

BUDGET 2024

AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR STUDENTS

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NEXUS

camosun’s student voice since 1990
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editor’s letter In defence of indoors

Outside my living room window, large Garry oak trees tower over my deteriorating apartment. On hot summer days they form a cooling canopy with their extended tendrils of bright-coloured leaves. If I squint my eyes and focus close into the twigs and offshoots, I can even feel myself escape into a rich rainforest. The best part is, all the while I’m securely fastened to my sofa.

The indoors have always been my dream destination—the best comfort is often found there. In the indoors, I make all the rules. My sovereignty governs the volume of the TV that plays passively in the background, the smells omitted, and the company invited.

You call it a stuffy apartment, I call it a guaranteed civilized environment. My bare feet are better welcomed into the reliability of a well-established home than the naturopaths’ grass grounding scams. My soles are far too sensitive.

It’s easy to forget what’s kept behind windows when the fresh air breezes by and the day works its way into longer shifts. I don’t doubt the benefits of nature, but home is where the heart is.

Summertime guilts the indoors with its competitive warmth and fun-loving attitude. The promise of ice cream and seashells is tempting, so it’s around these months the indoors is often empty. Where the outdoors can be drawn with a smiling corner sun, the indoors are featured with a frowning table lamp during the lonely season. It’s easy to forget what’s kept behind windows when the fresh air breezes by and the day works its way into longer shifts. I don’t doubt the benefits of nature, but home is where the heart is.

The furniturescape of familiarity cleanses the most cynical attitudes. Away from the hubbub of city life and safe from the wilderness, the inside acts as an oasis of peaceful restoration for the soul. Living rooms are designed to be lived in, after all, and that’s not a task to be taken lightly—I refuse to pay exorbitant rent otherwise. Between mildewed walls, I march around my personalized world of trinkets and dust. I would lay around forever if I could, watching *Lost* reruns and counting down until tomorrow.

I am not ashamed of my itinerary of nothingness. The outdoors just aren’t for me.

In a world of the outdoors, I choose in.

Lydia Zuleta Johnson, student editor
lydia@nexusnewspaper.com

open space Standards of beauty for women still harmful

EMILY WELCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Society is hard on women. As long as history has been recorded women have been told that they are to be subservient, that they are “the lesser sex” or the “fairer sex.” Women have been thought of as ornaments and have been told that they are weak and if they get upset about this, then they are “hysterical.” It’s so great that times have changed.

season... The list never stops, and the pressure to be beautiful is with women every hour of every day, but remember, it’s not for anyone but for ourselves. Ha.

Even some young women in their early 20s, who don’t have a hint of any lines appearing on their skin yet, are injecting botox into their faces and collagen into their lips. Societal expectations have forced them to give up facial expressions for smooth, shiny skin,

I really have to push myself to accept that I’m okay, that I have a right to contribute to society no matter how I look, and I know many women feel the same insecurities.

They have, right?

Although there has been some advancement in society as far as treating women equally goes, the societal pressures to be attractive continue to skyrocket.

It used to be that women were encouraged to be attractive in order to secure a husband. Now the language has been conveniently turned around. The sky-high expectations for good looks are purely for us to feel good about ourselves.

Everywhere we look there are ads for anti-aging skin products, body-altering surgeries, makeup hacks to teach us how to contour our cheekbones in movie-star fashion, videos for home workouts that promise to help us lose that extra five pounds just in time for bikini

while keeping count of their daily steps and carbohydrates.

Exhausting.

I buy into all of it, too. How could I ignore it? I’m constantly wondering if I’m smart enough, thin enough, pretty enough, because if I’m not, then how can I be good enough?

We’re all trying to navigate this. I’ve made the decision to not have anything foreign implanted in my body. I also gave up experimenting with false eyelashes when one of them came unglued and fell into my salad.

But I really have to push myself to accept that I’m okay, that I have a right to contribute to society no matter how I look, and I know many women feel the same insecurities.

Something on your mind? If you’re a Camosun student, get in touch with us with your *Open Space* idea! Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com. Include your student number. Thanks!

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: RAY NUFER/NEXUS

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I just voted for Trudeau because I wanted to get baked."

indigenization

Camosun staff aim to decolonize English placement assessments

LYDIA ZULETA JOHNSON
STUDENT EDITOR

Born out of an idea conceived in 2019, Camosun College faculty, staff, and a steering committee of 15 members are working together to decolonize English placement assessments. With input from the college community and support from eight Canadian institutions, the Indigenizing English Placement Assessment (IEPA) project aims to create an inclusive and equitable environment to alleviate anxiety for prospective Indigenous students by including multimodality and storytelling traditions in assessments.

Camosun instructor and English placement counsellor Maureen Niwa is a founding member of the IEPA steering committee. She sees herself as a facilitator during the process, setting the groundwork and connecting community members to the initiative. Having been inspired by her work within the Lansdowne Assessment Centre and her drive for inclusivity in postsecondary education, she believes the tool will provide a more comfortable experience to better reflect Indigenous student abilities.

Camosun students are currently offered several alternative placement assessments designed specifically with different populations in mind. However, Niwa says that there has yet to be an assessment developed for Indigenous students, expressing Indigenous worldviews.

“We have all these different assessments and assessment tools

for our different populations, but nothing yet for Indigenous students. So we were really seeking for an assessment tool that reflected Indigenous worldviews and that is something that would be engaging and that would be friendly and comfortable and familiar for Indigenous students as they transition into postsecondary, given that assessment can be a nerve-wracking experience for some. And, of course, we want students to show what they know and to do the best they can,” she says. “So making a tool that is appropriate, culturally appropriate, and works for them is our goal.”

Placement assessments prepare students by evaluating where strengths and weaknesses lie. Niwa says assessment tools allow students to be accurately introduced to the postsecondary school education level, inspiring confidence and success, whereas being improperly prepared can lead to emotional and financial discouragement.

“[Indigenous students] can internalize that sense of not being prepared and not being ready, get really discouraged and drop out,” says Niwa. “The education ends. But the debt that they’ve incurred for not being placed in a good way doesn’t go away. And so you may be stuck, you know, working minimum wage to try to pay off maybe a student loan or a debt, and you’ve got nothing to show for it.”

Niwa feels a personally reflective design in postsecondary education is important for Indigen-

ous students to share honest and sincere writing in a comfortable environment.

“I think we’ve all been in that position where we possibly confront a question, let’s say, on a midterm or for an interview, and we don’t really know what to say,” she says. “We’re not sure because we don’t have that lived experience—we just don’t have that inner knowledge, and so we’re forced to respond very inauthentically. We’re trying to make it up, impersonate someone or something that we’re not. And that’s a very uncomfortable position to be in. And so that’s why it’s so important for students and Indigenous students to see their worldview reflected, that they know that they can share who they are and what they know.”

Niwa says the standard English placement assessment currently available to students is American-based—lacking Indigenous reading passages and writing prompts, and featuring a heavy bias toward materialistic, individualistic, and capitalistic topics. The current tool also contains potentially harmful language, putting Indigenous students in an unsafe position.

“The American-based tool also has not been looked at with an Indigenous lens. So much of the language can be very triggering, offensive, potentially, and there are no choices,” she says. “So the triggering language and the lack of choice is, again, something that we

“The triggering language and the lack of choice is, again, something that we would like to decolonize. So really, making sure that all the language that we use in the process and the tool is sensitive to intergenerational trauma, that’s very important that choices be built into the assessment.”

MAUREEN NIWA
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

would like to decolonize. So really, making sure that all the language that we use in the process and the tool is sensitive to intergenerational trauma, that’s very important that choices be built into the assessment.”

Retired Camosun Indigenous advisor, instructional assistant, and program leader Wendy McDonald is another founding member of the IEPA project. McDonald, who says the idea behind IEPA has been in the works for around 30 years, looks forward to seeing how the Indigenized assessment will better include Indigenous peoples and values.

“My hope is that [Indigenous students] can do an assessment like this, see themselves in it, and then just tell their story in a good way without just struggling with it,” she says.

McDonald says the addition of Indigenous-focused content in BC’s high-school education curriculum is not reflected in the assessment for

postsecondary. She says this is more reason to develop IEPA.

“The BC government has done all this work in creating programs like First Peoples English 10, First Peoples English 11, First Peoples English 12... They’ve been working on those programs, the curriculum for that... for years and years,” she says. “And so if you think about all the work that’s been done on that, so when a student takes those courses, for them to come to the college and not see any of that curriculum reflect[ed] in the assessment, it just seems so weird.”

McDonald believes course assessments to be no different than physical assessments—training and exercising to ensure a capable student. She hopes to remove the stigma students have about assessments that may cause resistance to the resource.

“What I always tell students,” says McDonald, “is that the assessment is your friend.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Joint Camosun campus opening delayed

The opening of a single campus building for four post-secondary institutions—including Camosun College—in downtown Langford has been delayed for one year. Initially planning to open its doors to students this fall, the campus hit roadblocks when experiencing labour shortages and material delays. Now expected to be open for students in September 2025, the joint campus will offer courses from Camosun, Royal Roads University, University of Victoria, and the Justice Institute of British Columbia. The project comes as a response to the Westshore’s below-average direct-to-post-secondary transition rate, with long commutes and housing shortages being significant barriers.

Camosun film studio plans on temporary hold

Camosun’s plan to build a soundstage for film and TV production at its Interurban campus is on a temporary hiatus as the college ended its relationship with its partner, Visionary Group, in early fall 2023, according to a recent

CHEK News report. Initial plans for the studio began in 2019 when Camosun saw opportunity for students looking to work in Vancouver Island’s rapidly growing film industry. After receiving government funding to further develop plans for the studio in 2021, the college announced in February 2023 plans to move ahead with approvals and construction. Camosun is currently considering finding a new partner for the project but has no confirmed next steps. A Camosun spokesperson confirmed to *Nexus* there are no further updates on Friday, May 24.

New grants available for women in finance

The Alitis Investment Counsel has partnered with Camosun College to offer new grants in an effort to be inclusive and diversify Vancouver Island’s finance sector with more opportunities for women in the field. Two \$1,500 Women in Finance grants will be awarded to women studying in the Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting Degree program, or the Accounting and Finance, Advanced Certificate program

at Camosun to celebrate and uplift students demonstrating dedication, passion, and drive to advance the industry and those around them. The award ceremony will take place at Camosun’s Interurban campus on Thursday, June 13.

Camosun student club places in nationals

The Camosun College Enactus team recently placed in the top four in Enactus’ national competition. The team showcased their Campus Quisine kits, which are designed to combat food insecurity among students, in the competition, which took place in Toronto from May 14 to 16, and placed as one of two national finalists, below the champion and runner-up. The team—still in their first year—also took home the Rookie Team Award. Enactus teams aim to use entrepreneurship and innovation to make a positive social impact.

Chargers women’s basketball get new coach

The Camosun Chargers women’s basketball team have a new head coach. John Dedrick will be bringing his experience coaching women’s basketball

at the University of Alberta and with the Grant MacEwan Griffins, as well as his time spent as girl’s technical director with Edmonton-based GOOD Hoops Basketball, to the position starting with the 2024-25 season. Look for our full story soon.

Camosun Library gets upgrade

The Camosun libraries’ main online search tool, Single Search, has been redesigned to feature new tools and a better user interface. In its preview stage now, the service goes live and is available to all Camosun students on Wednesday, August 14 with enhanced accessibility, personalized dashboards, additional ways to like and share resources, and more. A sneak peek of the software is available on the Camosun library homepage.

BCFS speaks up about overdose prevention

Following the recent overdose death of UVic student Sidney McIntyre-Starko, the British Columbia Federations of Students (BCFS) has released a statement addressing the ongoing toxic drug crisis. The federation—which

all Camosun students are paying members of—is taking action to support provincial student access to harm-reduction tools such as naloxone. Although free naloxone kits and education tools are currently available through community partners, accessibility to these resources are yet to be available on campus—something the BCFS advocates for. The BCFS hopes that with collaboration with community partners, decision-makers, and stakeholders, post-secondary institutions will be able to continuously provide emergency life-saving resources to ensure safe campuses.

L.I.F.E. program now open to students

The District of Saanich has expanded its Leisure Involvement for Everyone (L.I.F.E.) program, including making the program available to post-secondary students. L.I.F.E. offers access to recreation services and programs to low-income individuals and families residing in Saanich. See saanich.ca/life for details.

—LYDIA ZULETA JOHNSON,
STUDENT EDITOR
AND GREG PRATT,
MANAGING EDITOR

student projects

Camosun student builds world’s first flying canoe

AJ AIKEN
SENIOR WRITER

From the imagination of Camosun Mechanical Engineering Technology student Dermot MacDougall comes the Millenium Phoenix—the world’s first flying canoe. Built as a capstone project with four other Camosun students, MacDougall proved to himself with the canoe that he can bring an outrageous idea to fruition.

“I was thinking one day, I was at school, how cool would it be to make, like, a hydrofoil boat? How cool would it be to make something that you could just bring out to the lake, you could hop on and fly around on?” says MacDougall. “And keep this in mind—I was listening to a lot of *Top Gun* music at the time, so I was thinking about that. And I was thinking, well, it’d be kind of hard to make a boat itself. The hydrofoil stuff I kind of think I could do, but making a boat, maybe that’s a bit beyond me right now.”

However, MacDougall had an 18-and-a-half-foot-long canoe that he could put hydrofoils on and accomplish the gist of his idea. He pitched it as his capstone project and after a few returns to tweak the design, it was accepted by his instructors.

“That maiden flight was in August, and I had started this back in December,” he says. “So, it’d been eight months leading up to this.”

With only one successful lift-off from the water completed the day

“I knew my project was successful when people started asking me what’s next.”

DERMOT MACDOUGALL
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

before the showcase, the flying canoe set out to be graded.

“Basically, on that maiden voyage, when we did first hit the flight, I was really nervous beforehand because this had turned into me having some silly idea driving home from school to now I had four other students working with me; I had my professors out there; I had friends out there. Everybody coming to watch to see this thing at work. It turned into quite the ordeal, and it was this huge capstone project. So, I was pretty nervous about that.”

Out at Elk Lake with one instructor in the flying canoe, one in the safety boat with two teammates, and another instructor watching through a drone feed, the maiden voyage took flight.

“We finally get lined up and I pull the trigger, which is our throttle because we use an electric [motor], and I start going in the boat,” says MacDougall. “So, I press the trigger and it’s got quite a lot of power. There’s waves splashing everywhere, the boat’s rocking around. You can hear all the metal pieces shaking, shaking, shaking, you’re jolted back in your seat,

you’re moving, shaking, shaking, then—boom—silence and I could hear nothing else at this time. Just boom, silence, smooth. And I hear my professor say ‘dry hull,’ which, I just remember... I don’t even know how to say how excited I was then because that just meant the boat had lifted out of the water. So that was great. That was the coolest feeling ever.”

Getting about a foot to a foot and a half out of the water, the flying canoe successfully took flight. MacDougall says as he “came back to reality” he could hear his teammates screaming and cheering from the shore. He says he did around 10 test flights, each of which was roughly one to two minutes long. However, the true test of success for MacDougall came later.

“I knew my project was successful when people started asking me what’s next,” he says. “And that was the most satisfying part of this project once I was done. People weren’t being like, ‘Oh, that was crazy.’ They’re asking, ‘So what’s the next project? What’s the next crazy thing?’ That was... As a student, that is the best feeling.”



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Camosun student Dermot MacDougall and his Millenium Phoenix flying canoe.



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Special thanks to all the Camosun and Student Society staff that make the delivery of this program possible!



alumni

Camosun alumnus shares love of learning through tutoring



PHOTO PROVIDED
Camosun alumnus and current instructional assistant Matthew Heywood.

RAY NUFER
STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Matthew Heywood has learned a thing or two as a Camosun College student and instructional assistant, and now he’s eager to share his knowledge.

Heywood is a Physics instructional assistant at Camosun, and he also runs Heywood Academies, a tutoring business. Heywood studied Mechanical Engineering at

Camosun and Engineering at UVic, and he completed several co-op job positions while studying at both institutions.

After starting at Camosun, Heywood, like many students, endured a hard transition, initially struggling in his courses and failing his first calculus test.

“I had that moment where I’m like, okay, I’m either going to stop doing this now, or if I’m gonna

“By the time I finished my degree at Camosun and my degree at UVic, it was over five years that I had gone to school, and I felt like there should be a way that I can take that knowledge and pass it on to other people who are coming up.”

MATTHEW HEYWOOD
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

continue, I have to just give it 100 percent,” he says.

Heywood worked hard to catch up and do well academically, and achieved straight A+ grades and won several academic awards in his second year at Camosun. Heywood says that it’s incredibly important for students to plan their study hours.

“Especially for first-year students, you need to have your schedule organized and sorted out right at the beginning,” he says. “So people who are jumping into classes who haven’t had to study that much, if you don’t have a good structure to your schedule, it’s gonna be really hard to finish all of your assignments, study for your tests, and get enough sleep.”

Heywood says that co-op was an incredible tool in connecting his studies to his career. His first two co-op placements were at the same company, CryoLogistics Refrigeration. This was a startup that would make massive progress forward

in their main project, a prototype where a person could put a palette full of frozen food into a box and that box would keep itself cold.

“That was really cool to see a product go from something that you’re thinking of in your head to an actual real-life thing that exists and is being used in the industry,” he says.

The next company Heywood did a co-op placement with was BC Transit, doing fleet engineering, working with maintenance on buses in Victoria and all over BC. After transitioning to UVic, Heywood also did a co-op at the UVic Faculty of Science Machine Shop, where he learned about the manufacturing process. But back when he was looking for his first co-op job, although Heywood was confident about his grades, was volunteering, and was customizing his resume and cover letter for each position, it wasn’t working out.

“I did all the steps that seemed like the right steps to getting a co-op

job,” he says, “and I think I sent out 37 of those, and I didn’t hear back from a single one.”

His solution was to reach out personally—not just submit an application.

“I started talking to other people, like other students and teachers, and I found a teacher at Camosun that was working on a project and he needed some extra help with it,” says Heywood. “So he ended up bringing me on as a co-op student.”

Heywood says his mistake was “the belief that you can just throw out some resumes and that’s a for-sure way to get a co-op position, or any job,” something that he says just isn’t always the case.

“The reality is that it really is helpful to talk to people,” he says. “So don’t be afraid to go talk to your teachers, talk to other students, talk to anyone you know.”

Heywood’s period of teaching himself, finding success in his studies, and getting his first couple of career-relevant jobs became integral to the discovery of one of his passions: teaching and mentoring others. A year after graduating from UVic, Heywood started his own business tutoring students, which continues today.

“By the time I finished my degree at Camosun and my degree at UVic, it was over five years that I had gone to school, and I felt like there should be a way that I can take that knowledge and pass it on to other people who are coming up.”

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Breakin’ down the budget

What Budget 2024 means for me

Story by Dan Ellerton, student editorial assistant
Image by Ray Nufer, student editorial assistant

Budget 2024 has gotten quite a bit of coverage in the news lately, centred around the changes to the capital gains tax. Some experts claim that the new federal budget provides a welcome reprieve to families and disadvantaged communities, but others have been critical of the capital gains measures.

What hasn’t been discussed in nearly enough detail is how the new budget will affect post-secondary students.

We’ve broken the budget into six categories that are most relevant to students: housing, post-grad investment, technology research, student supports, Indigenous supports and official languages, and equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).

Housing
Victoria housing is the third most expensive real estate in the country, surpassed only by Vancouver and Toronto. Not only is housing in Victoria exorbitantly priced, but there’s also a complete lack of housing stock, making it nearly impossible for students to have housing security while they study. The 2024 budget addresses the housing needs of students; however, the measures being implemented will not provide results for years to come.

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Prince Solanki says that housing is the number-one problem facing students today.

“Housing right now, that is the main issue,” he says. “I’ve seen some students who are living in their car, actually. It was so bad.”

The measures taken by the government in the 2024 budget to alleviate the pressures of housing for students include \$19 million toward GST exemption for campuses that build purpose-built student housing. While this tax incentive will certainly help colleges and universities looking to build temporary housing, it falls short when compared to the \$15 billion in funding being offered to private developers through the Apartment Construction Loan Program—and that’s a top-up of an existing \$40 billion fund, bringing the total funding to private developers to \$55 billion over the next five years.

The big win regarding student housing comes from the inclusion of housing costs when calculating student loans.

I think the government could do far better than lining the pockets of private developers for a projected 131,000 more rental homes by 2030. This is a bit of a nothing burger when you consider Canada is short 300,000 units now. Subsidizing for-profit businesses to conduct normal operations will only work to drive up costs due to poor competition. The government would have done well to invest that \$55 billion into reducing the suffering we see on our streets by offering much more than \$19 million to student housing, or by increasing funding for truly affordable housing.

The big win regarding student housing comes from the inclusion of housing costs when calculating student loans. Students will see an immediate benefit—possibly the biggest win—by having more adequate coverage of actual housing costs. This is a much-needed change that will better support students, especially when those students live in one of the most expensive cities in the country.

Postgraduate investment
The 2024 budget offers much-needed investments in our humanitarian postgraduate research. The government is offering \$1.8 billion toward Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) research through the tri-council, which is comprised of The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). In addition to the \$1.8 billion earmarked for CORE, the government is also investing \$825 million toward increasing the number of available postgraduate scholarships and fellowships. The government estimates that this will allow 1,720 more scholarships or fellowships.

Lastly, the government has committed \$26.9 million to improve the managing system for issuing grants.

Technology and research funding
Students in STEM programs will be happy to know that the federal government has committed significant, and much needed, funding toward the technology and research sectors. Specifically, the government is putting \$2 billion into AI research and development and another \$3.1 billion toward nuclear energy. Given the government’s mandate to tackle climate change and find new strategies to replace the oil and gas sector, investment into alternative energy is critical to maintaining sustainable energy.

In addition to AI and energy, the government splashed a bit of cash into space exploration, arctic research, subatomic particle research, improving research databases, and the Brain Canada Foundation, a national charitable organization dedicated to brain research and health inequities.

Student supports
The government has heard the calls from our international student communities and has increased the allowable student work hours from 20 to 24 per week. On the surface, this sounds rather paltry, but Solanki says it will be helpful for international students trying to schedule work shifts; he also says that the increased hours can help with mental health. The 2024 budget offers a direct investment of \$500 million toward supporting the mental health of our youth.

“Students who are not getting enough money... They’ll be more stressed out,” he says. “So, it does have an effect on mental stress.”

Additionally, the government has stepped up its measures to support students with the cost of schooling and housing. First and foremost, it was a welcome surprise to see the government extend the increase of full-time student grants from \$3,000 a year to \$4,200 a year for 2024-2025. This is still \$1,800 less than pandemic levels, but at least we can all sleep well knowing that the amounts won’t be reduced to pre-pandemic levels. The additional \$1,200 a year will make a massive difference to many students struggling with today’s market.

The government has also permanently waived credit checks on student loans for mature students, which will allow more individuals who’ve experienced life difficulties or are economically disadvantaged to receive an education. The government predicts this measure will impact about 1,000 students who otherwise would be blocked from higher education due to financial constraints.

The government has permanently waived credit checks on student loans for mature students, which will allow more individuals who’ve experienced life difficulties or are economically disadvantaged to receive an education.

The government has also increased the threshold for interest-free student loans to \$300 a week, up from \$210 a week. The extra \$90 amounts to an additional \$1,260 dollars for full-time students per semester.

Added to this is a commitment over the coming years to increase funding to continue the Youth Employment Strategy and the Student Work Placement Program. The government hasn’t actually committed any new funds to either of these two programs in the 2024 budget, but at least they are talking about it—I’d have liked to have seen at least a modest amount earmarked for continuing to support young talent entering the workforce.

Students entering the fields of health care and education will be happy to know that the government is offering complete loan forgiveness to those who become a nurse, doctor, or early childhood educator in rural communities. This particular addition will help many communities that do not have adequate access to healthcare and education.

Indigenous supports
I think this section of the budget was a flop. While many positives came out of this budget in efforts to support Indigenous communities, I feel the government fell short on some areas of its funding. For example, Budget 2023 committed \$1.4 billion dollars to official languages (English and French), with Budget 2024 investing an additional \$26 million over the next five years. Yet, Budget 2024 only gave Indigenous peoples a total of \$290 million for languages and cultural reclamation and revitalization. French and English languages have historically been well-funded, maybe even over-funded, whereas Indigenous languages have barely even registered within Canadian federal budgets.

This government has shouted loudly about how committed they are to Truth and Reconciliation, but when they earmark \$1.4 billion to already well-funded and established languages in last year’s budget and only \$290 million to Indigenous languages and culture in this year’s, it makes one wonder if the government is just giving lip service to one of the more important aspects of Canadian culture.

The government has stepped up to the plate in other areas that support Indigenous communities. One such area, on-reserve K-12 education, received \$1.194 billion to support youth and promote education in ways that are consistent with Indigenous learning. The budget goes on to further support higher

education in re in an Indigeno and Learning

The 2024 b \$630.2 million based on the c modest increa Indigenous stu Student Suppo \$68.1 million f Strategies Fun

This g ho Recor billion langua million in th govern the m

All total, th munities. This out to private d often help larg

The good n says Solanki.

“Camosun is always supp a great thing. I working hard

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...remote northern Indigenous communities by investing \$5.2 million
...us-led post-secondary school, the Dechinta Centre for Research
...in the Northwest Territories.
...udget invests further into Indigenous mental health, to the tune of
... This is a drastic increase, but still falls far short of what is needed,
...urrent cost of mental health care. Indigenous research obtained a
...se in funding of \$30 million, while adding \$242.7 million to help
...dents access post-secondary studies through the Post-Secondary
...ort Program through Indigenous Services Canada, and an ongoing
...or Métis and Inuit students through the Post-secondary Education
...d set forth in the 2019 budget.

...government has shouted loudly about
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...more important aspects of Canadian
...culture.

...e government has committed \$9.02 billion for Indigenous com-
... amount is small when compared to the \$55 billion being doled
...development firms, along with provinces and urban centres, which
...e corporate businesses more than the communities they operate in.
...ews is that Camosun strongly supports Indigenous communities,

...is always going to support the Indigenous peoples," he says. "There
...ort for Indigenous peoples, we always recognize them. And that's
...would say the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations has been
...these last few years for the Indigenous people."

...efers to equity, diversity, and inclusion. The government has
...ted focus around EDI by tackling hate against the 2SLGBTQI+
...munity. They are giving \$3 million to help increase security at pride
...nother \$12.9 million to improve the availability and collection of
...ta.

...nment has also added another \$12 million to the federal Women
...uality Canada department in project funding aimed at combating
...e 2SLGBTQI+ community.

...rall, the budget has addressed some of the more pressing concerns
...dents may have; some areas received more funding than expected,
...ere other areas received significantly less than expected. While
...arly expresses a desire by the Canadian government to have a "no
...d" strategy, I do not feel that this budget will help lower the cost
...nadians, especially students. The 2024 budget falls short where
...t: the cost of living and housing. The budget is highly contentious
...fierce opposition by political parties and industry experts, even
...vere some big wins for students.

...on to student housing support is welcome news, especially for
...oking to increase student residences, however, the restrictions
...nternational students over the next two years will make it harder
...s and colleges to afford such costly capital expenditure projects.
...cial aspects of the budget, I feel the government has really met
...eds, like the elimination of credit screening for mature students
...es to allowable work hours for international students.

...t falls short in some areas, like the lack of funds allocated toward
...digenous languages, but the budget did make some big moves in
...dents with the cost of education, like the inclusion of housing costs
...ns, the extension of the increase to student grants, the increase of
...rs for international students, and the incentivization for schools
...at housing.

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art
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria opens two galleries to show new view



ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA

Meryl McMaster’s *Winged Calling* (above) and a bronze dragon finial from the Han Dynasty (below) are both being shown in *A View from Here* at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.



MACKENZIE GIBSON
SENIOR WRITER

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV) recently made a big change in how it displays its collections. Having amassed a substantial archive of Asian, Indigenous, and Canadian art and artifacts, the AGGV has opened two ongoing galleries to permanently display their collections to the public. The new venture is called *A View From Here*, and Steven McNeil, one of the co-curators of the project, couldn’t be more excited.

“It’s a co-curated show between myself, Dr. Hangzhou, who’s our curator of Asian art, and Mel Grandly, who was our assistant curator and a specialist in contemporary Indigenous art. We were trying to come up with an overarching title that would apply to all three of the collections that we were showcasing. We went with *A View From Here* in the end, because it is a way of looking at the collection at this point in time, literally being a view of where we’re at. We’re reassessing what the future of the gallery is going to be and how we’re collecting.”

The gallery featuring the Asian art collection in particular has been a long time coming. The AGGV boasts the largest collection of Asian art and artifacts in Western Canada, but for most of its history there hasn’t been room in the main gallery to share both the rotating exhibits and the impressive Asian works they have. So, for decades they were kept in the archive.

“It’s also sort of reimagining

“We’re reassessing what the future of the gallery is going to be and how we’re collecting.”

STEVEN MCNEIL
ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA

how we present our collection to the public, because most of what you see there has been in storage for quite a long time. We haven’t had a permanent gallery devoted to the Asian collections, for example, in quite a long time, but we used to... It’s also a sign of Victoria’s geography and history. You know, we have the oldest Chinatown in Canada here, we’ve had large Asian populations who have contributed a lot to the city over the years. So naturally, there are works of art and historical artifacts circulating in the city and have been for generations and generations. So it was kind of a natural fit for the gallery to collect in that area.”

McNeil worked on the Canadian portion of the new galleries and is keenly aware of the ways curating an exhibit and arranging art to tell a story is its own art form.

“It’s a challenge to take one gallery and try to represent a historical collection that goes back several decades and generations,” he says. “Through dividing up the space with wall color, and just visual

divides, we have a section for early 20th-century modernism, we have a section for mid-century modernism, and we have a section for Victorian painting with the big salon hanging at the back of the gallery where the ceilings are high. And then we have a contemporary section. So it feels like a series of rooms, even though it’s one big room, and that was fun to do.”

McNeil also wants students to know about a new development at the AGGV that will encourage them to come check out this, and other, exhibits.

“Admission is free for everyone who’s 25 and under now,” he says. “That’s a fairly recent change we made because we didn’t want the cost of an admission ticket to be a barrier to undergraduate students and young people coming into the gallery as often as they wanted.”

A View from Here
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
aggv.ca

books

Camosun alumnus Ren Louie releases second children’s book



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun alumnus and author of *Teachings of the Drum* Ren Louie.

AJ AIKEN
SENIOR WRITER

Child wonder meets cultural traditions in Camosun alumnus Ren Louie’s second children’s book, *Teachings of the Drum*.

Based on his own life, the story teaches children about Indigenous drums and embracing cultural identity. A 2019 graduate of Camosun’s Indigenous Studies program, Louie says the book is also a personal reflection of his own cultural relationship.

“It’s still a true story about me and basically my upbringing and

my cultural upbringing, and it all takes place here in Victoria, pretty much from, I would say, ’04 to ’07,” he says. “It’s a neat little story that allowed me to reflect on my childhood and all the people that made it special.”

Teachings of the Drum is similar in theme to his first book, *Drum from the Heart*, but there are a few notable differences in target demographic and writing style.

“The demographic for this one is ages four to six. So, it’s an adaptation of the original story and this one is a nice cozy read,” says Louie.

“It’s a rhyming book and I think it kind of makes you feel warm and fuzzy on the inside. And we took a lot of inspiration from the work of Dr. Seuss and such, with a nice little story that ties the elements of the first story together, but for a younger audience, and kind of focuses on specific topics rather than all the topics covered in the first book.”

The book focuses on the practice of caring for one’s drum, however, to keep the teachings age appropriate, some concepts were left out.

“So, usually, you can warm a drum by the fire,” says Louie. “We specifically took that teaching out of this book because of the age category, 4 to 6, and just not wanting the young kid to either be working with fire or an oven or something. It was kind of the greater good of the decision to not share that teaching with such a young audience because generally speaking, we don’t tell kids about the fire at that age.”

Louie’s passion for storytelling extends beyond the genre of children’s books. He would like to someday teach at the post-secondary level.

“I love every aspect of our culture, but I specifically love the efforts of revitalization to storytelling. And I think if we could, if I could have a role teaching Indigenous stories, I think I would really enjoy that,” he says. “So, Indigenous literature is a huge passion of mine.”

There are more children’s books



to look forward to from Louie—he says he has quite a few stories to share.

“We’re currently working on a story about a grandmother and a cedar tree,” he says. “And I don’t think I can share much more than that, but I think the good news is probably in the next year, this book should be, hopefully, on the shelf.”

In addition to writing children’s books, Louie brings Indigenous drumming into schools.

“I go to the classes, and I drum and sing with the kids. I read them my book and answer any questions they have, and they really enjoy it. And over the eight years [I’ve been

doing this], I’ve seen a huge shift. Now... when I go to the classes, I just lead the songs, they know how to sing, and they know how to sing certain songs. And I think that’s wonderful.”

Louie’s message to aspiring writers has not changed over the years since his first book. He passes on the same advice Indigenous writer and activist Lee Maracle gave him.

“She said, to any Indigenous person who’s interested in reading or writing, the two words that she shared with me, and with anyone who has an interest, was ‘Get writing.’”



Listen and Learn

by AJ Aiken

Dayglo Abortions member looks back on controversy at Camosun



AJ AIKEN/NEXUS

Murray “Cretin” Acton (right) playing live with the Dayglo Abortions on May 17.

Reminding everyone that they’re still alive, local punks Dayglo Abortions kicked off their cross-Canada Not Dead Yet tour on Friday, May 17 at Phoenix Bar & Grill.

The Dayglos (“A Canadian punk band that uses satire and sarcasm as a weapon,” according to their Facebook page; “Insolence vs. intolerance since 1980.”) have a reputation for controversy that they’ve been spreading for 10 full-length albums. The original line-up, Murray “Cretin” Acton on guitar and vocals, Jesus Bonehead on drums, and Trevor “Spud” Hagen on bass—all juvenile delinquents in their own rights—started a band to keep themselves out of trouble.

“We all decided we had to find something constructive to do with our time or we were all going to end up in jail,” says Acton. “So, we started jamming and stuff... We had this band called The Sick Fucks for maybe a year and a half, two years there in the late ’70s and then started the Dayglos in 1980.”

The name “Dayglo Abortions” is derived from a combination of the most controversial topic of the late ’70s and a prize The Sick Fucks won at a battle of the bands (“A bunch of spray paint,” says Acton). A stroke of good fortune helped the Dayglos get their first album made: a friend offered to pay for the band to make a record, but there was a catch.

“It’s funny because this guy

“The guys that I play with are my best friends. We don’t just sit around and do nothing; we’re constructive.”

MURRAY ACTON
DAYGLO ABORTIONS

friend of ours inherited some money,” says Acton. “He goes, ‘I’ll pay for you guys to make a record. There’s only one catch, you know, I don’t want it to sell in stores. I don’t want to make a record that they can even put in a store.’ Wow... I’m your man. So, it was actually a conspiracy to manufacture obscene music, which is funny because that’s what they tried to charge us with.”

The charge in question was related to the band’s third album, 1988’s *Here Today, Guano Tomorrow*. The band was charged with obscene material (the first time in Canada’s history a band faced this charge) but were cleared of charges and won the case in a 1990 Supreme Court trial. But the trials and tribulations the Dayglos have gone through didn’t start or end there.

Acton was a Camosun Electronics student in the band’s early days, and their material wasn’t met with open arms on campus.

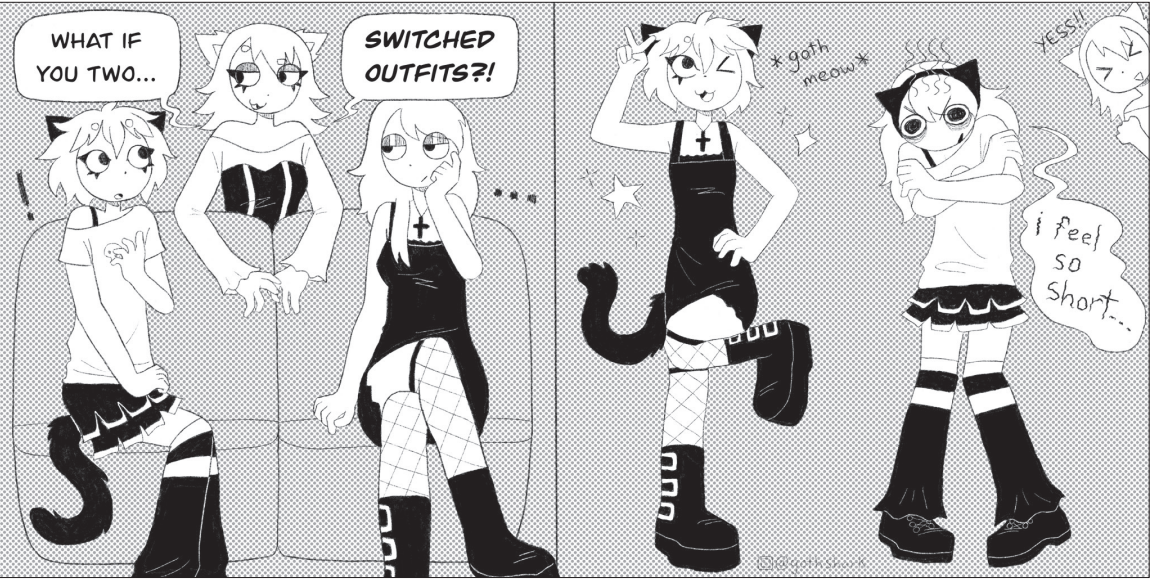
“Out at the Interurban campus there... Yeah, that was weird,” says Acton. “When the Dayglos album first came out I was going to Camo-

sun College, and I got attacked by a bunch of militant feminists and their effeminate husbands. It’s pretty funny... They go, ‘There he is!’ They yelled at their husbands, ‘Go get him!’ I had to plow through them with my knapsack full of books and bonk a couple of them over and stuff. It was kind of embarrassing, actually.”

Dayglo Abortions have been the centre of protests, a Supreme Court of Canada case, and played shows that could better be described as riots yet are still going strong decades later. So, what’s the secret to the longevity?

“It’s fun. It’s something that is real,” says Acton. “The guys that I play with are... they’re my best friends. [Drummer] Blind Marc and [guitarist] Matt [Fiorito] are literally my best friends. So, we got something that we do. We don’t just sit around and do nothing; we’re constructive. We have fun. Oh, and wreck people’s weekends for them and stuff like that. We’re not going to change the world, but we can change your night, that’s for sure.”

Ruby Rioux and the Bats from Saturn - Ray Nufer



Things That Happen - Jaiden Fowler



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Week of May 27, 2024, top five most read stories:

- 1. “Nic’s Flicks: How Star Wars copied Dune,” March 25, 2024
- 2. “Lydia’s Film Critique: A late ‘90s action-thriller double feature,” May 8, 2024
- 3. “Open Space: Camosun needs to support Palestine,” April 3, 2024
- 4. “The Marriage of Figaro beautiful and exciting opera,” April 4, 2024
- 5. “Under the underground: Victoria’s punk house-show legacy,” March 20, 2024

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Kiryn's Wellness Corner

Keeping hydrated

Because we're moving into the warmer months, this is a great time to talk about water.

Most of us don't think of water as a nutrient, never mind a vitally essential nutrient. A quick internet search will tell you that water is an inorganic compound comprised of two molecules of hydrogen and one molecule of oxygen, and it's the life force of this planet—yourself included. There are countless articles and apps on our phones to help us remember to drink up. So why is it so easy to forget to get enough water in a day?

Many of us are familiar with the standard advice of drinking eight cups per day. As a holistic nutritionist, I know that every person has different needs at different times, depending on our environment,

the food and drink we consume, and what kind of and how much exercise we get.

A great rule of thumb to remember is if you feel thirsty, you're already dehydrated. Proper hydration is crucial to keep your blood thin and reduce strain on your heart; it also keeps your outermost protective barrier—your skin—intact and aids in healthy digestion. In addition to having a glass or two upon rising (you've just gone through eight hours of no liquids), eat lots of foods with high water content, which will make it easier to stay hydrated. I love to add frozen grapes or berries to my water to give it a little hint of flavour and cool it off.

Water can also be a part of your yoga practice. In yoga, instructors often speak of your "off-the-mat"

practice. This involves incorporating some of the philosophies of yoga into your daily life. These are called the *yamas* and *niyamas*; I'll delve into those more in coming articles. For now, as you think about drinking water, know that it can also be a wonderful mediation tool.

We're blessed to be surrounded by water here on Vancouver Island; I invite you to visit the ocean or one of our many lakes and give yourself a quiet five to 10 minutes just listening to the sounds of the waves, inhaling the smells, and noticing how the water is moving. A mindfulness meditation like this helps to activate the parasympathetic nervous system, which calms and relaxes the body.

Until next time, keep it real and keep hydrated.

by Kiryn Quinn



Lydia's Film Critique

by Lydia Zuleta Johnson

Ikiru

I was fortunate to see Akira Kurosawa's *Ikiru* on the big screen. In a dark theatre there are no distractions, no pauses, nor is there any sense of time. The isolation of a blackened room forces even the least sentimental to reflect. With my beloved, I reminisced in silence on

monotonous routine, Kanji looks first to hedonism, reinvigorated by the freedom of leaving his job. In bars and bottles of sake, he searches for small adventures around the city to replenish a wasted past. In partnership with Toyo (Miki Odagiri), a bubbly young woman

The ego may thrive off pleasure, but a life well-lived does not. *Ikiru* is rich in these small wisdoms—reminders of the bare necessities of a human spirit.

our trip back home via my favourite bus route. The passing trees and old bungalow homes are weathered, rife with life of their own. I really must start living someday, they remind me. One day.

Our protagonist is Kanji Watanabe (Takashi Shimura), a bored and lonely bureaucrat. Behind piles of stamped and unstamped documents, he waits for his sand to run out before the paperwork does. A narrator informs the audience that Kanji has yet to ever live. And to make matters worse, in recent days his stomach has developed severe pain. This is where our story begins.

In the doctor's office waiting room, Kanji is diagnosed with gastric cancer by an observant patient. He is told if the doctors should lie and deem his pain only a mild stomach ulcer with no necessary operations, he has no more than a year to live.

In the doctor's office, Kanji is diagnosed with a phony mild stomach ulcer. Kanji is now aware he will live no longer than a year.

In search of meaning to his

and colleague, Kanji extracts as much indulgence as he can out of the material world until it depletes.

"Ikiru" translates from Japanese as "to live"—a direct spoiler of what our protagonist's prophecy hopes to fulfill. The ego may thrive off pleasure, but a life well-lived does not. *Ikiru* is rich in these small wisdoms—reminders of the bare necessities of a human spirit.

In a sudden burst to affect change in his small world, Kanji rallies with a mob of women proposing to build a park. This is now his life's mission, and in turn his legacy.

Ikiru plays as a parable, exposing a lesson in life and death to the modest audience among my viewing. Now, death is no longer a fear in the eyes of a lived man.

As a narrator's timeline progressed, Kanji plays himself out in song. To the very last beat of his heart, he sings: "Life is brief, fall in love, maidens, before the crimson bloom, fades from your lips, before the tides of passion cool within you, for there is no such thing as tomorrow, after all."

4/5



Not the Last Word

Help on Pandora

On Thursday, May 16, Pandora Avenue was buzzing with emotion. The encampments were being torn down and people's belongings were being thrown into dumpsters. Since I work at one of Victoria's safe-consumption sites, I was there to witness it all. However, it was nothing new to me. In fact, every time I arrive at work I see exactly this same thing. So I was slightly amazed that the news was buzzing this particular day.

Do people think that this kind of thing actually changes what is happening there? I read many comments on the news that upset me. Not very many people had empathy for those involved. Comments talking about "the human filth" and "lazy homeless" were just the tip of the iceberg.

This small section of downtown Victoria—The Block, as it's

known—is reserved for the people of the city that no one wants to acknowledge, with its social destitution, open drug use, and poverty. This is where I work. The majority of the people living there are unhoused, with varying levels of functionality. Comorbidity between substance-use disorder and other mental illnesses are high among the unhoused, whose behaviours are often unpredictable. People are not washed very well; they are often volatile, aggressive, or "flailing." If they speak it might not be easy to understand. I've noticed that either there is a great deal of mumbling or they might not make much sense.

To someone who isn't familiar with this sort of scene, it can seem scary, even horrifying. Harm reduction can be hard to understand, and it's a movement that brings on much controversy.

The whole premise of harm reduction is not about promoting or enabling drug use. It does, however, recognize that drug use and homelessness is a problem that's not going away, and that the people who are in these situations are worthy and deserving of respect.

If someone has a life-threatening illness, for instance, the idea is to try and make the sufferer as comfortable as possible and let them live their life with dignity. Harm reduction works with the same idea in mind. Any time we fully grasp the notion that we need to help others to live their lives with comfort, without as much chaos and hardship, that's when we might actually see people start to want to make some changes. But even if that doesn't happen, at least their current world won't be filled with so much darkness if people just showed more empathy.

by Emily Welch

June Horoscope

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

During the first half of the month, you're more likely to think before you speak—especially with siblings and neighbours—as the Gemini new moon sextiles your third house. Into the middle and end of the month, you may feel the urge to beautify your home with the influence of Venus entering Cancer on June 17. The Capricorn full moon on June 21 squares your 10th house of career, so you may have to overcome obstacles at work, especially from your manager.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

The second house is the theme of your Gemini new moon—this means new beginnings regarding your income and possessions. You may be purchasing new material objects you wanted or making a little more money. You could even be starting a new job, especially in sales, commerce, or writing. The full moon in the sign of Capricorn trines your sign in the ninth house—you may be self-publishing your writing work this month.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21)

The new moon on June 6 is in your sign, meaning the theme of the new moon is your first house—this is a time of self focus. The full moon

in Capricorn crosses your eighth house, illuminating shared resources and other people's money. It's possible you're thinking of putting some money away. It's worth noting that Jupiter's transit into Gemini in May is generally affecting your year—good luck is on the horizon for you in 2024.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

The Gemini new moon falls in your 12th house and is supported by Mercury and Venus. Things are happening behind the scenes for you, as opposed to out in the open—this could specifically be a writing project. If you have a partner, the full moon in Capricorn on June 21 will put the spotlight more on your partner than yourself, illuminating something that is culminating or wrapping up for them.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

This month will open up opportunities for you to meet new people or groups and make new friends as the new moon passes your 11th house. If you have your own business, get the message out that you're looking for opportunities. The full moon in Capricorn on June 21 will call attention to your health and day-to-day activities—this could mean a job change, as well. For some Leos,

the emphasis will be on your health, even the small things.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

The Gemini new moon squares your sign in the 10th house. You could be feeling insecure about your career or reputation. You could be asked to rewrite something, if writing is involved in your work. The Capricorn full moon brings more beneficial energy into the themes of the fifth house—this could mean your business, children, or a new love.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Ninth house topics abound for your new moon on June 6—you could be travelling locally or with your job. You may also be focusing on subjects of higher education during this time. There may be some issues around structure or rules to do with your home around the time of the Capricorn full moon, as the fourth house relates to your home and family.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Shared resources such as new business partnerships, shared bank accounts, and other people's money in general have the potential for a

new start come June 6, due to the eighth house the new moon passes through in your sign. This is also a good new moon to choose a therapy option if this is something you need. The Capricorn full moon sextiles your sign, and will allow you to reap what you have sowed around your negotiations.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Marriage partners, business partners, and clients will experience a new start as the new moon is in your oppositional sign of Gemini on June 6—communications with these people are highlighted. The full moon will illuminate your value, and your value based on your income—this could mean you re-evaluate your job, as you may not feel satisfied with the income you get from the energy you put in.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

A major topic of the sixth house is health and illness—something that the Gemini new moon is bringing you a refresh in, especially if you have had ill health in the past or present. Supported by Jupiter, you'll be feeling a lot better, and surrounded by Jupiterian teachers and advisor-type figures. By the full

moon in your sign on June 21, you'll be letting go of structures that have been holding you back.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

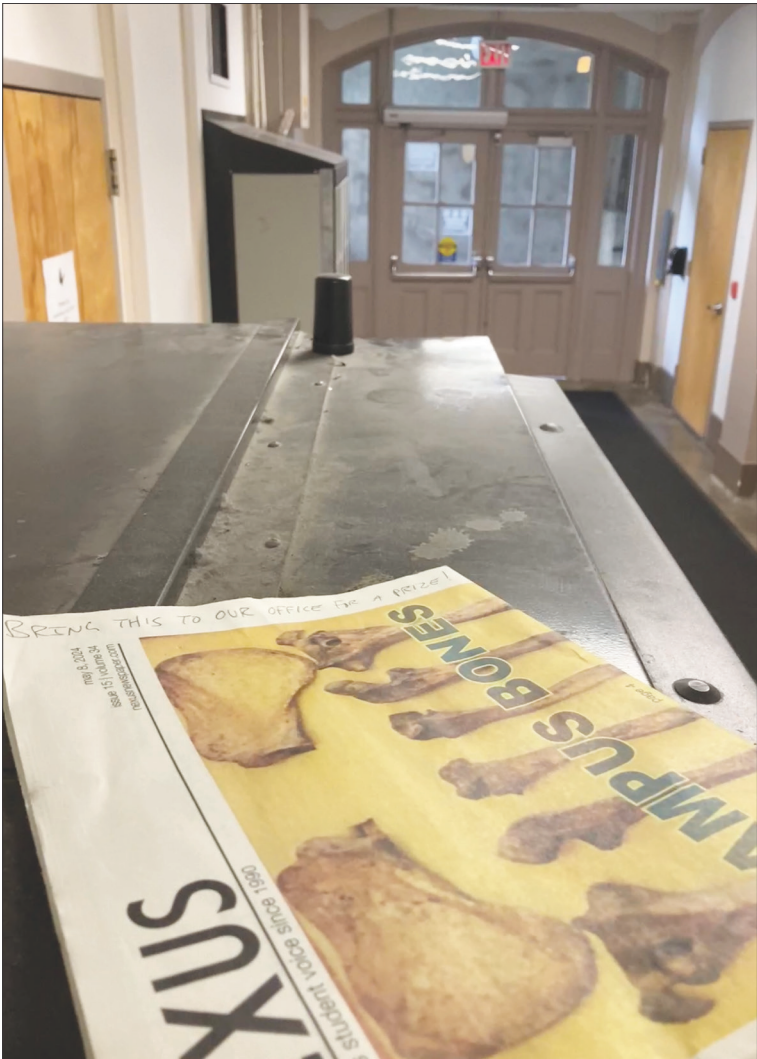
The Gemini new moon highlights your fifth house—communications will come in around a new love, potential pregnancy, or new business contracts. Opportunities to travel through business may come up. The Capricorn full moon passes through the 12th house, but there's also an activation of the sixth house—you may do something behind the scenes that has to do with, or brings up, your job or health. This could mean a hospital visit from an injury at work, for example.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

The new moon in Gemini squares your sign in the fourth house, but Jupiter and Venus soften the blow. Some Pisces will need an adjustment in their home situation or family around this period of time, but while there may be problems in the home, you'll be well supported. It's time to practice negotiation. The full moon in Capricorn on June 21 will show that you have brought structure to your hopes, dreams, and wishes.

by Ray Nufer

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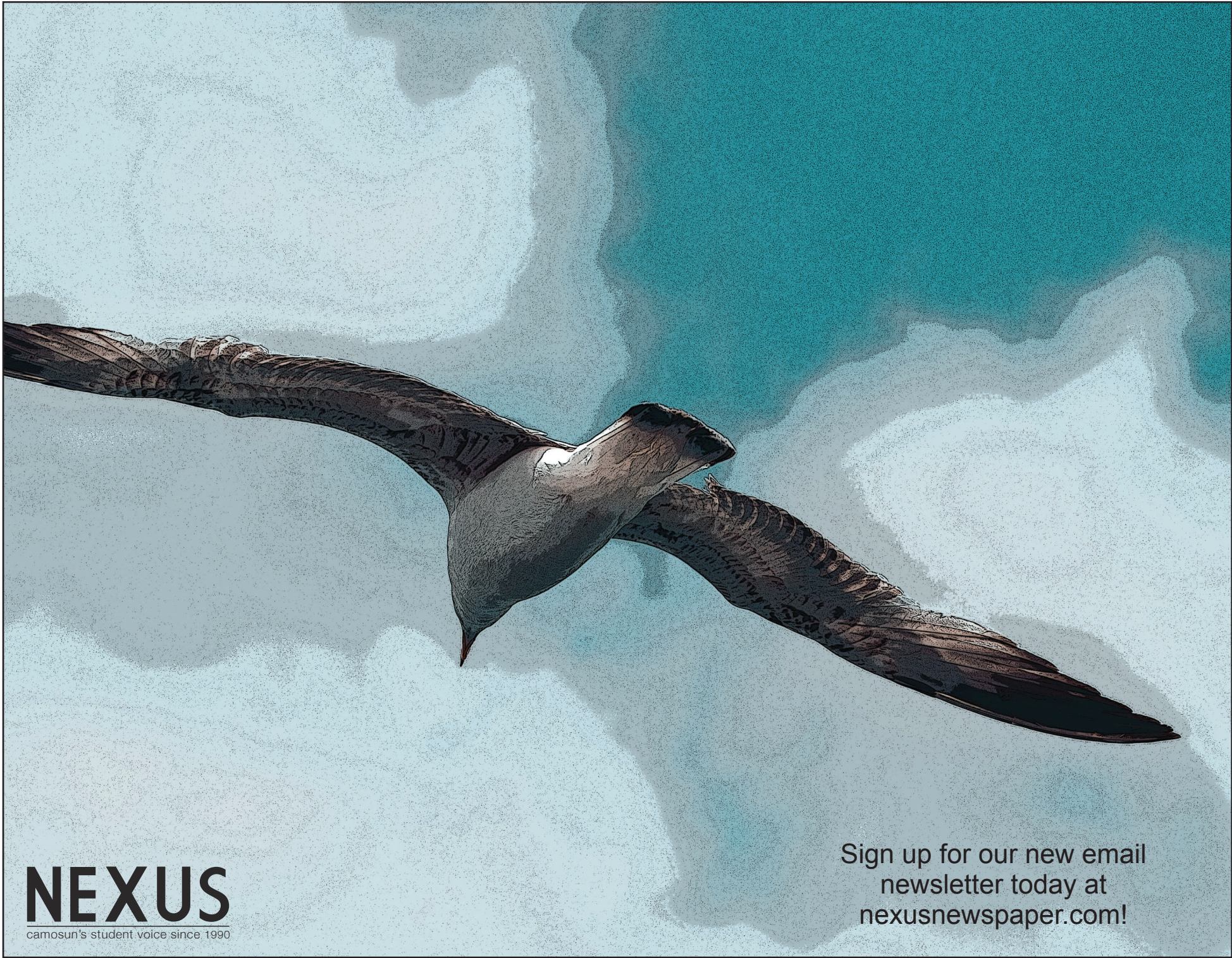


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