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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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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 email editor@nexusnewspaper.com for more information.

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editorial

Variety for the holidays

DYLAN WILKS
STUDENT EDITOR

We've all been there. We've participated—either willingly or unwillingly—in some kind of festive holiday disaster with our families (and if you haven't, I call shenanigans).

This makes the winter holiday season especially challenging for some of us. The very idea of going home to spend time with your family can be a lot for some people to bear, adding stress to a holiday season that's supposed to be about having a great time.

Of course, we do what we can to overcome this baggage, and staff writer Carol-Lynne Michaels has a feature about some Camosun students who have done just that on page 6.

As the fall term at Camosun winds down and the New Year approaches, the last batch of films hoping to win Oscars comes out. We didn't talk about those, but we did cover all the films that are going to be *awesome* this holiday season on page 8.

Sex! Now that I have your attention, I'll direct you to *Nexus*' story on the uncertain future of Camosun's

sexual health clinic on page 3, and also towards the women's centre column (entitled "Good vibrations") on page 10.

On a totally unrelated note, there's a story on "hipsterology" on page 5 where a Montreal writer tries to suss out where the moniker "hipster" even came from, and what it really means.

On another pop-culture note, an east-coast professor wrote a book of academic essays about zombies, and it's generating much attention. That story is on page 9.

The end of the fall term at Camosun means the end of printed issues of *Nexus* (until January 11), but that doesn't mean we aren't interested in your input!

Our weekly editorial meetings are open to all students; they take place in Richmond 201 every Tuesday at 11:30 am, ending this semester on December 13. Come meet us and we can dissect the latest issue and talk about upcoming stories.

And if direct participation isn't your thing, but you'd still like to give your input, contact us at 250-370-3591 or editor@nexusnewspaper.com and let us know what you think. Happy holidays.

open space

All-or-nothing approach to college doesn't work



JESSICA TAI/NEXUS

ALI HACKETT
STAFF WRITER

Bored, lethargic, forgetful, and unsure of one's direction in life: these aren't the things most people imagine when they sign up for college. Hollywood portrayals of sex, drugs, booze, and epic misadventures in college are totally misleading: the majority of student life comprises reading, writing, and studying, or the procrastination of all three. Most people are out of shape, running late, and in a constant state of general anxiety because the workload is unreasonably heavy.

The effects of stress on the body are highly documented. People under a lot of stress often suffer from an elevated heart rate, insomnia, chronic headaches, indigestion, and neck and back pain. The hormones secreted during stress cause unnecessary long-term wear and tear on the body.

The mental side effects of stress can be even more detrimental to students: forgetfulness, low productivity, lack of creativity, lethargy, and confusion can be reactions to stress.

As the semester progresses, it nosedives into a pathetic race just to hand in anything that passes for satisfactory work by the due date. The goal is to get things done, not to actually explore ideas or be passionate about learning.

This kind of schooling teaches students how to produce mediocre work quickly. Taking on this amount of work in the "real world" would never make sense: most people under this much pressure end up submitting unsatisfactory end products.

Some students have now given up on the notion of quality of life. We're often irritable, and we don't often have time to talk about the day-to-day things that happen outside our bubble; student life leaves little room for celebration, hobbies, cooking, or non-student relationships.

To be fair, there's been a resurgence of the slow-food movement, and there's definitely a place for yoga and meditation in our culture, but they're still niche. These activities emphasize the importance of technique and the journey along the way, not just the end goal.

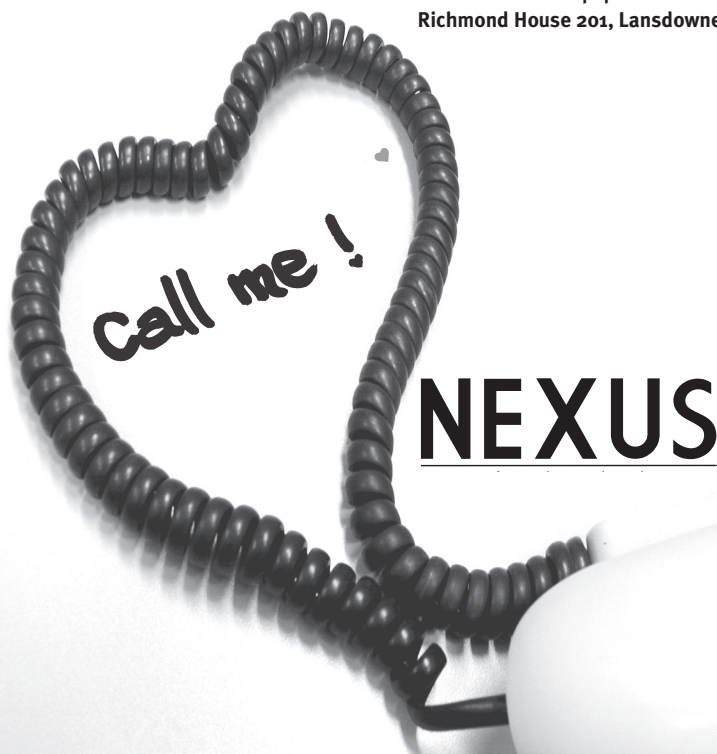
Colleges and universities end up teaching the opposite. There's a mentality that if a person's not willing to "give it all up" for something then they don't want it badly enough.

Students are required to live in a way that will never be expected of them in the future, just as proof that they are worthy of an education.

Ultimately, this method detracts from many students' learning experience, and doesn't serve any practical purpose in the long run.

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

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NEXUS

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

financial aid

BC student loan amendments help students

“I’m glad they’re no longer penalizing students for being in situations of financial need.”

JEREMY MCELROY
UBC ALMA MATER SOCIETY

The first amendment allows underage students to get a loan without a signing guarantor. The second amendment eliminated non-sufficient fund fees, which are usually applied if your account is overdrawn when paying back your student loans.

Despite the changes, the program still has a lot of shortcomings, according to Jeremy McElroy, president of the UBC student union, the Alma Mater Society (AMS).

“It’s great that [students] can now apply for funding independently at the age of 18, and I’m glad they’re no longer penalizing students for being in situations of financial need,” says McElroy. “But there is still a lot of work to do with the program and we’ve got all kinds of ideas for that.”

McElroy says the AMS is lobbying to also change the expectation that parents should be paying for students’ university fees and tuition.

“We’re asking for reduction and



JOSH CURRAN/UBYSSEY

Some positive changes have been made to the BC student loan program.

ultimate elimination of expected parental contribution,” he says.

Another issue the AMS is tackling is how liquid assets are evaluated. “Right now, if a student owns a car that is worth more than \$5,000, they are expected to sell that car or have \$5,000 removed from how much they’re eligible for for stu-

dent loans,” says McElroy. “Those of our students who commute in from Abbotsford, Mission, and Chilliwack, they either have to sell their car, go to school somewhere completely different, or not go to school at all.”

Brittany Manson, an international relations student on stu-

dent loans at UBC, welcomes the changes.

“When I first tried to apply it was kind of difficult... especially if you don’t get a lot of support from your parents,” says Manson. “You should be able to get the funding you need to go to university, so I think it’s awesome.”

MICKI COWAN
THE UBYSSEY (UNIVERSITY OF BC)

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Two amendments have been made to the BC student loan program that look to take the pressure off underage applicants or those facing financial hardship.

The changes were made to comply with federal rules, as the federal and provincial loan programs were amalgamated earlier this year.

services

Future of sexual health clinic remains uncertain

“We pack up in April, because we never know if the clinic’s going to be funded the following year.”

CHARLOTTE BROWN
ISLAND SEXUAL HEALTH SOCIETY

Sexual Health Society, a non-profit organization, and is partially funded by the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS).

The clinic’s head nurse, Charlotte Brown, finds the uncertain state of the clinic troubling.

“The college renews the contract every year with us, so we run it October to April one day a week and they review that in the summer after we’ve closed,” says Brown. “What we do every year is we pack up in April, because we never know if the clinic’s going to be funded the following year.”

The college provides the facilities and the CCSS budgets a maximum of \$10,000 to cover wage costs incurred by the clinic.

Brown and Kim Harding, the medical office assistant, staff the facility, which offers vital services to students, such as testing for sexually transmitted infections and reasonably priced birth control, all within walking distance of classes.

This accessibility makes it more likely for students to address their

sexual health concerns, but where would students go if the funding ceased and there wasn’t a Camosun clinic?

“Maybe to walk-in clinics, but I’m sure a lot of people wouldn’t bother if there wasn’t something provided by the school,” says Rachel Kerr, a university transfer student at Camosun.

Brown believes that a closure of the on-campus sexual health clinic could result in less students using the service.

“We know that with a lot of sexual health for younger people that accessing services without having to travel a great distance is really important and making appointments and having to get somewhere is often quite tricky,” she says.

The clinic offers quick, free appointments for students, and most are only 15 minutes long so they won’t cut into studying time.

Many students, including some from UVic, take advantage of the services offered at Camosun, according to Brown.



ALI HACKETT/NEXUS

Camosun sexual health clinic medical office assistant Kim Harding.

Each weekly clinic sees six to 10 clients and roughly 70 percent of those who have used the clinic since September are students at Camosun.

The clinic is open to non-students as well, but Brown states that more students, especially men, should head to the clinic. Currently, roughly five percent of the clinic’s clients are male.

“I do see the guys, but I don’t see

them enough,” she says.

For now, the status of the Lansdowne clinic is that it will remain open until April 2012, providing cost-effective sexual health for students.

“That’s how you work, in a non-profit organization, anyway,” says Brown, “because we’re not there to make money; we’re there to cover our costs and provide a service for the clients.”

SPEAK UP What was your most epic cooking fail?

BY CLORISA SIMPSON



TOM LEWIS
“I tried to make burgers on a frying pan and they all just fell apart with the cheese into one disgusting heap of ground beef. I still ate it.”



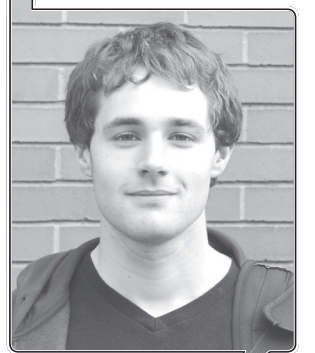
BRENNA CARRADINE
“My friends and I tried to make caramel popcorn, but it just got all stuck to the pan, so we had to throw the pan out with the popcorn.”



APRIL OLDFORD
“I can cook, but I mess boxed macaroni up every time: too much milk, not enough butter, sticks to the bottom of the pot, I hate it.”



SOPHIE HITCHMAN AND TESJA WHITE
“We burnt tarts at the Dunlop House cooking class. They were apple caramel tarts that came out black.”



ALEX LEE
“When I was younger I used to microwave cheese and tomato sauce on bread, and microwaved it for too long and made a plate of goo. I’m a good cook now, though!”

education

Employee course teaches aboriginal history

“The first unit is about learning some indigenous names for the different places we are living.”

CORRINE MICHELLE
CAMOSUN COLLEGE



ALLAN SHOOK

Camosun's Corrine Michelle says Camosun's cultural sensitivity program has been a success.

JEREMY AMBERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What started out as a simple word document has blossomed into a multimedia development tool for employees of Camosun College.

A unique learning experience called Teltin Tte Wilnew teaches cultural sensitivity and the history of aboriginal people to college staff.

Over the past three years, 125 Camosun employees have taken the voluntary program, which won an award in program excellence in 2009.

“The course offers a brief history and outline of indigenous people and colonial history in four units and it's a blended delivery, which means it's taught online and face to face,” says Corrine Michelle, Camosun

indigenization coordinator.

“Teltin Tte Wilnew” translated from the West Saanich means understanding indigenous peoples.

Starting out as an info-filled word document, the course has expanded into utilizing various different media sources, such as streaming video and links to a wealth of informative websites. Taking full advantage of technology, the course has had great success educating people, according to Michelle.

Aside from its heavy content, ranging from residential school

history to the '60s adoption scoop of First Nations children, the course adds humour in the form of Darrell Dennis and his *ReVision Quest* radio show and CBC blog, which puts cultural stereotypes into a comedic light.

An important part of the program is learning about territory and the importance of acknowledgement of where we inhabit, says Michelle.

“The first unit is about learning indigenous names for the different places we are living,” she says.

The indigenous history of territory isn't always widely available and most people don't know that the places we live in already had names before being inhabited by European settlers, who gave them new names.

“It hasn't always been called James Bay, it's not always been Oak Bay; there are indigenous names for these places,” says Michelle, “Mount Doug, Mount Tolmie, all have their own aboriginal names and they have stories that go with them.”



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NEWS BRIEFS

Report says BC should ban oil tanker traffic, reject pipeline

The National Resources Defense Council, the Pembina Institute, and the Living Oceans Society recently released a report arguing that bitumen (crude oil) from Alberta's oil sands can't safely be transported across British Columbia. The report calls for federal and provincial governments to reject the proposed pipeline and to permanently ban oil tanker traffic on BC's north coast.

Reaction to pipeline report

According to Nathan Lempers of the Pembina Institute, the Northern Gateway pipeline project doesn't plan for all eventualities—such as the impact on the pipeline of possible catastrophic events like earthquakes and landslides—and that they aren't prepared for a worst-case scenario, creating an unacceptable level of risk for British Columbians. Paul Stanway, communications manager for Northern Gateway, countered the report by accusing the groups of “raising unreasonable fears” and setting “zero-risk targets that no pipeline project could ever reach.” Stanway also countered the argument that bitumen is more dangerous to ship because it's corrosive, claiming in a recent press release “nobody has been able to identify any additional risk or hazard involved with transporting oil sands crude.”

Timberwest buying logs from endangered forest

The Wilderness Committee learned recently during a BC Supreme Court hearing that Timberwest has contracted to purchase logs from the Snaw-Naw-As Forest Services Ltd's proposed logging of DL33—a red-listed Coastal Douglas-Fir forest. The Committee has joined with a number of groups including the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities to demand that Timberwest immediately halt the logging of DL33, citing that logging the area goes directly against both Timberwest's and the Sustainable Forest Industry's policy regarding environmental protection.

Communities back BC pesticide ban

Thirty BC municipalities are now supporting a BC-wide ban on lawn and garden pesticides. According to a list released by the Canadian Cancer Society, the municipalities have passed motions to support the ban. These 30 communities encompass more than 1.8 million British Columbians. Gideon Forman, executive director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, says the proposed pesticide ban has huge momentum. “It is a significant issue when 30 communities across the province are pressuring the government to take action,” said Forman in a recent press release.

-DYLAN WILKS

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trends

The true meaning of hipsters

HIPSTER



KATIE BRIOUX/THE CONCORDIAN

“In most cases, hipsters actually really like the music they listen to and like to dress a certain way.”

ZEYNEP ARSEL
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

LEAH BATSTONE
THE CONCORDIAN (CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY)

MONTREAL (CUP)—What do you think of when you hear the word “hipster”? For hipster haters, it’s an arrogant trend follower, who loves sarcasm and drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon while wearing black, thick-rimmed glasses with no lenses. It’s clear to see that “hipster” has become an overused word that has lost its significance and impact due to mainstream popularity.

Zeynep Arsel, who jokingly calls herself a “hipsterologist,” is an assistant professor in Concordia’s marketing department. Her doctoral dissertation looked at “the intersection of indie culture and mass mediated hipster narrative and the consumption patterns that emerge as a result of this co-optation.”

Arsel explains how marketers began pegging people with the term “hipster.” “We’re talking about ’90s. This was where indie music was very exotic and interesting and nothing like anything out there. Marketers were trying to understand, and I was looking at, the media discourse about indie music,” she says.

Journalists and marketers gradually began to label and categorize people in the indie culture as hipsters, according to Arsel.

Hipsters are a much-maligned cultural phenomenon.

“I don’t know what the challenge was with [labelling] indie, but it was sort of a production system rather than a lifestyle,” she says. “Using hipster helped them understand what indie was about.”

Arsel explains that marketers “cool-hunt” for subcultures and new styles in areas where the culture is merely emerging. They “find stylistic cues, fashion, and make them mainstream,” she says.

This happened with hipsters, who were originally discovered in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, and Williamsburg, one of its neighbourhoods. These individuals, who were 18 to 35, were edgy and had interesting taste in music and fashion.

Hipsters aim to stand out in a

crowd, yet they all look the same. The hipster style is a mix of all other countercultures and actually shows little originality: oversized glasses of the ’80s, unflattering sweaters from dad’s closet, and beards from the Paleolithic period.

Stereotypically, hipsters are young people who believe in forward thinking, helping the environment, and think of themselves highly. Hipsters live and dress like aspiring artists, but spend copious amounts of money on the latest Apple technologies.

It’s easy to list the stereotypes, but there’s more to the hipster label than what mocking photoblog *Look at That Fucking Hipster* tells you. Despite popular belief, hipsters aren’t just attention seekers.

“I have a lot of disagreement with people who talk about hipsters, and say, ‘Hipsters are trend-seeking people.’ In most cases, hipsters actually really like the music they listen to and like to dress a certain way,” says Arsel.

She also sees people stereotype others as hipsters when they only borrow from the counterculture.

“In every group, there are always the people who are hardcore, and people who paraphrase and emulate. There are always people who are the tail end of the moment,” says Arsel.

Because the hipster style of frumpy sweaters and skinny jeans can be bought at Urban Outfitters and American Apparel, it has become conventional.

“It’s a way people go back in time and remember the ’80s and ’90s, especially people ages 20 to 30,” says Concordia University political science graduate student Juan Diego Santa. “People go back to old fashion to remember everything about the culture, from TV shows, fashion, music. I like the hipster style. It’s original and it reflects people’s appreciation for art.”

Arsel has seen *The New York Times* use the word “hipster” many times... she’s even seen them apologize for using the word so many times.

“It ceased to be meaningful because anyone can be categorized into the term,” she says. “We talked about it so much that we contaminated it.”

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Choosing cheer: making

Story and photo by Carol-Lynne Michaels, staff writer



“It’s funny, it was like we anticipated and looked forward to that fight, that disaster, and sitting down to eat a meal while we’re growling and in turmoil.”

LORRI LEONARD
CAMOSUN STUDENT

As any student knows, it can be tough navigating the holiday season of marketing, family time, tired brain cells and weakened bank balances. But many students will bounce back from exams with the holiday spirit.

Still, while the holidays are great for many, they can be a remarkable stressor for others. The difficulty around the holidays is unique to everyone. The winter break is often riddled with exams and the human tendency to compare themselves to others.

Camosun visual arts student Maddy K... is spending the days with her advent calendar, making crafts in school, writing letters to Santa.

“Now my weeks before Christmas come with a lot of stress to the government for loan applications, and then I have to wait until my exams, and, fortunately, still making it through,” she says. “I just find the anticipation of the whole thing becomes lost on me as I get older. I still do enjoy it and enjoy being able to spend time with the people I used to be.”

HURT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Camosun psychology instructor David Reagan says the holidays are an emotional time for people. One of the reasons why they can be so difficult for some is the expectations everyone has.

“The holidays bring up a lot of emotions,” Reagan says. “Each situation is just so unique. For Christmas there is a whole societal expectation that it’s going to be very special. By early-to-mid December it’s quite an emotionally charged time for all of us.”

He says that the expectations that individuals have are often self-imposed.

“Some college students feel very inadequate because they had more to give,” says Reagan, giving specific examples. “But, in fact, that is self-imposed expectation of others.”

Reagan recommends three general tips for navigating holiday situations. The first is to try to look at things in a positive way. Secondly, anticipate that it’s going to be a busy time. And always set realistic expectations and seek help available.

For any family, a break in routine or schedule is inevitable. As time passes, families age, and their needs or rewrite. There are so many events that impact the way of how a family behaves together. Each family has its own existence, but the common human experience is how they change together.

Camosun environmental technology student Reagan is an example of someone who was able to overcome her youth and overcome it.

“The biggest issue with my family is the tension between my parents,” she says. “I was 16. My parents got weird.”

Smith says the divorce was hard on her during the holidays. “If a family isn’t perfect and you’re not wanting it to be, then emotions of disappointment or maybe anger towards the reason why are brought to the surface,” she says.

One of the things that got her through the holidays was finding ways to make the best of the situation. Reagan says that traditions and expectations, her family found ways to celebrate the holidays in their new arrangement.

“All of us need to learn a variety of coping strategies,” says psychology instructor Bill Wong. “Like a toolbox, you have a range of tools to approach the various problems. When people don’t match the problem with the stressor, what you want to do is analyze the situation.”

Bad holidays good again

navigating the upcoming and festivities. Despite nces, the odds are good s and be able jump into

some, this time of year he degree of emotional ach person, each family. pectations, reflections, nselves to others.

Knott remembers count- dar, making Christmas

consist of writing letters counting down the days ng crafts in school," she hole idea [of Christmas] do stuff with my family hem; it's just not like it

HOLIDAYS

Reagan says that the le, which is part of the ome, and different for ns, a lot of memories," e. As you get closer to ation that Christmas is -December it becomes of us."

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n the holidays was find- . By not forcing the old ound new ways to enjoy

ng skills," says Camosun toolbox—you want to ty of issues. It becomes coping strategy to the all the stuff you need to

do, and generate as many solutions as possible."

Wong says to identify all the items or tasks and rank them by difficulty and how much time they will consume. "Manage the stressor," he says.

Reagan is familiar with the expectation around the holidays to be a happy time. He says that images that are shown on TV and in movies are unrealistic and not the reality for most people.

"If people aren't living up to that image, they often get very unhappy and very dissatisfied with themselves, so that can become an issue," he says.

Reagan says that one of the things he teaches is how to step away from that place of overwhelming emotion and how to focus on something different.

"I just find the anticipation of the whole idea of Christmas becomes lost on me as I get older."

MADDY KNOTT
CAMOSUN STUDENT

"If you're at a family dinner and you're anticipating somebody saying something harsh or critical or difficult, before you respond there is great wisdom of just counting to 10 and saying, 'Do I really need to respond to that?' or, 'I knew that was going to come up and I'm just not going to engage.'"

A CAMOSUN CHRISTMAS STORY

Indigenous studies student Lorri Leonard's holiday memories start in Seattle, when it was just her mom, her brother, and her.

"My mom loved Christmas," she says. "She would work really hard and make everything for us and it was always really great."

Leonard says everything changed when her older brother entered his teenage years. The holidays became stressful and disappointing as his focus became more materialistic and less family oriented.

One year, Leonard saved all her money to buy him art supplies, but his reaction wasn't as she had hoped.

"When he opened it, it was just sheer disappointment," she says. "He was just like, 'Oh, yeah, great,' and shoved it to the side."

The family found out later that he suffered from depression and they dealt with it together for many years. Leonard says Christmas time became a negative thing in their household.

"It was such a stress with his mood and his depression," she says. "It was hard watching how sad it made my mom, and I would just be angry and it was miserable."

When they were older, Leonard and her brother would return to the family home for the holidays. She says the holiday wasn't family-oriented anymore, and that there were fights and chaos. Her brother would visit friends, she would go to a movie, and her mother would sit at home with company.

Eventually Leonard moved to Victoria and tried her hand at hosting the holiday. Christmas music, food, friends, and gathering was all that she wanted. But it wasn't to be.

"Again, it didn't work well," she says. "They came up here and I'd try to install my rules. It would be ruined because my brother hated it so much that sometimes he would just get drunk. It wasn't fun."

Her brother passed away in 1999; Leonard will always remember Christmas that year.

"I knew it was going to be weird for me," she says. "You take the little things for granted. Even though he hated it and it was such a battle, he was always there. He was like a little Eeyore cloud. It's funny, it was like we anticipated and looked forward

to that fight, that disaster, and sitting down to eat a meal while we're growling and in turmoil."

She went back to Seattle that year. "I remember thinking, 'Oh my god, he's not going to be here,'" she says.

When she got to her mom's house she went into the room her mother had set up for her and saw a journal on the pillow: her Christmas journal

"It was so cute because I wrote, and I wrote, and I put it under the pillow and actually fell asleep. It's like a letter to Santa," she says. But instead of writing to Santa, she wrote to her brother.

"Loss takes a part of people you know and you never get that part of them back," she says of her mother. "I felt really angry about that for a long time. She never will be that mom again, but I'm seeing and watching a new beautiful part of my mom grow back."

Leonard is married now, and has a child of her own to share Christmas with. "I want it to be magical like every kid should have it," she says.

She remembers walking with her son and husband into her parents' home in Seattle for the first time. "It was like walking into the most beautiful Christmas palace ever," she says. "My mom even had things up that my brother and I had made as little kids."

Her mother involved them with crafts and other things, and they sat up late talking, taking stock of the tacky ornaments. "We were drinking hot cocoa and laughing," she says. "Ever since then it's been that way."

"Some college students feel inadequate because they wish they had more to give, but in fact, that is self-imposed and not the expectation of others."

DAVID REAGAN
CAMOSUN STUDENT

Leonard mentions a new tradition she now shares with only her mother. "It sounds kind of warped, but on Christmas eve, my mom and I will go and get one of those little ornamental trees and decorate it," she says. "We go as far as getting those little battery-operated LED lights and we take the tree down to my brother's plot," she says. "Her and I have our little cry and our moment; then we rub it into him and he has no choice but to put up with the Christmas cheer. Then we go back home."

Leonard still writes in her Christmas journal to her brother, updating him on everything that has happened over the year. "It's gone from being one of my worst holidays to... I get all giddy," she says. "I get excited again. It's become very positive again."

THE MOMENT OF CHOICE

Camosun's Reagan says the emotional essence of the holidays is what makes it very difficult for people going through transitions during the holidays. He says to anticipate the emotional pain that comes with loss.

Reagan says that the first Christmas after there's been a family loss—whether it's a parent or significant other, or even the breakup of a long-term relationship—can be a very tumultuous time for all involved.

"It's hard," he says. "You just have to admit it's hard. There is no way to sugarcoat it."

Reagan recommends making the best of a situation and counting your blessings in order to move in a positive direction. But, at the end of the day, how we deal with our unique situations comes down to the individual.

"There's just this huge moment of choice," Reagan says. "Half of that is just knowing that choice exists."

◀ movies

Holiday movie season brings thrills, chills

The early word is that *Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol* is awesome and, if the trailer is any indication (and it usually isn't), it'll be just that.

DYLAN WILKS
STAFF WRITER

The holidays are approaching like some kind of festive juggernaut, and while families are out representing consumerism, the Hollywood marketing machine likes to capitalize on this wanton spending by releasing their last wave of films for the year. So while you're procrastinating and not buying gifts for your loved ones, a number of excellent films are usually released.

Here is a short list of a few of them:

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (Friday, December 9)

Tomas Alfredson, the director of the breakout film *Let the Right One In*, is trying his hand at the spy genre by tackling what's arguably the most famous cold war spy novel of all time. John LeCarre's 1974



Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows finds Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law returning to their roles from '09's hit flick.

classic British spy novel isn't easy material to adapt, but it's been called Gary Oldman's best-ever performance—and with a career like his, that makes this film important. Spoiler alert: it will be slow. It's a cold war spy movie.

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (Friday, December 16)

It was only a matter of time before Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law were going to reprise their roles as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous characters. Guy Richie's 2009 *Sherlock Holmes* was a smash hit and more fun than it had any

right to be; it was kinetically charged and just plain good times. This one should be no different (in theory). No word yet on whether or not Downey Jr. and Law will finally make out.

The Adventures of Tintin (Wednesday, December 21)

Hergé's classic character Tintin is finally making it to the big screen, and in a fully 3D, computer-generated film directed by Steven Spielberg, and produced by Spielberg and Peter Jackson, no less. I predict this film will be wildly successful worldwide, and if the talent involved

is any indication this is sure to be the family event of the winter.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (Wednesday, December 21)

No, this isn't another re-release of the 2009 film, it's Hollywood's millionth remake of an independent movie, but this time one of the most talented directors of this generation is at the helm. David Fincher, who brought audiences last year's critically acclaimed *The Social Network*, is promising "the feel bad movie of the year"—and considering the source material, it will be. Also of note is that the score once again teams

Fincher up with Oscar-winner Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails.

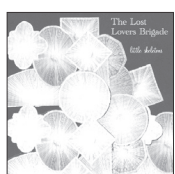
Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol (Sunday, December 25)

Brad Bird, who directed *The Incredibles*, *Ratatouille*, and *The Iron Giant*, is trying his hand at his first live-action film. The early word is that it's awesome and, if the trailer is any indication (and it usually isn't), it'll be just that. Tom Cruise actually filmed on the Burj Dubai—the tallest skyscraper in the world—and with IMAX cameras to boot! Those scenes are going to be awesome.



New Music Revue

Sci-fi thrash metal, soul-queen rarities, and other musical gift ideas



The Lost Lovers Brigade
Little Skeletons
(independent)
3/5

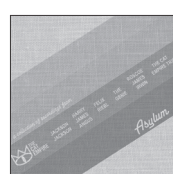
When listening to The Lost Lovers Brigade's debut album, *Little Skeletons*, a few key phrases come to mind, phrases like "meh," "it's aight," and "I guess I could see people being into this." Now, that's not saying this Vancouver band is terrible—there's something that catches my attention about them. Perhaps it's the homemade recording feel, or Elisha May Rembold's eerie pop/country textured vocals. I'm not 100 percent sure.

Ultimately, though, it's not all the way there, which is fair enough, as this is their first album. Just keep an eye on this band because there's some talent brewing.

Maybe we'll just have to wait until the indie hipster kids get a hold of it and run rampant, all of them claiming to have been the first to listen to The Lost Lovers Brigade. And then I can be all like, "Yeah, well, I totally reviewed their debut album."

Stupid hipsters.

—CLORISA SIMPSON



The Cat Empire
Asylum
(Tunes for Change)
4/5

Asylum is a charity release benefiting the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Australia. It features alternate versions of old Cat Empire songs, plus new ones, and songs from members' other, previously released, projects.

"Here Come the Scissors" by The Genie brings The Cat Empire's rhythm section to the forefront—where they belong. Felix Riebl's "I Won't Know You Anymore" is a gorgeous step up from *Cinema*'s "No Longer There." And Roscoe James Irwin evokes Elliott Smith on "Pass the Time."

The standout tracks on *Asylum* both come from Harry James Angus. His evocative, imagery-rich songwriting is highlighted on the curiously melodic "Dave" by Jackson Jackson, and on "Underground."

Asylum exemplifies the fact that musicians exist not in a void, but in a community. And be sure to act fast: once the donation goal of \$50,000 is reached, this will no longer be available.

—ROSE JANG



Marianas Trench
Ever After
(604)
4/5

This Juno-nominated pop-punk band from Vancouver had a lot to live up to with their third album, *Ever After*, considering their last album, *Masterpiece Theatre*, had great songs like "Cross My Heart" and "Celebrity Status" on it.

Their single "Haven't Had Enough" is already causing waves on iTunes, but it's other tunes, such as "Ever After," with its strong, vocal beginning, "Porcelain," with its slow but heartfelt lyrics, and typical Marianas Trench upbeat songs such as "B Team" or "Fallout" that have great potential to make it into the spotlight.

Be prepared to get up and dance—or at least stay seated and tap your foot—to this album.

Even better, *Ever After* flies from song to song with no pauses in between, and the fun will last the whole 54 minutes that the album is playing.

—CHESLEY RYDER



Vektor
Outer Isolation
(Heavy Artillery)
5/5

This second full-length release by Arizona thrash metal band Vektor proves with technical prowess, succinct length, and juicy solos that it's a masterful follow-up to their first album, 2009's *Black Future*.

Through their sci-fi thrash, Vektor pays homage to black metal and progressive death metal. Their bleak stylings are akin to noted underground metal bands like Nocturnus, Unseen Terror, Nuclear Assault, and Gorguts.

Picture several lone cyber marines forsaken by their government on an inhospitable barren landscape. They're not being attacked by aliens; they're slowly being internally destroyed by the elements. That's the sound Vektor creates.

"Tetrastructural Minds" is the boldest metal opener in recent memory, and the album just does not relent: there are no bad songs. *Outer Isolation* is violent, sophisticated, audible, and proves that thrash is more relevant now than it was in the '80s.

—ADAM PRICE



Sharon Jones
Soul Time!
(Daptone)
4/5

It's time to get down to *Soul Time!*, a collection of B-sides and rarities from America's soul queen, Sharon Jones. The tracks were previously released on 7"s, compilations, or as bonus tracks, and are collected here, along with new track, "New Shoes."

This album is super funky, and features the strong horns that make the Dap-Kings so good. As usual, the songs are infused with Jones' strong, sassy personality. Her powerful, distinctive voice is what makes the songs so good.

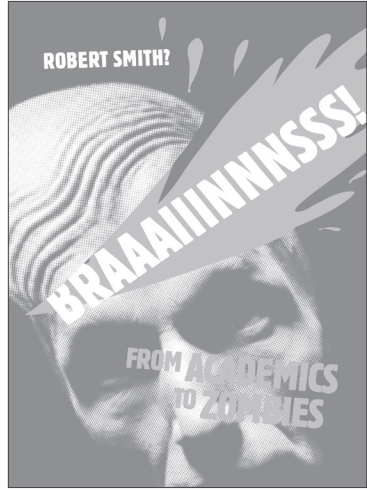
Highlights include "Genuine (Parts 1 and 2)," which is as strong as anything on Jones' recent albums; "What If We All Stopped Paying Taxes?" a grooving song with a great baritone sax line and a chill guitar solo; and romantic slow jam "Without a Trace."

The tracks on *Soul Time!* are less memorable than 2010's stand-out *I Learned the Hard Way*, but it's still great to hear more of the Dap-Kings' soulful sound.

—ROSE JANG

books

Professor publishes zombie essay collection



enstein. What they concluded was, definitively, Frankenstein is not a zombie—his walk is very different.”

While the chapter on zombie walks is fairly light-hearted, other sections of the book take on more serious questions.

“Another chapter takes an approach in looking at zombies in society, but says, ‘Do zombies have rights? What’s the age of consent

for a zombie? If a mother murders her zombie daughter, is that criminal or is it putting a zombie out of its pain?’” says Smith. “There’s actually some great interaction with stuff that we as humans, not necessarily just academics but we as interested citizens, might encounter via zombies.”

Although the book was released just last month, it has already received a positive response,

a response that Smith attributes, in part, to the fact that reading about zombies allows us to engage with our fears in a safe way.

“There’s the specific fear of being eaten by a predator. That’s a terrifying primal fear that we don’t ever really have to engage with on a day-to-day basis,” explains Smith. “There’s also the fear of being killed by a disease, which I think zombies play into. It’s the idea of the infected,

and this is sadly not quite so arbitrary, because we do face diseases all the time.”

As all the hard work that went into the book proves, Smith still believes zombies are a topic that provide readers with entertainment.

“Of course zombies are primarily fun,” says Smith, “so it’s like you come for the zombies, but stay for the interesting stuff in the academic field.”

KEETON WILCOCK

THE FULCRUM (UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA)

OTTAWA (CUP)—In 2009, University of Ottawa mathematics and statistics professor Robert Smith and his students wrote a paper *When Zombies Attack!: Mathematical Modelling of an Outbreak of Zombie Infection*. After two years of significant media buzz about his unusual publication, Smith has returned as the editor of a collection of essays on the undead, entitled *Braaiinnss!: From Academics to Zombies*.

“Not long after the first zombie math paper had come about, I had a meeting with the University of Ottawa Press people,” recalls Smith. “They said, ‘We’d like to see a book. Tell us what you’ve got.’ So I just sent out the call.”

Released on October 8, *Braaiinnss!* differs from Smith’s original paper as it discusses zombies from using a multidisciplinary approach, as contributors from various academic fields throughout world authored chapters of the book.

“What they concluded was, definitively, Frankenstein is not a zombie—his walk is very different.”

ROBERT SMITH
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

“The idea behind *Braaiinnss!* was really to extend the idea of having a conversation between academics and non-academics,” explained Smith. “[I’d] say, ‘Tell me about your academic field using zombies as a fun hook and show me how it works—show me the details, show me the fun stuff, and show me the cool stuff.’ People really rose to that challenge, and I was very impressed and I learned a lot as well.”

Because the book’s chapters approach zombies from a different academic background, many issues are brought forth that were previously unconsidered, either by scholars, or by the general public.

“One of my favourites was the idea of how zombies walk,” says Smith. “They measured people walking like humans, walking like zombies, and walking like Frank-

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What's Up with Her?

by Sophia Lenarduzzi
camosun college women's centre

Good vibrations

The most romantic present I ever received from a boyfriend was a vibrator. It was pink, oh-so-pretty (looking slightly like a unicorn horn), and immensely useful. This handy device is still a routine part of my life, unlike the fella who gave it to me.

So why would I want a vibrator instead of roses, chocolates, or shoes? Because I like sex, that's why. And, as a feminist, I feel quite entitled to sexual fulfillment.

The ability to satisfy myself sexually is a big part of disconnecting one from the sexual norms of society that see masturbation, especially among women, as unnatural.

So when I received my lovely device I wasn't only excited at the adventures it and I would have, but also thrilled to be with someone who recognized my sexual needs.

Of course, having a mattress session with a vibrator is different than one with a person. But by being able to have the means to sexually satisfy oneself alone makes the choice to invite someone into their bed quite meaningful. It becomes a privilege.

It's now not all about sexual pleasure, but becomes about human connection and correlation.

Of course, sometimes it's all about sexual pleasure and having a good tangle in the sheets, but by acknowledging our sexual needs we normalize them, take away the stigmatization, and begin to see them as a vital part of well-being.

So girls (and boys), with Christmas approaching, why not head to your local sex shop and check out the wide selection of lovely vibrators?

NEXUS

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Earthy Edibles

by Keira Zikmanis

Sensuous holiday sweets



KEIRA ZIKMANIS

Orange hazelnut truffles

I learnt how to make truffles at a little hippie bakery I worked at in Ottawa a number of years ago, and I'm so glad I did. These little guys make delicious and impressive Christmas gifts, or special treats for those cold winter nights. And they're really not as hard to make as you'd think! Temper what?

Makes approximately 20 truffles

Prep time 20 minutes, inactive time three to four hours (for ganache to set)

Note: Chocolate bars normally come in 100-gram sizes. If using bulk chocolate pieces, a kitchen scale will come in handy. A dark chocolate with between 50 and 75 percent cocoa solids works best in this recipe.

Ingredients

½ cup whipping cream
Zest of one medium navel orange
Pinch of salt
½ tsp vanilla extract
2 tsp Triple Sec or Grand Marnier (optional)

150 grams or 5 ¼ oz of dark chocolate, finely chopped
1 ½ cups hazelnuts
250 grams of dark chocolate to dip the truffles (optional)

Directions

Heat the cream, orange zest, salt, and vanilla extract in a small, heavy-bottomed saucepan over medium heat. Once bubbles begin to form in the cream, reduce the heat to low and let simmer very gently for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. In a fine mesh strainer or cheesecloth, strain out the orange zest (squeezing any liquid from it) and put the cream back into the saucepan. Reheat the cream until small bubbles begin to form again. Turn off the heat and add the cream to the chopped chocolate in a medium-sized bowl (preferably glass or ceramic), stirring constantly with a spatula until the chocolate is melted. Add the Triple Sec or Grand Marnier (if using) and mix well. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let set in the fridge for three to four hours, or until firm.

While the ganache is setting, toast the hazelnuts on a baking sheet in the oven at 350° for eight minutes, or until lightly browned and fragrant. Rub the hazelnuts between your hands to remove the skins, and chop the nuts fine.

Once the ganache is set, scoop out slightly less than a tablespoon of ganache for each truffle (or whatever size you like) and roll it between your hands into a ball, pressing with your fingertips if needed. Then cover the surface of each truffle with the chopped hazelnuts, pressing them in with the palm of your hand.

These truffles are amazing just as they are at this point, but if you're feeling ambitious, you can melt the second round of chocolate in a double boiler (a heat-proof bowl over a pot of boiling water), remove the chocolate from the heat, and let cool to room temperature. Once the chocolate has cooled for a few minutes, dip each truffle into the chocolate using toothpicks or thin barbecue skewers, let the excess chocolate drip off, and release each truffle onto parchment paper to cool.



Green Your World

by Luke Kozlowski
camosun students for environmental awareness

Climate-change info session excites

The latest round of international climate-change negotiations in Durban, South Africa have begun and diplomats are trying to find a replacement agreement for the Kyoto Protocol. On the first night of negotiations, an information session took place in downtown Victoria, which was hosted by a local non-profit group called Majority for a Sustainable Society.

The night began with a presentation from Tom Pedersen, director of the Pacific Institute of Climate Solutions. He gave the crowd a run-down of his work and of the latest climate science, which showed that

the climate is warming even quicker than expected.

Leila Scannell, a PhD student in environmental psychology, then presented her findings about what type of messaging is effective at engaging people to get more actively involved in climate-change advocacy. Not surprisingly, the use of fear as a motivating technique was the least effective.

Guy Dauncey, local alternative energy expert, spoke next and he shared his ideas for solutions to addressing the problem. Like many other scientists, academics, and environmentalists, he advocates to

make polluters pay and to provide alternative-energy incentives. He also asserted his belief that with current alternative technologies we can create jobs, power the world, and not give up our modern lifestyles.

Local nature activist Ken Wu then ended things off by stating the need for a strong grassroots movement to advocate for change, especially at the federal level.

With the extensive scope of the climate-change issue and an oil and gas sector that continually finances the climate-denier movement, the need for a grassroots movement has never been greater.



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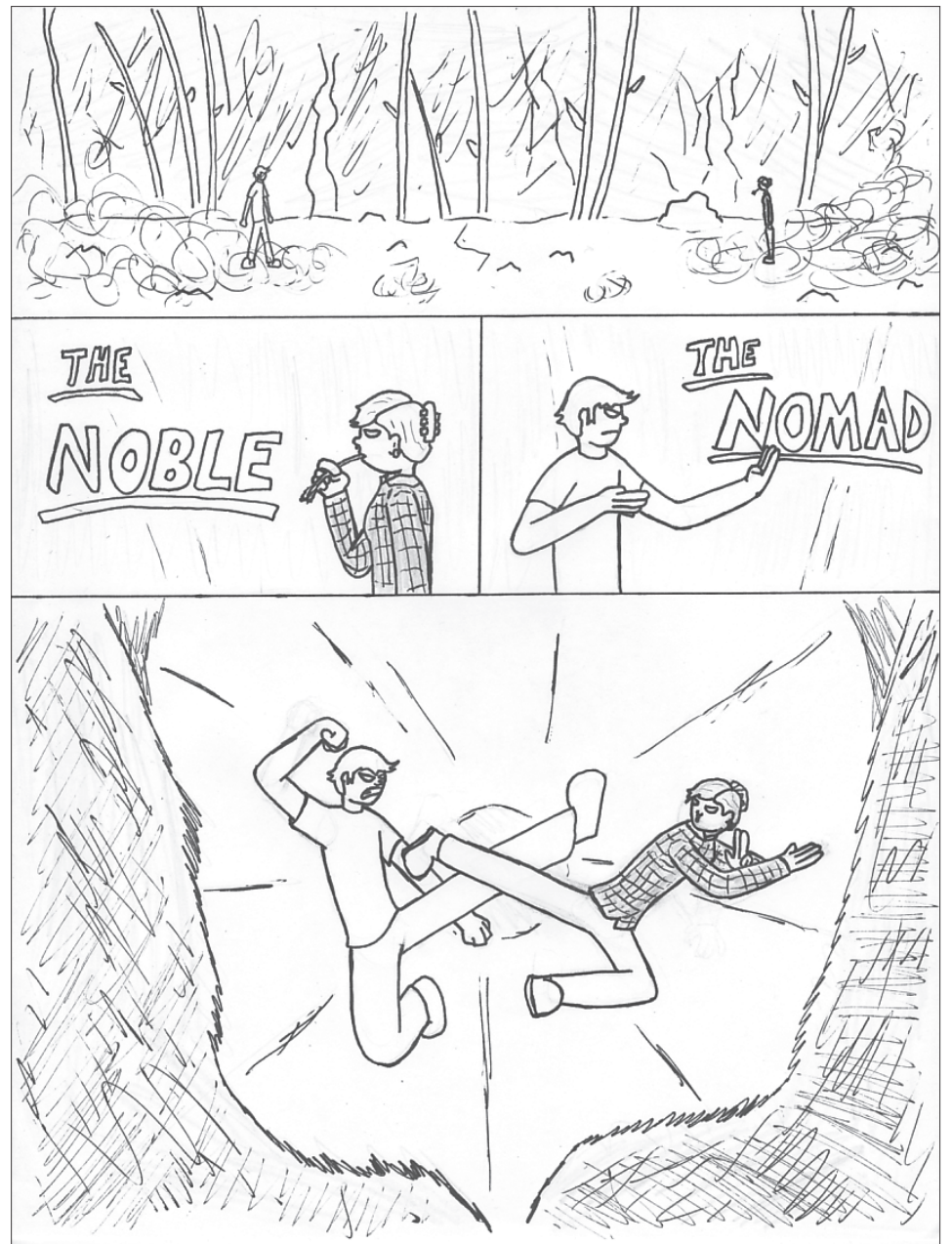
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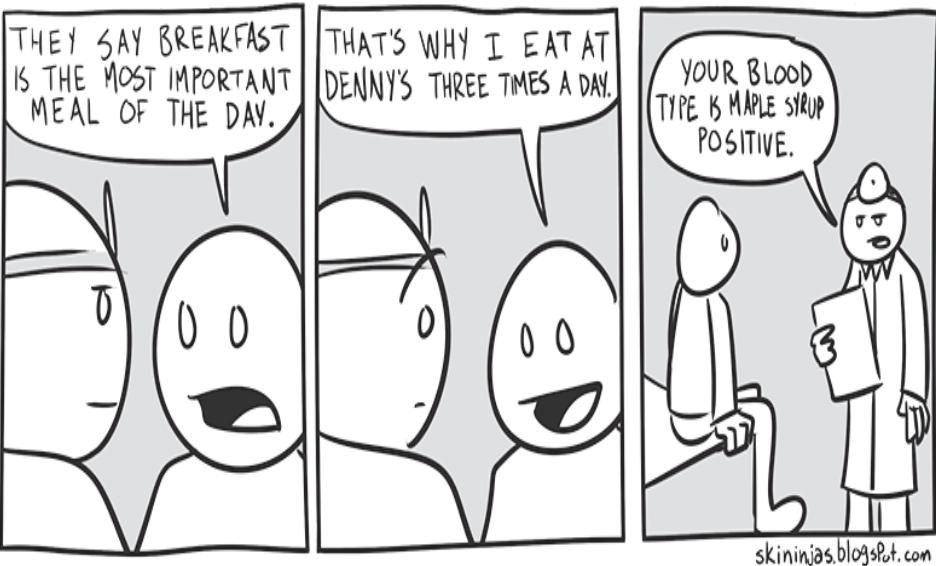
Noble Sloth Manifesto By Libby Hopkinson



Nomadic Mindset By Ken MacKenzie



Ski Ninjas By Kivle Lees (The Argus, CUP)



local, live, and loud

by Adam Price



STEVEN BEDARD

Ladyhawk: so subdued they're falling asleep. During a photo shoot!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Ladyhawk, the Wicks

CLUB 9ONE9, \$12, 9 PM
Canadian indie outfit Ladyhawk is in Victoria in December to rock and sonically please the lot of ya... so, yeah, these guys haven't released an album since, like, Poseidon was a topical figure in daily affairs. Basically, what I'm trying to say is it's pretty likely they're rocking some new live material. Checker out.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Acres of Lions, BoneHoof, The Dyeing Merchants

LUCKY, \$10, 10 PM
They're back from their province-wide tour, ahh yes, those scruffy locals in Acres of Lions still toting their brand new album, *Collections!* (Ladyhawk should take a thing or two from these guys.) Oooo, we're getting a bit gossipy here, aren't we? Watch out! Beards everywhere.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

The Tower of Dudes, China Syndrome

LOGAN'S, \$10, 8 PM
If you can provide me with a definition of The Tower of

Dudes' genre that doesn't include a prefix or suffix you win candy! Please write to PO Box address Adam Price this is totes cowabunga not a real PO Box. Thanks!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Allison Crowe, Haley Walker, Billie Woods

FAIRFIELD UNITED CHURCH, \$20, 8 PM
So, apparently there's this thing coming up called Christmas or something; I've only ever really heard this time described as "the holidays." Coming up in late December, however, Allison Crowe will be singing lovely carols that any good-spirited Christmasteer would melt over. Happy Christmas. Happy Holidays.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Jim Cuddy, Doug Paisley

MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE, \$61, 8 PM
Canadian country artist Doug Paisley opens for Jim Cuddy at the McPherson Playhouse this January. If you're looking for a Guy Clark-like sound, real country with good imagery, this show's for you. Plus, Jim Cuddy is such a handsome fella! Happy Christmas. Happy Holidays. Oh, wait, this is happening in January. Happy January. Happy January.

eye on campus

by Dylan Wilks

UNTIL FEBRUARY 26, 2012

The Emergence of Architectural Modernism II

The Legacy Art Gallery is hosting a free exhibit until the end of February covering UVic and Victoria's regional aesthetic from the late 1950s and '60s. This is the second in a series of exhibitions and publications exploring the relationships, personalities, and projects that contributed to the regional modernist aesthetic of post-war Victoria. Also: it's free!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Winterurban

The Helmet Huber Annex at Camosun's Interurban campus is going to play host to a free holiday arts-and-crafts fair. And there are raffle prizes, too. All proceeds go to the Camosun College Student Society food bank. This season, give the gift of food!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Winter Snowcial

The Wilna Thomas Cultural Centre will once again be transformed into a holiday-themed party for Camosun staff and their families from 4-7 pm. The Twilight Lounge will also be back with hors d'oeuvres and \$2.50 drinks. Activities are planned for young children. Those attending are encouraged to bring nonperishable items to help support the student food bank. As we've been known to say, this season, give the gift of food!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

The Ho Ho Ho Show!

A festive night of amateur standup comedy awaits all who attend the Moka House (Hillside location), hosted by none other than Kirsten Van Ritzen. The Ho Ho Ho Show starts at 8 pm and will feature Ritzen's comedy-class students making their standup debuts and will cost an affordable \$5. Check out kirstenvanritzen.com for more details.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Hand Drum Rhythms: free workshop

The Fairfield United Church Hall (at the corner of Fairfield and Moss) is playing host to a free drumming workshop. Hand Drum Rhythms is even providing the drums for free; just make sure go to drumvictoria.com to RSVP. The workshop runs from 7-8:30 pm and beginners are welcome.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Christmas with Ashley MacIsaac

Cape Breton roots fiddler Ashley MacIsaac is coming to Victoria for a holiday concert, and local prodigy Quinn Bachand will be joining him, along with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra. Expect a mix of genres, including Canadian roots, Celtic, and traditional Cape Breton folk. Tickets start at \$43 and doors at the Royal Theatre open at 8 pm.

classifieds

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