

NEXUS

Volume 20 Issue 13
March 3, 2010

Camosun's Student Voice
Since 1990



BOTTLE OF BLUES

Environmentally aware students are looking to eliminate bottled water from our alma mater.

NEWS—3



WHAT'S COOKING?

The Culinary Arts program has a lot to offer beyond tempting taste buds and the soup du jour.

CAMPUS—5



JONESTOWN RUNDOWN

Despite being controversial, the Brian Jonestown Massacre remains raucous and cheerful.

ARTS—13

Whose democracy?

Looking at both sides of an anti-Olympics protest

Pages 10-11



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

EDITORIAL MEETINGS

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

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Nexus
Editorial

Luck be malady

SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

STAFF WRITER

In the Bard's celebrated tragedy, *Julius Caesar*, "beware the Ides of March" is the well-known warning issued by the soothsayer to the conflicted dictator Caesar. And, with that ominous tip-off, a sense of foreboding is instilled that culminates in the famous utterance of "et tu Brute?" and the bad luck and bloodletting that follows.

But this begs the question; did Caesar make his own misfortune as a self-fulfilling prophecy? And while we're here, what the heck is luck, anyway?

The present-day conditions in which we live are bruised by diminished expectations and rising unease. Most of us could use a little luck—if not at the job or in our careers, at least in our personal affairs.

For some of us the voice of Clint Eastwood, low and quiet, frequently rolls through our noggin, saying, "Do you feel lucky, punk? Well, do ya?"

Luck seems a malleable thing affected by different cultural and social implications, fantastic beliefs, and intellectual discourse. The general consensus overall is squeamish over the squishy stock that luck liens.

Academics and scholarly types have a tough time justifying a belief in luck. Others prefer to distinguish between luck and chance and view the whole steaming pile through that lens.

Chance, like, say, winning the lottery, is something that the individual has very little control over. They buy a ticket and relegate themselves to fate. Luck, on the other hand, treads into murkier waters and deals with such irresolute ideas as belief, faith, irrationality, and superstition.

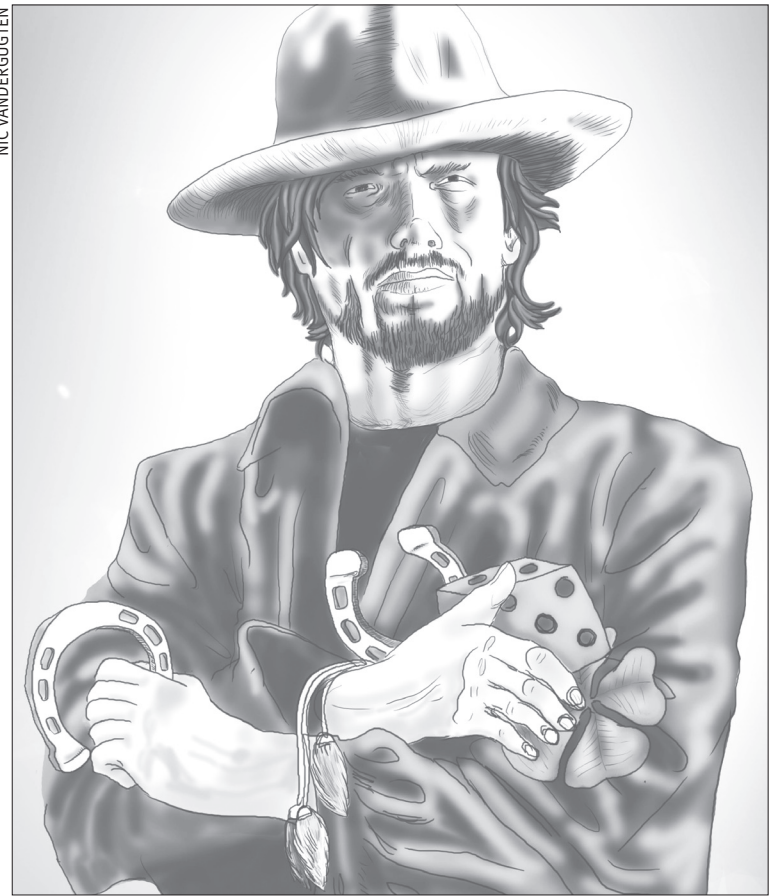
The Romans, in their toga-loving tradition, gladiatorial glee, and polytheistic beliefs, embodied luck in the form of Fortuna, goddess of fortune. The Greeks, not to be outdone, had Tyche, she who governed over fortune and prosperity.

Most of us could use a little luck—if not at the job or in our careers, at least in our personal affairs.

It's doubtful that Barbara Streisand's striking rendition of "Luck Be a Lady" was what either ancient civilizations had in mind, but it's Babs, so whatcha gonna do?

More modern mindsets, like those of the existentialists like Camus and Sartre, viewed luck to be more of an intellectual concept. Luck has more to do with the amount of or lack of control people have in their day-to-day lives, according to this model.

Inevitably, this leads to a deliverance from personal culpability



NIC VANDERGUGTEN

as people blame their failures or their fame on ideas like good and bad luck.

It's fair to assume that we make our own luck—good or bad—and become slaves to our own belief systems. People who we might consider to be lucky most likely believe in good luck, and their actions and optimism reflect this.

It might be a tad scathing, but the esteemed essayist Ralph Waldo

Emerson once remarked that "shallow men believe in luck, strong men believe in cause and effect."

If only the soothsayer had imparted this to Caesar, it may have eschewed the punching of his one-way ticket.

What's written in the stars and determines our fate? The truth is inconclusive and anybody's guess. What's conclusive is that Lady Luck can be a harsh mistress.

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.

Miracle at Interurban campus

PAM OLIVER

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A tired, middle-aged woman juggled a confusing array of paperwork while standing in the registration area at Camosun's Interurban campus last summer, signing her son up for college.

The woman muttered under her breath. Fate took this moment to step in.

"What was that you said?" inquired the nice lady behind the registration counter.

"Oh, I was just wishing I could sign myself up too," said the middle-aged woman, biting her lip, im-

mediately regretting the impulse to confide.

But Fate had her caught tight in its crosshairs and the outcome of this impromptu interview was no longer up to her.

"Well, why don't you?" Nice Lady continued, a full partner in the game now, unaware of her part in the enormous event unfolding in front of them both.

The tired woman's lips all but disappeared, thinned down by bitterness and irony. How futile to consider herself in terms of potential!

Upset and undecided, standing mute and beginning to list to one

side—she was surprised by emerging, dim, and lovely memories of her first college experience and subsequent graphic-arts degree.

Fate had her caught tight in its crosshairs and the outcome of this impromptu interview was no longer up to her.

A lack of customers gave Nice Lady a chance to relax and take some time with this curious customer. She pressed with, "Well, what would you want to take?"

"I'd study Psychology and English," the woman replied, instantly. She then seemed to fold in on herself, her whole body leaning under the weight of her responsibilities.

No longer able to engage, she collected her son's papers and turned to go, not noticing how Fate's accomplice had been busy on her keyboard.

"Well, why don't you?" Nice Lady asked, without looking up. A simple question, repeated.

Shaken, the older woman turned her full attention to the remark. A

half-dozen reasons why not—all sounding well rehearsed—tripped off her tongue.

Undaunted and with growing amusement, each objection was effectively countered. A few delicate questions about finances, and a few flicks to the computer—money barrier disappeared.

Another round of clicking and appointments were set up with the Disability Resource Centre at Lansdowne campus where the woman's main support would be needed.

A Handy DART application was suggested for transportation issues, and an ancient Grade 12 B+ in English was amazingly produced.

The old high-school mark meant she'd skip several prerequisite classes, which sounded good at the time. (She later realized she should have taken them to blow the dust off of the academic halls of her mind.)

Less than 20 minutes from entering the building, blinking in a startling August blue-hot sun as she prepared to wait for the next bus, the woman couldn't believe what had just happened.

Did it show? She trudged in to that building hunched, defeated, and invisible; she strolled out a college student. A mother-warrior. A woman. Herself.

At last.

Calling Interurban!

Are you an Interurban student interested in writing for *Nexus*? We are looking for Interurban writers who have the inside scoop on Camosun's fastest-growing campus.

If you're interested, get in touch with us!



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Students say no to bottled water

ALAN PIFFER
STAFF WRITER

A group of concerned Camosun students will be spreading the word on March 11 about their intentions to rid the sale of bottled water from campuses across Canada.

Bottled Water Free Day is a nationwide initiative in which the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) will be mobilizing to campaign for the ban of bottled water sales on Canadian college and university campuses.

“Consumers are buying the grand illusion that bottled water is better, cleaner, and healthier water.”

JORDAN SANDWITH
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

At Camosun, the Camosun Students for Environmental Awareness (CSEA) will be leading the charge with an information booth, petitions, and sales of refillable, environmentally friendly water bottles.

According to CSEA, there are numerous reasons to push for the ban of the ubiquitous plastic water

bottles, one of them being the health concerns relating to chemicals in the plastic.

“You could have water that was put into a bottle and it sits for maybe five months before it gets into your hand for you to drink,” says Roxanne Smillie, CSEA member and Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) Lansdowne executive.

“And, in that time, it could go through a heating and cooling process, and in those processes chemicals are then leached into your water from the bottles,” says Smillie. “And not only from the bottles, but also outside the bottles; different things can leach into your water. In the time where it gets removed from aquifers or different areas to the time it gets into your mouth, you can have many different things come into your system.”

Smillie says it’s important for students to recognize they don’t have to pay extra money for water, and to avoid taking part in the draining of natural water systems, as well as the creation of so many plastic bottles.

“It’s a fundamental issue here that we have in our society—paying for water that we already pay for to get filtered, and putting it into a plastic bottle,” says Smillie. “It’s our own local water that’s being shipped to us. So it’s not only the health issue that we have around it, it’s the plastic bottles and how unsustainable we find them to be.”



Students Karl Martinson (left), Roxanne Smillie, and Jordan Sandwith.

And fellow CSEA member and CCSS board member Jordan Sandwith adds that consumers may not be aware the water in plastic bottles isn’t held to the same standards as our own municipal tap water.

“They’re buying the grand illusion that it’s better, cleaner, and healthier water,” says Sandwith. “But, in fact, that may not always be the case.”

Beyond health and environmental issues, CSEA wants to spread the word about the dangers of water becoming more and more of a tradable commodity, and, to that effect, will be screening *Flow*, a documentary examining the issues around the privatization of water, during their on-campus campaign on March 11.

“You have investors saying, ‘This is the next big thing to in-

vest in,’” says CSEA member Karl Martinson. “We’re saying water’s a basic human right. You don’t have a right to go to our rivers, pull it out, and then sell it back to us, and say, ‘Well that’s just the way the market works, and so it should happen.’”

While the CSEA admits it will be difficult to convince the college to abandon the revenue source bottled-water sales rake in, they do say that students have the choice to avoid purchasing it.

“One of the cleanest sources of water on campus is just only steps past the cashier at the Lansdowne cafeteria,” says Sandwith. “There’s a water refilling station which has been filtered by the college. If more students were aware that right after paying for their water, they could get even cleaner water for free, they would be astounded by the irony.”

Student campaigns for lower international tuition

ALAN PIFFER
STAFF WRITER

A Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) director would like to see international-student tuition lowered, but understands it’s an uphill battle.

Carlos Suarez, international director of the CCSS, says international students face a lot of challenges, and lowering their tuition would greatly ease their worries.

But, according to Thevi Pather, director of Camosun College International, the government doesn’t subsidize tuition costs for international students, and colleges and universities are mandated to charge international students the full cost of tuition.

Although Suarez has been a Canadian citizen for six years, he knows firsthand the challenges many international students face. He took on his current role at the

CCSS to address those challenges, focusing on lowering their tuition.

Suarez points out that although international students who apply to study in Canada have to prove that they can afford it, there are financial challenges they aren’t aware of until they are living here.

“It’s not only tuition, but also the fact that students have to pay for home-stays and agencies’ fees and a whole bunch of things that not every single student has to deal with,” says Suarez.

Pather says that most students are aware of the financial aspects of their education before they arrive at Camosun. He adds that due to lower costs of college tuition, international students at Camosun have a better deal than at a university.

“The cost for an international student to do a full course load at Camosun is about \$5,700 per semester,” says Pather. “If that same

student went to UVic or UBC, costs would be about \$7,000-\$8,000 per semester.”

At the same time, Pather admits students often face unforeseen financial difficulties; in those situations, Camosun College International will offer assistance, including payment plans.

“We’ve always been flexible in terms of accommodating students’ ability to pay tuition,” says Pather.

As a former international student himself, Pather says that the college does work towards catering towards the student’s needs.

“We mount extra services to support international students,” says Pather. “We have a department here to support international students on campus, and I would suggest that some of the services they get would be services domestic students don’t get.”

Suarez wants to appeal to the

government with the ultimate goal of levelling the playing field in terms of tuition costs between international students and domestic students, particularly for those who hope to move to Canada.

But he says even a 10-percent reduction would greatly ease the difficulties international students face.

“It takes one person to make the best of everything for everybody. I wouldn’t mind writing a letter to the MLA to see what can be done for us,” says Suarez.

Suarez says as far as international students are concerned, anything would help in easing their transition into Canadian life.

“International students not only have to learn for their career, but a new culture,” he says. “I’ve been in the country for nine years and I’m still trying to understand many things.”

NEWS BRIEFS

BY SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

Sending out an SOS

There’s light at the end of the tunnel for Camosun students struggling with their history courses—and don’t worry, that light is not coming from an approaching train! “History Help” is the nomenclature of a sparkling new mentoring program being offered by second-year history students. These grizzled scholastic veterans will give advice and offer guidance with assignments, Camosun resources, history papers, planning, time management, you name it! These helpful historians can be found at camosunhistoryhelp@gmail.com or on Facebook under “Camosun College History Help.” Gosh, that’s nice of them, eh?

Movin’ right along...

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission will be upping their fares and doing some expanding while they’re at it. On Feb. 8, the VRTC approved a tariff strategy (not nearly as cool as it sounds) that boils down to a 25-cent increase for adult, senior, and youth fares, and an increase in monthly passes (to the tune of nine percent). The commission will be expanding service hours over the next three years and a property tax lift of \$7 per household was also approved. “The incremental fare increases, along with a moderated expansion plan, will help meet the funding requirements of the system,” says Oak Bay mayor Christopher Causton, chair of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, sounding vaguely like Lando Calrissian. Bus riders can go to bctransit.com for more info.

Bad news for bears

The brainiacs in the BC government are planning on opening the trophy hunting of bears in the Great Bear Rainforest. I says pardon!? This news is much to the chagrin of a burgeoning international network comprised of First Nations, animal protection, tourism, and conservation groups from over 40 countries—representing some 15 million members—all eager to have the hunt halted. The groups cite obvious conservation, cultural, economic, and ethical reasons to protect vulnerable black bears and grizzlies from being gunned down needlessly. “The trophy hunt goes against every moral teaching that we carry and is disrespectful to our culture and values,” says Art Sterritt, executive director of Coastal First Nations. A perusal of pacificwild.org will provide more information and hopefully help to bring bears the bare necessities.

Waffles up the wazoo

Everyone likes waffles, right? Well, some forward-thinking UVic Commerce students, deeply devoted to “Activism 2.0” and entwined in an international green consumerist movement have planned a “reverse boycott” or “carrotmob” that will help fill your gob! UVic’s Commerce Sustainability Club has selected the local business, Wannawafel—a family-run affair in Market Square—to be the recipients of, well, lots of customers. On March 12, loads and loads of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

SPEAK UP

BY RENÉE ANDOR

What’s your most memorable college moment?



BRIAN HEJAZI

“The great friendship and bond I have with my Visual Arts class.”



CATHERINE CLAYTON

“Writing my first exam in a large environment and feeling anxiety and excitement.”



TYLER BIRNEY

“All the best stuff is out of school; but I’ve met many cool people here.”



ROCHELLE GASCON

“Realizing how difficult the Nursing program is!”



MAT CADORN

“An omelette every morning in the cafeteria with extra hot sauce.”

Libraries in midst of renovations

ERIN BALL
STAFF WRITER

Most students at Camosun's Lansdowne campus have probably noticed that construction on the library is well underway. At the Interurban campus, construction is expected to begin in April.

The idea to renovate Camosun's libraries started in 2006. At that time, the college had decided to do a review of library services at both campuses. They hired a consultant to make recommendations on how to improve the 19-year-old building at the Lansdowne campus and its counterpart at the Interurban campus.

"There was a whole range of recommendations on what was needed to improve library services and one of them was to renovate the libraries and establish a learning commons at each location," says Camosun's head librarian, Sybil Harrison.

In 2008, the college hired the architectural firm Chow Low Hammond to develop a conceptual plan for the renovations.

"Just over a year ago, the college said they were going to move ahead and really develop those plans," says Harrison.

The project is expected to cost \$4.3 million. The college was awarded \$4 million through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, a federal and provincial initiative to renew Canada's college and university infrastructure. The remainder of the funds will come from fundraising efforts and the college's capital budget.

During construction, the Lans-

downe library, which used to consist of two floors, has been confined to the top floor of the building.

The bottom floor is now full of dusty-looking construction workers and heavy machinery, although you wouldn't know it at first glance.

The first thing students see when they stroll through the doors of the building is a temporary wall covered in colorful paintings done by students from the Visual Arts program.

The wall is designed to keep the dust and noise in and curious students out of the construction zone.

"Teaching and learning has changed. We're responding to that change in information and also the change that's happened in the classrooms."

SYBIL HARRISON
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

The wall directs you upstairs, where quarters are a little tight these days, according to Harrison.

The upstairs half of the library is now housing all library staff and resources.

It used to be considered the quiet floor of the library, but now that everyone is on one floor, there are some challenges.

"It's been really busy up here," says Harrison. "But students have been very, very accommodating."

Harrison says the library renovations are going to be quite extensive and will include a learning commons, a concept that's growing in popularity in postsecondary institutions.

The idea behind a learning commons is to have many student services—such as library resources, audio-visual services, and computer labs—in one central place.

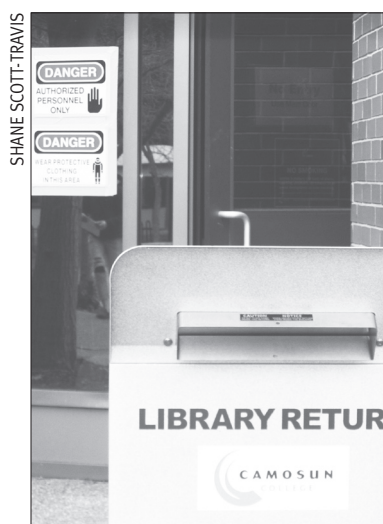
Harrison says having a range of learning supports in one location is a great idea.

"In college and academic libraries I think the big change has been this learning-commons approach," says Harrison. "For too many years there's been a lot of services provided and this idea of bringing them all together, to support the students in the place where they are potentially spending a lot of time, is a huge benefit for students in general."

Harrison says with all the changes in the types of resources the library provides, and the way those resources are used, the spaces need to change as well.

"Teaching and learning has changed," says Harrison. "We're responding to that change in information and also the change that's happened in the classrooms."

With an increase in the need for group study areas on campus, the library is also preparing to offer a number of new group study rooms, equipped with computers, audio equipment, and monitors to



practice presentations.

Although the renovated libraries will attract more students and aim to facilitate collaborative learning, "that more traditional approach is still going to be there," according to Harrison.

"Students will still want a place for silent study," she says.

At Interurban, silent study space will come in the form of glass-walled rooms, with partitioned desks available.

Interurban's library will close down for renovations in April, with limited services available throughout the summer semester.

Both libraries will be ready for the big reveal when students return in the fall of 2010.

In the meantime, Harrison is anticipating a vastly different and state-of-the-art transformation, especially at Lansdowne.

"It will be the gem of the campus," says Harrison.

UVic offers student anti-violence support

ERIN BALL
STAFF WRITER

The most common time when people experience sexualized violence is when they are 18–26 years old, according to the Anti-Violence Project (AVP), UVic's on-campus sexual assault center.

That's why staff members at AVP want Camosun students to know that their services are available to them as well.

In fact, their services are available to anyone in the community who's affected by sexualized violence, according to Elizabeth Morrison, co-coordinator at AVP.

AVP offers confidential, peer-based counselling and support to anyone who has experienced sexual violence or knows someone who has.

"We get a lot of people who come in and say their girlfriend, or boyfriend, or partner has experienced something and they don't know what to do, or they're feeling like they need someone to talk to," says Morrison.

The Anti-Violence Project start-

ed in 1995 under the name Open UVic Resource Sexual Assault Centre (OUR-SAC).

In 2004, OUR-SAC became the Anti-Violence Project in order to make support, education, and advocacy services more accessible to survivors of all forms of violence.

Over the years, AVP has offered support to many survivors of sexualized violence.

Each year they expand to educate the community on issues surrounding violence through workshops and events.

"We do prevention, education, and outreach, but then we also provide drop-in, one-to-one support," says Morrison.

AVP advocates peer-based counselling, which means that support is offered by a trained volunteer, who's usually either a student from UVic or Camosun, or a community member.

"This is a place where you can come and talk to somebody, and also know that the person you are talking to is a peer," says Morrison. "All of our volunteers do a 60-hour

training in the fall. We teach communication skills and teach them about peer-based counselling. They learn all about sexualized violence and how to provide support."

"If you teach people how to have really awesome, fantastic sex, they feel like they're more empowered and less likely to get into situations where they feel that their boundaries are violated."

ELIZABETH MORRISON
ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

AVP offers workshops and events to bring their message to the community.

"We do a lot of advocacy work and we provide a lot of different outreach and education workshops, including sex toys and sex education," says Morrison.

Morrison says it's important to offer information on how to make informed decisions regarding sex and how to make consensual sex fun.

NEWS BRIEFS

BY SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

consumers will be heading down to Wannawafel to buy, buy, buy and spend, spend, spend! The owners of Wannawafel will pledge 100 percent of the entire day's revenue towards making their business eco-friendly, under the guidance of Smallfeet Inc. (an über-green group, FYI). "There will be prizes, music, entertainment, and some very tasty, eco-friendly waffles," says John Bayley, UVic Commerce student and event organizer. Go to smallfeet.ca for more info and get ready to waffle it up!

Yeah, I'm the taxman

It's that time of year, when George Harrison's Beatles lyrics carry added weight, and number-crunching skills come to the fore, as income-tax preparation rears its ugly mug. But, thanks to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Montreal-based company Marketwire, there's free tax software available to post-secondary students across Canada. Dr. Tax Software Inc., the maker of UFile.ca, is the mastermind behind this mathematical mash-up. To utilize this service, bust on over to www.cfs-fcee.ca and click on the UFile logo. It's pretty simple and online tax filing is fast becoming all the rage. Also becoming all the rage is my guacamole, which I plan on bringing to the party I'll be throwing to celebrate my tax return. Huzzah!

RBCM in the sweet by and by

The future is bright for the Royal BC Museum (RBCM), which recently revealed their long-term vision to Victoria. The plan is for the RBCM to be rezoned with environmental sensitivity and sustainability as pique points of concern, enabling some major changes that will ultimately expand all aspects of the museum and make room for more. More of what, exactly? Well, the RBCM has a big vision of a sweet-scented future that involves developing and expanding all they've got, including business offices, festivals, multiple residential, parks, parking, retail, restaurants, and theatre space. For more info on the RBCM vision, visit royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/zoning or stop in at the museum for their open house on March 6 and 7 from 12-3 pm.

Arthritis fracas

Almost 4.5 million Canadians live with arthritis and autoimmune diseases, and that's so not cool. For four years, the Power of Movement fundraiser has been kicking ass and taking names to benefit the Canadian Arthritis Society (CAS) and the Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN). On March 7, thousands of Canucks from coast to coast will participate in a large-scale yoga mega-session, raising awareness, charkas, funds, and flexibility. In Mile Zero, Moksha Yoga Victoria will be hosting sessions at 10 am and 12 pm; a quick visit to powerofmovement.ca can give you more details, including info on reserving a spot and soliciting pledges if you want to participate. Let's try kicking arthritis to the curb for good, and let's do it while wearing stretchy pants.

BESIDE THE POINT

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Program offers real-world training

ALAN PIFFER
STAFF WRITER

As anyone who grabs a bite to eat at Interurban's Helmut Huber cafeteria knows, Camosun's Culinary Arts program churns out some tasty grub.

And those waiting in line for food might notice the students in the program get plenty of on-the-job training. But the cafeteria work is just the start, before students hone their chops in the Fine Dining program. There, they get authentic, on-the-job training, preparing top-notch meals for a hungry clientele that goes far beyond Camosun.

Terry Seed is an instructor in the program, currently in the midst of guiding his students through the rigours of preparing the fine-dining menu.

The Classroom Restaurant in the Helmut Huber building has changed its format occasionally during its 20-year history, but right now is offering three separate full-course menus for a prefixed price. The menu is offered in late January through April, and late September to December.

"It seems to be very successful; people love the concept of it," says Seed. "We have a mailing list of what must be about 1,500 people. We have a phenomenal amount of repeat business here. I look through the reservations, I know all the names, where people have come three or four times a semester, easily."

The Culinary Arts students whipping up the fine-dining menu are at level two of their program. As Seed explains, the program is focused on a real-world, on-the-job method of training.

"We're giving them an opportunity to work in a fine-dining system with direction that sometimes

they may not get in other places," explains Seed. "But when they leave us they're ready for real-world situations."

And Seed says those real-world situations include everything a potential employer would possibly expect out of a new hire.

"Deadlines, commitment, camaraderie, professionalism, focus—all these sorts of things are very important to us here, because we're putting our name on them, obviously," says Seed. "We're all professional chefs, and my concept is 'I'm going to train you here as if I'm going to hire you later.'"

"Now it's in the big leagues; it's not just reheating and deep-frying anymore. You actually learn how to cook and do some fun stuff."

GRAHAM CANNON
CAMOSUN STUDENT

Graham Cannon is one of the level-two students working on the fine-dining menu. He enjoys not only the challenge, but what he's currently learning.

"Now it's in the big leagues; it's not just reheating and deep-frying anymore," says Cannon. "You actually learn how to cook and do some fun stuff, and it's giving us some pretty good tools to go on into the industry."

Other than the fine-dining menu, a big focus is on the upcoming buffet on Friday, March 5. And it's always extremely popular, with a

waiting list of up to 300 people.

"It gives students an opportunity to work in a different format, instead of making one plate for one person," says Seed. "We're making a table with perhaps 20 different items on it, with three or four versions of any item. Plus the whole decorating scenario, how to set up a buffet; it's a completely different thing for them, which is why we do it."

Jennifer Montgomery is a level-two student who plans to get into the locally produced, organic cooking that's popular in Victoria. She likes what she can learn from her program and from producing the buffet menu.

"It's a different style of cooking, but if you want to do catering or anything like that, you're going to want to know how to do everything," says Montgomery. "There's no point in going to school and just learning what you're interested in doing."

Cooking reality shows—often featuring foul-mouthed British chefs constantly belittling people in the name of quality cuisine—have become very popular, sometimes enticing students into the field.

But Seed feels the negative atmosphere in those shows is only good for entertainment value.

"I would say a lot of those so-called reality shows that are based on meanness, yelling, insults... that's the dark ages of the kitchen; we're trying to take students in exactly the opposite direction," says Seed. "We're trying to teach them respect and how to work efficiently and be respectful to each other."

"I come from a background like in those shows; it was hard," he says. "There's a difference between being firm and making it known what you want and expect, and belittling people."

NAOMI KAVKA



The Culinary Arts program is no reality TV show for Camosun students.

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Camosun's own school of rock

ALLI PICKARD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Continuing Education Department at Camosun is known for offering some zany classes and is proud to bring us another—the History of Rock 'n' Roll.

The course, which began Feb. 9 and ends March 16, will cover many of the events that made rock what it is today.

According to instructor James Martens, the course has a more casual style of learning, as opposed to lectures and tests, and, of course, has some rockin' subject matter.

"After taking this course, you will never be the same."

TONI BURTON
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

"I want the students to tell me what they think; why this certain song reminds them of this moment. Instead of hearing lectures on why this happened and how it affected society at that time, I want them to create their own history of rock 'n' roll through this course," says Martens.



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From loving the Clash to living next door to Phil Lynott of Thin Lizzy, Martens' past has been filled with music, making him the perfect candidate to teach this course.

Having previously taught the History of Rock 'n' Roll in Alberta, Martens came out of retirement to teach it again.

He hopes the course will become popular and a recurring feature on the Camosun Continuing Education schedule.

Martens also plans to branch off into other decades of music, such as the '70s disco/punk era, or teach a class on the history of the blues.

Offering courses that the general public will enjoy, or be intrigued enough to come back to school

without a lot of pressure, is something the Continuing Education Department prides itself in.

"After taking this course, you will never be the same," says Toni Burton, program coordinator for Continuing Education and Contract Training. "Martens has such a passion for music and we're really happy to have him teach here this year."

The goal is, by the end of the course, each student will help build a 30-page document of the class' own history of rock 'n' roll.

"The class won't be *Trivial Pursuit*, it won't be trivia games, you can go to a bar and do that for a lot less," says Martens. "History is about sharing ideas."

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New technology to replace VHS

ED SUM

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Contrary to popular belief, the VHS format is not dead, but it might be replaced with its digital equivalent.

The ability to record and keep television programming is important to some people, so they hang on to their VCRs.

But others have embraced a new technology that does the job digitally.

The personal video recorder (PVR, or DVR, for digital video recorder) is latest TV recording device and many people are jumping onto that bandwagon.

"PVRs are the number-one bestseller right now," says Carl Parry, sales representative for Atlas Audio Video. "The hottest thing is a high-definition cable box with recording ability."

These boxes are known as HD-PVR and videophiles can get them through various cable suppliers.

The company provides a unit to allow cable subscribers to tape television shows onto a hard drive for watching later.

To transfer programs to a permanent medium, however, requires a lot of work; people have to be technically savvy or own a DVD-based video recorder.

There are two types of DVD-based recorders. The HDD PVR has a hard-disk drive to record on to and transfer to DVD, and the DVD PVR records directly to a DVD.

According to Parry, the disc-based units are virtually finished in the home-theatre market.

Units can be found, but manufacturer interest in producing more devices has waned since 2007.

Sturdier HDD PVRs, which can record in high definition, have become more prominent.

And the PVR is very similar to a VCR in operation. "Everybody from a five-year-old kid to grandma can easily record and retrieve a TV show," says Parry.

Tony Chu, owner of Tony's TV, a local electronics repair shop, says it's still a tough sell convincing the older generation to try new technology, even if it is easy to use.

"Older people are so used to VHS because it's been in the market for over 20 years. It's so simple," says Chu. "My parents still don't know how to use a DVD player."

In contrast to what retailers and the industry are saying, Chu still does a lot of VHS servicing, averaging five to 10 units a week.

Despite how many VCRs Chu services, the format is definitely on its way out, and PVRs are now becoming commonplace and being used more and more by all generations.

"Everybody from a five-year-old kid to grandma can easily record and retrieve a TV show."

CARL PARRY
ATLAS AUDIO VIDEO

But for some people who are still holding out, owning a PVR is a huge financial investment, although the prices are a lot cheaper than when the format first hit the market.



Digital recording of television shows is only one touch away for PVR users.

"I don't think anyone anticipated how strong a demand it would be," says Parry. "The price points have come way down and storage capacity has improved."

Still, the initial cost, anywhere from \$250-\$600, depending on the model, can still be a deterrent for a lot of consumers.

"There's a small population of people that can actually afford a PVR at this point," says Jen Rundell, clerk at Audio Video Replay. "Until those machines become cheaper I don't really think they're making a big effect."

And for those who still have a bunch of videotapes lying around, Panasonic has a Blu-ray/VHS dual player on the market.

The in thing in gaming

SHAWN O'HARA

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Games, like any other pastime, are subject to trends. The popular trends roll in and out with the frequency of the ocean tide.

Board games—from humble beginnings like *Monopoly* or *Risk*—are seeing a huge resurgence in popularity and creativity, as are many multiplayer strategy games like *the Settlers of Catan*. Trading-card games also come and go like the seasons, with dozens created every year that fail just as quickly as they came.

A perfect place to get an idea of gaming trends is Gottacon—Victoria's annual gaming convention. Gottacon, which took place Feb. 5–7 at Pearkes Arena, next to Tillicum Mall, was home to a number of events involving board games, role-playing games, and just about every other kind of game one can think of, as well as many vendors and industry experts.

Michael Lum, co-founder of Gottacon and proprietor of Skyhaven Games, has firsthand experience with much of the gaming industry—mainly role-playing games (RPGs), trading-card games, and board games.

Lum says board games are seeing a change in style and popularity.

"A big thing that's happening in board games right now is the cooperative board game, where players try to beat the board instead of beat each other," says Lum. "People want to interact with other people and have fun, so they don't want to beat everyone."

The HP Lovecraft-inspired horror game *Arkham Horror* and the historical fantasy *Shadows over Camelot* are examples of this rising trend.

The aspect of player cooperation and interactions is finding its way into other kinds of games as well. Derek Eide of Stain Internet Café, a haven for some members of Victoria's PC-video-gaming community, says online games are the most popular right now.

As new online games come out, large portions of a particular title's

player base can switch their game of choice.

"*Modern Warfare 2* is the big game right now. A lot of people from the *Counter-Strike* community have transferred over to it," says Eide.

He says some gamers are tired of the hardcore player population of many online games—namely shooters—and are finding enjoyment in more laidback, cooperative games like co-op zombie shooter *Left 4 Dead 2*.

"A lot of people like it because it's a more casual game. You can just sit down, and get into it, and, being a mostly cooperative game, it's not dominated by these twitch-sensitive people who play it all the time. It's a lot more easygoing," says Eide.

Over the years Carson Upton—co-founder of Gottacon and the Vancouver Island Gaming Guild, and also a Camosun graduate—has developed quite a body of knowledge in the world of RPGs.

Upton says that the more games change, the more gamers tend to stay the same. In 2007, a whole new edition of the *Dungeons & Dragons* rules were released, and, while the new, more accessible rules did much to bring in new players, the drastic changes to the setting and core mechanics could distance the older players.

"Some liked the balance of the old rules, some were upset at the new additions, or subtractions, and a lot just don't want to have to buy new books," says Upton.

He also says the new version of the game won't live up to the popularity of the former one.

"For a while every distributor or game creator used the older system for their games—tweaking some rules and adding a homemade setting. I don't think the new edition will be that universal," says Upton.

No matter what changes are made to RPGs, the new games will always appeal to someone, and perhaps breed a new generation of gamers on its own.

"The latest edition is getting a new crowd of people to play RPGs in a big way," says Upton.

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Students dissect Victoria's public art

JINA MOUSSEAU

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Public art in Victoria gets a lot of flack, but perhaps those more intimate with the creation of art have a slightly different perspective. Enter Jessica Tai, 20, and Michaela Earthy, 21, both first-year students in Camosun's Visual Arts program. *Nexus* invited them to explore a few well-known pieces of public art in downtown Victoria, and to share some of their insights.

Commerce Canoe, Bastion Square

First stop, Bastion Square—home to people strolling, heritage buildings, and... giant tulips? Earthy quickly points out the information plaque, which clearly states that the large, green stalks are actually reeds cradling a canoe.

The statue, called *Commerce Canoe*, is by Illarion Gallant. In his artwork statement, Gallant calls the canoe a "uniquely Canadian icon evoking not only connection with the wilderness, but also the history of exploration and commerce in Canada."

Tai: "I feel like it sticks out here—it's too modern. I like old-fashioned art that's handmade and made by just one artist, not steel workers."

Earthy: "So it's a business piece, not art, in terms of its purpose. There's good use of complimentary colours. It's erect—shows the possibility of Victoria to grow."

Tai: "The canoe is a skeleton. I like that you can see what's in it."

Earthy: "The canoe is like a framework. Bastion Square was the start of the commerce area in Victoria; it's like the skeleton, the bones of Victoria. The reeds relate to humans, supporting the 'business' of Victoria."

Tai: "Okay, I'm starting to like it more. The more literal it is, the more people can get it."

Avocados, the Grand Pacific Hotel

Next the ladies make their way over to the Grand Pacific Hotel on Belleville Street, home to Victoria's own enormous stone avocados.

"I'm picky. I appreciate all art, but I know what I like."

JESSICA TAI
CAMOSUN STUDENT

This piece is also by Illarion Gallant and is called, surprisingly enough, *Avocados*. In his statement Gallant describes that the purpose of this work was to touch on urban redevelopment and the imposition that such work imposes on the landscape.

"Stated bluntly, this work was intended to act as a Shiatsu treatment to reline the earth," says

Gallant.

Tai: "An interesting choice of vegetable—one not from here. Maybe to welcome guests here? For relaxation and calm? It's a strange association. I do like that it's a sit-able structure."

Earthy: "Funny though, it forces you to sit facing the hotel instead of the water."

Tai: "It's weird how some parts of the stone are polished, and some are not. But I think it balances the piece."

Earthy: "It would have looked better sitting on grass or something else. It's rock on more rock. Very cement city."

Night Is for Sleeping, Day Is For Resting, Douglas and Blanshard

Finally, the two stop for a rest on the life-size mattresses at the intersection of Douglas and Blanshard.

"Night is for sleeping, day is for resting," reads the sign over the statues by Mowry Baden.

According to Baden, he was trying to emphasize leisure and accommodation in this piece. "The title of this piece is a quote from John Philip Souza that epitomizes the rest and relaxation that Victoria and her guests seek," he says in his statement.

Earthy notices that the colour and pattern on the mattresses is the same as the colour and cement on the ground.

Earthy: "Why would he do that?"



Nexus' public art critics take a rest on a local piece of outdoor art.

The whole thing is the colour of dirty salmon. I don't find the colour relaxing; it's bland. I guess you should want to sit on it, but the only time you see mattresses outside they are gross and stained, and being given away for that reason."

Tai: "A public mattress... sick. I do like how realistic they are; I think he used a cast. The threading and detail is all included, that would have been difficult to do. It's placed at a really busy corner; maybe he is saying we should all slow down?"

It appears that art is subjective and ultimately comes down to personal taste—even to those who are viewing it with an artistic context.

"I'm picky. I appreciate all art, but I know what I like," says Tai.

"There is art I don't like, whether it is the level of craft, or the clarity of an idea. But as I've learned in the Visual Arts program, you can justify anything if you can back it up," adds Earthy.

How about if the City of Victoria contracted these student artists to create a piece of public art?

"I would do some mural paintings, a series of them," says Tai.

Earthy describes a big sculpture that she would build with others. "Something in the park that people could play with, sit with... something that would move in the wind."

Tips on how to make friends in a new city

GABRIELLE KIND

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The first few months at a new school or in a new town can leave a student feeling stranded, alone, and miles from their comfort zone. But this awkward and uncomfortable experience can be avoided—here are a few tips to help create and expand a new social network with ease.

26-year-old Carol-Lynne Michaels is eager to share her advice on social success. After working in Montreal for two-and-a-half months last summer, Michaels returned to her Vancouver home and decided she needed a change. She packed up her things and moved to Victoria.

Michaels, who currently resides at Ocean Island Inn, works for Public Outreach and does some nanny-ing while she awaits the start of her program at Camosun this fall.

Michaels has a lot of experience moving around, meeting new people, and developing friendships. She says it's all about the local papers.

"Every city has a paper that lists community things, photography groups, or local bands," says Michaels. "If it's something you like, the people there are probably people you'll like."

When in Montreal, Michaels perused the newspapers to see what bands were playing, got a bike to make everything accessible, and toured around to all sorts of festivals, markets, and shows.

"Being able to hang out in public by yourself is a big step," says Michaels.

A big, but necessary step. At times, Michaels would go to pubs by

herself just to talk to strangers. Staying open-minded, asking questions, and having good eye contact are very important when meeting new people, according to Michaels.

Keep your eyes open for people who look interesting or who are doing things that you like, and then just ask to join them; that's a simple and effective way to start friendships.

"What's the worst that can happen if you're outgoing and positive?" says Michaels. Keep your eyes open for people who look interesting or who are doing things that you like, and then just ask to join them; that's a simple and effective way to start friendships. People are welcoming and usually won't deny the company, but if they do, you can just chuckle at their closed-mindedness, says Michaels.

And for the shy, less outgoing people in search of new friends, Michaels suggests taking baby steps.

Work is a great place to start; find out what your co-workers are doing and go to things. Ask them questions, throw in that one line that pulls the conversation a little bit longer, and you'll find out more about them.

People generally want someone to listen; all you have to do is ask and eventually you'll develop camaraderie, says Michaels.

"Anyone can make friends. You just have to get your fingers in a lot of things, get behind stuff, and be persistent," says Michaels.

But not all students are comfortable being so forward all the time.

"I'm on more of the shyer side," says Teresa Toews, a UBC grad who currently lives in Vancouver.

Toews recently spent time in New York where she subletted an apartment and gracefully became a part of the local life. She now has plans to return to New York to start a community space with a friend.

Toews may be shy, but she has developed some friend-making strategies that work.

"Craigslist is my best friend; I use it for everything," says Toews.

The popular website is a good

way to break down social barriers and arrange your outings beforehand.

By scanning the site's "strictly platonic" section, Toews met a lot of interesting people, made solid connections, and developed lasting friendships for when she returns to New York.

Aside from scanning the site, Toews also recommends being well equipped with props.

"Engage people, and if there's something to do it's less awkward," says Toews, referring to the Scrabble kit she often carries around in her purse.

If someone is sitting nearby in a café, Toews will lean over after a while and say, "Hey, let's play."

If you keep your head up, have good eye contact, and are aware of your surroundings, people are more likely to approach you, says Toews.

So, spending too much time on the cell phone or listening to the iPod won't help anyone make any friends. And Facebook isn't a huge friend-maker, either.

"Facebook can be great to keep in touch with old friends, but it's not so good for integrating the new," says Toews.

Toews also recommends becoming a regular somewhere. When you see people repeatedly, just the mere facial recognition can start the simplest of friendships.

It starts with a smile, a hello, and can progress to whatever depth you want to take it.

"See everything as an opportunity, and don't limit yourself" says Michaels.

Starting a life somewhere new doesn't have to be scary.

Think of it as an opportunity to explore yourself, as well as the new surroundings.

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Hockey 101 brings Canada's favourite pastime to Victorians

DARIN STEINKEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's a two-man breakaway!

Actually, it's more like the puck-carrier's feet are attempting to break away from his ankles. This quickly takes him out of the play.

The only skater left standing snatches up the puck and, leaning heavily on his stick, chops his way toward the goal as fast as his power-skating lessons will allow.

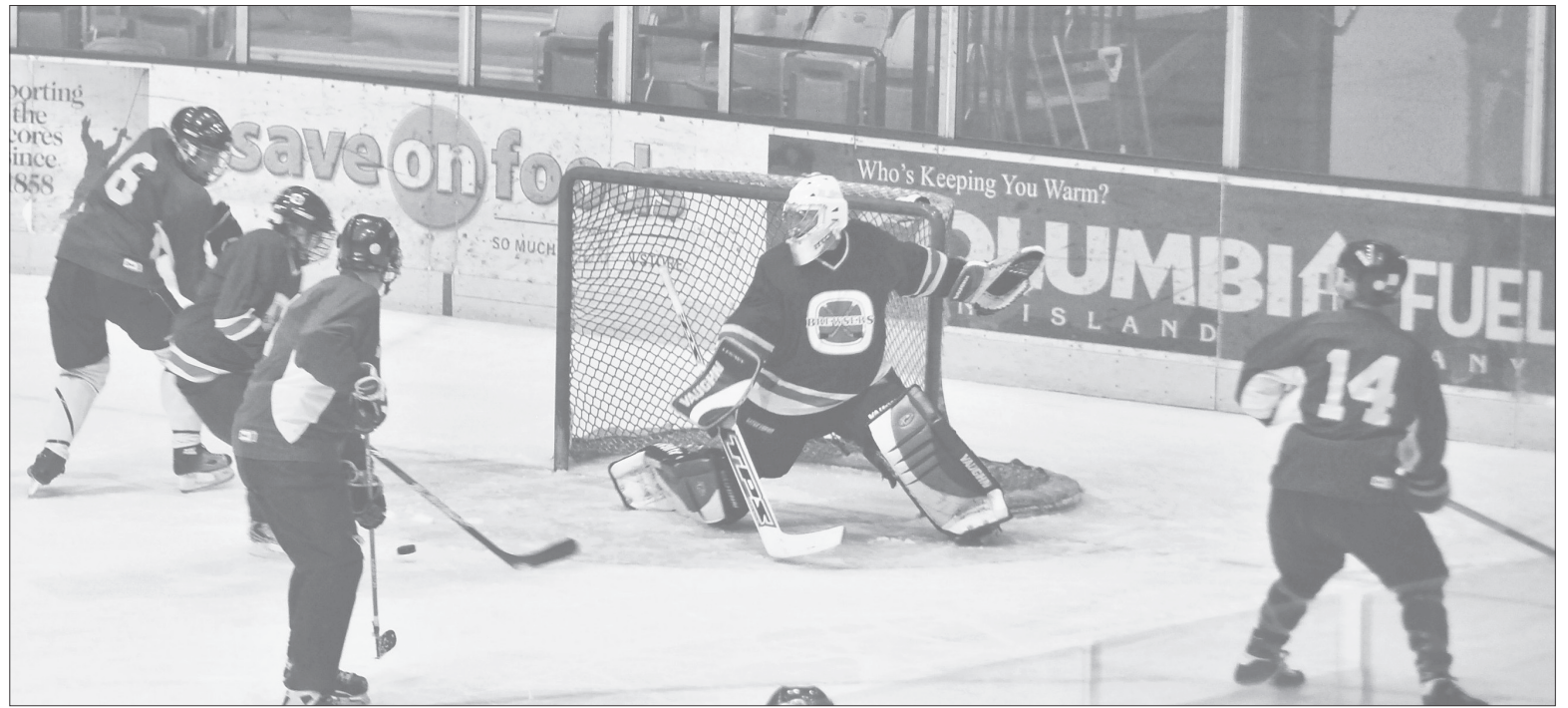
This is not one of those corny coffee commercials where little people named after doughnuts learn to play hockey.

This is Hockey 101—a local recreational hockey league where adults can learn to play Canada's national pastime.

“The mission of Hockey 101 is to provide a safe, friendly atmosphere where adults can learn to play hockey.”

CHRIS YUE
HOCKEY 101

“We started Hockey 101 because we wanted a place to play, but couldn't find one,” says Chris Yue, half of the brother team that created and operates Hockey 101. “Being a poor skater and inexperienced at hockey makes it very difficult to find



Recreational hockey leagues like Hockey 101 give beginners a chance to get familiar with Canada's national game, despite their skating abilities.

an entry point into this sport. The mission of Hockey 101 is to provide a safe, friendly atmosphere where adults can learn to play hockey.”

Beginning in 2006, 10 teams played 12 games, plus a playoff tournament.

The Devils, a team of employees from CHEK-TV, were the first Hockey 101 champions.

Now in its fifth season, the league has 50 teams and six tiers and is no longer just a beginner's league.

“As the league grows, so does the talent pool,” says Dwayne Robinson, a volunteer with the league and self-proclaimed “pylon” on the

Norris Division's Westcoast Chiefs. “Even the bottom tier is getting to the point where a team can't bring in too many rookies if they want to stay competitive.”

Yue and his brother, Eric, have done their best to keep the league's mandate and most players think the formula is working.

Former Camosun student and Applied Communications graduate Matt Gardiner says he has played in the league for three years and finds it's the ideal place to learn the game and have fun.

“When I first heard about Hockey 101, I thought I wasn't good enough to play organized hockey

and that I would be a liability on any team I was on,” says Gardiner. “But when I checked out their web page, I saw that there are different tiers for different levels of play. That's all it took; I jumped in and fell in love with it.”

In addition to weekly games at arenas around the Greater Victoria area, Hockey 101 created a slick website that has plenty of time-wasters to help the longing hockey fan when they're not on the ice.

Along with the league schedule, each team gets a stats page and a virtual hockey card for each player. Power rankings are updated periodically and the box scores appear

within hours of the completion of the games.

The messageboard is popular for game discussions, poorly spelled philosophical debates and, of course, trash talk—most of it lighthearted.

As for that aforementioned two-man breakaway?

It was in the annual rookie game and the 34-year-old engineer scored the first goal of his life.

He celebrated Tiger Williams-style, riding his stick around the ice like he won the Stanley Cup.

Such a rare sight is a fitting snapshot of what the Yue brothers want Hockey 101 to be.

Local rope-skipping team jumps for joy

TELEZA SHAFOLU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Island Hoppers know the ropes. And they should—they're a group of young rope skippers in Victoria.

The Island Hoppers Precision Skipping Team—who anyone over the age of seven can join—practice and compete from September to June.

The club consists of a competitive group with 16 members who meet three times a week and a recreational group currently with 10 members who meet once a week, alongside the competitive group.

“You can use your imagination to create new ways of doing freestyle tricks.”

SAMANTHA COWDEN
ISLAND HOPPERS PRECISION
SKIPPING TEAM

Eighteen-year-old Samantha Cowden has been skipping since she was 10. She enjoys the creativity involved with skipping.

“You can use your imagination to create new ways of doing freestyle

tricks,” says Cowden, who's always happy to help younger members with their freestyle routines. “Making the time to do everything like memorize routines, find music, and get everything together is the probably the most challenging thing.”

Instructor Leah Haas is in her fourth year of training the Hoppers; this year is her first working with the competitive team. She decided to do some optional summer training to keep the team's stamina up this year and found a lot of members jumped at the chance to keep their skipping chops up during the downtime.

“In years past we haven't done anything through the summer,” says Haas. “It takes so long in September to get their endurance back up to the level where they left off in June that this last year I rented the gym and on Tuesdays I would coach. It just kept their speed and endurance up.”

Nine-year-old Ainsley Marshall, the youngest member of the competitive team, recently received praise for reaching a new personal best—her new three-minute speed skip count has reached 241. In recognition of her achievement she received an Island Hopper Buck.

The Island Hopper Buck is a method of motivation for members to help encourage them to achieve

TELEZA SHAFOLU



Three members of the Island Hoppers Precision Skipping Team get ready for their next competition.

new personal bests and display good sportsmanship.

These motivators can be retracted, so every effort is made to hang on to them. At the end of the season, parents of the team members donate items and an auction is held where they can purchase the donated goods with their Island

Hopper Bucks.

In skipping competitions, there are freestyle and speed events. Marshall enjoys speed events the most, but finds it hard to choose between individual and team events. For her, the social aspect is the most important thing about skipping rope.

“I like spending time with

friends,” says Marshall.

Katie Pfeiffer, 15, has been skipping for five years. She started skipping after seeing the Hoppers do a demonstration at her elementary school.

“It takes a lot of hard work,” says Pfeiffer, “but it pays off and you see the results in competition.”

Women's basketball team prepares for provincial playoffs

ERIN BALL
STAFF WRITER

The women's Camosun Chargers basketball team is gearing up to take on the top teams in the league at the British Columbia Colleges' Athletic Association (BCCAA) provincial championships in early March.

But both the men's and women's teams couldn't take the Heat on Feb. 19 and 20 as they wined down their regular season with two losses each against the UBC Okanagan Heat in Kelowna. Both the men's and women's teams at UBC-O are among the top in the league, sitting at third and second, respectively.

The Chargers women will still be heading up to Vancouver Island University (VIU) for the BCCAA provincial championships, despite the two losses, while the Chargers men are now out of playoff contention.

The women Chargers are sitting at 12 wins and six losses and are in fourth place going into the tournament.

"We're disappointed with how our league season finished at UBC-O in Kelowna," says head coach Brett Westcott. "Hopefully we'll get a more consistent effort in the playoffs, or it'll be a short second season."

The team lost on Feb. 19 against the Heat 71-49. Although they were only eight points behind at the half, they couldn't manage to catch up.

Chelsea McMullen contributed 15 points, while Chelsea Wilson had eight points and nine rebounds.

The team typically doesn't do well under pressure, according to McMullen, and that's affected their record.

"Four out of the six games we lost we should have easily won," says McMullen. "But, unfortunately, our inability to finish with a win and not crack under pressure has been one of our main struggles."

The next day, the Chargers had a chance at retribution against UBC-O and, although they were ahead by three points at the half, they lost the game 64-67.

Teresa Hartrick had an amazing game with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Kymber Gale put up an impressive 19 points for the Chargers.

"Hopefully we'll get a more consistent effort in the playoffs, or it'll be a short second season."

BRETT WESTCOTT
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

Despite finishing the season on two losses, the Chargers are hopeful that they will be in prime playing condition by the time they get to the provincials. They play the fifth-ranked Capilano University Blues in the first round of the playoffs.

"We have the ability to win the game if we play the way we are

capable of playing," says Westcott. "We could also just as easily lose, as they have the league's leading scorer and rebounder."

The Chargers may be up against some tough players with the Blues, but Camosun has its own players that are among the top players in the league, like team veteran Kate Carlson, Hartrick, and McMullen.

McMullen is second in the league in average points per game. She's looking forward to having a chance to repeat Camosun's performance last year when they won the provincial championship.

"It would be a great game if we met UNBC in the finals again and came out with a win," says McMullen. "We definitely don't have the depth and experience last year's team had. With this year's team being mostly first-years, it will require a perfect performance for us to be defending champions again, but it is definitely possible."

The Chargers will have their chance at provincial glory from March 4-6 in Nanaimo.

The VIU Mariners have hosted many major championships in the past, with six Canadian College Athletic Association (CCAA) national championships and several BCCAA provincial tournaments. Day passes are available and sportscanada.tv will be broadcasting a live webcast of the games.

Meanwhile, the men's Chargers will be staying home at Camosun during the provincial playoffs this year. They finished the season in ninth place with a record of three



Kymber Gale drives to the hoop.

wins and 15 losses and will not compete in the postseason.

Despite a disappointing season, the Chargers boast some of the top players in the league. Both Tyler Olsen and Blake Manbridge are near the top in BCCAA standings for average points per game.

Mansbridge was a big contributor in the men's final two games against UBC-O. He had seven rebounds and 13 points in the Feb. 19 game.

Camosun kept the score close throughout the game, but couldn't manage to pull ahead. The Chargers were playing with only three subs on their bench.

In their final game of the season, the Chargers just couldn't get it together and the second half saw the Heat sail to a victory with a score of 104-67.

Ryan Erikson had an exceptional game with 19 points and 5 rebounds for the Chargers, while Mansbridge contributed 17 points.

Chargers men win gold

ERIN BALL
STAFF WRITER

The Camosun Chargers men's volleyball team kept their title as provincial champs and defeated the University of the Fraser Valley Cascades (UFV) in three straight sets to win gold at the BC Colleges' Athletic Association (BCCAA) provincial championship.

The women's team was eliminated in the first round by long-time rivals, the Vancouver Island University Mariners (VIU).

For the first time ever, Camosun College hosted the tournament on its home court at the Pacific Institute of Sports Excellence (PISE), Feb. 25-27.

The men started off the tournament by taking out the Columbia College Bearcats in four sets in the quarterfinals.

Aleks Saddlemeyer was named player of the game for Camosun. Saddlemeyer was also awarded as BCCAA first team All-Star earlier in the week.

The Chargers went on to take on the UBC-O Heat in the semifinals. The Heat was undefeated during the regular season.

"We were absolutely rock solid," says head coach Charles Parkinson.

The Chargers' defence had an incredible 51 digs in the three sets it took for the team to eliminate UBC-O.

UBC-O went on to win the bronze medal match against VIU.

After defeating UFV in the gold medal match, the men are preparing to take on teams from across Canada in the Canadian Colleges' Athletic Association (CCAA) National Men's Volleyball Championship hosted by Grant McEwan College in Edmonton, March 11-13.

Last season, the Chargers men won bronze in the national tournament.

"Our goal is to be the best college program in the nation and we still have a lot of work to do when we travel to Edmonton," says Parkinson.

Getting a piece of the PISE

MAX VON KLEIST
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Almost two-and-a-half years after the opening of the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE) at the Interurban campus, students who use the centre are more than satisfied with the facilities.

Just ask Garrett Marcellus, a Camosun Charger volleyball player and student.

"The PISE facility has been awesome. We've been given a top-notch workout facility at the campus which has made it a lot easier for me to get workouts in, and the new gyms have definitely been a plus in regards to volleyball," says Marcellus, who, along with the other Chargers players, uses the facilities for games and practices. "I can't say enough good stuff about PISE."

The PISE centre has been a welcome addition to Camosun, as well as to Victoria. Located at 4371 Interurban Road, on the outskirts of Camosun's Interurban campus, it offers sports teams and individuals a world-class facility to train and become better athletes.

The PISE centre is an 80,000-square-foot facility and is home to a double gymnasium, sports medicine clinic, and fully lighted, international-sized artificial-turf playing field. The field is used for high-level soccer, field hockey, football, and even by Canada's national rugby team.

"The facilities are amazing,"

says Thomas Brody, rugby fullback for UVic and Team Canada. "I was part of the tryout for the U20 Team Canada Rugby Team, which was held at PISE field, and it was definitely one of the nicest fields I've played on. It's great that Victoria has a world-class fitness facility and field now."

The PISE centre is also home to state-of-the-art, high-performance fitness areas. The facilities are available to Camosun students for an annual cost of \$225, or \$5 per drop-in.

"I can't say enough good stuff about PISE."

GARRETT MARCELLUS
CAMOSUN STUDENT

These fitness areas incorporate brand new cardiovascular and circuit machines, heavy lifting equipment, free weights, and a beautiful view overlooking the playing fields.

Along with the view, being a large and open area allows the gym to have a very relaxed and soothing atmosphere. This is good for students who need to take a break.

Interurban Professional Golf Management student and PISE



PISE features a sweet fitness room.

gym member Riley Kufta likes to take a break from school and go work out.

"The PISE Centre is great because during my long breaks I can simply walk over to the gym and get a quick workout," says Kufta.

A world-class fitness centre was just what Victoria needed and Camosun students and the community are extremely grateful.

"Before PISE was built I would always just spend my breaks in the computer lab, but now that it's here, I've really been able to use my time better and get exercise," says Kufta. "It's definitely been beneficial to me, and I know that it's been beneficial to others, too."

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Reflecting on Vancouver's Olympic H

KELTIE LARTER
STAFF WRITER

A woman dressed head to toe in black with a handkerchief covering the lower half of her face lets me quote her, but she won't give me her name.

It was early Saturday morning, Feb. 13, and I had just arrived in Vancouver's Thornton Park for the Heart Attack anti-Olympic rally organized by the Olympic Resistance Network (ORN).

"I'm here today because I'm angry that our government has spent billions of taxpayer dollars to host the Olympics when an increasing number of British Columbians are in need of social programming, drug treatment, housing, and adequate health care, and we're repeatedly told those needs are not being met because of a lack of funds," she says. "If there's a lack of funds to support these people, then our government has no right to spend billions of dollars on a three-week sporting event which will truthfully only serve to further line the already unbelievably deep pockets of big business."

The woman in black was the eighth person I had talked to, the first seven having either told me they weren't willing to speak to the media, or just ignoring me.

I had been a part of many protests and rallies over the years, some more peaceful than others, but this was my first time attending a protest as part of the press, and I was surprised and disappointed to note a distinct feeling of hostility in the early-morning air toward members of the media.

Discovering dissent

I had learned about the march from ORN's Facebook group. The billing for the march said its aim was to "clog the arteries of capitalism and disturb business as usual on the first day of the games" and that this march would "respect diversity of tactics."

But what did they mean by diversity of tactics?

The group's website lays it all out—"Diversity of tactics means support for each others' chosen method of resistance while not threatening the lives of those around us. It is a way by which we hope to create space for the realization of tension, uncertainty, action, humour, and beauty as we strive for new ways to engage with each other and against a common enemy. While we may practice one tactic or action, we do not choose yours. As participants we agree to leave the policing of tactics to our oppressors, not our comrades; we will not attack each other for using methods that are not our own. Through a diversity of tactics we are stronger and more cohesive towards our goal of giving Capitalism a massive coronary."

I figured what that really meant was that shit was going to get broken, and people were going to be arrested. I wondered if I should have borrowed my roommate's gas mask.

As I walked around the growing crowd of black-clad, face-masked attendees, volunteer medics and legal observers handed out information about what to do if you got tear gassed, beaten up, or arrested by the police. Meanwhile, organizers handed out maps of the planned route the march would take, including alternative routes should the police attempt to disburse the crowd.

At about 9:30 am, a handful of bike cops looked on as



protestors—led by a group of people holding a black banner displaying the name of the Anti-Poverty Committee in big, red letters—began circling the park, practicing changing direction using flag signals. It looked like a small, untrained army preparing to march into battle.

A feeling of determination, apprehension, excitement, and, yes, violence permeated the air.

Your democracy or mine?

Just before 10 am, somewhere between 200–300 people finally headed out onto the street carrying signs, chanting anti-capitalist and pro-democracy slogans, and beating on homemade drums.

As I ran down the street in front of the crowd, I turned around to try to get a good shot of the oncoming march; one of the protestors flipped me the bird and told me to fuck off.

"The media are nothing but a bunch of corporate sellouts!" he yelled.

This, from the same guy who a few minutes before had been chanting, "This is what democracy looks like!" with his fist raised in the air. I wondered if he realized that democracy also looks like freedom of the press; I wondered if he realized that, in fact, democracy couldn't exist without freedom of the press.

I was surprised and disappointed to hear spokespeople for those who attended the march claim that all of the people who were arrested were peaceful protestors.

I also wondered why he and other protestors who had been giving me the cold shoulder that morning were intent on making such a public display of their protest if they were opposed to media attention, or how they expected to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding the games without the media.

As the march proceeded downtown there was a substantial increase in police presence. Surprisingly, as the crowd's energy became increasingly uncontrolled, the hundred or so bike cops mostly kept to the sidelines, righting tipped over dumpsters and newspaper boxes after the march had passed, and at one point surrounding a police car parked

in the street for fear of protestor damage.

As I continued to take photographs, I found that my hands had started to shake in response to the rush of adrenaline that flooded my system as the crowd became more unruly.

I watched as a couple of protestors violently shoved a cameraman from one of the larger media outlets, telling him to keep his video camera out of their faces.

Later, I would watch as a riot cop screamed in the same cameraman's face as he documented the arrest of a protestor.

I saw a pro-Olympic bystander trying to keep a protestor from dragging a newspaper box into the street, shoving her out of the way.

I knew that it was only a matter of minutes before violence broke out. I didn't know if it would come from the cops or the protestors, or both, but I could feel it in the air.

A few minutes later, as I was calling a friend to update them on the situation, a newspaper box went sailing past my head, crashing into the window of the building behind me. The box came so close to hitting me that I felt the wind blow by the side of my face. I hastily ended my phone call.

The shit had just hit the fan.

Taking a stand

At this point I expected the bike cops surrounding the march to start arresting people. I had also expected the riot police to show up.

In my experience, given the slightest excuse to do so, cops usually react with extraneous amounts of aggression and violence in protest situations.

Although there was definitely an increase in police presence, they didn't intervene, and the march continued on, dragging more boxes into the road, tagging signs and vehicles with anti-Olympic, anti-capitalist, and anti-establishment symbols, and smashing more windows along the way.

The riot police did eventually show up. There were about a hundred of them, some armed with bulletproof vests and what looked like big, black machine guns.

Someone yelled, "The squad, coming from behind," and several protestors pulled a long metal ladder from an alleyway and held it up, horizontally, as the riot police marched towards them.

I asked several of the riot police what kind of guns they were carrying and what kind of ammunition they were loaded with, but none of them would answer my questions.

A protestor standing nearby suggested it was probably a combination of the ingredients used to make rubber bullets,



Heart Attack

KEITIE LARTER



as well as rock salt. The addition of rock salt, he said, was so that it would hurt more when you were shot.

As I was standing on a street corner taking pictures of police officers arresting a female protestor wearing a pink wig and a white jumpsuit, several riot police attempted to order me to back away from the scene, raising their batons as if they were going to simply push me out of the way if I refused to do so.

Several riot police attempted to order me to back away from the scene, raising their batons as if they were going to simply push me out of the way if I refused to do so.

I stood my ground, explaining to them that I had the right to stand on a public sidewalk and that they didn't have the right to force me to move.

Several protestors who were standing beside me backed me up and the cops eventually backed away.

A police videographer took their place, sweeping his camera the length of our bodies, making sure to linger on our faces. It made me wish I was wearing a face mask too.

What are these people protesting, anyway?

At one point during the final standoff, I saw a protestor who had refused to move out of the street being roughly pushed over by police officers, after which he remained on the ground, sitting quietly with his legs crossed under him. I later saw that same protestor being handcuffed and—none too gently—lifted into the back of a paddy wagon.

After the cops had arrested a few people, most of the crowd disbursed. As I was walking away from the scene I came across a group of protestors hurriedly taking off their black garb and face masks.

I asked them why they were getting changed and they told me they were afraid of being arrested on their way home while they were in smaller groups.

There was talk of reconvening at another protest later that afternoon, but I had had enough excitement for one day, so I decided to head back to the ferry home.

As I walked back past some of the places where damage had been done, I heard people on their way to go check out the Olympics express shock and disapproval of the protestor's actions, and confusion as to why they were protesting in the first place.

It wasn't the first time I had heard people say they didn't understand what everyone was protesting about and that the protestors should make their message clearer if they wanted to be heard.

It's no surprise that so many were confused as to why people were protesting the games. For one, many protestors had different reasons why they were opposed to the Olympics. Some disagreed with the amount of money spent by the province to host the games, some were opposed to the sponsorship of the games by corporations they say have committed crimes against the planet, others wanted to

shed light on the fact that the Olympics were being held on unceded native land, and thereby proclaim their disapproval of colonialism.

But these reasons were not adequately portrayed by the mainstream media, who pay outrageous amounts of money to have the right to cover the Olympics in the first place and who, let's be honest, don't want to piss off the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in case they decide not to grant them that coverage next time.

Everyone's a spinner, baby

When I later watched media coverage of the Heart Attack march I was surprised and disappointed to hear spokespersons for those who attended claim that all of the people who were arrested were peaceful protestors.

I personally saw two of the people who were arrested vandalize buildings and vehicles along the way. I did, however, also see two other people get arrested who were simply standing their ground on public property as police told them to move.

But whether the people who were arrested caused damage or not, it stands to reason that if you choose to take part in a protest that's advertised as one which would "respect diversity of tactics" and then march down the street as part of small army of protestors dressed head to feet in black with their faces covered, smashing windows and tipping over garbage dumpsters, someone is going to get arrested. And it might just be you.

Gripping about who did what afterward damages a movement's credibility.

I was also disappointed, if not surprised, to hear a spokesperson for the Vancouver police label protestors as "criminal elements" who were "intent on committing violent acts including damage to property, including assaulting passersby."

That's not a fair or realistic assessment of the situation. Later on, in the same press conference, the police spokesperson admitted that no police officers or passersby were injured during the march.

Despite my disappointment, I'm glad there are those within our communities who are willing to actively stand up for what they believe in, risking personal injury and arrest to do so. They are an important part of any healthy democracy.

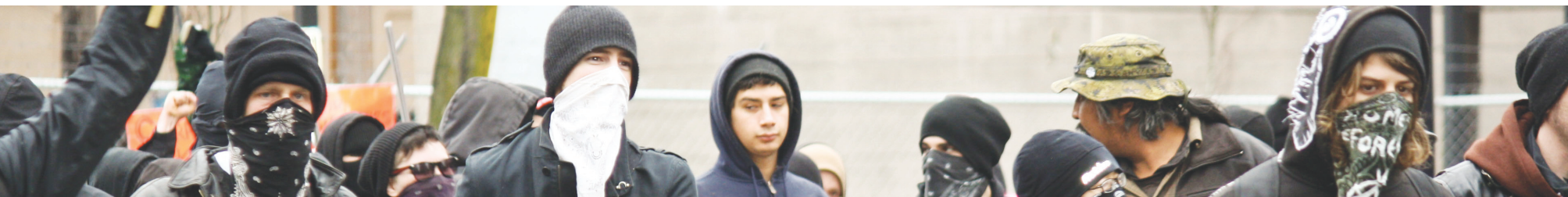
People said they didn't understand what everyone was protesting about and that the protestors ought to make their message clearer if they wanted to be heard.

The late revolutionary and author Abbie Hoffman once said that you can measure a democracy by how it treats its dissidents. Then again, he also said that the first duty of a revolutionary is to get away with it.

On the ferry back home, I ran into an old friend and we got to talking about the Olympic protests, and whether the Heart Attack march had been effective in delivering their anti-Olympic, anti-establishment, anti-colonialism message and educating the public about the dark side of the IOC.

She suggested that a more effective way of garnering positive public support and delivering a clear message about the issues surrounding poverty and homelessness would have been to gather a thousand people together with their sleeping bags to spend a night sleeping on Robson Street.

I can't help but think that maybe she was right.



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Federated Co-operatives Ltd
 coopconnection.ca

Inn at Laurel Point
 laurelpoint.com

Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia
 becomea.CA

Investors Group
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Meyers Norris Penny LLP (MNP)
 mnp.ca

Neverblue
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10-10:30 am	10:30-11 am		12:30-1 pm		1-1:30 pm	
Accounting CBA 210 TBA	Marketing CBA 285 Terri Davies Marketing Director Sunstar Creative Inc	Finance CBA 210 Jason Heflin & Darryl Gossen Division Directors Investors Group	Human Resource Management CBA 283 Denise Lloyd, Organizational Effectiveness Consultant Lloyd & Associates	Marketing CBA 286 Valerie Nathan Partner & Creative Director Trapeze Communications Inc.	Finance CBA 212 Dave Burden Investment Advisor RBC Dominion Securities	Management CBA 283 James McKenzie President Monk Office Supply
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			Economics CBA 211 Wenbo Zeng Senior Health Economist Ministry of Health Services			

Surviving the Brian Jonestown Massacre

SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

STAFF WRITER

In 1990, the Brian Jonestown Massacre was born—kicking and screaming—and emerged as one of America's most prolific and out-and-out pointed rock bands. With a rowdy reputation that will probably follow them forever, for better or worse, they've somehow managed to remain one of the most relevant acts around.

Led by the hallowed yet hot-headed genius Anton Newcombe, Jonestown's hijinks have, as chronicled in the now-classic documentary film *DiG!*, become the stuff of legend, luster, and ill repute.

DiG!, Ondi Timoner's 2004 film, was the acclaimed prize-winner—considered by many to be one of the best rock films ever made—that introduced the Brian Jonestown Massacre to a wider audience.

"It's something that's always going to be there," says guitarist/vocalist Matt Hollywood. "It all happened and someone was there to film it."

For anyone who's seen *DiG!*, it may come as a shock that Hollywood is back in the band, having been bashed and bullied by bandleader Newcombe. As the film unflinchingly showed, their differences seemed irreconcilable.

But today Hollywood is happy to be back in the fold as the band launches into an exhaustive international tour and has just released their eleventh studio album, *Who Killed Sgt. Pepper?*

"The band is all coming together," says Hollywood excitedly. "It feels really good. Everyone's so funny and interesting to be around—it's been a laugh riot!"

A riot is what leaps to the minds of many music fans whenever Jonestown's name gets mentioned, complete with visions of Newcombe's messianic ravings



Only one out of five members of the Brian Jonestown Massacre now gets strangled during a promotional photo shoot.

and violent outbursts. Will *DiG!* ever stay buried?

"People who've seen the movie used to come to the shows to egg on Anton," says Hollywood, "but it's died down. People who normally would never come to the shows did because of *DiG!*, and I don't think that's a bad thing, necessarily. Maybe Jonestown infected some of those people with something in the music that turns 'em around, you know?"

Hollywood, a talented and at times temperamental songwriter, stops mid-sentence, clears his throat, giving a thoughtful pause. "As for this tour," he says, "well, people have worked through various types of difficulties and learned to put the music first, and get along with each other."

This wasn't always the case—just a cursory glance at the list of musicians who've played in the band and were then jostled out unceremoniously by Newcombe reads like a cruelly comic scene cut right out of *This Is Spinal Tap*.

In many ways, Hollywood's

reappearance in the band is like the prodigal son's return. His contributions to the Jonestown canon are considerable, and in his near-decade absence he's been busy with other projects like the Rebel Drones (dropping a new album later this year). But it's the controversial Jonestown that people want, and, these days, aren't getting.

"We're not punching each other out anymore and, from my perspective, that's a good thing."

MATT HOLLYWOOD
THE BRIAN JONESTOWN
MASSACRE

"I think we're disappointing a lot of people," jokes Hollywood, "by not having a riot on stage every night. We're not all punching each other out anymore and, from my

perspective, that's a good thing. Anton is feeling better than he has in a long time. He hasn't been drinking for about a year now and he wants to have a good time on this tour."

Could it be that Jonestown is mellowing out? "Well, we're all getting older, you know? Bruises take longer to heal and now we go and do a show to play music instead of brawl. We've gotten pretty good at it."

Hollywood is modest in this regard as fans and critics have been applauding Jonestown from the kickoff. And what about the new album?

Like so much of the Jonestown oeuvre, *Who Killed Sgt. Pepper?* is filled with a manifold of eccentric pleasures. Like the obvious single, "Let's Go Fucking Mental," an anti-anthem and a shaggy-dog sidestep with an oblique nod to psychedelia and shoegaze that's still difficult to classify and label.

"What we set out to do is make the kind of music we want to hear; I think that we do that pretty well," says Hollywood.

Perhaps the Jonestown legacy of genre reconstruction—building greatness out of whatever might be in their orbit—could be the key to their longevity?

But amidst all the silky sheen atmospheric sounds, and built into the walls of shimmering guitar noise, and atop the mountainous Marshall stacks, Hollywood remains quite forward in his thinking. "With the direction that we're all going, I consider Jonestown to be successful."

Despite all the ink that's been spilled and lip service that's been paid for their volatile outbursts, they still take it all with good humour.

"We were all hit by the *Star Wars* thing pretty hard when we were kids," teases Hollywood, "and there's always been this undercurrent of it in the band—not so much in the music—but, we're using the force, you just don't know it!"

And, with that, Hollywood laughs loudly—like a child—for an instant, and then he's quiet. His laughter, like Jonestown's music, is misshapen but somehow radiant.

WAX on, dance off at local weekly DJ night

JUSTIN DOYLE

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Monday nights are funkier than ever now that Hush Nightclub has opened its doors and handed the stage over to one of Victoria's finest DJ duos, WAX.

After seven years of DJing together—with an unquenchable thirst for electronic music—Wes Bain and Xavier Walker, a.k.a. WAX, have finally been given their own club night, called Oh Great, to showcase their talents behind the decks.

These dedicated dance floor destroyers can be found playing house, drum and bass, electro, dub-step, and, especially, breaks. But whatever the electronic genre, their selections always have one thing in common.

"Without a big, slamming bass line, what's the point?" asks Bain.

These guys like their music energetic, melodic, and heavy, with funk to spare. Their unique blend of upbeat vocals with bass-driven, party-rocking bombs has made them favourites of the Vancouver Island electronic-music scene.

WAX has stirred crowds of up

to 500 people into absolute frenzies, from Ucluelet's Soundwave festival to Sugar Nightclub, where they recently opened for the Stanton Warriors.

But it's more than their music that gets the crowd going. When this pair gets together they're known for their infectious, energetic antics on stage.

"If we're jumping, the crowd is jumping."

XAVIER WALKER
WAX

"It's boring to watch a DJ with his head down the whole time," says Bain, "so we try to jazz it up a bit together. You know, get dancing, jump around, yell..."

"Hit each other!" laughs Walker. "If we're jumping, the crowd is jumping."

Bain and Walker aren't always found side by side though. Last summer Bain, under the DJ name Wes Beanz, won Hush's DJ challenge that secured him a sunny

Sunday afternoon slot at Victoria's Electronic Music Festival (VEMF) in Centennial Square.

"VEMF was pretty freakin' sweet," recalls Bain. "I got to play for about 400 people of all different shapes, sizes, ages, and colours."

"There were old men out there screaming Wes' name," jokes Walker.

Being such music junkies, Bain and Walker are proud to live in a place that, despite being rather small, has such a rich and diverse music scene.

Over the years, Victoria has attracted many major producers and DJs, and WAX has played alongside their fair share. NAPT, Freestylers, Chase & Status, and Alex Metric are among those that WAX has opened for, and they don't take those opportunities for granted.

"We're very privileged to have such a strong electronic music scene in Victoria," says Walker. "We've seen some of the best international DJs in the world here."

Since its beginnings last summer, Oh Great has become quite popular among electronic music fans, despite the duo's moniker.



Wes Bain (left) and Xavier Walker doing their WAXing thing.

Taken from a sarcastic catchphrase of a friend, the phrase, "Oh great, it's..." doubles as a clever way of introducing guest DJs every week.

Bain and Walker have used the club night not only as a weekly chance to unleash musical mayhem but also as an opportunity to give up-and-coming DJ's in the community their start.

"A good third of the DJs that have played for us since last June

played their first gig at Oh Great," says Bain.

In this way, WAX can ensure that our electronic-music scene keeps on banging for years to come.

After journeying through nightclubs, festivals, backyard bashes, and beaches, WAX have ended up in a pretty good place, and they realize that they have their loyal fans who have kept dancing for the last seven years to thank for that.

Collecting comics a fizzling trend

ED SUM

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Where are all the comic-book collectors these days? Buying comics was a big thing for baby boomers two decades ago and for appreciators of sequential art, it still is. But it's a hard sell for some to consider the printed medium as being worth something.

Today, most comic collectors buy to read, and only a handful of these readers take care of their purchases by sealing them in a comic bag with a backing board. That's the sign of a collector.

"It's a love affair with the object itself," says Chris Boltan, writer of Seattle-based *Smash Comics*.

Some comic investors even go so far as to have climate-controlled attics for their rare comics, or simply hope the 20 copies of Todd McFarlane's *Spider-Man* #1 under their bed will be worth millions one day.

Al Coccola, who has been collecting comics for more than 50 years, finds the buying and selling of comics is more of a hobby for him.

"It supports my habit so I can buy a few new titles a month. They don't necessarily do better than a mutual fund, but they are a lot more fun to play with. Most people are col-

lectors first, rather than investors," says Coccola.

Back in the early '90s, there were more investors than collectors.

When Island Fantasy, Xeron, and Curious Comics were the only game in town, more mom-and-pop operations opened up, hoping to cash in on the comic book craze.

Some managed to survive by cross-merchandising. Comic-book stores all over North America have echoed this trend; otherwise they wouldn't have survived past the '90s.

"If everything comes in cycles then this is the down-turn of comics."

GARETH GAUDIN
LEGENDS COMICS

"The mid-'90s bust ruined the comic-book speculator for all time, but you never know what a few years or decades could do. The fans who continue to collect variant editions do so out of love for the medium rather than a desire for money," says Bolton.

The heydays for a shop called Island Fantasy are gone, but the

store's former owner, Dick de Ryk, is still selling comics online. He knows the market has shifted and believes it's gone a little more underground.

"Instead, comic-book collectors are all at home buying on the Internet," says de Ryk.

Over on comic-strip row on Johnson Street, store managers Bill Rice, of Curious Comics, and Gareth Gaudin, of Legends Comics, have been keeping close tabs on the industry they love.

Gaudin notes that the two biggies, Marvel and DC, ruined the market by making comics a commodity first. They were forcing collectability on people instead of focusing on a cool story.

"Collectors are still looking for that elusive issue to complete their collection and lots of people who buy for reading purposes still end up collecting," adds Rice, who says comic-book collecting is still a niche market even though it's become more mainstream.

"If everything comes in cycles then this is the down-turn of comics," says Gaudin. "It's still going strong with people buying graphic novels."

While the trade paperback killed the back-issue collecting market, it's



Local comic-book legend Gareth Gaudin keeps his eyes on comic trends.

a good thing for readers. They're no longer paying a high price for those hard-to-find early issues of *Superman* since they've been reprinted in the affordable trade-paperback format.

"A comic book is a lot about turning the pages and I love the

smell of the old comics; that's what collecting is all about," says Gaudin, who's hoping that more people get bit by the collecting bug.

"Comic collecting needs a new generation of young people to get into collecting back issues and boost interest again," he says.



The Wolfman



ED SUM

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Finally, movies have been made featuring all three of Universal Studios' most famous trio of monsters from the golden age—Frankenstein's monster, Dracula, and now the Wolfman.

Many more monster films are still yet to be made, but can they top what *the Wolfman* has accomplished? Most likely not.

This film will satisfy the most diehard of gothic horror fans by providing a very foreboding story that borrows more from folktale than from Hollywood.

What transpires is very dark, moody, and sinister.

It would make for a good, scary campfire story.

This film challenges long-time fans of the 1941 classic to guess how the fate of Lawrence Talbot (Benicio del Toro) will pan out.

And with a reclusive father, Sir John Talbot (Anthony Hopkins), what befalls Talbot Manor is reminiscent of another gothic tale—*the Fall of the House of Usher*.

Academy Award-winning visual-effect artist Joe Johnston does a decent job of directing a very atmospheric piece.

And composer Danny Elfman provides some intense music to draw audiences into the fold.

Clever breaks in the action are provided in just the right places before all hell breaks loose.

Not even the love of a woman can soothe the savage beast.

The Last Station



SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

STAFF WRITER

American director Michael Hoffman's latest film, *the Last Station*, opens on a mist-shrouded morning with the colours of dawn heightened and super real. It's as if the viewer has awoken in a Merchant Ivory historical drama, and it's the template for this intriguing yet bloated biopic.

The Last Station is a stage-y history lesson that will attract some and repel others. The subject matter is fascinating as the story focuses on Leo Tolstoy (Christopher Plummer) who, in his later years, was considered by many to be a saint, comparable to Gandhi.

In the late 19th century, Tolstoy had thousands of fanatical followers; many vowed celibacy and practiced vegetarianism to be closer to him. Tolstoy was a Russian rock star with scruples, his writing so powerful that devotees hung on his every word.

Tolstoy's wife, Sofya, fully realized by the brilliant Helen Mirren (*the Queen*), is the emotional centre of this tale. As the thankless wife, Sofya expresses early on how she copied *War and Peace* out for Tolstoy, by hand, no less than six times (over 1,400 pages). Now that's devotion!

The other big boon to the film is cinematographer Sebastian Edschmid, a veteran of lush period films like *Adam Resurrected* and *Black Death*. His deft eye and saturated colours makes everything grandiose.

Sadly, the film gets caught up in soap-opera elements and relies on too many stock characters to really elevate it beyond the made-for-TV-like atmosphere that ultimately settles over it.

Arena Rock

Epica

Sugar, Feb. 13

ALLI PICKARD

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sugar Nightclub isn't often filled wall to wall with metal fans. But on Feb. 13, the biggest gathering of the metal legions in a while went down within the confines of the downtown venue.

It was the last Canadian stop on the North American tour for Dutch headliners Epica, bringing along Canadian acts Threat Signal and Blackguard.

The show started off with a bang as Montreal natives Blackguard broke into their song "The Sword," pounding every note out and bringing the crowd in one by one. For not being very well known by much of the crowd, they left everyone with a great impression. During their set, lead singer Paul Ablaze proclaimed, "We are here to warm you guys up!" This described Blackguard's performance to a tee, preparing us for the rest of the show.

Next up were the boys from Hamilton, ON—Threat Signal—bringing an ass-kicking and popping the ear cherries of those hearing them for the first time.

They started with "Afterlife" off of their new album, *Vigilance*. The members of the band continued to carry out each riff and harmony flawlessly, making every song come alive. For being such as amazing band, it's sad to see Threat Signal still unknown to most on this side of their country. But after ripping through standout track "A New Beginning" they were no longer unknown by anyone at Sugar.

Last, but not least, was Epica.

ALLI PICKARD



Threat Signal

Their hour-and-a-half set began with each of the members making their way onto the stage while a gothic choir medley played in the background. The band created a grand energy and it was clear which band the fans truly came to see when everyone rushed to the stage.

Unfortunately, it was a little too cliché—the sexy lead singer with operatic vocals, the guitarist who doubles on screaming vocals, a keyboardist, and the band hailing from Europe.

The instrumentation, however, was amazing. And Simone Simon's vocals were very powerful and stood out from the rest of the band, but she was flat for most of the songs she was performing.

Overall, their performance wasn't bad, but the set changes and intermission between the groupings of songs ruined their performance.

Jon Howard, lead singer for Threat Signal, said after the show, "Each band is so different and we never thought we would tour with bands like this."

Those who didn't go to the show missed out on some truly great music. If—or, hopefully, when—these bands roll through our city again, make sure to take some time to check them out.

Wilco

Royal Theatre, Feb. 12

PETER GARDNER

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Wilco is my favourite band. Jeff Tweedy could have come out on stage at the Royal Theatre, sat in a La-Z-Boy, and said the word "moist" for two hours, over and over again, and I still would have told everyone it was an amazing show. I went in expecting big things and, even still, was completely blown away.

The band came out to the theme from *the Price Is Right*, before opening the show with "Wilco (the Song)" from their latest, *Wilco (the Album)*.

The opening also featured robot-voiced introductions for every member of Wilco (the band). It set the scene for an atmosphere often missed in the world of rock and roll these days—fun.

And, more than anything, that's what this show was—fun. The band was obviously having a good time, full of smiles for the whole two-hour-plus set.

At one point, guitarists Nels Cline and Pat Sansone duelled solos, each call-and-answer hamming it up more and more to the crowd.

The highlight of the night came at around 10:58 pm. Traditionally, concerts at the Royal Theatre have a curfew of 11 pm, so when the band had just completed "Misunderstood"—which would have been a great way to end a show—at 10:58, I assumed the night was over.

Then the band started playing "Spiders," a 10-minute krautrock epic, and I knew there was still a lot more to go.

The band ended up playing until 11:35, ending the show with the rocker "I'm a Wheel."

Wilco said they fell in love with the city and would be back soon. It can't be soon enough.

Noise Addict

BY PETER GARDNER

All eyes (still) on Vancouver

With the Olympics now over, everyone's eyes are leaving Vancouver. But, for a moment, let's keep our eyes and ears to the city. Vancouver, as always, has a great music scene. In the past, the city has launched the career of hundreds of bands, and here are three more that are likely on their way to big things.

Yukon Blonde (myspace.com/yukonblondeband) did what every great Kelowna, BC, band does—moved to Vancouver to try and make it. The band, who for years went by the name Alphababy, have refined their sound and are better than ever. With a throwback style reminiscent of the late '70s, Yukon Blonde write catchy, loveable, and anthemic pop songs that are starting to make people across the country take notice.

In Medias Res (myspace.com/imrmusic) were on a roll. They had a song on major radio, were asked to open for Pedro the Lion on multiple occasions, and were landing big tours that were gaining them a lot of attention across North America. But then, life got in the way—careers, marriages, and an album that was taking years to complete. The band went into hibernation. Now, a few years later, they're re-energized, re-focused, and ready to take over the world. The album, although almost four years in the making, is still that—in the making, but In Medias Res has started playing



Yukon Blonde

shows again, each one making audiences speechless, wondering where the band has been all this time.

Sports (myspace.com/sportspoo) is the side project of Ryan Peters and Darcy Hancock, who play in another Vancouver band, Ladyhawk. And, as expected, when two guys from one band start another, there are similarities. Ladyhawk take a big cue from Neil Young's Crazy Horse, where Sports take just as many cues from heavier and faster bands, almost hinting towards At the Drive In-esque moments. It's a unique sound that works well. Sports just released the vinyl version of their first album, and are proving what a side project can really be capable of.

UVic Battle of the Bands heats up

LUKE HOLLAND
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A Monday-evening visit to UVic's Student Union Building (SUB) certainly won't be the hushed, library-like atmosphere one might expect.

In fact, any students hunkering down to a study session in the SUB will probably end up trading ambience for revelry.

That's because they'll hear loud rock music pulsating through the SUB halls, created by some of Victoria's most promising young talent. These folks are competing in the annual Battle of the Bands contest held at UVic's campus pub, Felicita's.

"The bands bring the crowds out," says Andrei Shersty, Felicita's bar manager and organizer of Battle of the Bands. "The exposure is

"It was an emotional rollercoaster making it to the second round."

BEN ROBERTSON
SUNHAWK

really, really good."

During UVic's spring term, Felicita's holds the Monday-night competition where up-and-coming rock bands and artists have a chance to showcase their talent to a live audience.

The contest runs from mid-January to late March and is open to anyone interested, provided



Sunhawk are one of the bands who are battling for rock glory at UVic.

there's at least one UVic student in the band.

The competition was organized into four qualifying rounds through January and February. Three bands competed on the qualifying nights and were given 30 minutes to rouse the crowd and impress the judges.

Ballots cast by audience members determined which bands moved on to the semifinals, which begin March 8. The band that emerges victorious wins cash prizes.

But the Battle of the Bands is in need of some tuning if it's going to be fair for all competitors.

The dilemma is audience members are casting their votes and leaving before the final band of the evening even hits the stage. Shersty wishes the whole audience would wait until the final band was finished their set before casting votes.

Another question also evoked by the audience-voting system is whether Battle of the Bands is a popularity contest.

"Do I want to enter a competition that's based solely on popular-

ity versus actual musical talent?" says Shersty. "Sometimes you see great bands that just don't have the pull."

But not all is lost. A wild-card scheme has been developed to counteract any flaws in the audience-voting system. Two bands will move on to the semifinals as wild cards. These bands either received the second-highest number of votes or are picked by a group of judges based on musical talent.

"It was an emotional rollercoaster making it to the second round," says UVic student Ben Robertson, whose band Sunhawk was chosen as one of the wildcards.

Sunhawk played on Feb. 8 to a boisterous crowd who demanded an encore. Even still, the band did not receive enough audience votes.

"We left the show feeling we had rocked the crowd, only to find out the next day Sunhawk hadn't moved on," says Robertson. "Needless to say, we were pretty stoked when we found out later we were wild-carded."

Kool 107.3

TOP 40 COUNTDOWN

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

Today's Best Music

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Lady Gaga | > Bad Romance | 21. Hedley | > Cha Ching |
| 2. Jay Z/Alicia Keys | > Empire State of Mind | 22. Jay Sean | > Do You Remember |
| 3. D. Guetta/Akon | > Sexy Chick | 23. Ke\$ha | > Blah Blah Blah |
| 4. Ke\$ha | > Tik Tok | 24. Barenaked Ladies | > You Run Away |
| 5. Adam Lambert | > For Your Entertainment | 25. Hedley | > Don't Talk to Strangers |
| 6. Michael Buble | > Haven't Met You Yet | 26. Joey McIntyre | > Here We Go Again |
| 7. Timbaland | > Morning After Dark | 27. Jason Darulo | > In My Head |
| 8. Rihanna/Jeezy | > Hard | 28. Alicia Keys | > Put it in a Love Song |
| 9. Nickelback | > Never Gonna Be Alone | 29. Adam Lambert | > Whataya Want From Me |
| 10. Iyaz | > Replay | 30. Dragonette | > Pick Up The Phone |
| 11. Orianthi | > According To You | 31. Faber Drive | > Give Him Up |
| 12. Boys Like Girls | > Two Is Better Than One | 32. Pitbull / Akon | > Shut It Down |
| 13. Jason Darulo | > Watcha Say | 33. Cascada | > Evacuate The Dance... |
| 14. Daughtry | > Life After You | 34. Black Eyed Peas | > Imma Be |
| 15. Suzie McNeil | > Help Me Out | 35. Ricky J | > Oh Whatta Night |
| 16. Black Eyed Peas | > Meet Me Halfway | 36. Owl City | > Fireflies |
| 17. Lady Gaga | > Telephone | 37. Lights | > Ice |
| 18. Aleesia | > Bubble Gum | 38. Justin Beiber | > Baby |
| 19. Taylor Swift | > Fifteen | 39. Down w/Webster | > Rich Girl |
| 20. Black Eyed Peas | > Rock That Body | 40. Selenna Gomez | > Naturally |

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Worth the Trip?

The battle of on-campus and off-campus eats
BY ALAN PIFFER AND ED SUM



Campus Café
Lansdowne Campus
Poutine
\$4.99

Presentation and service

Ed: The cheese curds that Aramark uses look like poo. But no matter where you go, cheese curds look like tiny, white turds; how's that for an image before chowing down on poutine? I know I can't help but feel somewhat nauseated. Now all I have to do is walk 500 miles to work off the calories I gained. Who wants to walk 500 more with me? I know that Proclaimers song is about finding romance, but I'm changing it to fit my need to get more exercise. I'm a walking time bomb; my heart is ticking hard after eating poutine twice in one week.

Alan: Lots of fast food looks gross. You just try not to think about it as you eat it. It's like parmesan cheese—it smells like puke, but it tastes awesome on pasta.

Taste

E: This meal had flavour, but it wasn't enough for me, so I cheated by sprinkling on salt, pepper, and chili peppers. Eating a naked Aramark french fry is like chowing down on a dried-up worm—it's crunchy but there's no flavour. But with cheese curds and gravy, the fries are okay. All that blandness is disguised in a rich gravy sauce that's finger-licking good... almost. They need to improve their recipe; I suggest a dash of garlic salt. That'd be a sauce I'd savour until I spontaneously combust.

A: You actually know what dried-up worms taste like? Were you one of "those" kids when you were growing up? You know, the ones who ate tadpoles and plastic bags? Anyway, this poutine is pretty decent. The gravy is what makes or breaks it when it comes to poutine, and this tastes good; it certainly could have been a lot worse.



New York Fries
Poutine
\$6.15

Presentation and service

E: This looks nicer in a cup than on a plate. And I like how they serve poutine here; I like scalding-hot gravy that nicely melts the cheese curds.

A: I agree about how it looks better in a cup. It gives it a sense of style. Too bad I'm in a mall food court and not at a county fair.

Taste

E: I actually like Aramark's gravy much more than New York Fries. There just isn't as much flavour to the poutine here, although I had it without anything added. But at least this combo has everything a guy living on the edge would want. I just need a low-voltage taser to keep my heart thumping.

A: Aramark wins, flavour-wise—a first in our experience. Again, the gravy is what makes the poutine, and New York Fries' gravy is awfully bland.

And the winner is...

Aramark! Who'd have thunk it? Between them and New York Fries, their poutine is just hands-down tastier.

Verdict

Don't waste your time heading down to Hillside Mall, unless campus life is driving you crazy. If poutine is your thing, the stuff on campus is better.



Inter-Course

BY KELTIE LARTER

Lesbian bed death—not just a band name

I was out shopping with a lesbian girlfriend of mine the other day that had recently broken up with her long-term girlfriend.

As we oohed and aahed over purple, silky tops and way-too-expensive cashmere scarves, I asked her why she thought her relationship hadn't worked out. Her answer? Lesbian bed death.

The first thing that sprang to mind was crib death, but I knew her ex was still alive and it was probably impossible for a grown woman to suffocate on her own mattress, so I asked her to elaborate.

Apparently, lesbian bed death is a common affliction among lesbians in long-term relationships. So common, in fact, that when I went home and Googled it, the search engine provided 252,000 results.

To be fair, some of those results were for a band called Lesbian Bed Death (come on, you know someone had to do it), but mostly they were discussion forums about lesbian bed death where people gave each other advice about how to avoid

or fix it.

Lesbian bed death is when a girl-on-girl couple goes from being hot sexual partners to something akin to cuddly roommates who share a bed.

Most people who have been in a long-term relationship know that, over time, the number of times a week/month/year a couple has sex can definitely dwindle.

But believers in lesbian bed death claim that because men are notoriously hornier than women (which I personally am not at all convinced of) and often wake up with boners (which is a much more plausible reason), the male sex drive keeps the sexual part of a straight relationship alive.

They say because there's no man to be the horny one when things get stagnant in lesbian relationships, eventually the sex just... dies.

Now, most of the time I'm not a lesbian, so maybe I just don't understand, but I've heard of many cases where the same thing happens in straight relationships. I once knew

a straight couple that didn't have sex for four years before they finally called it quits.

Usually though, from what I've seen, the lack of sex drive stems from deeper-seated problems in the relationship. I asked my friend if she had lost her sex drive altogether during the relationship, or if she had still been attracted to other women.

She said she definitely had still been attracted to other women, and that this was also a common symptom of lesbian bed death. She explained that, often, when lesbian couples experienced the problem but didn't want to end the relationship because they still loved each other, they agreed to open up their relationship sexually.

She said that sometimes opening up a relationship even cured lesbian bed death.

But the same thing can happen with a straight couple that decides to become swingers or have threesomes to spice up their sex life.

So, yeah, there you have it. Lesbian bed death.

Quick bites

Sabri Naanwich

1310 Douglas
250-382-9668
4/5 bites

ED SUM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In Victoria, students don't have to travel far to sample exotic foods from all over the world. I opted for an imaginary visit to South Asia to savour a nicely toasted flatbread

known as the Naan. Sabri Naanwich offers plenty of tasty choices for \$7-\$9. On this occasion, I ordered the sautéed lamb with ginger. As for sandwich dressing, I asked for the works—lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, jalapenos, and onions with a mild hot sauce mixed in. Add a dash of garlic sauce on top and I had a winning combination. What I bit into was like a kiss from a female demon that set me on

fire. I savoured the chilli-flavoured sweetness and enjoyed that fiery caress on my tongue. The vegetables were fresher than what Subway manages to offer and enjoying the taste of bread made with yogurt was a welcome change.

Taster's Tip: Naan can be eaten on its own, buttered or unbuttered, or with hummus, raisins, and spices to help add to its already unique flavour.

Maude's March Specials

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

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Big Rock Trad/ Stanley Park \$5.25 pint/\$14.99 jugs

Rock Band Tuesdays (Starting March 2nd)

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\$12.99 jugs Okanagan Spring 1516 and Pale Ale jugs
\$4 Jager / \$4.75 Rip Tide / \$5.25 Sleeman's Honey

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

Thirsty Thursdays (Wii Olympics Coming Soon)

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\$6.95 10" Pizza (4 pm), \$6 Double Hi Balls

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Imports Stella, Guinness, Strongbow \$6.50

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Local gay-bar wars



CRISTIAN CANO

CCSS PRIDE DIRECTOR

Victoria opened two gay bars this month—the Copper Club and the Ledge Lounge. Given that Victoria is such a small community, these places need to be innovative and edgy to compete against each other. Here are the ups and downs of Victoria's gay bars.

Paparazzi Nightclub: Ups: for a long time this was the only gay bar in Victoria. Everyone is welcome, and they are very supportive of the community. Decent dance floor and drinks are dirt cheap. Cool couches to chill on. Downs: Located in a basement, so not wheelchair accessible. The music isn't always the best. The cover is overpriced.

The Ledge Lounge: Ups: Great location, on top of the Bedford Hotel by Bastion Square. Good view and amazing food, with vegetarian options. Excellent place to go on a date. Everyone is welcome, and it's wheelchair accessible. Good physical setting. Downs: Not a place to dance. The food is way too fancy. And some of us want fruity drinks!

The Copper Club: Ups: Its location is far away from non-gay-friendly places in downtown. The setting is nice. Conveniently close to a motel. Downs: They need more drinks on the menu, and better food too. They share a bathroom with Paul's Motor Inn. It's not the best place to dance.



INSIDE OUT

BY SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

Anne Webb

Anne Webb is a full-time student in the Business Administration program at Interurban, a four-year program that will give her a BA when completed. Coles was born and raised in Victoria and is a single parent. Khagan Webb, her 18-month-old son, is the perfect little gentleman. Between classes and Khagan, Webb has very little spare time, but when she does get some she's all about reading, tea, and yoga.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm quiet, calm, relaxed, and a very responsible parent.

What's something not many people know about you?

Well, I can touch my nose with my tongue. Not too many people can do that.

Do you have a guilty pleasure?

Melted dark chocolate whisked together with vanilla soy milk and some spices I'm experimenting with. It's heavenly—like meditating for hours with just one sip.

Have you ever received any random acts of kindness?

When Khagan was born my friends and family surrounded me in love.

If you could meet any person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you do?

I'd want to see my great grandmother. She passed away when I was seven and I'd like to meet her because you don't appreciate that kind of thing when you're small. We'd chat over tea—she loved tea!



SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

And I'd get her secret recipe for making the best and most tastiest bread ever. No one knows how she made it.

What kind of food really disgusts you?

Seafood really gets me. It's slimy and it stinks.

What has had the biggest impact on who you are today?

Giving birth and learning to be a parent—it's a process.

What is your favourite song?
I like it when people sing "Happy Birthday" or "Jingle Bells."

Any advice for readers?

Save string! You never know when you'll need string. It entertains, it fixes things, and you can do a cat's cradle—the possibilities

are endless.

Do you have a celebrity crush?

Clive Owen is the sexiest thing ever.

What makes you truly happy?

My little man, Khagan. Kids really show you that nothing you think is important is really all that important, you know?

What would you like your grandchildren to remember you for?

My abundance of tea and food.

Email nexus@nexusnewspaper.com if you know an interesting person around campus that we could profile in Inside Out.

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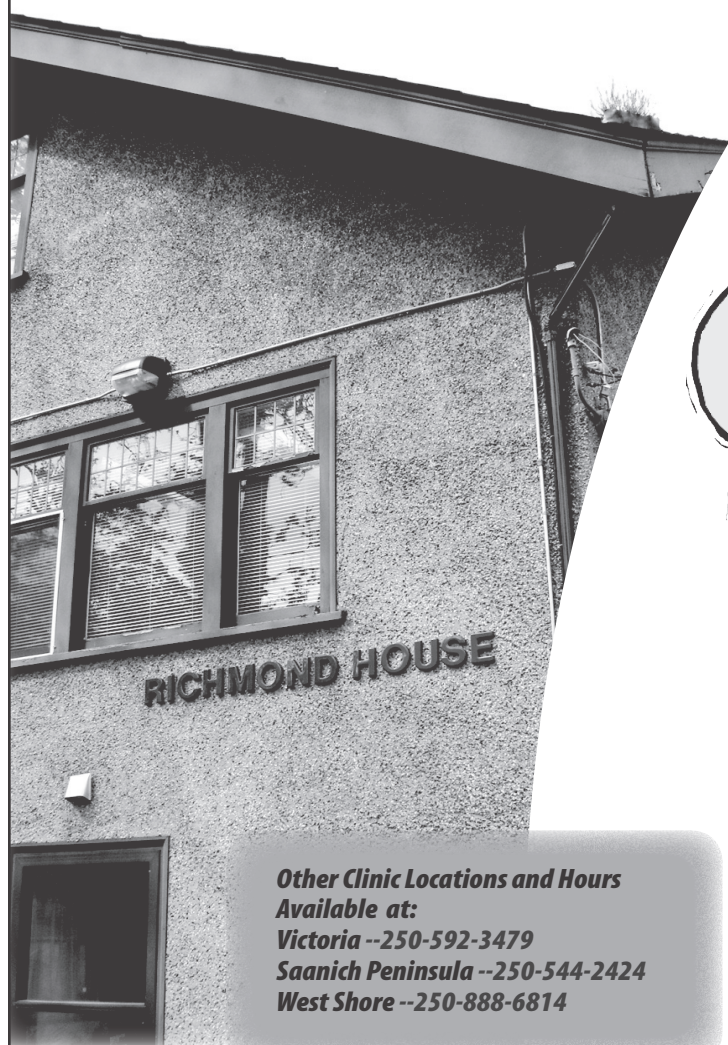
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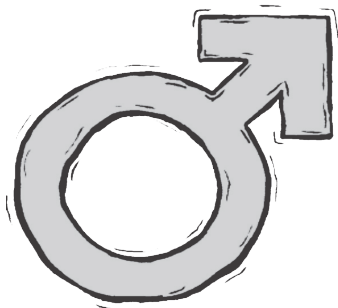


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islandsexualhealth.org



eye on campus

By Shane Scott-Travis

ONGOING UNTIL MARCH 31

On-campus tax preparation

Now in its fourth year, the Camosun School of Business students are providing tax preparation on both campuses, by donation! All the proceeds will go into the College Foundation for awards/scholarships, making for a pretty solid endeavour. Here is the schedule, so take note—Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm and 3–5 pm at Lansdowne's Fisher Building Foyer and Interurban's CBA 289. Whew—what a relief!

EVERY WED. UNTIL MAY 8

The Victoria Complaints Choir workshops

A new arts movement is a-sweeping the globe, and the goodly folks at the Open Space Art Society want to make sure that Lotus Land is a part of it. With a new batch of vocal locals—the Victoria Complaints Choir—leading the charge, this new international movement is all about voicing your gripes and heralding your harrumphs. Using vocal sounds—be it body percussion, choral textures, mimicry, or singing—this newfangled populist songcrafting could become a new musical genre. Incorporating ideas of performance art with flash mob-style outbursts of music-making, this sounds wonderfully subversive and irreverent. Led by composer Tina Pearson, the Victoria Complaints Choir will be holding free workshops at the Open Space Gallery on Wednesdays from 7–8:30 pm. With a documentary in the works, and lots of excitement being generated over this project, frequent visits to complaintschoir.org will help keep you informed and ready to vent. Ahem!

WED., MARCH 3

Cinema Politica

Girls Rock is the name of Arne Johnson and Shane King's award-winning, crowd-pleasing documentary

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about an all-girls Rock 'n' Roll Camp (ages 8 to 18). With appearances by indie rockers such as Carrie Brownstein (Sleater-Kinney), and a charismatic cast of young gals with death-metal aspirations, this film has been warming hearts at festivals across the nation. An empowering celebration of art, creativity, and gender roles results in this special presentation of Cinema Politica at 7 pm in Young 216, Lansdowne. Admission is by donation and a perusal

of cinemapolitica.org will give you more details on this and upcoming screenings from this excellent non-profit network.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Chef's Table

Aramark Food Services wants Camosun students to discover and discuss noshing on both campuses. This forum, on a first-come, first-serve basis, will continue a dialogue for students, and Qs and As will

bounce around, too. The Chef's Table will be at the Interurban Campus, in CC 320, from noon until 1:30 pm. As with previous Chef's Tables, the Swedish Chef will not be appearing, but he issued a statement saying, "Gersh gurndy morn-dee burn-dee, børk børk børk!"

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

Insight Speaker Series

Camosun is pleased to present 2010's first Insight Speaker Series

event. Freelance columnist, journalist, and military historian Gwynne Dyer will be orating on the topic of "Climate Wars." Putting the focus on the geopolitical implications of large-scale climate change, this stirring and scary discourse will give you plenty to chew on. The McPherson Playhouse at 7:30 pm is where it's at, and it's \$14 for students and \$22.25 for everyone else. Go to camosun.ca/speaker-series for more details.

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