you.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Earth Walk

South Island environmentalists are expecting this year's Earth Walk to be the biggest in recent memory, promising a convergence of eco-groups at the BC Legislature, followed by a walk to Centennial Square where a festival with local luminaries awaits. Earth Walk starts at 11:30 am at the BC Legislature, followed by a parade up Government

at noon. Victoria's poet laureate Janet Marie Rogers is emceeing the event, and Bob McDonald of CBC Radio One's *Quirks and Quarks* will be delivering the keynote. If you like Earth, this is probably where you'll want to be. And, it's free! Did we mention it's free? Oh, we did? Just now? Great. Come on down and check this out, then.

MONDAY, APRIL 30

Deadlines for awards applications

A couple of awards deadlines are fast approaching. The Leadership in African Awareness Award is intended to recognize the volunteer work of a student who has demonstrated a leadership role and commitment to raising awareness about the achievements and issues in Africa. Meanwhile, the Peter and Muriel Mixon Animal Rights Endowment Award is intended to recognize full-time students active in the cause of animal rights. The deadline for applying for both awards is April 30. Check out camosun.ca/services/financialaid for more information on applying for scholarships and bursaries at Camosun College.

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NEXUS

The content doesn't end in the paper. Which is good, because we don't publish another regular issue of the paper until September. (Our "greatest hits" issues will be on stands for spring and summer.)

In the meantime, new stories are constantly popping up on our site. Check out nexusnewspaper.com to keep up to date on Camosun news, Victoria arts coverage, and much more throughout the spring and summer semesters!

local, live, and loud

by Adam Price

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

Joel Plaskett, guests

ALIX GOOLDEN PERFORMANCE HALL, \$25, 7:30 PM
Joel Plaskett is to Canada what zippers are to clothing, going essentially unnoticed in the large scheme of things, but both extremely handy, and an attractive alternative to buttons or clasps. Get your zip on with Plaskett.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

Pablo Cardenas Project Fusion

HERMANN'S JAZZ CLUB, \$15, 8 PM
Now this is something you don't get to experience on a regular basis. Say it with me: "Free jazz, with Latin/classical and world beat fusion." Any show that totes fusion so transparently generally gets down to a little fusing, if you're picking up what I'm putting down? If you're catchin' what I'm throwin'? If you're eating what I'm servin'? Ya dig?

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Auroch, Burialkult, Galdra, Traitorr

LOGAN'S PUB, \$10, 9:30 PM
People say this a lot so it's kind of cliché, but work with us here. Say this four times fast: Auroch, Burialkult, Galdra, Traitorr. Go! Auroch, Burialkult, Galdra, Traitorr. Auroch, Burialkult, Galdra, Traitorr. Auroch, Burialkult, Galdra, Traitorr. Auroch, Burialkult, Galdra, Traitorr. Awesome.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

The Beautiful Girls, guests

CLUB 90NE9, \$18, 8 PM
Well, I guess that it's close enough to summer now where the Beautiful Girls coming to Victoria is not only appropriate, but welcome. Very summery, mellow vibes, complete with a non-offensive Jack Johnson feel. So calm your farm. Finals are almost over.

THURSDAY, MAY 3

iLL.GATES, Eleven Seraphim, Okibi

CLUB 90NE9, \$20, 7:30 PM
I've been sort of realizing over the past year that Victoria actually has a pretty dedicated audience of hard electro and dubstep fans. Okibi even includes a bit of jungle, which is cool because you don't really hear those kind of breaks as much anymore. Incidentally, did you read the column about porno beats on the top of this page?

FRIDAY, MAY 4

Said the Whale, Chains of Love, Oh No! Yoko

ALIX GOOLDEN PERFORMANCE HALL, \$20, 7:30 PM
Before heading off to Sasquatch, Vancouver talent Said the Whale will be in town in May with Chains of Love, and Oh No! Yoko. They'll, like, you know, tell you what the whale said and, like, play their rock and pop and stuff. Catch these guys before they get so popular they don't have time for little ol' Victoria.

Noble Sloth Manifesto By Libby Hopkinson



Nomadic Mindset By Ken MacKenzie



Ski Ninjas By Kyle Lees (The Argus, CUP)





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Muddled drinks for muddled minds

I've found that in these last grinding weeks of papers and assignments, my alcohol consumption has increased dramatically. This isn't really the most logical way to behave when one has more responsibilities than usual, but it definitely makes things a lot more fun.

So, school's out... for my liver, at least.

I've wanted to make a fancy gin cocktail for a long time and it just so happened I had some lavender lying around from my garden last fall. And if you didn't harvest lavender last year to make this syrup, you can find it in health food stores and herbal stores. You can also try using a different herb; I can see this cocktail working well with mint, rosemary, or any number of herbs.

Mix it up, enjoy, and stay classy, Camosun.

Honey-lavender raspberry gin cocktail

Note: For those who aren't cocktail aficionados, muddling is glorified mashing. It involves pressing fruit or herbs with a "muddler" (kind of like a pestle), with the aim to release flavours rather than mash the fruit into a paste.

Also, I used a darker cane sugar for the syrup, giving it a richer taste and an amber colour. Feel free to use whatever kind of sugar you'd like, though.



KEIRA ZIKMANIS/NEXUS

Ingredients

- Honey-Lavender Syrup
- 1 cup water
- 1 1/2 tbsp lavender flowers (fresh or dried)
- 1 cup honey
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Cocktail
- 3 oz Bombay Gin
- 20 raspberries (fresh or thawed from frozen)
- 3 tbsp honey-lavender syrup
- 4-6 ice cubes
- 4 1/2 oz club soda
- 2 mint sprigs (optional)

Directions

To make the syrup, bring the water and lavender to boil in a saucepan. Add the sugar and honey, stirring constantly until the sugar is completely dissolved. Reduce the

heat and simmer for five minutes.

Let the syrup cool, then strain out the lavender flowers using a fine mesh strainer or some cheesecloth. Refrigerate the syrup until needed; it will keep for a week or so.

For the cocktail, combine the gin and raspberries in a cocktail shaker or any large glass. Muddle the raspberries with a spoon in the bottom of the glass. Pour in the honey-lavender syrup and stir well.

Get out two small glasses and drop two or three ice cubes into each glass. Pour half of the raspberry, gin, and syrup mixture into each glass.

Top off each glass with an even amount of club soda, stirring to combine, and garnish with mint sprigs, if desired.



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