

THE STORIES THAT
SHAPED THE YEAR



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editor’s letter
Co-working spaces

What I have begun to learn only now, some 20 years late, is that cooperation is a necessary duty just as much as it is a maddening one. This is a difficult point to admit. Why it took so long to come to this final realization, one with the palpable glow of self-evidence, seems to point exactly here: the human condition of a writer. To write, as I’ve come to understand it as a vulnerable and personal act, is a reserved performance—the pen motorized by my hand, the keys on the computer typed in my particular unison, the pauses between motions a frustration of my own excruciating kind. Writing, in other words, is a sacred confession of one’s very centre.

During her Regents’ Lecture at the University of California at Berkeley, where she was an alumni, Joan Didion says to a standing-room audience that “In many ways writing is the act of saying ‘I,’ of imposing oneself upon other people, of saying listen to me, see it my way, change your mind.” I suppose you can make the case for all trades. The welder arcs the base metal to the consumable electrode from unique memory and precision, forcing onto the automobile a finished product. The copy boy traces the steps to and from the counter to the printer in a dance so private, clients cannot spot the intricacies and simply know the job is done. Writing, however, is nothing more than the statement of sovereignty.

I watch lights be strung up for a rehearsal. We, the novice actors in a film, are told to speak in synchronicity with one another, leaving as little room between each others’ voices as manageable. We become a choir this way—a single force of sound that to distinguish one from the other would be only an attempt to reduce atoms.

While working on this film project, my husband and neighbour the only cast and crew, efforts to reduce our shared atom, to seek creative independence, failed to produce ideal results. Of course, I alone could perhaps write the thing, as could my husband and neighbour. In fact, it may get the job done on time this way, before December, before the natural light escapes. I imagine, in other words, a film with the markings of my own portfolio, dressed in the drapes of my particular style. But it cannot exist this way. The reserved performance exists in a new form that must be reckoned with—the act of participation is, rather, the act of saying “I,” and that very well may be sufficient.

Lydia Zuleta, student editor

flashback
25 Years Ago in Nexus



JASMINE WAGSTAFF
STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

AIDS awareness: Our November 27, 2000 issue was published during international AIDS week. Fear of AIDS was still prevalent at the time and many *Nexus* writers discussed in this issue how this had impacted them personally, mostly in regard to their sex lives. Sarah Petrescu wrote about how people were becoming much more cautious with their sexual relationships and ensuring they got tested regularly, adding that this was the start of liberating ourselves from the fear of AIDS. *The Round Table*, a column moderated by Genevieve Mutschler, featured a discussion on AIDS and its impact on the love lives of students. Mutschler talked about how this increased awareness seemed to be making people afraid of intimacy and that she wishes she could have been born a generation ago in the free-love hippie era instead.

Cullen’s campus adventures: Concerns were being raised to the Camosun College Student Society over the presence of an unleashed dog on campus. But there was no need to worry: that’s just Cullen. His human, Scott Amos, was a student at Camosun’s Lansdowne campus and Amos frequently brought Cullen along for classes. Unfortunately, this was illegal as Cullen was off leash, and Amos knew this. Despite concerns, Cullen was still allowed to be on campus and enjoyed making friends with students. Amos appreciated the concern for Cullen’s well-being, but said that his fellow students had no reason to worry. All he asked was that people stop trying to feed Cullen M&Ms, which is fair enough.

Full of pride: This issue spotlighted The Camosun Pride Collective, whose Pride Lounge was in the Fisher building at the time; it can now be found on the ground floor of the Richmond House. The lounge provides 2SLGBTQ+ students a place to relax, as well as support, resources, and information that they may not have easily been able to access otherwise back in 2000. Sadly, there wasn’t a lot of support for the Pride Collective or the lounge then, but that has changed for the better over the years, with the lounge now a mainstay at Lansdowne.

open space
Provincial formulary failing

DAISY DALTON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Navigating medication coverage in British Columbia is hard enough for most people. For students with ADHD, it can feel impossible. On paper, it seems like the provincial formulary (the list of drugs covered under BC’s PharmaCare program) is designed to make essential medications accessible. In reality, its lack of nuance means that for many students, “coverage” is only theoretical. It covers just a narrow range of ADHD medications, and often not the ones that

cheaper, covered alternative first. That means weeks of instability, withdrawal, and, potentially, academic chaos while they try something that might not work. Then they must book follow-up appointments (not easy when family doctors are scarce), have their doctor complete and submit the paperwork, and wait—sometimes for weeks—for a decision. If any information is missing or entered incorrectly, the whole process restarts. For neurotypical people, that’s frustrating. For someone with ADHD, it’s almost impossible

The irony is striking: the very symptoms of ADHD that medication can help with make navigating this system especially difficult.

actually work best for the people who need them. For example, methylphenidate, the generic form of Ritalin, is covered, but only in its short-acting and sustained-release forms. The longer-acting, controlled, or extended-release options like Concerta aren’t. That might not sound like a big difference on paper, but in practice, it’s huge. Shorter-acting medications wear off quickly, meaning students often have to take multiple doses throughout the day to stay focused and functional. For people with ADHD (whose symptoms include forgetfulness, time blindness, and difficulty with routine) that’s asking a lot. Missing even one dose can derail an entire day. The situation is even worse for those who can’t tolerate stimulants at all. Strattera, a non-stimulant ADHD medication, can be life-changing for people who experience side effects or contraindications with stimulants. It’s also prohibitively expensive, and BC doesn’t cover it. The only other non-stimulant option, Intuniv, is similarly costly and uncovered. So, for many students, it’s either pay hundreds out of pocket each month or go without the medication that allows them to function. The province does have a system for making exceptions through special authority—a process that allows patients to apply for coverage of drugs not normally listed on the formulary. In theory, this provides flexibility. In practice, it’s a bureaucratic maze. To qualify for special authority, a student often has to stop taking their current medication and “fail” on a

to manage. The irony is striking: the very symptoms of ADHD that medication can help with (executive dysfunction, difficulty with organization, forgetfulness) make navigating this system especially difficult. What makes this extra unfair for students is that losing coverage often coincides with major life transitions. A student moving from their parents’ insurance to a student plan, or from full-time work to full-time study, might suddenly lose access to the medication that helped them succeed in the first place. It’s an impossible situation: pay out of pocket, jump through administrative hoops, or go without. None of these options are acceptable. This isn’t just a student issue, it’s an equity issue. The formulary’s one-size-fits-all approach punishes those whose needs don’t fit neatly into bureaucratic boxes. It assumes everyone can access a family doctor, manage complex paperwork, and afford to wait weeks without essential medication. Fixing this requires more than tinkering with coverage lists. It means recognizing that access to medicine is about practicality, not just policy. BC should expand coverage to include long-acting and non-stimulant ADHD medications, and simplify the special authority process, especially for conditions like ADHD, where executive dysfunction is a defining feature. Students deserve drug-coverage systems designed for real people, not ideal ones. Because right now, the formulary fails the very people it’s supposed to help.

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

Federal budget 2025 further reduces international student permits, advocacy groups weigh in

“Public post-secondary education in Canada is under severe strain. And so, lowering the cap, again, on international students means that there will be reduced revenues for post-secondary institutions.”

ROBIN WHITAKER
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

LYDIA ZULETA
STUDENT EDITOR

The 2025 federal budget will roughly halve the number of international-student study permits beginning next year, despite concerns over financial strain on colleges and universities—some of which, like Camosun, are already confronting major budget deficits.

Passed on Monday, November 17, the budget—*Canada Strong*—plans to issue a maximum of 155,000 new international student permits in 2026, and 150,000 in both 2027 and 2028, reduced from the cap of 305,900 announced under former prime minister Justin Trudeau in October 2024—itself a reduction from previous caps.

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Terence Baluyut says that current levels of international study permits aren’t even being met, due to damage to the country’s post-secondary reputation.

“Well, the thing is, right now, even though we already are having some cuts with international study permits, statistics show us that Canada is not even meeting those gaps,” he says. “And that shows that Canada as a brand for international education has really been tarnished because of the years of failed policy. So even though they would be doing some more caps in international study permits, there’s also no guarantee that those caps would be met. And this really sucks because that means that many post-secondary institutions now have to navigate

through the challenges of trying to see how could they balance their own budget having no more international students enrolment.”

Camosun currently has 1,155 international students (down from 1,836 in the fall 2024 semester) with international-student tuition making up 12 percent—\$21 million—of its revenue.

A spokesperson for Camosun declined an interview for this story, saying it was too early to speculate how the new cap may affect the college.

Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) president Robin Whitaker says that while the decision to further reduce the cap may have been necessary to get a grip on international-student recruitment exploitation, the plan leaves little for institutions to rely on.

“What we need to do is look at the foundation,” says Whitaker. “Public post-secondary education in Canada is under severe strain. And so, lowering the cap, again, on international students means that there will be reduced revenues for post-secondary institutions. Without some plan to deal with the financial fallout, the current strain is only going to be exacerbated. And so that will have effects on both academic staff members and on students who, again, may be facing program reductions or elimination at their local college or university.”

The student society sent representatives to Ottawa to advocate for post-secondary issues at the same

time that Budget 2025 was being voted on.

“So we have had meetings with the government as well as the MPs from other parties to make sure that they know about what’s happening on the ground,” says Baluyut. “One thing that we’re bringing forward for sure [is] what’s happening on the ground in our campus, like the affordability concern that’s going on.”

Whitaker says that one of the complications of post-secondary funding is that education is in the provincial jurisdiction.

“Provincial governments obviously have a key responsibility there,” she says. “But the federal government can play a role as well. And, really, at this stage, provinces and the federal government need to get together and come up with a plan to stabilize funding for post-secondary education in Canada. I think we’re all looking for ways to strengthen Canada right now, and there’s a lot of talk about nation-building projects and so on. And post-secondary education and research has a key role to play in that, but it needs to be supported in a sustainable way for for us to reach that potential.”

Whitaker says that Canada has a strong history of providing high-quality accessible public post-secondary education, but she’s disappointed in the direction that a lack of funding may lead it in for Canadian students as well.

“I think that’s been one of our strengths, that there has been a history where no matter where you are, if you go to your local public college or university, you’re going to get a good education. It’s really a shame to see that being put into jeopardy because of chronic underfunding,” says Whitaker. “We want every Canadian student to have access to the same opportunity and to an opportunity to get a high-quality education that they can afford and that’s accessible to them. I think that’s what this is really all about.

“Canada as a brand for international education has really been tarnished because of the years of failed policy.”

TERENCE BALUYUT
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

There’s a lot of places in Canada where if students are not able to travel, if a program is not available close to home, it’s simply not accessible to them. And that’s an equity issue. I think this really matters for the strength of the country and for the future of the country. But it also matters as a contribution to democratic equality and a commitment to ensuring that all Canadians have the same opportunities.”

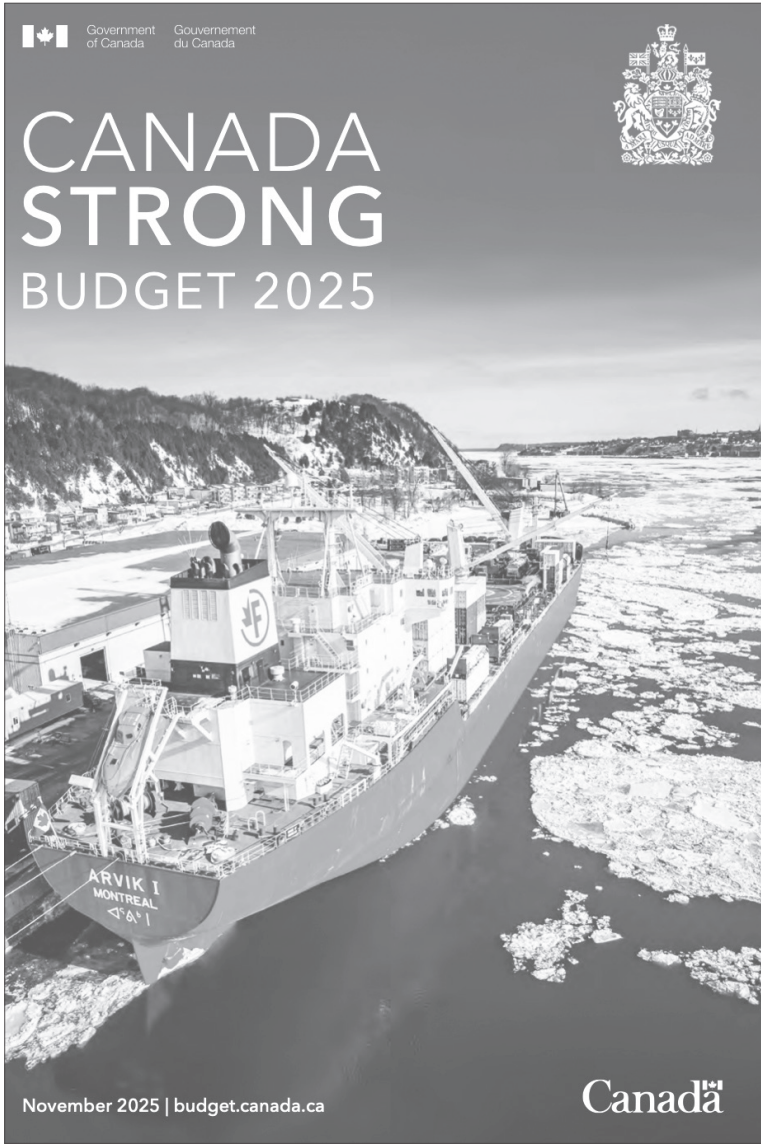


PHOTO PROVIDED

The federal government recently released Budget 2025, *Canada Strong*.

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun quarterly budget update

On November 4, Camosun College announced that as of September 30, six months into its fiscal year, it was in a deficit position. While a deficit position halfway through the fiscal year isn’t unusual, the deficit is currently \$2.2 million higher than anticipated, due to reduced revenues and spending on higher salaries and benefits. Revenue for the college is \$1.6 million less than what was budgeted, mainly due to a reduction in international-student enrolment numbers.

Departments and schools have been directed to reduce variances to address the \$2.2-million deficit to help balance the budget.

Camosun library offers National Day of Remembrance resource guide

The Camosun College library is offering a resource guide to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6, as well as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which runs from November 25 to

December 10. The resource guide features activist resources, and creative and scholarly works. See the guide at camosun.libguides.com/remembrance-action.

New body scanning machine at Interurban

Camosun’s kinesiology department has added a new dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) body scanning machine to the Athletic and Exercise Therapy Clinic (AET) at the Pacific Institute for Sport Education at Interurban campus. The machine provides detailed readings of body fat percentage, lean muscle mass, and bone

mineral content, along with other useful information regarding one’s body composition. The machine is being used in kinesiology classes to give students a chance to use industry-grade equipment. It’s also being used outside the classroom, where the AET clinic is offering wellness assessments, team evaluations, and collaborative research opportunities.

Anthropology of Death students showcase capstone projects

Students in Camosun’s Anthropology of Death class will soon be presenting their capstone

projects to the public. These projects, which explore different values and customs surrounding death across cultures, will be on display from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 29 at the Craigdarroch Castle.

–TYLER CALHOON-CARDINAL AND JASMINE WAGSTAFF, STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

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college

Camosun College launches Creative Writing certificate



CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Camosun College launched its new Creative Writing certificate this September.

TYLER CALHOON-CARDINAL
STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Camosun College is offering a new Creative Writing certificate. The program, which launched in September, consists of five creative writing courses, two English courses, and three electives; students have the option of full-time or part-time study.

Students can choose from a variety of creative writing subjects such as advanced fiction, child and youth fiction, and speculative fiction. Courses in other genres are

also available, such as scriptwriting, poetry, personal narrative, and creative nonfiction. Students must also take an industry creative writing course such as publishing or editing.

Camosun student Trillium McNabb is taking the Creative Writing certificate. She says she signed up for the program after she was in a different program and felt burnt out.

“I realized I wasn’t going to like the career I would have had if I stayed,” says McNabb, who also writes for *Nexus*. “As a way of coping with disappointment, I

started writing and discovered a real passion for it. Ever since I started the program, I’ve felt so fulfilled.”

McNabb says she has learned many useful skills in the program, and she continues to develop her writing skills. She says she has learned lots about the more technical aspect of writing from the program.

“Learning how to format dialogue specifically has been the most interesting thing for me,” she says. “So, I didn’t indent what my characters were saying at first, and I had a

“Ever since I started the program, I’ve felt so fulfilled.”

TRILLIUM MCNABB
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

lot of back-and-forth dialogues, but now, I’ve figured out how to properly do indenting, as well as having some nice descriptions and having some more flow in my writing.”

Camosun instructor Kari Jones teaches creative writing and English; she’s one of the teachers for the new program.

“You’ll leave the program with a wide range of creative writing skills,” says Jones.

Jones says teaching this new program is a lot of fun for her.

“I love teaching creative writing in general. I love teaching students who love to write since I myself am a writer,” she says. “I enjoy talking about writing when I walk into the creative writing classes.”

Jones says anybody who is interested in being creative and exploring writing as a means to do that may be interested in taking the program.

“We often get students who are really new to writing and they’re just thinking about what it is they’d like

to write,” she says. “Those students are great to have. Sometimes we get students who have writing experience and are looking to focus themselves.”

Camosun’s literary journal, *The Point* (formerly known as *Beside the Point*), is created through a publishing class that’s part of the program.

“The publishing class... pick a theme, and they collect writings from any students and they actually publish it,” says McNabb. “And it becomes a physical book that you can read, which is really cool.”

For McNabb, writing serves a large purpose, and the new program is helping out with that.

“I find that writing can be such a relief and a way to give your mind a break when you’re studying and to become inspired and love life again when maybe you’re not in the greatest place mentally, or you’re stressed out about something,” she says. “I’m finding this program to be extremely therapeutic.”

sports

Camosun Chargers men’s volleyball team re-establishing chemistry on court



CAMOSUN CHARGERS ATHLETICS

Camosun Chargers men’s basketball guard Cole Belton in action.

ASHLEY HAGEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Camosun Chargers men’s volleyball team has rounded out the first half of their season on a much-needed high note. With four rookies and two transfers, there’s

been a clear shift in team chemistry over the past few months, leaving a less-than-stellar reflection on their record.

“We had a pretty tough start to the semester, but right now, we’re feeling pretty good about going

“We had a pretty tough start to the semester, but right now, we’re feeling pretty good about going and closing out this semester, and going into next semester.”

MATT RAPIN
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

and closing out this semester, and going into next semester,” says floor captain Matt Rapin. “We’ve worked on a lot of different skills, and even though it’s not reflecting it right now, I think moving forward we’re kind of geared for that.”

As each player settles into their role, there’s the notable presence of two new additions to the team. Second-year transfers Carter Mullner and Logan Andrew have become assets to the Chargers, bringing experience and skill to an already stacked roster.

“I was a transfer, too, coming here,” says Rapin. “Teams operate differently, so it’s nice when guys transfer in. There’s different approaches on how to do things that maybe we wouldn’t have thought about, and they bring different elements to the team that maybe we didn’t think were possible.”

Leadership, too, has been a focus of the team this season, with minor changes being made to their

style and structure. Each captain’s position has evolved in function, creating an open environment in which every player is included.

“Everyone puts in their opinion on what they feel needs to get done and then, as a group, we can either take it on or, if we don’t think it’s necessary, we leave it,” says Rapin. “So, this year, there’s a lot more freedom for everyone to express themselves, which I think is pretty cool.”

Head coach Kelvin Ma, who led the Chargers to their second consecutive PACWEST and CCAA gold medals in 2023, has been working to improve the team’s overall game this season.

“Kelvin’s a very strategic coach,” says Rapin. “He definitely puts in a lot of time watching other teams for that game plan going into the next week. I know he works really hard at that, so I think it’s our job to follow it and move on each week. There’s good trust from

both sides, the coaching and the players, and that helps us play as good as we can.”

With the guidance of their head coach, as well as the leadership of their captains—Rapin, Jake Bolton, and Edvard Adolfsen—the team hopes to maintain an upward trajectory through the remainder of the season. But their most prevalent goals are to remain humble and team-focused.

“Obviously, winning is kind of a goal for everyone. But a thing for us is, each week, we build on what we worked on in practice, and then hopefully that shows in games. This last week, we really worked on defense and covering, and it was really rough in practice because it’s kind of new for a few guys, and then going into the weekend, it really felt like we worked on that. So moving forward, we can just keep building off that, and every week, work on something new. And then hopefully by the end of the year, we’ve kind of got it.”

Rapin hopes that the team will continue to develop throughout the season, furthering their connection on the court. But in order to regain their championship mojo, they must first re-establish their chemistry as a team.

“Volleyball is six guys on the court and six other guys kind of in supporting roles on the bench, so everyone has a role. It’s tough,” says Rapin. “You can’t do it alone.”

homelessness

Volunteers, support needed in shelters during winter weather



PHOTO PROVIDED

Our Place Society is a non-profit organization that supports those in need.

LYDIA ZULETA
STUDENT EDITOR

As cold weather in Victoria seeps in this year, no concerns are more significant and consequential than those coming from the city’s unhoused communities. While a record number of shelter spaces have opened before drops in temperature, this year’s most recent population count in Victoria found that nearly 1,750 people, including 318 living unsheltered, are currently experiencing homelessness across the region, a rise of five percent from the previous count.

Our Place Society director of communications Grant McKenzie says that supporting vulnerable communities is a priority for safety during the season. This winter, the non-profit will be opening an

emergency shelter in Saanich’s Broadview United Church to further address the issue.

“It’s the first time in quite a while we’ve expanded the emergency weather program, but we just saw the need to have overnight shelter for people as the weather gets worse,” he says. “Mostly we focus on what we call seasonal shelter... but we’ve seen that there’s still people that really need that emergency weather shelter, so we’re opening that.”

McKenzie says that volunteers are continuously needed to sustain the standard of care.

“[Our volunteers] do everything from chopping vegetables, because we serve a lot of meals, to organizing the clothing that we give away for free when people donate the

clothing, to working in the hygiene area—we have four separate shower units, and everybody gets half an hour in the shower... The volunteers and the staff, they go in and they clean that shower after every use,” says McKenzie. “And that’s how we show dignity and respect for people coming in. And I love that aspect of it. I love that aspect of giving someone that clean shower that they go into and that dignity... We also have volunteer drivers that go and do pickups and things like that and then sorting. There never seems to be an end to it.”

McKenzie says that actively supporting the community can be an opportunity for a change of perspective for volunteers, suspending the divide between housed and unhoused individuals.

“When you volunteer and you meet people one on one, you realize that everybody’s got a story. Everybody doesn’t want to be on that street... They’ve all had trauma and abuse in their lives, which is what has led them down that path to the street. And then that leads into addiction; it’s usually not the other way around—it’s homelessness leads to addiction, not addiction leads to homelessness. I think that that perception changes,” he says.

Our Place has a sponsor breakfast program where companies buy a breakfast and then come in and serve it to those in need.

“And that’s been really interesting,” says McKenzie. “We had one in and it was a bank and the bank manager, I don’t think had ever been near Pandora. And he came

“When you volunteer and you meet people one on one, you realize that everybody’s got a story.”

GRANT MCKENZIE
OUR PLACE SOCIETY

in and he was a little bit frightened because it was new to him, it was something he hadn’t experienced. And by the end of serving breakfast and talking to people and hearing some bad jokes, something like that, it completely changed how he perceived homelessness in the city... And I think that’s it—it’s that connection, that human-to-human connection that can really change perspectives.”

McKenzie says that stigma has long been a struggle to combat. He says that while it has been continuous, the ubiquity of social media usage has continued to sever individuals from confronting the homeless crisis with compassion.

“It’s easy for people to fall into that bubble, a self-serving bubble, where you just hear facts that reinforce your view of the world rather than a bit more all-encompassing. And I think that the majority of people, especially people who don’t interact with people on the street, they would rather the homelessness was hidden away almost rather than being solved. Those of us on the frontlines, we want it solved, not hidden away. And there’s a big difference,” he says. “I think

it’s always been that way. It’s not anything new. I think it’s a little bit harder sometimes if I’m talking on the radio or something like that. It’s easy for people to miss 99 percent of what I’m saying because it may go against what they believe. So they latch on to one percent that matches what they believe in or something. And so it’s a continual battle just to humanize people who are really struggling.”

McKenzie says that supporting people struggling with addiction, mental health, and housing requires advocacy in parliament just as much as on the frontlines.

“I think a big thing is reaching out to the Ministry, advocating, saying, We need more health care for people on the street. We need to be taking care of people. We need more housing built, but we need the supports that go with that housing. We really need more psychiatric care for people on the street. We’re seeing far too many people on the street that are suffering from mental-health issues that are not getting any help,” he says, “and so I think that just even letting the government know that this is a concern is helpful.”

exhibit

Maritime Museum exhibit explores Black roots in BC

MARIAN RESTREPO GALINDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Maritime Museum of British Columbia’s exhibit *1858: Black Routes, Black Roots* explores the history behind Black immigrants in British Columbia. The exhibit, which is in collaboration with the BC Black History Awareness Society, highlights personal stories, historical artefacts, and significant vessels such as the steamship *Commodore*, which brought many early Black immigrants from San Francisco to Vancouver Island.

BC Black History Awareness Society executive director Jamila Douhaibi says that the collaboration began when the museum was looking for ways to diversify narratives within BC’s maritime history and reached out to the society to help tell the story of early Black pioneers.

“Originally, we were thinking [the name] might be something around the steamship *Commodore*, but we decided on *1858: Black Routes, Black Roots*, to show that it’s more than that story,” says Douhaibi. “Black people came from San Francisco on, starting with the *Commodore*. There was also the steamship *Oregon*, the steamship *Republic*. That’s kind of... the beginning of that really big story that has led to today.”



IMAGES COURTESY OF CITY OF VICTORIA ARCHIVES, ROYAL BC MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, AND SALT SPRING ISLAND ARCHIVES

1858: Black Routes, Black Roots explores the history behind Black immigrants in British Columbia.

For Douhaibi, the exhibit comes as a critical opportunity to fill in gaps in public knowledge. Growing up on Vancouver Island, they rarely encountered Black history topics in school.

“I didn’t learn any of BC Black history,” they say. “Black immigration actually started much earlier than we were taught, and it’s so important to tell the story of these people who came and were such a big part of BC’s history.”

Douhaibi says that early Black residents held key roles in the province’s development—“The first dentist in BC was Black, out of Barkerville,” they say—yet, their

stories were often left out. This omission, Douhaibi adds, was not accidental.

“A lot of that early Black history in BC is often missed,” they explain. “I learned about the work of erasure in the early 1900s, where they tried to show that Black people didn’t exist here. That continual attempt to erase Black history has led to misinformation, that there are no Black people in BC or that the history isn’t strong. Showing the roots of 1858 really changes the narrative.”

The exhibit guides visitors through a chronological journey beginning in San Francisco, examining the social and political factors

that pushed Black communities to seek out safety, opportunities, and political rights in Canada.

“Many moved with the idea of a new home, new beginnings,” says Douhaibi. “They were told they’d be allowed to vote and purchase land, things they weren’t necessarily allowed to do in the States.”

The exhibit includes films, descendant interviews, visuals, and historical texts that contextualize the experiences and contributions of Black communities in BC throughout the 19th century. Considering that few artefacts remain, these pieces hold particular weight and significance. One of the most sig-

nificant items featured in the exhibit is an illustrated Bible that belonged to an early pioneer. The museum also brings a reconstruction of the ships such as the *Commodore*, which, Douhaibi admits, “was smaller and less imposing than many imagine.”

After more than a year in development, the exhibit is ready to become a place to foster conversation in the community.

“It was really interesting to see this process,” says Douhaibi. “I look forward to seeing all the responses and conversations that come from it.”

Ultimately, the society hopes the exhibit helps visitors recognize the depths and transcendence of Black presence in BC.

“Our organization is about celebrating the past, present, and future contributions of Black people in BC,” says Douhaibi, “and I really think that this exhibit shows that.”

1858: Black Routes, Black Roots
Until Saturday, April 25, 2026
The Maritime Museum
of British Columbia
mmbc.bc.ca

THE STORIES THAT

The rise of consumerism was on the minds of several *Nexus* writers this year. More of us are becoming aware of how overconsumption impacts the environment, and the climate crisis is becoming more worrisome by the day.

From student editor Lydia Zuleta’s article in May looking at the rise of online shopping leading to the death of department stores to contributing writer Evelyn Jordan giving tips in October to reduce your carbon footprint, students had a lot to say about all these issues.

Malls are slowly dying off in favour of online retailers. Makes sense: buying online is a lot easier than shopping in person. No need to talk to anyone or find someone to ask if the item you can’t find is in stock. Online retailers like Amazon have all of that information readily available. However, the simplicity and convenience of online shopping make it easy to forget about its downsides. Shipping items to each customer produces far more carbon emissions than shipping to a single mall does; the production of cheap items like fast fashion that are thrown away quickly and pollute the environment; the ethics of consumption are coming into question.

It’s no surprise that more and more people are looking to increasingly sustainable and ethical ways to purchase items. Thrift stores and other second-hand retailers are a great way to shop sustainably, selling everything from kitchenware to clothing. Buying used clothes provides customers with unique and affordable pieces while keeping discarded clothing out of landfills, which is more important now than ever before.

Some are even looking to make their own clothing and accessories to minimize their overall consumption and save some money in the process, as *Nexus* contributing writer Danielle Mier wrote about in October. Knitting a scarf or repurposing an old bedsheet into a dress offers a unique opportunity for self expression and sustainability.

They may not seem like much on their own, but making some of these small changes can have a huge positive impact on the environment in the long run.

-Jasmine Wagstaff, student editorial assistant

Food. It gives us energy; it nourishes our mind, body, soul; most importantly, it brings us joy, even in dark times.

As a student at Camosun, food is super important to how well I do in a class. It’s hard to think straight without sufficient nutrients, which is why it’s important that we talk about it more.

The Camosun College Student Society makes a point to provide students with opportunities for free meals, even offering a generous pantry of complimentary cooking ingredients to students on a tight budget.

This year we’ve had two columns focus specifically on food-related issues and stories (one of them being my own, *Food for Thought*, found in this issue on page 11). We’ve brought you important updates, restaurant recommendations, and heartwarming tales of food being used for the greater good of humanity.

As my all-time favourite chef and celebrity Anthony Bourdain once said, “Good food is very often, even most often, simple food.” To have the satisfaction of making your own meal and enjoying it with someone close to you, it doesn’t always have to be a five-course event. Just cozy up with some fresh bread and homemade soup, or even a simple pasta with butter, garlic, and parmesan cheese.

As we go into the new year, consider a resolution to make every moment a bit happier by focusing on the little things, like preparing your own meals using fresh and healthy ingredients, and taking the time to appreciate what you’ve made. Don’t just eat, savour. *Bon appétit!*

-Evelyn Jordan, contributing writer

After a series of federal mandate changes beginning last year brought forth a flurry of post-secondary concerns, namely what could happen to education without sufficient funding, Camosun College received significant backlash to its crisis response: reconstructions, reductions, eliminations, terminations, and, according to some, violations. **Conflicts continued this year between the college and the Camosun College Faculty Association (CCFA)** as the union attempted to mitigate impact on faculty and students in the wake of lost revenue.

CCFA president Lynelle Yutani spoke with *Nexus* on several occasions to update students with the CCFA’s efforts to reduce strain across Camosun’s campuses, including better working conditions and an attempt to get the college to engage in open bargaining.

In this year’s last update, Yutani claimed that the college has been overloading classes as the number of sections has lowered with insufficient instructors to fill more. This, going forward, she said, could result in disproportionate struggle for students who cannot afford to adapt or balance their schedules. In our September 17, 2025 issue, she also shared that it’s been a frustrating task for the union to ask repeatedly of the college to follow the collective agreement between the two and to provide transparency on consequential decisions.

Seeking to hold the college accountable in a series of mediations, bargainings, and arbitrations, the CCFA continues to advocate for its faculty and students.

Spokespersons from the college have declined all interview requests to date for stories covering this conflict.

-Lydia Zuleta, student editor

Being a student can mean a lot of different things, depending on who you’re talking to. Here at Camosun we have students of all backgrounds, origins, ages, and experiences. And one thread that ran through the stories we covered at *Nexus* this year was **what it means to be a mature student**.

Through that lens, I took on a piece in October about what going to post-secondary looks like at any age, and in June, contributing writer Emily Welch wrote the cover story “Returning student: On starting over in mid-life.”

Taking a step as a mature student brings the same anxieties as doing it as a younger student does. It involves stepping in knowing nothing about what this story will be, what direction that journey will take you, or if you’ve got the grits to do it all. Being a student means wearing so many hats, maybe even more when you’re a mature student with stories behind you, stories that bring experience you can apply to a school setting.

Taking on a role at *Nexus* newspaper can give those involved a sense of storytelling that they’re only just beginning to scratch, or maybe they’ve been scratching for some time.

Wearing a new hat in each class brings a different type of student to each moment. Maybe that’s your mathematician hat, or a psychologist hat; maybe it’s a nurse hat, or a student writer hat. Each time you put on a different hat, you unlock a new level of who you are as a student. I might encourage you to always wear your student-of-life hat along the way.

-Shane Levi Jeffery, contributing writer



Mental health is an important and undeniable part of life. This year, I wrote two feature articles and one opinion piece on this topic for *Nexus*, and I’m joined by my fellow writers, who have many personal and insightful things to say on the matter.

In my first piece for the paper, “The worst cocktail you’ll ever taste: my life with ADHD and anxiety,” I shared my life story and struggles with mental health as well as my hopeful thoughts on my upcoming post-secondary journey. But I’m far from the only person who struggles with these issues.

In our January 22 issue, writer Antaya Schneider wrote a piece called “How my adult ADHD diagnosis unlocked my academic potential.” In this piece, Schneider talked about her struggles with ADHD as well as her massive success in finally overcoming her struggles after her diagnosis.

In that same issue, our student editor Lydia Zuleta wrote about a North American loneliness epidemic. She talked about the societal forces that trap us in loneliness, and the ways we may free ourselves from it. Indeed, it may seem strange to be lonely in a world with eight billion people and unprecedented technological connectivity, but it’s a painful reality for many people.

Just as with physical health, the need to take care of one’s mental health isn’t going away any time soon. As the stigma slowly vanishes and people come together in shared pain and healing, we must remember that we share a world with everyone, and we do ourselves and others no favours by hiding from our pain. We must explore that pain and share those insights so we can all live with healthier minds, in a happier world.

-Tyler Calhoon-Cardinal, student editorial assistant

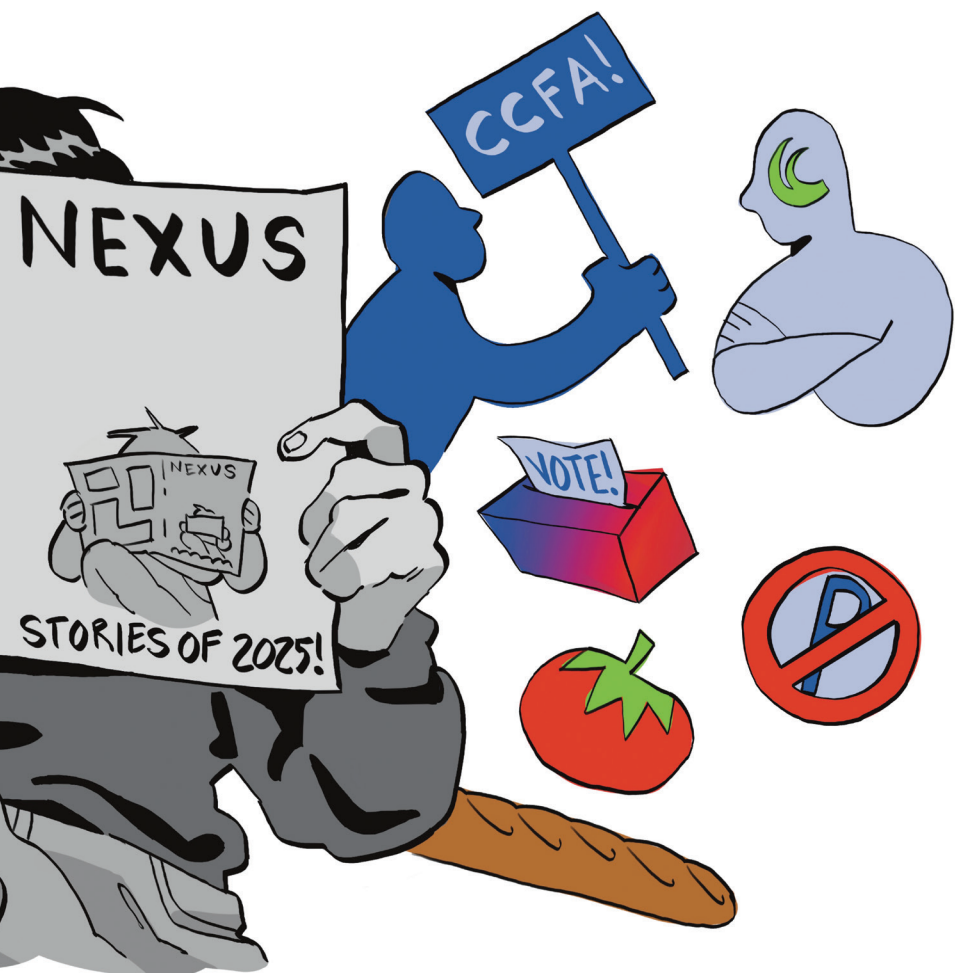
SHAPED THE YEAR

As the fall semester draws to a close and we prepare to leave 2025 in our rearview mirror, it's a good time to take stock of some of the changes, both small and large, that have been made this year. **Student elections** can seem like a piddling little detail in this world we've been thrust into, where autocratic behemoths duke it out somewhere in the soaring heights way above our heads, as far removed from daily life as the megalomaniacal gods of the ancient world. However, changes in the relatively small spheres of the Camosun College Student Society and Camosun's Board of Governors and Education Council can influence monumental tides of change.

If a young ingenue comes to the school to learn about business and has their eyes opened to the wider world by the policies enacted at the school, and then that student goes on to become a titan of industry, which company-wide policies will they implement? If an elected student develops a taste for governance and decides to enter the political circus, perhaps that student will go on to tame the lions of the world.

All this to implore every student to get involved in any way, by adding your name to the ballot, or getting informed and casting your vote. As Plato said to the students at his Academy, "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by inferiors." Congratulations to the students who were voted in for taking up the mantle of responsibility. Guide us well.

-Nik Ovstaas, contributing writer



In 2025, colleges have taken double the impact from federal cuts and provincial deficits, seeing course offerings reduced and programs serving vulnerable learners directly threatened. In BC, campus mental-health services, disability supports, and accessibility programs now hinge on decisions made by institutional boards navigating a record \$11.6-billion provincial deficit. This year, **we spoke with two ministers to get their thoughts** on the situation.

During an interview with *Nexus* at a September campus visit, minister of post-secondary and future skills Jessie Sunner acknowledged that "these are all things that are very important, not just at Camosun—across institutions, across the province," while deflecting responsibility to post-secondary institution boards.

In October, federal minister of jobs and families Patty Hajdu spoke to *Nexus* and outlined expanded support—interest-free student loans, the Work Integrated Learning Program, and the proposed Lifelong Learning Benefit—while defending caps on international students. Ironically, the loss of international student tuitions is directly impacting said supports for all students.

Both ministers acknowledged the paradigm shift of higher education that students were experiencing in 2025: established student support systems are evolving into increasing expectations for student independence while they also become subjected to financial cuts to institutional support. Both ministers were aware of student challenges while making clear that maximizing sustainable solutions requires all of us to step up to this strange and still unfolding new reality for work and education.

As Canada builds independence, students must also work to embrace theirs.

-Simon Swanek, contributing writer

t, contributing writer

Post-secondary institutions across Canada dealt with enormous financial fallout from the **federal government's cap on international student study permits** this year. And while it still feels like a bit of an elephant in the room, the resulting chaos in post-secondary boardrooms spells it out very loud and clear: international students were keeping the province's post-secondary institutions in a financially stable position with their tuition fees. Those fees aren't held to an annual cap like domestic students' fees are, and, in an entirely related and unsurprising turn of events, Camosun recently announced that its budget, halfway through the current fiscal year, features a deficit \$2.2 million higher than originally anticipated.

But it's okay, the federal government has placed further restrictions on international permits (see page 3), and the province has yet to step in with any significant assistance (and during an interview with *Nexus* earlier this year, federal minister of jobs and families Patty Hadju was very blunt in saying that "in terms of reversing that [initial] decision [about international study permits], no, that's not going to happen."), leaving institutions like Camosun to mutter out through clenched teeth rote messages of cautious optimism that just slide over everyone's glazed eyes amidst this new-normal dumpster fire, viscosity as low as on-campus spirits, with staff quietly disappearing and student services vanishing in midnight moves—so much of what we knew from just a few years ago now outlined in chalk.

This upcoming year will be a tipping point, and the glass-half-full messaging from institutions will either come to fruition or the holes will appear like in so many dollar-store prankster cups, with—you guessed it—students drowning in the deficit.

-Greg Pratt, managing editor

For drivers, parking is an essential campus amenity. When you're in a hurry, finding a space can lead to tension, anxiety, and impatience; when you, fortunately, get one and can now continue your day, everything comes to ease. Parking is a journey of its own, and **parking at Camosun's Interurban campus** has definitely been challenging for campus community members this year. The parking lot is always busy, with rows of parked vehicles sometimes spilling out of parking stalls.

Parking at the campus is not solely a problem for students—it's also difficult for staff and visitors, where they either get a spot but arrive late to class or find parking far from campus. It alters their routine to the point where it becomes a source of worry and concern. Some people have come up with their own solutions, like getting to school early to help with finding a parking spot, parking off campus, carpooling, or using public transit.

Interurban's parking issues continue to persist without a solution in sight, with factors such as construction and a growing student population challenging the ability to arrive to class on time. Articles published in *Nexus* discussed this matter earlier in 2025, and, unfortunately, there haven't been any extraordinary changes; it seems only as if the issue got bigger and bigger each day.

Parking is important for the student experience, and now we can just hope that future changes help parking become more viable for members of the Camosun community in years to come.

-Marian Restrepo Galindo, contributing writer

In late 2024, **Greater Victoria's music scene felt the loss of one of its most renowned community spaces**: The Victoria Event Centre (VEC).

With more than 20 years of service under its belt, the VEC was a staple amongst musicians, comedians, drag performers, and more. It served as a venue for local artists and a safe space for anyone who needed it. For many, it was a home away from home.

The sudden closure of VEC, due in part to a 40-percent rent increase, left a noticeable gap in the city's arts and music scene—a gap which Al Smith and Christina Morrison were more than happy to fill.

Earlier this year, Smith and Morrison opened The Coda, a new venue and a spiritual successor to VEC, located in Hermann's Upstairs.

With strong ties to Hermann's Jazz Club, Smith and Morrison's decision to create something in the same space that was both distinct and complementary was, well, no decision at all.

As more and more venues lose their place in the shadow of a changing city, it's important to welcome new additions when they come along. Not only that, but it's important to sustain them. It's important to show up.

The opening of The Coda served as a beacon of hope for Victoria's live music scene. As we enter into the new year, we can only hope that more continue to follow in its footsteps, further showcasing the resilience of art, personal expression, and community.

-Ashley Hagel, contributing writer

art

Vancouver artist keeps it natural with new exhibit



Two pieces by Vancouver-based artist Lee Hutzulak that are part of his *The Meadow Variations* exhibit, which runs until Saturday, November 29 at Deluge Contemporary Art.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

NIK OVSTAAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Abstract art can be a tough thing to do well, and tougher still to find your audience for, but Vancouver’s Lee Hutzulak has managed to do both.

The multi-disciplinary artist has roots in Vancouver that go back a few decades, having shown art at some of the more reputable Vancouver venues—as well as a few of the more irreputable ones—and now he’s bringing his latest artistic endeavour to Victoria. Although many of the pieces in *The Meadow Variations* are inspired by the world-famous Stanley Park, anyone familiar with the beauty of the wild, untamed nature here on the west coast will certainly be able to vibe with his paintings.

“I wanted to keep it natural, so there’s no tech in this show at all, unless you count the poster putty I used to hang the paintings,” says

Hutzulak. “I get a lot of my paint just as samples from the hardware store.”

Hutzulak rarely frames any of his art; it’s just paint on paper, so for those looking for something a bit crunchier than what you might find at other local galleries, this would be a show worth checking out.

“It’s one of the first times I’ve had a gallery show,” says Hutzulak. “You can’t be afraid to show your art in cafes or record stores, places like that. And trying out different mediums is fun. I was a drawing major [at Alberta College of Art], and then I started trying out paint pens and went from there to just painting on paper. I would take a meandering walk to and from work through Stanley Park and shoot video, and then, looking through it later, I realized it was a goldmine.”

Hutzulak says he finds inspiration for his art in the minutiae of the natural world.

“I’d be in a meadow or in the woods just filming... just making these little nature videos,” he says. “You can get some very cool effects through the camera, like with a massive zoom, you can get tiny little things in focus and everything else is beautifully blurred. The effects that I was creating by filming nature in Stanley Park sort of spilled over into the subject matter in terms of painting, which was something totally new for me. It led to me wanting to explore that great Canadian tradition of landscape painting.”

Hutzulak likes to blend his creative practices together. On the opening night of this current show, he was there with his acoustic guitar, playing his own songs, many of which have lent their lyrics to the naming convention of his paintings.

“I like to pillage my song lyrics to stand in for painting titles, the same way I pillage bits of my Ukrainian heritage, adding in the bright col-

“I would take a meandering walk to and from work through Stanley Park and shoot video, and then, looking through it later, I realized it was a goldmine.”

LEE HUTZULAK
ARTIST

ours and fine details you’d find on an easter egg,” he says. “I love the bright, intense colours, and the crazy little details that I do over them with a pen and ink. It’s fun and it’s bright and it’s intense.”

Hutzulak—known in the musical realm for his work as Dixie’s Death Pool—likes to have a lot of fun with his art.

“It’s not the kind of thing you do if you want to make a ton of money, but there’s nothing wrong with being a dedicated hobbyist,” he says. “I just do what makes me

happy to the best of my ability. I’ve grown as an artist quite a bit in the last few years. It’s a therapeutic journey, and if it resonates with somebody out there, then that is the best outcome for me.”

The Meadow Variations
Until Saturday, November 29
Deluge Contemporary Art
deluge.ca



New Music Revue

Matt Hitt
You’ll Be Lucky
(Killphonic Records)
4/5

Welsh-born, New York-based musician and songwriter Matt Hitt has been playing with indie band Drowners since 2011 but has now stepped into the realm of solo artist. After two albums with Drowners and spending time as touring guitarist for The Vaccines, Hitt has released his debut solo EP, *You’ll Be Lucky*.

You’ll Be Lucky’s five tracks carry a theme of Hitt’s experience with the joys and heartaches of getting older while living in New York. Listening to this album, you can tell that the music is made by

someone who has a lot of experience and talent making music and performing. Each song is distinct while still being in Hitt’s style.

You can feel the sadness within each track, but it’s uplifting at the same time. The overall feeling is very nostalgic.

The songs flow together nicely, starting with a joyous feeling, the middle being more melancholic, and ending with hope.

You can also hear Hitt’s roots—for example, British punk like The Clash—in the EP. I found that the songs were easy to sing along to, but the lyrics were a little repetitive at times.

I also got a groove while listening, but with the release being so

short I had to stop dancing to restart the music often.

My two favourite songs are “Carried Away” and “Am I Supposed to Forget About You.” When this is released I’ll be definitely be adding these songs to my playlist.

The other three songs are still good and are worth a listen.

I would definitely go see Hitt if he plays in Victoria or even Vancouver.

Despite a few lyrics being repetitive and there only being five tracks, I highly recommend giving *You’ll Be Lucky* a listen.

-Trillium McNabb

film

A very Nexus Xmas: Movies to get you into the Christmas spirit

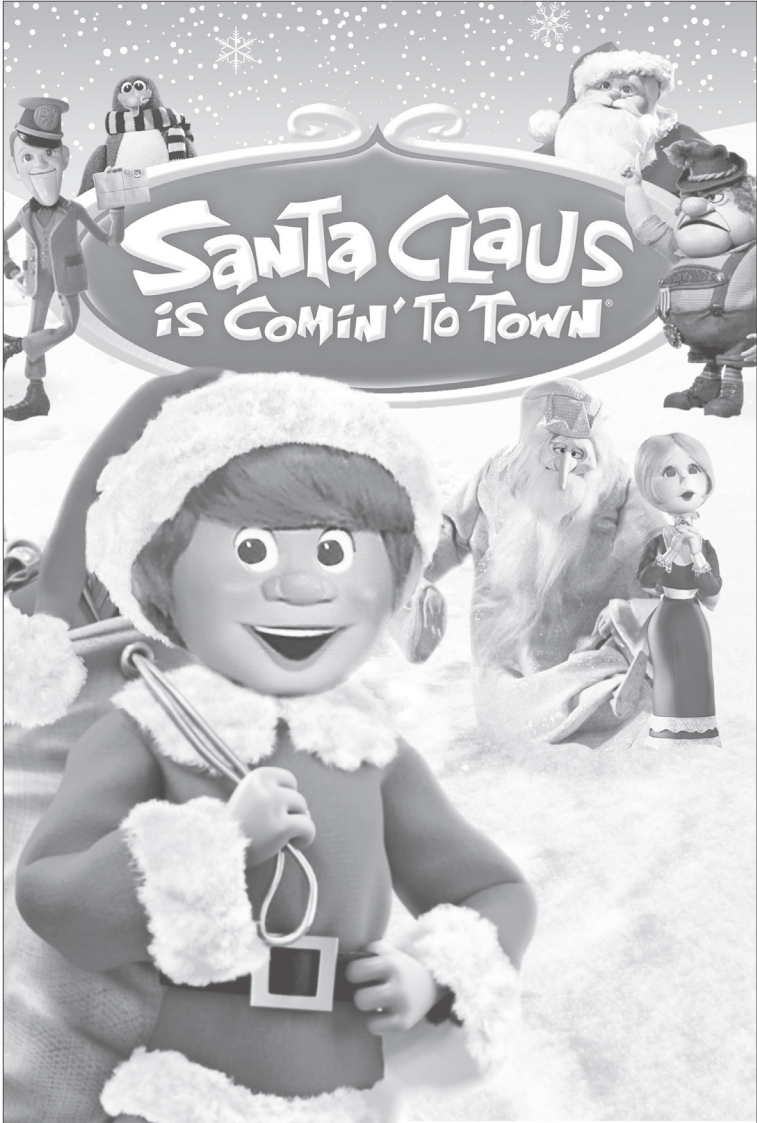
JASMINE WAGSTAFF
STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

The semester is almost over, and Christmas is right around the corner. I cannot wait to cozy up on my couch with a nice cup of hot chocolate and watch some of my most-loved holiday movies.

One of my favourite Christmas movies from my childhood is *He-Man and She-Ra: A Christmas Special* (1985). Two children from Earth end up on Eternia while cut-

ting down a Christmas tree, and it's up to He-Man and She-Ra to get them home in time for the holiday. It's a great crossover of the two series and a wholesome Christmas story, even if it's a little cheesy at times. Rewatching the movie now just fills me with that warm nostalgia and childlike wonder all over again; it's the first thing that comes to mind when someone asks what my favourite Christmas movie is.

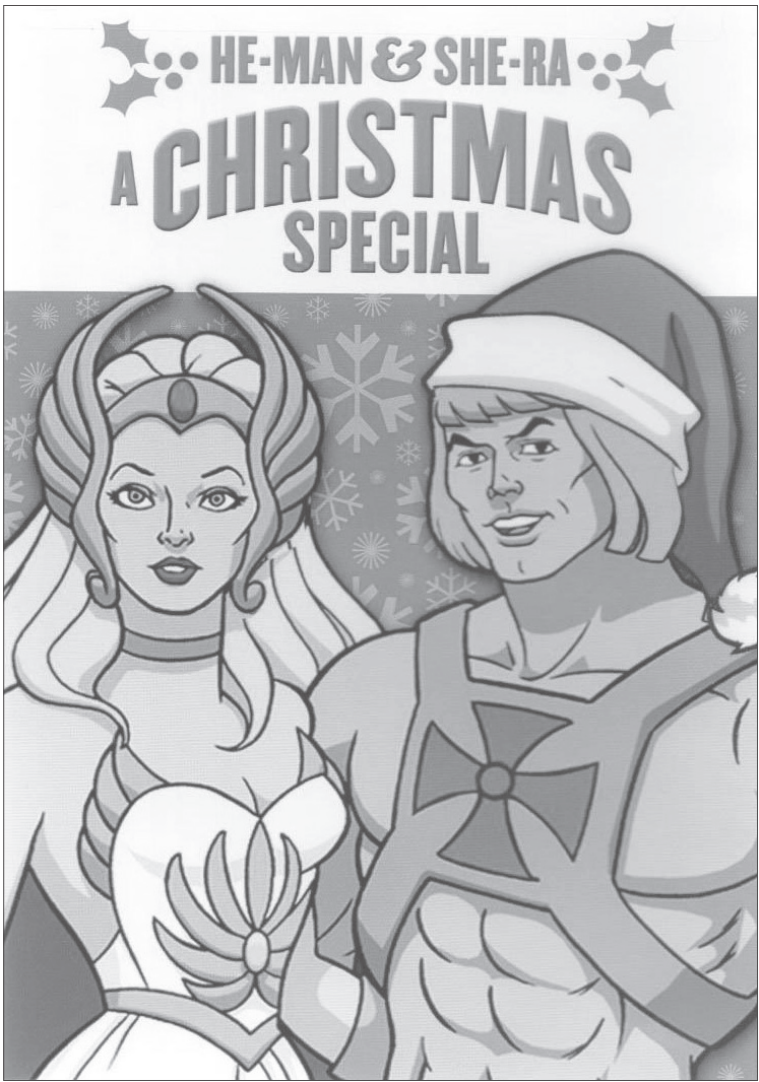
Santa Claus is Comin' to Town



(1970) is a stop-motion Christmas special that follows Kris Kringle as he becomes Santa Claus and struggles to gift presents to the children of Sombertown. It's inspired by the Christmas song of the same name and the story of Saint Nicholas, who shaped many of the holiday traditions that are followed this time of year. Full of songs and Christmas cheer, it's no surprise that it's become a classic. Also I just love how silly the name of the mayor is: Burgermeister Meisterburger.

How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) is a movie I only appreciate more as I get older. The story of the Grinch, the grouchy outcast who plots to steal Christmas from Whoville, has been remade over the years but the live action remains my favorite. As much as I love gifting presents to friends and family, the consumerism around Christmas has always bothered me, and that's only worsened over time. I love that in the end the people of Whoville realize how much they had warped the spirit of the holiday. Christmas should be about togetherness, not consumerism.

A silly Christmas movie I love is *A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas* (2011), which follows two estranged friends reconnecting over the holiday. The Harold & Kumar movies have always been fun stoner comedies, and their Christmas movie is no exception. They get into their usual shenanigans after Harold carelessly throws a joint out of a window because he doesn't smoke anymore and accidentally lights a Christmas tree on fire, leading to the two scrambling to find a new one on Christmas Eve. The former friends reconcile by the end, and the last shot is Santa hitting a bong before wishing everyone a merry



Christmas. It's hilarious, but it's also heartwarming watching them reconnect.

The Polar Express (2004) is the adventure of a boy who is doubting the existence of Santa Claus, only to be whisked away on a magical train to the North Pole. The film uses a mix of live action and motion-capture computer animation, which does give off an uncanny-valley vibe to the characters. However, the scenes on the train and at the North Pole feel so immersive and magical I can forgive how creepy

the people look. It follows a kids' Christmas-movie formula where the child doubts Santa only to meet him and regain their love of Christmas, but I think it does this well. Also, the hot-chocolate scene on the train is so fun and makes me want to jump into the movie for a cup.

These are the movies that, to me, capture the holiday spirit and get me in the Christmas mood. Hopefully some of these either remind you of your favourites or give you some suggestions for what to watch this holiday season.

review

Phoenix Theatre's *Our Town* reminds us what's beautiful



DEAN KALYAN

The cast of Phoenix Theatre's *Our Town*, which runs until Saturday, November 22 at the University of Victoria.

EMILY WELCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This is the time of year that promises a student equal amounts of joy and stress. The holidays are approaching fast and the smell of finals are in the air. We'll soon come

to the end of one of the most stunning autumns that I've ever seen in Victoria. I always relish in the reds and golds that fall has to offer, but this year the flora and fauna have been fit to bursting with glorious colour; it's been a perfect season

to inspire whatever a student writer sets out to write. This is why I felt like it must be serendipitous that I was invited to review Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* at the Phoenix Theatre.

Our Town—which ran from

November 6 to 22—is one of those rare pieces that forces the audience to stop, look, and collect themselves over the small motions of being alive. Watching it, one might feel a bit stripped. There are minimal sets and props, and we have a stage manager who acts as both a guide and a provocative storyteller. Once an audience member gives their head a shake to bring themselves into this storytelling, then it's in in this sparseness that the play really gathers its force. Wilder has constructed a simple world, but this simplicity shows us that we rarely see how important it is to absorb what's already here.

Guest directed by Toronto-based Soheil Parsa, *Our Town* takes place in the fictional town of Grover's Corners and moves through the lives of the Gibbs and Webb families. The storyline follows these families through time's forward push, and the audience watches them as they plod through their most rudimentary of tasks: eating breakfast, chatting in the schoolyard, shouting across the lawn to one another, courting each other, and, eventually,

dying together. Wilder's writing uses these blasé moments of life and the crucial realization of death in a way that forces one to find intimacy in the everyday.

The Phoenix Theatre student actors have thrown themselves passionately into their work yet again. They've embraced their roles in *Our Town*, obviously finding themselves a real connection to it.

I want to give a special shout-out to Mikan Munson, who plays Mrs. Webb. Munson may have borne her soul in this role, I think, because she's utterly believable as her character.

The set and costumes, designed by Molly Somers, are minimal, as Wilder intended them to be. Without props, the audience must be forced to imagine; without props, the actors are going to bond with their characters' movements and body language.

We need to find the joy in life before it's all over; we need to appreciate the beauty that's already around us all. Phoenix Theatre's take on *Our Town* reminds us all of that.

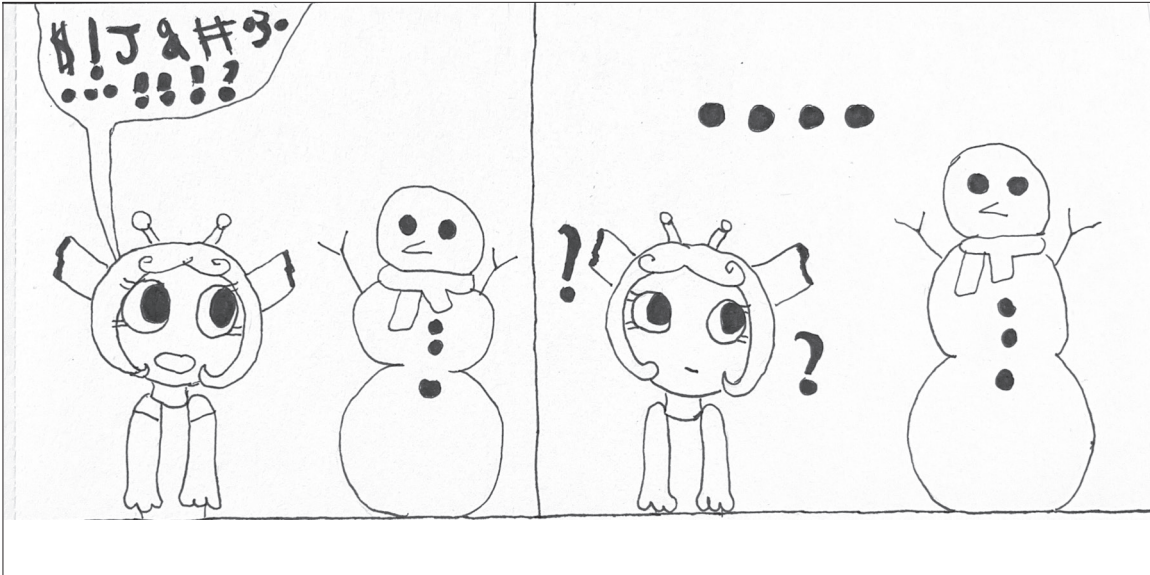
Natural Selection - Emily Welch



Cool Thing - Kamau Stallings



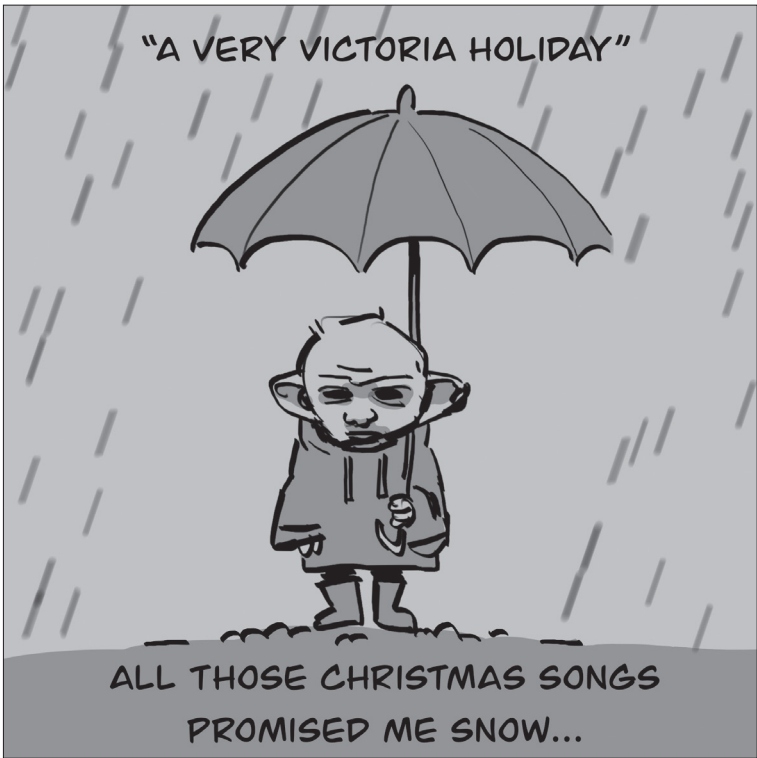
Evie the Alien - Jazmyn Hodges



Crumb and Crouton - Jiya Bhoondpaul



mr. andy - Sofie Mott



Telescopic Penguins - Michael Erwin



Wild World of Wendland - Huxley Wendland





Pieces of Performance

by Acacia Tooth

Palestine and more...

To be one with the world means to embrace each other in all that we are. War, conflicts, and patriarchal leadership into oblivion cannot continue and will not lead to a prosperous future. We need action, we need words to light the fire, and we need strength in numbers to stand for what is right.

Across the globe we see the suffering of families and children sent to slaughter just because of where they are born and what their intersectional identity is. No longer should we wait in silence. No longer should we stand by. No longer should we turn away from those who need us most. It is time to carry marginalized voices forward and upward into a chorus of peace and harmony to blanket the world. From the river, to the sea... we should all live free.

Hope Without Peace
The rubble, the destruction,
broken homes.
Blown to pieces like glass with
thrown stones.
How peaceful we sleep here on
unceded land.
While others have hope with no
peace in hand.
Under the rubble lay those lost
in war.
The memories they carry, lost in
the horror.

Children crying for loved ones
not seen.

For they are gone, missing, al-
ways in dreams.

No platforms to support them,
We cry from the sidelines in
terror.

As they are ripped to shreds,
With no witnesses to bare.

The burden and cost of religious
views.

As church followers pray in their
pews.

A reminder that unkind words
only bring war.

The blood thirsty hatred from
colonists before.

But we shouldn't compare,
We sleep in peace.

As people return, to the rubble
and pray for cease.

To the lives lost from this war,
And Ukraine before.

We stand with you,
And offer voice.

As hope without peace,
Is what's presented as joy.

Palestine
Charred bodies laying,
Rubble black.

As if from an abyss,
Unworldly, like they don't belong.

The screaming fills,
Collapsed lungs, buildings and

air.
Like a twisted chorus of iron rods,



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pieces of Performance writer Acacia Tooth; this is their last column for Nexus.

With no limbs to comfort but
ears to hear.

The dust settles,
But knows that it will not sit long.
Until another bomb breaks,
Through tents and flames.

The names we read forgotten,
Not by ones who care but by
greed.

The seeds of Zionists, the IDF,
We will not soon forget.

Celebrating Transgender
Awareness Week, I offer the deep-
est part of my journey to those who
may still be on their way through.

Bloom
We sit, bruised and inflamed,
Our souls locked inside this
prism of pain.

The stretchy mansion we should
be grateful,

That we drape in robes and
jewels.

But how can we be content as
we look,

Out the window and see the home
we must always change,

For others to appreciate.

How to sit with the pain deep
inside,

The bruises we leave untold.

The faces of those who say they
love us as we are,

But will not show up when we say
we were not born who were meant
to be.

How can the connection of skin
and soul,

Be stitched together in womb,
When there is no voice to answer,
For what we can truly grow to be.

As we complete ourselves,
Stitch by stitch,

Bruise after bruise,

The changes on the outside may
look different to others...

But its growth on the inside
makes its mark,

As we heal in that skin.

Thank you to everyone who has
supported with kind words. This
will be my last term with Nexus as
I'm moving on to UVic.

Follow the adventure@wander-
lost.ascending.
May we all find our voice and
self love. xo



Food for Thought

by Evelyn Jordan

José Andrés offers warmth through unique meal experiences

"I don't believe in walls, I believe
in longer tables."

-José Andrés

José Andrés was destined to be
a chef from a very young age; he
enrolled in culinary school at the
age of 15. Even when Andrés—who
was born in Mieres, Spain on July
13, 1969—needed to fulfill his
mandatory service for the Spanish
military, he served as the admiral's
cook.

Andrés' philosophies on food
mixed with the empathy he gained
for other people during his time
in the military. After the Haitian
earthquake in 2010, he founded

World Central Kitchen, which pro-
vides food and humanitarian aid to
disaster zones struck by natural and
man-made catastrophes. The or-
ganization has worked on domestic
food insecurity in the United States
by opening soup kitchens across
the country during financial crises,
even going so far as to enter active
war zones, including the Gaza strip
and at the Ukraine-Russia border.

José shows us how food is not
only an everyday ritual for us—it's
a symbol of hope in desperate times.
Those who are grief-stricken by
tragedy or displaced by disaster can
find peace and even just a sliver of

comfort in one warm, filling meal.

Besides a philanthropic career
in helping give back to his fellow
man, Andrés also boasts an im-
pressive resume of high-profile
restaurateur success. His famed
minibar only serves 12 guests at a
time with a *prix fixe* menu, in some-
thing a little reminiscent of the film
The Menu (my favourite thriller, by
the way)—without the offing of the
guests at the end, of course.

One of Andrés' restaurants in
particular stood out to me: Bazaar
Meats, which has locations in Las
Vegas, Los Angeles, and Chicago.
Andrés is credited with bringing the

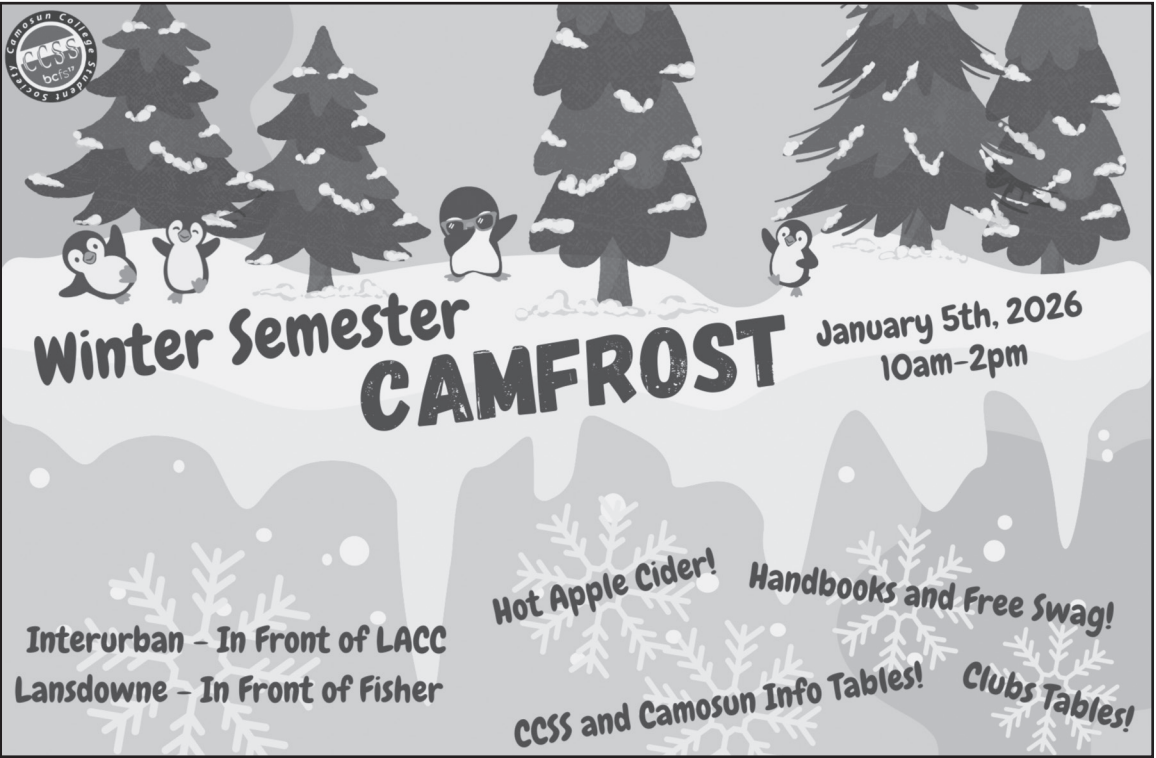
small plate "tapas" style of eating to
the USA (or, at the very least, popu-
larizing it). This restaurant features
rare cuts of imported meats, such as
the famed wagyu steaks and jamón
ibérico, which is a cured pork cut
from a specific Spanish pig that has
been specially fed acorns to improve
the taste.

The tapas aspect refers to the
smaller, but still sharable, por-
tions of food. Dinner should be an
event worth savouring, especially
amongst friends, and the process of
dishing out food for each other over
a longer period of time is something
to enjoy thoroughly.

The molecular gastronomy of
his dishes is something to marvel
at, too. What do you mean you've
made a *foie gras* cotton candy? Why
is there caviar in a teeny tiny ice
cream cone? I can't answer these
questions, but it doesn't matter
because the food tastes amazing.

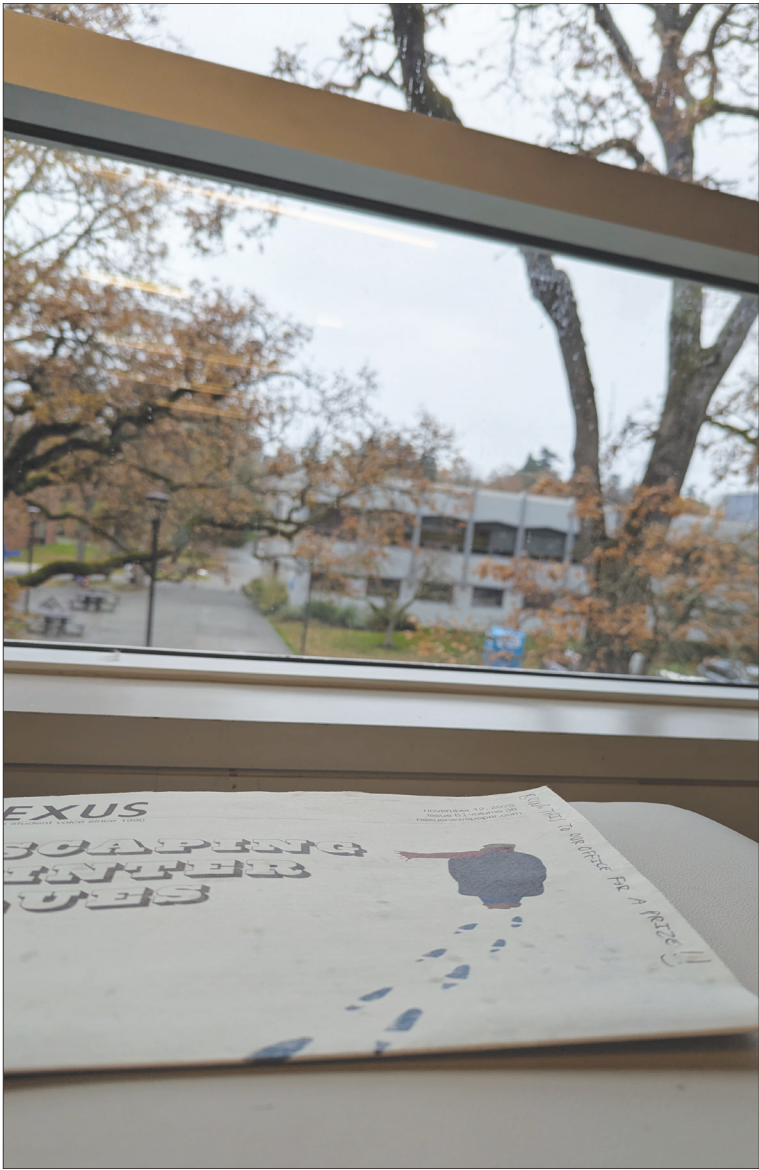
I can relate to this love of food
and bringing people together,
even in hard times where hope is
hard to come by. Whether it's in
a dangerous disaster zone or in a
Michelin-starred restaurant, Andrés
will give diners a heartwarming
experience with bold and colourful
flavours.

The Trash Bash - Gabby Bond



contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/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.

word search

IETLRZAZMMXUPJE
JKERCMIHIDQOPQEK
AWXSZQZXOOSDEXC
SQSUSHQWTKYXCPJ
TPSPRTLHARNVJHEG
RKBPOEKNAOYAERU
UDZORAIWNMOTMI
CBPRODDBGSEIAIED
TAMTOEVXFRKJSNA
UVOIKRPSSEORWTCN
RZJNISXIRSELREC
EAOGEHZDSTBSYQE
JGQUSIUZZEQAYYY
DEVAFPU DURJLWIN
QZJUMDUCZESXS CD

The Camosun Chargers men’s and women’s volleyball and basketball teams are knee-deep in their seasons. See our story on page 4 and find the words to the right above.

Experience
Transfers
Chemistry
Mojo
Leadership

Structure
Guidance
Supporting
Roster
Rookies

Message from your student board

Hi everyone!

I am a newer voice here at CCSS. My name is Daniella and I am your Interurban executive. I started last April and ran on a campaign that highlighted areas I thought were of need at Camosun College that include food and housing security, improved utilization of student funds, and an improved sense of community within the student body.

I feel as though many students don’t know what the CCSS is and what we do which is why I am so grateful to Terence (whose column this normally belongs to) to keep our student body updated on important updates regarding advocacy work and policy.

There are many services that the CCSS offers including produce and bread days on both campuses which helps students lower their grocery bill every week. Affordable student housing is a particularly large issue across Canada but is felt especially here in Victoria. The student society has been advocating and successfully secured future student housing at the Lansdowne campus for about 400 students.

In regard to improving the utilization of student funds we want to make sure that we look internally and shed any unnecessary cost. This looks like using our



resources to promote sustainable marketing of our services to the student body while being mindful of our carbon footprint. Using digital platforms is a fantastic way of spreading awareness of current issues affecting students, upcoming events, and resources to note.

Improving a sense of community at Camosun College has proved to be one of the most challenging aspects. I hope that in the following semester we can continue to throw events and contests that students will find enjoyable. Examples of this from the last semester include breast cancer awareness, Trans Day of Awareness, Movember, Diwali, Day of the Dead, to name a few.

I look forward to continuing this mission to improve our school and I hope to see you, dear reader, at future events!

Sincerely,
Daniella Quesada

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camosun's student voice since 1990

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