

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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SEND A LETTER

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

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "What?"

COVER PHOTOS:
Art show: Artwork by Julien Loissele
Talent show: Insu Kim

editor's letter

Something to write in about

I didn't get a chance to write the editor's letter last time around. Not because I was too busy, or too lazy, or forgot (disclaimer: I might have forgot). We received so many long, insightful letters last issue that they took over the page.

Hey, I don't mind taking a back seat to the opinions and thoughts of the readers. Without them, it's hard for us to gauge what's working and what's not, what topics are getting you riled up and what's making you roll your eyes. So, by all means, keep them coming in.

There's plenty of letter-writing material to be found in this issue. Our feature story, on page 6, finds contributing writer Rachael Grant tackling another big subject after last issue's much-talked-about Kevin Neish profile piece. Here, Grant is looking at feminism on today's college campuses.

On page 3, contributing writer Damen Korkoras takes a look at a radical new open textbook program that could save students hundreds of dollars per semester if it goes through.

Here on page 2, contributing writer Jean Oliver talks about how she gave up math for years, returned to it, aced a test, and is pissed.

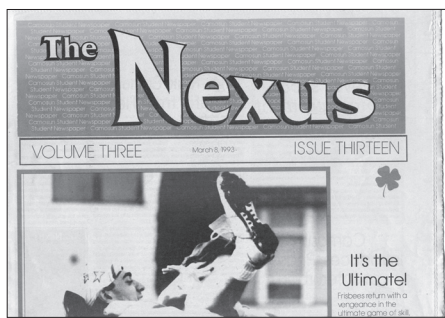
We have some new contributors to welcome to the fold once again in this issue: Shaylah Annand critiques Hollerado's new disc on page 8, and we have the debut of *Earth Council*, a new comic by Adrian Behennah on page 11.

So keep writing your letters, letting us know your thoughts and feedback on what works and doesn't work for you, the readers. It's easily one of the most interesting and fun aspects of being part of a student newspaper.

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

flashback

20 years ago in *Nexus*



Bookstore retorts: So, last issue in this column we talked about how way back in our February 22, 1993 issue, letter-writer Anton Prins expressed concern over the bookstore using 182 pieces of paper to promote Valentine's Day. Well, in our March 8, 1993 issue, Camosun bookstore manager Darla Stipanovich sent in a letter of her own. "We used recycled paper," she verified, and they "also kept every sheet of it to use again next year." The sheets of paper were also, she pointed out, used to raise awareness regarding HIV/AIDS.

Uh, can we print a retraction on this?: Also in this issue, we ran an article in which we raved about creative resumes. "The ingenious resume will seldom be forgotten,"

we said, before talking about resumes that were designed as wanted ads and that contained "catchy phrases that sell the reader" on the first page. Hey, it was 20 years ago, cut us some slack. Just please, never, ever design your resume as a wanted ad.

Earth person = bitter person: Alan Callbeck's *Earth Person Commentary* was always an entertaining and well-written column. In this issue, one wonders if the dual tasks of studying and being a budding journalist were getting to Callbeck. He ends his thought-provoking column, where he claims that we cannot destroy nature because we are not powerful enough, with this: "Are we, in reality, no more than body lice?" Ouch.

open space

The trouble with math

JEAN OLIVER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last Wednesday I wrote my first math test since I gave up on the subject in 1974. I scored 94 percent, and I'm angry.

For 37 years I knew I was "no good at math," but after only a month, a little gumption, and lots of help from my math teacher, I receive an almost perfect score? Talk about confusing, but there was no doubt, I knew I'd aced it; what gives?

Why punish myself with learning math at my advanced age? Because two years ago, during a sit-down with academic advising, I learned the psychology associate degree required similar courses to the ones I was taking for creative writing. I made the decision at that time to pursue the psych classes, for fun. I knew I'd never finish something so academic in nature.

Now I find myself within three classes of completing the psych degree. What would you do? Quit or go forward? And so, I find myself suffering concurrently with math upgrading, while I limp my way through Biology 102 and tackle Biology 103 in September. Only then will I face off with Psych 201, which has a prerequisite of Grade 11 math. I barely have Grade 9.

As near as I can figure out, it will take me the next four semesters to get my Grade 11. Continuing on means I interrupt my writing goals for another 18 months to finish one class! Good thing I'm stubborn.

But how did it happen that I spent all of high school, and my life to date, thinking this way? Worse, I let my kids believe they couldn't learn math either. "You're artists! Writers!" I declared.

As if it helped, we "knew" we weren't "smart." Somewhere along the way I bought into the lie that some of us are either good academically, or we're not. The truth is, the "good" part is a combination of the right teacher meeting the right attitude.

Skills like math and art aren't signs of intelligence or aptitude in a kid. They are signals of something either going right or wrong in their life. Delving into what's wrong will foster self-esteem and motivate them to want to learn.

Camosun's system of self-paced upgrading and phenomenally patient (and kind) math teachers should be replicated in grade schools.

Somehow we have to find a way as a society to wait up for those who are lagging behind.

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

letters

Retail retaliation

Awwwww... Victoria's ridiculously overpriced men's clothing stores might suffer a dip in sales ("Opening of Uptown's H&M met with excitement from shoppers, concern from retailers," February 20 issue). That's sooooo sad. H&M is the bomb. Outlooks For Men and those stores can take a hike. Try being reasonably priced: that might help.

KEVIN GINLEY
VIA NEXUS' FACEBOOK PAGE

Magee mayhem

Brandon Magee is by far the most exciting Royals player to watch ("Magee pursuing his dream with Victoria Royals," February 20 issue). I agree with the author of this

story when he says that this guy is giving it all every time he's on the ice. I really hope he can make the jump to the pros; hopefully his size won't hold him back. Thanks for the great article.

BLAKE
VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

Human shield thumbs-up

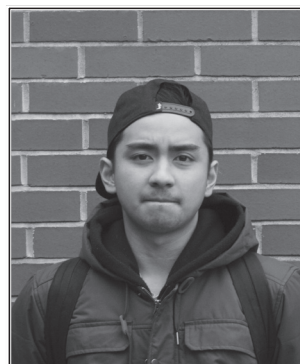
As a member of the public, I would like to say thank you so much for the article on Kevin Neish ("Occupation: human shield," February 20 issue). It was very well written and presented news the mainstream press so often ignores.

TERRI HUNTER
COMMUNITY MEMBER

SPEAK UP

Has social media made your life easier or harder?

BY DAMEN KORKORAS



EDDIE PABLICO

"It hasn't really affected me, but we're definitely more exposed to it."



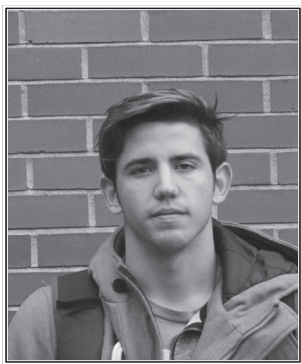
MARK WRIGHT

"Definitely for the worse; we're way too attached to it."



HANNA SMYAH

"It keeps us updated, but it's also a big distraction."



CARLOS MENA

"It's good and bad, but, I don't know, it's not going to leave any time soon."



ASHLEY HAZEL

"It's positive and negative, but let's focus on the positive. We know what's going on around us and it keeps you updated."



MEGAN EGGENERGER

"Most of my family is far away, so it's good that it keeps me connected to them."

education

New textbook program to save students money



DAMEN KORKORAS/NEXUS

Camosun College's Sybil Harrison is optimistic about open textbooks.

“There’s an opportunity that textbooks will be more than just textbooks.”

SYBIL HARRISON
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

DAMEN KORKORAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A new program will grant BC students easier and inexpensive access to their textbooks. Under the new open textbook program, which could be implemented as early as September, postsecondary students in select courses will be able to read their texts online, download them for free, and print them for a fraction of the price of a physical copy.

In October, Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology John Yap announced the new program for 40 high-enrollment and high-impact first- and second-year postsecondary courses. Close to 200,000 BC students could benefit from this project, each saving hundreds of dollars on textbooks annually.

BCcampus, a publicly funded organization that aims to make higher education available to everyone through the use of collaborative

information technology services, will coordinate the new textbooks project.

The BCcampus Strategic Council has chosen 16 representatives to serve on its open textbook subcommittee. Among them is Camosun College librarian Sybil Harrison, who believes the program will save students money.

“The whole open textbook initiative is about reducing costs and opening up access and we want to take away the payment wall as a barrier,” says Harrison. “To produce these textbooks, there are costs involved, but at the point of the user accessing the material, payment is not a barrier. And that, fundamentally, is what open publishing is about.”

According to Harrison, savings aren’t the only benefit to the textbook program.

“It opens up the door to some really exciting possibilities,” she

says. “It really takes advantage of the digital environment in different ways of publishing and there’s an opportunity that textbooks will be more than just textbooks, and integrating other content.”

Some Camosun students support the idea of an open textbook program, mainly due to cost savings and the utilization of technology.

“We talk a lot about iPads, tablets, and things, and putting all your books on there, and everyone has those. I just took three classes and I had to pay something like \$400 for books. So I think it’s a good idea,” says physics student Nathan Linford.

Criminal justice student Ashley Johns agrees. “It would be pretty sweet if textbooks were free. They’re definitely a huge cost, especially with tuition.”

Madeline Keller-MacLeod, external affairs executive of the Camosun College Student Society,

says the student group also likes the new program.

“Anything that’s going to save students money is going to increase access to education and it’s obviously something we support,” says Keller-MacLeod. “It’s a great tool, but I think the only problem may be getting teachers to use it. New technology might take some time to get over.”

Presently, the project is in the beginning phases and only available for first- and second-year courses in the United States, mainly California and Washington. BC hopes to start the program as early as September.

According to Tori Klassen, BCcampus director of communications, the program faces a few hurdles. First, only a handful of courses in BC can utilize this new program and secondly, the concept of open source textbooks itself is still premature.

“We’ve got some funding from the provincial government to target 40 courses. Out of all the courses in postsecondary institutions, 40 is not a lot,” says Klassen. “However, we’re following the footsteps of some initiatives that are already happening in Washington and California. As a matter of fact, we will be getting together with our colleagues in those states to see where we can work together.”

Since open textbooks are digital and open source, instructors will be able to find content that matches their subject and make any needed adjustments to effectively integrate the material into their own classes.

“If they have a textbook in one area already, then we don’t need to rewrite the textbook because they’re licensed with creative commons and free to use,” says Klassen. “We can take and adapt them to a BC perspective and vice-versa.”

NEWS BRIEFS

CCSS overcharges for U-Pass

An error on the part of the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) related to the monthly U-Pass was recently discovered by the college. Members of the CCSS accidentally had the college collect \$1 per month more than was needed, and the CCSS and college agreed that refunding students the \$1 would be expensive, tedious, and complex. Section 7 of the U-Pass contract allows Camosun College and the CCSS to alter the amount of the institutional subsidy without reference to BC Transit or the Victoria Regional Transit Commission. Camosun College and the CCSS agreed to reduce the institutional parking subsidy to the U-Pass program from \$1/month to \$0 for each enrolled member from September 1, 2012 until such time as Camosun is able to collect the correct fee from students. The U-Pass institutional subsidy will then revert to \$1 per

month per enrolled student.

Women’s volleyball winner

Camosun Chargers women’s volleyball team captain Hilary Graham was recently named the PACWEST (Pacific Western Athletic Association) Women’s Volleyball Athlete of the Week. Graham, a graduate of Mark R. Isfeld Secondary in Courtenay, ranks amongst the league leaders in kills per set, aces per set and total offense.

Dental program needs patients

People looking for low-cost, professional dental hygiene care are invited to contact Camosun’s dental health education centre at the Lansdowne Campus. Customized preventive services may include full assessment, removal of bacterial deposits (tartar), polishing, fluoride, x-rays, and sealants. Adult clients are advised to book a

free 15-minute screening session to assess which services may be required. A special screening clinic is also being offered on the morning of Thursday, March 14. Treatments may be booked on weekdays, as well as on Monday evenings. Total costs for adults will be \$60 or less. Children don’t require a screening appointment and parents may book hygiene appointments for children at a maximum cost of \$20 per child. Clients of all ages are welcome. Dental hygiene students provide these services under the direct supervision of experienced and licensed program faculty.

Student aid upgrades

By March 2014, planned improvements to online student loans will help students manage their accounts and access funds more quickly by allowing them to apply for a loan, confirm their enrollment, and complete other important actions. In addition, further enhancements will provide institu-

tions with enhanced e-services and self-service tools to speed up their access, decrease their workload, and ultimately reduce costs. These improvements are being implemented in response to student feedback received last summer. Students wanted a system that provided more timely service (especially around helping them get funds faster), made it easier to apply for loans with a fully electronic application process, and made it easier and quicker to find out the status of their account.

BC budget 2013

The provincial government released what it calls a “balanced” and “credible” budget, but, according to some, it spells more bad news for the postsecondary sector. Lucia Orser, director of external relations at the UVic Students’ Society (UVSS), stated in a press release that “the BC Liberals missed a golden opportunity to put postsecondary at the front of their family-first agenda

and BC Jobs Plan going into May’s provincial election. If we are going to address the skills shortage in this province and make education more accessible, a \$46 million cut in core-funding over three years is not the path to achieve this goal.” BC is the only province in Canada without a needs-based grants program. It charges the highest interest on student loans in the country and its students graduate with an average debt of \$27,000. “In study after study, postsecondary education is identified as the number one driver of economic growth and job creation: a fact recognized by other provinces across Canada regardless of their governing party’s ideology,” said Orser.

-DAMEN KORKORAS

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

event

Camosun cultural talent show returns



CRYSTAL DERRY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Showcasing Camosun College's rich diversity, the annual cultural talent show is back for another year. International students come to the college from all over the world with their unique talents, and Peer Connections and Camosun's International department are presenting the talent show for the fifth year.

"We realize that international

students at Camosun play a more and more important role and we have a lot of different students coming from every part of the world every year," says talent show stage manager and Camosun student Geng Wang. "We want to gather them together and give them an opportunity to get an idea about other cultures."

The talent show will have a variety of acts from the internation-



PHOTOS BY INSU KIM

Valeria Sorokina singing and Xu Hangtian dancing at last year's cultural talent show.

al students currently attending Camosun, many of whom will be performing their musical talents, including playing instruments, singing, and dancing.

"We have many different performers from different cultures and they come to our show to perform things from their own countries," says Wang. "Some people will choose singing, some people will choose dancing... there's performers where one plays violin and the other plays piano, they will play a song together."

This will be Wang's second time as stage manager, a role he took on last year to become a part of this event, which is important to the international students of Camosun. Instead of contributing a performance to the event, he used his talents in organizing and leadership to take part.

"Last year we didn't have any people from the previous years to guide us," says Wang. "I wanted to provide my abilities, and I just want to be involved in this event."

The success of the event holds

a special place for Wang, who likes to see the talents of international students showcased.

"Last year people said it was successful and I felt so proud of the volunteers," says Wang. "They put a lot of effort and time into it. Sometimes I want to say the cultural talent show is kind of my child."

Cultural Talent Show
6:30 pm Monday, March 18
Young 216, Lansdowne, free
peerconnections@
camosun.bc.ca

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NEXUS

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fashion

Distressed denim shorts DIY



“Mom jeans” are defined as loose-fitting, high-waist, slightly tapered jeans.

KATE MASTERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Distressed denim has been a trend for several years now and the shredded sensation shows no signs of stopping for this spring and summer. And while it may seem early, why not get a jump on getting ready for shorts weather? Instead of purchasing ripped, holey clothing for unreasonable prices, why not invest a little time and do it yourself?

In my instructions I hadn't washed my shorts, so the frayed edges haven't become as fluffy as they will be once I wash them. The whole process took me about two and a half hours to complete, but a large portion of that was spent watching TV and fraying the edges.

Supplies:

- “Mom jeans”
- Scissors
- Sharpie
- Metal kitchen tongs
- Tweezers
- Tape measure

Steps

Step 1: Go to a thrift store and pick out a pair of “mom jeans.” “Mom jeans” are defined as loose-fitting, high-waist, slightly tapered jeans. Finding a good pair of “mom jeans” is key, because they are loose around the thigh. Skinny jeans will not work for this DIY exercise.



Step 2: Find a pair of shorts that you already own and like the length of. Measure the inseam. Remember it or write it down; mine is 8 cm.



Step 3: Measure 8 cm on the inseam of your “mom jeans” and make your first mark. Make your second mark 3 cm down the leg of the pant from the first mark.



Step 4: Make a third mark parallel to the first mark on the outside leg of the pant.

Step 5: Now draw a line from the second mark on the inseam to the third mark you made on the outside leg of the pant.

Step 6: Cut along the line. Try the pants on again: if you like the length, skip ahead to step 9.



Step 7: If you find the length too long, fold the pants up to where you would like the hem to be. Remember to leave two centimetres of extra material, because when the edges are frayed they will get shorter.



Step 8: Carefully take the shorts off and cut to your folds. Don't worry if the front looks shorter than the back, it has to be to accommodate the butt.

Step 9: When you are happy with the first pant leg, cut the other one the same.

Step 10: Fray the edges with a pair of metal tongs.



Step 11: To make frayed holes in the shorts, pinch the fabric vertically and cut a line horizontally. You might be able to see the threads more clearly if you turn the shorts inside out. Cut another line about one centimeter away from the first. Repeat until you think the hole will be big enough.



Step 12: Since you want the white frayed strings to appear in the hole, take a pair of tweezers and pull out the vertical blue threads. This will take quite a while, but you can easily queue up a TV show and watch it while you fray.



Step 13: Try the shorts on again and make sure everything looks good. If so, you're done!

social issues

Lines in the sand: equality and sexism on campus

“Many of the classes I have taken have taught me about mostly white men, with one day reserved for recognizing that women actually matter.”

MADLINE KELLER-MACLEOD
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

“In the wide range of student issues that have come to my attention over the past five years, I do not recall having seen any examples of either individual or systemic discrimination towards women.”

CARTER MACDONALD
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

RACHAEL GRANT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

International Women’s Day is a day meant for reflection and action based on the progression of women’s rights. Events will be held worldwide, and Camosun is no exception.

This day, meant to perpetuate acceptance and equality, is often met with a clash of opinions and perspectives. But how is Camosun College doing with equality and rights for women on its campuses?

Madeline Keller-MacLeod, external affairs executive for the Camosun College Student Society, has seen sexism on campus. Keller-MacLeod says these issues are especially prominent in trades programs.

“Sexism in the trades is something that I am very eager to work on calling out and challenging,” says Keller-MacLeod, also the incoming women’s liaison for the Canadian Federation of Students-BC.

Meanwhile, Camosun College VP of education John Boraas believes that, in general, there is equality for women and men on campus, at least in terms of numbers.

“There is certainly equality on the campuses, generally,” says Boraas. “In fact, as in much of postsecondary education, women are now outnumbering men on campus.”

Boraas says the college encourages female participation in a full range of programs, including the

trades. He also says that a specialized Women in Trades program has been developed to create a “direct pathway” for women getting into trades at the college.

“The success of this program has been amazing, with a huge majority of participating students transitioning on to apprenticeship programs,” says Boraas. “Camosun is really excited about the success of the Women into the Trades programming.”

Camosun’s ombudsman Carter MacDonald says that when it comes to sexism and oppression against women on campus, he hasn’t seen much evidence to support claims of a problem.

“Women are treated equally on our campuses,” says MacDonald. “In the wide range of student issues that have come to my attention over the past five years, I do not recall having seen any examples of either individual or systemic discrimination towards women.”

Keller-MacLeod, however, says much work needs to be done in order to claim that Camosun is free of sexism and truly equal for women and men.

“I would also like to see the recognition of the importance of women incorporated more evenly into classes,” she says. “For example, many of the classes I have taken have taught me about mostly white men for almost the entire semester, with one day reserved for recognizing that women actually

matter. It is incredibly important that educators recognize that the contribution of women is always important, even if the kind of work that women usually do is often not regarded as important.”

Keller-MacLeod also warns that sexism is not just a women’s issue. “Students need to be more generally aware of what sexism can look like, and also that it is a problem that everyone should care about, and then I hope more people will call out sexism when they see it or experience it.”

The advances society has made in women’s rights are undeniable, but according to some students, there is still a long way to go.

“Women are still being treated unequally in some areas, even though there have been some structural improvements,” says Gina Marelli, a former Camosun student who is currently studying at the University of Victoria.

Some students also feel that the ratio of women to men doesn’t mean that there’s equality.

“I’ve experienced sexism, usually in the form of micro-aggressions, frequently at postsecondary institutions,” says Hannah Jones, a student majoring in women’s studies at UVic. “One of the subtle forms of sexism can be seen by reading almost any university syllabus. I have taken many creative writing classes at UVic where, out of about 25 writing samples read over the term, two might be by women...

this eventually contributed to me leaving the department.”

And while there are services available for women on most university and college campuses, including Camosun and UVic, Jones says professors in the mainstream faculties need to learn more about the issues.

“Just because there’s a class on women’s literature doesn’t mean that there shouldn’t be women represented in core English lit courses,” she says.

These students aren’t the only ones who feel that sexism is a prominent problem in our society. The “Who Needs Feminism?” campaign, a popular meme designed to engage men and women in contemplating feminism and why it’s important to them from their personal view, is an example of the response many have to the inequalities they feel are shaping our everyday interactions.

This campaign has become an important vehicle in addressing the belief that we live our lives with little influence from sexism. When asked why they needed feminism, students had a great deal to contribute.

“I need feminism so I can be sure that it is me who gets to decide what I wear, what I am emotionally and physically capable of, and what career I set out to do,” says UVic student Kim Collis, who formerly went to Camosun. “Those liberties should be personal, not granted upon me by an outdated societal

belief system.”

International Women’s Day is a great reminder that we have come a long way as a society, and that we have a fair amount of work to do in the realm of gender equality. The fact remains that we live in a world where there are women who are assaulted, oppressed, or even killed for being women. There are many reasons that our world needs feminism, according to Danielle Robbins, a second-year community family and child studies student at Camosun.

“I should be able to state my feelings towards certain things without being called sensitive,” says Robbins. “I need feminism because people think that because I’m shy I can’t change the world.”

According to third-year Camosun university transfer student Rita Wakelin, feminism is meant to contribute towards a society in which all are treated with respect and dignity.

“Until the day comes that I can go for a walk at night and never once feel vulnerable because of my gender,” says Wakelin, “I will need feminism.”

An International Women’s Day rally takes place on Friday, March 8, starting at 11 am in the Fisher courtyard, Lansdowne. An open house will follow at the Lansdowne women’s centre, located on the ground floor of the Richmond House. All are welcome.



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students

Camosun arts studio hosts WHL hockey player

“Pottery gives you that chance to relax and get away from the hard practices and excruciating games, so it’s a nice time to let your body and mind rest.”

BEN WALKER
VICTORIA ROYALS

JASON SCHREURS
MANAGING EDITOR

If you see a guy with flaming red hair in the visual arts pottery studio at the Lansdowne campus, you might just have a budding Western Hockey League star in your midst.

Victoria Royals right winger Ben Walker has been doing pottery as an independent study through Camosun College since January, but before you go and ask him how his team is doing, or to sign your Royals jersey, consider this: maybe he’s here to get away from the game for a bit and tap into his off-ice creativity.

Although, with Walker recently

caught in action in the pottery studio by a CTV camera crew, his cover is probably blown.

“Usually there’s two or three students in the studio at the same time as me working on their stuff and you kind of make small talk when you’re in there,” says Walker. “But, to be honest, I try to keep who I am as quiet as possible.”

Walker, a native of Edina, Minnesota, has been with the Royals for the past two years and is currently enjoying a breakout season with 45 points in 51 games. He says he misses his pottery sessions when the Royals hit the road, but every time he comes to the Lansdowne campus he values his time here.

“It’s tough not being able to go in there every day and make something,” says Walker, “but at the same time we’ve got this long and pretty rough hockey schedule. It’s just such a fun thing to throw some clay down on the wheel and relax in the studio.”

Camosun visual arts instructor John Boehme is responsible for overseeing Walker’s independent study. Boehme says the Royals player is a natural for ceramic art.

“He’s great. He’s not the kind of guy to toot his own horn or anything, but his work has been very impressive,” says Boehme. “What he’s done so far has been tremendous, outstanding, and it’s up there

with the work of my second-year students.”

Walker, whose mother is a professional ceramic artist, says he’d like to pursue art after his hockey career is over. When the Royals are in town, Walker does his best to get up to Camosun once or twice a week for several hours and hone his craft.

“It’s something I really like doing and when I’m done hockey I’d really like to go to art school to become a full-time potter,” he says.

Walker sees a lot of similarities between his sport and his study of choice; both require creativity and working with your hands. But it’s the pottery that allows Walker an escape from the rigours of playing upper-level junior hockey.

“Pottery gives you that chance to relax and get away from the hard practices and excruciating games,” he says, “so it’s a nice time to let your body and mind rest and just hang out and have a little fun.”

Walker says his teammates, several of whom are still in Grade 11 and 12, have been supportive of his art, even buying him a sketchbook. So, did he return the favour by making them all signature Ben Walker mugs?

“A few guys have asked me to draw pictures for them,” he laughs, “but, no, no pottery gifts... not yet.”



DAMEN KORKORAS/NEXUS

Camosun student and Victoria Royals player Ben Walker.

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visuals

Local artists flock together like birds of a feather

“There is symbolism with the birds being able to take flight and how us humans create identities for ourselves and what we want to become or be a part of. A lot of times we want to be more than we are.”

ARAM HEINZE
ARTIST

MARIELLE MOODLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Star-crossed artists Julien Loisel and Aram Heinze are teaming up for *Birds of a Feather*, an art exhibition about women, birds, the conflict between beauty and inner demons, and taking flight.

The luck of the draw brought Loisel and Heinze together when they started working together at Spinnakers Brewpub.

“Once we realized we were both

artists, we got talking and realized we had a lot in common artistically, taste-wise,” says Heinze. “We both grew up from different artistic backgrounds, but seem to still have a similar artistic voice.”

For Heinze it was his parents’ artistic influence, art supplies, Spider-Man comics, and album covers that influenced his artistic direction. Loisel, on the other hand, spent time in front of the television studying Saturday-morning cartoons and finding his own inspirations to start on his artistic path.

“Aram’s classical styles and trained techniques of his artwork really inspire me,” says Loisel. “One of my goals with this art exhibit is to help expose him in the local art community.”

Other than these two artists flocking together, another reason for the name *Birds of a Feather* is because Heinze’s subject matter is mainly bird and human anatomy fused together, while Loisel’s is mainly women (to use the lingo of a long-gone era, “birds”).

“The pieces for the show have a lot to do with identity,” says Heinze. “There is symbolism with the birds being able to take flight and how us humans create identities for ourselves and what we want to become or be a part of. A lot of times we want to be more than we are.”

Heinze used classical styles like the old masters, using dark shadows and light highlights for his *Birds of a Feather* series.

“Similar to Rembrandt, I am



AMY LOISELLE

Aram Heinze (left) and Julien Loisel came from different backgrounds to create art together.

focusing on the face while creating rougher brushstrokes for the parts that fall into the shadows, similar to creating a depth of field with a camera,” says Heinze.

Loisel’s last exhibit was his Robot Army series, displayed at Sugar in 2009; he’s only done commission pieces since then. He’s conjured up some ideas reflecting things he’s noticed in society and feels like it’s time to share those ideas through paintings.

“One of my pieces is called *No Longer Haunted By Her Past, She Set Her Sights Towards Her Future*, which features a girl ignoring all of these mean-looking ghosts all around her, and is a message to stay positive,” explains Loisel.

The two artists have similar backgrounds with regards to music and lifestyle but have influenced each other with their unique techniques.

“I come from a graffiti back-

ground, and he comes from a fine arts background,” says Loisel. “I feel that we have influenced each other, with Aram sharing his classical techniques, and me helping him find his artistic voice.”

Birds of a Feather
Until March 31
Incite Screenprinting, 2514
Douglas Street
mergedesigns.ca/incite

theatre

New play looks at surprising history of Victoria’s Plaza Hotel

STACEY YOUNG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The play *Ghosts of the Plaza* has elements of comedy and drama, and it also has a musical number. However, that’s not all it has to offer. Between all that, it manages to incorporate a part of Victoria’s history into the show.

“A history that hasn’t really been looked at,” says play co-writer Sarah Smith, who is also a Cheesecake Burlesque Revue performer.

The play looks at the history of the 102-year-old Plaza Hotel, famous for housing the exotic show-room/peeler joint Monty’s. As a former employee of the Plaza, Smith came into contact with numerous stories and became curious about the origins of the building.

“For years I wanted to do the research to find out what happened here. Everyone would always talk about it and ask, ‘I wonder what this place used to be?’ I would be like, ‘I’m going to find out,’” says Smith.

On the chase to discover the true history of the plaza, Smith and play co-writer Sadie Forbes became interested not only in the Plaza itself but also its street district. “We did the research through the archives, and looked at the directory and



ZORA FEREN

Sadie Forbes, Sarah Smith, and Rosie Bitts of *Ghosts of the Plaza*.

traced the names of businesses, of the proprietors, and all the businesses that were on that block, not just the actual hotel.”

And what they found was more than what they could have hoped for, so they featured some of it in *Ghosts of the Plaza*.

“For the longest time in the 1920s and ’30s, it used to be a boarder house on the Pandora side,” says Smith, “and was called Stranger’s Rest Rooms, and on the Government side there was the Stranger’s Rest Restaurant, and those two businesses were run by this woman for a super long time. We have this whole scene that we wrote about this woman that we know nothing about but we just imagine what it would have been like running a business, and being a woman, and what kind of business that was.”

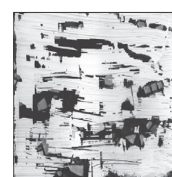
But as times changed, so did the Victoria Plaza Hotel. It became a hit in the mid-sixties when it transformed itself into the Century Inn, Smith explains.

“When it was opened up as Century Inn, it was an *Arabian Nights* theme, it was totally like *I Dream of Jeannie* and *Lawrence of Arabia*. That was the fashion then—it was a super cutting-edge, gorgeous hotel that was done up, and everyone was dressed in theme.”

The Monty’s building as a cutting-edge Arabian themed hotel? A history that hasn’t really been looked at, indeed.

Ghosts of the Plaza
March 8 and 9
Odd Fellows Hall, 1315
Douglas Street, \$15
ghostsoftheplaza.com

New Music Revue



Hollerado
White Paint
(Royal Mountain
Records)
3.5/5

Sharing the stage with both Weezer and Jack White, Ottawa-based indie-rock band Hollerado have been sweeping the globe since debuting *Record in a Bag* back in 2010.

Building steam over the past two years, their hit single, “Pick Me Up” from latest album *White Paint* does not disappoint.

Unfortunately, the rest of the album does.

If you’re into indie rock/pop tunes, the aforementioned “Pick Me Up” (and “Juliette” from the band’s debut) are awesome tunes, but I haven’t yet been able to get into any of the other songs on this new disc.

Bands like Hollerado are growing in popularity as indie rock evolves into a more mainstream/pop sound. A few more hit singles and I’m sure Hollerado will be on par with Arctic Monkeys and The Black Keys.

-SHAYLAH ANNAND



KEN mode
Entrench
(New Damage
Records)
4.5/5

Ready for a cheery, peppy listen? Then run away, fast, in the complete opposite direction. Yes, there is a song on this album called “Your Heartwarming Story Makes Me Sick,” and, yes, Winnipeg’s KEN mode are back for their fifth full-length album, and their first since 2011’s Juno-winning *Venerable* (it’s still weird referring to such a nasty band as Juno winners).

Entrench could have been the trio’s post-Juno foray into more polished, even mildly cheerier heavy rock and roll, but that would have been super lame.

Instead, KEN (stands for Kill Everyone Now) mode take their Un-sane-meets-Dillinger-Escape-Plan noise-rock madness and plummets it into a self-loathing vortex of pain, misery, and suffering.

Fans of this type of extreme music will love *Entrench*. The rest of the Juno crowd should probably pretend none of this, especially the utter bombast of “Secret Vasectomy,” ever happened.

-JASON SCHREURS

theatre
Belfry presentation lets audiences become the opera

“This is an unusual work, in that it is a combination of both a straight play and an opera.”

GIUSEPPE PIETRAROIA
 PACIFIC OPERA VICTORIA



PHOTO PROVIDED

Giuseppe Pietraroia is conducting an opera... or an audience. Same thing.

INSU KIM
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Most people have never thought about being in an opera. Now, everyone walking through the Belfry's doors can have a chance to do just that.

Let's Make An Opera & The Little Sweep is a unique piece by Benjamin Britten, a main player in 20th-century British classical music. It's a play about the making of an opera in which the audience participates by taking an active role as the chorus.

“The first half of the show is the discussion of how to make an

opera,” says Giuseppe Pietraroia, a conductor and chorus master at Pacific Opera Victoria. “The characters rehearse it, and then the audience sees a little bit of the rehearsal process, how the composer writes music, and how the singer learns it.”

In the show, as a character of the play, the conductor comes out and teaches the audience the chorus of the opera. It's a very inventive way to get the audience involved in the show.

“This is an unusual work,” says Pietraroia, “in that it is a combination of both a straight play and an

opera. An old lady, Miss Baggott, tells the story about a little sweep who is sent off to work because his injured father gets stuck in a chimney.”

Luckily, the children who live in the house find him and rescue him. They don't want to give him back to the mean sweeps. They clean and feed him. It's a beautiful story because children save another child. It's also beautiful because of the opera and the funny storyline.

“All of the melodies are very charming and fun,” says Pietraroia. “The opera has a lot of fun writing. One of my personal favourites, one

that I haven't been able to hear yet because I haven't had an audience, is one of the audience songs where the audience imitates birds. The melody has been going through my head. I'm looking forward to the audience's participation. It's just very beautiful.”

The audience will not only be able to see backstage at the opera but they will also learn gorgeous songs and be a part of the performance. Britten, the play's composer, liked the sense of community the show fostered; he wrote a number of works about and involving community.

“Community players come and the audience sings, and the young children act in the play. Put them together and the audience is into it,” says Pietraroia.

“Britten had a real knack for making opera accessible for people who are not opera aficionados,” he concludes. “Once you hear it, something draws you to the melodies.”

Let's Make An Opera & The Little Sweep
 Until March 10
 Belfry Theatre
 belfry.bc.ca



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Brunch til 2:30 pm
 \$4.25 Caesars \$5.50 Double Caesars
 3 Course Dinner \$17.95 after 5 pm

Sour Grapes

by Nicole Beneteau



Fine dining from a plastic bag



PHOTO PROVIDED

Chuck the food in a plastic bag, huck it in here, and let 'er cook.

For the humble home cook, the options for making food edible are mostly limited to the basics: sautéing, steaming, baking, broiling, and perhaps the occasional flambé. But these days, more and more people are getting fancy in the kitchen. And fancy foodies love a complicated cooking method.

Sous-vide, French for “under vacuum,” is a method of cooking meats and vegetables which seems to be gaining popularity with restaurateurs and home cooks alike, despite the fact that the machine required to do the job will run you about \$500.

Food cooked in the *sous-vide* style is vacuum-sealed in a plastic bag then cooked at a low but steady temperature for up to 72 hours. Kind of like a crock pot, but with more pretentiousness and plastic.

The whole point of the *sous-vide* method is to cook foods evenly. Instead of the browned on the outside, pink on the inside result one might get from grilling a steak, *sous-vide* ensures the meat is exactly the right temperature all the way through.

In a recent episode of *America's Best Home Cook*, a show where “regular Joes” compete to impress

Chef Bobby Flay with their culinary skills, one of the teams thought using a *sous-vide* machine was sure to secure them a victory. Sadly, Bobby was not impressed. That's because cooking anything *sous-vide* for less than a few hours results in runny egg whites, bloody meats, and generally inedible meals.

Because of the low temperature, undercooking is a risk, but there are more worrisome hazards associated with the *sous-vide* method, like the rare chance of a little thing called botulism. Not to mention the fact that this glorified pressure-cooker requires you to cook food in a plastic bag. Haven't we been told hot plastic is a bad thing? Doesn't it leech carcinogenic chemicals into our food? Well, hey, if the French say a plastic bag is a key to fine dining, who are we to argue?

According to popular DIY site Lifehacker, you can achieve *sous-vide* results without the expensive machine, but is it really worth the trouble?

If Flay isn't won over by this overly complicated cooking method, chances are grandma won't even notice the difference to her Easter ham.

A MESSAGE

FROM THE CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

by Madeline Keller-MacLeod
CCSS external executive

Tuition increases unfair

Government policy is not protecting students at Camosun College against excessive tuition increases. In 2005, the BC government set in place a tuition limit policy that limits postsecondary institutions to increasing tuition fees for existing programming by a maximum of two percent a year. New programming, however, can be set at any tuition level that the institution chooses.

The governing BC Liberal party has frozen postsecondary institutional funding. Inflation accounts for about a \$2 million increase in cost to Camosun each year, effectively amounting to a two percent yearly cut to the college's budget. One way that the college has tried to deal with these cuts is to use a technicality and possible loophole within government policy to consistently increase tuition fees beyond the two percent cap.

While “new” should imply programming that hasn't existed in the past or that has seen major changes, the college has interpreted the policy to mean that any programming that has been modified can now count as “new” programming.

The college has used this interpretation to raise tuition of existing programming well beyond the cap. Some classes get slightly restructured and have astounding tuition increases.

The Camosun College Student Society has met with the Ministry of Advanced Education and has requested that it look into this issue. We hope the ministry will recognize the policy violations occurring at Camosun and refuse to allow exceptions to tuition cap.



Noms!

photos and words by Patrick Hallihan

In review: the new Glen Lake Pub



A sampling of some of the Glen Lake Pub's goods.

The Glen Lake Pub, situated on Sooke Road at the edge of Langford, got a big facelift back in March. While never a seedy sort of place, it wasn't particularly well renowned either. Admittedly, I had never gone there before the renovation, but I had heard talk of droll décor and food prepared by people who probably shouldn't be doing so. But I may never know the truth to these tales of mediocrity, and I don't care that much. What counts is what they are doing now.

So, in terms of looks, it's a little pub connected to an inn and pizza place. Inside, the lights are a little dull, as one may expect from such an establishment, and pretty much everything is made of solid wood. While the floors show a plethora of scratches from years of use, I like the rustic look of it... just don't go in barefoot. There's also a large moose at the entrance; I'm pretty sure the moose is what makes it. Oh, and they, of course, have the obligatory TVs at every corner of the room.

The Glen Lake Pub staffers are impossibly friendly and really add to the experience. I'm also told that the owner (who works the bar, mostly) is quick with a joke, appropriate and inappropriate (both of which are fine choices, really). When he asked, “How's the food?” and we responded, “Good!” his immediate answer

was, “Thanks, we have a pretty sweet microwave!” I liked the humour.

I have now eaten at the Glen Lake Pub twice. The first time I had fish 'n' chips while my two friends had beef dip and yam fries. The second time I had a burger and my friend had a chicken quesadilla and calamari. The fish was good (haddock) and my friend raved about his beef dip. The chicken quesadilla was nothing special. The calamari was excellent, crispy, and chewy with the right level of saltiness.

But the show-stopper was the burger. It was fantastic. Good, quality ingredients and, more importantly, the patty was made in house. And, of course, it was cooked properly. My only complaint with the food is that the menu is quite small (even with the pizza selection). While I appreciate doing a few things well, rather than half-assing several, the menu could use a few more choices.

The new Glen Lake Pub is a pretty great little place. Good food for very cheap, pleasant atmosphere, and fantastic staff. My only cautionary tale is that there's only one shared bathroom, which may cause issues for those of you weak of bladder on a busy night when the beer has been flowing in (and out) of you.



Speaker's Corner

by Jean Oliver

camosun college toastmasters

Nothing to fear

When it comes to public speaking, according to common “top fear” lists, some of us would rather be dead than deliver a speech. On listverse.com, writer Caty Medrano compiled her idea of “top 10 strong human fears.” What I like about her list is that it deals in the drives behind fears:

1. Losing your freedom
2. The unknown
3. Pain
4. Disappointment
5. Misery
6. Loneliness
7. Ridicule
8. Rejection

9. Death
10. Failure

It's not hard to see why public speaking ranks high as a fear. One tool I use to override the jitters is thinking of something funny as I look out at the audience.

My body relaxes, my face smiles, my memory opens up, and my body language unconsciously reassures the audience.

My favourite funny thing to think of is from the show *The Golden Girls*, where the girls help each other conquer their phobias. As they find out in an episode of the same name, Franklin Roosevelt knew what he was talking about when he said, “You have nothing to fear but fear itself.”



Ability's Muse

by Rachael Grant

camosun college students with (dis)abilities collective

The many layers of suicide

Too often I hear of families and friends losing loved ones to suicide. Those left behind are wracked with guilt, wondering what could have been done differently. There is much conflict and controversy as to how those no longer with us should be viewed. Suicide has been labelled as the ultimate act of cowardice, as a sign of weakness, and even as an act of cruelty to family members and friends.

Is it possible that this is an outdated way of rationalizing the situation? Is there a potential that this mentality is an assumption based on anger, stigma, and a lack of understanding? It can be argued that one doesn't commit suicide, but rather dies by suicide. An individual can commit arson, they can commit murder, but vilifying the act of taking one's own life only perpetuates the

stigma that surrounds the tragedy.

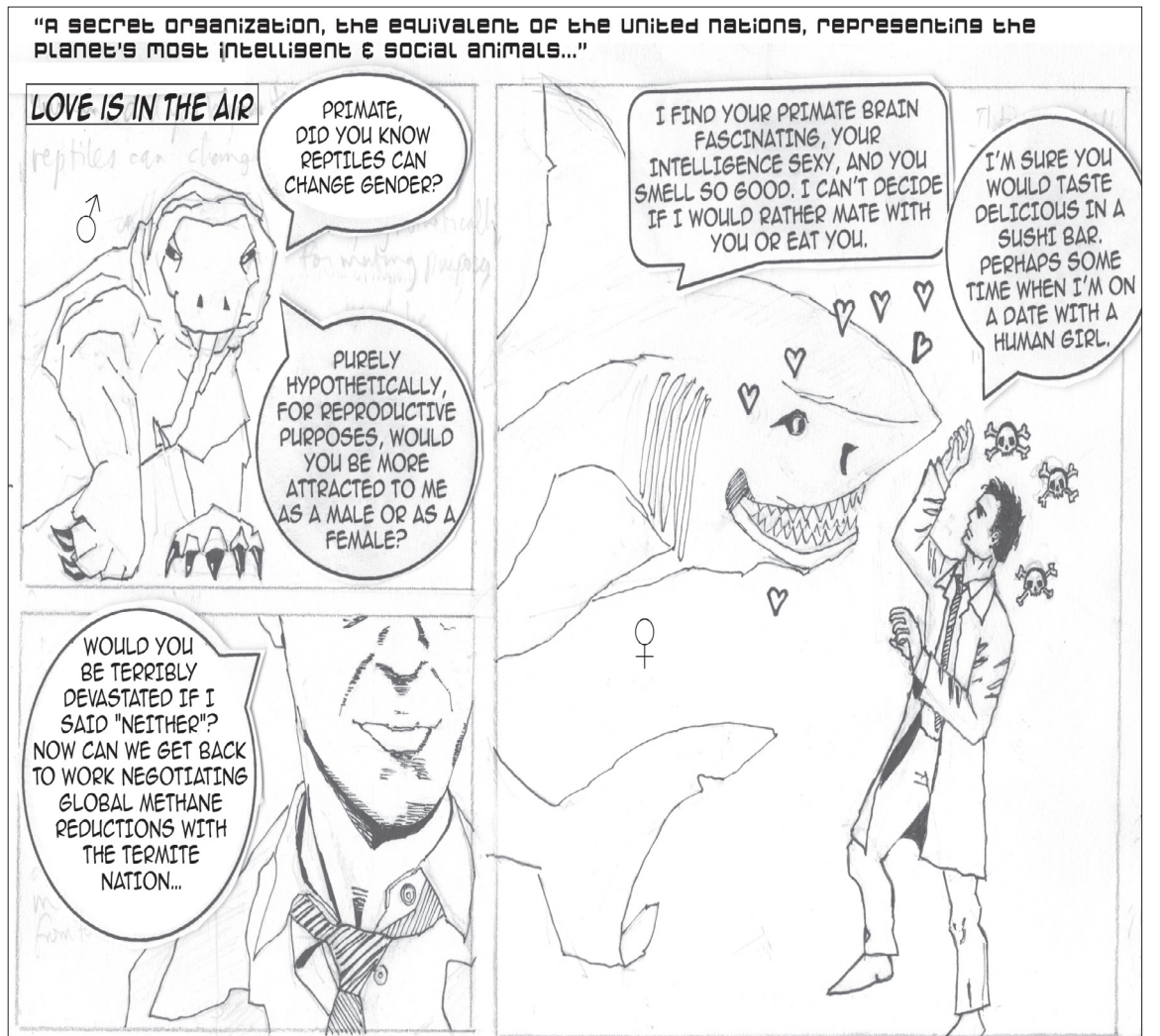
Suicide is a complicated and triggering thing and is all too often attributed to mental illness, which is frequently a substantial factor, but suicide is far more complicated than a diagnosis. Many factors can lead to this outcome: poverty, isolation, inadequate support, and discrimination. The causes are as individual as the people who end their lives.

The medicalization of suicide can be argued as incredibly counterproductive, for as we do so, we separate ourselves from the root causes, from the injustices in our society, and from the lack of understanding we have for our fellow human beings. By placing blame on another, we destroy our capacity to feel empathy, and hinder the possibility of suicide prevention.

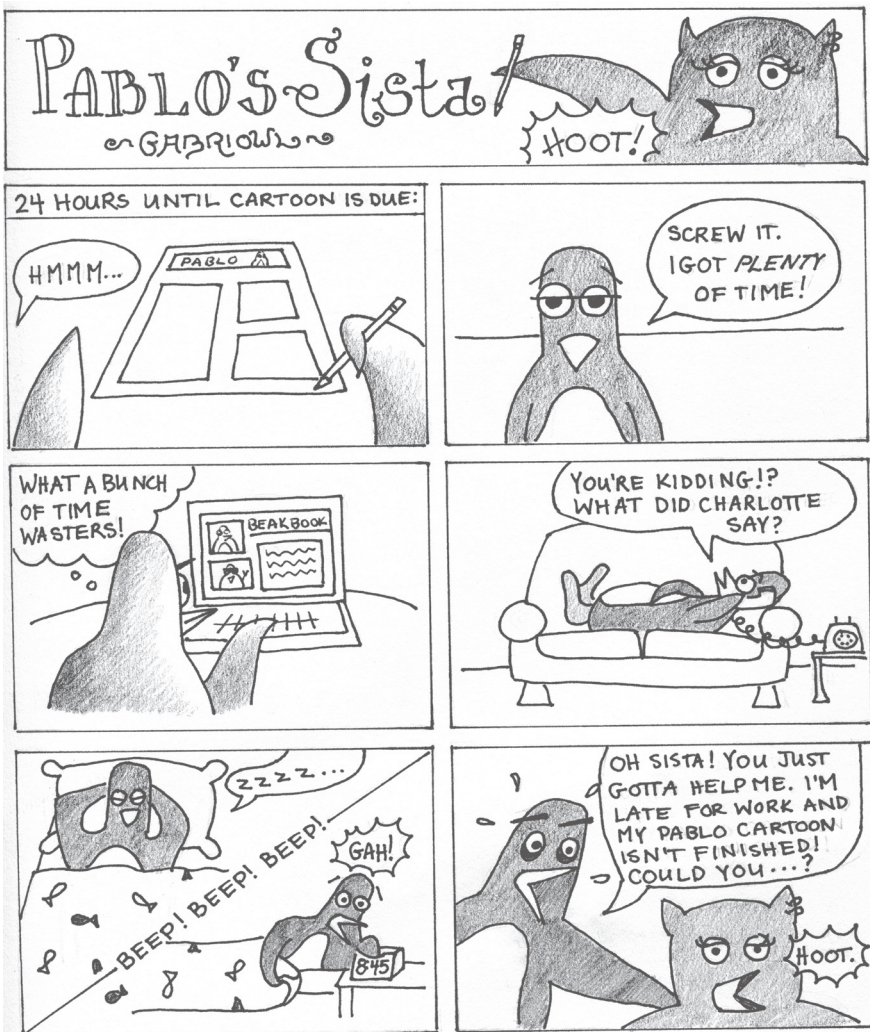
Noble Sloth Manifesto By Libby Hopkinson



Earth Council By Adrian Behennah



Pablo By Pedro Banman



Luke Sanity Deprived By Lucas Dahl



Ski Ninjas By Kyle Lees



ONGOING

Cookbook contest

The Camosun College Student Society wants you! Or at least they want your recipes. Why, you ask? They want to make a healthy college cookbook to help students eat healthy and cheap. Why should you contribute, you ask? Apart from helping out a great cause, there are prizes. Three prizes of Thrifty's gift cards! And not just empty gift cards, these suckers are loaded. First prize is a \$100 card, second prize is a \$75 card, and third prize is a \$50 card. Email recipes to ccsscookbook@gmail.com or drop them off at Fisher 101b.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Tibetan rally

Come on out and show support for Tibet on this walk and rally for Tibetan National Uprising Day. A Tibetan prayer ceremony goes down at Mile Zero at 11:30; at 12:15, the place to be is Centennial Square, where you can welcome the Runners of Compassion; then there will be a walk down Government Street, ending at the Legislature with a rally and speeches at 1. Join the activities at any point. For more info head over to tibet.ca or email tdolma@shaw.ca.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Hunger dinner

Come on out, show your support and gain valuable insight into economic disparity by eating and participating in a hunger banquet. Here's the lowdown: a random draw will decide who will be eating one of three meals. Reflecting the most developed, somewhat developed, and least developed of the world, you will be a part of a dining simulation that animates these imbalances. In addition, there will be guest speakers from VIDEA and UVic as well as music and other entertainment. It takes place at the Fairfield Recreation Center at 5:30 pm, tickets cost \$10 each (\$8 each for people who come in a group of five or more), and all proceeds will be going to the Uganda Rural Fund.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Tech presentations

Applied Science Technologists and

Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) will be giving two presentations at the Interurban campus for technology and technician students. Jason Jung of the ASTTBC will give a special presentation to students and faculty on the accredited technology program and other related fields. Students will learn the benefits of ASTTBC, program requirements, and successful career tips. Current Camosun technology and technician students qualify for a free student membership, which provides an opportunity to check out member benefits and stay connected with association activity. The first presentation is from 11:30 am to 12:20 pm in TEC 110, Interurban, and the second is from 12:30 to 1:20 in TEC 173, also at Interurban.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Rally for ancient forests and BC jobs

Join the masses from all walks of life in their struggle to preserve the forests, save the old growth, sustainably log second growth, and end raw log exports. Got little ones? No problem! Families for Our Forests will have an animals' parade for kids, who can dress up, pet animals, do ring-around-the-legislature, and watch the Masala Marching Band. But that's for little kids. Fine, you adults can dress up, too. There will be speeches by Robert Morales, Arnold Bercov, Valerie Langer, Vicky Husband, Ken Wu, and others. The event starts at 11:30 am at Centennial Square with marching, and speeches take place at noon at the legislative buildings.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8 TO

SUNDAY MARCH 17

Women's day celebration

The Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria is celebrating the positive power of women artists with the show *Our Diversity Makes Us Stronger: A Celebration of International Women's Day*, hosted at the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill. The show will have over 30 local female artists showcasing their talents. Victoria Art Gallery's chief curator Michelle Jacques will speak at the opening reception of the show at 7 pm on March 8. The show runs until March 17.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Masta Ace, Stricklin, Wordsworth, The Bundles, Ill Tone & The Kids

LUCKY BAR, \$18, 9 PM

I'm consistently amused by the way a story can be transformed from one mouth to another. It's like that game Telephone. You know the one? Remember it from when you were a kid? In it, it's the darndest thing: you whisper a message to someone else and they whisper what they said to the next person in line, and so on, until the last person announces the message to everybody. "The large brown dog is chasing you" suddenly becomes "don't forget to wipe after you poo" or something equally as ridiculous. But, you know, I guess it's a little like a history book. The truth depends on what side of the line you're on.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Electric Six, The Matinee

CLUB 90NE9, \$16, 7 PM

Going to the movies in the middle of the day can really throw your brain for a loop. Ask the *Nexus* editor-in-chief, he'll agree with me here. It's like this: you relax into the cushy seat, buttery popcorn coating your fingers with grease, waiting in the dark to be entertained for a couple of hours. Then, you return to the real world, squinting and yawning, wondering if you should just head home for a nap. I guess you could go on a winery tour, or go hang-gliding, or repaint a door frame, or something else productive, but, really, who wants to get stuff done after something like that?

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Martha Wainwright, AroaA

ST. ANN'S ACADEMY, \$22, 8 PM

I've been saving my ticket stubs from whatever events I've been to for about 20 years. Anything from the Barenaked Ladies gig I saw in tenth grade, to my first Toronto Blue Jays game at the Skydome in 1993, to my first playoff hockey game, to the Muse concert I went to a few weeks ago. This box of randomness needs some serious organization,

so I asked for a photo album for my last birthday. Of course, the photo album is still empty. I wish you could buy time. Not the magazine, but the indefinite continued progress of existence.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Mason Jennings

UPSTAIRS CABARET, \$20, 7 PM

I've never been surfing. I've been a skateboarder for 25 years but my swimming skills are a little lacking, so I've never trusted myself enough to stay alive in the ocean. I've sold a surfboard or two in my day, a handful of wetsuits and a ton of surf gloves, booties, and wax while I worked in a local shop, but that was purely based on charisma and fluke. I never lied about it. I told people straight up that I didn't surf, but I was a good listener and savvy enough to know

what worked and what didn't. All those suckers fell for it. Like most jobs, that job really wouldn't have been so bad if it wasn't for all the customers.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Born Ruffians

LUCKY BAR, \$18, 8 PM

I wasn't a particularly mean kid in grade school, but I do remember one instance that would seem harsh to most folks. Imagine winter in the Yukon. Ice, wind, and far-below-zero temperatures surround you while you're on the playground for recess. One of the kids in your class has been particularly annoying that day. You ask him if he's ever tasted one of the support poles for the swings in the winter. They're almost like ice cream, you say, why not have a lick? I'm actually cringing as I write this.



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