


NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

february 6, 2013
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A surreal painting of Alice's face, rendered in a soft, painterly style. Her eyes are closed, and her hair is a vibrant, flowing mass of orange and red. Various animals are depicted on her face: a walrus on her forehead, a green frog on her cheek, a mouse on her nose, a blue cat on her forehead, a brown bull on her cheek, a brown eagle on her forehead, a brown owl on her cheek, a purple bird on her forehead, and a green lizard on her cheek. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a small white rabbit in a red shirt in the bottom right corner.

curiouser and curiouser...

local artists give
alice a new look
page ten

on being single and
loving it
page eight

student society join one
billion rising
page three

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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Phone: 250-370-3591

Email: editor@nexusnewspaper.com

Website: nexusnewspaper.com

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ADVERTISING SALES

Jason Schreurs
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DISTRIBUTION

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CONTRIBUTORS

Amira Abdel-Malek
Pedro Banman
Nicole Beneteau
Ryan Brezzi
Juliana Cooper
Lucas Dahl
Dan Darling
Crystal Derry
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SEND A LETTER

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 1:30 pm in the *Nexus* office, Richmond House 201, Lansdowne. Call 250-370-3591 or email editor@nexusnewspaper.com for more information.

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "There are only so many ways you can copywrite a Safeway ad."

COVER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: Laura Bifano

editor's letter

For those about to write...

It's with much joy that I can say that in the past few weeks we've had more new volunteers come through the doors of the *Nexus* than we have in any other similar period of time since I've been working at the paper. It's exciting because it shows the power of writing transcends programs; the quest for knowledge or the desire to write an interesting story about an arts event is widespread, going across students of all types, from the biology brain-busters to the media mavens.

And while sometimes it seems like dropping a few alliterations is all it takes, the truth is that writing is a tough task. The research it takes to tackle a subject like an Israeli talking about Middle East issues, like contributing writer Crystal Derry did on page 6, or to sit down and have a lengthy face-to-face conversation with local MLA Rob Fleming, as contributing writer Damen Korkoras did on page 4, is significant.

Over on page 8, contributing writer Jean Oliver delivers another solid feature story, this one taking on misconceptions that society throws on us all about being alone. Oliver isn't afraid to be alone, and she isn't afraid to bare her soul in her writing; this is another aspect of journalism that is scary, but ultimately very rewarding.

New contributing writer Amira Abdel-Malek makes a splash here on page 12 by dissecting the latest *Hansel and Gretel* flick; contributing writer Ryan Brezzi delivers a thoughtful opinion piece on how he feels the true cost of the Enbridge pipeline has been successfully swept under the rug.

It's for all of these reasons, and many more, that we salute our volunteers, old, new, and yet to walk through our doors.

-Greg Pratt, editor-in-chief
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

20 years ago in *Nexus*



Static prevails: It's amazing, really: thumbing through our February 8, 1993 issue, one is taken by how the same struggles remain. A protest centered on rising tuition fees; trying to raise awareness about sexual harassment; indoor soccer. Well, maybe that last one isn't on the forefront of everyone's mind these days, but the rest of this issue is full of topics that still are (and, one thinks, always will be) relevant to students.

RIP to these words: Sometimes you come across an old ad and get a bit teary-eyed thinking that there is an extremely real possibility that those same words will never get printed again. For example, an in-house *Nexus* ad in this issue said, and I quote: "Would you like to do paste-up for the *Nexus* every 2nd Thursday for 2-4 hours???" First person to email us who knows what paste-up IS gets a free CD (if anyone remembers what those are).

Headwork: Not sure if anything came out of this, but we put a call out in this issue for a potential column called *Head to Head*, where two people would face off on a hot-button subject. Sounds fun; anyone interested? Let us know and we'll make this one happen!

open space

Public losing sight of pipeline's true detriment

Enbridge and the government have done a great job of taking the public's eyes away from what really matters and, in effect, blindsided it of its power.

RYAN BREZZI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In order for BC residents to get some bucks back in their pockets, they need an oil spill.

If you think about it, logically, there would be several benefits for residents in the case of an oil spill. Think about all the homeless and jobless people that could be given work and taught better values through being hired to clean up the spilled oil. Think about all the publicity the BC coast would get, which would attract tourists in the long term. Or, even better, think about the out-of-work fishermen who could assist in the cleanup of the oil slicks formed across the ocean's surface.

Of course, that's not what business interests are promoting, but our ignorance would certainly be their bliss.

Opponents of the Northern Gateway Pipeline project are debating about economic benefit versus economic detriment. But are monetary probabilities really the most important concerns? These money issues are just a distraction.

Enbridge and the government have done a great job of taking the public's eyes away from what really

matters and, in effect, robbed it of its power. We could argue about money all day and never come to any shared conclusion. More important moral and ethical concerns in building a 1,100-kilometre pipeline across some of the world's most sensitive ecological landscapes have been brushed under the rug.

Figures have come out regarding losses and gains in the case of an oil spill. UBC Fisheries crunched Enbridge's numbers and claim if there is no oil spill the project will produce a net economic gain of \$628 million, if there is a minor oil spill it will produce \$439 million, and even in the case of a major spill it would still produce \$320 million in economic gains. This does not include clean-up costs, which are estimated at anywhere between \$2.4 billion and \$9.6 billion and would wipe out any potential gains.

(The UBC study was partly paid for by a group opposing the pipeline, although UBC says the group had no input in the study; Enbridge has taken issue with the study, saying it compares economic benefits that are likely to occur against oil spills that aren't as likely to occur.)

Obviously, the point being emphasized by Enbridge is that even if a horrific oil spill occurs, there's no need to worry: there will still be economic gains, and all will be okay.

Early in the debate the negative impact an oil spill would have on the west coast environment and people's lifestyles gave the people the power to truly stamp this project into the ground. Over the course of the project's development these issues have been overlooked as too impossible to find a solution to, and money was ushered to the front stage as the glitzy star.

Don't be tricked into believing the hype around economic gains and losses. There are more important concerns to think about than just economic ones. It's evident that Enbridge only thinks about money. Let's not be duped today, and save ourselves from being duped tomorrow.

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

SPEAK UP

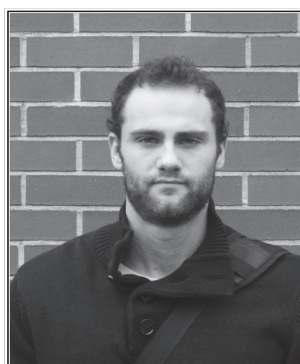
What do you think of food trucks on campus?

BY DAMEN KORKORAS



AARON STEVENS

"I like the food trucks. I generally don't go to them, but every once in a while I'll get lunch from there."



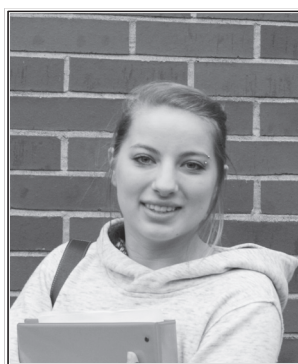
GILBERT BILODEA

"I think it takes away from the student cafeteria lounge."



MICHELLE FITCHETT

"I think they're a good idea, but I've never eaten there before."



BREANNE HAUFF

"I like them; I like them a lot."



BREA CHIPMAN

"I like to eat from the cafeteria because I'd rather support the school."



TJ NYCE

"The food trucks are great. I love getting that Pig burger before class."

awareness

Camosun student society joins global activist movement

“Gender-based violence is a very serious issue.”

MEGAN MARSHALL
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

DAMEN KORKORAS
STAFF WRITER

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) has announced they will join One Billion Rising, a global activist movement aimed at ending violence against women, in raising awareness about gender-based violence.

In support of One Billion Rising, the CCSS Women’s Centre will host a Vagina Day dance party and an after-party refreshment period on February 13 for supporters to raise awareness, show support, and discuss the cause.

According to One Billion Rising, one out of three women and young girls (one billion, globally) will be raped, killed, and/or violated during their lifetime. The organization started Vagina Day 15 years ago; this is the first year that the CCSS has organized a Vagina Day event.

On February 14 (the CCSS opted to have their awareness-raising event a day earlier due to scheduling reasons), women around the world will walk away from their homes, businesses, and jobs, and unite to dance in a show of collective advocacy.

According to CCSS women’s director Megan Marshall, the campaign is very important, as it shines light on a very serious issue for women all over the world.

“This touches so many people’s lives,” she says.

Marshall urges all students to come to the events and show their support.

“Gender-based violence is a very serious issue,” she says, “and

it shouldn’t be okay to have physical or sexual acts of violence against anyone.”

According to first-year psychology student Tasha Jaffey, violence against women isn’t a single-sided issue. “If we’re speaking about western culture, in my experience, I just think it’s just as much a woman’s responsibility to not be in that situation in the first place,” says Jaffey.

Marshall is aware of the challenges around getting students to attend the events, but she remains optimistic about One Billion Rising and believes that the momentum it has produced will only continue in the future.

“This is an international day of action and there are walkouts and millions of people taking action all over the world,” says Marshall. “The whole point is to get one billion people to say no to violence against women. That’s why the average student should show their support.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

Megan Marshall, Camosun College Student Society women’s director.

issues

Government faces heat after student loan privacy breach

SEAN BRADY
THE OMEGA/SPECIAL TO NEXUS

Those affected by the student loan privacy breach announced on Jan. 11 are organizing and demanding government accountability.

A Facebook group called Student Loan Borrowers Affected by the HRSDC Privacy Breach, comprised of 2,459 borrowers as of January 31, has formed, with more than 250 of them signing a letter released on January 28.

The letter expresses concerns over Human Resources and Skills Development Canada’s (HRSDC) latest solution to the breach, an offer of a free fraud alert flag provided by credit bureau Equifax, something HRSDC said normally costs \$5.

“What HRSDC purchased from Equifax was a unique solution that was designed specifically for this particular incident,” says Alyson

Queen, HRSDC communications director. “It’s not the free service. This is added for six years. We’re currently trying to work with other authorized financial institutions.”

On January 23, two days before HRSDC began offering fraud alerts through Equifax, Canada’s other national credit bureau, TransUnion, began charging \$5 to enable fraud alerts. Both bureaus offer credit-monitoring services starting at \$14.95 per month.

“I can’t afford the \$30 to \$40 per month in fees for credit monitoring packages from both bureaus,” says UBC grad Nick Hall. “Those affected should not be out of pocket for the way the government has mishandled their information.”

Many borrowers are still waiting on promised correspondence from HRSDC containing information on credit-protection services offered

and further information about what to do next. When one Facebook group member asked if anyone had received a letter, not one of the 70 respondents had.

“The letters are going out for everyone for whom we have current contact information,” says Queen. “The department stopped sending letters for a short period of time, just so that any future letters that were being sent would have information on the credit protection.”

Prince Edward Island post-secondary student Amanda Thoy started the Facebook group on January 12, hoping to provide a forum for those affected to voice concerns. The group grew quickly and Thoy struggled to keep up with membership demand.

“We have now become more of an awareness group speaking out against HRSDC,” says Thoy,



ANDY WHITELEY

Those affected by the HRSDC privacy breach are organizing to be heard.

asserting the department’s dealings with the public had not been honest. “Many Canadians are still not aware this breach has happened.”

On November 5, 2012, an

HRSDC employee discovered a hard drive containing the personal information of 583,000 student loan borrowers was missing. The public was notified 67 days later.

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun president addresses chamber

On January 29, Camosun College president Kathryn Laurin addressed the role of the college as a key economic driver for business and the city at the Victoria Chamber of Commerce’s business leaders luncheon. Presently, skills shortages can be found in shipbuilding, construction, mechanical trades, healthcare, and technology. Laurin spoke on how Camosun has enthusiastically made a decision to meet those demands. The federal and provincial governments granted the college \$35 million to help create a new trades education and innovation building at the Interurban campus in response to the growing demand for skilled labor and technical workers. Camosun is also focused on training more registered

nurses, athletic therapists, continuing care assistants, and community mental health specialists to meet demands for skilled healthcare employees, all points that Laurin related to the chamber.

Provincial job deficit on the horizon

According to the BC labour market profile, a severe skills shortage will hit the province in 2016, and it will continue to grow until decisions are made to improve access to postsecondary education. If action isn’t taken, approximately 18,800 jobs will go unfilled due to the significant number of unqualified British Columbians by the year 2020, according to the profile. Out of the unfilled jobs, 8,400 will require a university degree, 8,100 a college credential, and 2,300 trades training. “To secure tomorrow’s jobs and

to power a strong economy driven by new ideas and innovation, BC needs to expand the capacity of its nationally recognized postsecondary system and make it possible for every qualified British Columbian to build a bright future,” said University of Victoria president David Turpin in a press release.

UVic employees ratify agreement

John Yap, minister of advanced education, innovation and technology, recently announced that the University of Victoria and CUPE Local 4163 Component III have ratified their agreement under the 2012 Cooperative Gains Mandate. The two-year agreement provides for wage increases funded from savings found within existing budgets, as required under the 2012 Cooperative Gains Mandate. The provincial

government has stated that there aren’t adequate funds available for wage increases. The Cooperative Gains Mandate provides public-sector employers with the ability to negotiate modest wage increases funded from savings within existing budgets, not adding costs to taxpayers and ratepayers, and not sacrificing services.

Community workers strike

More than 800 community living workers from 10 different agencies in Victoria went on strike on Thursday, January 31. Members of The Hospital Employees’ Union were on strike from 8 am to 4 pm on Blanshard Street between Tolmie and Cloverdale in an attempt to get higher wages for their sector. Community Social Services (CSS) reps say funding is less than adequate

and workers are underpaid. CSS workers are among the most underpaid employees in the public sector and wages have decreased by \$1 over the past 10 years. CSS claims many workers can’t make ends meet and have taken on a second job, while some have decided to leave the sector for good. The striking workers are employed by over 10 organizations, which include Beacon Support Services, Community Living Victoria, and Crossroads Human Services.

-DAMEN KORKORAS

Got a news tip? Send an email to editor@nexusnewspaper.com to let us know what you know!

politics

Camosun alumnus Rob Fleming looks ahead as MLA

“The problem with being so split up in 13 municipalities is that we don’t speak with one voice on infrastructure and we don’t appear to have a big enough population to have so many municipalities.”

ROB FLEMING
VICTORIA-SWAN LAKE MLA

2005 and 2009 respectively, Fleming has had a natural interest in politics that started in high school (he was later elected a student union representative during his postsecondary years).

“My experiences at Camosun and UVic are invaluable,” says Fleming, “those experiences kindled my interest in politics.”

Fleming’s first accomplishment occurred when he became chair of the UVic Student Society (UVSS). He worked to improve public transit to Camosun and UVic and negotiated to get student bus passes. You know that little plastic card in your wallet that you swipe to get on the bus every morning and go to class? You can thank Fleming for that one.

Fleming is also the environmental critic for his party. The NDP is against the proposed pipeline and believes the province—as a non-partisan decision—will never approve such a project due to environmental risks, according to Fleming. “The NDP will never support a pipeline,” says Fleming.

No city is without problems; Victoria has several issues to deal with. Among these issues, the city faces an infrastructure obstacle. Fleming says Victoria would benefit greatly from a light rail transit system (LRT).

“I’ve always been a proponent

of LRT,” says Fleming, “the benefit of LRT greatly outweighs the cost... for the first time ever, BC transit—as a crown corporation—has recommended to the minister of transportation that LRT is the preferred technology of transportation when the capital region is ready to make a decision on this issue.”

Improving public transportation is an issue the city must operate around, but Fleming also believes part of the problem comes down to several municipalities being divided on issues.

“There is a case to be made for better structure that’s more responsive,” says Fleming, “the problem with being so split up in 13 municipalities is that we don’t speak with one voice on infrastructure and we don’t appear to have a big enough population to have so many municipalities, despite the fact that we’re considered a major Canadian city. There’re big opportunity costs and prices to pay for being so divided.”

There’s no telling when or if LRT will ever become a reality in Victoria; for now, Fleming has an upcoming election to win and a seat to keep in the next few months.

The MLA is optimistic that his party will win the provincial election in May and he says he looks forward to getting down to work and serving the public needs.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Victoria-Swan Lake MLA and Camosun alumnus Rob Fleming.

DAMEN KORKORAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before he was an MLA, Rob Fleming was a student politician. Representing the Victoria-Swan Lake area as a New Democrat MLA since being elected and re-elected in

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Call, email, stop by.
We want to hear your story tips.

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NEXUS

eyed on campus


Idle No More rally takes to the streets

See something interesting on campus? Snap a picture of it and send it to editor@nexusnewspaper.com and we just might print it!



ALL PHOTOS BY DAPHNE SHAED

Nexus columnist Daphne Shaed was at one of the local Idle No More rallies recently and snapped these shots of the crowd in action.



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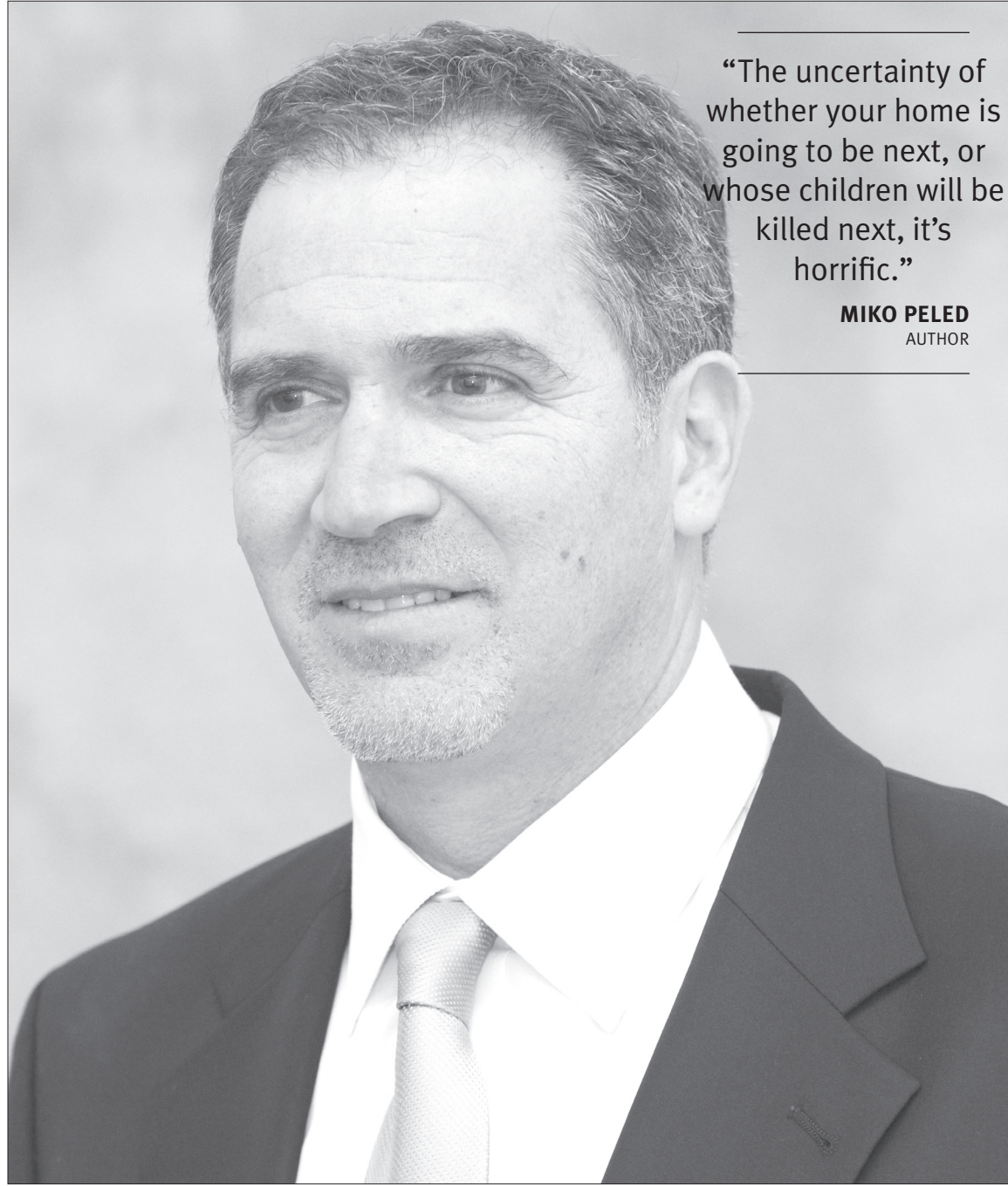


University of Victoria

School of Child & Youth Care

middle east

Peled to talk about a new Israel



“The uncertainty of whether your home is going to be next, or whose children will be killed next, it’s horrific.”

MIKO PELED
AUTHOR

PHOTO PROVIDED

Miko Peled, an Israeli living in the US, will be speaking at UVic about his thoughts on the Middle East situation.

CRYSTAL DERRY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Miko Peled went from being a Zionist and patriotic Israeli to a pro-Palestinian peace activist, he says, once he discovered Palestine and the Palestinian people.

Peled, the author of the memoir *The General's Son*, is coming to the University of Victoria to talk about his journey in a speech entitled *Beyond Zionism: A New Paradigm for Palestine/Israel*.

“Israel is so segregated, as an Israeli you’re not exposed to that,

you don’t see Palestinians anywhere,” says Peled, who currently lives in the US.

Peled will be speaking about his experiences with the conflict in Israel and what he feels is necessary for Israel to gain real democracy. He says that in order for the land to be shared, both sides need to have equal rights and the opportunity to flourish under one mutually beneficial government.

“My solution would be to allow everyone equal rights and establish a state that’s not a Jewish state for

all of its citizens, and allow everybody to vote,” says Peled. “It would first of all take recognition that it’s okay there won’t be a Jewish state. In fact, it’s better for everybody if there’s not.”



After three attempts, Peled was recently able to enter Gaza by tunnel and saw for himself where two million Palestinians currently live. He was amazed by what he says are harsh living conditions and dwindling resources due to restrictions placed on Palestinians by Israeli law.

“The uncertainty of whether your home is going to be next, or whose children will be killed next, it’s horrific,” he says. “Then, on the other hand, you see life going on... trying to make the best of an impossible situation.”

Peled says Gaza has the potential to be a flourishing place if restrictions are lifted. He claims positive change is possible, not only in our lifetimes, but in the next few years if people will act for the good of the Palestinian people, starting here in North America.

“It’s doable in all of our lifetimes; it’s not something that is like a nature disaster, or a famine, or something,” he says. “These are all conditions created by people and conditions that can be changed by people.”

Miko Peled: Beyond Zionism
7 pm, Friday, February 8
David Strong Building, Room
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style

Fashion has never made it so easy to run in heels



PHOTOS BY KATE MASTERS/NEXUS

On the left: a shoe. Other picture: a shoe. They're facing each other. They are different colours.

KATE MASTERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Call them ugly, call them fashionable, call them whatever you wish, but wedge sneakers are a trend and they've finally hit Victoria. Wedge sneakers are like Uggs for fashion-conscious people, because even they need to relax, right? It was almost like Uggs hired a plastic surgeon and stylist and completely reinvented themselves as the new, more over-the-top stylish alternative to lazy shoes.

Wedge sneakers are defined by their hidden wedge and lace-up or Velcro exterior. Love it or hate it, there's just something about wedge sneakers' sports-luxe appearance that piques people's interest.

Even in sleepy, conservative Victoria, which tends to favour a vintage west coast look, the trend

of wedge sneakers is catching on. Jason Tuttle, owner of Complex Clothing on Johnson St., has been carrying Nike's take on the wedge sneaker trend.

"Regular sneakers are not always the most flattering look."

ALEISHA GAGE-COLE
FOOTLOOSE SHOES

"Girls that are in the know are up on the hidden wedge sneaker trend," explains Tuttle. "In my opinion the Isabel Marant wedge sneakers made a huge impact and spawned a grip of knockoffs, as well as more original and slightly more

functional wedge-sneaker styles like the Nike Dunk Sky Hi."

Since Isabel Marant debuted her Willow Wedge sneakers as part of her spring 2012 collection, celebrities and street-style bloggers everywhere have been embracing the trend. Kate Bosworth, Beyonce, Lucy Liu, and Alicia Keys are just a few celebrities of note sporting the trend. But Tuttle believes wedge sneakers are for "any fashion-forward woman."

Footloose Shoes on Fort St. has ordered in Ash wedge sneakers for spring. Store manager Aleisha Gage-Cole thinks the target market for wedge sneakers is 15-30-year-olds, and she's excited to see how Victorians will react to them in general.

"Wedge sneakers are a fun twist on something that most women

don't want to wear as an everyday shoe," says Gage-Cole. "Regular sneakers are not always the most flattering look. Adding a slight wedge gives a whole different fashionable and comfortable feel to sneakers, and lends itself to dresses and skirts."

Top fashion bloggers, such as Chiara Ferragni of The Blonde Salad and Leandra Medine of The Man Repeller, have been wearing the shoes for over a year now. Edmonton-based street-style blogger Alyssa Lau, who has been featured in Fashion Magazine's Style Panel and runs her own blog, has embraced the trend as well.

"Wedge sneakers are both comfortable and a practical way to spice up an outfit, yet keep your feet safe from sprained ankles and cramping toes," says Lau.

Lau recommends wearing wedge sneakers with a casual sporty look, but admits they can be worn with almost anything if you keep an open mind.

"When I wear wedge sneakers," says Lau, "I'll usually wear them with some denim shorts and a plain white tee."

Tuttle emphasizes simplicity when pairing wedge sneakers with an outfit.

"They look great with skinny jeans and leggings with an oversized tank," says Tuttle.

Whether they are practical or impractical, a fad or rad, fashion has spoken and wedge sneakers are going to be a trend for the foreseeable future.

Yes, maybe you won't remember them in 10 years, but they are current right now.

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camosun's student voice since 1990

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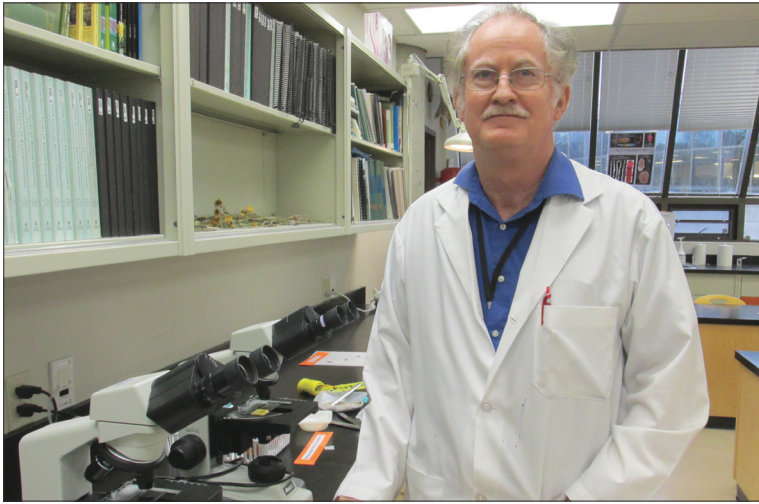
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romance

One is the loneliest number

~NOT



Camosun College's Geoff Haywood.

“It is far better to wait to be with the right partner, than to be with the wrong one just to avoid being alone.”

GEOFF HAYWOOD
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

JEAN OLIVER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“One is the loneliest number that you’ll ever do, two can be as bad as one/it’s the loneliest number since the number one.” Two infamous lines from the song “One,” by Harry Nilsson, appear to clinch the whole single-versus-couple debate. But can we even argue on the merits of two completely different modes of being? It might be like trying to win the NRA over to the idea of pacifism: can’t be done.

The real problem is, of course, loneliness. On Facebook in early January, a woman posted how upset she was at not having a date for Valentine’s Day. Fearful of the stigma of being alone, she had become a victim of the same commercializing monster who tells us if we don’t kiss someone at midnight on New Year’s Eve, we really are a total loser.

We have so many of these pariah-like days where advertisers prey on our self-esteem until it plunges into despair—and we’ll basically do whatever they tell us to.

Valentine’s Day has nothing to do with love and is all about selling alcohol and chocolates. But, as that young woman is evidence of, the pressure to conform by coupling is, well, stiff.

The origins of the Saint Valentine legend are vague, and love had nothing to do with him, either, although marriage did. And Valentine did send a card signed, “From your Valentine” to the daughter of his jailer.

History tells us it was not a love note and that in this use of the word “your” it’s, grammatically speaking, a “determiner,” so the jury is out on that one. Regardless, Valentine was in jail (and subsequently beheaded) because he had pissed the Romans off by secretly marrying Christians (oh, and curing his jailor’s blind-

ness—apparently miracles and marriages were against Roman law).

It would seem unlucky to be a couple in his day, so where did the “be my Valentine” come from? The mystery deepens because he may or may not have died on February 14; it may have been in May. The point is, no valentines were exchanged. The whole idea of exchanging love notes got started hundreds of years later with Chaucer and his dreary poems. We really should be calling it Chaucer’s Day.

Being married can give many people a sense of security. It did for me, but I was far lonelier in my marriage than now on my own. Marriage is one of those social constructs I was slow to analyze as not being a good fit for me. It makes me nervous that we have warped the idea of commitment to mean we can be forced to stay together, and behave however we like in the process.

I’ve been on my own since my divorce in 2003, although I did test drive two popular dating sites, Plenty of Fish and LavaLife, but those online encounters were so bizarre someone really should look into them before somebody gets sold into sex slavery or something. The question nowadays, in terms of finding a partner or some friends to hang out with, is how to do so safely and hassle-free.

The Victoria Friends Meetup Group is a good example of how singles and couples can meet, and there’s no awkwardness over the bill.

Jason Gillies, part of the leadership team of this recreational miracle, arrived in Victoria in the spring of 2008, freshly severed by a divorce. His family convinced him to start over by coming home and he describes that trip back to the island

with nostalgic affection.

“I quit my job, gave away my stuff, packed a rudimentary kit in the smallest U-Haul I could rent, and drove west until I hit water,” he says.

Gillies found work in Victoria in IT, and soon all the pieces were in place. Except he was lonely.

“For three years it was tough, until it occurred to me I was meeting a lot of people who were all tourists. I Googled ‘social groups’ and found Meetup. Within a couple of months I had met hundreds of great people. [Victoria Friends co-leader] Kerry Conrad and I took on the group about a year ago, and we love to stress the fact that Victoria Friends is not just for singles; there are many couples, too. Not only that, there’s no fear of rejection, we’re inclusive. You’d have to try hard to be thrown out of our groups.”

Gillies suggests we might all be happier if we had more fun together. He explains how partnering with some planning is a healthy approach to finding that special someone, or special friends.

“Friendship can start out as organized, it doesn’t have to be random,” he says. “When you find yourself suddenly alone, you’re in a semi-unnatural period. The levels of loneliness you experience are created by your background and values. Friendships can be choreographed from a social perspective, rather than a romantic one.”

Geoff Haywood, a biology instructor at Camosun College, has an interesting take on the chemistry of the couple versus the single.

“There is evidence supporting the idea that humans evolved from large groups of smaller females protected by one physically much larger male to the modern, mostly similar-sized couple,” explains Haywood. “This eliminated the need

“Friendships can be choreographed from a social perspective, rather than a romantic one.”

JASON GILLIES
VICTORIA FRIENDS MEETUP
GROUP



PHOTOS BY JEAN OLIVER/NEXUS

Jason Gillies of Victoria Friends Meetup Group.

for a lone-male protector element. At the same time males evolved to spending more time with one companion and their offspring, as opposed to the more distant relationships of the harem.”

Perhaps we’re now evolving to a place where couples aren’t always necessary anymore. Either way, it might have saved my marriage knowing that as our larger, knuckle-dragging male husbands became closer in size to the females, science and evolution dictated we were supposed to share more of the housework and childcare.

Haywood offers sage advice to evolving Valentine lonely hearts: “It is far better to wait to be with the right partner, than to be with the wrong one just to avoid being alone.”

Pondering the problem of successful ones and twos, what about couples who do work well as a team? Six mornings a week, Michael Forbes and Lisa Marshall get up in the middle of the night and go to work together at 98.5 The Ocean, where from inside our radio they help us rise with the sun in a better mood.

Not only do they work well together, they are raising two kids, and they make time to give back to our community. Even more impressive, they never bring in any of their baggage on air.

Marshall, with her quiet steadiness and wry humour, explains loneliness as if nurturing an inward place of acceptance.

“I haven’t had a lot of loneliness in my relationships; most have been positive and happy,” she says. “I’ve spent time developing an inner awareness I have found quite comforting. Being the mother of two boys, who are sports and soccer fanatics like their dad, I can sometimes feel left out, but as any mother

of boys can relate to, it just comes along with the package.”

Forbes has a concerned, good-natured remark on the topic of loneliness.

“Loneliness is unique to everyone and might rear its head in young men and women because of an artificial deadline of when they think they *should* be in a relationship, have children, etc. If by a certain age they haven’t realized these life goals, there may be a tendency to think there is something wrong with them, which in turn may fuel loneliness,” he says.

Forbes also has a view on turning down the intensity of Valentine’s Day and finding alternatives.

“Not that I ignore it, but Valentine’s Day is low-key in our house; we don’t need a special day to show a person that they are loved,” he says. “It may be possible to love your own company, but loneliness can creep in. Filling that void does not have to come from a partner. It could be from friends, pets, or an inner faith.”

Finding someone doesn’t have to hurt. We don’t have to be lonely.

We have two choices: we can wait passively for the unlikely event of Cupid’s arrow finding us (while weeping sadly about our lot on Facebook or elsewhere online), or we can orchestrate friendships that grow slowly over time, eventually bearing fruit.

I’ve been telling friends I haven’t time for socializing. But the truth is, I’m terrified. I question my ability to choose someone who won’t annihilate the real me.

Terrified? Yes. But, lonely? No.

I’m satisfied with who I am and that my life goals are on track.

That didn’t stop me from buying a Victoria Friends membership, though. Just in case.

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exhibit

Artists take a crack at Carroll classic

“So many phenomenal artists throughout time have done work for *Alice in Wonderland*.”

TARA WILLIAMSON
ARTIST



PHOTO PROVIDED

One of Carollyne Yardley's pieces from *Curiouser*, paying homage to a classic story.

NICOLE BENETEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For those looking for a journey down the rabbit hole, the upcoming show at the Fifty Fifty Arts Collective is sure to scratch that adventurous itch. *Curiouser: Contemporary Responses to Alice in Wonderland* is a collection of works from over 15 BC artists that explores some of the iconic imagery found in Lewis Carroll's famous stories.

Laurie Luck, curator at the Fifty Fifty, found inspiration to curate the show not only in her love of the books, but also in her personal ties to where Carroll did his writing.

“I find Oxford to be exceedingly romantic. I was born there and we lived there for a year when I was a baby,” says Luck. “Whenever I’ve been back, it’s amazing just being around the college in that sort of patina of academia, with the ascending staircases that disappear into nowhere. It’s just such a rich

environment that I like to transport myself back there.”

When it came to getting artists to participate in the show, Luck found Victoria to be a rich resource for the style she was after.

“I was starting to see some really interesting work, especially with some of the illustrators in town, lots of surreal artwork,” she says. “The show is a nice combination of media: photography, sculpture, jewelry, printmaking, painting, film. They all take from different levels of the book.”

Local artist Tara Williamson

jumped at the chance to join some of the greats with an *Alice*-themed creation of her own.

“So many phenomenal artists throughout time have done work for *Alice in Wonderland*,” says Williamson. “I can’t really touch [English book illustrator] Arthur Rackham’s version, but it is fun to reinterpret such a classic piece of literature.”

While re-imagining whimsical scenes may seem like fun and games, Williamson found there to be obstacles in the creative process.

“I re-read *Alice in Wonderland*

and I found that challenging,” she says. “I think it’s because the language is so archaic and there’s a lot of repetition. Alice says the same thing over and over through the entire book. She is almost the worst protagonist ever.”

In re-reading the Victorian classic, Williamson found the richness of imagery presented a challenge of its own.

“As much as the protagonist is annoying, the imagery in the book is really unique and weird, so I was having a hard time deciding on what part of the book I wanted to adapt,”

she says. “I didn’t want to fall into the trap of doing a stereotypical Disney representation of it.”

While they might not share the same love of the Alice character, Luck and Williamson agree that the world that Carroll created so long ago has an undeniable staying power.

“The books have been translated into 47 different languages and I suppose that’s just a testament to how original they are and how much these characters stand out,” says Luck. “The very vivid imagery that you get from them is what’s really powerful about them.”

Curiouser: Contemporary Responses to Alice in Wonderland
February 22 to March 17
The Fifty Fifty Arts Collective
(2516 Douglas Ave.)
thefiftyfifty.net

performance

Cheesecake Burlesque gear up for annual bump and grind

JASON SCHREURS
MANAGING EDITOR

In a lot of ways, Valentine’s Day is the perfect time for burlesque. And if it’s Cheesecake Burlesque’s annual Bump and Grind Valentine show, even better.

Cheesecake, a local burlesque troupe formed in 2006, has never shied away from the more dramatic elements of the skin-tastic art form. In their latest show, it’s not just those who are madly in love that are being covered, thematically; it’s also the lonely and broken-hearted, according to organizers.

“We’re all hopeless romantics at heart,” says Stacey Ness (stage name: Miss Kitten Kaboodle), who is sewing sequin ruffles to a skirt in preparation for the February 9 show when *Nexus* reaches her. “There are people who are in love, or those who don’t have love and are lonely, and burlesque can cover all of that.”

For the uninitiated, Ness very aptly describes burlesque as less like a strip tease and more like a short piece of performance art. The

members of one of Victoria’s most popular burlesque troupes each write, produce, choreograph, and star in their respective pieces.

“It’s a little one-person, three-minute play, and, just like any play, it can come from any artistic standpoint with one person being very creative,” says Ness. “And, like theatre, it can come in many different genres.”

With a Valentine’s show that will feature some of Cheesecake’s patented group performances, as well as a few brand new solo numbers from new members, it’s easy to understand why the women of Cheesecake find doing burlesque so exciting. But it’s not the kind of excitement some may think of.

“I don’t get sexually charged to be up there, but certainly there’s a rush to performing. It’s a total extroverted, ‘Hey, look at me’ kind of experience. It’s probably better than sex,” Ness jokes, adding, “Well, it’s different, really.”

Another Cheesecake performer, Betsy Bottom Dollar (who prefers

not to reveal her real name for privacy reasons), was a high-profile performer with a one-woman show called *Diva Las Vegas* and an ’80s-inspired heavy metal band called Whip when she crossed paths with the Cheesecake ladies in 2008.

Bottom Dollar’s involvement in the troupe has taken her on a similar yet different career path. The Cheesecakes have performed in New Orleans, New York, and back in Vegas, where she tried to make a career for herself many years prior.

“I never thought that after all of these years, and at this age, that I’d be taking my clothes off,” says Bottom Dollar. “But with this group of people the creative process is fantastic.”

Besides the Bump and Grind showcase, which is open to everyone, Cheesecake Burlesque is also offering a women-only Sass Class 101 for those interested in the art and history of burlesque.

“For a lot of women, they’ve never been in such a vulnerable



ANDREAS KOCH

The Cheesecake Burlesque troupe is ready for Valentine’s Day.

place,” says Bottom Dollar, “but by the end of the class it’s amazing how much better they feel about themselves. It’s really rewarding for us, and really fun for the women that attend.”

Cheesecake Burlesque
Bump and Grind Valentine
8:30 pm, Saturday, February 9
Metro Theatre, \$22-25
cheesecakeburlesque.com

opera

Albert Herring funny, poignant, inspiring

“Any comedy has poignant underpinnings. It’s not just funny, but also quite touching.”

ROBERT HOLLISTON
ALBERT HERRING



PHOTO PROVIDED

Albert Herring: the sweetest, most confused hero in opera.

INSU KIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What did Benjamin Britten, one of the central figures of 20th-century British classical music, want to tell us through the satire *Albert Herring*? Come find out when Pacific Opera Victoria performs *Herring*, one of Britten’s greatest pieces.

Here’s how the quirky story starts: the town of Loxford needs a Queen of the May, but autocratic lady Billows and her housekeeper like none of the candidates. After

having considerable debate, Billows appoints a King of the May: Albert Herring, surely the sweetest, most confused hero in opera.

Robert Holliston, the principal coach of *Albert Herring*, says the opera is appealing because it’s a comedy and has a happy ending. And the cast of characters is very entertaining.

“The characters, which we can all relate to, are set in a little village,” he says. “It has the internal politics we find in a village, and types of

people we find, and we can identify with them.”

Some of those entertaining characters include a vicar, a mayor, and the aforementioned lady Billows, who comes from the height of the aristocracy and likes to tell people what to do. But underneath the laughter lies something else.

“Any comedy has poignant underpinnings,” says Holliston. “It’s not just funny, but also quite touching.”

Holliston says that audi-

ences also like the fact that it’s in English.

“Most operas we know and love are in foreign languages,” he says. “For those of us who live in an English-speaking world, it is kind of nice to have some masterpieces being put on that are in English. Audiences will appreciate the humor and appreciate being able to identify with the characters, and they will appreciate the music.”

In addition, the story of this opera can give audiences some mo-

tivational lessons about their lives. Holliston says *Albert Herring* tells people it’s possible to thwart those in power and to get what you want out of life by “being yourself, finding yourself, and squeezing every drop of juice out of life,” he says. “It’s very inspirational.”

Albert Herring
February 7, 9, 15, 17
Royal Theatre
rmts.bc.ca

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Thursday, Feb. 14th

MUSIC BINGO @ 7:30

CHOCOLATE PRIZES

event

Victoria Tea Festival continues to grow



S. CUTLER

If last year's tea fest is any indicator, this year's will be a sippin' good time.

INSU KIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase." Seeing the amount of vendors and attendees at previous years of the Victoria Tea Festival, you just might be reminded of this phrase from the Bible. It sounds dramatic, but the fest has seen dramatic growth: it started very small and is now the largest tea exhibition in North America.

Lisa Stekelenburg, Victoria Tea Festival chair, says that the festival was started back in 2007

as a fundraiser for Camosun's child care services, where she also works as manager.

"If we have to replace our equipment or do something out in the yards, we don't have that kind of money," she says. "A lot of things cost a lot of money in child care."

So a tea fest was born. When they created the festival, they had no idea that it would be as successful as it is now. They expect around 3,000 people to attend this year.

A big reason the festival became successful is that the tea industry is growing up in North America; just

look at all the specialty tea stores in Victoria. Despite the increasing competition, the festival has the leading edge that helped take it to a new level.

"The unique thing about this festival is that it is very intimate, in the sense that exhibitors are either selling or demonstrating whatever they have, and do a lot to engage with attendees," says Stekelenburg.

Exhibitors at the festival will talk about a variety of aspects of tea: why their green tea is important, how many different antioxidants are

available, where they can get their green tea from, how you prepare tea, and how different ceremonial aspects of each country are, according to Stekelenburg.

Stekelenburg mentions that as well as the educational presentations, Spinnakers will be at the festival, blending tea in beer to create a craft beer tea ale. Also, festival-goers will have the chance to taste mystery chocolate infused with tea and to indulge in various forms of tea that are combined with different foods or drinks.

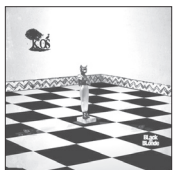
The fest has taken on a life of its

own, and now serves many causes. It's somewhere for lovers of tea to meet up; it's a fundraiser; it's bringing people to Victoria.

"We wanted to create a fundraiser that was significant enough to raise significant dollars," says Stekelenburg, "as well as to be a destination for the city of Victoria."

The Victoria Tea Festival
Saturday, February 9
Crystal Garden (713 Douglas)
victoriateafestival.com

New Music Revue



k-os
Black on Blonde
(Universal Music)
4/5

After nearly 20 years in the music industry, k-os (real name: Kevin Brereton) is releasing his most personal and revealing batch of tunes. Apparently he's got a lot of friends and a lot to say, as this latest selection is a double album full of rap, rock, and guest appearances by some of Canadian music's elite.

Black, the rap disc, pumps out funk with guest vocals by Emily Haines of Metric, Travié McCoy of Gym Class Heroes, and '80s Canadian icon Corey Hart. k-os never surrenders his eclecticism, playing everything from piano to acoustic guitar, while still bringing club-ready booty shakers. Standouts like "C.L.A." and "Mojo On" keep your backbone sliding.

Blonde brings less club funk without sacrificing catchiness. Calling this the "rock" album is a stretch, but there's more of a live band feel here, even with the obvious drum machine. Toes will tap to tracks like the Neil Young-sampled "Play This Game" or the synth "Alone in My Car."

-DAN DARLING



Henry Wagons
Expecting Company?
(Spunk/Thirty Tigers)
2.5/5

Henry Wagons' *Expecting Company?* really isn't what I was expecting.

Though it appears to be a country album, *Expecting Company?* sounds heavily influenced by the gypsy music that people in fedoras or corsets play at Fringe festivals. The album might fit better as the soundtrack to a vampire rock opera than something you'd hear in a dusty saloon.

Expecting Company? comes off as this outlaw piece of Americana, but quite clearly from an outsider's perspective. Henry Wagons really tries to go for a Johnny Cash sound with his vocals, but it sounds more like an impersonation, and everything else tries to sound like a nightmare Las Vegas carnival.

That being said, there are some interesting instrumental parts scattered throughout the EP, as well as some catchy melodies. Overall, though, *Expecting Company?* seems like an act.

-NICK JOY

movie review

Hansel and Gretel flick fun, problematic



PHOTO PROVIDED

Is that Hansel? Is that Gretel? Apparently, it is, in this modern remake of the classic fairytale.

AMIRA ABDEL-MALEK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Modern fairy tales are nothing new. They continue to be popular, and, as a fan myself, I anticipated *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters* with both excitement and dread. Dread because these authorless tales have become huge franchises. I wonder if their underlying ideologies differ much from their origins and, if so, what that means for audiences.

As the title promises, *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters* is a self-referential, ironic take on the original story. Here's what the viewer gets (deep breath): CGI-injected scary witches, PG-13-erotic 'good'

witches, an attractive Gretel fighting in a corset, an artistically compelling opening sequence, a diabetic Hansel, gore of the gooiest calibre, a slightly uncomfortable brother/sister dynamic, a troll slave with a heart of gold, and a welcome cameo by German actor Peter Stormare (*The Big Lebowski*). Phew! Oh, and it's in 3-D.

There are some problematic elements in the film. Gretel gets punched in the face way too many times (and not by witches). She becomes unconscious at the mercy of male characters (twice!), and is groped during one of these naps. Heroines are allowed to be vulnerable, but giving her a big gun doesn't

save Gretel from being another girl in need of saving.

Also, this movie endorses the whole "beautiful equals good" thing, which goes back to Glenda's statement from *The Wizard of Oz* that "only bad witches are ugly." According to Hansel, witches can be detected by their rotting teeth and bad skin: it's all rather retrogressive.

If you have a witch craving, watch *Hocus Pocus*, *The Witches*, *Practical Magic*, or *The Witches of Eastwick* instead. I can't promise that some of the above elements aren't present, but the plot and characters actually make up for them.

Gendered Empire



Sexe empire

A guide to thinking about gender in Western culture through the sociological lens of transsexual Daphne Shaed.

Un guide de réflexion sur l'égalité des sexes dans la culture occidentale à travers l'esprit sociologique d'une transsexuelle, Daphne Shaed.



**Wednesday February 27th, 2013 at 5pm
Lansdowne Campus, Fisher Building 100**

**mercredi 27 février 2013 à 17:00,
au campus de Lansdowne, Fisher 100**



Sour Grapes

by Nicole Beneteau

Veggie cats and dogs



MIKE BAIRD

Someone loves their doggy.

Just the other day, a question popped into my brain which, like a Zen master speaking about one hand clapping, left me confused and curious. Mainly, I couldn't believe I had never given the topic much thought, but now I kept asking myself this question: what do vegetarians and vegans feed their pets?

Everyone has those pious Facebook friends who post the more-than-occasional article espousing the benefits of veganism prefaced by some passive-aggressive statement about the evils of meat eating. Of course it's not coincidental that most of these people own dogs or cats. Many people choose not to eat meat because of their love and respect for animals, so pet ownership seems to be a natural choice.

At first, this question of what non-meat-eaters feed their furry friends was just a flash in my brainpan and nothing more than a thing to make me go "hmm." But then, the more I thought about it, the more it actually made me angry.

I have spent years attempting to be a healthy and ethical consumer only to be told that unless I am a vegetarian or vegan, I am announcing to the world that I despise (and would gladly see slaughtered) all animalkind. And then what do I see but those very same Facebook preachers posing with their cute little pooches. These people have just been conveniently glossing over

the fact that, while they might not eat meat, they are gladly supporting an industry which is probably the furthest thing from free-range you can get.

"How can you preach about animal welfare when you have a dog?" I thought, indignantly. "What the hell do you feed him? VEGETABLES?"

Well, as it turns out, that is exactly what some people are doing. In fact, there are quite a few dog food companies, with names like V-Dog and Nature's Recipe, which specialize in vegetarian pet foods. Even Ellen DeGeneres is on the vegan dog food train as a spokesperson for "holistic pet care" company Halo. Not to mention the variety of recipes to be found on sites like peta.org.

Of course, there is no shortage of arguments against the use of vegan pet foods. Some call it unethical to push our lifestyle choices onto animals that can't help their instincts, while others point to proof that dogs and cats can live long and happy lives on sweet potatoes and lentils.

Needless to say, a quick Google search was all it took to take me from enraged to enlightened. But I still wonder how widespread this practice is among the vegetarian/vegan community. My guess is, not too many people are dishing out their dog's dinner from the same pot as their own.

A MESSAGE

FROM THE CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

Conference energizes

by Madeline Keller-MacLeod
CCSS external executive

At the end of January, the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) sent 14 delegates to the 31st annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students-BC.

As a member local of the CFS-BC, we regularly send students and staff to these meetings, where we are able to network with other student activists from around the province and learn about current issues affecting British Columbians. Especially for new delegates, these meetings are a chance to understand how membership in the CFS-BC makes the CCSS stronger.

This year, delegates were educated on many topics, such as tax issues and reform possibilities in BC, working-class poverty, and how to organize effectively by utilizing different strategies and tactics to achieve our goals.

Another powerful discussion that occurred surrounded the Idle No More movement: what it meant to us and how we were getting involved.

The campaigns committee helped us set goals and got us thinking about the different ways that we can implement our Rock the Vote BC campaign, which, above all, aims to increase student voter turnout in the upcoming BC election.

After spending a weekend with some of the most dedicated student activists in the province, it's hard not to feel a renewed sense of passion for the work that we do.

Through our strength in numbers, we work collectively to ensure equality of access to postsecondary education and for social justice for all British Columbians.



Noms!

by Patrick Hallihan

In review: My Chosen Café

My Chosen Café is a great place when you don't know where to go. Why? The food is awesome, and it's nowhere near where anyone lives, so anyone you want to meet for a bite can't complain about it being further from them than it is from you. I figure it's an equal opportunity sort of thing.

While, admittedly, I'm not sure how they figure they are a "café," as they are very much a restaurant, it's also the number-one rated restaurant in the West Shore, according to *Urban Spoon*. And to get the city folk to commute all the way out to the heart of Metchosin, it has to be good.

My Chosen Café is interesting because not only does it have food, but there's a small "zoo" out back with some animals (mostly goats), and there's also a gift shop inside with some neat stuff.

As for the décor, it's got the old west vibe going on. There's paraphernalia all around the place, and the whole thing is painted to look like the inside of a barn (hay not included). They did a really great job with the décor, as it does give that western feeling, but it never feels tacky, and it actually gives the place a nice, homey feel.

The service is always pretty good, too, especially when you consider how busy they almost always are.

They serve most of the restaurant staples like steak and burgers, but also offer some slightly less common items like stir fries. Regardless of what you order, you'll get a massive portion of whatever it is, and probably more fries than you can eat.

But beyond sheer quantity, they also do quite well on quality.

My Chosen, without a doubt, has my favourite burger ever: their bacon cheeseburger. While there's not necessarily anything unique about this burger, it's just a burger done right. Real beef patty cooked on a grill, fresh bun, real bacon, some veggies, cheese, and condiments.

Another favourite of mine is the fish 'n' chips, which comes with two large pieces of battered halibut, a massive helping of French fries, and the obligatory coleslaw that no one but me ever eats... which is also pretty good, even if it's just coleslaw.

My Chosen Café serves awesome food, the prices are quite reasonable, portions are huge, and they even offer a gluten-sensitive menu for those who require one.

So, find that friend you never really hang out with but has a car, invite them to dinner, and suggest My Chosen Café. (Have I mentioned that it's awesome yet?)



In Search of Last Time

by Daphne Shaed
camosun college pride centre

Human agency for everyone

Self-identity can be a hard concept to grasp for most people. Further, identities that lie outside of the strong currents of hegemony can be difficult and sometimes be seen as impossible to claim.

Many social mechanisms are in place in personal networks and institutions that disfavour identities viewed as deviant, such as homosexuality, transgender, and polyamory.

First-person authority becomes more complex when other factors enter into the equation, such as developmental disabilities because guardians ignore or deny availability for people to determine their own innate sexuality or gender.

Part of this stems from the concern of guardians

that such identities will further compound and frustrate the lives of people with mental or physical disabilities, and isolate them further from the availability of sex and love.

The stereotypes surrounding disabilities need to be deconstructed and educational tools need to be placed in the hands of guardians about sexuality and gender so that barriers and limits to self-identity can be adequately removed.

Every single person deserves the opportunity to live their life with confidence and support for their true nature.

Our society has much work to do before we can truly regard ourselves as civilized.



Speaker's Corner

by Jean Oliver
camosun college toastmasters

All together now

US leadership developer and coach Art Petty offers group project tips free on his blog to make them accessible to everyone because "everyone's doing it, and many are not doing it well," he says on the blog.

Group projects are the foundation of your future. Whether you're a Starbucks barista or a CEO, you will have to know how to mesh with a team. Using Petty's tips and my own experience with increasingly successful group projects at Camosun, I put together some tips. Try them out; they should help:

- Integrate the group members by making sure everyone sees the bigger picture, so they invest in the project.
- Is your presentation interesting to your group?
- Use a snappy opening, key points, a summary

of key findings, and bits to take away from your presentation.

- Build from one voice. Petty says each member doing their own slides is like putting your points through a blender.
- Use transitions and have a beginning, middle, main-point climax, and ending.
- Check your attitude at the door. Put the group, and your audience, first.
- Before your presentation: smile, look up, remember to project, and modulate your voice.
- During: add enthusiasm.
- Afterwards: finish on time and include a question-and-answer period.
- Wrap up: thank your audience, and be original with your closing remarks. Perhaps a quote—and candy is always well received. Good luck!



Ability's Muse

by Rachael Grant
camosun college students with (dis)abilities collective

Offensive words can hurt

It's common practice in today's society to say what's on your mind without considering the implications. What we say can make or break a relationship, build a person up, or bring them to their knees. Words are far more powerful than we give them credit for.

A word that I hear at an alarming frequency is "retarded." Anything that could be labelled as absurd, ill conceived, or illogical is often expressed with this word. It's an outdated medical term referring to developmental (dis)ability and it comes with a long, dark history of neglect, abuse, and oppression. When this word is uttered, it comes with that baggage and hate, despite the user's intention.

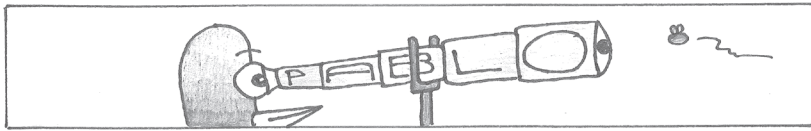
So, should we all go read up on how to be politically

correct and live in fear of being offensive, or looked down upon for not being up to speed with the current ways of vocalizing our opinions? No.

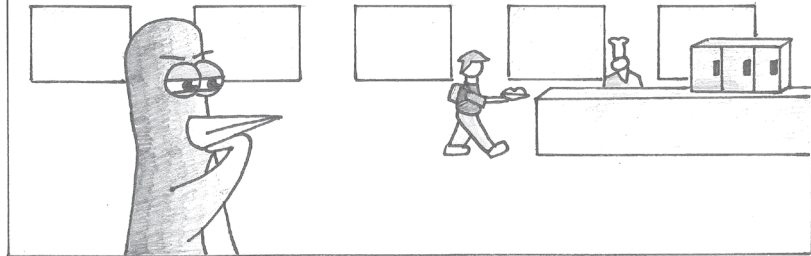
I don't like the term "politically correct." I prefer "collaborative language": contributing to a conversation rather than devaluing others and stripping individuals and cultures of respect. Enough repression is already being perpetuated without ignorant and counterproductive speech.

So before saying "retarded," I strongly suggest doing some research to have some idea of what's actually being said. In the meantime, if it's difficult to think of something less hurtful and ignorant to say, get a bloody dictionary.

Pablo By Pedro Banman



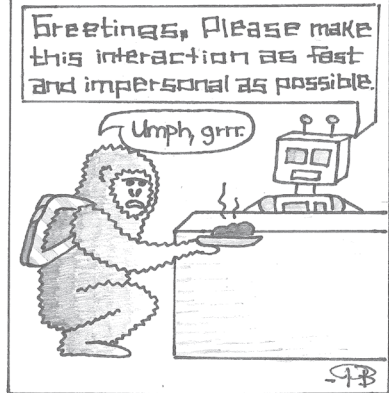
During just another weekday lunch hour, Pablo unassumingly observes the human condition from within the college cafeteria.



The Interaction:



What Pablo Sees:



Luke Sanity Deprived By Lucas Dahl

There's more than one way to skin a dead cat.



Ski Ninjas By Kyle Lees (The Argus)



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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Zion-I, Wilderness Crew, A-1

CLUB 90NE9, \$17.50-\$20.50, 9 PM
Do you know how many kids Bob Marley had? Okay, so that's a loaded question. Obviously I wouldn't ask if it weren't remarkably high. Go ahead and take a guess. Ballpark it. I don't need it to be exact. Did you guess 11? Well if you did, you're close. Depending on the source, Marley may have had 13 children with 9 different ladies. So much for that rumour that ganja lowers your sperm count.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

The Chantrelles, Bobby D & His Lovers, The New Souls

UPSTAIRS CABARET, \$8, 10 PM
Stop me if you've heard this before. I can't stand mushrooms. It was one of those food-isms that I inherited from my dad. He couldn't do rhubarb, either. I guess he ate too much growing up, to the point of making him physically sick. At a dinner party one night a friend of his decided to test him with a piece of strawberry rhubarb pie. Needless to say, that night ended up being a lot messier than expected.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra, High Society

Club 90NE9, \$12.50-\$14.50, 9 pm
I was so spoiled growing up. I got into movies for free. My dad was friends with the theatre owner so I

got some special privileges. There was a private area upstairs beside the camera room with big cushy La-Z-Boy chairs. Usually popcorn was on the house. I remember once the film melted about 20 minutes into a showing of *Spies Like Us*. I'm glad we didn't stick around for that one. What a stinker.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Gram Parsons Tribute featuring Carolyn Mark, MD Wren, Dylan Stone, Dan Wisenburger, Cluny Macpherson, Chris Van Sickle, Geoff Howe

LOGAN'S PUB, \$8, 10 PM
I ended up in Cleveland, Ohio for a week with a friend of mine. We were terrible at research and planning, so instead of being there for a huge skateboarding competition, we ended up at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and saw a few Major League Baseball games. Basically just did touristy things to pass the time. What did I learn from that trip? Make sure to double-check your dates when travelling. Planning things from the previous year's website can really ruin your mojo.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Downlink, Butch Clancy, DJ AppleCat

SUGAR NIGHTCLUB, \$24, 10 PM
I feel like a lot of today's electronic dance music could really benefit from the voice of the Cylons in the original *Battlestar Galactica*. Have

you ever seen the little robot dog that the little boy in the original series had? I think they called it Muffit. Ah, 1978 sci-fi. Google a picture of that thing. Looks like a big orange raccoon with armour. But, hey, when you really need a best friend, build one.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Redwood Green, Small Town Villains, Adam Barter, DJ Hayz

LUCKY BAR, \$10, 9 PM
I think that Manflu outbreak has finally caught up with me. It must be all that testosterone that messed with my brain's thermometer when I was going through puberty. Guys really have it rough. When we're sick, we are really sick. What hurts even more is the way our girlfriends and wives treat us in our time of need. No sympathy, I tell you.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Gramatik, DJ Generic, Georgia Murray

SUGAR NIGHTCLUB, \$16.80, 10 PM
Dating a drama queen can be stressful, but the entertainment value is unmatched. What really ups the ante is when you break up but still see each other in all the old familiar places. Like at the bar she serves liquor in. Have you ever had a highball glass thrown against a rock wall a foot from your head? Now that's an unexpected rush. I'm surprised the bouncer didn't throw her out. I stayed to dance, but got my drinks elsewhere.

eye on campus

by Damen Korkoras

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Tools of manipulation

The Victoria Peace Coalition and the UVic social justice studies department will be hosting a presentation and workshop at UVic's MacLaurin building on February 6. This seminar is the first part of the series *The History of the Media: Tools of Manipulation*, and it will feature Bo Filter, author of the book *The Cause of War and Aggression*. Filter will demonstrate the difference between informed consent and manufactured consent.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Islamic terrorism and the media

The second part of the series *The History of the Media: Tools of Manipulation*, presented by the Victoria Peace Coalition and the UVic social justice studies department, focuses on Islamic terrorism and the western media's narratives. (Did you go to the first part, on February 6? See above listing!) Mehdi Najari, radio producer and on-air host of CFUV's *The Hidden News*, will host the event. Admission to the event is free.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Life happens group

Are you depressed, anxious, confused, and/or frustrated about anything? Do you require some insight about how to set and accomplish goals? This seven-session group is offered by Camosun College Counselling Services and will be held in Dawson 202, Lansdowne. Registration starts on the week of February 11. Call 250-370-3571 for more information.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Suddenly Dance

Suddenly Dance theatre will celebrate their 20th anniversary with a premiere of the dance-play *Kiki*. For the first time ever, Suddenly Dance is hosting a performance specifically for young audiences. The act is written and created by Dave Ferguson, stars Jung Ah Chung, and features songs by Miles Lowry. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased through the Royal McPherson box office. Go to rmts.bc.ca for more info.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Swing music event

Queen City Chapter 5 is hosting a swing music concert. This special performance concert features the 80 voices of the Starlight Pops Choir, featuring vocalist Sue Doman. They are supported by Phil Hallman's four-piece rhythm combo, with guest performances by trumpeter Dave Fello and the Swing Dance Association of Victoria. Tickets are \$25 and the show runs from 3-5 pm at Alix Goolden Performance Hall.

UNTIL FEBRUARY 15

Food survey

Camosun College Ancillary Services is providing students an opportunity to give feedback on the college cafeteria food. Students can recommend anything they think needs to be changed and see their ideas improve Camosun College food services. The biannual survey is available for students to take part in now and will be available until Friday, February 15. Go to bit.ly/XT3QqD to take the survey.

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