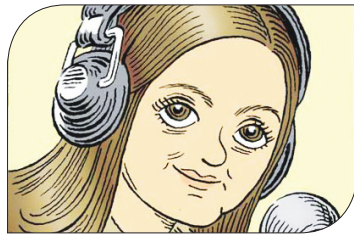


NEXUS

Volume 20 Issue 8
December 9, 2009

Camosun's Student Voice
Since 1990



JUST THE GOODS, MAN

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Messin' with tradition

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

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Nexus
Editorial

Eggnog, rum, and the lash

SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Each December, as the wind gets colder and the night grows darker, thoughts invariably turn towards “peace on Earth” platitudes and maudlin Jimmy Stewart-style eruptions of “Merry Christmas!” to whoever is in earshot.

And while such saccharine displays of sentiment, phony or not, provide a nice feeling of familiarity and fellowship, the coldness of winter can cut through even that.

Many of us in the west are familiar with baby Jesus and the cults that exist in his name, but the December of 195 years ago was celebrating that and something else altogether. They were cheering the death of a real-life monster.

A monster that loved the lash and the bloodied and bruised flesh it generated, and whose very name would coin the term “sadism.” He was the Marquis de Sade, and to this day he casts a pitch-dark shadow over literature and pop culture as the black prince of letters, an extreme individual, a sexual aberration, and a raving lunatic.

In his day, the aristocracy, the church, and those they influenced all demonized Sade. For two centuries, Sade has been a part of our cultural consciousness. He’s been studied in schools and is available in paperback. Plays and films recast and recount his dark dower.

Artists and intellectuals have

been expertly reassessing his body of work in recent years. While both his admirers and detractors have bickered over the minutiae of this malcontent’s lifestyle, a peculiar and penetrating discovery has arisen, one even his most fanatical opposition should recognize.

Does Sade’s influence absolve and exonerate artists and intellectuals from running cutthroat and wild in the name of free expression?

Sade instills an impulse deep within us to eye and decry that which is best buried, like a child who can’t stop playing with a loose tooth or picking at a scab that’s best left to itch and heal.

And doesn’t it seem that our culture is a curious one—always wanting to taste the forbidden fruit of knowledge rather than deny oneself and starve?

So many current popular artists, filmmakers, and writers are bankrolled and celebrated for being thought of as avant-garde, pioneering, and shocking. Somehow, this makes their art more original.

But originality is more than



NIC VANDERGUGTEN

shock value. By far the most popular and misunderstood of Sade’s work is *120 Days of Sodom*. It’s a black oratory about imagination transcending morality and fearlessly stating that the roughest-hewn of materials can make for compelling art.

While there’s been a revival and reassessment of Sade’s works from both high and low places, ambivalence still pervades him and probably forever will. His writings have been the bedside reading for too many deviants and serial killers to completely dismiss him. But does Sade’s influence absolve and

exonerate artists and intellectuals from running cutthroat and wild in the name of free expression? Should we humour everything and tolerate everything?

A satiable curiosity is glued to some deep part of us that seeks complete freedom, knowing that it will lead to complete destruction—moral, personal, and transcendental.

For some, devastation is a strong attractor. There’s a terrible beauty in the crack of the whip, the sting of the lash, the salty taste of blood, and the flowering bruises that bloom on our fragile skin.

Open Space

Open Space accepts submissions from Camosun students. Submissions to Open Space should be 400 words or less. Responses to previous articles in Nexus should be 250 words or less. E-mail submissions to nexus@nexusnewspaper.com and include your name and student number.

Words are the best gift of all

PAM OLIVER

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For most people in this city, the holiday season begins in earnest as a kind of home-stretch gallop by the first week of December. For a second group of people, the seasonal madness never enters their world. And for a third group, the end of each year is filled with pain and sorrow as they struggle to make it to Jan. 2.

Those in the first group make good deeds at the holidays standard issue. They donate money and goods, and then go even further into debt on gifts for the kids.

They exchange calendars with their parents, and even though they hate dinner with the relatives, they go anyway. Using heavy doses of denial, they make it through. To this

group I give this word—courage. They show courage that’s unprecedented at any other level of society and they deserve a full measure of it for their personal use.

And to those in the second group, those special people who have the ability to ignore it all, sailing blithely through the morass of mixed signals without ever changing course, to them I give this word—wisdom. They have it in spades; it’s just time someone acknowledged that about them.

For people in the third group, however, this time of year is all about an insidious and unshakable melancholy that emerges as a small, faintly alarming feeling somewhere around the end of October.

For these disenfranchised folks, the holiday season is an experience

somewhere between those murky, horror-ridden dreams we have after someone dies and the mind-blown shock of a night terror.

If we have feelings about this time of year that make us miserable, we have the right to challenge those feelings and make up new ones that we like better.

To them I give this word—kind. If they are experiencing this end to

every year, they must use this word a lot. They should attach it to every thought they have, and apply it to every emotion and every decision.

If what they are about to do to themselves isn’t kind, they shouldn’t do it. They can’t control what the rest of the world is doing to them, but they can control the amount of kindness they show themselves.

If we have feelings about this time of year that make us miserable, we have the right to challenge those feelings and make up new ones that we like better.

How are we going to get through the spring semester if we’re still paying—financially and emotionally—for Christmas?

If the word you usually relate to Christmas is less than uplifting, it’s time to get a new one.

Taking the piss out of the Olympics

RYAN GIBBONS

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I see so many people so pumped up about the Olympics and I just don’t get it. So allow me to provide some reasons why I think the Olympics are a load of shit.

First of all, the only event worth watching—gold medal men’s hockey—is basically unavailable to any regular human being.

Then there’s the whole issue about the Olympics, which were at one point a symbol of international

peace and unity and an event to celebrate sport and friendly competition, becoming more and more corporately sponsored. This cheapens the whole meaning of the games for me.

And here’s a good one—the official Cowichan sweaters to be worn by the Canadian athletes are being made without the support of the Cowichan tribes. Perfect.

Then there’s the issue of basic Canadian freedoms. Don’t bother trying to protest in Vancouver dur-

ing the games unless you want to be stymied by the cops.

And what about the rights of the homeless during the games? The cops are going to drag homeless people to a shelter, or at least out of anywhere deemed an “Olympic zone,” whether they like it or not.

Don’t get me wrong—I’m all for the spirit of the Olympics and competitive sport. Physical activity and competition is an excellent way to stimulate the brain. But somewhere along the way the guys with

all of the money became obsessed with trying to get even more of it by any means possible, as they often tend to do.

In the next few months we’re going to be bombarded by as much Olympic brouhaha as the International Olympic Committee can muster.

But, here’s something to give at least a bit of hope—our corner of the world seems prepared to counter with a half-decent opposition, by-laws or no by-laws.

Democracy Now! co-founder speaks in Victoria

DARIN STEINKEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Democracy Now! co-founder Amy Goodman touched on almost every hot-button issue in the United States in a recent 90-minute talk at UVic. But due to a hot-button issue up here—the Olympics—Goodman had a bit of a tough time getting across the border.

Goodman co-founded the *Democracy Now!* radio/TV program in 1996 and is the news director of Pacifica Radio Station WBAI-FM in New York City. She is known for her coverage of the peace and human-rights movements as well as her support of the independent media.

So it's easy to see why so many were excited to hear her speak. But getting into Canada didn't go smoothly for Goodman.

On Nov. 25, she and two colleagues were detained for 90 minutes at the Douglas border crossing just outside of Vancouver while on their way into Canada to speak in Vancouver and Victoria.

Goodman says the border guards checked through all of their belongings and then began going through their computers and notes, including their email.

"They asked if I was going to be

talking about the Olympics," said Goodman in her UVic speech. "I really didn't know what they were referring to. And they kept pushing and saying I was denying I was talking about the Olympics. I said, 'That wasn't my plan for tonight.'"

"There is supposed to be a separation between the press and the state. It's what makes our democracy healthy."

AMY GOODMAN
DEMOCRACY NOW!

Goodman, who was arrested while covering protests at the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, said she was stunned and troubled by her welcome to Canada.

"There is supposed to be a separation between the press and the state," Goodman told those in attendance. "It's what makes our democracy healthy. It's supposed to be a check and balance on power and they are not supposed to be checking



Democracy Now!'s Amy Goodman.

our notes, our computers."

Goodman said if journalists fear they're going to be monitored and detained, they'll be more afraid to dig for information.

"It's not only a violation of freedom of the press—the idea that the state is going into your papers, your documents, your sources, everything—it's also a violation of your right to know. That is a disservice to a democratic society."

Goodman went on to give a wide-ranging talk covering such topics as the television show *24*; "trickle-up journalism;" suicide in the US military; the YES men; the irony of President Obama winning the Nobel Peace Prize the same week he will send more troops to Afghanistan; Tommy Douglas and health-care reform in the US; the upcoming

United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark; the economic meltdown.

Given that the lecture was a fundraiser for CFUV, the University of Victoria's radio station, Goodman also spent time talking about the difference between the corporate media in the United States and the independent media that tends to broadcast her program.

"We have to challenge the corporate media," said Goodman. "NBC is owned by General Electric—a major weapons manufacturer. Is it any accident that what we watch on TV are military hardware shows—cheerleaders for war? Yes, they are private corporations, but they don't own the airwaves."

She also referred to the airwaves as a "national treasure."

"They're the place where we have to hash out the most critical issues of the day," she said. "We can't afford the status quo. It's dissent that will save us and we need a media that is safe for dissent."

Goodman was in Canada promoting her book, *Breaking the Sound Barrier*. She and Juan Gonzalez host *Democracy Now! The War and Peace Report*, which can be heard every day at noon on CFUV, 101.9 FM.

NEWS BRIEFS BY SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

CCSS referendum chronicles

The Camosun College Student Society had another meeting recently and discussed a possible referendum to ask students for more money. They made a motion that was fairly vague, kinda dull, and not very interesting to read, let alone write about. The motion wasn't approved and was passed on to their finance committee. The bottom line? Well, a \$2 per month "operational" levy and a 50 cents per month events levy, which would be tacked onto the current Camosun student fees, are still being discussed. The CCSS finance committee was requested to report back in January.

Quit harshing my mellow!

The International Hempology 101 Society (no, we didn't make that name up!) is in cahoots with Canadian Students for a Sensible Drug Policy and staged a protest against Bill C15 on Dec. 2. The notorious Bill C15 is a total buzz kill that proposes minimum sentencing for non-violent drug crimes and that is *not* cool. The Petch Fountain at UVic was the site of the rally where students and supporters of the Hempology 101 Society handed out leaflets and burned several of those left-handed, funny-smelling jazz cigarettes from 11:30 am till 4:20 pm. With future affirmative actions in the works, visit hempology.ca to keep on top of this potentially volatile situation. And, no, Dave is not here.

It's business, it's business time...

Camosun's School of Business doled out more than \$58,000 in financial prizes at its annual awards ceremony in November. "A record number of 88 students benefited," says Sandra Bitz, development officer with the Camosun College Foundation. Special guest Steve Parkhill, Roger's Chocolates president and chief operating officer and member of Camosun's Board of Governors, says he was "impressed to hear about the high regard in which Camosun and its students are held." The recipient of the Project Management Institute Award of Excellence went to recent graduate Adam Trevor. Upon receiving the \$750 award, Trevor said, "I feel truly honoured, as it provides an excellent stepping stone as I move from academics into the professional world." Congrats to Trevor and all the rest of the award winners—well done, all y'all.

Who could ask for anything Moor?

UVic's Big Ideas Club will be putting on a rendition of Shakespeare's *Othello* in February. Auditions will be held on Dec. 13 from 11 am till 4 pm in the Vertigo Lounge in the Student Union Building at UVic. This experimental, student-directed project hinges on having a variety of performers. So why not dust off that unitard and get ready to spout off some iambic pentameter? Contact rlevis@uvic.ca for more info or to book an audition time.

Crisis line faces an uncertain future

JINA MOUSSEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Victoria's NEED Crisis and Information Line may be hanging up their phones for good.

A volunteer service that relies on Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) funding for almost half of their yearly budget, NEED, who have been in operation for over 38 years, has been directly affected by VIHA's latest funding cuts.

Starting April 1, Vancouver Island's six crisis lines will be consolidated into one 1-800 number.

At the moment, VIHA is taking bids for the new island-wide line, including one from NEED.

"It's kind of strange, because it's almost like we are in competition with [the other Vancouver Island crisis lines]," says Mary Rumsby, NEED's Volunteer Services Co-

ordinator. "But we are all part of the BC Crisis Line Association and will continue to work together because this transition cannot take place without everybody's help. The ultimate goal is to provide good service to the callers."

NEED currently has 120 volunteers, all of whom have gone through over 50 hours of training in order to answer distress calls.

Not only do volunteers gain valuable knowledge of basic mental-health issues, substance abuse, family violence, and sexual assault, they also gain active listening skills that are beneficial to their personal lives.

Acting executive director Joyalle Bunyan-Maynard started with NEED as a volunteer in 1974.

"When I was on the lines, my ability to be more assertive was

much higher. I had this reminder every week that I had these skills, that I could use them out in the world," says Bunyan-Maynard.

The biggest difference with the new 1-800 number will be the switch from volunteers to paid staff operating the phone lines.

"There is significant research that has been done across the health profession—not just for crisis lines—that indicates when you start to pay people, their empathy starts to drop," says Bunyan-Maynard. "It's a job to do; it's not being absorbed into their being like unpaid work is."

Another concern under the new system is burnout for phone-line workers; NEED's volunteers work four to six hours a week, while paid staff would be working up to 36 hours a week.

"It's much harder to do the same work and respond to callers in the same way that many hours a week," says Bunyan-Maynard.

NEED and the other crisis lines on the island are keeping an open mind as they wait on the outcome. NEED isn't expected to shut down entirely if their bid for the line is lost.

"What would more likely happen is we will reinvent ourselves," says Bunyan-Maynard.

NEED's other programs—an online chatting service that connects youth to professional counsellors, and a suicide awareness program for youth, amongst others—will continue to operate.

"NEED is a special place," says Rumsby. "All of us here are very like-minded people—we want to help."

SPEAK UP BY MAELINA DE GRASSE

What's your family's weirdest holiday tradition?



FAYSAL AL-ACHI

"I'm from the Middle East so we have Ramadan—we fast for a month every day until the sun sets."



SAM ELDRIDGE

"We have St. Nicholas' day on Dec. 5. We wash our shoes and put them outside the door, and then Santa fills them with candy. It's a German tradition."



TOMMY THOMPSON

"I eat moose meat."



DANIELLE BISHOP

"My mom still sends me to bed because Santa's coming."



KALLUM ATOMS

"My dad gives awesome stocking stuffers. Usually I get a beer with a *Playboy* magazine wrapped around it and a quarter of weed. Best stocking stuffer ever."

UVSS and CCSS at odds over CFS

JASON MOTZ
STAFF WRITER

Mind your own business, Camosun. That's the message of a recent motion put forward by UVic Students' Society director-at-large Kelsey Hannan in response to a pro-Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) campaign launched in early November by the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) at the University of Victoria.

At a UVSS meeting held on Nov. 16, Hannan's motion requesting that the CCSS "end all financial allocations towards the upcoming UVSS continuing membership referendum" was tabled to the Dec. 7 meeting. Results of that meeting were not available at press time.

Earlier this semester, a group of students at UVic initiated de-federation proceedings from the CFS. Amongst these students were Hannan and fellow UVSS director-at-large Nathan Warner, who were not acting on behalf of the UVSS.

In response, the CCSS campaigned at the university to raise awareness about the CFS in association with the UVSS. Members of the CCSS staff, using \$500 of a \$3,200 allocated budget, spread the pro-CFS gospel on UVic's campus and, along with the UVSS, gathered over 1,500 signatures of opposition to de-federation.

"While the UVSS certainly doesn't have the power to tell groups how they may spend their

own money, we do have autonomy over how we enter into business relationships," posted Hannan on the website of *the Martlet*, UVic's student newspaper, where a lively debate has broken out regarding the CCSS campaign.

"This motion takes the position that as a society with an interest in protecting the integrity of our electoral process," Hannan continued, "we would be justified to decline business relationships with those who have intervened into our democratic affairs."

"It's more important now than it ever was to continue this fight and to leave the CFS behind."

NATHAN WARNER
UVIC STUDENT

Warner echoes Hannan's statement and says outsider groups such as the CCSS have no business interfering in UVic's student politics.

"For UVic students to hear a fair argument," says Warner, "we must stop outside groups such as the CCSS from interfering in any way in our local politics."

But Michel Turcotte, director of operations for the CCSS, says

it's integral that the UVSS stay federated with the CFS, and that Camosun is involved in making sure this happens.

"When any student union decides to seek membership in the CFS it is making a commitment to work with students from all over Canada, and the process of joining involves participation from other locals, and the same is true of leaving the CFS," says Turcotte.

"In addition, there is so much crossover in terms of membership between the CCSS and UVSS, it's completely unrealistic to expect Camosun students to not have an interest in what happens at UVic," he says.

According to Turcotte, the long history of the UVSS and CCSS helping one another out shouldn't stop now, especially when CFS membership of one of the groups is threatened.

"The UVSS joined the CFS by referendum in 1985 and from that time on was constantly interfering in the internal affairs of Camosun students," Turcotte sarcastically chimed in on *the Martlet* messageboard. "In fact, we have the interference of the UVSS to thank for pushing us to become independent of our administration in 1990."

At their recent annual general meeting, the CFS passed a motion that places greater restrictions on CFS members who attempt to

de-federate. Among the conditions includes an extension of the minimum time period between referendums on campus from two to five years.

As well, a 10-percent increase in the number of signatures required for a referendum petition means that 20 percent of the student population now has to sign in favour of a referendum.

Warner says it's "more important now than it ever was to continue this fight and to leave the CFS behind."

"[We must] keep the referendum on our membership in the CFS fair and let the [UVic] students decide if they want to continue being a part of the CFS," says Warner.

Meanwhile, Turcotte likens the UVSS' motion against the CCSS to that of a threat of divorce.

"If you want to end an 18-year relationship, it would only seem fair that your members have the right to hear our voice in the same way that we listened to you in the past," Turcotte posted on *the Martlet* site.

The UVSS is one of 13 student societies who are currently trying to sever ties with the CFS.

The common complaint among these groups is that the money collected from students to fund CFS membership could be better spent elsewhere, and that the organization is out of touch with the needs of the students.

NEWS BRIEFS

BY SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

Better read than dead

A dirty dozen of Camosun's most promising scribes in the Creative Writing Associate of Arts Degree program are sharing some selected personal pieces for the third annual "Our Stars Perform" presentation. Wednesday, Dec. 9 in the Young 216 at Lansdowne is the scene of the crime as students share their anecdotal musings, fiction, poetry, memoirs, and scripts from 11:30 am-12:50 pm. With a nice variety of writing genres represented and the odd taboo smashed, this lively reading is sure to be memorable and had better be well attended. Maybe the next Gertrude Stein, Papa Hemingway, or Norman Mailer is in our midst?

No more teachers, no more books!

Camosun College will be closed for the holidays so that everyone can troll out the Yule log, don gay apparel, spike the nog, deck the halls, and ring in the New Year with several days to recover from said festive activities. Both campuses will be closed as of Dec. 25 and will reopen on Jan. 4. Make the most of the holidays, let the special people in your life know what they mean to you, and try to get a little walking in. Fa la la la la, la la la later!

Do a good deed helping out the Mustard Seed

From Dec. 7-11, for the tenth straight year, the City of Victoria Public Works crews are assisting the Mustard Seed Food Bank. By collecting donated food items from Victoria households we can all play a role in helping out during the holidays. With so much food to go around, no one need go hungry this time of year. To participate in this most noble drive, place non-perishable food items in bags clearly labelled "food drive" and place them next to your garbage can on collection day for pick up. It's that simple! Visit victoria.ca/garbagecollection to confirm collection day in your neighbourhood and show the Mustard Seed the support they deserve. You'll be glad you did.

The Victoria Film Festival wants you bad

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Victoria Film Festival and time is a-wastin'! Check out victoriafilmfestival.com to see what you can do to help this annual festival run smoothly. Also, there's perks a-plenty for your efforts and due diligence. Volunteers are sure to help the festival be a success; they also stand a good chance to hobnob with celebrities and filmmakers, schmooze up a storm, and do some celebrity spotting. Volunteers also get to attend an exclusive post-festival wrap party and land complimentary film tickets. This is a large-scale festival that depends greatly on volunteers; lots of positions are available, so get on board already and be part of something glittery and exotic, like Siegfried and Roy, minus the tigers and danger.

Cell-phone ban gets mixed student reaction

DAVE WALLACE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In a move that's angered some student drivers, the provincial government laid down a law on Oct. 21 prohibiting the use of electronic devices while driving. The law takes effect on Jan. 1 and fines of \$167 can be handed out as soon as February.

"I don't support the law," says Nick Holfeld, a University Transfer student at Camosun. "Just because some people suck at driving doesn't mean the rest of us should suffer. It's easy enough to text and especially talk on the phone while driving."

Another option the government has suggested is the use of headsets or speakerphones. As many British Columbians add the newest Bluetooth headsets to their Christmas wish lists, some Camosun students aren't fazed by the law and don't plan to change their driving habits anytime soon.

"I don't see how talking on the phone is an issue, if you know you suck at driving and talking at the same time then either work on your multitasking skills or go onto speaker phone," says Kathryn Paetkau, a first-year Psychology student at Camosun.

Robert Winter, a second-year Camosun Associate Arts student, says breaking the habit of using cell phones while driving might take some time.

"I feel that I'll probably still answer calls just out of practice and in order to not miss anything," says Winter. "Texting has gotten me into some close calls, after which I decided, even before this piece



A new bylaw will prohibit this.

of legislation, to not text while I drive."

Others feel that it will be that first ticket that will cause them to change their tune.

"After someone gets a ticket, they'll stop. I'll probably have to get at least one before I stop," says Holfeld.

This begs the question—what will be the next accessory that will be deemed illegal to use while driving?

"I do support the law, although should we start outlawing all electronic devices? Like music, or TVs, in cars? Where is the line drawn between safe and unsafe for drivers?" says Nathan Welle, a second-year Philosophy student at Camosun.

Many Camosun students agree that even though it's unfair to punish everyone equally by putting the cell phone law into place, it will save lives.

"The fine could be a little much, but it has to keep people from doing it," says Paetkau.

It just may take a while—and a ticket or two—for some motorists to let those calls go to voicemail.



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A people's history of the Richmond House

ALAN PIFFER

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Vancouver Island resident Linda Gelaude looks at Camosun's Richmond House differently than most people. The building, tucked away on the quiet northwest corner of the college's Lansdowne campus, was the house of her grandparents, George and Rose Farkas, as well as her great aunt, Elizabeth Farkas. It was a place of Sunday dinners and holiday meals.

Within the walls of the Richmond House, there is also, for Gelaude, a sad story best left behind.

The Farkas family moved to Victoria escaping the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, where the Soviet Russian government moved in to rule until communism's fall in the late '80s.

Because of his political views, George Farkas had no choice but to leave, along with the 200,000 other Hungarians who fled the country.

"My grandfather had expressed his opinion about communism in general, and a few people in particular, which was not politically healthy," explains Gelaude. "A good friend of his quietly said, 'George, your name's on the list, so if I were you, I would move... now.' And they packed a couple suitcases between the bunch of them and left."

But leaving wasn't easy. For them and most of the refugees, it was a harrowing experience they felt incredibly lucky to survive.

After taking a train out to an outlying area of Hungary, the house where they were going to stay was boarded up and empty. A neighbour took them in for the night; they

later suspected the person to be a government informer, as they were guided to the border, which turned out to be a minefield surrounded by barbed wire with a Russian outpost on the other end.

"When they made their way through the minefield, which I guess had already been detonated by other unfortunates, there was a little Austrian guy dancing and waving his arms, trying to get their attention," says Gelaude. "Because they were going the wrong way. So they did an about-face actually within gunshot of the tower."

"When they made their way through the minefield, there was a little Austrian guy dancing and waving his arms, trying to get their attention."

LINDA GELAUDE

ISLAND RESIDENT

After making it through to Austria and into England, where they stayed with other refugees in a church basement, the Farkas' goal was to settle in Canada.

The next available flight was to Victoria; without much deliberation, they hopped on the flight.

"You're not about to be choosy when you're grateful to be alive," says Gelaude.

After arriving here, the Farkas



Linda Gelaude outside Camosun's Richmond House, where her grandparents used to live.

family finally settled in to what is now the Richmond House.

They purchased it from Victoria College, which was located at the Lansdowne campus site before Camosun College.

After settling in Victoria, the Farkas' didn't spend much time looking back into their former lives, opting to focus on their new lives as Canadians.

"It wasn't an option to go back; mom found out that after they left, in absentee, every refugee who left had a death sentence or a prison sentence put on their head," says Gelaude. "This was their new country, and they were going to make it work."

And they did make it work. George Farkas, having been a successful carpenter in Hungary, con-

tinued on in the construction trade, and was involved in projects like the concrete works of art at the Butchart Gardens.

Meanwhile, the Farkas women worked as seamstresses making high-end clothing.

On top of that, the family made a little extra cash renting the top floor and basement of the Richmond House to college students, rendering the other floors of the house forbidden zones for the grandchildren.

"Mom would have had 14 conceptions if college boys were talking to her little kids," says Gelaude.

Gelaude remembers a strong sense of family in the house, which extended to other young—mostly male—Hungarian refugees who needed guidance and support in their new country.

"Families in Hungary would wake up to a note saying, 'I've struck off to a new country, see you, love you, I'll try and be in touch,'" says Gelaude. "Grandma and Grandpa's house was a real congregation spot. They were sort of ad-hoc parents."

Eventually the rigours of maintaining a large chunk of property became too much for the Farkas family, who settled into a smaller home in later years, after selling the property to Camosun in the '80s.

Today, the building houses office space, including the headquarters of *Nexus* and other Camosun office space, but because little has been done to the building structurally, it looks very similar to how it did all those years ago when the Farkas family first made it their own.

Delta Epsilon Chi a frat that means business

KRISTIAN DART

STAFF WRITER

The name Delta Epsilon Chi (DEC) may conjure up images of beer-slugging, toga-wearing, lady-chasing frat boys, but this Camosun College student club has a very different set of guiding principles.

"DEC is an international club for business students," says Peter Paine, DEC Camosun member. "DEC provides opportunities for personal achievement through business competitions, and establishes networking activities for business students."

Delta Epsilon Chi hosts international competitions around the world, allowing them to network with each other and show off their business ideas.

The Camosun chapter of DEC is the first—and currently the only—one in BC.

"The organization has different clubs around the world," says Paine. "There are more across Canada, a lot throughout the States, and even a few in China."

The organization began 48 years ago with the goal to help business students develop their skills in conjunction with their classroom studies.

According to their website, "DEC enhances the student's college experience by providing recognition and leadership activities directly related to academic study."

Currently, 14,000 students from over 230 college campuses participate in the organization.

For its members, DEC hosts international competitions around the world, allowing them to network with each other and show off their business ideas.

"There are business-simulation case-study competitions, and we have had the opportunity to compete in a few," says Paine. "We went to Washington State and won a few competitions, and we also went to Anaheim, California, where we won one."

DEC Camosun, though affiliated with an international organization, is also an officially registered Camosun College student club.

"We run the club out of the college and you have to be a Camosun business student to join," says Paine.

As a registered college club, DEC is entitled to some of the funding set aside from student fees by the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS). The money is used to



Business is on-campus club Delta Epsilon Chi's business, and business is good.

help, support, and promote campus clubs.

"We receive some funding from the CCSS, but we do a lot of our own fundraising as well," says Paine. "We've held bottle drives to raise money, we hosted a *Monopoly* tournament, and soon we plan to host a *Rock Band* tournament."

DEC Camosun recently hosted a fundraiser evening where local businessmen gave lectures on the difficulties of starting a business in the cold current economic climate.

When not competing in business competitions, or looking for ways to raise money, the group is lending a hand with charitable organizations, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Queen Alexan-

dra Foundation for Children.

So, while the name Delta Epsilon Chi may have fooled some Camosun students into thinking the college had its first frat, there

will be no keg parties, panty raids, or continual loops of "Louie Louie" at the club's meetings.

At these meetings, there will only be calculators and ambition.

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Where great deals begin!

New CCSS director tells tale of hope

ERIN BALL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Chris Marks is a busy man.

Not only is Marks the current Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) students with disabilities director, he's also taking business and Workplace Education Preparation classes at the Interurban campus, as well as participating in on-campus clubs and activities.

Despite his busy schedule, Marks is excited about his new position with the CCSS.

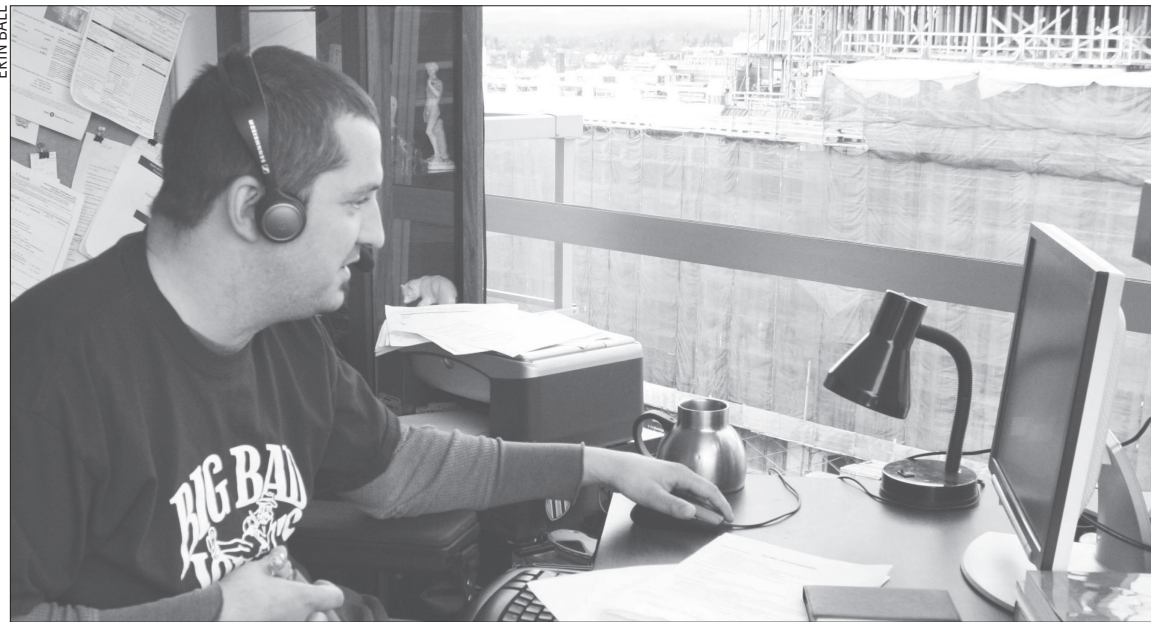
"When I do something like school or work, I like to totally immerse myself in it. It's my life," says Marks.

He decided to run for the position of students with disabilities director to raise awareness about accessibility and to get involved in the student society. Marks took the victory over incumbent Christopher Gillespie in the October elections.

Marks is uniquely qualified for his new position. He's a C-5 quadriplegic, which means he has some form of impairment in all four limbs, using a wheelchair to get around.

"I can move my arms but can't grip too well... though I can hold a beer," he says.

Marks wasn't always a quadriplegic. He was born in Campbell



CCSS students with disabilities director Chris Marks became a quadriplegic after a 2005 car accident.

River and grew up in nearby Sayward, BC. He started spending his summers on a fishing boat when he was six.

"I worked with my hands my whole life," says Marks.

Marks has spent most of his life on Vancouver Island, spending much of his time fishing, building, and repairing vessels, as well as raising a family.

In 2005, he graduated from Malaspina's Culinary Arts program.

He spent some time working as a cook aboard the Maple Leaf, BC's oldest tall ship, during their coastal tours. He was working as a sushi chef in Nanaimo when the accident happened.

"I got off work one night, went to a party, got a ride home with some guy..." says Marks. "He crashed his car; here I am."

Marks' injury changed his life drastically. Once a physically active man who enjoyed snowboard-

ing and fishing, and who had just started his career as a chef, he was now confined to a wheelchair with limited use of his body.

"Work was something you did with your hands," says Marks. "What I realized lying there in spinal rehab is I would have to learn how to make a living using my head. It forced me to realize my potential in a totally different way."

After spending time rehabilitating in Vancouver, Marks made

Victoria his home. Last year, he attended the Better Employment Strategies and Techniques program at Interurban.

"I got off work one night, went to a party, got a ride home with some guy. He crashed his car; here I am."

CHRIS MARKS
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

For Marks, accessibility is a constant challenge in his life.

"Which piece of equipment I'm in, whether I'm in a manual chair or power chair, dictates how far I go, where I get to, how independent I am, whether I get on the bus myself or not, whether I can make it up the hill to class..." explains Marks.

"To be independent, to be able to do something by yourself, just a small thing," says Marks, "those little victories that most people don't see, those are the things that give you the confidence to keep going."

Nursing knows no borders

AMANDA RICHARDSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Cleverly combining her two passions of nursing and travel, former Camosun nursing student Kathryn Wootton is one of the lucky ones who, over the years, has been accepted for one of Camosun's international nursing practicums.

It all started when Wootton was sitting in a UVic calculus class, and a thought suddenly popped into her head—nursing.

"It was only after I had applied to be in Camosun's Nursing program that I realized just how well-suited it is for what I want to do with my life," says Wootton. "I really like being with people and feeling like I am doing something worthwhile, and that's the way I feel about nursing."

Wootton, who is now back at UVic finishing her Nursing degree, was accepted to go to a field school in Tonga for six weeks in May of 2007 and will not soon forget the experience.

"When I went to Tonga on my practicum, I was with seven other students from Camosun," says Wootton. "Nursing looked different over there compared to what we were used to seeing here. There is almost no technology there, so the medical staff rely heavily on basic skills."

Wootton also notes that many of the Tongan patients suffered from similar ailments and diseases as Canadians, but at much more advanced stages.

Wootton says it's eye-opening to work in developing countries.

"You have to be creative and knowledgeable," she says, "and work ethically."

Another Camosun Nursing student who has volunteered in a developing country is third-year student Halima O'Brien. Waitlisted

in 2006, O'Brien wanted to have a productive year off from school and decided to volunteer in Argentina.

"When I travelled to Argentina, I could have just sent the money down to them instead of spending it on airfare, and they could have built houses and organized youth groups themselves," says O'Brien. "But this way, I'm bringing in a resource that you can't get with just money."

Canadian field work volunteers not only donate their time and services, but their knowledge as well. Volunteers, often stationed in rural areas outside of major cities, take time to teach while they treat.

"Some different parts of the world have a very different, and a very unique, way of dealing with some very significant health issues."

THEVI PATHER
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

"It's like with that old saying, 'give a man some fish for a day, or give him a fishing pole and teach him how to fish forever,'" says O'Brien.

Thevi Pather, associate director of Camosun College International, is responsible for Camosun's international programming.

Pather has been involved with the Nursing program's study-abroad program for the last five years, slowly building it from the ground up.

Nursing students have done their clinical work in places like



Kathryn Wootton in Tonga.

India, Namibia, the Philippines, Tonga, and, starting this year, Nepal.

Pather says that many of the field-school locations are generally "not on a tourist map," which helps to bring aide to where it is needed, as well as to fully immerse the students in the different cultures.

"Some different parts of the world have a very different, and a very unique, way of dealing with some very significant health issues," says Pather. "What we hope our students will find useful is that they come to learn and appreciate that the provision of health care can be approached from many different dimensions."

Each December and January, Nursing students apply to go to one of the field schools. Field schools in Namibia, Tonga, India, and Nepal will play host to 32 Camosun students this summer, all looking for the experience of a lifetime.

"It is invaluable, and is a unique experience that is unlike going into these places as a tourist," says Pather. "You are thrust into a culture, and you are forced to respond with both your skills and your instincts. It's not for the faint of heart, but it is a wonderful experience."

Camosun students volunteer to unwind

AMBER FEE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With exam time looming, most students are concentrating on getting those last assignments finished and handed in.

But not every student just has school on the brain.

Mel Cawthra, a Dental Assistant student at Camosun's Lansdowne campus, has both exams and a group of 15-year-old girls on her mind.

Cawthra is one of about 15 volunteers working with a youth group in Saanich.

"I do it because I love kids," says Cawthra.

"I love hanging out with them," she continues. "They are fun to be around. School takes priority, but kids teach you a lot through life."

Cawthra isn't the only person juggling school and other commitments.

Chris Symons, a volunteer with Camosun's Peer Connection program, spends an hour or two a week helping international students with any questions or concerns they may have.

Symons helps students adapt to their studies at Camosun and life in Victoria, but he also gets a lot out of the experience.

"It's important to help keep me sane," says Symons. "It reminds me that school is not the only thing going on in the world and it helps me keep my focus outwards rather than just worrying about tests and assignments."

While there are many reasons Camosun students volunteer, most agree that it's a beneficial experience.

For Michelle Swanson, who helped raise money and awareness

for Camosun's project in Swaziland, Africa on World AIDS Day, it was more than just a fun experience.

"I was happy to help with a good cause," says Swanson, "but I also volunteered because it also helps me be more outgoing; it's a chance to learn new skills and get out of my comfort zone and approach strangers."

Scheduling volunteer hours can make time management more difficult, but it's often worth it.

"Volunteering helps me keep my focus outwards rather than just worrying about tests and assignments."

CHRIS SYMONS
CAMOSUN STUDENT

Jerry Michael, a sociology major at Camosun, says his volunteering helped him learn some skills he can take with him in the future.

"I organized a lifeguard competition last spring," says Michael. "I was the main go-to person for the project so I had to delegate a lot of the work in order to get the event to run smoothly."

Volunteer work like this is rewarding, not to mention "it also looks good on my resume," adds Michael, with a smile.

During hectic times at school, many students who do volunteer work find helping others can keep them more focused during this stressful time of year.

Chill on the slopes over the holidays

BRYAN KELLY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many students are stressing over the end of the semester and the hectic schedule that goes with it, but some can see the holidays and white powder at the end of it all. No, not that kind of white powder.

Mount Washington Alpine Resort had a memorable November with a record dump of snow that caused the mountain to open on Nov. 28—two full weeks before the original scheduled opening of Dec. 11.

The mountain received almost 500 centimetres of snowfall in November, which is the deepest start in the 30 years the resort has been open.

Brent Curtain, head of public relations and promotions director for Mount Washington, is really stoked for this season.

“We have a great base this year, which is the deepest in our history,” says Curtain.

Curtain says that they’ve made one change in particular for stu-

dents this year. The change affects student season’s passes, and it’s good news for students.

“I can’t even describe how awesome it’s gonna be to shred the mountain all day and then have a few dozen bevvies in the hot tub at night.”

STUART MAUNDERS
CAMOSUN STUDENT

“This year, no blackout days exist,” says Curtain, “so if you buy your pass, you can use it whenever. We want students to come up here and enjoy the slopes as much as possible. It’s a great deal for students.”

A 2009/2010 Mount Washington student season pass is going for

\$539; day passes range between \$60-\$70 for adults.

With more snow in the forecast throughout December, glimmers of hope are offered to those struggling to get through the final weeks of the semester.

Many students are excited to take advantage of the fresh snow and head up to the mountain during the holidays.

“December is a super busy time for me,” says Camosun Marketing student Stuart Maunders. “I have assignments to hand in, final exams to study for, and a busy job schedule to work around my family and personal life. I’m really looking forward to going wild up at Mount Washington this year; my buddies and I are going to rent a chalet and party for a few days”

Maunders has been looking forward to the winter break for the whole semester. And he says he’s going to make the most of it.

“I can’t even describe how awesome it’s gonna be to shred the mountain all day and then have a



Mt. Washington is a favourite for skiers and snowboarders alike.

few dozen bevvies in the hot tub at night. It’s gonna be the highlight of my holidays, for sure,” says Maunders.

It doesn’t matter whether you can carve down the double black diamond like an Olympic athlete or if you’re just looking to have a snowball fight and make a snow angel—hitting the mountain can do wonders for an over-stressed student.

And with winter courses scheduled to begin on Jan. 6, it could be a long semester if enough steam hasn’t been let off over the holiday break.

So do what you can to relax and unwind during the downtime, but keep in mind that very little can compare to the crisp, cold winter air and the smell of fresh powdered snow during a well-deserved holiday break.

Salmon Kings struggling this year

KRISTIAN DART
STAFF WRITER

The Victoria Salmon Kings have been spawning in the wrong direction. Instead of swimming upstream, they’ve been falling in the standings.

The team has floundered and flopped to start the season and, after 22 games, find themselves at the bottom of their division.

As of press time, the squad has only won six games while losing 13 in regulation time and another three in overtime. This record has resulted in the Salmon Kings having a measly 15 points in the standings, the worst record in the league.

Like many teams in the transient ECHL the Salmon Kings lost a lot of their players from last year.

In the off-season, general manager and head coach Mark Morrison signed over 14 new players for the current campaign, but so far the team just isn’t clicking as a cohesive unit.

Last year, the team had a very positive season, but after beating their competition in the first round of the playoffs, they were eliminated in the second.

Many believed this year was going to be a season of redemption with a real run at the Kelly Cup, but right now even the playoffs look like a faded dream.

Even some of the returning players are having a tough time adjusting to the new team. Last season Wes Goldie led the team in goals, pumping 48 pucks into the back of the net and racking up 14 assists for a total of 66 points. This year his production is way down.

After 22 games, Goldie has only seven goals and two assists. Goldie is a dazzling player to watch when he’s on his game, and he will have to find his offensive flair if the Salmon Kings want to even think about making the playoffs this season.

Currently leading the team in points is Chad Painchaud, who after 20 games has six goals and 11 assists, for a total of 17 points. Second on the team in points is first-



Taylor Ellington has shared time between Victoria and Manitoba this year.

year Salmon King Olivier Latendresse. Latendresse has six goals and nine assists for 15 points over 22 games.

Many believed this year was going to be a season of redemption with a real run at the Kelly Cup, but right now even the playoffs look like a faded dream.

Defenceman Taylor Ellington, who is under National Hockey League contract with the Vancouver Canucks, will soon be back in the lineup after having been reassigned

to play a few games with the Kings’ American Hockey League affiliate team, the Manitoba Moose.

Ellington, a Victoria native, has played 15 games with the Salmon Kings this season and will be welcomed back with open arms. He has one goal and five assists this season and brings a strong presence to the team’s blue line.

The Salmon Kings will be hoping to turn their season around when they host the third-worst team in the league, the Las Vegas Wranglers.

The Wranglers will be in town for a three-game series at the Save-on-Foods Memorial Center from Dec. 10–12.

If the Kings can rally for a sweep in this series it will greatly increase their chances of making the playoffs. And everybody loves a comeback tale, especially around the holidays.

SPORTS BRIEF

BY SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

Saddlemyer is on fire, yeah!

Camosun Chargers’ third-year right sider Aleks Saddlemyer has gotten his just desserts after an incredible week of displaying his mad skills on the volleyball court. For being a mad blur against Capilano, the British

Columbia Colleges’ Athletic Association made Saddlemyer Athlete of the Week for the first week of December. While pummeling Capilano in two games, Saddlemyer’s prowess and sportsmanship was nothing short of stunning. Says Chargers head coach Charles Parkinson, “He is well deserving of Player of the Week honours.” You got that right! Congrats to Saddlemyer, and it sucks to be Capilano—those guys got served. Word.



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CHOOSE YOUR OWN TRADITION: From Black Pete to the Horned God

KELTIE LARTER
STAFF WRITER

I come from a Dutch family, and one of my most vivid memories of Christmas was when I was eight years old, living in Lethbridge, Alberta. That year, my Oma brought my cousin and I to the local Dutch community center for a traditional Dutch Christmas celebration.

It all started out well enough.

This being a Dutch community center, there were sugary baked goods as far as my eight-year-old eyes could see and lots of other little kids to run amok with.

Soon after we arrived, we heard the telltale sounds of Christmas bells and knew that we were about to get a visit from Saint Nick.

In the Netherlands, Santa Claus is called Sinterklaas, and looks very similar to his western counterpart. What we didn't know was that the Dutch version of the jolly fat man in a red suit was accompanied by an accomplice named Zwarte Piet, or, for us Canadian children, Black Pete.

Pete carried a big sack and a straw broom and had his face painted completely black in imitation of a chimney sweep. At first, he seemed like a nice guy, tossing candy to all of us kids and laughing uproariously as he ran around the room.

But then, suddenly, he seized the little boy standing beside me and started to smack him on the bottom with his broom, before unceremoniously throwing the poor kid into his sack and abducting him from the room. I was so scared I ran and hid under the nearest table, where I proceeded to pee my pants.

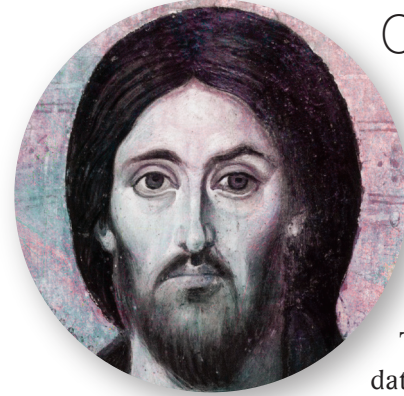
What I didn't know at the time was that, in Dutch folklore, Black Pete is really more of a mischievous character than a malicious one.

Also, most of the other kids there had been to a celebration like this one before and knew that when Pete grabbed you up in his sack, it meant you would get a present from Sinterklaas when he was done with you.

For me, this was just the beginning of what has come to be a lifelong confusion about the meaning of this strange mid-winter holiday we call Christmas.

This confusion is not altogether unfounded, as what we call Christmas today is actually an amalgamation of different folk and modern traditions from diverse cultures throughout history.

This year, I thought it would be interesting to have a look at a few of those traditions to find out a little bit more about Christmas—what it means, where it comes from, and how different people celebrate it in modern times.



CHRISTMAS

Christmas, as everyone knows, is an annual holiday celebrated on Dec. 25 that is supposed to celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

The thing is, the actual date of Jesus' supposed birth is unknown.

In light of this, many people believe that the date was chosen to correspond with the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia, or the more Pagan Winter Solstice celebration, and there are many parallels in the holiday customs of all three.

Although Christmas is traditionally a Christian holiday, it has come to be celebrated by non-Christians all over the world, and many of the traditional modern holiday customs have become an amalgamation of old folk customs and beliefs from various cultural sources.

The most widely recognized icon of Christmas in modern western society is the mythological character known as Santa Claus.

But the story of Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus living at the North Pole with the elves and magical, flying reindeer has nothing to do with the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, and a lot of Christians don't perpetuate the Santa Claus myth for that very reason.

Still, Santa Claus is a way for many people, Christian or not, to celebrate the holidays with their children.

Although Santa figures pop up in folklore worldwide, the winter celebration of the Sami peoples of Lapland presents an interesting possibility as to where the idea of a man dressed in red with a team of flying reindeer comes from.

The Sami are a nomadic tribe of reindeer herders who roam the countryside of Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Russia. During their winter celebrations, their shamans feed some of the reindeer poisonous psychedelic mushrooms.

The reindeer's intestinal tracts filter out most of the harmful poisons and the shamans collect the deer's resulting psychedelic urine and ingest it in sacred mid-winter rituals.

They would then go "spirit walking" with their flying reindeer companions to visit their fellow tribesmen, entering through smoke holes and chimneys to distribute more mushrooms as gifts.

Once this was done they would fly back out of the chimney holes return to their own tents or cottages. Interestingly, the traditional garb of the nomadic reindeer herders is a red suit with a long felt hat.

Santa Claus is not the only one who gives presents at Christmas, as the exchange of gifts between family and friends is also a popular holiday tradition, along with feasting, drinking, singing festive carols, decorating houses and trees, and kissing under mistletoe.

THIS WAS JUST THE BEGINNING OF WHAT HAS COME TO BE A LIFELONG CONFUSION ABOUT THE MEANING OF THIS STRANGE MID-WINTER HOLIDAY WE CALL CHRISTMAS.



Because many of these customs involve commercial activity, the holiday has become a significant money-earning period for merchants and corporations, who therefore invest huge amounts of time and money promoting it, causing many to question whether the holiday has become too commercialized.

Keltie's verdict: I definitely like that there are so many parties around Christmas time, and getting presents is cool, too, but a lot of people spend a lot of time stressing out about family and money, instead of just enjoying themselves. Also, my parents never did the Santa Claus thing, and I've always found the idea of a strange, fat old man (with reindeer-pee breath or not) sneaking into my house in the middle of the night through the chimney kind of creepy. Luckily, we had central heating.

HANUKKAH

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish celebration that happens anywhere from late November to late December. Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah in memoriam of the rededication of one

of their holy temples in Jerusalem at the end of a time of persecution under anti-Semitic rule.

Jewish lore purports that when the temple was rededicated, there was only enough consecrated olive oil left in the temple to fuel their sacred torch for one day.

But, instead of burning out after 24 hours, the torch burnt for a full eight days, just long enough to make some more oil. Thus, during Hanukkah, Jewish families light one candle a night for eight nights in a special candelabrum called a Menorah, in celebration of this miracle.

Although people celebrate Hanukkah in different ways, it's common for Jewish folk to indulge in various deep-fried foods like latkes and doughnuts, and for children to receive a present on each of the eight nights of the celebration, after the candles have burnt for half an hour and special Hanukkah prayers have been said.

Keltie's verdict: Although I'm not much for prayers, or religion at all, I do like candles and latkes, and I definitely wouldn't mind getting a present a day for eight days.

SATURNALIA

Saturnalia is an ancient Roman festival that was celebrated originally for just one day on Dec. 15. Because of its popularity, it eventually grew into a week-long free-for-all, despite the efforts of both Augustus and Caligula, who tried to have

the festival shortened.

The most notable component of the celebration was a reversal of roles, where slaves and masters switched places for the length of the festival. Slaves were not only legally allowed to gamble during the week of Saturnalia, but were exempt from punishment and treated their employers with disrespect.

This festival was seen as a time to eat, drink, and be

merry. Schools went on holiday, people gave each other presents, everyone wore their best clothes, gambled, drank, feasted, and generally got jiggy with it.

An interesting parallel with our modern-day Santa Claus is that during the festival of Saturnalia everyone wore the peaked hats which were usually only worn by freed slaves.

Keltie's verdict: Let's bring this one back. How satisfying would it be to tell your boss to go fly a kite and then spend a week eating, drinking, gambling, dancing, and being all debaucherous? Lo Saturnalia!



WINTER SOLSTICE

Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year. Also known as Yule, this Pagan holiday takes place on Dec. 21 or Dec. 22, depending on the calendar year.

Solstice occurs when the earth is at its furthest axial tilt from the sun and is a celebration of the return of light and the beginning of the end of winter.

Although Solstice has been celebrated for millennia in cultures around the world, in modern times it has come to be associated with Wiccans and Paganism.

SOLSTICE HAS BEEN CELEBRATED FOR MILLENNIA IN CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD, IN MODERN TIMES IT HAS COME TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH WICCANS AND PAGANISM.

The Pagan Solstice celebration comes from the Celtic legend of an epic battle between the Oak King and the Holly King.

Every year the Oak King, representing the light of the New Year, tries to take out the old Holly King, who is the symbol of darkness. He succeeds in killing him, and then reigns unchallenged, until Summer Solstice, when the Holly King return to win back his throne for the second half of the year.

Both the Oak King and the Holly King are seen as aspects of the Horned God, and each reigns for half the year, all the while battling for the love of the Goddess.

Although they are enemies, the two gods are also inescapably connected and neither would survive without the existence of the other.

Because Solstice has been celebrated for so long and by so many different cultures, it's hard to pinpoint exactly what the customs of celebration are.

They often involve lighting lots of candles and burning fires or Yule logs, feasting, and wassailing, which

is similar to going from door to door singing Christmas carols.

Because of its ties to the legendary battle of the Holly God, rituals involving holly are also often part of Solstice celebrations.

Keltie's verdict: I love Winter Solstice. Not only does it mean we're working our way back—however slowly—to warmer temperatures and drinking beer at the beach, but it has always seemed to me to be the most logical, tangible thing to celebrate, despite all the talk about kings and horned gods. And, in my experience, Solstice parties usually involve a delicious potluck dinner and lots and lots of wine.



FESTIVUS

Festivus is an anti-Christmas of sorts celebrated by people who have become frustrated by the commercialism and pressure associated with the traditional Christmas season.

Originally introduced to modern culture in an—ahem—Seinfeld episode, the celebration has three main components.

First, there's the Festivus pole. That's right—it's just a metal pole. No decorations necessary. The pole symbolizes nothing.

Next, we have the airing of grievances, also known as the AOG. Although there are many variations to this ritual, the gist of the AOG is to let everyone around you know how they've disappointed you over the past year.

Usually, but not always, participants arrange themselves in a circle and take turns bawling out their friends, families, and the world at large. And once that's done with, it's not customary to apologize or make up in any way.

And, finally, Festivus just wouldn't be the same without the feats of strength. This usually follows the AOG, and ends the celebration.

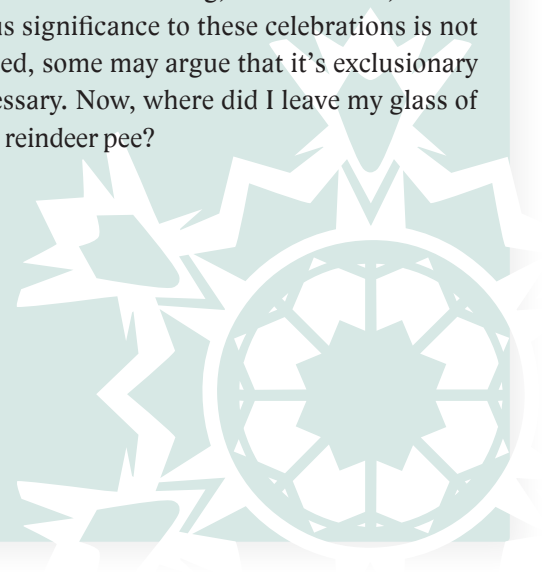
Traditionally, the host selects another member of the party and challenges them to a wrestling match. The match continues until the guest pins the host to the floor. Thumb wrestling and washer tossing, among other inventive forms of competition, are also popular Festivus festivities.

Although the aforementioned traditions are common occurrences at any Festivus celebration, anything goes and creativity is key.

Keltie's verdict: Festivus mostly sounds like a big, fat ball of no-fun to me! Except for the wrestling part... I like that.

So, what is this holiday season really all about? As far as I can tell, Christmas, or any of these other mid-winter celebrations, is mostly about giving people something to look forward to during the coldest months of the year. A week or two of partying to bring some life back to the dead of winter, if you will.

But in these forward-thinking, modern times, ascribing religious significance to these celebrations is not only outdated, some may argue that it's exclusionary and unnecessary. Now, where did I leave my glass of psychedelic reindeer pee?



Camosun presents year-round film series

DUSTIN BROWN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the growing need for a sense of community at Camosun's Lansdowne campus, English instructor Jeanne Iribarne and her colleagues set about forming a film club.

"When we started thinking about the film club, we wondered about copyright issues, and we joined an umbrella organization called Cinema Politica, which negotiates screening rights for everyone in the group across Canada," says Iribarne.

Cinema Politica is a Montreal-based non-profit network of community groups that uses funding from the Canada Council for the Arts and collects donations to distribute and show independent political films from Canadian and international filmmakers.

They support alternative, independent, and radical films that push the limits of standard documentaries, and give new light to under-represented stories and characters.

"We thought it would be interesting to have a more public film club where we could screen a documentary and discuss it afterwards," says Iribarne.

The Camosun group is co-sponsored by the School of Arts and Science, Students for a Democratic Society, and other student groups on campus.

Alternative documentaries are screened once or twice a month in

the Gibson Auditorium, Young 216, at Lansdowne campus.

Films shown so far in the series have run the gamut, from *King Corn*—a film that delves into the mysteries of processed food—to *Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land*, an in-depth look at the North American media's coverage of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The club even had a commemorative screening of the John Ford classic *the Grapes of Wrath*.

"We thought it would be interesting to have a more public film club where we could screen a documentary and discuss it afterwards."

JEANNE IRIBARNE
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

"I think Cinema Politica is such a cool idea; it's absolutely worthwhile," says University Transfer student and frequent attendee Nancy MacWhirter. "A lot of the importance of college isn't what you're taught, it's how you're taught to think. Cinema Politica is absolutely a place to go, the discussion that happens afterwards and the information you're given is really, really cool."

Camosun's Cinema Politica will continue to screen films throughout



H2Oil is one of many films that the Cinema Politica film series will be screening on campus next semester.

the year on varying topics of public interest, and invites members of the community to come and bring their perspective on the films. Each film is followed with an open-ended, facilitated discussion. All the screenings are open to the public by donation.

The winter screenings begin Dec. 9 at 7 pm with the documentary *Carts of Darkness*, which follows homeless men in Vancouver as they race their shopping carts while collecting empty bottles for refunds.

January takes a more philosophical turn with *An Examined Life*, an investigation of ethics in

today's society, with discussion led by philosophy instructor Sandy Bannikoff.

February is BlackHistoryMonth, and in association with the African Awareness Committee, Cinema Politica will be showing *Blood Coltan*, a film about the increasing Western demand for coltan, which is used in mobile phones and computers, and the effect it has on the killings and child labour in the Congo.

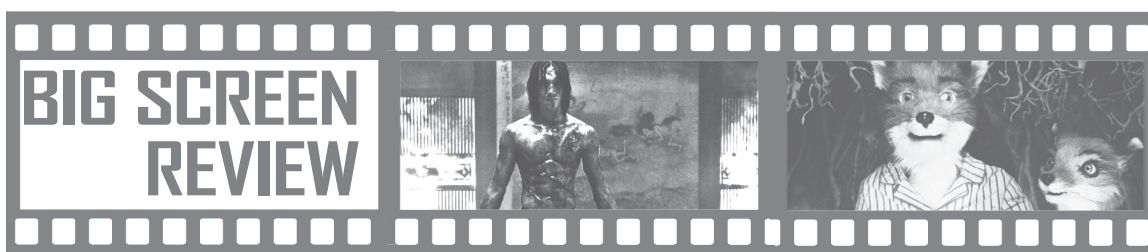
In conjunction with the 2010 LoudSpeaker Festival in March, Cinema Politica will screen *Girls Rock*, a documentary following five young girls at a week-long girls'

rock camp.

On March 27 is Sundance festival favourite *Afghan Star*, a film focusing on young contestants on a popular *American Idol*-esque show in Afghanistan, where, because of radical religious beliefs, many contestants risk their lives to perform.

Wrapping it up in April is *H2Oil*, a new film that explores the oil industry in Alberta, along with the environmental issues and First Nations land claims in the area.

With this kind of film lineup, Cinema Politica is agitprop and artistry at its finest. Visit cinemapolitica.org/victoria for more information.



Ninja Assassin



ED SUM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At first glance, *Ninja Assassin* looks like an over-the-top video-game movie, but it's not. The CGI, cinematography, and choreography may suggest that, but this martial-arts film is impressive in a campy kind of way.

The campiness comes through in the cheesiness of the one-liners and the impossible action, which are good for a chuckle. In a genre film, those moments are to be expected.

As for as the effects, the movie delivers a CGI type of fighting minus the *Matrix*-style special-effect trappings. With the higher budgets of movies today, this film's invisible assassins are finally given the treatment that they deserve.

In Japanese myth, these shadowy figures of the night blend into the darkness and are meant to be invisible, and this movie honours that myth with the way it portrays the ninjas.

Older fans of ninja movies will be happy to see Sho Kosugi, star of '80s films like *Revenge of the Ninja*, return to the big screen. In *Ninja Assassin*, Kosugi plays Lord Ozunu, leader of an international assassin clan.

The movie takes a direction similar to the Adam and Eve story. Temptation leads Raizo—played by Korean singer and model Rain—to freedom from his oppressive master, Ozunu. This comes at a cost, however, which is told as a backstory to the plot.

In the end, *Ninja Assassin* gives audiences a chance to see what one endures in order to become a ninja.

This impressive film is produced by the Wachowski brothers (*Matrix* trilogy). Their last film, *Speed Racer*, didn't fare well at the box office; now they're seeking redemption.

And watch out—Rain may well be the next Asian-turned-Hollywood action hero.

Fantastic Mr. Fox



SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Love him or hate him, Wes Anderson (*the Darjeeling Limited*, *Rushmore*) is a scrupulous stylist who possesses both vision and craft. For proof, look no further than his latest film, an endlessly imaginative adaptation of Roald Dahl's children's novel of the same name, the aptly titled *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.

Anderson has created a stop-motion animated world that pops with colour and depth. The same

peculiar sensibilities on display in his live-action films like *the Royal Tenenbaums* are realized, represented, and nuanced here in cheery and clever ways.

Yes, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is a film for Anderson fans, but it has a wider appeal and is a delight from start to finish that anyone, any age, can relish and revel in.

It isn't surprising that Anderson would switch gears into an animated film, having already flirted with stop-motion techniques in *the Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, where he collaborated with animator Henry Selick (*the Nightmare Before Christmas*).

Selick, incidentally, was to co-direct Fox with Anderson, but the lengthy production and other commitments pulled him from the project.

In keeping with his eclectic brand of hopefulness, Anderson uses a standout soundtrack that bubbles with whimsy. Memorable music by the Beach Boys, Alexandre Desplat, Burl Ives, and the Rolling Stones add much to the mood.


Anderson has fashioned another artefact of pop culture to be cherished and valued for years to come. With quotable dialogue, brilliant sight gags, and set pieces and characters well worth revisiting, this lovely little confection has "classic" stamped all over it.

Not to be missed.



Stupid movie, stupid decisions

Carriers

Starring: Lou Taylor Pucci, Chris Pine, Piper Perabo, Emily VanCamp
Directed by Alex and David Pastor
Runtime: 84 minutes 

Those actually thinking of renting this atrocity, please read this review instead of spending 84 minutes actually watching *Carriers*.

In the movie, an unstoppable virus pandemic takes over the world. The protagonists—four dimwitted, irritating college kids—try to outrun it and fail due to their overwhelming stupidity. Everyone gets infected and turns against one another. The end.

Not everyone dies at the end of the flick, but they may as well have. They make so many stupid decisions that it brings to question whether or not they really should be the ones to survive and repopulate society.

Not too long after the opening credits roll comes stupid decision number one—anger the guy who's stranded on the highway with a sick little girl, no gas in the car, and a gun in his hand, by refusing to help him.

Why is this stupid? Because the angry man gets a few lucky shots into the protagonist's radiator and their car breaks down 30 minutes later. Karma's a bitch.

So, with civilization miles away and an undamaged vehicle not too

far behind them, the kids are forced to bring gas from their broken-down car back to the stranger.

Which is stupid decision number two—getting into the same car with a sick little girl carrying the virus, and thinking some plastic wrap and duct tape between you and the infected one is going to serve as sufficient protection.





Some could argue these incidents are circumstantial and the protagonists didn't have options.

But check out stupid decision number three—one of the protagonists is left alone in the car with the sick kid in the back; when the kid starts coughing, the protagonist tears down the barrier, and flings herself back there to help.

The little girl coughs up a bunch of blood, which hits the heroic/stupid protagonist right in the face. As it turns out, consequences are a bitch, too.

Predictably, the petrified teen wipes her face and pretends like it never happened, which is stupid decision number four. So starts the inevitable sequence of desertion and betrayal and death. Cue end credits.

RATINGS

Complete disaster	
Unfortunate malfunction	
A solid stand	
Freakin' fabulous	

Metal borne from the Cowichan Valley

ALLI PICKARD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

High voltage. Many words can be used to describe bands these days, but those two words perfectly sum up Cowichan Valley-based death/black metal band Messiahs in Fiction. The band formed in 2005 and has been through several lineup changes since then. Together, the five band members make up one of the most underrated and underexposed bands to come out of Duncan, BC.

Messiahs in Fiction, who have played with such bands as Threat Signal, Gob, and Unleash the Archers, strive to give 100 percent at all their shows. Even after they have performed to their best, they always push for improvement.

“Even after a show, it doesn’t matter how well we performed, we still talk about what we did wrong and how we can improve. It keeps us from saying we’re perfect and we do not need to improve,” says guitarist Malcolm Owen-Flood.

Playing music is an escape for the band; in fact, Owen-Flood says it’s like therapy for each member to be able to express all the emotions through their instruments, which in turn gives a chance for their fans to break away from the struggles they

may have had that day. And Owen-Flood’s music is more than just therapy; it’s his life plan.

“We have no backup plans; music is our plan,” says Owen-Flood. “We all want to focus on music. I feel that if you have a backup plan, you’re going to lead yourself to fail.”

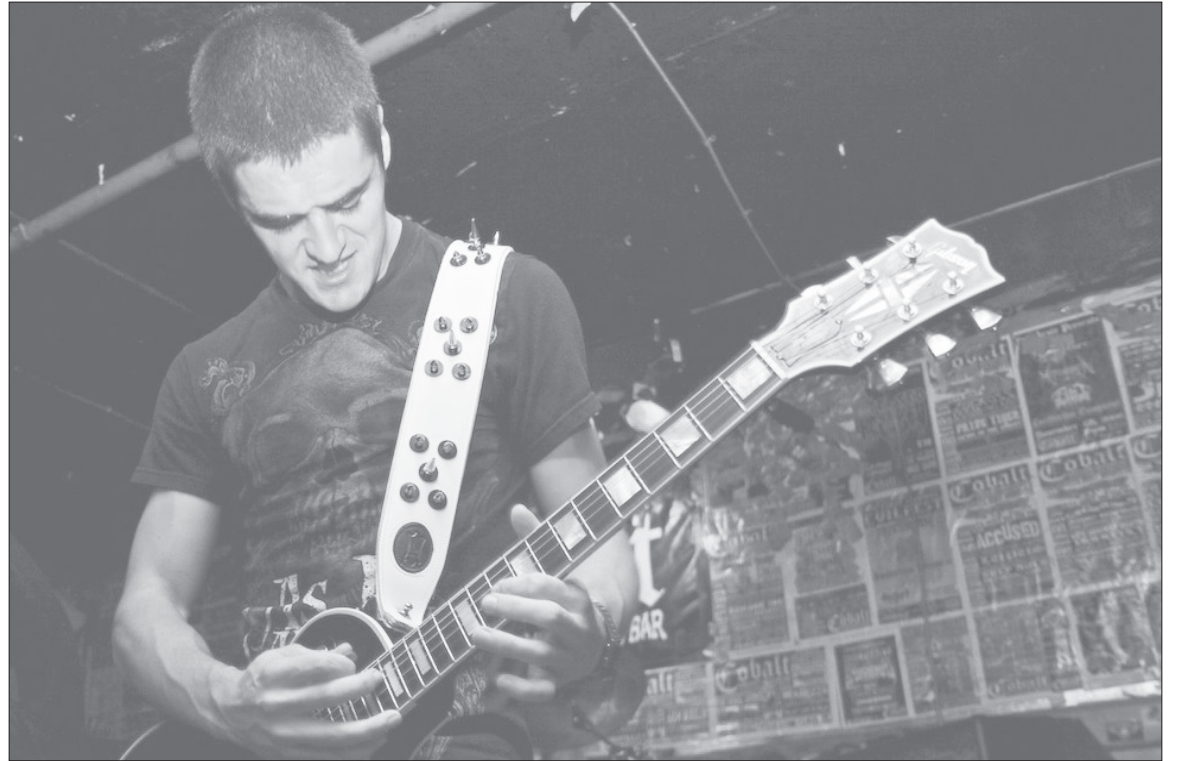
“We have no backup plans; music is our plan.”

MALCOLM OWEN-FLOOD
MESSIAHS IN FICTION

Like all bands, Messiahs in Fiction have had their share of interesting experiences on tour. Like, for example, living at the West Edmonton Mall parking lot for three days between shows, or being warned by Williams Lake, BC locals to watch out for teens with machetes robbing bands.

Luckily, Messiahs In Fiction have some diehard fans who would have their backs if a brouhaha ever busted out.

“We love our fans,” says Owen-



Duncan’s Malcolm Owen-Flood shreds the six-string major rager for metal band Messiahs in Fiction.

Flood. “They are some of the most craziest, awesome people we know.”

No matter where their fans are located, they’ll always have an opinion on what the band’s name means. Owen-Flood’s got his own interpretation, but always enjoys hearing what others think about

the moniker.

“It’s almost religious, a forced messiah upon people,” says Owen-Flood. “Other people say politics; it mostly means what you want it to. Many people have had many different ideas of its meaning that we never thought of.”

Earlier this year, Messiahs in

Fiction released a self-titled EP and went on a Western Canadian tour. They are currently writing a full-length album which they hope to release sometime in the near future.

Check out myspace.com/messiahsinfiction for more information on the band.

Local arts school gets results

ADAM HOLROYD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Most wouldn’t expect the prestigious Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA), which draws students from across Canada and around the world, to be located on the far west coast, here in Victoria.

Perhaps even fewer people would expect it to be nestled in an unassuming church building in the heart of Oak Bay. Once inside, however, the facilities live up to the school’s lofty reputation.

Professional performers Jacques Lemay and Janis Dunning established the CCPA 11 years ago as a multidisciplinary school for actors, dancers, and singers.

“The purpose of the college is to provide students with the broad skill base that they will need for a successful career. The more versatile a performer is, the more employable they are,” says Lemay.

“The institution is unique in that the faculty really practice the art and don’t just teach it.”

MATTHEW HOWE
CANADIAN COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS

Instead of focusing on one aspect of performance, Lemay and Dunning aimed for their school to cover all three major arts, giving students more options to take with them into the professional world.

Arguably the most important skill taught at the college is career management, preparing starting



Performing arts college students in last year’s production of *Rumours*.

performers for what they will face walking out of the classroom and into the audition.

From dialects and text interpretation, to song and dance, subjects covered in the two-year program are as diverse as the faculty that teach here—most of whom are working professionals in addition to being teachers at the college.

“The institution is unique in that the faculty really practice the art and don’t just teach it,” says Matthew Howe, a past faculty member, recently working with the third-year group, Company C, to direct their latest show, *Rabbit Hole*.

Though the local auditions have a huge draw, the college does a national audition tour each spring to draw the attention of potential students east of Victoria to the school.

Outside of a core of locals, the majority of students come from the mainland of BC, although others are from as far away as the Northwest Territories and the east coast. Past years have even drawn students from Australia, Costa Rica, and Mexico.

“It is hard when the college is a national school, but there are

schools across the country that we’re competing with, and we’re way on the west coast,” says Howe.

The auditions for entrance to the college is extensive and involves an in-depth interview process.

The interviews are designed to help the panel get a feel for the student, and what that person is looking for in regards to the college.

The two-year program is a lot of hard work, but it pays off in the end—almost all the college’s many graduates are now working in different locations across Canada. Some are even working in London, England.

The culmination of the whole course is the third-year Company C.

An auditioned cast—this year comprised of 12 students—return to the college for a half-year practicum, during which they produce three back-to-back shows, acting onstage, and filling production roles offstage as they learn the ins and outs of production.

Company C’s next show will be *Little Shop of Horrors*, playing Dec. 11–13 at the CCPA Performance Hall. Go to ccpacanada.com for more details.

Happy Holidays from Nexus

The next issue will be on stands Jan. 6th

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Noise Addict

BY PETER GARDNER

2009's 10 best albums

With 2010 on the horizon, it's time to look back and reflect on just what happened in 2009. It was a good year for music—here's a countdown of the top 10 of 2009.

10. **Dan Mangan**—*Nice, Nice, Very Nice*

Vancouver had a huge year releasing incredible albums—the coastal city appears three times on this list. Vancouver's golden boy of folk, Dan Mangan, put out his second album in '09—*Nice, Nice, Very Nice* is a perfect mix of catchy melodies and incredible lyrics with a mix of fun and serious topics.

9. **The Chariot**—*War and Rumors Of War*

With heavy music, there's a fine line between fucking awesome and fucking stupid. And the Chariot easily falls into the former. *War and Rumors of War* is a continuation of where 2007's *the Fiancee* left off, with balls-to-the-wall heaviness and incredible vocals from Josh Scogin.

8. **Andrew Bird**—*Noble Beast*

Andrew Bird is kind of like indie rock/classical. The lush layers and instrumentation found on all the songs on *Noble Beast* are some of the most awe-inspiring arrangements happening in music today. Also, Andrew Bird is perhaps the greatest whistler of all time. Of all time!

7. **David Bazan**—*Curse Your Branches*

Known best for his work in Pedro the Lion, David Bazan struck out on his own in 2009 with his first solo full-length record. The record deals with Bazan's loss of faith, struggles with alcoholism, and general hardships of the last few years. The record is powerful in subject and amazing musically, and shows that Bazan has a huge career ahead of him without Pedro the Lion.

6. **Bend Sinister**—*Stories of Brothers, Tales of Lovers*

Bend Sinister did what every great Kelowna band does—moves to Vancouver to try to make it. And this album is a rather incredible attempt at doing just that. With



The Antlers

influences ranging from Queen to the Guess Who, in some respects the album is a throwback, but there's something fresh about the disc that makes it stand out amongst so much other music coming out of Canada today.

5. **Said the Whale**—*Islands Disappear*

Vancouver's Said the Whale's second album finds the band more focused than ever before. Last year's *Howe Sounds/Taking Abalonia* was a great record, but their latest soars in comparison. *Islands Disappear* is what Canadian indie rock should all be about—hiking and being weary of bears, small lakes in Alberta, driving across the fast open country, and the wet West Coast.

With heavy music,
there's a fine line
between fucking
awesome and fucking
stupid.

4. **Aidan Knight**—*Versicolour*

There were some pretty good records that came out locally this year but none were as great as this. It took two years for Aidan Knight to finish the record; the time going into the record paid off. It doesn't matter if the listener is old or young, a folk lover or a hardcore lover; *Versicolour* breaks down boundaries.

3. **The Wooden Sky**—*If I Don't Come Home You'll Know I'm Gone*

The Wooden Sky's Gavin

Gardner has said he didn't know why folk and alt-country music is making such a comeback. Whether it's folk, alt-country, rock, or metal, all that should matter is the importance of how good the songs are, and it's hard to find any better songwriting than on this album. This—the band's second release—shows they have a long and impressive career ahead of them.

2. **The Antlers**—*Hospice*

One of the best albums of 2008 came from Bon Iver. The album, *For Emma, Forever Ago*, was recorded in solitude after some rather hard times for the project's mastermind, Justin Vernon. The Antlers was a musical project started by Peter Silberman on that same premise—*isolation and heartache*. After a couple more musicians joined the project, the band recorded their first full-length, *Hospice*. The album is a concept record about a man losing a loved one to bone cancer. One of the best—and most tragic—albums of 2009.

1. **Attack in Black**—*Years (By One Thousand Fingertips)*

Attack in Black started as a hardcore punk band. Then they went more punk rock with some softer influences. In 2007, they released *Curve of the Earth*, a lo-fi folk record that surprised just about everyone. Their latest is a combination of all styles of the past, combined into the year's best album. While many still write off Attack in Black because of their early punk-inspired songs, *Years (By One Thousand Fingertips)* should put any of those doubts to rest, for good.

Word up

Book reviews



Away from Everywhere

By Chad Pelley

(Breakwater)

LEILA FARLEY

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Trying to get rid of the winter doldrums with a cup of tea and a good book? Unfortunately, *Away from Everywhere* will have you pouring out your mug for something a little stronger.

This book tells the story of fraternal twins Owen and Alex Collins. The Collins brothers had a tormented youth that ripped them apart and reformed them into entirely different men.

Successful Alex Collins paints a façade of perfection ideal for hiding behind. Owen, the recovering alcoholic and writer, seeks escape from the numbness that saturates his life. What he discovers—a doomed love—offers the chance of either deliverance or devastation.

Pelley, a new writer from Newfoundland, brings an innovative element of technology into this novel. His website sports a “book trailer” and an album of songs that he felt went with the novel or that were mentioned in the story itself.

The many artist references in the

story were a bit unsettling and will date the book in the future. But the added element of sound does have the potential to add new insight into future narratives.

Pelley doesn't lack talent. Many passages are poignant. Some scenes are so strongly developed that it's a good idea to stop reading, step back, and steep in the story.

But, as the story unfolds, misfortune befalls each character, to a fault.

One by one, each character is suffocated under an avalanche of bad luck. Halfway through the novel you can't help but to sardonically guess what mishap will next occur. The disappointment sinks in with every correct guess.

Because of this, *Away from Everywhere's* tragedy transforms into that of the morning soap operas. The reader becomes as numb to the tragedy as the character Owen Collins is to life.

So don't expect this novel to allow the catharsis needed to get rid of the winter blues. *Away from Everywhere* is like a good wine that's just been opened too early. Years from now, Pelley's writing will be aged to perfection. Look out for him then.

ArenaRock

Priestess
Sugar, Dec.1

ALAN PIFFER

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bands like Priestess make me think about how I kind of missed the boat, because at the age of 33 I'm most likely too old to try to make it big in a metal band.

When I first started playing music in the early '90s, the rise of Nirvana had major music magazines asking questions like “is metal dead?” I mean, they clearly didn't know too much about metal because they lumped pouffy hair bands like Winger in with heavier thrash metal bands like Anthrax, Megadeth, and Slayer.

But metal was kind of passe for a while. Heavy music never went away, but during that time metal sure wasn't cool. The lowest point of that was when Metallica

cut their hair, released *Load*, and claimed they were an “alternative” band the whole time.

But after enough time passed it became cool to be metal again. So now younger bands like Montreal's Priestess, who have a sound somewhere in between AC/DC, Judas Priest, and Black Sabbath, can take pride in being unabashedly metal. And they can have a blast touring the world and bringing their metal sound to legions of fans everywhere.

Maybe Priestess will luck out and be legends like Metallica... or maybe they'll end up a struggling band of old metalheads like aging Canuck underdogs Anvil.

But at least they'll be able to look back on their youth and know that they were something once. If I started out in a metal band now at my age, I'd be a little like Anvil already.

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Worth the Trip?

The battle of on and off-campus eats

BY ALAN PIFFER AND ED SUM



Campus Café
Lansdowne Campus
Chicken Caesar Salad
\$6.92

Presentation and service

Ed: Aramark's pre-packaged foods are usually really bad or really good, but this salad is just decent. The price isn't too bad, considering how much they give you. You get a huge bowl of lettuce, bacon, bread, cheese, and chicken. This can easily be considered a meal. One thing I always worry about is the freshness of the greens in packaged meals. And, sure enough, depending on where I dug into in the bowl, the lettuce's freshness was questionable.

Alan: As far as the cold food is concerned, it's nice to get generous proportions from Aramark for once. Compared to the sandwiches, the salad is somewhat filling. But it's a little like a McDonald's salad—you never know what "treasures" are lurking within.

Taste

E: The salad lacked punch. The chicken looked and tasted undercooked, and the bacon was gross and bland. There was very little flavour at all. There were more average-tasting leaves of lettuce than good, crispy ones. While the cheese had some flavour, it wasn't enough to really enhance the meal. After finishing, I felt more "meh" than thinking I just had a healthy meal.

A: It's all about psychology—you have to think of it as wartime rations or something. It's not exactly a satisfying meal, but it kinda helps get you through the day. I find bad salads interesting from a biological perspective. It's like witnessing the start of a new ecosystem.



Thrifty Foods
Hillside Mall
Chicken Caesar Salad
\$5.99

Presentation and service

E: Thrifty's Chicken Caesar Salad is by far the more consumer-conscious with its packaging. It comes in a box-shaped container, with just the right amount of salad for me to eat my meal in one go. The croutons are kept apart from the salad—that's a huge plus. I can't stand soggy croutons. The ingredients made this salad awesome, like most things from the Thrifty's deli department. And I'm glad they use real bacon; I can tell, since they don't look like granules out of a kitty litter box. Who wants to eat out of that?

A: Thrifty's salads benefit big-time from being made in-house. This one is nice and fresh, with the perfect mix of ingredients. Its impact on ready-made salad fans should be like the obelisk's impact on the man-apes in 2001: *A Space Odyssey*.

Taste

E: They put the right amount of garlic butter on the bread to make it stand out. Another taste that stands out is the Parmesan cheese. Its soft texture is wonderful; against the crisp lettuce and bread, the combination is unbeatable. I was even licking off the remnants of bacon and cheese in the box. I think I'm having an orgy in my mouth; the cheese is that good.

A: I'm enjoying the salad a lot, too, Ed, but I don't think I'm quite feeling what you're feeling. You've gotta stop sprinkling crack over everything; I think it's fudging the results. Or is this because I've never dropped acid? Anyway, once I discovered Thrifty's salads, they easily became a mainstay for a grab-and-go meal. The mix of flavours borders on perfection, hence Ed's reaction, as noted above.

And the winner is . . .

Thrifty's well-made salads sealed the deal with fresh, delectable ingredients.

Verdict

For \$6, it's worth a hop, skip, and a jump over to Hillside Mall for a class act of a salad that makes for a dandy little meal.

Inter-Course

BY KELTIE LARTER

Tipping tips and dildo doubts

Dear Keltie,
 I'm 19 and this is my first year at Camosun. I met my current boyfriend here in September, and I really think I'm in love with him, but we haven't had sex yet. I really want to, but I come from a religious family and I've always been taught that I should wait until I'm married to have sex for the first time. Lately, when we're making out, I've let him sort of rub himself against me, and now he wants me to let him put just the tip of his penis inside me. What should I do? Will I still be a virgin if he only puts the tip in?

Sincerely, Frustrated Virgin

Dear Frustrated,
 Listen, Frustrated, a guy trying to convince you to let him put "just the tip" of his penis inside you is the oldest trick in the book. Trust me, neither of you will be satisfied with just the tip. Imagine you'd been lost in the desert for days with no water and you suddenly came across one

small bottle of it. You know that you should ration the water if you want to survive, but, you tell me, are you going to be satisfied with just a tiny sip? The real question you should be asking yourself here is, if you want to make love to your boyfriend so badly, and you've gotten to the rubbing-against-each-other stage, what's really holding you back? I don't believe people should wait until they get married to have sex, but I do believe they should wait until they feel ready to. So, do you feel ready to share yourself with this guy? I can't tell you what to do, but whatever you decide, make sure you choose what's right for you. Not for him, your parents, or your church—just you. Oh, and use a condom!

Dear Keltie,
 I've been single for a couple of years and I masturbate at least a few times a week, sometimes more. I've never owned a dildo or anything

before, but some of my girlfriends have them and I think it's something I might like. How do I know for sure without spending a bunch of money on a toy?

Sincerely, Horny Single

Dear Horny,
 There's no way to know for sure. But, if you've got a detachable showerhead with a massage setting, try turning it to the hardest setting and holding the showerhead to your clit. The vibration-like pressure of the massage jets should give you a fairly good idea of whether or not vibration is your thing. If you like it, there are many inexpensive vibrating dildos and clit stimulators that will probably tickle your fancy, amongst other things, just fine. If not, you might want to try using a simple dildo while manually rubbing your clit at the same time. There's no formula that works for everyone, so you'll just have to experiment. Happy exploring!

Quick bites

Vic's Steakhouse and Bar

4/5 bites
 345 Quebec, 250-480-6585

ED SUM

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dining at Vic's Steakhouse and Bar is expensive for students. For starters, I ordered the tempura oysters; large Fanny Bay oysters, which are always a delight to eat. With a sauce made of roasted garlic

and chives, it's an excellent appetizer. But they are three for \$9, so don't leave the credit card at home. The basic burger is known as Vic's Burger and is \$10.99. It consists of a very flavourful piece of Angus beef, served on a sourdough bun. With extras costing 99 cents each, I had to be picky about what I ordered. After choosing caramelized onion and Monterey jalapeño jack cheese, this burger proved very filling and I loved every single bite. The cheese

complements the sour dough bun very well. While the fries aren't spectacular, they were consumed with the same gusto. Along with a standard pricey glass of pop, the final bill came to \$25. Vic's Steakhouse is worth checking out once in a blue moon, but not regularly at that price tag.

Taster's tip: The most authentic Japanese dip for tempura-style oysters is wasabi-flavoured mayonnaise.

Maude's December Specials

Martini Mondays (Music Bingo starts at 7:30 pm)

Appy Specials (4 pm) / Martini Mondays \$5
 Big Rock Trad/ Stanley Park \$5.25 pint/\$14.99 jugs

Black Tuesdays

Lighthouse Specials
 \$6.95 Classic Beef Dip & Fries (4 pm)
 \$4.75 Rip Tide / \$4 Jager

Wing Wednesdays

.35¢ Wings (after 2 pm)
 Blue Buck / Rock Creek Cider Specials

Thirsty Thursdays

Pilsner / Canadian / Rickards Red \$5.25/\$14.99
 \$6.95 10" Pizza (4 pm), \$6 Double Hi Balls

Traditional Handsome Man Fridays

Big Rock Traditional \$5.25/14.99 (Join the Club with a Mug)
 Imports Stella, Guinness, Strongbow \$6.50
 Buckets of Bud Lite Lime / Corona \$19.95

Shotski Saturdays

\$16 Shotski
 Okanagan 1516 / Pale Ale / Black Lager \$5.25/\$14.99
 \$5 glass / \$15.25 1/2 Litre Naked Grape Pinto Grigio and Shiraz

Hung Over Sundays

NFL Budweiser Bottles \$4.75
 Burger and a Beer \$9.95 (after 3 pm)
 \$4.95 Breakfast, \$5 Doubles, \$3.99 Caesars



DAILY \$5.95 & \$6.95 LUNCH SPECIALS

3810 SHELBOURNE STREET (AT CEDAR HILL X RD) 250-721-2337

Home of Canucks HD Hockey

Dunlop House
 PUB NIGHT

Christmas in Hawaii

Dec. 10
 Last pub of 2009!

4-6 PM
 Off Lansdowne Road, beside the staff parking lot

Minority squared

CRISTIAN CANO
PRIDE DIRECTOR

Society is so worried about supporting minorities that we forget about those who are a minority within a minority.

I am a gay Latino man and I feel like neither the queer nor the Latino communities are very welcoming of each other. Not in the sense that Latinos are homophobes, or queers are racists. They just don't know about each other's struggle.

In New York, different organizations support queer Latinos because most of us need that "family." Victoria offers little support for both communities, compared to other cities in North America.

It's difficult to get involved with one community when they don't accept or understand that other very important part of your life.

I have to accept that, ever since I came out of the closet, I forgot my Latino roots for quite some time. I have lived as a Latino all my life, but living as a gay man was a new thing for me. I was curious to know more people that felt how I did.

That's one of the hardest parts of being queer for most people. For those who are in a racial minority, their parents and relatives understand what it's like to be one because they are too, but not everyone has openly queer relatives.

I have to accept that, ever since I came out of the closet, I forgot my Latino roots for quite some time.

Being in a relationship with someone who knows little about my culture is hard as well. Even though we get along most of the time, sometimes we have culture shocks with each other that are irreconcilable.

The important thing is being true to oneself. Sometimes it might seem like a lonely world, but we often forget that others are struggling with similar problems.



INSIDE OUT

BY AMBER ROWSE-SIMMONS

Tabitha Foulkes

Tabitha Foulkes is a 20-year-old student from Cortes Island. She is in her second year of the University Transfer program at Camosun and will be applying into the Social Work program at UVic next September. Foulkes is also the co-chair of the Camosun African Awareness Committee.

How would you describe yourself?

As a quirky, intellectual individual who loves to learn and travel.

If you could meet someone living or dead, who would it be?

The Dalai Lama is really inspirational to me and I would love to meet Nelson Mandela.

How would you spend \$1 million?

I'd buy a piece of property and build a house, I'd buy a round-the-world ticket, and I'd donate the rest to various non-governmental organizations that do amazing work around the world.

What are your future ambitions?

To obtain my social work degree, then work internationally, perhaps with an NGO. Working with refugees is really interesting to me.

Do you have any guilty pleasures?

Buying copious amounts of tea, researching flights to my next travel destination, chocolate, and all things of the Christmas nature!

What has been the biggest



impact on you today?

Growing up on a small island has really influenced my sense of self and the things I value, such as community and a deep appreciation of nature. Also, being from a small place means that you form close friendships with people of all ages.

How do you celebrate the holidays?

My family celebrates Solstice as well as Christmas. Solstice celebrates the return of light on the darkest day of the year. This year, I will be spending Christmas with various family members at my grandparents' place in Cowichan Bay. I will also try and be on Cortes

as much as possible. It is my birthday on Dec. 31, so New Year's is always fun!

Do you have any advice for other students?

Get involved in some sort of group or committee. You meet the most amazing people and get to take part in so many different events. Joining the African Awareness Committee last year, and being the co-chair of the committee this year, has allowed me to meet some of the most dynamic and engaging professors, students, and individuals in the Victoria community.

Email nexus@nexusnewspaper.com if you know interesting students that we could profile in Inside Out.

Nexus is back online with a new website at nexusnewspaper.com

Find out what Nexus is all about • Meet the staff

Read the current issue or back issues

Learn how you can volunteer • Send us love notes



250-370-3591
nexus@nexusnewspaper.com
nexusnewspaper.com
Richmond House 201, Lansdowne

Kool

107.3

Today's Best Music

1. D.Guetta/Akon > Sexy Chick
2. Cascada > Evacuate The Dance...
3. Kelly Clarkson > Already Gone
4. Miley Cyrus > Party in the USA
5. Jason Darulo > Watcha Say
6. Jay Z > Run This Town
7. Kings of Leon > Use Somebody
8. Jay Sean > Down
9. Faber Drive > Get Up And Dance
10. Taylor Swift > You Belong With Me
11. Franti/Spearhead > Say Hey (I Love You)
12. Beyonce > Sweet Dreams
13. Hedley > Cha Ching
14. Lady Gaga > Paparazzi
15. Default > Little Too Late
16. Black Eyed Peas > Meet Me Halfway
17. Britney Spears > 3
18. The Fray > Never Say Never
19. Pink > Funhouse
20. Ke\$ha > Tik Tok

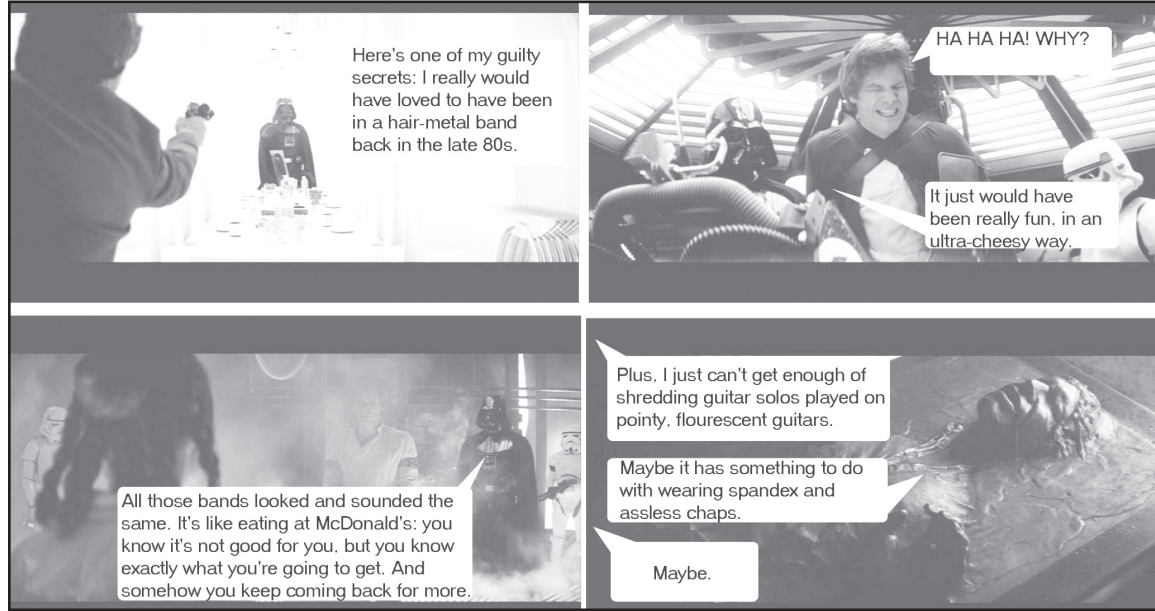
TOP 40 COUNTDOWN

Saturdays 10am-2pm
Sundays 6pm-10pm

21. Black Eyed Peas > I Got A Feelin'
22. Owl City > Fireflies
23. Jay Z/Alicia Keys > Empire State of Mind
24. Daughtry > No Surprise
25. Cobra Starship > Good Girls Go Bad
26. Colbie Caillat > Falling For You
27. Down w/ Webster > Rich Girl
28. Boys Like Girls > Two is Better Than One
29. Jordin Sparks > SOS
30. Stereos > Throw Your Hands Up
31. Rihanna > Russian Roulette
32. Iyaz > Replay
33. Lights > Saviour
34. Lady Gaga > Bad Romance
35. Jepsen/Ramsay > Sour Candy
36. Nickelback > Never Gonna Be Alone
37. Michael Buble > Haven't Met You Yet
38. Suzie McNeil > Help Me Out
39. Jenna > That's What it Feels Like
40. Karl Wolf > Yalla Habibi

www.1073kool.fm

Darth and Luke By Alan Piffer



Winter sucks, time to get drunk

BRENDAN KERGIN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Howling gales. Wind whipping at your back as you trudge to class. Rain pelting your face at a bus stop. Exams. Christmas shopping. Horrible traffic. No sunlight. It's dark when you get up and dark before you start heading home.

It's definitely the time of year that makes you say to the closest barkeep, "Ah, screw it, pour me a pint of your strongest beer." So, in the spirits of the season, here's a look at three of the best winter beers.



1. Imagine velvet on your tongue. Now imagine that actually tasting good. That's **Canoe Club's Winter Ale**, the seasonal selection from the downtown brewpub. They always have a strong series of suds, but this is just... just so perfect. If you know someone who says they hate beer, take them out for a pint. It'll blow their mind.



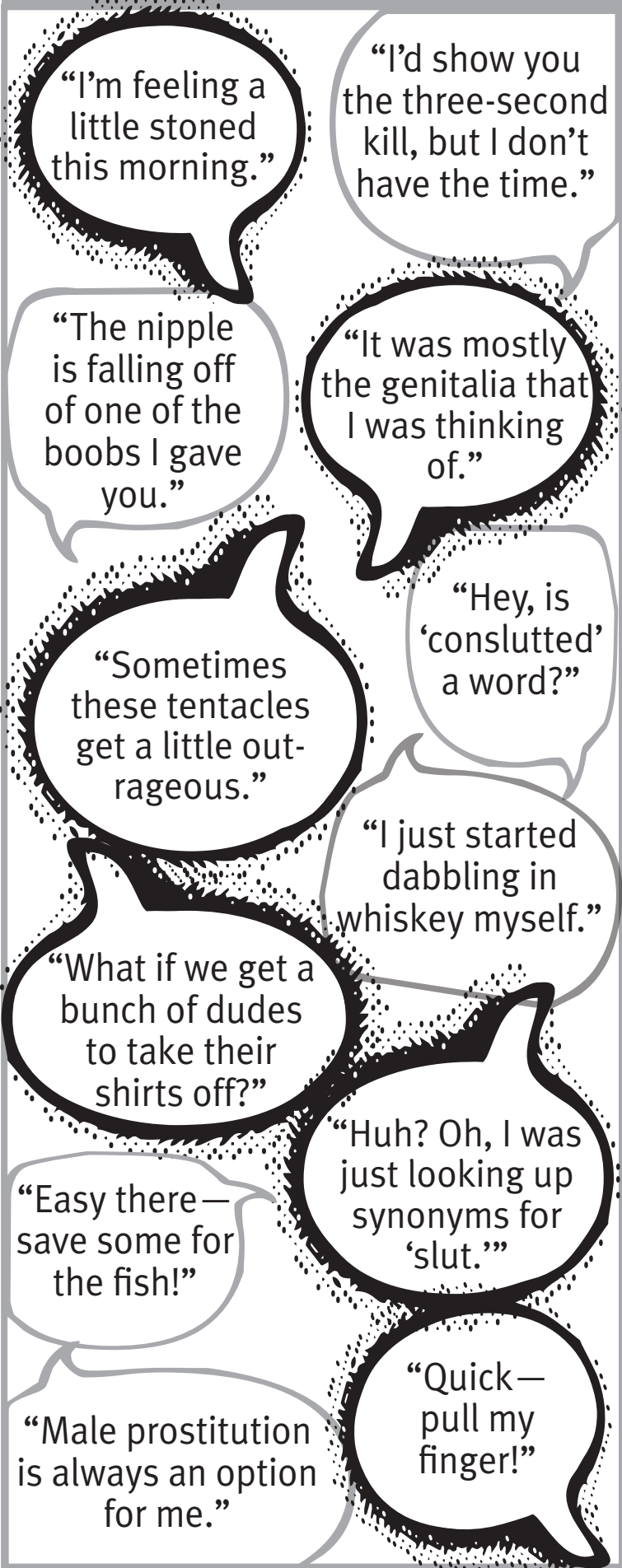
2. **Vancouver Island Brewery's Hermannator** is a top ice bock. This type of beer is interesting and should probably only be handled by true ale-o-philos. Despite it being an ice beer, it's better a little warmer and poured into a glass or mug. The flavours smooth out with a little bit of warmth and air. Also, the syrupy sweet taste is lessened, which is a good thing, and excellent for post-feast relaxing during the holidays.



3. Finally, keeping in the tradition of high-strength ales for winter gales, the **Deadhead** is one of **Phillips Brewery's** seasonal strengths. Although this is called a barley wine, that's simply a fancy name for this particular type of ale, which is much more of gentle sipper, with a 10-percent sticker.

Overheard at Nexus

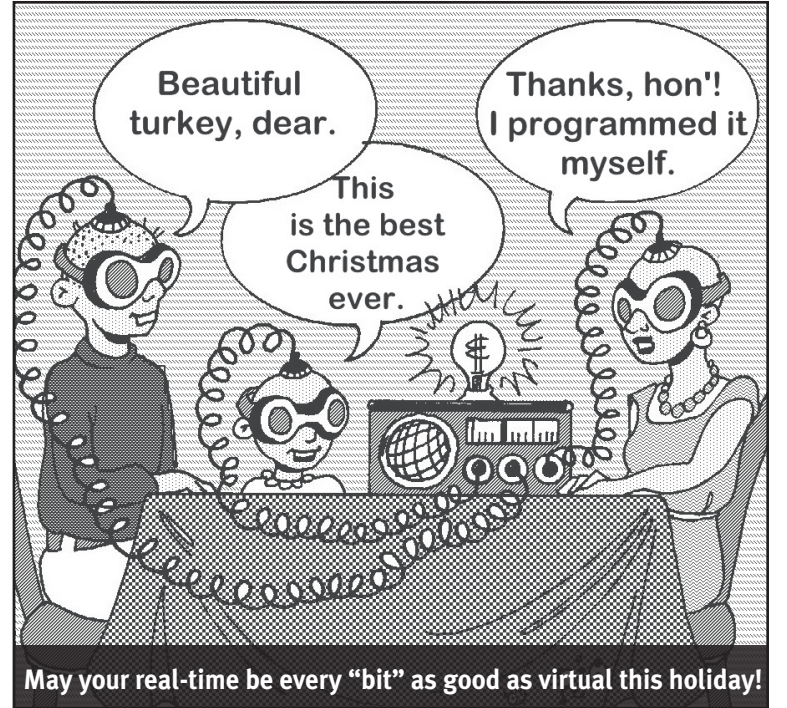
Who hasn't walked into a conversation at the wrong time — what did he say about anal beads? Or eavesdrop on a conversation that was the equivalent of smelling someone else's fart? At *Nexus* we do a lot of that, so here's what's been overheard lately...



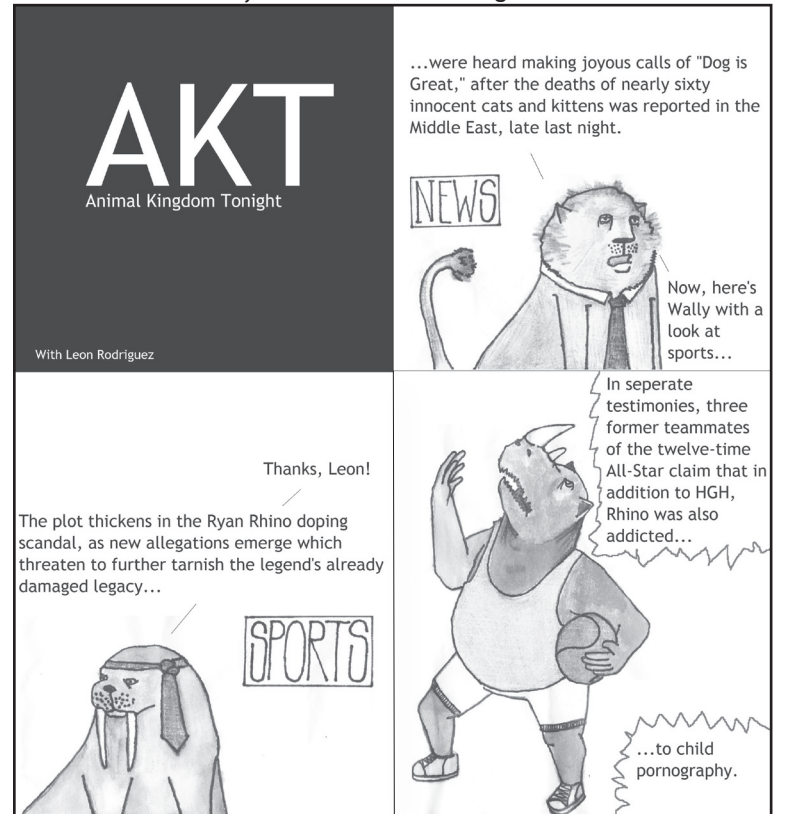
Phlegm By Shane Scott-Travis



Campus Callosum By Pam Oliver



Natural Selection By Michael Brar and Doug Carswell



Big Fat Hairy Ballsack By Shane Priestley





By Shane Scott-Travis

SATURDAY, DEC. 12

Felix Cartal, Sex With Strangers, Celebrity Traffic, Missing Children

SUGAR, 9 PM, \$15
Vancouver's prolific MC Felix Cartal will be spraying phat beats, electro vibes, and post-disco techno all over Sugar's considerable dance floor. Along for the ride and to keep the warm bodies movin' will be a crowded but energetic line-up, including another Vancouver act, the naughtily named Sex with Strangers. A sweaty night of frenetic hand jives and enthusiastic rump shaking is sure to ensue.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12

Dick Dale

LOGAN'S PUB, 9 PM, \$25
California's Dick Dale is hailed far and wide as the king of the surf guitar. This towering guitar god graces Logan's for a show that's sure to have reverb and sustain like nobody's business. After catching some minty waves, unwind with the man who brought us "Misirlou," which can be found on *Guitar Hero*, by the way. Surf's up!

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

Jon and Roy's Holidays

ALIX GOOLDEN HALL, 6:30 PM, \$22
Local folk favourites Jon and Roy, fresh from a tour with the Cat Empire, will be celebrating the festive season in style. With an outstanding ensemble of musicians joining them for this all-ages event, including Current Swell, Hey Ocean, Vince Vaccaro, Wil and more, it's sure to be a memorable evening the whole family will enjoy. Start the jingle hop!

TUESDAY, DEC. 15

Jon Lajoie

MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE, 7:30 PM, \$33.25
Montreal comedic musical upstart

Jon Lajoie performs an all-ages show sure to amuse fans of his YouTube videos. Lajoie made a name for himself with his silly music videos "Everyday Normal Guy," "High as Fuck," and "Show Me Your Genitals 2: E=MC Vagina." And, uh, this is billed as an all-ages show?

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

Angry Snowmans, VonBones

LOGAN'S PUB, 9 PM, \$10
With tongue planted firmly in cheek, Victoria's Angry Snowmans are doing their annual Xmas show at Logan's. This year's version, entitled 'Twas a Punk Rock Christmas, will feature punkified versions of traditional Christmas songs with buttloads of beer, slam dancing, and all-'round cussing, dissing, and spitting. Also participating in the merry moshing will be the Penny-wise-inspired punk of Victoria's VonBones. Hey ho ho ho, let's go (to this show)!

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

Marley Daemon, Fish & Bird

HERMANN'S JAZZ CLUB, 8 PM, \$12
Singer/songwriter from Mayne Island, Marley Daemon, touring her debut CD, *Heart to Sky*, brings her special brand of folksy jazz to Hermann's. Filling out the bill, and sure to share the stage with Daemon on several ditties, is the Tom Waits-flavoured Fish & Bird. This promises to be an eclectic and artful night with lots of ivory tickling to boot.

MONDAY, DEC. 21

AFI, Tegan and Sara, Jets Overhead

SAVE-ON-FOODS MEMORIAL EVENT CENTRE, 7 PM, \$37.50
This tripleheader, billed *Jingle Bell Rock 2009*, is a cross-Canada tour touching down in Mile Zero, much to the delight of modern music fans. FYI, expect AFI's punk revival exuberance to generate some serious flailing. Tegan and Sara will tickle your pop/folk fancy and Jets Overhead will have you over the moon with their dreamy indie rock. And with a portion of all proceeds going out to local youth-oriented

charity, this is a show you don't want to miss.

THURSDAY, DEC. 31

Elephant Island

LOGAN'S PUB, 9 PM, \$15
And you may find yourself going to Logan's on New Year's Eve. And you may find yourself listening to Elephant Island as they do a night of Talking Head covers. And you may ask yourself—how did I get here? This night will help you start 2010 off right.

classifieds

RULES

WANT TO GET PAID to talk about what you love? The Land Conservancy is seeking dedicated, environmentally conscious individuals to join our new canvass team. Part-time, flexible hours. Contact Erika at 383-4627 or email everlinden@conservancy.bc.ca

HOME-BASED AVEDA SALON in Fernwood offering hair and waxing services (specializing in Brazilians) at discounted prices. Call 250-294-0822 for more info or to make an appointment.

EACH REGISTERED STUDENT AT CAMOSUN IS ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO 40 WORDS FREE PER SEMESTER. This can be in the form of a 40-word ad, or two 20-word ads. Drop off your ad at the *Nexus*, Richmond House 201, Lansdowne, e-mail it to nexus@nexusnewspaper.com, or call the ad in at 370-3591. Please include your student number and contact information. SMALL PRINT: *Nexus* reserves the right to refuse ads for any reason. No sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise derogatory or slanderous ads. Business-related ads are \$15 for 20 words or less. 50 cents per extra word.

Have a great night at late night.

Get home safely.

The City of Victoria, in partnership with local taxi companies and VicPD, is introducing three late night taxi stands from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night for the next six months.

Taxi stands are designed to help people find easier access to a safe ride home at the end of the night.

Taxi Stand Locations:

- 1 Pandora Avenue at Government Street (adjacent to Centennial Square)
- 2 Government Street between View and Fort Streets
- 3 Douglas Street bus stop between Fort and Broughton Streets

Visit www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*



CAMOSUN COLLEGE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

IN THE RICHMOND HOUSE
ON THE TOP FLOOR

(Lansdowne Campus on Richmond Road next to the daycare)

CLINIC TIMES
for Male/Female STD Services
Female Sexual Health and Birth Control

THURSDAYS

1:30 - 4:30 PM

250-592-3449

Other Clinic Locations and Hours Available at:

Victoria --250-592-3479

Saanich Peninsula --250-544-2424

West Shore --250-888-6814

islandsexualhealth.org

