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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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COVER PHOTOS:
Rise Against: JGarber
Writers: Lucas Milroy/Nexus

editor's letter

Storytelling time

We're excited to announce some new additions to the *Nexus* team this issue. Insu Kim's first story for us, a motivational profile on Camosun grad Cheri Wu, can be found on page 4. Back in the arts section, Andrea McLean has delivered her first piece for the paper, a preview of the touching and nostalgic play *84 Charing Cross Road* (see page 8), and new writer Chris Johnson offers up a CD review on page 9.

This, alongside our usual team of writers delivering their usual excellence in storytelling (see Marielle Moodley's telling feature on storytelling on page 6) and analysis (returning opinion-giver Jean Oliver lays down the law in her opinion column on this very page), makes me proud to be editing these pages and offering them to you.

The question now: what do you think? Is Johnson spot on in his CD review or do you have a differing opinion? Do you disagree vehemently with what Oliver is saying in her piece or are you on her side? Either way, we want to hear all about it.

Shoot us an email (editor@nexusnewspaper.com) letting us know your thoughts, because we love letters to the editor. We also love new volunteers! Want to try your hand at writing for us? Anyone can do it: we train you and help you out; then you get to be the one people are writing letters about. Just email us to get started.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy these stories as much as I did.
-Greg Pratt, editor-in-chief

flashback

20 years ago in *Nexus*



Dig deep: The first story in our October 5, 1992 issue was about how there was a movie called *Digger* being filmed in the Camosun parking lot. Now, this one may not have turned into a time-tested classic, but it did boast at least one big name. Yes, for a period in 1992, the one and only Leslie Nielsen was on campus. Just think, next time you're getting gouged over parking fees, you're getting gouged over parking fees where *Leslie Nielsen once stood*. Kinda takes the sting away a bit, yes?

Times change, but it still makes us laugh: There's just something incredibly quaint about seeing ads for cassettes (remember those?) in the paper. In this issue, there was an advertisement for Temple of the Dog's one and only album and Barenaked Ladies' *Gordon*, both on the much-maligned tape format for only \$7.93 at a local now-defunct video store (remember those?).

Now that's poetry: From a letter to the editor: "The counters were thick with floating debris and dripping onto a sopping heap of rubbish producing an ever-increasing mess of paper mache solution." What exactly on campus could this letter-writer be referring to? What was in such a horrid state of affairs? Apparently, the women's bathroom. "The feeling of sister-hood I had once held for my gender was flushed away along with my lunch after my first introduction to the washrooms on campus," Shelley Evans also said in her letter decrying the lack of cleanliness in the loos. "If this is how people act in a public setting, I'd hate to see what they do in the privacy of their own cave."

eyed on campus

Innovate and experiment



CAMOSUN COLLEGE AV SERVICES

Hands-on fun at Interurban's recent Mechanical Engineering Showcase.

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open space

White washed

JEAN OLIVER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My sociology textbook covers a touchy subject, maybe the touchiest yet for social beings: the question of what whiteness is, and the emergence of white-as-race. We are beginning to get a grip.

It really bothers me that we continue to blame the "white" man for rampaging his way across the globe. I had hoped when we painted my sixth-grade teacher's Volkswagen bug in psychedelic flower-power colours and dreamed of a better world that we'd be past using colour as a scapegoat.

I'm not talking politically correct whitewashing, but real change.

There's a song my Australian friend sings that contains these words: "White man, white sail, white gun." Sometimes, behind his back, I play with it; I sing: "Bad man, blank sail, big gun."

I'm not saying there aren't people in my ancestral background that didn't deserve some kind of punishment for racist and abusive behaviour. I'm just saying it

wasn't because they were white that they did those things. That culture got the upper hand at one point and hung on. They had the guns. Domination came first. White was coincidental.

My ethnic background is half British, a quarter French, and a quarter Moor. But I look white, whatever that means. My whiteness, rather than anything I say or do, raises a frustrating barrier of distrust.

It's great that white is finally being talked about in terms of racial identity. As my textbook puts it, white has been used for far too long as a default position instead of as a description of race: "If you're not white, you must be X, Y or Z." Just because you see the same shade of pink in your skin in the faces around you doesn't mean that pink is the cornerstone colour of the human race.

Let's shine some white on this subject. Maybe we are what our behaviour and our social privilege make us, and colour has little to do with anything.

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

SPEAK UP

If your life story was made into a book, what would the title be?

BY MARIELLE MOODLEY



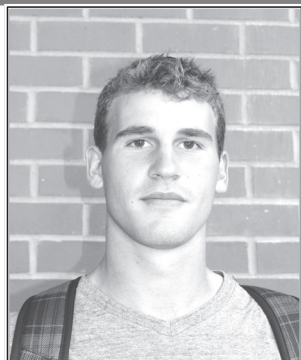
KYLA SPELT

"An Easy A. I read lots of Judy Bloom books while growing up, but none of them really prepared me for adulthood."



HAKURA KITAMURA

"Why Don't You Travel with Me? I love travelling and I want others to experience my travels with me."



ALASTAIR DAVY-SAXL

"Just Go with It, because I'm only taking a few classes in school and building up credits while taking my time."



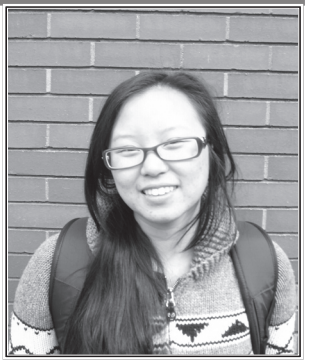
JORDAN SANDWITH

"Plant a Seed, because I believe life is like a plant that is ever growing. The more you plant, the more you grow."



NATHANEIL GEYET-LAMOUREAUX

"Beautifully Unique. Life is hard at first but it's always rewarding and uniquely beautiful."



TIFFANY CHU

"The Never-Ending Student, because I'm pretty much always at Camosun with the nursing department."

funding

Government grant solidifies Interurban building plans

“People think that \$29.2 million is a lot of money, which it is, but with projects like this it doesn’t take very long for all the resources to be allocated.”

ERIC SEHN
CAMOSUN COLLEGE



LUCAS MILROY/NEXUS

The current state of these buildings on the Interurban campus proves the upgrades are needed.

LUCAS MILROY
STAFF WRITER

With the September 20 announcement of a \$29.2-million grant from the provincial government, Camosun College is all set to go with its latest plan: the building of new trades and technology buildings. The new buildings will be located near the Interurban main campus, across the street where the Tillicum Lodge is currently situated, which puts the new buildings within easy walking distance.

“There will be two facilities where the Tillicum Lodge currently is,” says Eric Sehn, Camosun’s dean of trades and technologies. “One will be a marine and metals trade centre, and the other building will

be a mechanical trades centre.”

Some of the provincial grant money will also be going towards the refurbishment of the Jack White and the John Drysdale buildings at the Interurban campus.

“They’ll be getting some upgrades and some refurbishing so we can get them into a contemporary state,” says Sehn. “A lot of the programs that are in the John Drysdale building will migrate to the Jack White building. And what will remain in the Jack White is a expanded centre for innovation and applied research.”

Sehn also reports that the \$29.2 million will not cover the complete cost of the planned buildings and renovations, and that the college

will be looking to fundraise for an additional \$800,000, bringing the total to \$30 million.

“We’re going to be doing some fundraising, particularly around acquisition of the equipment,” he says. “Some of the upgrades that we want to do will have to come from sources other than the Advanced Education grant. People think that \$29.2 million is a lot of money, which it is, but with projects like this it doesn’t take very long for all the resources to be allocated.”

While current students will not get to experience the new buildings, as they are currently not set to be complete for three and a half years, some of them are already seeing the upsides.

“It’s awesome because trades have been kind of underutilized for as long as I can remember,” says Danika Serafin, a sheet metal and fabrication student. “So now that they’re being known, and more money is being put into it, you’ll have more people interested. It also is helping draw in younger people.”

Sean Kelley, another student in the sheet metal and fabrication program, also recognizes the communal benefits of the project, mentioning how they’ll be especially beneficial after the announcement of the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy by the federal government.

“It is really going to help out at

the dockyard with all the new ship building contracts, and will help to get that underway and put some workers in there,” says Kelley.

Meanwhile, Sehn wants students to know that this project will be an advantage across the board, not just for the trades and those involved in them.

“The main message here is that it is about more than just the trades,” he says. “It’s about trades, it’s about technology, it’s about better serving the resource industry, aerospace, and, of course, the expanded applied research. It’s a great thing for the trades and technology programs; it’s excellent for the school, and it’s a great benefit to the college and to the community.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun breaks personal record with international student intake

Camosun College has recorded its largest ever amount of foreign students this September. An increase of over 120 students, or 27 percent, has taken place since this same time last year, with 578 international students from 53 different countries around the world helping to make Camosun a more diverse and culturally varied school. Students from abroad do more than just diversify the campuses, they

also bring in approximately \$30,000 a year to the local economy, according to Tom Roemer, Camosun vice-president of strategic development. This increase in enrollment has allowed the college to hire back four previously laid off instructors. Roemer says Camosun will continue to focus on bringing in international students from all over the world, with special interest being paid to recruitment in Russia and Eastern Europe.

Royals kicking butt, royally

The Victoria Royals have started their regular season off strong with

three wins and a loss. Back-to-back victories against the Vancouver Giants started the team’s second full season in Victoria with a bang, before going 1-1 in their next two games. Russian rookie forward Alex Gogolev has been impressive in the team’s first four games, showing Pavel Bure-esque flashes of speed and the hands of some of the Russian greats.

Vancouver tops the list

Just a short ferry ride away is what is now apparently the world’s most reputable city. In a recent poll conducted by a consulting firm that specializes in reputation manage-

ment, the Reputation Institute (we’re not making any of this up, by the way), Vancouver was ranked as the city with the best reputation in the world. The study was conducted by polling more than 18,000 people throughout the G8 countries. Vancouver also ranked as the seventh most beautiful city, falling behind Venice, Florence, Rome, Paris, Vienna, and Barcelona.

Agreement in the works

The BC government has reached a tentative agreement with nurses in the province. While health minister Margaret MacDiarmid has not yet

said exactly what has been settled on, she has confirmed that it will include more nurses in the workforce as well as other improvements, one of which is said to be a slight wage increase. The intent of the new agreement is to provide the top quality of patient care possible while at the same time not placing any further burden on the taxpayer.

-LUCAS MILROY

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careers

Alumni award winner stays involved with Camosun dental

“I was an average student. I just didn’t give up.”

CHERI WU
CAMOSUN ALUMNUS



INSU KIM/NEXUS

Camosun grad Cheri Wu encourages students to never stop trying.

INSU KIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Cheri Wu may have become a superstar of Camosun College, but she was just a normal student at Camosun 20 years ago.

Wu, who graduated in the dental hygiene program from Camosun in 1992, recently won the college’s 2012 distinguished alumni award.

Wu has become a very successful woman in the dental hygiene

field. She has her own practice and helps people with HIV/AIDS, as well as the poor. Wu not only contributes to the community but also to Camosun, as she teaches, mentors, and even hires dental students. Wu is an indispensable bridge between dental students and the workplace.

“Just stick with what you want,” says Wu. “Who would’ve known I would’ve been an alumni winner?”

I was not a great and shining star at clinic; I was an average student. I just didn’t give up.”

Wu emphasizes that students going after their dreams without giving up is the most important factor of success. Like many students, she faced big challenges when she was in school, but she chose to face them head-on rather than avoid them.

“Instead of saying, ‘I can’t do

it, it’s too hard, and why do I have to do that?’ I would think, ‘What is the worst thing that could happen if I try?’” she says.

According to Wu, students shouldn’t always pick an education based on potential income. Instead of passion, some students are driven by what the end result is monetarily; this is not always a good idea and can actually hurt their plans, she says.

And although most colleges are getting more commercial, Wu insists that Camosun is still like a family that always provides help and support.

“My education at Camosun gave me confidence,” she says. “Camosun doesn’t give only education; it teaches confidence and interactions. You are not a number anymore. You are a part of the group.”

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style

The art of consigning clothes

“If you’re never going to wear it again, what good is it doing just taking up space in your closet and in your life?”

KIRSTEN WRIGHT
REGALIA BOUTIQUE



PHOTOS BY KATE MASTERS/NEXUS

KATE MASTERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

That recent shopping spree in Vancouver wasn’t good for your wallet, and it also wasn’t good for your closet space. Trying to cram 10 new articles of clothing into an already packed closet generally leads to disarray. Maybe they will fit in the dresser? Fat chance: the drawers are overflowing and won’t even close.

The sad truth is that it’s time to part with some of your old clothes. Like that pair of leather boots you got on sale that are slightly too tight in the toe. Or that dress you wore to your high school’s winter formal that’s never going to be worn again. But the memories that live inside the dress might be too much to leave

at the end of your driveway in a crumpled-up garbage bag waiting to be picked up by Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

“Your clothes are worth enough so you’re not just going to throw them away or give them to a thrift store,” says Kirsten Wright, owner of Regalia Boutique in Fan Tan Alley. “If you’re never going to wear it again, what good is it doing just taking up space in your closet and in your life?”

This is where consignment, or selling clothes to a secondhand store, is an especially good idea.

“Some people just want to get rid of their stuff,” says Wright. “Other people have more of an attachment or a collection or something they know the value of and want a certain

amount. Consignment lets you get rid of your clothes in a controlled way: you know you’re going to get something for it.”

Some stores will buy clothes outright and only consign more expensive items or items that might be tricky to sell. Most stores in Victoria offer consignors 40–50 percent of the final retail price.

It’s important to have a look around the consignment shop before you consign your clothes so you match the culture of the business.

“Every store is different,” says Lindsay Doucette, manager of Leche’s Clothing in Oak Bay. “Find out what the demographic of the store is and try and match it to what you’re consigning.”

Apart from thrift-store shop-

ping, consignment is the greenest form of fashion consumerism. By buying gently used clothing the consumer avoids the shipping and production pollutants.

“There are so many clothes in the world and consignment is a great way to recycle them,” says Wright. “Consigning clothes reduces waste because you’re putting them some-

where where you know they’re going to get the maximum chance of being reused. Too many clothes get thrown into the dump.”

So take your freshly laundered clothes to a consignment store that fits your style to make some money... so you won’t feel as bad when you go on your next shopping spree.

A couple of consignment options

Regalia Boutique

Always on the lookout for: Frye boots, nice leather boots (Italian or Brazilian), nicely lined coats, wool capes, and well-made basics.

Consignment policy: Often will buy cheaper items outright. More expensive items will be consigned.

Leche’s Clothing

Always on the lookout for: anything from Aritzia, knits, Cowichan sweaters, cowboy boots, moccasins.

Consignment policy: Buys clothes outright.

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words

Writers talk about the process behind the words

“I always tell my students that the people who are going to succeed with writing are the ones who stick to it.”

DANIEL GRIFFIN
CAMOSUN COLLEGE



Yasuko Thanh started writing when she was very young.

MARIELLE MOODLEY
STAFF WRITER

Writing is a versatile form of communication. Writing is a way of sharing information from one source to another and, depending on execution, can signify something much deeper than words on a surface.

Getting a particular message out correctly in writing can be difficult because it takes using certain words in a certain way to set certain tones. Camosun College creative writing professor and author Daniel Griffin knows about these difficulties, and he has worked diligently to get to where he is today. But it wasn't easy.

From dyslexic to dynamic

“Growing up I always felt the need to record,” says Griffin. “I was interested in putting things into words, even though I had dyslexia, problems with reading/writing, and didn't do well in school.”

One of Griffin's earliest memories of wanting to record was while he was growing up in England. At seven years old he went to Cornwall for a family vacation; he wanted to keep a journal or diary to remember his holiday, so he took a blank book and pen with him.

“I had such a difficult time choosing what words I wanted to use and had an even more difficult time writing them out,” recalls Griffin. “It was a struggle just to write a few words on the page, so I convinced my mom to write out what I would tell her and she recorded the information for me.”

Griffin believes it takes time and

effort to be a great writer and isn't a big believer in just talent. Even though he's a parent with a full-time job and is also a creative writing instructor, he still writes for at least two hours every day to keep at it and to continue to improve.

“I always tell my students that the people who are going to succeed with writing are the ones who stick to it,” says Griffin. “Success means something different to everyone, but you can achieve your success if you stick to it.”

With short stories, Griffin writes a single draft all in one go. He sits down with a blank page and only has a dense starting point that his writing can explode from. He prevents himself from thinking ahead with short stories beforehand because he likes to see his stories emerge through the characters by letting his creative side take hold.

“I spend a small amount of time on my first draft and most of my time rewriting,” says Griffin. “My rewriting process can sometimes go on for months, until the story really blossoms to a final product.”

Novel writing is a bit trickier of a writing process in Griffin's eyes. Rather than starting with a blank page and having the ability to go anywhere with the story, he has to remember what he wrote the day before and make sure to stay on the same tone.

“I feel like anyone involved in creative endeavours needs to push their boundaries by challenging themselves to look at things differently and expand on expression,” says Griffin. “I'm pushing my own boundaries by writing a novel that I'm five years deep into. Novel writ-

ing can easily go wrong by not connecting the content properly, so I remind myself of that while being careful to not restrict myself for future writing sessions.”

Two writers, one goal

Like Griffin, Yasuko Thanh has also spent a lot of time and effort to get to where she is today as a writer.

“I started writing when I was very young,” she says. “As soon as I could write I had a diary. Throughout my life my writing has changed from teenage poetry to travel journaling, non-fiction to fiction, and short stories to novels.”

Thanh dropped out of school as a teenager, yet she still had the drive to write poetry. She started seeing her writing in a different light and wanted to direct it towards an audience, so she submitted her poetry to magazines.

“My poetry was terrible. It was pondering all the great problems in human existence, it was really painfully earnest, but not in a good way,” says Thanh. “*I Quarry Magazine's* editor Steven Heighten wrote me back himself and had comments and sent me a copy of the 20th anniversary issue and motivated me with a very ‘keep at it’ feeling.”

Thanh would challenge herself to an exercise, recording five different sense perceptions: scents, snatches of dialogue, sights, sounds, and one feeling. Thanh recalls it as a recording of details.

“I didn't necessarily think that I would maybe use it in my work one day, but used it during my travels more to remember because I don't



PHOTOS BY MARIELLE MOODLEY/NEXUS

Camosun instructor Daniel Griffin worked hard to be a writer.

have the best memory,” says Thanh. “It's crazy what vivid memories those senses can trigger. Two years later I won't even remember certain instances until I read back and reflect.”

Thanh's earlier works in her short story collection are semi-autobiographical from her own experiences. She says that studying fiction at UVic was a great experience and helped her learn more about plot, which eventually made her a better writer.

“I had one prof that made me do an exercise which was made to make me strengthen in what he thought was weakest with my writing—linear episodic narratives—and I came to an epiphany that you can write a story that starts at the beginning and ends without doing anything fancy,” she says.

Thanh advises that it comes down to trusting your own voice and story. With longer pieces, it's better to stay on track and not go off onto other tangents because it's harder to sustain interest in longer stories. Having said that, she feels like fellow author Toni Morrison is great at breaking all of those rules,

and she admires Morrison's writing style.

“Toni Morrison is able to circle and circle and her key event will be something that took place in the past and is a flashback. She breaks all the rules but she can get away with it because she is Toni Morrison,” says Thanh. “But for other cases this is the reason why plots are shaped as arcs, because somehow the same way other things just work, it just works.”

Both Thanh and Griffin are local authors featured at Victoria Writers Festival and will speak about their techniques, work, and craft in further detail at the festival.

“People that want to write should just do it,” says Thanh. “People always say, ‘I wish I could write a story.’ Just do it. If you want to be a writer, then write. Everyone has a story to tell and the best stories are the ones that are simple, pure, and from the writer's voice.”

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performance

Taboo event explores different forms of dance

“My favourite way of performing is actually to walk onto stage knowing nothing and to just perform.”

DAVID FERGUSON
SUDDENLY DANCE THEATRE

MARINA GLASSFORD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Taboo is something forbidden, exotic, illicit... and a brand of absinthe hailing from the Okanagan. It was all of these things that inspired Suddenly Dance Theatre to choose *Taboo* as the name for their 20th anniversary celebration and fundraiser.

In particular, absinthe has an alternate meaning for Suddenly Dance founders David Ferguson and Miles Lowry. Absinthe is an alcoholic concoction comprised of wormwood and various herbs said to have hallucinogenic properties that became popular in France at the turn of the century.

“We love that turn of the century *fin de siècle* period in France. It’s also a period that there was lots of innovation going on in the arts. There were lots of *enfants terrible*, which is the term of saying the artist that’s being provocative and

rebellious and finding innovation,” says Ferguson. “Part of our birthday nod at the word ‘taboo’ is because we think of ourselves in that way: here we are at the turn of another century, and I think we place ourselves in that place of discovery that those artists 100 years ago were also looking for. New media was arriving to them at that time, so poetically and abstractly we’re honouring that.”

The fundraiser will also serve as a toast to all of Suddenly Dance’s supporters over the past 20 years, who have stood with them as the company has choreographed their way through various challenges. It’s been a struggle and it wasn’t until last year that they were able to get a studio of their own.

“There’s survival in running a non-profit and in running a dance company,” says Ferguson. “Survival as in you’re constantly manoeuvring through possibilities and opportunities: things that change,

funding that does or doesn’t come through, changes of government, philosophies of people, changes of audience.”

Taboo is a celebration of survival and uniqueness. The show will be a collective gathering of talented and creative expressionists coming together to create something truly distinctive. It will involve a belly dancer, a contemporary dancer, a vocalist, a viola player, and an African musician, who will all be responding to the moment and each other while giving off the energy of a jam session.

“Part of what we’ve always done as a company is leaped into experimenting that way and putting people together who might not know each other but have to come together in some union for the purpose of presentation,” explains Ferguson. “My favourite way of performing is actually to walk onto stage knowing nothing and to just perform; that’s how I often work,

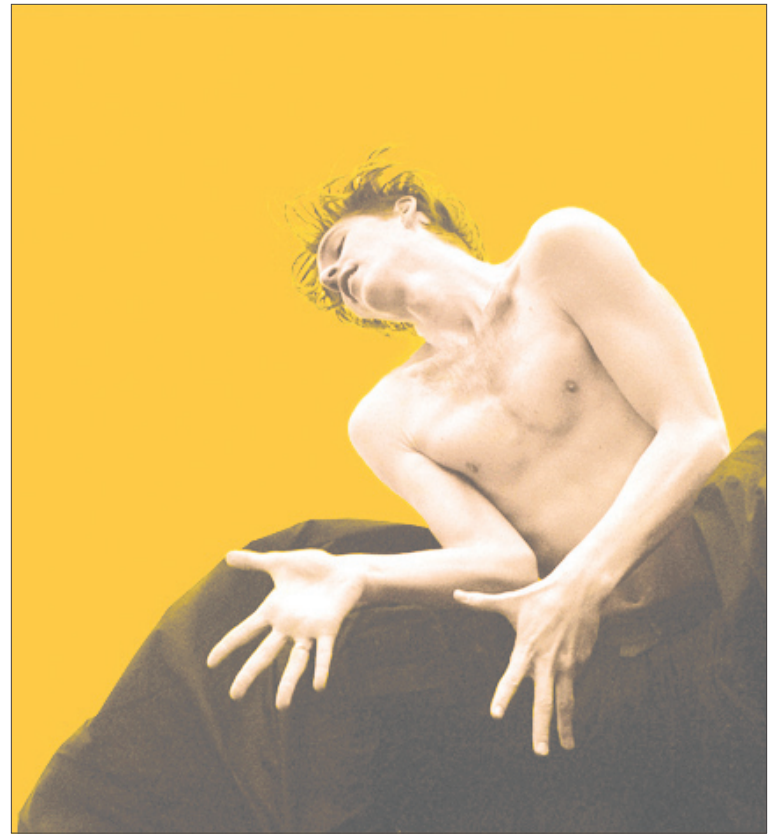


PHOTO PROVIDED

David Ferguson expressing himself through dance.

through improvisation. We don’t work in front of the mirror making shapes. We practice responding to each other like a conversation, but physically. And we practice that as part of our rehearsals and then in performance we just improvise.”

Freeform expression coupled with an absinthe-infused cocktail created specifically for the event promise a night of exoticism, intrigue, the possibility of hallucina-

tions, and, of course, dance.

“When you watch people dancing onstage, you’re really dancing in your seat oftentimes,” says Ferguson. “Dance helps fulfill people’s kinetic reach.”

Taboo
6 pm Friday, October 5, \$40
The Superior
250-380-9515 (must call to reserve)

JOBFEST
ROCK YOUR FUTURE

JOBFEST2012.CA

Coming to a town near you, this free event showcases B.C. career opportunities for young job seekers. Check out interactive career exploration games, inspirational speakers, cool giveaways, and hot indie bands like Bend Sinister, Halfway to Hollywood, and Acres of Lions.

Visit JobFest2012.ca for the full tour schedule and to audition to perform onstage.

JOBFEST IS COMING TO VICTORIA:

Camosun College, Lansdowne Campus, Foul Bay Parking Lot, 3100 Foul Bay Road, October 5 (12pm-6pm)
Stay connected with the latest event details at JobFest2012.ca



music

Rise Against bring social awareness to arena rock

“Anyone that has pets, or brains in their heads, probably wants to end animal abuse.”

BRANDON BARNES
RISE AGAINST

LUCAS MILROY
STAFF WRITER

Rise Against isn't a band to shy away from putting a message in their music. However, the band's longtime drummer, Brandon Barnes, recognizes that a strong meaning isn't always necessary for quality tunes.

“There are plenty of songs that are amazing songs and they're just about nothing,” he says. “If people want to have a message in their lyrics, or be political, it's up to them.”

Easy enough. But having political lyrics isn't hard; making consistently quality music is. Barnes says that the tough part of being in a band isn't to make good music; it's to continue to make good music.

“To keep making good music is the hard part, really,” he says.

“You've got to truly like your job. As far as to write good music goes, that's a tough one, because not everyone can write good music. You give two guys Casio keyboards, one guy could make a beautiful song and the other guy might not even be able to do ‘Chopsticks.’ I don't know; maybe you're born with it.”

While musical prowess may be a matter of nature, having an awareness of social issues—something Barnes and his bandmates have in common—isn't. For example, every member of Rise Against is a vegetarian, with some being vegans; they take animal rights very seriously.

“I've been vegetarian for over 10 years,” says Barnes. “I worked at a grocery store in my early 20s, and it really made me start thinking about where the food comes from, and how it gets to your plate. I started looking into educating myself and reading up on factory farming and the chemicals that go into the food. It just turned me off after a while; it turned me off to the point where I just lost my urge to eat meat. It's horrible the things that people do to these animals. Anyone that has pets, or brains in their heads, probably wants to end animal abuse.”

Barnes doesn't limit his social consciousness to animal rights; he feels passionately about many political topics, things that Rise

Against aren't timid to express in their music. For Barnes, along with many others around the world, one contentious issue right now is the American presidential race.

Barnes describes his choice of Barack Obama in the upcoming presidential election between the Democrats and the Republicans as the lesser of two evils.

“People that get close to that position of power don't seem to be just stand-up, good people,” he says. “Even Obama, in a way, there are things at times that seem kind of schwarmy about him. There is a slickness in big-time politicians, the way they act and move; it's like a front. He's probably a really nice guy on the outside, but when you see him he looks like he's almost been trained to be in the spotlight. There's something fake about it.”

Despite this sprinkle of cynicism, Barnes remains optimistic, and says that perhaps if Obama is re-elected he'll have more backbone.

“Maybe he'll have a little more guts,” he says. “Maybe he'll go for stuff he truly believes in. Maybe he'll come out swinging this time.”

Rise Against

7 pm Thursday, October 4, \$43

Save-on-Foods Memorial
Centre
sofmc.com



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rise Against play punk rock with a message behind the words.

theatre

Staging the lost art of letter writing

“We've turned it into a very alive and emotional thing.”

ROGER CARR
84 CHARING CROSS ROAD

ANDREA MCLEAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What better coincidence than for the beloved local Langham Court Theatre to be starting off its 84th season with a production of *84 Charing Cross Road*. Based on a best-selling and cult classic novel, it's the true story of the 20-year correspondence spanning the 1940s to 1960s between New York City author Helene Hanff and Frank Doel, an antiquarian bookseller for Marks & Co in London, England.

It may be billed as a comedy, but leading actor Roger Carr describes the play as a gentle, whimsical romance celebrating books and the lost art of letter writing.

“While I'm not quite as old as the people in the play, I certainly used to use the mail a lot as a younger guy, writing letters to people back and forth,” says Carr. “But nothing, nothing like the correspondence that takes place between Helene and Frank.”

In these days of instantaneous communication, letter writing is no longer a usual way of corresponding, but some people still remember the days when it was. Langham Court manager Denise Brown recalls having many pen pals, but one in particular was a huge part of her life.

“When I was 16 and I received those letters, it was a big deal. I was

waiting for this thing for like a week, or two weeks, or however long... and you get to see the person's handwriting, that's something you don't get anymore,” says Brown. “You can tell a lot by somebody's handwriting, just like you can tell a lot by somebody's body language. Handwriting is kind of like body language on paper.”

The book, which was made into a successful film, was not without its challenges when being mounted onstage, according to Carr.

“The play has its problems because it was originally written as a novel,” says Carr. “It made a very good film with Anthony Hopkins and Anne Bancroft. But the staging

of it is much more difficult.”

Because the book takes place over a span of 20 years, showing the time passing on stage was a bit problematic, says Carr.

“The other problem is if you imagine sitting in the theatre for two hours watching a play in which you have people reading their bloody letters to each other, you would get bored out of your tree. So one of the considerations of the director is to make sure that we don't just end up spewing a bunch of words at each other or into the ether. We've turned it into a very alive and emotional thing,” he says.

Carr says not to expect belly laughs or slapstick, but rather a

lovely, touching relationship between two people.

Meanwhile, Brown is very much looking forward to the production happening at Langham Court Theatre.

“It's a charming piece; people should come see it,” she says. “It's a little bit of nostalgia, but at the same time is a well-loved, classic novel. *84 Charing Cross Road* no longer exists in London, so it's a piece of history, too.”

84 Charing Cross Road
Until October 20
Langham Court Theatre,
\$16–21
langhamtheatre.ca



PHOTO PROVIDED

84 Charing Cross Road is filled with nostalgia for the written word.

music

Ladyhawk return with *No Can Do*



Bewildered, perplexed, bored: we promise Ladyhawk will be more interested on the stage.

NICKOLAS JOY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Vancouver's dirty alternative rock and roll band Ladyhawk have announced the release of their third studio album, *No Can Do*, and now they are touring for the first time in years.

"Almost everything is different since our last album. It's been about four years since we toured or focused on the band at all," says Ladyhawk guitarist Darcy Hancock. "We're just all in totally different places in our lives and coming at it with a different angle, just a little bit more fun rather than making it priority number one in life. It's an easier-functioning project now."

Having slipped under the radar and having only played a few shows in Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, and Victoria in the last three years, it's possible that Ladyhawk have lost a lot of momentum, but old fans

who were wondering whatever happened to the band are rejoicing over the news of their new album and Canadian tour.

Hopefully for Ladyhawk, there are enough of those fans left to gain that momentum back, and their new material is powerful enough to remind those fans what they loved. According to Hancock, Ladyhawk are just glad people haven't forgotten about them completely.

The band's new album is a step forward: it's more structured with a focus on recording quality and perfectionism. Their sound has shifted towards a more fun and danceable rock and roll sound that invokes visions of Pilsners being shotgunned in back alleys. And there appears to be a lot less pain behind the songwriting.

"The new album still sounds like the band, but the songs are a little bit less jammy and more focused.

More poppy and less rock and roll, I guess," says Hancock. "Within that pop sound we are definitely more punk rock than we have ever been. We didn't know which direction we were going in; we just kind of wrote songs."

Although the band's past albums incorporated a lot of darker lyrical content, droning synths, and a melodramatic sound, Ladyhawk have been known to release all energy possible during their shows. Victoria has felt that energy.

"Last time we played Victoria there was lots of crowd surfing, so I hope there's a lot more of that," says Hancock. "The more audience participation the better."

Ladyhawk
Tuesday, October 16, \$12
Club 9one9
strathconahotel.com/club9one9

concert review

Fogerty never fails



PHOTO PROVIDED

Even after all these years, rock legend John Fogerty's still got it.

JEAN OLIVER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The recent John Fogerty concert at Save-on-Foods Memorial Arena brought out a mass of regular guys. Many in ball caps, their AC/DC t-shirts stretched across big, comfy-looking chests. Across the aisle to my right, 20 rows of wage-earning soldiers lounged for two solid hours with crossed arms, synchronized jumping knees, and broad, happy grins.

The concert set design boasted 10 screens of various sizes, popping with pertinent images and great pans of us in our seats. Walled-in as I was by men the size of refrigerators, I appreciated the help with the view.

With the aroma of weed sparking on the first note from the bayou, representing his Creedence Clearwater Revival days, off we went through hit after hit. The whole show was punctuated by thick, dry ice, plumes of it at times, and ended with columns of pyrotechnics and a very cool storm cloud of confetti.

When the first shockwave blast

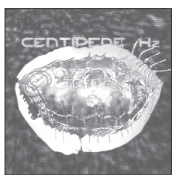
hit, I stuck in my earplugs. The pounding had charm, taking me back to the days when teenaged boys competed with each other by buying bigger and bigger speakers.

Fogerty's not what I'd call sexy, but his music sure as hell can be. During an instrumental romp between Fogerty on harmonica and Kenny Aronoff's ballistic bonking on the drums, I closed my eyes and let the music take me. With the rest of the band jumping in, the effect was a steamy, breathtaking few minutes.

As we filed out afterwards I noticed a bored expression on the face of maybe the only teenaged girl in the crowd. Poor John: he isn't letting himself age gracefully, so if you can't relate to his music there's no sex-appeal default position.

This "fortunate son" rocked hard and we were happy "rollin' down the open road" to hear him out. My adorably bulky seatmates summed up the concert with an awestruck proclamation: "This is right up there with the best of 'em, man!"

New Music Revue



Animal Collective
Centipede Hz
(Domino Records)
4.5/5

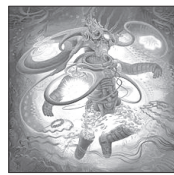
Centipede Hz, like every other Animal Collective album, is completely different from every other Animal Collective album.

The experimental rock band's ninth album comes three years after their biggest success, *Merriweather Post Pavilion*. *Centipede Hz* is filled with the pop elements that won *Merriweather* such acclaim, but it has darker undertones.

It's a step away from their usual childlike freakiness and expresses a more solemn, spacey psychedelia. They moved away from being entirely sample-based, back to having a more traditional band dynamic.

The songs are a danceable cluster of explosions strung together by the sounds of radio interference. For those who aren't already fans, this may not be the best first impression: the album is abrasive, dissonant, and confusing. However, if you can get past the white noise and crashing instrumentation, it's their poppiest and most understandable album to date.

- NICKOLAS JOY



Coheed and Cambria
The Afterman: Ascension
(Universal Records)
4/5

Fans of epic stories woven around prog rock can rejoice: Coheed and Cambria are set to release another part of *The Amory Wars* series with their sixth studio album, entitled *The Afterman: Ascension*.

Every new album by this band is a chapter in an ongoing rock opera. There's always a varying degree of style to each of the stories/songs on any Coheed album. Otherworldly intros give way to lead singer Claudio Sanchez's latest vision of his science-fiction universe.

Songs like "Goodnight Fair Lady" feel almost poppy when put right before the voice-altered, train-on-the-tracks tempo of "Key Entity Extraction II Hollywood the Cracked." There's softness in the mix, too, with the quiet lullaby of the album's final entry, "Subtraction."

There is a cohesive theme running through this album, and that always interests me. Coheed and Cambria are selling an album in its entirety, and I'm buying it.

-DAN DARLING



Danny Michel
Blackbirds Are Dancing Over Me
(Six Shooter Records)
4/5

Danny Michel relocated from his home in Ontario to the foot of the Xunantunich Mayan ruins in Belize to record *Blackbirds Are Dancing Over Me*, his inventive 10th album.

The vibes from the sounds and lyrics carry the listener to a different place. It's obvious from the very beginning that the music developed from a faraway land. It feels reminiscent of Paul Simon's *Graceland* album, with its local vocal flavour and instruments.

Still, Michel's songwriting is never overburdened by the music. Pleasing tunes like "Just The Way I Am" and "Break It You Buy It" are perfectly accented by the percussion and guitar. "The First Night" tells the tale of the girl who steals Michel's heart when he first arrives. "Don't flatter yourself, boy," he sings, with a contagiously upbeat outlook.

These are simply enjoyable tunes from a veteran Canadian artist.

-DAN DARLING



Dance Movie
Interlopers
(independent)
4/5

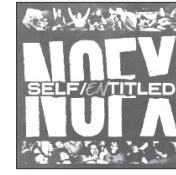
"*Interlopers* is for sad sacks and hopeful dreamers, dancers and sleepers, lovers and haters." So says the press material for Halifax's Dance Movie. The band's debut album is also for all the other people who don't end up where they thought they would.

This indie-pop album is really easy to listen to, with great vocals, and it's all very melodically interesting. It can be kind of sad and sappy at times, then more upbeat and hopeful at other points.

Apparently, the song "Maps" by New York indie rock band Yeah Yeah Yeahs was used as the thesis for the creation of this album, which shows some strange kind of fanaticism from Dance Movie frontwoman Tara Thorne. The song "Maps" is sappy and romantic; *Interlopers* tries to pull off the same emotions and does a pretty good job of it.

Interlopers is recommended for the dreamer type, as it allows the music to just carry you.

-CHRIS JOHNSON



NOFX
Self Entitled
(Fat Wreck Chords)
3.5/5

Three songs into the latest album by Los Angeles, CA pop-punk legends NOFX and that familiar horse-gallop ennui sets in: yep, another album of two-to-three-minute, tongue-in-ass-cheek, sarcastic punk rock.

In fact, the band's 12th album (how did that happen?!) is slightly more than a half hour of songs that sound pretty much like everything they've ever done.

Not as landmark in the snotted department as the band's classic early '90s output, like *Ribbed* and *White Trash, Two Heeps and a Bean*, but these are different times, and the NOFX guys aren't getting any younger with age.

Still, "Cell Out," with its frenetic riff and bug-eyed bass lines, could measure up against any of the band's upper echelon greatest hits.

Lyricaly, "Fat" Mike Burkett is as shock-value punk as ever (see "72 Hookers," promoting a prostitutes-for-world-peace agenda).

-JASON SCHREURS



In Search of Lost Time

by Daphne Shaed
camosun college pride centre

Embrace diversity

Being ostracized by friends, family, and community is damaging to the confidence and social viability of an individual. Many identities within LGBTQ are, in our society, completely invisible, such as inter-sexed persons, non-binary genders, and more. Some identities are prevalent and yet invisible, such as bisexuality and polyamory.

For some people, such as myself, being indiscreet while being simultaneously invisible compromises our foundation identity. An example is being excluded from family events or being asked to go out while family friends come over, or your partner's parents introducing you as their "friend from school." It hurts!

On September 23, we recognized Bisexual Visibility Day at Camosun Pride. There is a struggle for recognition of legitimacy, acceptance, and inclusion

in social discourses. Many marginalized identities are completely precluded from modern discourses, erased from history, hidden in mainstream media, and denied by social institutions. Our human diversity is not a recent construction: it has simply been omitted from our culturization.

I have yet to find a form that asks for "sex: male female intersexed." What would you do if your existence was constantly called into question? How would you feel if you were ignored, discriminated against, demonized, or rendered invisible simply for being?

We look back to recent history, or to other nations, and recoil in disgust at the atrocities against human rights, and yet say nothing as it happens daily in our own society. We should embrace diversity, not suppress it.

A MESSAGE

FROM THE CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

by Madeline Keller-MacLeod
ccss external executive

Every day, full buses are passing up students heading to and from school. Last fall, around 20,000 bus pass-ups were reported by BC Transit drivers, a number that's likely lower than the actual total. These pass-ups mean students are late to—or missing—their classes.

The Camosun College Student Society is working with the UVic Students' Society and the local bus drivers' union to address this issue. Last year, we lobbied the Victoria Transit Commission (VTC) and 7,000 hours were added to the system—5,000 of those hours are being used specifically to deal with student pass-ups this fall.

Despite this success, BC Transit estimates that 20,000 additional hours are needed each year to adequately address pass-ups affecting students in

Greater Victoria. We continue to lobby the VTC to increase funding and implement measures to speed up buses (such as bus-only lanes during rush hour) and ensure that students and community members are being well served by public transit.

And we need your help. While student representatives and bus drivers constantly hear of students' frustrations with inadequate bus service, few complaints are getting through to those with the power to make change. The easiest way that you can help us achieve further success is to start complaining. We encourage students to phone the BC Transit customer service line at 250-382-6161 every time you are passed by a full bus.

Students on Twitter can also tweet @BC_transit to report pass-ups.

local, live, and loud

by Dan Darling

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

B-Real, Pocket Kings, Sirreal, JM Drumbeats, DJ Speedy Shoes

CLUB 90NE9, \$25, 9 PM

Ever since the smoking ban came about in BC, it must really be hard for these guys to get away with their herbacious hobbies. I mean, at least back in the day you might be able to make it look like you were just smoking a cigarette. Hell, nowadays the bouncer might even toss the band out for smoking onstage. B-Real is from Cypress Hill. It's not a place; it's a hip-hop group.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

Rise Against, Gaslight Anthem, Hot Water Music

SAVE-ON-FOODS MEMORIAL CENTRE, \$29.50-\$43, 6 PM

My little sister is so excited about this show. She got tickets for her birthday, so she's taking the French exchange student that's visiting right now. I don't even think that she's ever been to a real concert before.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Acres of Lions, Fall in Archaea, Transit, Everyone Everywhere, The Harbour Sound

LOGAN'S PUB, \$10, 9 PM

"I never got a reaction from you. Even when I pushed and pulled at you. Even when I screamed and called your name, there was no reaction from you." For some reason my son just loves that tune by Acres of Lions. Maybe it's the catchy bit when the singer's heart is beating "bah bah, bah bah." That's all I need for a song to get stuck in my head. Just repeat a "woo hoo" or a "yeah, yeah, yeah" or even a "hey, hey" and I'm done for. It gets embedded in my brain for days. I'm no scientist, but there must be some science behind that kind of thing.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Dustin Bentall and the Smokes, Ryan Guldmond

LUCKY BAR, \$15, 8 PM

I heard Dustin Bentall sing the anthem at a Canucks game once. It sounded pretty damn good. He was singing with his dad (a.k.a. Barney Bentall), though, so it was like this beautiful proud moment of father/son harmonizing. Come to think of it, he might've opened for another

band I went to see. You know how sometimes you're just so intent on the headliner that no matter how good the opening band is, they might as well be playing polka hits from the '50s? Yeah, it might have been something like that.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Scimitar, Robot Metropolis, Pledge of Arrogance

LOGAN'S PUB, \$8, 9 PM

Have you ever tried to do any Flash animation? I'm trying to figure it out right now for a project. I had high hopes, but I think I'm going to need to start small. It's either that or I get some coaching from a friend of mine. He gets paid to do Flash. Must be nice. One of the guys in Scimitar spent some serious hours plugging away at a Flash project. I got a chance to voice a character in his story. Turned out to be pretty damn funny. Ask him about it if you go to this show. Tell him I sent you.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

Andre Nickatina, Mistah F.A.B., Mumbls

CLUB 90NE9, \$25, 9 PM

One of my buddies can just spout new lyrics to well-known tunes without any preparation. No matter where we are or what we're doing, he just throws something out there and it sounds perfect. I can't even do it justice by trying to explain it to you right now. You just kind of have to be there, in the moment. It's uncanny, really. Sure, he's really into music, plays guitar like nobody's business, spins some records and stuff, but he's got some "Weird Al" type of talent that's quite amazing. Oh, and he loves Andre Nickatina.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Stanton Warriors, Drumsound and Bassline Smith, Whoa, Grenade!

UPSTAIRS CABARET, \$20, 10 PM

People love to dance. It's a broad generalization, but it's true. Moving your body to music is just such a natural thing. It's not like everybody knows how to do it. I'm pretty sure the majority of those on the dance floor at any given moment look ridiculous. Some are downright comical. Therein lays the beauty. When someone can just let loose with reckless abandon and lose themselves in the moment, that's a beautiful thing. I usually laugh my ass off from the side of the dance floor. It's pure entertainment, much like Stanton Warriors breaks.

eye on campus

by Lucas Milroy

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Healthy mind ambassador

An information session at the Interurban campus from 12–1 pm hopes to aid in the elimination of the stigmas that go hand-in-hand with mental health issues. The organizers are looking for students to become "ambassadors of the healthy mind and help to decrease the stigma of mental health issues, foster communication and connection, and to support the members of our college community."

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

A valuable vigil

From 10 am until noon a vigil, deemed the Sisters in Spirit Vigil, will take place to honour the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, provide support of their families, and recognize the problem as a Canadian crisis. The vigil takes place at Na'tsa'maht gathering place at the Lansdowne campus. For more info, email ccfsa@gmail.com, via the First Nations Student Association.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Career fair

Head over to parking lot P6 at the Lansdowne campus for JobFest 2012. A wide variety of potential employers will be just waiting to be swooned by your utter brilliance and professional mannerisms. So suit up, or down, and head on over to P6 for the chance of a lifetime.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Lights, camera, action!

Camosun's Cinema Politica will be showing documentary film *Pink Ribbons Inc.* in Young 216, Lansdowne at 7 pm. This is a great opportunity for students to get out and see a movie at a great price, as entry is by donation. *Pink Ribbons, Inc.* explores the hypocrisy of using carcinogens in products that raise money for breast cancer, and presents the perspectives of people who have lived through breast cancer and who resent it being packaged as something pretty and normal. After the movie a panel and discussion will take place.

OCTOBER 12–20

Antimatter Film Festival

It's time for the annual Antimatter Film Festival here in Victoria. And this year will be extra special, with

a new pay-what-you-can price structure in place for students. The suggested price is a donation of \$5-\$8, but don't worry if you can't float that, as it's assured that you won't be turned away. Believe it or don't, there will be over 100 films for your senses to feast upon, as well as other spectacles to entice the mind. The showings will be happening every night at The Vic Theatre. Check out antimatter.ws for the schedule and more info.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Soiree spectacular

The one and only Cheesecake Burlesque Revue will be hosting their fourth annual fundraiser, *Hot Pink*, in support of PEERS Victoria, an organization of sex trade workers for sex trade workers. At 7:30 pm you can check out the fun, lighthearted, positive way to support PEERS with the Cheesecakes. The evening will include dazzling entertainment, a silent auction, soul records, appetizing appetizers, and the chance to experience a 'glitter makeover.' Come on, you can't say no to that! Tickets are \$30 at the door or \$25 in advance and can be purchased at Lyle's Place, Ivy's Books, or online at cheesecakeburlesque.com.

OCTOBER 13–15

Art of the Cocktail

You too can learn of the secret art that lies behind the making of all those delicious cocktails at the Art of the Cocktail festival. Tickets include workshops, competitions, and a grand tasting. There will also be a "Tour de Cocktaillia," revolving around the art, craft, and tradition of the cocktail. Go to artofthecocktail.ca for more info.

ONGOING

Writing centre

A fact unbeknownst to many students is that Camosun College has a writing centre; what even fewer people know is exactly what this writing centre offers students. While the centre is great for helping edit drafts and essays, it's also a great place to go for help with understanding assignments, developing a strong thesis, and creating an outline. The centre is situated in the Lansdowne Library learning commons, room 144. Check out camosun.ca/services/writing-centre/faqs.html to schedule a free appointment.

Dunlop House

PUB NIGHT

Arabian nights

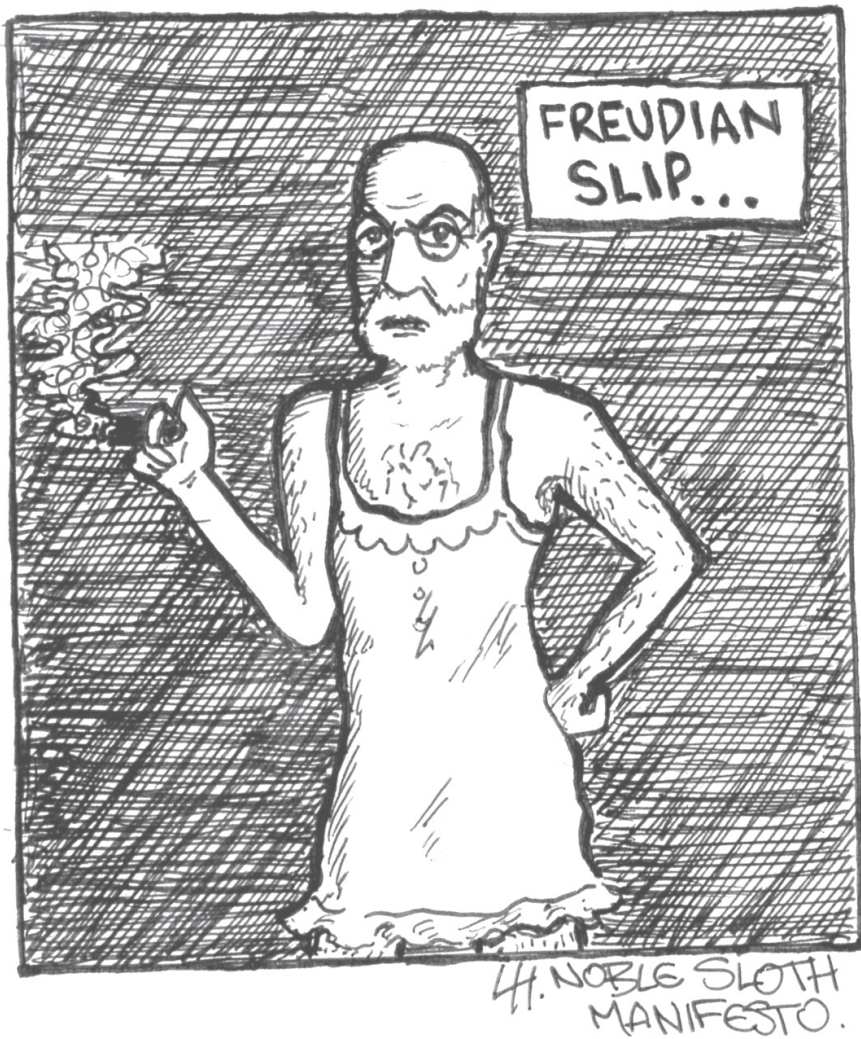
Thursday, October 11

NFL kickoff
Thursday, October 44–6 pm
Off Lansdowne Road,
beside the staff parking lot

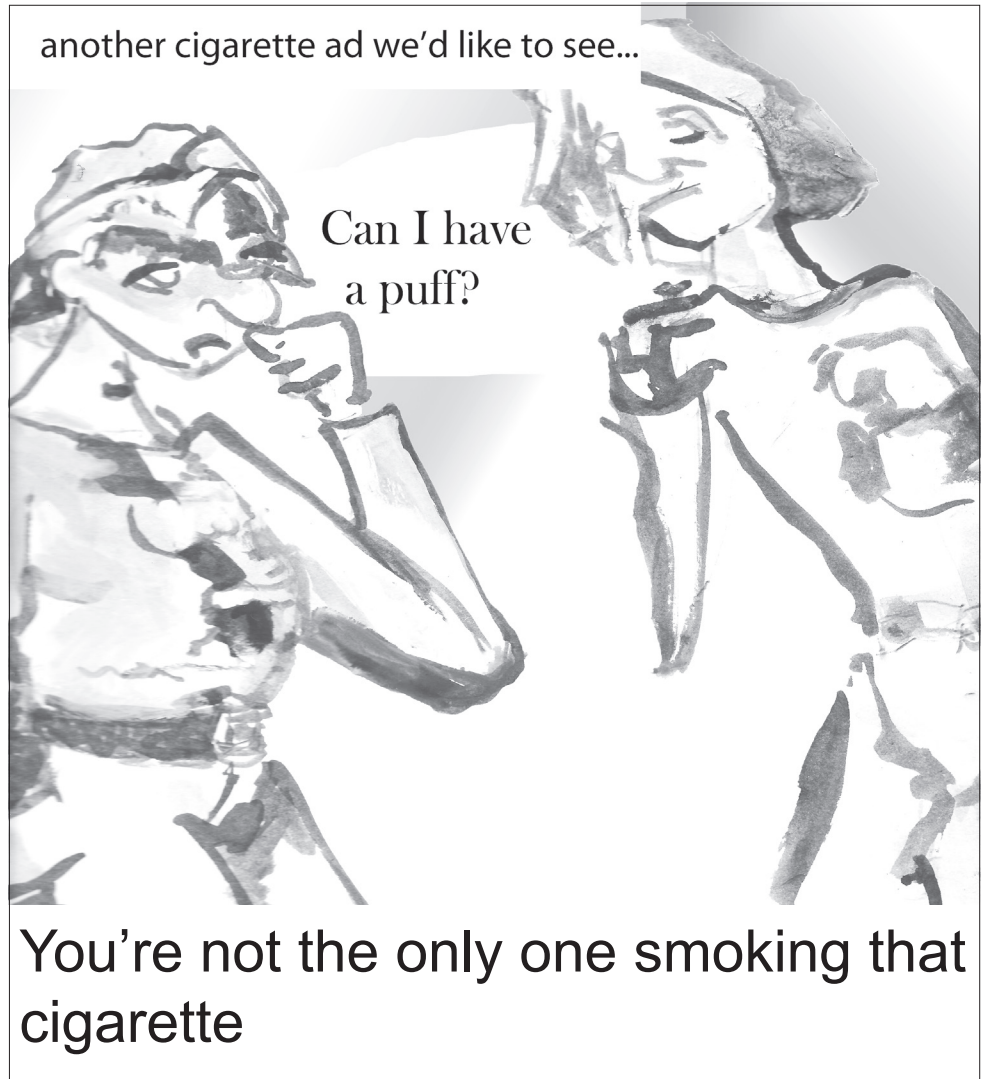
WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

Create Your Vision for Success – Free Workshop
Saturday September 15, 9am-12noon, Y300Register now: <http://endpointvisualization.wordpress.com>
Toastmasters Info: <http://camosuncollege.toastmastersclubs.org>

Noble Sloth Manifesto By Libby Hopkinson



Luke Sanity Deprived By Lucas Dahl



Ski Ninjas By Kyle Lees (The Argus)



Pablo By Pedro Banman



**You draw comics
and we know it!**
(Don't ask how.)

If you think you might be able to make folks laugh with a short comic every other week, then we'd like to see your work in print

NEXUS

Submit samples to:
Nexus, 201 Richmond House,
Lansdowne Campus, or email:
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

BECAUSE
MARRYING
RICH

may not

PAN OUT.

IT'S TIME TO LOOK FOR A CAREER.
EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS AT CAREERTREKBC.CA



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