

HURRICANE FAITH

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NEXUS

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editor’s letter On self discovery

I am told that to find oneself, one must take special care to study the interior, to search for the stripped ego and pure form through a dedicated ritual. It has been known among young adults, scrambling to find a semblance of self assurance, that we must distill a genuine character from any exterior influences that cloud the truest self. It seems necessary that the truest self is never a product of a larger image, but an isolated one that feeds only from itself. Sometimes this takes displacement, taking the body out of its element, though this leads to contradiction.

Perhaps we yearn for the self in the closest large city between the wee hours of the morning—the romantic that had their wings clipped by strip malls and gossip finds high noon in a subway tunnel. Other times, most favoured by those who feel still lacking in an ideal self later in life and have the means to afford it, one may seek retreats, curated experiences to refine an identity through western-scrubbed eastern traditions.

In our day-to-day efforts, we take classes, begin hobbies, end hobbies, begin journalling, let slip journalling as a routine and begin guilt. It is an exhaustion that promises a fundamental reward. This appears to be, in this culture, required to announce oneself as self-actualized and be revered for one’s certainty.

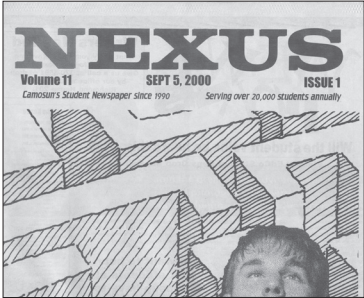
Of course, to assume this position—that, to become whole, one must seek in themselves one authentic person—seems to misunderstand the fluidity of our nature. We are whole by the very definition of keeping alive.

As I have come to see myself, I have only one thing sure of the entirety: I exist as an assemblage of erratic impulses that clash and reform by their own will. No piece can be claimed as the whole, nor are they fixed or inert. In fact, acting as if they are restricts what could be.

When we speak of this pursuit, I find the conversation dull and an arranged self to be constraining. We age into many versions, lose the meaning of our lives and recollect it. What we leave behind is just as important as what we adopt. Instead, what I believe we should attempt at most is noticing, watching when the tides have changed and new fragments have washed ashore. It is a ceaseless chase to find a singular self, to look for static shapes in malleable forms. In the process, all we may find is mere pieces and claim them as complete.

Lydia Zuleta, student editor

flashback 25 Years Ago in Nexus



LYDIA ZULETA
STUDENT EDITOR

Fall-ing and can’t get up: Former *Nexus* writer Jon Valentine’s “Top 10 Things to Look Forward to in the New School Year” reads like a schoolboy manifesto. For our September 5, 2000 issue, he modelled his insight and prophesized the BC government’s end of a tuition freeze (resulting in the collective student debt of \$500 billion), and, on the institutional level, the student society’s stark reduction. While these don’t quite measure up as things to look forward to, standing at a misplaced number 10 is the “Kentucky Fried Chicken Sweatin’ Weightliftin’ Gym,” which by today’s standards would satisfy the bonus protein we seem to be all searching for in the most unlikely of places. A timeless classic, “The end of the world,” makes the list, proving how angst is never out of style.

Feline fatale: An abandoned tenacious kitty that had sharpened its survival skills at Camosun College becomes the subject of a sex scandal, the headline reads, more or less. In this issue, we covered res-

cued cat Firsty, who was abandoned on the Lansdowne campus among her small litter of kittens. Fortunately, the single mother of two was brought home safe with *Nexus* managing editor Barbara Risto, where they found much needed TLC. Local pet rescuer Tryntje Horn says this wasn’t an isolated incident—at the time, she was caring for 21 cats in her personal residence. Prospective pet owners, they say, should follow six core tenets before looking for a furry friend: spay or neuter, water is essential, vaccinate, identify your pet, purchase quality food, and be trustworthy. But Firsty adds, provide plenty of treats.

Lacklustre blockbuster: In late summer of the year 2000, the Hollywood schlock factory was firing on all cylinders. Films that now line the dusty DVD and VHS racks of second-hand stores were stirring cinephiles into lines around the box office; at the front of these lines was none other than *Nexus*’ own Jon Valentine. This issue, he plowed through forgotten flicks such as *What Lies Beneath*, *The Perfect Storm*, *The Cell*, and *Nutty Professor II: The Klumps*. With the exception of *The Klumps*, Valentine was surprisingly lenient in his criticism of the Y2K August lineup, calling *The Perfect Storm* “the best movie of the summer. Period.” While the statement is obviously false, it’s nice to see some respect for Wolfgang Petersen’s Hollywood era in print. Or maybe you just had to be there.

open space Stop and smell the campus

DANIELLE MIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Just last May, I, like so many other Business students, made a gruelling decision. One that would fill the preceding few months with stress, anxiety, and exhaustion. I decided to take summer courses.

With the arrival of the warmth and the flourish of nature, students yearned longingly for the outside. I saw it in my peers and felt it myself. Studying business offers little opportunity to be outdoors and focuses heavily on stagnant computer work. But the more time I spent at Interurban, the more I came to realize how spoiled we are here.

While an urban campus may offer more amenities and convenience, it doesn’t have the same lush scenery or fresh air. And it’s not just the beauty—immersion in nature is well-known to have therapeutic benefits.

While an urban campus may offer more amenities and convenience, it doesn’t have the same lush scenery or fresh air. And it’s not just the beauty—immersion in nature is well-known to have therapeutic benefits. I’ve found eating my lunches outdoors below the trees to have a calming effect that helps me relax before a presentation. The plaza outside the Interurban library can be found filled with students in the summer months, chatting with friends and classmates while lapping up some much-needed vitamin D.

Camosun’s two campuses, which include Lansdowne as well, offer many opportunities to further immerse yourself in nature. The library at Interurban provides walking kits with plant identification books and maps to explore nearby trails. Lansdowne boasts a Native Plant Garden, where students can experience the unique biodiversity in the area. The same campus is situated on a vast Garry oak ecosystem. More opportunities are available on the campuses themselves and the Camosun website.

As someone who lives their life to a soundtrack of sirens, car engines, and idling busses in the

heart of downtown, peace is precious. And although the commute up to Interurban is long, being able to look out of the window in class and be greeted by a sea of trees is amazing. Spending the day up at a park or lake takes planning, time, and energy. We can’t forget the benefits that having a campus surrounded by Garry oaks and diverse flora and fauna presents.

As Business students delve ever deeper into the world of the digital, we tend to forget our surroundings. Sitting at our computers for hours on end, studying in the library, and working on the side are common aspects of life for us. It’s no surprise

many of us want to escape to the natural world in the few perfect summer months.

The schoolwork is rigorous as well. In marketing, for example, the heavy emphasis on group projects means that planning to be out of touch during free time isn’t always possible. Business admin in general includes countless hours of computer work, whether that be working on Excel, researching statistics, or preparing presentations, among other things. While achieving a credential in business admin can be rewarding, it can be very mentally taxing and it’s important to remember to recharge your batteries.

With so much of our time and energy consumed, students can’t or simply don’t feel like making the effort to go out and experience nature. I myself would much rather do something low effort, admittedly, staying in to watch TV shows when I get the chance. Lansdowne and Interurban present great, everyday opportunities to immerse yourself in the natural world and enjoy the sunshine before fall inevitably rolls in. So the next time you need to decompress and reconnect with the earth, try doing it where you already are.

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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post-secondary

Camosun College Faculty Association and Camosun College continue clashing

“We’ve got courses and programs that have fewer or cancelled sections. There’s a lot less opportunity for students. And we’re still unable to tell whether or not they did that truly on the basis of the financial picture.”

LYNELLE YUTANI
CAMOSUN COLLEGE FACULTY ASSOCIATION

LYDIA ZULETA
STUDENT EDITOR
AND GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

Conflicts between the Camosun College Faculty Association (CCFA) and Camosun College are continuing as the college faces financial struggles in the wake of lost revenue from international-student restrictions and the CCFA attempts to mitigate impact on faculty.

The latest round of bargaining between the two groups was not successful, according to CCFA president Lynelle Yutani.

Yutani says that the college claimed it couldn’t bargain about money until it has a mandate from the government, and says that Camosun was seeking a number of concessions that would be very costly to CCFA members.

“We didn’t want to try and bargain without knowing how much money was on the table,” says Yutani. “And the only option that seemed reasonable at that time was for us to refer bargaining to arbitration. So we did that. And the employer, unsurprisingly, basically claimed that we were bargaining in bad faith, which means that we

weren’t willing to negotiate on what they offered. Our argument to that is: we can’t negotiate with what they offered because it doesn’t include anything monetary... If we’re going to give up rights for something or anything, we need to know what we’re going to gain, whether that’s money or a trade-off in rights, but that’s not what their package looked like.” (Camosun College declined to be interviewed for this story.)

Yutani says that the college filed a complaint against the CCFA over bad faith bargaining, and the CCFA then filed a counterclaim of bad faith against the college. As of the time of writing this story, the CCFA had received the college’s response to its counterclaim and had until August 28 (after print time for this issue) to submit its response.

“After that point in time, the labour board will take basically both sides of the stories and decide how they’re going to rule,” she says. “If they rule that there was a bad faith component, depending on which party—and sometimes there can be on both parties, that’s not unheard of, either—then they instruct us in what we do next, whether that’s



LYDIA ZULETA/NEXUS

A stronger focus on Indigenization from the college is one of the Camosun College Faculty Association’s priorities.

returning to the bargaining table to negotiate, going to mediation, or proceeding to arbitration. So basically, we’ll have a decision at some point, presumably in September, [about] what we’re supposed to do next.”

Among the priorities for the CCFA are a stronger focus and commitment on Indigenization from the college, issues around job security, wages and benefits, and working conditions.

“And I think what’s really important for students to know is that when your instructor’s working conditions are good, your learning conditions will be better,” says Yutani. “When the instructor’s

needs are met, then they’re better able to show up and meet students’ needs. So we just want to improve our members’ working conditions.”

The CCFA also wants the college to be more open about their decision-making processes.

“So, *Nexus* has followed this journey of this whole past year and a half, where the college made so many decisions, sometimes very secretly, and they negatively affected students, and they’re still negatively affecting students,” says Yutani. “We’ve got courses and programs that have fewer or cancelled sections. There’s a lot less opportunity for students. And we’re still unable to tell whether or

not they did that truly on the basis of the financial picture.”

Yutani says that the answers to a lot of the problems between the two organizations comes down to transparency and accountability.

“If I look back at the last year, if I were to just say the entire, maybe two years... maybe the solutions would be if we just had more transparency and accountability across the board, I think we could solve a lot of the problems and challenges together that we face,” she says. “And until some external force demands that, I think we’re going to continue having these sorts of issues and be in these tensions for a while.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun Co-op Photo Contest open for entries

Camosun’s annual Co-op Photo Contest is taking entries now. The contest—which is open to Camosun students who will have completed a Co-op or internship work term, with a passing grade, between September 2024 and August 2025. The grand prize winner will receive \$300; the public will be able to vote on the photos. See webservices.camosun.ca/events/co-op/photo-contest for more information and to enter.

Camosun student project unveiled at Victoria hospital

On Monday, August 18, a group of Camosun Mechanical Engineering students recently had their capstone project unveiled at Victoria General Hospital. The project, which is an MRI simulator designed to help children feel more

comfortable with getting the scan before actually having to do it, was created by Dylan Snyder, Jeremy Turmel, Julianna Kwan, Mathias Wegner, Sam Lloyd, and lead design engineer/mentor Jeffrey Stephen.

Camosun College Student Society holds pride fundraiser

On Wednesday, August 6, the Camosun College Pride Collective held a dinner and drag fundraiser. The event, which was held at Friends of Dorothy Lounge, raised approximately \$850 for the collective from attendees and 19 business donors.

Camosun board elects new chair

Lindsay Kearns is the new chair of the Camosun College Board of Governors. Kearns, who is a coordinator for the BC Centre for Women in the Trades, was first appointed to the board in July 2021 and was elected vice-chair

in the fall of 2023. Kearns took over the chair position from Tanya Clarmont on August 1.

College gets new associate VP of Student Success

Ruthanne Keenan Orihuela is Camosun College’s new associate vice president, Student Success. Orihuela was previously acting dean of the college’s School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics as well as associate dean of Arts and Science. Her appointment to the position is effective September 2.

—GREG PRATT,
MANAGING EDITOR

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PHOTO PROVIDED

The Camosun College Pride Collective held a dinner and drag fundraiser in August.

alumni

Camosun College alum returns to campus as cafeteria chef



PHOTO PROVIDED
Camosun College alumnus Justin Zhang is bringing new tastes to the caf menu.

LYDIA ZULETA
STUDENT EDITOR

When Justin Zhang graduated from Camosun’s Culinary Arts program 20 years ago, he didn’t know he’d be returning to the college two decades later in a much different role. Today, after stints cooking at Coast Victoria Hotel and Pearson College in Metchosin, the alumnus is the new chef manager for Aramark, who run the college cafeterias.

“I was young,” says Zhang about his time at Camosun. “I came from other country, and I [didn’t] know much, especially I [didn’t] know anything about the Western food... I think the program opened my door for my career.”

His career now involves helping create new menu items for Camosun students. Starting on Tuesday, September 2, the cafeteria will have what Zhang calls a feature menu of items that rotate weekly. While he says that some cafeteria staples—burgers, poutine, pizza—will remain, new items will come and go, based on what students are enjoying.

“So it can be one feature [with] sandwiches on the menu, one stir fry, one curry, one entree, those feature menu. I do that every week changing. So this week, this is four items. Next week, the other four items. So that’s three or four weeks menu. So this way I can find out what students like or what they don’t. If something they like is on

“I’m trying to give a little bit more everything, if I can.”

JUSTIN ZHANG
ARAMARK

the feature menu, I keep it, they’re coming back. If they don’t, I find out the solution, like we do something else, then give it a try, see what happens.”

Flexibility is important to Zhang, who stresses that the rotating menu is adaptable.

“I’m new here. What can I bring [to] the table? Hopefully everyone likes it,” he says. “Even not, it’s okay, I can change it. I can update it.”

Zhang—who says that his favourite items can be found at the stir fry station—says that he’s trying to bring as much to the table as he can for students, in an effort to offer more choices. And that includes attempting to keep some prices down.

“Of course, I know food costs those days went up high... I dropped the price for all the features I’m doing. Hopefully, they are selling... I hope a student can afford the price, which I’ll lower a little bit more on

the feature menu... I try to keep all the feature stuff I’m doing as low as I can. So, hopefully, students will like it better.”

Having diversity on the rotating menu is a priority for Zhang, as he emphasizes that Camosun students come from all over the world.

“I’m trying to give a little bit more everything, if I can,” he says. “And also I add a bunch of vegetarian options, gluten-free options, I have a lot of stuff. I have deserts. There can be lots of some gluten-free stuff.”

Zhang says that even after all these years and a professional journey that has brought him back to where it all began, he still enjoys what he does.

“I really like cooking. After a few years, I turned cooking [into] a job. Of course, it’s a bit different than [it] used to be just cooking at home for myself,” he says. “But after, I see, 20 years now, I still like cooking.”

tips

Student advice for entering a new school year

MARIAN RESTREPO GALINDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fall is near; the new academic year begins as the season transitions into tints of red and yellow, decorating our campus and welcoming students into the new semester. Whether you’re in your last term of your studies or just beginning your journey, you’ll need to prepare yourself to confidently continue your education.

First and foremost, check your schedule beforehand—know where you are heading and when before stepping onto campus. Plan ahead to save time and ensure you are well organized. I like Google Calendar as it keeps my schedule in order and reminds me of upcoming events and tasks; it’s such a game-changer for personal organization. But no matter your medium, use it.

Update or create an UMO account for transportation. You can do this by yourself, or you can head to the library on either campus, and the staff can guide you through the process. My advice is to use the app rather than the physical card, as it’s more accessible, and I bet you don’t leave your device behind when leaving the house. Also important: know your most convenient route. Believe me, I’ve taken the wrong bus a couple of times. While it can be a matter of patience and practice to know the way to campus by heart,

it’s worth it so you can confidently get around. There’s the BC Transit app as well as Google Maps. Try both and see which one fits your needs the most.

To get ready for the rainy season, prepare your fall essentials kit with those items that will make your school day better. You’ll want a rainproof or rain-resistant backpack, a water bottle that can be filled up at the various water stations on campus, comfortable shoes, and a weather-appropriate coat. But what can really support you this semester is prepping for the mental changes as well as the physical. I suggest getting together some go-to good reads, podcasts, and updated playlists to keep the post-summer blues away.

Another tip: take advantage of the libraries on campus—they offer more than just books. The librarians on site, for example, offer help to navigate research for upcoming papers and projects. And if you need to borrow a laptop, the library has also got you covered. There are some great spots, like the study rooms that you can reserve by booking online for self or group study sessions. Be open to joining an existing study group or taking part in a club; they will enhance your experience and provide benefits and connections that will make your time at Camosun a lot smoother.



LYDIA ZULETA/NEXUS
The books on offer at Camosun’s libraries are only the beginning of the amenities available to students.

Mapping out the study areas, like the library, on campus can be a good way to keep exam stress manageable. It depends on the campus, but explore and find what you prefer. Lively study session? The cafeteria. A quiet one? Centre for Health and Wellness on the Inter-

urban campus or in Wilna Thomas at Lansdowne—it has a great café and an outdoor seating area.

But note, to save money after hefty tuition fees, alternate between the on-campus food options and homemade. If you are an international student, update your

permits, finances, insurance, and so on; keep everything up to date. These are non-negotiable.

Ultimate pro tip: enjoy the ride. College can be a daunting experience for some but an open mind and heart will make it all the more fulfilling.

film

Wild rescues and demon slayings: movies to look out for this fall in Victoria



The Legend of Hei 2 is a Chinese film with beautiful animation continuing the beloved saga of the cat-like spirit Xiao Hei, promising evolved battles, new allies, and a broader supernatural world.

JASMINE WAGSTAFF
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Everyone is thinking about back to school, but fall is also a great time for new movies. From lesser-known productions to IMAX jaw-droppers to a spectacularly soggy film fest, there’s lots to look forward to.

For all my anime fans out there, *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba—The Movie: Infinity Castle* will be in theatres on September 12. The Infinity Castle arc is the climax of the story, where the Demon Slayer corps enters the demon castle to defeat the Upper Six Moons and Muzan Kibutsuji himself. It’s a must-see for any lover of shonen or anyone who loves animation, because Ufotable really brings their all to this franchise. I went to see the premiere of season three in theatres back in 2023 and I was blown away. The next instalment of the series is highly anticipated.

Royal BC Museum’s IMAX has some gems coming this season, starting off with *Wild Rescue*, run-

ning from September 5 to 14. This film is based on the work of the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network and recounts the heartwarming tales of some animals they’ve helped. A sensory-friendly viewing will be available on September 7.

There will also be showings of *David Gilmour Live at the Circus Maximus, Rome* on September 17 and 18. This film shows performances from Gilmour’s 2024 Rome tour. Gilmour plays tracks from his most recent album *Luck and Strange* alongside some classic Pink Floyd songs such as “Sorrow” and “High Hopes.”

Students can attend IMAX films for \$12 with valid student ID; I loved going to IMAX on field trips in elementary school, so I’m really excited to take advantage of that student discount and watch some of these. Check out their site if you’re interested in these films or exploring what else they have to offer.

SilverCity has a foreign film, *The Legend of Hei 2*, running from September 4 to 10. This is a Chinese film with beautiful animation continuing the beloved saga of the cat-like spirit Xiao Hei, promising evolved battles, new allies, and a broader supernatural world.

The Ocean Film Festival will be coming to Victoria at The Vic Theatre on October 9. They will be showing a variety of ocean-related films from above and below the surface. They will also have different stands from Canadian wildlife protection groups that sponsor the festival, like the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Ocean Wise. Living on Vancouver Island my whole life, I’ve always loved going to the beach and learning about the ocean, so I’m hoping to go.

I’m going to see *Demon Slayer* and *Wild Rescue*. The rest I’ve mentioned have my attention, but those two are must-sees for me. This is just a drop in the ocean of all the movies coming out this season, so dive in and find your new favourite movie this fall.

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Health Benefits	Coverage	
Prescription Drugs	80%	Up to \$3,000 per benefit year for medications listed under the BC Pharmacare Formulary with a generic rider.
Vision Care	\$150	Combined for eye examinations, eyeglasses and contact lenses every 24 consecutive months. The services must perform by a licensed Optometrist, Optician or Ophthalmologist.
Paramedical Practitioners	\$40 per visit	Up to \$400 per benefit year per practitioner for services from chiropractors or podiatrists, chiropractors, registered massage therapists*, naturopaths, osteopaths, physiotherapists*, acupuncturists and athletic therapists*. *Physician's referral required.
	80%	Up to \$400 every benefit year for services from speech language pathologists*. *Physician's referral required.
Mental Health Practitioners	\$75 per visit	Up to \$600 combined per benefit year for services from registered psychologists, qualified social workers, psychotherapists, therapists, or counsellors. Eligible practitioners are listed on the website.
Medical Equipment & Supplies	80%	Includes walkers, braces, prosthetics, crutches, canes, splints, trusses, wheelchairs, hospital beds, custom-made orthopaedic shoes, orthotics, and more. Requires prescription and medical necessity. Pre-determination recommended.
Ambulance Services	80%	Up to \$250 per occurrence for emergency transportation to the nearest hospital.
Dental Accident	80%	Up to \$1,000 per accident for the repair or replacement of healthy, natural teeth that are damaged by sudden impact. Treatment must be completed within 12 months of the accident. If scheduled more than 90 days after the impact, a treatment plan must be submitted within the 90-day period.
Emergency Travel Assistance	100%	Up to \$5 million per lifetime for emergency expenses on trips for vacation, business or education purposes originating from your Canadian province or territory.
Tutorial Insurance	\$20 per hour	Up to \$2,000 per benefit year if a student has been confined to their home or a hospital for at least 15 consecutive school days.
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	-	Loss of life, limb, or paralysis due to an accident, with a life benefit of \$5,000.
Dental Coverage is a combined maximum of \$800 per benefit year. Ask your dentist to submit a predetermination to Canada Life prior to any dental treatment plan exceeding \$500.		
Dental Benefits	Coverage	
Diagnostic & Preventative	80%	One complete oral examination in a lifetime, one recall examination per benefit year, and a full series X-rays up to 16 films every 36 months. 1 unit of polishing and up to 2 units of scaling once per benefit year.
	100%	Camosun Dental Clinic: Includes one annual exam, x-rays, polishing, scaling and fluoride once per benefit year. You are encouraged, but not required to use the Camosun Dental Clinic.
Minor Restorative	70%	Fillings.
Oral Surgery	50%	Extractions and residual root removal. Limited to 2 wisdom teeth extractions per benefit year.
Endodontic & Periodontic	50%	Root canal therapy and up to 2 additional units of periodontal scaling and/or root planning per benefit year.

Student Benefits are Getting Even BETTER!

Starting September 1st, 2025, Camosun College Student Society's Health and Dental Benefits are getting even better!

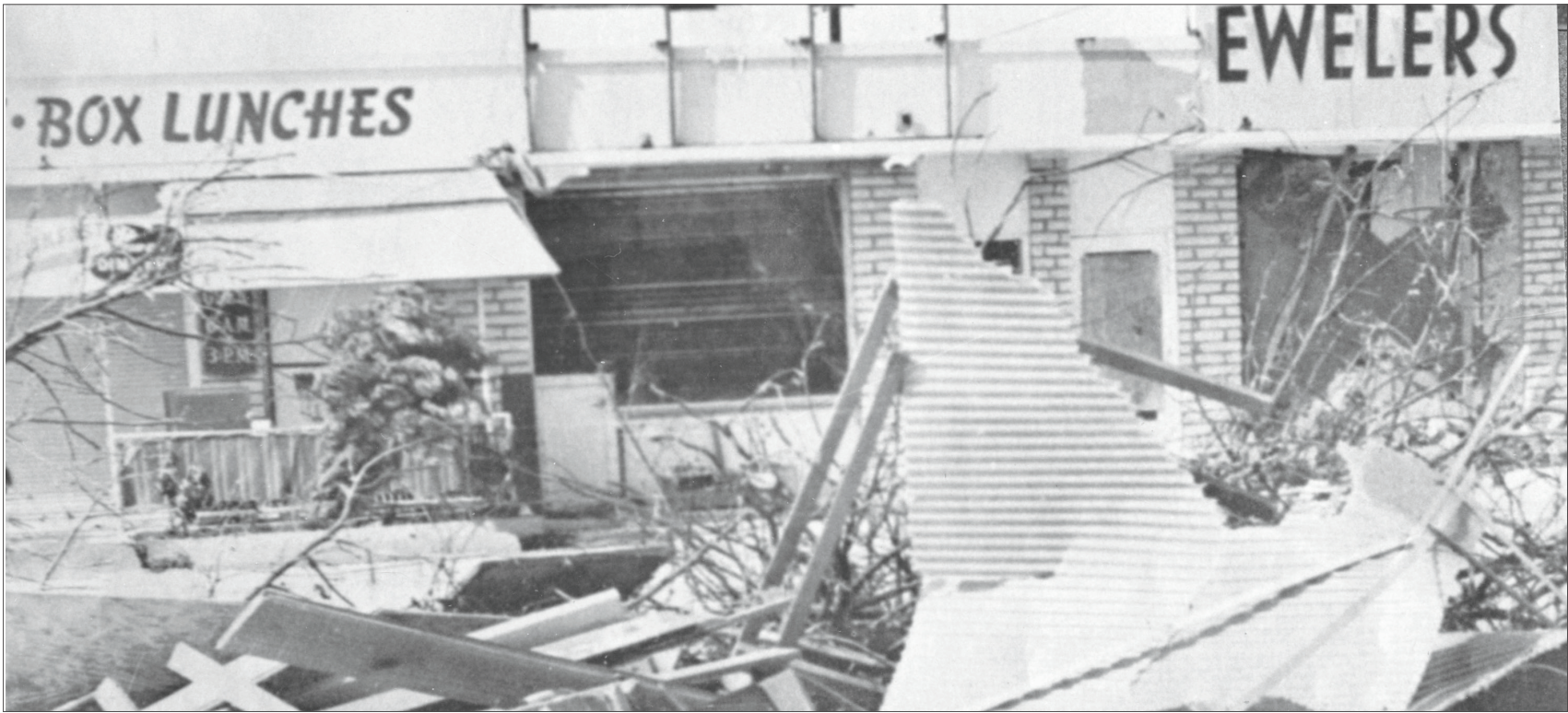
Mental health benefits are increasing to \$600/year (\$75/visit), paramedical practitioners coverage is being raised to \$400 a year (\$40/visit), and up to \$150 for eye exams, lenses and frames in a 24 month period!

See details at mystudentplan.ca/camosun



@camosunstudents





HURRICANE FAITH

*Why we are lying,
why we are believing*

It hadn't seemed so difficult to parse through the false narratives and fabricated realities before this moment. It hadn't felt this frictionless, as it appears today, to slip into the fringes and remain deep below. Or we had been familiar enough with the propaganda and the media bias and corporate or political control over rhetoric and were assured in our fluency. Today, this new construction, is too different, we contend. And we are wrong when doing so. Indeed, we only misidentified our susceptibility; it was always this loud, this slippery, this abstract.

What we are living through now, and what we are scrambling to combat and treat, the "generative AI era," the "alt-right pipeline," the "culture war," the many toils of recent Orwellian events, can be marked as uniquely taxing matters as they interweave. They move together sympathetically, creating pockets under the surface that have begun to bubble. The plan of action has been left, for the most part, in the hands of the consumer. It's up to them to identify what reads sincere on unmoderated forums or from faceless social media Truth Seekers. That we take serious, but misguided, concerns with a grain of salt is an insufficient remedy for an already concerned public. What we must consider is a missing media literacy of the most basic kind, re-evaluating why it is that we hunger to produce misinformation and why it is that we so earnestly believe it.

That I should define my terms as I discuss media literacy of this type seems required here (the term has morphed through many lives). Media, as I should describe it, involves the transfer of globalized ideas both by computational system or on print, and includes the written word as well as photo and video. And as ideas are inherently fluid and personal, media is a vehicle for creative expression, by way of fiction and non-fictional stories. Literacy, further, begs to infer and interpret these ideas with methods of analysis that stimulate the separation between a statement of truth over one of falsity. It should be said, however, that the perceived contrast between the two is rarely stark. This short space is the vitality behind the mass output of misinformation.

A curious restructure came of reporting somewhere in the last decade. A trust in legacy media was severed. We began to fundamentally review the powers that rent out the editor's room, the *elite*, the billionaires who, with a swift command, redirect the opinion section for the inclusion of more matters on "personal liberties and free markets." We saw the *agenda* from whichever side of the political scale we weren't on. We felt deceived by those who demanded our confidence when we were told not to concern ourselves with devastation. A democracy of online spectators was instated to replace it. Only this type, which even soon began to include legacy media broadcasters, was able to provide, however conspiratorially, answers to the questions we have been denied to ask. And then we became independent journalists, answering with uncertainty and unsettling the debate.

The information buzzes from all corners. We have come to ingest it with breakfast, or instead of breakfast (it is filling on its own), on route, in line, passively consuming short-form fragments of tragedy. I wake to the news of drone strikes, of sanctions, of starvation, of hurricanes, defenses, and offences. Often, it is just offences. I absorb it all in a short spurt, grabbing as much as I can before I must concede to daily life. By the afternoon, I read what those who feel they have good judgement have to say on these matters. They weigh in using "unprecedented" and "decline" liberally, and offer neatly packaged thoughts to those with only scrambled ones (I find myself in both of these camps). In extended personal essays, they examine and warn of a nearing technofeudalism, speak of the unrelenting determinants of "late-stage capitalism," the AI psychosis. On podcasts, they host the CEOs in control. We keep up this way, compulsively reaching for wisdom in a frenzied algorithm, trusting both the critic and the source so long as they fit into a preferred narrative. In this ubiquitous mode of con-

sumption, one of passivity, obsession, and provocation, we strive to be filled in on the latest only to maintain our citizenship in the Conversation. The responsibility of a good citizen hangs on us as we look for nuance. Unattentive, without time to think, however, what are we—who are only standing in line, on route, or at breakfast—to make of an impossibly steep, *unprecedented decline*? At what point during this process do we find reason and thoughtfulness? The fact of the matter is, there is no time.

It seemed the only possibility for some was to invent new reasoning for which digestion was no challenge to start. For others, its uncomplicated promise was sufficient evidence, making a palatable courthouse for accusation and rumination. Indeed, to condemn a fiction means at least to condemn; the organic impulse for justice is met. They dreamt up transparency of profound evils and reduced them into mere caricatures, small villains that could easily be knocked down. As it happens, it is much easier to confront an immigrant than to confront a fascist.

The radicalization of modern media output cannot be pinned down to one distinct source. It first bled slowly, gently into the basin of information. Then it rushed and feet were swept under by a hurricane's force, not paddling but drowning in the volume of opinion and theory. We lost, in the rising sea levels, the ground. "When a plane's door rips off mid-flight," writes Charlie Warzel in his piece "Evidence Maximalism' Is How the Internet Argues Now" last year for *The Atlantic*, "it provides an opening." The opening has grown as a concerned public grows more fearful, searching in a boundless sea for incongruent answers. We watch it expand or we enter.

More and more we find ourselves at the foot of our own oppression when we read, watch, listen in a state of fear. Our outrage becomes malleable in the hands of other outraged individuals—the many frustrations tether. In a panic, we shoot from the hip and hit our neighbour. And we rejoice that we have hit anything at all because celebration of any kind is scarce when livelihood is on the line. Winning, then, is a matter of reinforcing the oppressive system, not of revolution.

What the QAnon apostles and the wellness warriors and the self-proclaimed critical thinkers and the vast majority of us who concern ourselves with serious affairs have in common is a pursuit of a power shift. The deviation only occurs in the access, the details of credentials and faith. What we are all confronting, however, is an aptitude for wanting more, a cry for secure housing, stable income, clean water, affordable groceries, and, perhaps even, joy. But, I must note, where we deviate is consequential to this objective—we are unable to find the direction. By wrongfully attacking, on account of what one's been wrongfully informed, other individuals among the struggling class, we tug at one another, pushing and pulling away from the goalpost. I speak to the corner-store attendant of this issue and we shy away from our direct labels or political affiliations. He tells me that it's hard to live on his wage and maintain his car in the same month. He tells me later that he read news that vaccines are partially to blame. We have found solace in these stories, despite their colossal repercussions at the ballot, in the community, in our power. We have lost one another in this process. "That can't be so," I say to him.

Insofar as we continue this decorum of engagement with the media we consume and our attitude toward it, we fail to point fingers at the correct oppressor and oppression. To say the obvious—that science is fundamental to accurate insight, that diversity is instrumental to our well-being, an algorithm promoted by wealthy oligarchs has influenced entire communities and led them astray—is a radical rebellion to the mass output of misinformation.

We may have been speaking in different languages when I was told by the corner-store attendant that the culture, as we know it, is facing an unprecedented decline, and I nod my head in agreement. The worry, in its bare emotion and ambiguity, is mutual.

Story and graphics by Lydia Zuleta, student editor

art

AGGV exhibit looks at Indigenous ancestry, identity through nuanced lens

“For me, the message is that in looking to your own past, in thinking of your own inherited trauma and inherited knowledge, it all falls into becoming part of who you are.”

STEVEN MCNEIL
ART GALLERY OF
GREATER VICTORIA

NIK OVSTAAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Meryl McMaster’s exhibit *Bloodlines*, which is running now at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV), blends aspects of her Dutch/Scottish ancestry with her Plains Cree/Métis lineage, taking the form of an imaginative series of breathtaking photos bolstered by historical documents and culturally resonant sculptures.

AGGV chief curator Steven McNeil says that the idea for the exhibit started with one piece the gallery already possessed.

“When I got to Victoria, I started going through the collection... and we had acquired a work from Meryl when she was quite a young artist. It’s hung right now in our permanent collection, [so] she was on the radar for me as somebody that the AGGV could be proud of supporting throughout her career who has really gone onto great things,” says McNeil. “It felt like a natural thing for us to keep working with her and to take this exhibition.”

I took a wander to see the exhibit for myself. *Bloodlines*, which is mostly photographs and some videography, is beautifully personal and self-reflective but still remains very relatable. Most of the works feature the artist herself as the



BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY OF MERYL MCMASTER

Meryl McMaster’s *Edge of a Moment* (above) and *Anima* (below) are on display as part of her *Bloodlines* exhibit at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

subject; they reference her own personal history and the histories of her matrilineal ancestors. Women in her family have struggled and achieved a lot in the face of horrendous colonial systems. A letter written by an ancestor fossilizes this.

“That letter is such a big part of the show,” says McNeil, “and there’s so much power and grace within that letter, where she ends it by extending an olive branch and saying, ‘I’ve gone through all of this, I’ve been given nothing.’”

There are three photographs that reference McMaster’s mixed Scottish/Indigenous ancestry, where she has Tartan incorporated into her regalia; she went to Newfoundland to take those photos. The geographical beauty is similar to Scotland.

“For me, the message is that in

looking to your own past, in thinking of your own inherited trauma and inherited knowledge, it all falls into becoming part of who you are,” says McNeil.

McNeil says that he hopes the exhibit brings a more nuanced understanding of Indigenous peoples in Canada. He says that McMaster is a great example of somebody who transcends origins.

“Our identities are complex, and we can anchor ourselves anywhere we choose to make a home,” he says. “A lot of Canadians can relate to that.”

Bloodlines
Until Sunday, October 19
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
aggv.ca



New Music Revue

Aversions
Empty Century
(Independent)
4/5

Vancouver’s Aversions have found themselves in a very particular niche on third album *Empty Century*, which follows up 2023’s excellently titled *You Wanted the Bike*. The band are firmly in the post-punk world but have found a slightly more aggressive approach, and the end result is mainly fantastic here.

The title track opens the eight-track release with a captivating mixture of classic post-punk and shimmering early goth; the atmosphere and vibe do the heavy lifting, but the guitar work—all shiny and reverby and wavy—also adds to the wonderful melancholy. “Base Case” then picks up the tempo a bit

and it’s 1991 and we’re discovering exciting, underground, moody music on late-night MuchMusic, and sometimes you have to fight to hold on the shards of ice in the sounds and sometimes the sadness is happy and it’s sometimes perplexing which is why it’s so wonderful: Aversions tap into that here.

And on it goes, with the off-beat rhythms at times approaching the best of early Faith No More and the vocal approach a nod to the wry and wiry sonic ramblings of an Iggy Pop or Nick Cave (“Afraid of My Own” feels more back-of-the-bus rant than song), but over music that would feel more at home in a venue with a basketball hoop and horrendous sound quality. “The Cockroach” gets low and slow and not so much heavy in sonics as it is in

oppressive mood, but it’s “Division Theory” and “Water Discipline”’s moroseness that is the most moving.

Occasionally, the vocals flatten (see the otherwise great closer “Not From Around” for glimpses of this), but, again, reference early Faith No More and, well, lots of post-punk in general for that. It sort of comes with the territory, so it’s no huge surprise or, really, complaint. No right proper post-punk wants to think about a future of—shudder—brightness, but with *Empty Century*, Aversions have certainly solidified that great things are ahead for them. And, correct me if I’m wrong, but that’s hope I hear in the ending of “Not From Around,” which is a suitable left-turn closing to this great album.

-Greg Pratt



Pieces of Performance

by Acacia Tooth

Cherry Cheeks helps bring Shade Burlesque Festival to town



MOSS PHOTOGRAPHY

Burlesque performer Cherry Cheeks is involved with the Shade Burlesque Festival.

Local burlesque performer, producer, and educator Cherry Cheeks has been working hard behind the curtain to bring together an all-BIPOC show that will soon be hitting the stage. The Shade Burlesque Festival will take place Thursday, September 25 to Saturday, September 27 at the McPherson Playhouse.

“All of our headliners are going to be teaching workshops and [taking] part [in] the speaker series, as well,” says Cheeks. “Think TED Talks but sparkly.”

The huge task of pulling together performers, workshops, speakers, and everything else behind the scenes is in the brilliant minds and hands of a community that always steps up. That roster includes Khushi, Holly Shirt, Cece A Blossom, Atrevida Love, Hazel Nuez, Scarlet Hummingbird, Axelangelo, Chai Tease, Kitty Zhang, and Sylvester Stalletto, all of whom have been working tirelessly alongside Cheeks to make the event possible.

“I wouldn’t be able to do it without the help of many other people taking on specific pieces,” says Cheeks.

And that includes the community of volunteers who help the event run smoothly, ensuring that the workshops, speakers, and shows are offered to anyone who is wanting to take part, coming together to uplift those who are marginalized and often ignored.

“We can’t have that heaviness without [the] celebration because we deserve to celebrate, and we still deserve to be happy,” says Cheeks.

The concept of fostering re-

“When I saw my first [burlesque] show in 2014, I was blown away by how diverse the performers could be.”

CHERRY CHEEKS
BURLESQUE PERFORMER

silience and uplifting community, especially now, is important to Cheeks. These threads weave through Shade Speaks, which is kicking off the festival with domestic and international speakers, sharing necessary conversations.

“[We’re] really focused on uplifting our past and where we’ve been and moving into where we are today with performance,” says Cheeks.

Cheeks was drawn to the art form 11 years ago by the idea of burlesque as something that can become contagious and can further provoke creativity and imagination for acts.

“Before I saw it live, my vision was more bluesy, kind of classic feather boa style... When I saw my first show in 2014, I was blown away by how diverse the performers could be,” says Cheeks.

Cheeks knows that an art form

that can be both political and beautiful is needed in the community.

“I feel like in the last few years, especially since the pandemic, one of the things that I see for myself is consistency, to show up, be adaptable,” says Cheeks.

Since changes in stages have been a hot topic with the closure of the Victoria Event Centre and the recent announcement of the Metro closure, there has been uncertainty in where to perform and how to reach audiences in the city. Still, Cheeks is looking forward to the future.

“On one hand I am optimistic, because, historically, every time there is a recession [or] changing political views around what we do, we’ve gone underground, many times, but thrive,” says Cheeks.

For more information or to buy tickets, volunteer, or donate, visit shadeburlesquefestival.ca.

review

New Earth Bandits 2 whimsical experience despite design flaws

LANE CHEVRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

New Earth Bandits 2 is the newest production from SNAFU, an alternative theatre group that focuses on unconventional expressions of theatre instead of the expected sit-down format. This approach creates a more immersive experience, often with interactive elements, and seems to be mostly based around an improv format.

The immediate vibe I got from the experience reminded me of the ’60s and ’70s flower-child culture, where creative expression is emphasized in a rather childlike manner, prioritizing an off-the-cuff arts-and-crafts aesthetic over more conventional production values. Accordingly, the outcome was largely “cute,” and evaluated with the same concessions you would give a first-grader’s school play, leaning more toward silliness rather than achieving excellence in a craft.

There were a couple of exceptions to this. One actor in clown makeup presented a spoken-word poem with surprising gravitas that had tones of serious self-reflection. Also impressive were a couple of the costumes which clearly took dozens of hours to create, particularly one that represented a towering wooden forest deity with large hands pup-

peted by individual actors, which appeared impressive and lifelike, and another costume representing a large eagle.

Thematically, the viewer is in for a light-hearted absurdist expression of a vague concept. Indeed, if I hadn’t known that the prompt was “What will the world be like in 5,000 years,” I would not have been able to divine it from the performances, which did not seem to carry any consistent plot elements or through-lines that tied the narrative theme together. Whether the characters are dancing forest elves, mildly acrobatic sharks, or comical crabs, there was nothing really post-apocalyptic about it.

A large issue for me was the lack of consideration toward people with mobility impairments. The audience is expected to walk and stand for two hours, over hills and stairs, and on gravel trails that are not conducive to easy wheelchair operation. I walk with great difficulty using crutches, and over the evening I walked 6,000 steps, and was absolutely ruined for the next two days. A more explicit warning should have been implemented.

Despite these difficulties, it’s clear that this was a show created by people who love performing and creating. I think the phrase

“youthful exuberance” is very fitting, as most of the performers are in their 20s, and they really tap into a boundlessly energetic sense of optimism that can be lost in the tedium of adult life. A sense of fun, joy, and excitement pervades the whole experience, and perhaps that’s just what you’re looking for after a long day.

It’s impressive that SNAFU, through creative staging, has turned Macaulay Point Park into a whimsical amusement park of fanciful imagination, where the performers are constantly intermingling with the audience and improvising with them, while fully staying in character. However, the performances were random and unscheduled, and there is a likelihood that any audience member will arrive at a location in the middle of a performance, or between performances, and feel like they missed out on what they paid to see, and at \$20-30 apiece, that can be frustrating.

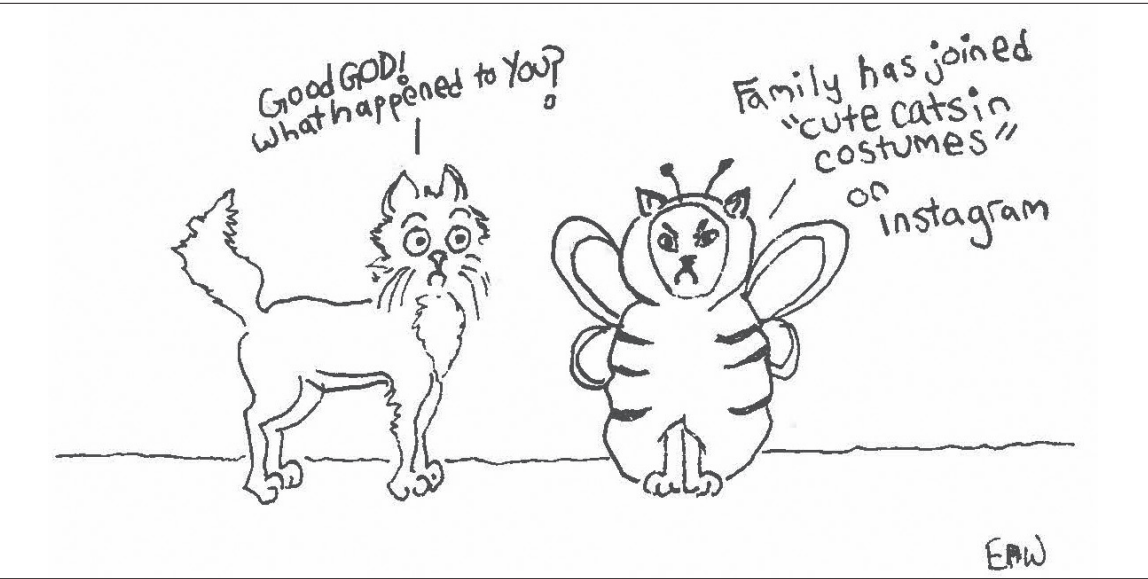
Despite its design flaws, I respect that SNAFU is willing to create an experience that is unlike anything most people are likely to see. I think we need people who are willing to break the rules in the name of creative expression, and *New Earth Bandits 2* certainly achieves this.



HELENE CYR

New Earth Bandits 2 took place outside at Esquimalt’s Macaulay Point Park.

Natural Selection - Emily Welch



word search



After you read writer Jasmine Wagstaff's feature story on page 6 about the importance of studying literature, find the related words in the above word search.

Instructor

Lecture

Books

Classroom

Sweater

Autumn

Homework

Leaves

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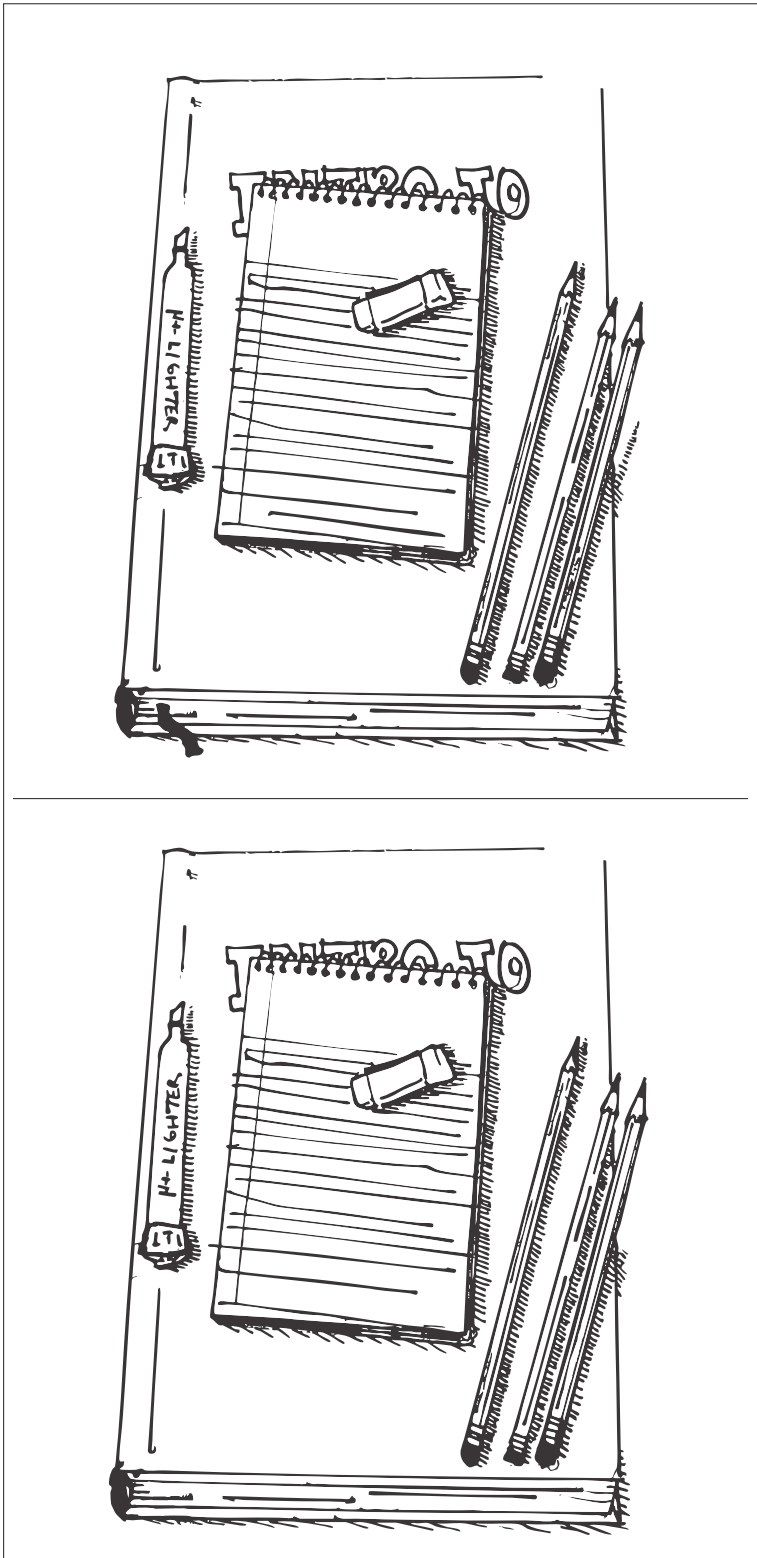


LYDIA ZULETA/NEXUS

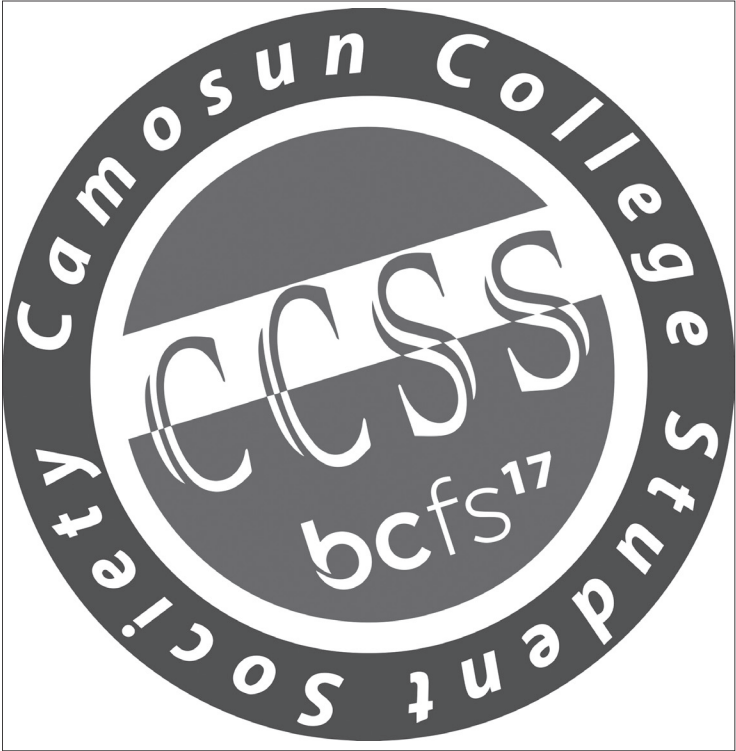
We've hidden this copy of our last issue somewhere at the Lansdowne campus. Bring it in to our office to claim a prize from contest sponsor Arsenal Pulp Press, who have donated an assortment of books for you to choose from. *Nexus* HQ is located at Richmond House 201 at Lansdowne.

spot the differences

Can you find the seven differences between the two drawings below?



Message from your student board



Advocacy is a huge part of our work. We make sure student concerns are heard by decision-makers. That means pushing for things like affordable transit, fair tuition, and stronger campus supports when students are struggling. Advocacy can feel distant sometimes, but it’s often the reason policies shift or funding gets unlocked. The louder our voices are together, the harder they are to ignore.

to support you, and get a taste of what life at Camosun is all about.

CamFest is also a great snapshot of what the CCSS does. Our job is to support your success—not just academically, but in making your student life here better, easier, and more connected.

But our role doesn’t stop there. Advocacy is a huge part of our work. We make sure student concerns are heard by decision-makers. That means pushing for things like affordable transit, fair tuition, and stronger campus supports when students are struggling. Advocacy can feel distant sometimes, but it’s often the reason policies shift or funding gets unlocked. The louder our voices are together, the harder they are to ignore.

That’s why on Tuesday, September 9, the CCSS is hosting the first-ever “Your Voice, Our

Movement: Changing Things for YOU” panel discussion. This event brings Camosun students face-to-face with our partner organizations shaping student advocacy at every level of government.

We’re part of local advocacy with Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT), provincial advocacy with the BC Federation of Students (BCFS), and national advocacy through the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). And for the first time, you’ll get to meet representatives from all three in one place, right here at Camosun. They’ll share how they fight for better student services, fair policies, and systemic change. Topics include affordability, rising tuition fees, student debt, housing, food security, mental health, and climate justice. These are the real issues students

face, and this is your chance to see how struggles at Camosun connect to bigger advocacy work across Canada.

The event takes place at Sherri Bell Hall, Lansdowne Campus. We’ll have snacks, refreshments, and prizes like tickets to the upcoming Chargers Golf Tournament.

Autumn is about change—the kind you can see in the leaves as they shift colours and fall, making way for something new. At the CCSS, that’s exactly what we’re here for. Your voice is our movement. Just like autumn reminds us that transformation is natural, we’re ready to turn over new leaves with you, keep fighting for students, and make sure change always lands where it matters most.

In solidarity,
Terence Baluyut
External Executive

Autumn is arguably the most popular season of the year. (And I say that completely unsubstantiated because I’m biased.) The cool breeze, the golden sunsets, the start of the *ber* months. It feels like a season that carries stories waiting to unfold. And on our campus, autumn really does mark the beginning of many new journeys.

One of the highlights is CamFest. It’s one of the most exciting days at Camosun, and we at the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) are proud to organize it. Honestly, you’ll never see as many people out and about at Camosun as you do on CamFest day. It’s your chance to meet new friends, explore the many services that exist

NEXUS

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