

CUTS SUCK. FIX EDUCATION.

British Columbia Federation of Students launches new campaign
in support of post-secondary funding



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NEXUS

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editor’s letter

Four days out east

Have you ever rolled eggs during Holy Week? You start off two identical eggs with the same stick, but with their little ends on opposite sides. At first they roll in the same direction, but then each one begins to roll away in the direction of its little end. In conversation, as in egg-rolling, there are little sloops that roll along noisily and not very far; there are sharp-ended ones that wander off heaven knows where. But, with the exception of the little sloops, there are no two eggs that would roll in the same direction. Each has its little end.

—A History of Yesterday, Tolstoy

The eggs rolled away from me in Montreal. During a five-day stay, my broken language made no strides in communicating my navigation, my accommodation, my restaurant orders, or my desperation. The trouble with unfortunate barriers such as these is not that we, individuals facing either side of the friction in any given conversation, do not understand one another, but that we are so much the same individual had we been without it. How easily we share the same moment, each admiring the same statuette, on the same hill, at the same time. Yet, in my curiosity for another’s perceptions and contemplations, we fall short, slide down either end of the hill, neither in sight of the statuette nor of one another. We smile and nod as a compromise to jumbled words and weak accents.

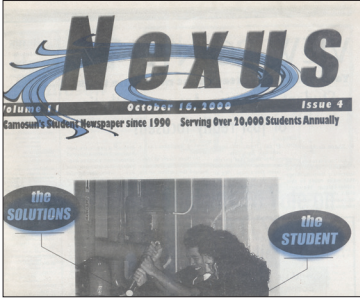
As social beings, we problem solve to seek our closeness to one another. Out east, I spoke in gestures. While I speak French, I can only do so at a grade-school level that those who are out of grade school seem to misunderstand to no fault of their own. I made sounds, too, out east, grunts and chuckles and blew raspberries. With fluency, I made faces, many new, to emphasize certain gestures or sounds, or even as a language on its own. Stripped I was of my personality and individuality, my ability to communicate limited to the most primal of resources.

Yet, still, when our gaze meets, no matter the employment of the right words or dictation, we react the same, recognize our interdependence and relation. Should my eyes smile, and theirs do the same, we communicate in more lasting and consequential pleasantries, the kind that risk no deception or lead to no error. We know not of another’s navigation, accommodations, orders, or desperation, but of their personhood.

Lydia Zuleta, student editor

flashback

25 Years Ago in Nexus



LYDIA ZULETA
STUDENT EDITOR

Red scare: The demand for higher pay that mirrors a high cost of living hardly sounds ludicrous to those who work for minimum wage; In 2000, the proposed \$8 minimum wage, an increase of \$0.40, turned heads. In our October 15, 2000, we cover that while some praised the plan by the BC government, citing its potential positive effects to the economy and people by creating more disposable income for workers and reducing financial strain, others were not so warm to the idea, calling it an unrealistic goal for equality. “In a perfect world,” said Mark von Schellwitz from the Canadian Restaurant and Food-services Association, “everyone would be the same, but as we saw in the Soviet Union, it didn’t work.” Perhaps, for some, McCarthyism was never in decline.

Turning a profit: In the age of post-secondary multi-million

dollar deficits, including here at Camosun, we may have a difficult time recalling a period without such troubles. However, only 25 years ago, we covered Camosun’s projected \$2,000 surplus—a modest fortune for some but an exciting feat for a school struggling to keep the lights on. It would appear that Camosun got lucky that year, enrolling one extra full-time student whose tuition was pure profit.

Stood up: A humble spread of coffee, juice, muffins, pastries, and fruit sat unattended in October 2000; an anticipated visit by minister of advanced education Graeme Bowbrick turned out, much to many’s disappointment, to be a no-show. Scheduled for an entire morning, the meeting was to include a tour of the newly restored Young building, a guest lecture to a Political Science class, and an interview with Camosun’s now-long-terminated CKMO radio station. Like an overly giddy date, the college was stood up by the too-cool-for-school it boy in town. Rectifying the situation in support of the college—either by accident or on purpose remains to be seen—in this issue we misidentified the honourable as “Graham Bombick” during the entirety of our coverage. And just like any one-that-got-away, he got with our older sister, UVic, later that day instead.

open space

Coping with the stress of an increasingly dangerous world

TYLER CALHOON-CARDINAL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

How do you feel when you watch the news? Are you happy about the direction the world is heading in? Are you comfortable with the road our leaders have put us on? Are you confident in your ability to navigate the hazards that are present and on the horizon? If you regularly follow world events, these questions may elicit laughter. You may want to shout “Jesus, take the wheel!” or perhaps just get off the road entirely.

The world seems like an engine with a clogged radiator that’s

present, and future at the same time. Driving is stressful, and driving safely all the time is something no one is perfect at but everyone who drives must do. With increased urbanization and many more cars on the road, driving safely is much harder now than it was in the past.

Every generation has its own trials to overcome. World wars, plagues that threaten us with extinction, viral pandemics that isolate us and shake our sanity, and a whole host of other threats to humanity have survived. It’s precisely this laundry list of horrors our species

We evolved in a world that’s very harsh, and this cruel crucible has granted us an immense capacity for hardship. Because of this history of survival, our brains always perceive threats more intensely than other phenomena.

only getting hotter. The genocide in Gaza, the war in Ukraine, the affordability crisis in Canada, the existential threat of climate change, the assassination of Charlie Kirk... our check engine light is permanently on. How am I supposed to go to class when schoolchildren are being bombed elsewhere in the world? How am I supposed to train for my career when millions of people have had to sacrifice their ambitions to fight in terrible wars? How am I supposed to sleep in my warm, comfortable bed when the homeless and addicted are dying in droves, cold and alone on the street? Life often feels impossibly difficult and cruelly unfair.

I was born with congenital nystagmus. I have low visual acuity in both eyes and as a result I cannot work most jobs. Being born with a disability is hardly fair, but it can happen to anyone. I wasn’t even able to get a driver’s licence until recently, at age 29. I have begun to learn just how much attention and focus is required to operate a vehicle safely. The stakes are high, danger can come from anywhere, and distractions are a constant challenge that require serious attention. I feel this is similar to navigating this world in all its many traffic jams.

At first, safe driving can seem like an impossible task. You must watch for present hazards while planning for future ones. You must remember what the driver’s manual said while watching the road in front of you, beside you, and behind you. Your mind must be in the past,

has gone through that holds the key to surviving the horrors we now face. We evolved in a world that’s very harsh, and this cruel crucible has granted us an immense capacity for hardship. Because of this history of survival, our brains always perceive threats more intensely than other phenomena. To arrive at our destination safely, we must keep our eyes on the road.

Worry is supposed to drive us toward success, but it often has the opposite effect. It distracts us, drains our batteries, and sends us careening into the ditch. The key to escaping this trap is to focus relentlessly on taking action toward solving the problem. The energy that worry takes from us can be spent on eliminating the cause of that worry. The action doesn’t need to be huge—in fact, just getting on the road is usually the hardest part of the journey.

Taking action is the most important thing you can do to manage stress. Bring everything you have to bear on solving the problems that are causing your stress, and your anxiety just might weaken and fade with time. Remember that you have something to offer, and taking action is how you will deliver your gifts to the world. The causes you strive for and the threats you face demand that you be at your best. The people whose suffering you aim to alleviate do not benefit from your worries and anxieties, but from your actions. Keep your mind on the task, your foot on the gas, and you’ll get where you need to go.

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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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: “I’m like a Zamboni if a Zamboni was addicted to being a Zamboni.”

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

Got something to say?

Letters to the editor:
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post-secondary

British Columbia Federation of Students launches new campaign in support of post-secondary funding



PHOTOS PROVIDED
Camosun students showing their support for the new BCFS campaign.

TYLER CALHOON-CARDINAL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) recently launched a new campaign, Cuts Suck. Fix Education. Advocating for the return of provincial government funding, the campaign aims to address a slow financial cut to the BC post-secondary education system that has lasted over the past 20 years.

“Students shouldn’t have to delay their graduation because their college or university is experiencing budget cuts,” says BCFS chairperson Debanhi Herrera Lira,

“but that’s exactly what we’re seeing all across the province. Courses, programs, services are being cut. Faculty is being laid off, which is causing really long waitlists and really expensive tuition.”

Lira says that courses are not as available as they used to be. Students will sometimes have to delay their graduation by semesters or even years because the classes they require are not as readily available to them. She adds that some students have had to transfer to different institutions because the courses they need are being cut.

“All of this is happening across

“We are asking community members, students, and faculty to join us to call on the government to reinvest in post-secondary education by returning investment levels to 75 percent of operating budgets.”

DEBHANI HERRERA LIRA
BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

the province, and the root cause is lack of funding from the provincial government,” says Lira.

Twenty years ago, 68 percent of post-secondary funding came from government; currently, government funding sits at 40 percent. Lira says that a part of the funding issue comes from institutions’ heavy reliance on international student fees to pay for education since government divestment.

“We are asking community members, students, and faculty to join us to call on the government to reinvest in post-secondary education by returning investment levels to 75 percent of operating budgets,” says Lira.

Lira says that the cuts impact all students, international and domestic.

“This is affecting domestic students because their tuition is on the line,” she says. “There’s a possibility that because of the lack of funding, the government could revisit its policy on domestic student fees. There is a two-percent cap on tuition increases for domestic students, and if the government decides to revisit that, it could be a danger.”

Across the province, there are

shortages of qualified professionals to fill jobs that people rely on. Nurses, for example, remain in high demand and are anticipated to be in further demand as much of BC’s population ages. Despite this need, the provincial government hasn’t invested funding to ensure future positions will be filled to demand, says Lira.

“What we’re seeing is that this issue is really going to affect our communities. We keep hearing from all levels of government that we want more houses built, we want more doctors, we want more teachers, we want people to fill the job market to have a stronger economy and a stronger British Columbia but we’re not seeing them invest in our education. We’re not seeing them prioritize post-secondary education and its benefits on local economies.”

Lira points to Okanagan College cutting its nursing program in 2023 as an example of the government sending mixed messages.

“How can the government say more nurses are wanted,” she says, “if they’re not prioritizing keeping programs like that open?”

Lira says that colleges and universities are vital to their local com-

munities, especially in northern and rural areas.

“Colleges and universities can often be economic anchors for their communities,” she says. “Prioritizing education is prioritizing all British Columbia communities.”

Lira says that a lack of funding for education will have a downstream effect on BC communities.

“Lack of funding to the post-secondary sector is going to create longer queue lines for hospitals and for doctors,” she says. “It’s going to create a lack of trades workers to build the houses we need, especially during a housing crisis.”

The BCFS’ website offers more detailed information about these cuts.

“We have a cut tracker, which we are using to track the different cuts, layoffs and suspensions to different courses and programs across the province, so people can be informed.”

The website has an email tool on its front page with a prefilled email highlighting the issues that the post-secondary system is facing. Students can enter their information and the email will be sent to the minister of education, the premier, and their local MLA.

“We can flood their inboxes with voices of students and members calling on the government to reinvest in our education,” says Lira. “It’s a great way to get involved.”

Lira says that the BCFS—which all Camosun students are paying members of—supports affordable and accessible education for everyone and that the current campaign reflects this advocacy. (See cuts-suck.ca for more information on the campaign.)

“This campaign is really resonating with students, faculty, and the communities we talk to every day,” she says. “We need our education to be prioritized and it’s time for us to be heard.”

NEWS BRIEFS

College receives \$625,000 donation

The Gwyn Morgan and Patricia Trotter Foundation recently gave a \$625,000 donation to Camosun College. The pledge will support the trades sampler program over two and a half years. The program, which runs 12 weeks, aims to introduce students to a range of skilled trades.

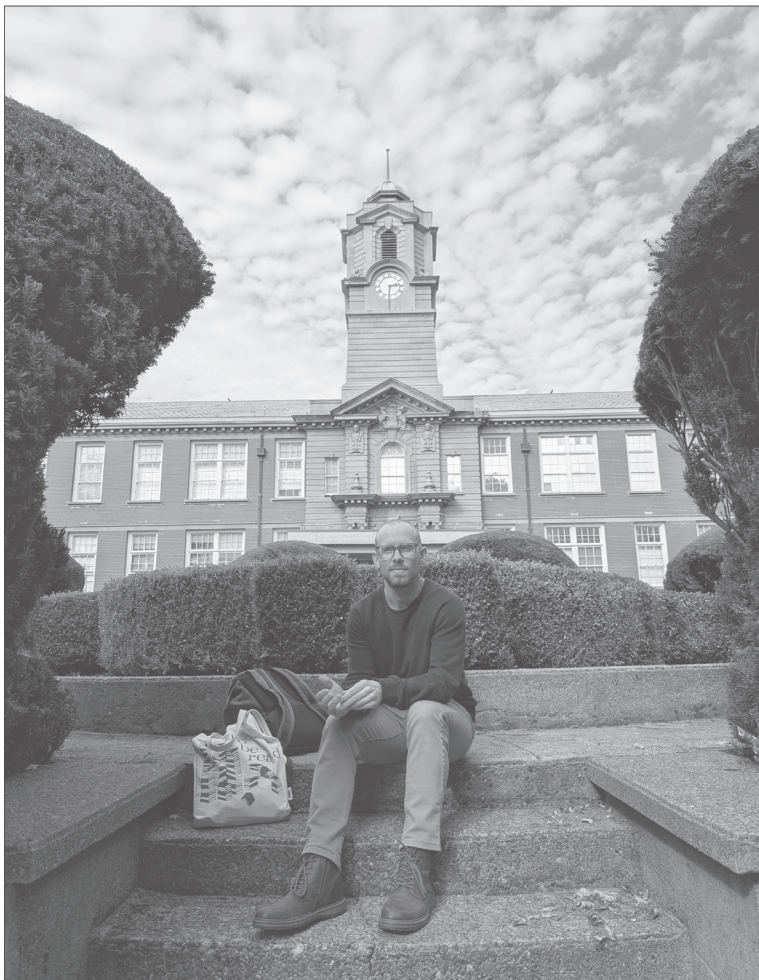
—GREG PRATT,
MANAGING EDITOR

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post-secondary

Thoughts on returning to post-secondary as a mature student



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

The author takes a moment of rest at Camosun's Lansdowne campus.

SHANE LEVI JEFFERY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Starting a new school year at college or university can come with so many mixed emotions, and that could come at any age. Whether you're just out of high school, in your 30s, or in your golden years, deciding to step into higher education can place us all on that same level. "Hi, it's me, I'm a freshman, where do I go again for this class?" "Did I buy this textbook too soon?"

Am I even interested in staying in this class?" "Does my hair look okay today?" I'm sure as you're reading these questions you've likely had any or all of those thoughts pop into your head throughout the first weeks of classes.

Deciding to step into further education as a mature student can come with a wealth of life experience and knowledge you may not possess at 19. However, the choice to better your education and open

future opportunities and growth can give you anxiety, even at the age of 35, like myself. I decided to take on the daunting journey of higher education as a mature student here at Camosun College, and if you know me you'll know I've curated a plan to a T on how I want my trajectory to go. I've mapped out my courses and structured my plans for the future, just as I'm sure you have. You may have uttered to yourself, "What do I even want to do with my life?" I can assure you I've also thought that myself, both at 19 and now again at 35. But one thing I knew was sure: I wanted to educate myself further and learn as much as I can.

When people think about attending school they often wonder how they'll get along, and being a young person in today's world, that can be excruciatingly difficult to achieve. Will I pass all my classes? Will I have enough time to finish all five of my assignments this week? Did I just forget my phone on that bus that's driving away? Do I have a quiz in my Academic Writing class in 30 minutes? You may not have left your phone on the bus at

8:00 in the morning as I did, but I'm betting you've wondered about the grade point average of your term. I have, too.

You'd think being a mature student entering into higher education would be a walk in the park. Although life can teach an older person life skills and experiences to apply to a college or university experience, you can't take away that feeling you have as a newcomer at a school. At any age, you could wonder how you're perceived by the world around you. All those extremely overwhelming feelings of anxiety, dread, and stress still can affect even the most seasoned adult.

At my age, I've experienced enough in my life to know how to manage things like my time, expectations, and emotions; all that to say, a human is still a human and emotions are a complex thing. Like, do I stick out in this class of young, bright minds? Do they view me as the old man in their class? Am I going to be technologically advanced enough to keep up with learning in an environment that has technology woven into every feature? Do I have enough time to study while I'm also

working four days a week to pay for rent and finding time to sleep and take care of myself and be social? I'm guessing we can all agree that choosing higher education is no easy feat, but I am willing to bet my money that the return on investment will be greater than the effort, worry, and stress.

Someone recently said to me as I was explaining my choice and journey back to school thus far, "Wow, you're so brave." I laughed out loud—literally—and said, "What does that even mean?" And I asked myself, "Why would it be brave? Am I brave?" I think what being brave means is to step into the unknown, even when you're feeling like you have no idea what to do with your life, or if your hair looks good that day, or if you're going to be the top of your class. I think it's brave at any age to choose higher education and, ultimately, yourself. That is brave. Whether you're just out of high school, in your 30s, or in your golden years—we all made that choice to be brave and to learn. So be open, take it all in, learn as much as you can, and know that we're all students here.

spooky

Werewolf Western brings campy horror to Heritage Acres



PHOTO PROVIDED

High Moon is taking place outside, on site at Heritage Acres in Saanichton.

LANE CHEVRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There's a feral creature lurking in the dark woods of Saanichton this

Halloween, bringing a howling good time to Heritage Acres. Written by David Elendune and Ian Case of theatre company 31 Iguanas, *High*

Moon combines spooky horror, campy Westerns, and a dose of political commentary in an alternative theatre format.

"My motto is to give people intelligent entertainment, and sometimes with a play you go more for the entertaining, and sometimes you go more for the intelligence," says Elendune, who mentions that there are definite political overtones to the piece. "The great thing about horror or sci-fi is that you can tell stuff about today without lecturing people."

High Moon will be presented in an alternative theatre structure, held on location at Heritage Acres, where viewers will be standing and walking around for about an hour to different areas of the venue. Elendune says that compared to traditional theatre, the on-site nature of this production will provide viewers a unique experience.

"I think it'll be completely different than what people expect, what they're used to in a normal black-box type theatre," he says. "It's going to be pitch black out there, once you're away from the road where the town is. It's silent, it's dark, you're going to be there with

"It's going to be pitch black out there, once you're away from the road where the town is."

DAVID ELENEDUNE
HIGH MOON

40 or 50 people walking through the woods, and we're going to tell you a story. It's going to be immersive."

Co-writer Case says that this adventure is a way for him to branch out from traditional theatrical storytelling techniques, and he is diving into the lore of the lycanthrope.

"The interesting thing about the Wolfman story is while there's lots of myth around lycanthropes throughout human history, there's no classical Wolfman story, other than the Ron Chaney movie, and so that's what really started the Wolfman story," says Case. "After doing 15 years of classical stories, I thought it would be fun to do an original one."

Since this is an outdoor production, viewers can expect it to happen regardless of inclement weather, says Case, so people should be prepared for the worst.

"We're doing it rain or shine," he says. "My hope is that it's not

going to pour down, but it might, so people should wear appropriate clothing, sweaters, layers, and if it looks like rain, then galoshes and umbrellas."

Elendune says that viewers can come for the scares, the fun, the politics, or all of the above, but perhaps this play is not for the weakest of hearts.

"If you want to delve deeper into the politics in it, you can, or you can just enjoy it on the surface level of werewolves and cowboys," says Elendune. "It's going to be fun, and it's going to be different. You'll be wandering about in the dark woods, and if you do get easily scared, then come with somebody who you can hold your hand with."

High Moon
Various days and times,
October 15 to 31
\$25-\$35, Heritage Acres
31-iguanas.tickit.ca



Student Society Board Elections

October 22nd to 24th Voting opens 9am – Closes 11:30pm



PRIDE DIRECTOR



Acacia Tooth

If elected as Pride Director for a second term, I continue the promise of making sure that what are usually marginalized voices can be heard. As student and as a person in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, we deserve to be recognized for our contributions and ideas we bring to the table with our intersectional view points others may not think of.



LANSLOWNE DIRECTOR AT LARGE



Aleah Peterson

Hi, I'm a second year Biochemistry student on the medicine track, and I'm running for CCSS Lansdowne Director. I'm running because I really believe our programs should feel like more than just classes. Camosun should feel like a community where everyone has a place. As someone who spends a lot of time in with my head buried down in schoolwork, I know how easy it is to get caught up in school and miss out on the opportunities around us. I want to help bridge that gap by making it easier for students to find research, volunteer and networking events, and feel more involved in the scene at Camosun. If elected, I'll focus on making CCSS events more accessible and build a stronger sense of community across all science programs. Essentially, I want to make our community more connected!



Angela Chou

Hi, my name is Angela Chou and it would be my honour to serve as one of your Lansdowne Campus Directors for the next year. With my previous experience on your student society board, I am familiar with how to reach the people we need to reach to help us address your concerns. Using my past experience, I am happy to continue to help facilitate meetings so that we can continue to do the work to help students and also put on fun events. Thank you!

The College will send an e-mail!
Check your inbox and your junk folder

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Oct 16 2025

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stage

God Is a Scottish Drag Queen shows God with a sense of humour and an accent

NIK OVSTAAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Do you ever wish you could sit down with the Almighty, and really just get down to brass tacks? Well, with *God Is a Scottish Drag Queen*, audiences can do just that.

Comedian Mike Delamont started his stage career here in Victoria, and now he’s coming back, and bringing his most-loved show with him. The last time Delamont performed here was over a decade ago, and it’s been non-stop touring for him and his wife Chantelle since then.

Delamont has many shows in the *Scottish Drag Queen* canon, but this will be something special.

“There are parts one, two, and three, as well as a Christmas special and a Halloween special that we have been workshoping, we are just starting to perform,” he says. “We’ve done a few of them in Victoria, but funnily enough we have never done the original. I’m not sure why it got skipped, it’s just how it worked out, I suppose, so I’m very glad we get to finally do it.”

The show, as you may have surmised, is about God being a drag queen with a thick Scottish brogue. It’s a take-no-prisoners, light-hearted spoof of all of creation, where, in Delamont’s words, “God

“I want people to know that they can bring their grandma. I love that my shows have such a diverse audience. There’s older folks, there’s young queer kids with brightly coloured hair, and they can all sit next to each other and laugh at the same jokes, and also experience moments of real heart, moments of sweetness.”

MIKE DELAMONT
GOD IS A SCOTTISH DRAG QUEEN

is the comedian, not the punchline.” If you’re wondering where the Hell (or Heaven) the character came from, you’re not alone.

“I started off doing a monologue every month with [local theatre company] Atomic Vaudeville, and when I made the jump to Toronto to try to make it big, and it didn’t happen, I just decided to write my own show,” he says. “I thought about which characters I had played that I liked best and has the most to say, and obviously I landed on the God character. I wrote the first one-hour show, and it just blossomed on the Fringe circuit.”

Although this show has been around since 2015, you needn’t

worry about the jokes being stale or outdated or divisive due to Delamont and Chantelle’s consistent workshoping of new material.

“We updated it again just this summer to play on the stages of London’s West End, so it’s never had a chance to go stagnant. They seemed to enjoy it, because they are bringing us back over for a 12-city UK tour in February,” he says. “I tend to think that a lot of comedy is quite mean at its core, and I made a decision many years ago that my material would never punch down. I wouldn’t make fun of people. I want people to know that they can bring their grandma. I love that my shows have such a diverse audience.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mike Delamont is bringing *God Is a Scottish Drag Queen* to Victoria.

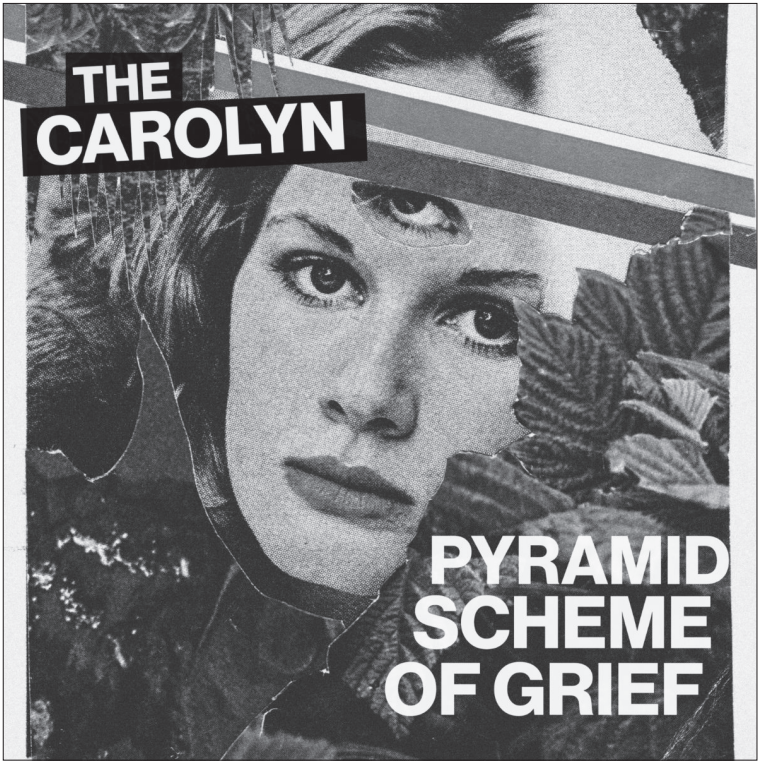
There’s older folks, there’s young queer kids with brightly coloured hair, and they can all sit next to each other and laugh at the same jokes, and also experience moments of real heart, moments of sweetness. It’s about balance.”

God Is a Scottish Drag Queen

3:00 pm and 7:30 pm,
Saturday, October 25

\$47.75 and up,
McPherson Playhouse

rmts.bc.ca



New Music Revue

The Telephone Numbers
Scarecrow II
(Slumberland)
3.5/5

San Francisco’s The Telephone Numbers are cementing themselves as a worthy presence in the indie pop scene, with their second album, *Scarecrow II*, boldly embracing the timeless feel of ’70s and ’90s rock.

From the opening track, “Good-bye Rock n Roll,” the band establishes a clear and distinct sound that remains present throughout the album. Each song features a strong, typically upbeat tempo, with dreamy acoustics and vocals that pay homage to the early California music scene while still appealing to a wider audience of music lovers.

These elements come together to create a formulaic structure that,

perhaps in spite of itself, doesn’t get old, nor does it feel repetitive. And the reason for this? Well, similar to bands like Bleachers, The Telephone Numbers lean into a vast and somewhat strange—for rock—body of instruments, including the organ, mellotron, mandolin, and trumpet. The result of this is a glowingly unique sound filled with warmth, familiarity, and resonance.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the band’s lyricism. While there are bright moments, specifically on tracks like “Ebb Tide,” “Falling Dream,” and “Scarecrow,” the bulk of their lyric writing left me unimpressed and disappointed. For this reason, I opted to focus less on what they were saying and more on how they were saying it—near-perfectly. Not

to mention the album’s production, mixed by Chris Cohen, which seamlessly polishes an already shining collection of songs.

Now, all that being said, as they creep up on their seventh year together, the broader success of The Telephone Numbers remains to be seen. As an underground band with no social media presence, they primarily perform and promote on a local level. And while respectable, I do think this squanders a great listening opportunity for us folks not residing in the San Francisco area.

So, for fans of The Eagles, Brett Dennen, and any number of indie musicians who embrace nostalgia alongside doomed optimism, this album is for you. Even if they don’t want you to know about it.

-Ashley Hagel

New Music Revue

The Carolyn
Pyramid Scheme of Grief
(59 X Records/Disconnect Disconnect Records)
4/5

Here’s what Atlanta-based three-piece The Carolyn know what matters: punk songs don’t need to be over two and a half minutes long. As it turns out, no songs on their third LP, *Pyramid Scheme of Grief*, go beyond that length, and absolutely nothing suffers for it. And like peers in bands like The Lawrence Arms, Joyce Manor, or Gaslight Anthem, The Carolyn manages to pack a lot of feels into a sonic space often wrongfully dismissed as being emotionally stunted.

Sure, it feels like tracks such as the excellent “White Russians” (melancholy through the bravado)

and “And the Infinite Void” (driving, moving, finalizing) end a bit prematurely, but didn’t every single song on Hot Water Music’s *A Flight and a Crash* also end prematurely? (Come on, no way it’s just me who thought that.) And that right there is one of the best melodic punk albums of the past 25 years, so maybe sometimes it’s all about doing what needs to be done and making a quick exit while it’s still good enough to hurt.

“Nosebleeds” is The Menzingers without the hysteria, or Banner Pilot with the hysteria; it’s powerful, it’s full steam ahead, and then it ends, almost right when it’s getting started. “I Thought You Were Dead” came and went before I made any notes about it, but I loved it, and “Katie Arson” has an enveloping sadness through the crashing and

bashing and distortion, which is often the best sadness. “Routines” almost falls apart at the seams, which is what the best music does.

I don’t know how long this record is, and I’m not looking because it doesn’t matter—ultimately, the heft is in every kick of the bass drum, in every strained vocal, in every guitar string hit just a bit too hard.

There’s joy in sadness and small victories in defeat and a wisdom in knowing that the more it hurts the better it was. Sometimes a two-minute punk song can sum all that up better than anything else. Nothing else should matter if that’s what I think I know, and that’s what The Carolyn know.

-Greg Pratt

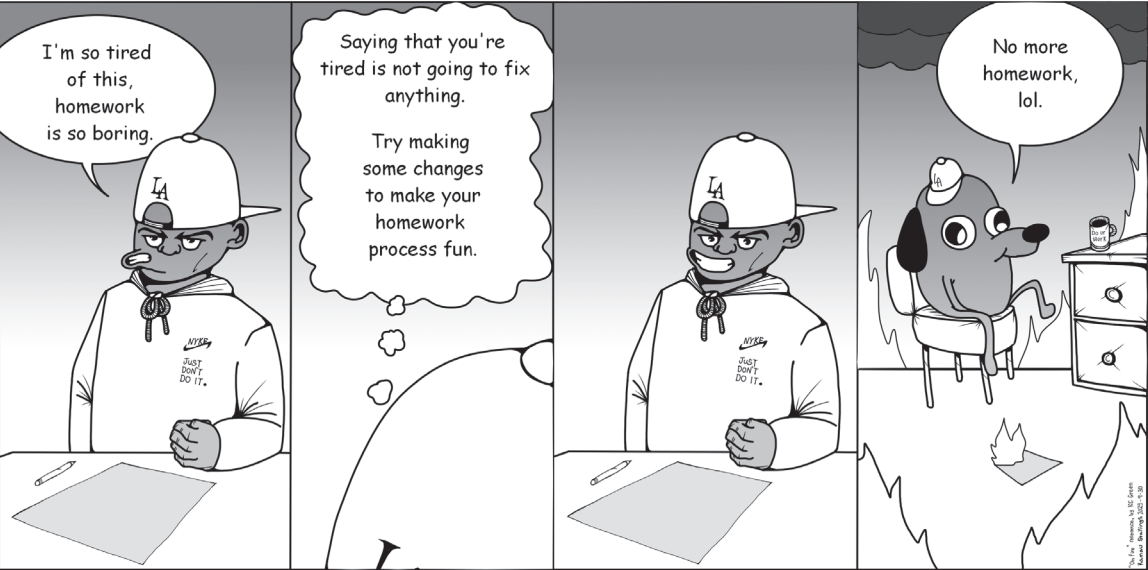
Natural Selection - Emily Welch



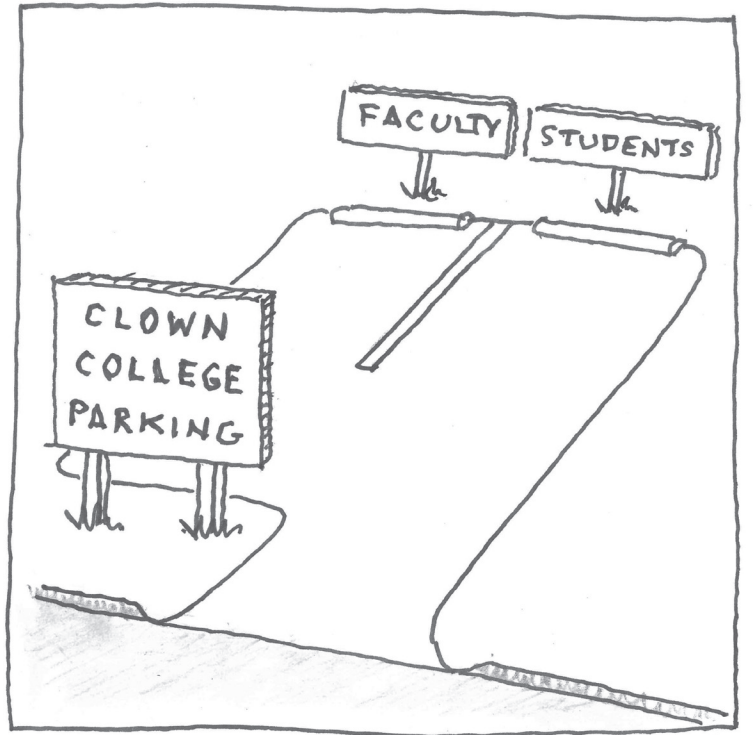
mr. andy - Sofie Mott



Cool Thing - Kamau Stallings



Telescopic Penguins - Michael Erwin



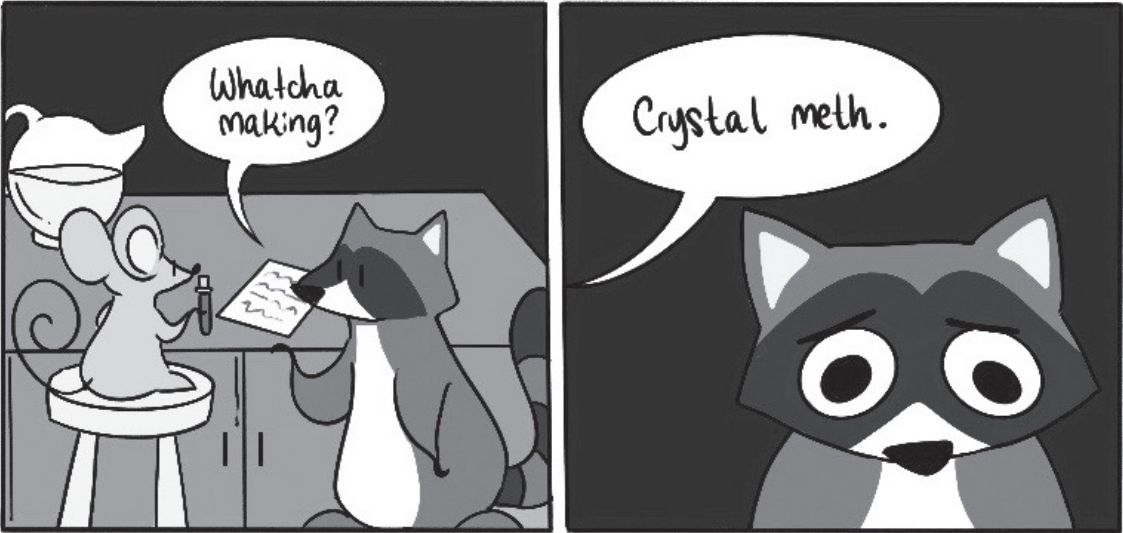
Evie the Alien - Jazmyn Hodges



Wild World of Wendland - Huxley Wendland



Crumb and Crouton - Jiya Bhoondpaul



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Pieces of Performance

by Acacia Tooth

Backstage Shade Festival quotables

Be sure to pay attention and learn your history. That blood, sweat, and tears ended slavery. As we watch abroad, we see the desecration of soil. While millionaires live in spoil. Now we fight once again to protect our rights. Through rallies and education we hang on until light. To be part of the revolution is to speak up for others. Our sisters, mothers, fathers, and brothers. From Palestine, Sudan, Congo, and more. There will never be blood spilled that you could ignore. Protest, fight, scream, and support. It is our fight, we're all connected, like our ancestors before.

Sharing the green room in the McPherson Playhouse is a memorable experience for myself as a performer; to share it with an all-

BIPOC cast of incredibly talented and magical people put it over the top. Shade Burlesque Festival made its debut on September 26 and 27 with headliners Mx. Pucks A'Plenty and Joy Rider. Joining the mix was the legendary Ka'ena and host with the most Coco Rosé.

I asked some of the performers for their thoughts on the Shade festival experience and for some words of wisdom while we waited to hit the stage and watched from behind the curtains as others captivated the audience.

"Shade is one of the best backstage experiences of my life," said Mx. Bukuru. "To be without witness is to be free."

Getting deep into self-love and

living for yourself, Alexa Perplexa offered the best way to be in the moment and make it yours.

"You get to define what burlesque means to you," said Perplexa. "There's no one right way. Make it work for you, your body, and abilities. And bring your own brand."

Stagehands are some of the best people to work alongside. They need to be on top of prop handling, placing, helping performers with their numbers, and tracking articles of clothing tossed on stage or into the crowd. Jasper Jinx and Oliver Clozoff were a strong team and Jinx's experience speaks volumes to how management and producing makes all the difference.

"[It was] very well organized,"

said Jinx. "As one of the stagehands, the notes were so well kept and included so much information [to arrange the stage]. Loved the energy and love Cherry [Cheeks] put into the whole show."

The intensity of preparation for this festival may affect my grades as I drowned in 15,000 rhinestones, but being able to display my most powerful number was worth it all. Opening with my own writing (see beginning) before "Empire Now" by Hozier unleashed feelings of strength, hope, and yearning. And performing this piece in front of someone I admire so much made it all the more special—Mx. Pucks A'Plenty is a huge inspiration for myself and I'm sure many BIPOC

performers as they are the most down-to-earth, well-spoken, and caring individual. The amount of care they pour into their own passion is astounding.

"Being part of Shade is an honour," Mx. Pucks A'Plenty told me. "I have been a performer for eight years and this is my first time headlining a festival. As a producer of an all-BIPOC festival in Seattle, I am excited to welcome Shade as a sibling festival and support each other with our missions to highlight and elevate performers of colour."

And the best advice goes to CallMeKeeks, who said that "If you think you gotta pee, you probably do... Go pee before you put the whole outfit on."



Food for Thought

by Evelyn Jordan

Grindstone Cafe hidden gem worthy of support

Across the road from Value Village, on the corner of Herald and Store, there sits a pale blue stucco building beautifully painted with forest murals. In it resides a hidden gem: Grindstone Cafe.

I frequent this neighbourhood to collect art supplies and drink bubble tea, so I've recently discovered the quiet but vibrant atmosphere in Grindstone to be a breath of fresh air compared to the rush of the world surrounding it.

On this particular visit, I was greeted by a nice young woman, and I ordered the Chicken Apple Blue Cheese sandwich and a 12-ounce

iced latte. \$21 before tax and tip, which I found fairly reasonable for the quality of food and beverage I received.

The man working the kitchen started preparing my meal, while the woman made the latte. Both were ready within minutes.

The sandwich was superb, with fresh roasted chicken, sweet apple, tangy blue cheese, and creamy garlic butter all coming together to create a harmonious flavour profile between the soft yet springy ciabatta buns.

I only got a few sips of the iced coffee as it was intended for my

partner, but it was enough to taste the rich boldness of the fresh beans that they source from around the world. I can't recommend enough giving any one of their coffee-based beverages a try.

They don't only serve sandwiches and coffee, though. There are other cafe staples such as soups, salads, cold entrees and snacks, and teas. Gluten-free options are also available.

Now, the *pièce de résistance*: students (and seniors) get a 10-percent discount every day. Unfortunately I only saw the sign after I had ordered, but the woman working the

counter assured me that I would get the discount the next time I visited.

Grindstone—which also offers catering services—was established in 1990, and has definitely cemented itself as an integral part of the community. It's understandable why this cozy cafe has stood the test of time, even when many of our other beloved local restaurants and venues have had to shut their doors or sell to bigger corporations in recent years.

It's so important, now more than ever, to shop locally and visit small businesses such as this one. We are losing community and di-

versity in our business ecosystem. By giving our hard-earned money to those who in turn give back, we can restore the vibrant culture, not just around food, but also around our relationships to where we live, grow, and play.

So whether it's Grindstone or some hole-in-the-wall boutique that sells only the finest recycled cotton clothing you can find (if you know of a store like this, please send the info my way), be sure to give them your support, give them your business, and show them your appreciation for the work they do for their communities.

The Trash Bash - Gabby Bond



Message from your student board

September 17 was a big day for the Camosun College Student Society. For the first time since her appointment in the summer, we met with BC's new minister of post-secondary education and future skills, Jessie Sunner. MLA Dana Lajeunesse from Juan de Fuca—Malahat also joined us. It wasn't just another campus meeting. This was us, representing thousands of students, bringing our concerns directly to the people who can make change. And that matters. We walked into the room with three priorities on our minds.

First, protecting the tuition cap. Right now, BC law only allows tuition for domestic students to go up by two percent each year. Some colleges want that cap raised, arguing they need the extra money to balance their budgets. On paper, it looks like a quick fix. In reality, it's students who would pay the price. We're already managing rent, groceries, textbooks, and fees. Tuition hikes would only add more weight to an already heavy load.

We told the minister that protecting this cap is non-negotiable. If anything, it should be strengthened. When institutions fall short on funding, the answer shouldn't be passing the burden on to students. Government needs to step up. Students deserve affordability, not a bigger bill.

Second, the housing struggle. If you've ever searched for a place

to live in Greater Victoria, you know the struggle. Students often get overlooked by landlords because we earn less and don't have long rental histories. The places we do find are often overpriced or in rough condition. Housing like that doesn't just hurt our wallets. It affects our health, our focus, and, ultimately, our academic success.

The new student housing project at Lansdowne, set to open in 2027, is a positive step, but it will only serve about four percent of Camosun students. That leaves the vast majority still scrambling, especially those at Interurban. We pressed the minister on this because students need more than a symbolic project. We need housing that actually meets the scale of the crisis.

Third, "Cuts suck. Fix education." By coincidence, the very day of our meeting was also the launch of the BC Federation of Students' "Cuts Suck. Fix Education." campaign. That gave us the chance to show how these cuts play out at Camosun.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion programming has been reduced. Open educational resources that make textbooks more affordable have been scaled back. Dedicated international student advising is gone, leaving domestic advisors already stretched thin to fill the gap. These aren't small trims. They chip away at the supports that help students succeed. We

told the minister the truth. Cuts are making education harder, not easier. And the only real fix is reinvestment.

Leaving that meeting, I felt both energized and aware of the work still ahead. Having a seat at the table matters, but one meeting doesn't solve decades of underfunding, skyrocketing rents, or shrinking student supports. Advocacy isn't a one-time event. It's something we have to keep showing up for.

And that's where students come in. Every voice adds pressure. Every story about housing struggles, every pushback against tuition hikes, every demand for better services reminds government that we're not going away. We're part of the system, and we're shaping where it goes.

The takeaway is simple. Students aren't powerless. We have a say in the future of post-secondary education. The louder we speak together, the harder it becomes for anyone in power to ignore us. And, yes, I may have cautioned the minister that her mailbox will soon be flooded with the postcards many of you have signed. Thank you for that, because together we make sure our message gets through loud and clear.

In solidarity,
Terence Baluyut
External executive, Camosun College Student Society

word search

G S H H J Y S P H J F F O T B D E R F D
B E R X E X Y G X I D G E O M S F Z B D
S H O N U Q G K J O T J E O K A G R B S
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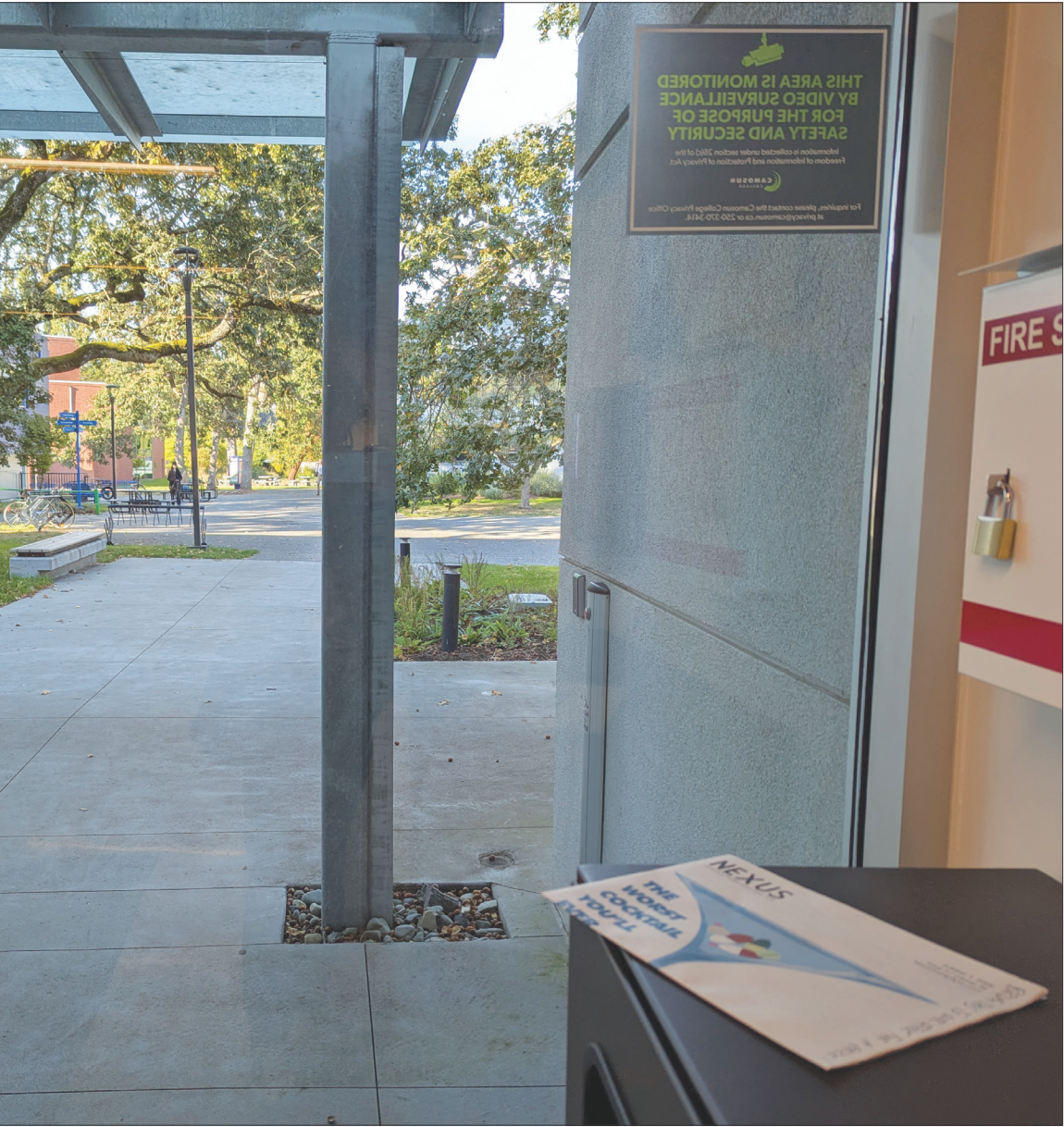
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