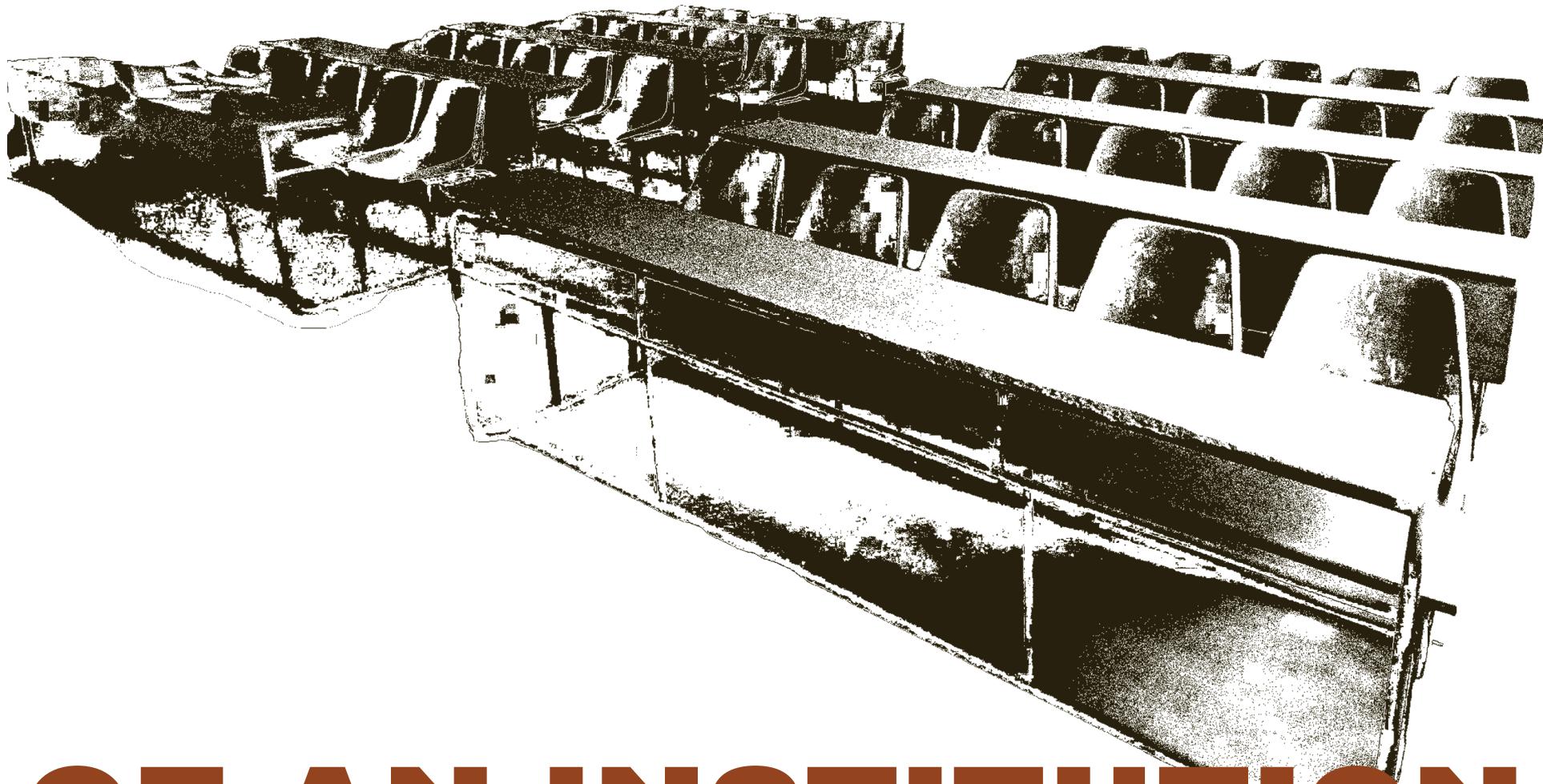


THE

DESTITUTION

page 3



OF AN INSTITUTION

New review of post-secondary funding
raises concerns from advocacy groups

*Camosun students team up
with international relief charity*

4

*Exhibits explore Northern
Renaissance artist, Chinese ink painting*

8

*Post-secondary (and beyond)
predictions for 2026*

6

*Easy chocolate chip cookies:
The debut of our new recipe column*

11

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

Next publication: January 21, 2026

Address: 3100 Foul Bay Rd., Victoria, BC,

V8P 5J2

Location: Lansdowne Richmond House 201

Phone: 250-370-3591

Email: editor@nexusnewspaper.com

Website: nexusnewspaper.com

Publisher: Nexus Publishing Society

NEXUS PUBLISHING SOCIETY

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

President - Daisy Dalton

Vice-President - Ashley Hagel

Treasurer/Secretary - Tyler Calhoon-Cardinal

Director at Large - Terence Baluyut

Director at Large - Lane Chevrier

Director at Large - Marian Restrepo

Galindo

MANAGING EDITOR

Greg Pratt

STUDENT EDITOR

Lydia Zuleta

STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Ashley Hagel

Jasmine Wagstaff

CONTRIBUTORS

Gabby Bond

Tyler Calhoon-Cardinal

Lane Chevrier

Michael Erwin

Marian Restrepo Galindo

Ashley Hagel

Trillium McNabb

Sofie Mott

Nik Ovstaas

Zach Sitara

Kamau Stallings

Emily Welch

Huxley Wendland

COVER GRAPHIC

Lydia Zuleta/Nexus

ADVERTISING SALES

Greg Pratt

250-370-3591

NEXUS IS A MEMBER OF
CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

editor's letter *Auld Lang Syne*

"I had drunk the water. I could breathe easy now. The sand, at daybreak, is honey coloured. And that colour was making me happy, too. Why then did I also feel sad?"

—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

In some parts of the Fraser Valley, reads a breaking news headline from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, flood sirens can be heard from below the border. It has, without interruption, rained for five days on the west coast. The deluge—which has in this case fallen some 70 millimetres in a day-long period—is the most extreme of precipitation the coast receives, brooding and beautiful in its devotion to destruction. Like the Jesus Prayer, it has incessantly flowed out the mouth of a dreary December sky and mercy pours out per our call. People are preparing for evacuation, the article informs. People are preparing to detach.

It is perhaps the most violent action to abandon all that is familiar and intimate in pursuit of promising fulfillment. Violent, that is, in its internal resistance. In fact, we may plead until our sentimentalities exist only in passing memory; until we cannot see the roof of our house, tucked under the flowing sea of rain water. Perhaps it is ironic, then, that in the most tragic of duties that we must commit, detachment—in its bounty of empty space—may ultimately lead to triumph.

This is what we may call in journalism terminology *burying the lede*. I am talking in this piece, as the title suggests, not of floods or God or alarms, but about my departure from the paper. Yet it calls upon the symbiosis of floods, God, and alarms in this particular detachment, too—I am talking, in the general and personal sense, about self-abandonment and identity.

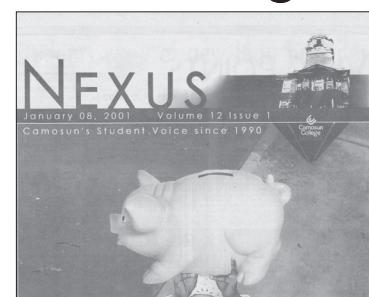
The decision to leave did not come easy—simply put, I love what I do, but can no longer live in this city for reasons abstract. More consequential, however, the decision would sacrifice the identity that I have come to develop and maintain and admire about myself—my intellectual and artistic identity. This isn't to say a particularly *refined* intellectual or even a *good* artist, but one who has the capacity to attempt. Of course, I can and will go on writing for other papers, for other people, for myself—identity does not end where it starts and I am fortunate to have been given this role—but in my exit, I evacuate the home I have ritually tended to.

I suppose it's true that only in this deprived state do we possess something new, and are affirmed through the vigorous task of a new kind of self-construction. What strikes me is that detachment seems to be imperative to the most earnest of identities. Perhaps it is not abandonment, then, but a cyclical demonstration of our capacity to morph. And if that is the case, then I may as well breathe easy.

Lydia Zuleta, student editor

flashback

25 Years Ago in Nexus



LYDIA ZULETA
STUDENT EDITOR

Internet troubles: For internet users of 2001, the vastness of the web posed only intrigue. "My surfing brought me to a dramatic conclusion," Nexus writer Jonathan Kimak remarked with the curiosity and naivety of an infant. In our January 8, 2001 issue, the dramatic conclusion, he writes in the column *Internet Talk* and our very own Watergate, was a staggering 3,000 results for the search on how to play backgammon. Of that amount, however, only 200 turned out to be fruitful information; the rest junk and dead links. "How could the great and mighty internet have so much worthless crap on it," Kimak asks early-2000s Nexus readers to ponder, unaware of an impending era of AI slop and clipfarming. Today, we may roll our eyes at such benign internet issues, but there's a

lesson to be learned here: we should really start counting our blessings.

Top 10s: Our first issue of 2001 gave writers an opportunity to reflect on the previous turn of century, which proved to be just as underwhelming as velour tracksuits were ubiquitous. On page 14, a page dedicated exclusively in this issue to best and worst lists, we discussed the top 10 "weird acronyms," pushing the envelope for what qualifies as printworthy. Found at the sixth slot is LIBERAL—short, says writer Jon Valentine, for lazy idiot bungling English regularly at leisure. Perhaps this could come as a statement of self-deprecation, however, as found at the fourth slot is YAHOO—an acronym for yacht- ing assistants hoarding overgrown octopuses.

Skrooge: Despite on-campus criminal activity kept relatively low during the winter break this year, our column *Krime Kount* revealed, this wasn't saying much for lawfulness at the time. In fact, during a two-week period, traffic signs were vandalized and pulled from their casings, a student was restrained for walking off with reserved material, and an identity thief, claiming to be a Camosun student, waltzed into the administration office looking to access personal student information. It was, indeed, a mad, mad world.

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

Got something to say?

Letters to the editor:
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

open space

Thrift stores aren't clothing dumps

JASMINE WAGSTAFF

STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Donating used clothes to thrift stores feels like a great way to reduce waste and give back to the community. Now, people can buy your unwanted items and the proceeds can go to a good cause. All is well, right?

Oftentimes, this is not the case. Thrift stores receive many damaged clothes that are either too stained or torn to be resold. This ends up wasting the time of the employees—usually volunteers—who are stuck sifting through what is actually

They bear the brunt of our closet purges and get stuck with the task of rooting through our garbage. And no one wants to buy a used Shein dress when they can buy a new one for essentially the same price.

It's the same principle as food banks: you wouldn't donate expired food, right? Yet, some people do, and it wastes the time of their volunteers. And that's the point. Donating unwanted items, be it clothing or food, should not be getting rid of trash with extra steps; yet so often, stained and torn clothes are donated to thrift stores because it feels

Thrift stores are a great, sustainable place to shop for clothes and other used items, but so many are full of cheap, barely usable fast-fashion items that are two washes away from falling apart.

salvageable, and the clothes that aren't end up in landfills anyway.

Many of us, myself included, end up in a buy-and-declutter cycle. We see a new style we like, buy more clothes to fit the new look, discard the old ones, and change our minds a month or two later when a new style inspires us. This strains our wallets, our mental health, and the environment.

Shopping sprees have gotten even easier with cheap fast-fashion sites like Shein and Cider offering new chic clothes for a fraction of the price that they would be in store. It's become so easy to buy a new wardrobe for a few hundred dollars, but where do all those clothes end up when we decide that we are done with them? Thrift stores.

Thrift stores are a great, sustainable place to shop for clothes and other used items, but so many are full of cheap, barely usable fast-fashion items that are two washes away from falling apart.

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!

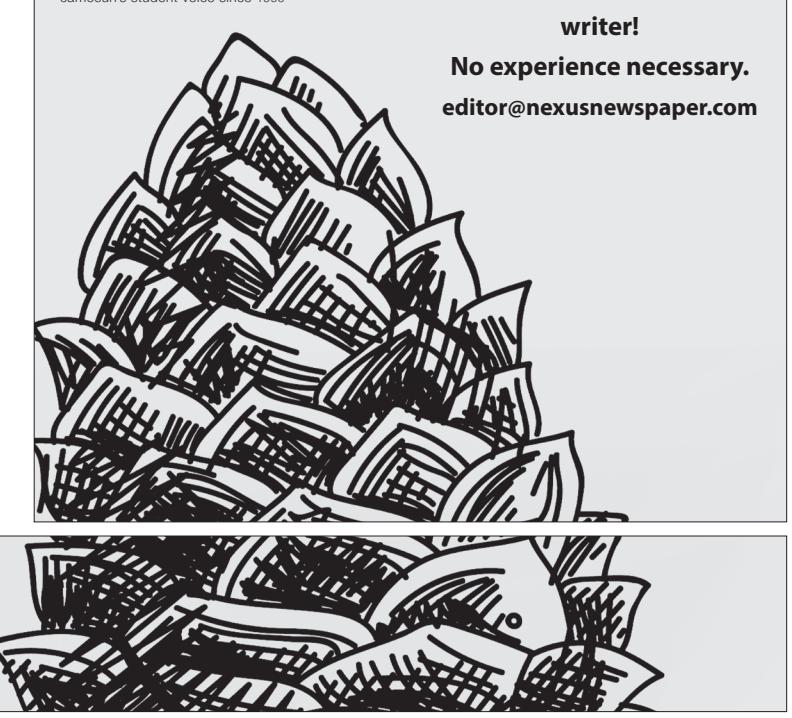
NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

Become our next news writer!

No experience necessary.

editor@nexusnewspaper.com



post-secondary

New review of post-secondary funding raises concerns from advocacy groups

"The review explicitly mentions that tuition fees will be explored, and this means that the Tuition Limit Policy—capping tuition increases at two percent—could be removed. That could make education a lot more expensive."

DEBI HERRERA LIRA
BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

JASMINE WAGSTAFF
STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

The provincial government recently announced that it's launching an independent review of the post-secondary sector's sustainability, and students and advocacy groups are raising concerns about what might happen as a result.

A similar review was conducted in 2022 by former deputy minister and BCIT president Don Wright; the findings of that review were shelved but released as a result of a freedom of information request in November of last year. The government announced the new review on November 25.

The review is being overseen by former deputy minister Don Aiston, and is due by March 15, 2026.

In the 2022 review, it was noted that the government needed to do more to help post-secondary institutions across the province, and that

it had ignored these recommendations. The government has made it clear leading into the new review that there will be no new funding added to the sector, something that has student-advocacy groups concerned.

"I think it's important to note that this review will be used to justify higher tuition fees and more cuts, not real investment," says British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) chairperson Debi Herrera Lira. "The review explicitly mentions that tuition fees will be explored, and this means that the Tuition Limit Policy—capping tuition increases at two percent—could be removed. That could make education a lot more expensive."

Advocacy groups are also concerned about the talk surrounding "unnecessary duplications" and what removing that could look like.

"When they talk about reducing

redundancy and changing regional offerings, that means that, I'm afraid that more students will have to travel further to get the programming that they want," says Camosun College Faculty Association (CCFA) president Lynelle Yutani. "Or they'll be forced to take local programming that doesn't actually fit what they want to do, but it fits what the government wants because it fits what industry is demanding."

Yutani also has concerns about the tight timeline the new review carries with it and the lack of consultation involved so far.

"This review being done in three months suggests they've come to this moment with a lot of ideas on how they're going to do things, whether or not we say anything about it," she says. "You know, we might have good ideas and I hope that they'll be willing to listen to them, but I'm worried that they won't. The thing that I'm still the most concerned about [are the] individual families, communities, students, the people who are going to pay the highest price for education in the future, whether that be through taxes or whether that be through education just being less affordable than it was before. We aren't being consulted and they don't appear to be that worried about it. That is even more concerning."

Minister of post-secondary education and future skills Jessie Sunner says that getting rid of un-

needed duplication and costs are part of having a system that works for students.

"In this review, we need to make sure that what we're doing as a public post-secondary sector works within one another, it works as an ecosystem, so that we can make sure students have access to all the programming they want across the province," says Sunner, "that faculty are there to teach that and that everything is working without unnecessary duplication or without overbearing administration costs."

In a press release, the CCFA expressed concern that this review is inconsistent with the *College and Institute Act* and that this act could be changed after the review.

"The *College and Institute Act* was designed to bring accessible, affordable, and community-relevant learning directly to the communities that needed it most," says Yutani. "Changing that act could fundamentally change the way colleges and institutes are able to serve the communities we were created for. That's why I think community consultation is so important."

With post-secondary institutions across the province already facing deficits due to the international student cap and a lack of funding, organizations like the BCFS are concerned about what could happen next after the review results are released.

"The lack of funding is impacting institutions massively,"

says Lira. "Many of them have huge financial deficits, which means they're having to make cuts to courses and programs, reduce services, and lay off faculty. That deeply impacts students' ability to graduate. When a course isn't available or a program is cut, students have to delay their graduation by a semester—or sometimes a whole year—and that's very costly. Students are trying to finish their education, but they don't have the services they need on campus. That definitely affects their experience. And at the same time, if the government is serious about building the workforce this province needs, it has to fund the system. We can't build a skilled workforce on the backs of students taking on more debt and paying higher tuition fees."

Yutani says that the results of this review could in turn lead to some big changes in post-secondary as a whole across the province.

"Instructors will still be here to provide quality education to whoever students show up, in whatever way we are allowed to," says Yutani. "So we're going to be here, and people who want to learn are still going to exist. So what we're really talking about is what is that place that we do that learning going to look like and how accessible is it going to be for everyone in the future? Will we endure? The answer is yes. Will it look different in the future? Yes. And I hope it doesn't cost too much."

NEWS BRIEFS

Langford students get card perks

Camosun College students attending the John Horgan Campus in Langford now have access to discounts at local businesses. Students who go to the campus—which is a joint venture with Royal Roads University, the University of Victoria, and the Justice Institute of British Columbia—now have access to Campus Perks, which gives them, as well as faculty and staff, discounts at participating Langford businesses.

Lansdowne student housing project hits milestones

The District of Oak Bay has granted two major approvals for Camosun College to commence building its first ever on-campus housing at the Lansdowne campus. After receiving the official community plan and rezoning amendments, plans are underway to begin construction in the spring of 2026. The building will feature over 400 beds in a variety of unit types, as well as lounges and other spaces; it will be

located where there is currently parking off Foul Bay Road.

College selects new VP, academic

Camosun College has selected Richard Stride as the new provost and vice president, academic. This comes after a national search; Stride has 14 years of experience with Camosun in various roles, currently acting provost and vice president, education and innovation. Stride's onboarding begins this month.

Groundskeeping work at John Horgan Campus in question

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 3886 is saying that groundskeeping work at The John Horgan Campus—a split campus in Langford with Camosun College, Royal Roads University, the University of Victoria, and the Justice Institute of British Columbia offering classes there—should be handled by its members, not contractors. Although the collective agreement between the union and Royal Roads says groundskeeping roles are CUPE positions, there's a lack of

clarity with what is considered maintenance and what is considered capital improvements, leading to Royal Roads hiring contractors for some of the work.

Camosun Innovates partners with Camosun Sheet Metal program

A new partnership between Camosun Innovates and the college's Sheet Metal apprenticeship program is giving students direct access to advanced design and fabrication tools. This integration aligns with SkilledTradesBC curriculum requirements and aims to give students valuable, workforce-ready skills.

Camosun College School of Business introduces new management program

Camosun is launching its new Bachelor of Business Administration in Socially Responsible Management in September 2026. This program—which focuses on sustainability, social impact, and equity in business—can be completed as a two-year

diploma for full-time or part-time students, or as a full four-year program with opportunities for co-op work terms.

Community Solution and Camosun enter partnership

Camosun College recently entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Community Solution Education System to open up more international learning opportunities to Camosun students. The first of these academic pathways is for Camosun Kinesiology students wishing to access the Doctor of Chiropractic program at University of Western States, located in Portland, Oregon. These formalized pathways will make it easier for students to continue their education abroad.

Camosun Community Association elects new board of directors

On Thursday, November 20, the Camosun Community Association (CCA) elected Kathleen Burton as its president, Lisa Timmons as vice-president

and secretary, Jamie Dopp as treasurer, and Mike Kory as membership director. The CCA is one of 17 neighbourhood community associations in Saanich, giving the residents of the area—which includes Camosun's Lansdowne campus—a greater presence in community plans and decisions.

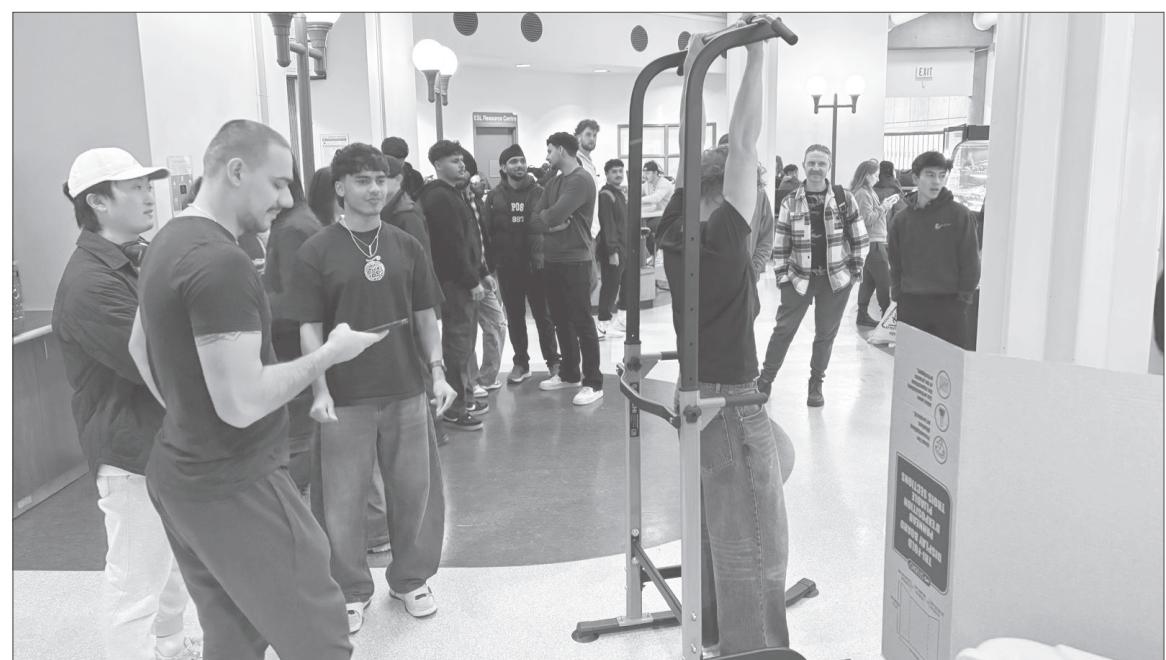
Camosun lands in national applied-research ranking

Camosun College was recently named one of the top 50 research colleges in Canada for 2025. The list, compiled by research, consulting, and publishing firm Research Infosource, put Camosun at #43 overall, and, for medium-sized colleges, #2 for completed research projects, #5 for research growth and intensity, and #6 for partnerships with regional businesses and industries. Camosun Innovates, located at the Interurban campus, is the applied research arm of Camosun.

—JASMINE WAGSTAFF,
STUDENT EDITORIAL
ASSISTANT

aid

Camosun students team up with international relief charity



Student groups (above, right, below) fundraising for charity ShelterBox.

NIK OVSTAAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
WITH FILES FROM
TYLER CALHOON-CARDINAL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun Business Administration diploma students have partnered with an international charity that focuses on crisis relief in war zones and natural disaster zones. ShelterBox has been in operation for 25 years, offering shelter, essential items, and technical assistance to places such as Gaza, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, and Ukraine. This can include items like water filters, solar panels, tents, and medical equipment, which can be life-saving after devastation strikes.

Students in the Project Manage-

ment class recently had the opportunity to test their business acumen, flex their creative muscles, and help those in desperate need by putting on a series of events in the name of ShelterBox, with all the proceeds going to the charity in order to fund relief efforts.

“Everyone [in the class] got to propose an event, keeping two objectives in mind,” says Nancy Amado González, one of the students involved with the partnership. “First, to bring awareness to the work of ShelterBox; and secondly, collect donations.”

With five teams of students each tackling a separate event, there’s plenty of room for variety. One

“You’re helping people that need urgent aid, so it’s not [just] another assignment you complete because you have to.”

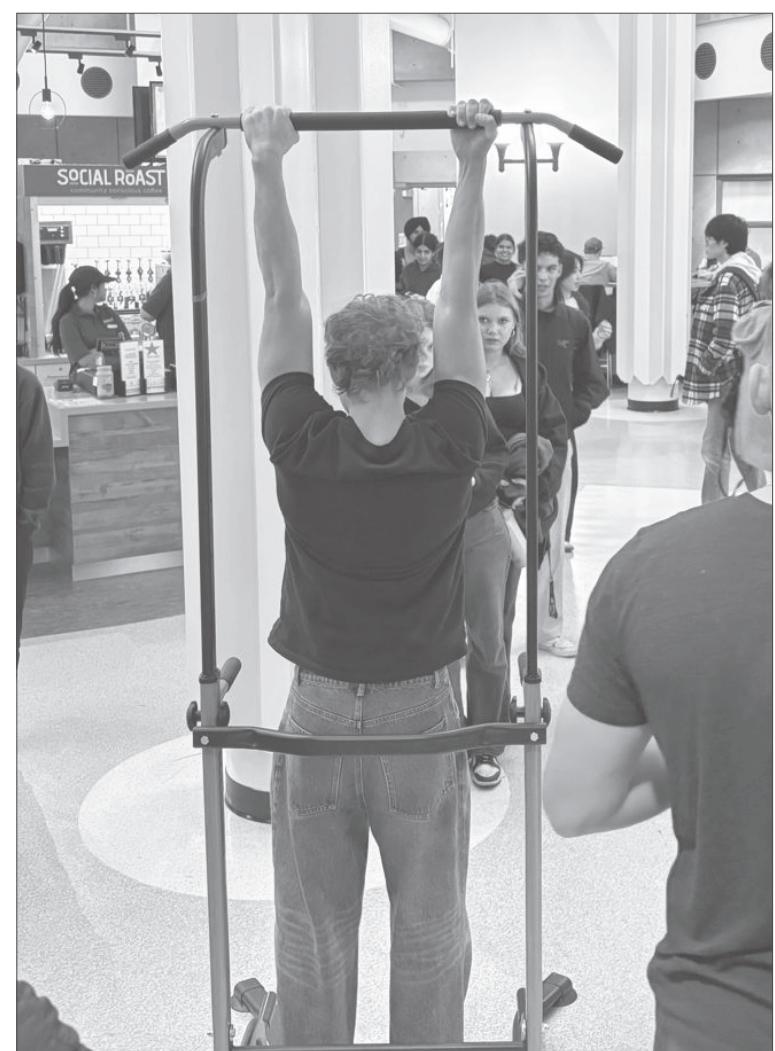
NANCY AMADO GONZÁLEZ
Camosun College student

the project represents is not lost on the students.

“You’re helping people that need urgent aid, so it’s not [just] another assignment you complete because you have to... It also gives you that personal reward that you are doing something important to solve a real and urgent problem,” says González. “It gives you the motivation and sense of urgency to pay attention to what you’re learning and apply that immediately.”

This approach both assists the needy and galvanizes the student.

“The thing that makes it highly successful is that you’re motivated by urgency... You need to use your knowledge, you need to solve the challenge, and you have a clear moment to put everything together,” says González. “You’re also thinking about your career, and how this information is going to be useful for that... This creates the opportunity to use all this knowledge and to see actually what works and what doesn’t. You’re always doing these simultaneous processes [of] learning the concepts and using [them] in real-life situations.”



comedy

Snowed in Comedy Tour brings the laughs back to Victoria



RMS MEDIA

Dan Quinn started the Snowed in Comedy tour 17 years ago; it's returning to Victoria this month.

ASHLEY HAGEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Four comedians will take the stage of the Royal Theatre when The Snowed In Comedy Tour, created by Vancouver-based comedian Dan Quinn, comes to town this month. As the largest comedy tour in the country, expectations are sure to be high. And with 17 years of growing success, Quinn knows about those expectations, despite the tour's modest beginnings.

"It started 17 years ago, and it was kind of just an excuse to go snowboarding," says Quinn. "I wanted a bit of a break from my regular comedy tour, so I decided to

do shows near ski hills. I told some other comics about it, and they were like, 'Hey, can we come?' and I was like, 'Sure!'"

But the creative demands of this gig are not to be understated. With more and more fans returning each year, the comics—Paul Myrehaug, Pete Zedlacher, Erica Sigurdson, and Quinn—are tasked with writing entirely fresh sets between tours. And, as any creative will tell you, ideas aren't exactly in the habit of showing up exactly when you need them to.

"I mean, I think that's the most difficult part; trying to come up with a new set every year," says

Quinn. "You know, I don't have a lot of time, so what I try to do is just take notes of things that are kind of funny throughout the year, and then, basically, come September, I sit down, write them, and just flow, and let whatever happens happens. Try not to judge—I think the main thing when you're being creative, in the beginning, is to just try not to judge the joke."

In circumstances of creative demand, community is a lifeline. Whether it's to have someone hold you accountable or merely to bounce ideas off of, having a strong network in your chosen field is essential to success, both personal and profes-

"I wanted a bit of a break from my regular comedy tour, so I decided to do shows near ski hills. I told some other comics about it, and they were like, 'Hey, can we come?' and I was like, 'Sure!'"

DAN QUINN
COMEDIAN

sional. For many comedians, this is a cornerstone of the creative process.

"We get to work with other people that we respect, and they're a lot of fun to hang out with... And it's really, actually, fun when you see another comic do one of your lines on stage," says Quinn. "It's almost better, you know? Because you're actually getting to see the performance of your joke. Which, when you write a joke and say it, you're never gonna see the performance of it. So that's pretty cool."

Another challenge, of course, is knowing your demographic. However, for these comedians and storytellers, this serves as more of a suggestion than a rule. What's most important is knowing your material and why you are up on that stage—why you matter, even just for a moment.

"I think, when it comes to jokes, people can look at it in two different ways, and people will laugh," says Quinn. "One is when you watch somebody do something and go, 'Oh, that's just like me,' and, 'I can see myself doing that as well.' You relate to the comic. But the other way that people laugh is when they can relate through the comic."

These lessons are for anyone to

learn, not just comedians with decades of experience and good ticket sales. But experience—good, bad, or otherwise—tends to be the thing that shapes us the most, creatively and all.

"I was doing a show in New York in East Village—which is, like, very hipster—and it was the year 2000. And on the show was Janeane Garofalo, Dave Chappelle, Marc Maron, and Jim Gaffigan. And I was the guy going on last... So, I do the show and I tell a story about going moose hunting in northern Alberta, which is as far from the East Village as you can get," says Quinn. "But the joke went really well, and after the show, this guy came up to me and was like, 'Hey, man, you were my favourite comic on the show'... And that, for me, was a big moment—to realize that I can relate to people that I have nothing in common with, as long as I'm true to who I am and what I'm talking about, and making it funny."

Snowed in Comedy
7:30 pm Saturday, January 17
\$61.50, Royal Theatre
rmts.bc.ca

review

Home for Christmas concert charming example of community Christmas spirit



PHOTO PROVIDED

Daniel Lapp's Home for Christmas concert, which took place this year on December 18 and 19, is an annual tradition in Victoria.

LANE CHEVRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Since 2003, Daniel Lapp has been performing an annual Christmas concert in Victoria, but, somehow, this year is the first I've heard of it. The Royal Theatre, built in 1912, is a charming slice of history, with a stylish, elegant look

that's timeless and endearing—it seems appropriate, then, that Lapp chose this location for Home for Christmas, now in its 22nd year, on December 18 and 19. The concert, presented by the Victoria Conservatory of Music, brings over 150 local performers, ranging from orchestras to choirs, together.

Lapp, a fiddler, jazz trumpeter, composer, and vocalist, has been active in the music industry for over 40 years, and Home for Christmas is one of the ways he shares his love of music with the community. It really shows in how cozy and casual the performance is, with his presentation being mostly ad libbed

and unscripted, candidly rolling with the little flaws and errors that come with organizing dozens of musicians and performers of all ages and skill levels to perform in front of a live audience.

The whole thing had a heartwarming, off-the-cuff vibe, and the "it doesn't need to be perfect to be fun" philosophy made the concert feel more like a pub show in a small Irish town, with Lapp entreating the audience to sing along and clap to the beat of songs. There's something magical about the gathering of a couple hundred audience members who are all singing Christmas carols they've known since childhood, and achieving a remarkable level of continuity and harmony doing so.

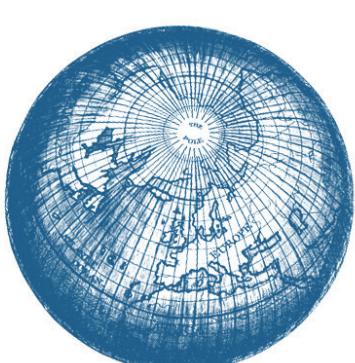
and unscripted, candidly rolling with the little flaws and errors that come with organizing dozens of musicians and performers of all ages and skill levels to perform in front of a live audience.

of joy and community, and that was wonderful to see.

In addition to the music, there was also a narration of "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" narrated by journalist Gregor Craigie—who also was the MC for the night—with live sound effects provided by a host of adorable primary school children.

With so much of modern life being centred around bustling about the city and maintaining a strict level of depersonalization to the many nameless city-dwellers surrounding us, it's nice to find an event that can bring people together in a way that no sterile, polished production ever could.

I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas with their families and shared a smile with a random stranger.



Post-secondary (and beyond)

Ashley Hagel, student

With 2025 now in the rearview, it's time for us to take a look at the road ahead. Education, housing, the economy—the new year is bound to bring sweeping changes affecting us all. But how we respond—good, bad, or otherwise—to these changes is what matters.

By the end of this year, Canada will have seen its largest wealth transfer in history, with roughly \$1 trillion trickling down from generation to generation. Similarly, according to a study conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, more than 75 percent of small- to medium-sized business owners plan on exiting their businesses within the next decade, leaving the door open for a \$2 trillion transfer in business assets.

The effects of this may not be felt right away, but it's looming. With most of these numbers garnering value from real estate—and considering the endless demands of our less-than-desirable housing market—it's likely we'll see an increase in supply, as well as a decrease in costs. (A small decrease, that is; I wouldn't go pulling the trigger on that starter home just yet.)

As wealth inequality continues to shift, so too will the job market. With trade-war jitters beginning to settle, and Canada's largest retirement wave hitting our shores, employment rates will continue to rise through 2026.

However, unless you have your sights set on health care or technology, I'd advise keeping those Indeed notifications on.

For years, the demands of the job market have played a significant role in the fluctuation of enrolment rates in post-secondary programs. For example, the arts and humanities have taken a direct blow due to the growing demands of the job market, which now prioritizes STEM and business skills over other, seemingly softer skills.

A realistic take on

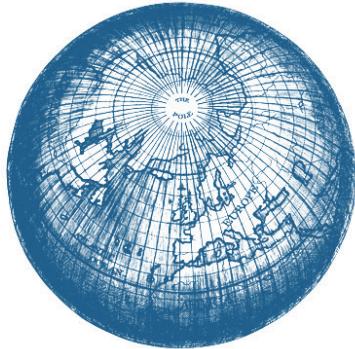
Marian Restrepo Galin

As the new year arrives and people slowly begin pulling away from the holiday spirit, it's that time when we consider what's next, how we want this year to go, what we need to do better, and what we should definitely not repeat.

It's a cycle of questioning, repurposing, and reorganizing ourselves. I've always liked to start my year with some goals to guide me through the months, as well as a vision board—believe me, that helps, too. However, as the months pass by, we often forget about these ideals and fall back to our usual selves, going from an illusion of change to stagnant repetition. But what if I told you that you can actually do something for yourself and keep on with it throughout the seasons?

To begin with, we're experts on being too hard on ourselves. Challenges make us grow and become stronger, but often those structured expectations end up being set aside. What might work better for you this year is setting small day-by-day goals.

One piece of advice I've appreciated about improving your habits is that big goals can be broken down into smaller ones, things that you can work on daily. For instance, if you want to be more active and start going to the gym, then don't set your goal to be constant and perfect athletic performance; instead, give yourself a chance to start going to the gym today, and see how you feel. To push yourself into a motivated mindset that takes you there, have small reminders around your home, like leaving your gym shoes near the door, or simply take them with you. After class, you could use the active spaces available on campus, or just go for a walk. Doing something, even if you consider it small, matters. Habits don't build up suddenly; instead, they flourish from the detailed step-by-step on the way.



ond) predictions for 2026

lent editorial assistant

However, with the collective doomsday mentality of younger generations, I anticipate a slight increase in arts and humanities enrolment across the country. After all, why not get that bagpiping degree? We're all gonna die anyway!

Moreover, with artificial intelligence worming its way into seemingly every public sector across the board, if there was ever a time to embrace humanity, it's now. Because of this, the arts now hold a desirable edge over other programs and industries. In the age of automation, creativity is defiant. And who doesn't want to be a little defiant these days?

Another example of this is population distribution. With an economy that largely depends on the financial success of densely populated areas, regardless of affordability, how should young people respond?

Well, the short answer is, they haven't been. More and more young people are choosing to leave the once glamorous, fast-living cities behind them in favour of calmer, more rural communities. And this trend will only continue to grow as we move through the new year into 2026.

But what about the youngsters who are still living at home? What about those who haven't yet reached financial independence? Well, truth be told, you may not find yourself in Yorkville, Toronto or in Calgary's rapidly developing Design District any time soon. But who knows? This year could mark the beginning of adulthood for many 20somethings across Canada—the start of a collectively delayed future.

But how you approach this impending independence is up to you. The world is scary, yes, and full of uncertainty. But that's not all that it offers. Despite everything, it can be beautiful, and I hope to see that truth come across in 2026.

new year's goals

do, contributing writer

Once you create that chain of small actions toward your big goals, ask yourself, "What else do I want on the way there?" and "Is there something else I can gain in the process?" Often when we are moving toward our greatest dreams, we forget to have fun. For example, if your goal is to graduate your program and land your ideal job, consider what else you can enjoy along the way. You could find hidden gems in the process, moments that make the journey more precious and enjoyable.

If some of these goals are money driven, like travelling, shift your perspective and see what you can do now. Envisioning goals for the long term is exciting, but it can make us anxious and forget to be present. Think about what small things you can do now that make you happy and bring you a bit of the calm you're longing for. If you want to go to a sunny paradise getaway, then try to see how can you have some aspects of it today. Have your favourite refreshing lemonade; go for a swim; listen to funky tropical music; even in the midst of winter, wear something colourful. Again, doing small things can help us keep a healthy "I can do it; I can get there" headspace.

At the end of the day, new year's resolutions don't work because they are big; they work when they are truly yours, when they fit your schedule, energy, budget, and reality. As students, we find ourselves in between many roles in our lives, but it all comes to choosing small things today that will make you lighter, healthier, calmer, and grounded. Instead of asking, "Who should I be this year?" try asking, "What is one small thing I can do today that my future self will thank me for?"

That's where real change happens. Not on January 1, but right now.

art

Dangerous Beauty brings Northern Renaissance art to Victoria



Albrecht Dürer's *Flight into Egypt* is on display on the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

NIK OVSTAAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Albrecht Dürer is recognized as one of the greatest artists of the

Northern Renaissance, both for his mastery of media and his uncanny ability to create evocative pieces with messages and beauty that

art

Fifty Shades of Ink focuses on traditional Chinese ink painting

"Ink painting, it's a thousand-year-old tradition, but still it's quite alive today."

HENG WU
ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA

LANE CHEVRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The practice of Chinese ink painting was created in the ninth century, yet it's still alive to this day. This is what the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV) has decided to shine a spotlight on with *Fifty Shades of Ink*, which focuses on ink painting by historical and contemporary artists, in addition to the gallery's permanent Asian art exhibit.

"Ink painting, it's a thousand-year-old tradition, but still it's quite alive today," says AGGV Asian art curator Heng Wu. "I've seen people, even in this island, are so passionate about practicing it still. So I think that's also very relevant to our today's life."

Engaging with art from across the globe and across time is an important way for us to expand our understanding of the human experience, and the ways that humans are culturally interconnected.

"I also think despite where the culture and history that we're presenting is originally from, I always

believe they are shared heritage of our human society," says Wu. "So it's important for us to have the chance at least to experience something perhaps we haven't known before."

Wu says that she wants to take an inclusive approach to create an immersive experience for people to engage with that reveals that this form of art and art history is not just a dead, bygone practice, but a continuing way of life.

"I'm trying to use different approaches to weave a tapestry to showcase of our Asian art; I'm trying to put it within a context for people to engage," she says. "From the cultural perspective, I should say, it's not just to show the form, it's more a way to express the idea, the mind, also the heart of the artist. It's also a way to show how people from this culture appreciate art and create art."

The artists who create these paintings, which were traditionally made in the 17th and 18th century using ink derived from soot and animal glue, practice this skill as a

way to create more than just art—they're meditating.

"It's much larger than painting as an art form," says Wu. "I think it's also a way of thinking, because when you start to grind the ink, it is before you start to create the painting, right? It's kind of, I should say, a meditation process. It's a way of life. It's a way of thinking. It's a way of philosophy."

Even to this day, there are art-

"There are monstrous figures and a lot of impending doom... apocalyptic thinking."

STEVEN MCNEIL
ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA

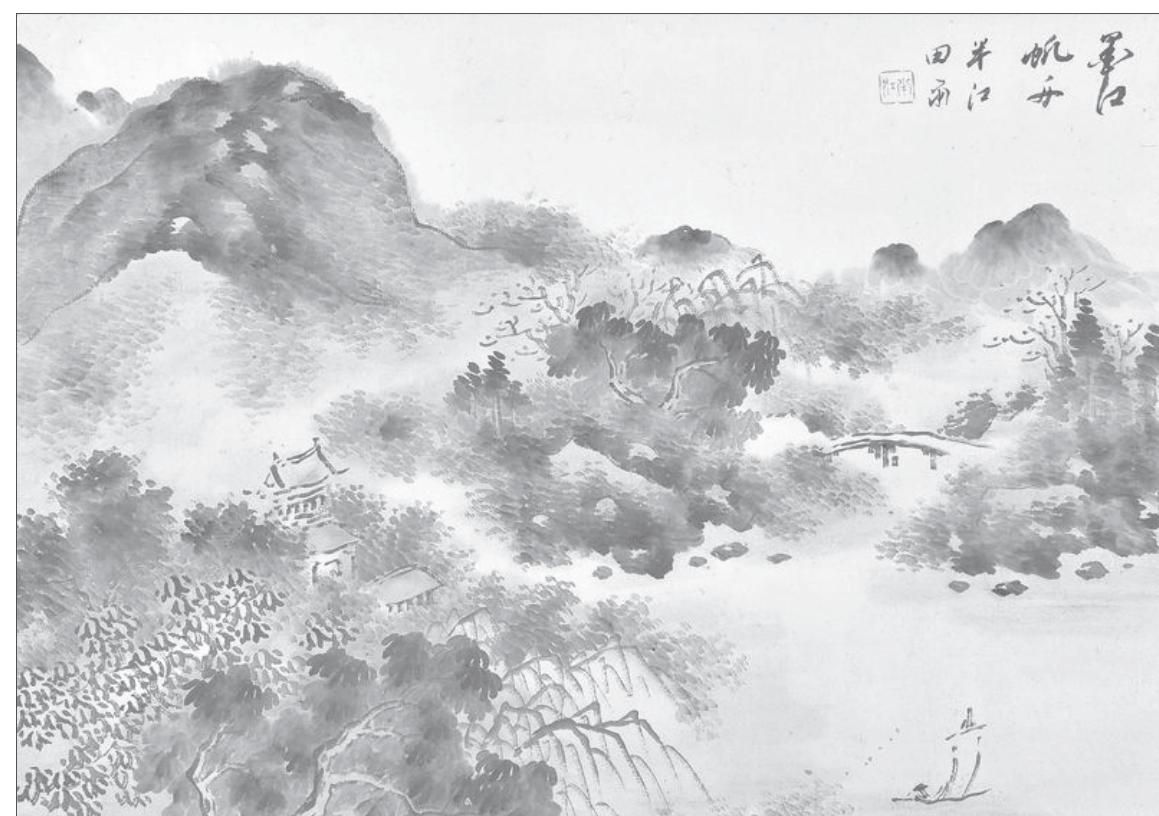
that would be of interest to people, because I find them fascinating. A lot of the subject matter is deeply rooted in the European perspective, as well as being based on the Catholic religion."

This makes sense, as Dürer was both European and Catholic, but McNeil says that "once you look beneath those layers, all the themes that you see in these subject matters are really relatable, regardless of what your cultural background or your religious beliefs are."

McNeil says that while there are scenes of extraordinary beauty in these pieces, they also have an unsettling depth uncommon of Dürer's period.

"Dürer was also quite radical for that time [because he was] creating subjects that showed the raw danger and humanity of these biblical stories, without prettying them up," he says. "There are monstrous figures and a lot of impending doom... apocalyptic thinking. There is a darkness to what is going on in [our] world, and I don't want to bring people down, but there's a connection between these works of art and the ability to think about things critically and wrestle with uncomfortable realities."

Dangerous Beauty
Until Sunday, May 3
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
aggv.ca



Okada Hanko's *Sailboat on an Inky River*, part of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria's *Fifty Shades of Ink* exhibit.

ists who practice traditional ink painting, although some also use more modern inks. Wu says that the work of the artist, and also the viewing of the art by you and I, is a way to experience peace and beauty within the hectic bustle of everyday existence.

"In today's life, maybe there are a lot of challenges, fast-paced. I hope people can slow down when they come to the gallery, they can

notice the details of, for example, like tiny details of the brushstroke, the different shades of ink," says Wu. "It's a way for people to slow down, to calm down, to just find the peace during that process."

Fifty Shades of Ink
Until Sunday, April 26
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
aggv.ca

review

Little Dickens a Christmas miracle, with strings attached



PHOTO PROVIDED

Little Dickens is a puppet-based adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*.

EMILY WELCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I had no idea what I was in for when I set out to review The Belfry's newest show. I knew that *Little Dickens*—which ran from December 2

to 21—was a loose adaptation of Charles Dickens' beloved classic *A Christmas Carol*; however, I had no idea what was meant by adaptation, or loose, for that matter. After reading a bit harder between the

When puppeteer Ronnie Burkett walks onstage—or, rather, above it—he is crouched behind a dizzying constellation of strings, voices, characters, transforming the beloved holiday tale into something that is bawdy, unhinged, R-rated, and totally unpredictable.

lines, I realized that the star of *Little Dickens*, Ronnie Burkett, is not just the performer, but the creator of the whole operation, the Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes. Okay. So, I was seeing a puppet show. This was unexpected.

There's always a particular kind of magic that happens whenever I walk into The Belfry. It's in my favourite neighbourhood, to start with, and the building itself is a converted 19th-century church, the same era as when *A Christmas Carol* was written. The building was constructed between 1887 and 1892, and was used as the Emmanuel Baptist Church until 1974, when it began to be used as a theatre. Just like the play, it has been adapted and given new life many a time over.

Burkett is no stranger to magic. When he walks onstage—or, rather,

above it—he is crouched behind a dizzying constellation of strings, voices, characters, transforming the beloved holiday tale into something that is bawdy, unhinged, R-rated, and totally unpredictable. At the same time, there are equal bits during the performance that are unexpectedly heartfelt, and this is all part of Burkett's genius, this chaotic puppet theology. Somehow through all this theatrical mayhem, the show still remains undeniably funny and charming.

The plot revolves around Esmé Massengill, Burkett's version of Ebenezer Scrooge, a jaded and faded woe-is-me diva who spends her time crying into her martini rather than knowing the true meaning of Christmas, or how her selfish actions might affect the world around her. Esmé is visited by the

three spirits of Christmas, and the audience is taken on the wild journey of Esmé's past, and present, and the dark realities of the future, if she doesn't change her ways. This is all brilliantly woven into Burkett's puppeteering prowess, and watching him work through the puppets, it's nothing short of improvisational genius. Audience participation (which is, apparently, an unavoidable feature of any Burkett performance) sparked some of the funniest moments of the evening. Burkett's ability to tailor jokes to the crowd in real time is astonishing. He pivots around from wicked to sweet, from political jab to heartfelt anecdote, with the agility of someone who seems to be as much of an acrobat as he is a playwright.

In the end, *Little Dickens* is a holiday show for anyone who can appreciate finding comfort in the glitter-smudged, messy edges of the season. It's for those who appreciate a good joke, a well-timed gasp, and that rare theatre experience where the performer puts everything—voice, body, and, of course, heart—into their characters.

Charming, chaotic, and unapologetically joyful, Burkett's *Little Dickens* is a seasonal indulgence worth savouring.



New Music Revue

Vesseles
Home
(Independent)
2.5/5

The debut album from Santa Clara's Vesseles tells a rich, interesting story with its lyrics. Unfortunately, it also falls prey to black metal's most common sin: the vocals in half the songs are unintelligible. When the vocals do come through clearly, they are beautiful and poignant, but all too often they are garbled and, in effect, meaningless.

The production quality is high, and there's no doubt that these are talented musicians who know what they're doing. The issue lies in the songwriting itself. Symphonic black metal should transport the listener. You should fly high and

dive low, carried by the wings of the music. Instead, I found myself zoning out, bored, as almost every song blended into a well-produced yet monotonous drone.

The album feels uninspired. Skill is obviously present, but nothing of substance is done with it. The majority of *Home*'s runtime sounds the same. It's literally, as well as figuratively, one-note.

I would have loved to hear some bigger risks, to see some more creativity beyond the concept and the lyrics. Every song I went in excited, eager to hear what they would develop. And every song I left disappointed, having received nothing but more of the same tired progressions.

When every second tries to be epic and momentous, that feeling

gets drowned in the din. Allowing the music to ebb and flow, to build and crash down, would greatly improve the overall tone and feel of this album.

In keeping with that, the standout song for me was the title track. The vocals are gorgeous, crisp, and blessedly different from all the rest. It was a lifeline in a sea of boredom that threatened to drown me. I wish it had lasted much longer.

If you are a diehard fan of symphonic black metal, you should check this out. It does the basics, and it does them tolerably well. But if—like me—it takes something special for this genre to really grab you, I'm sorry to say, keep waiting.

-Zach Sitara



New Music Revue

Sis and the Lower Wisdom
Saints and Aliens
(Native Cat)
2.5/5

Saints and Aliens is the fifth full-length album from experimental jazz yogis Sis and the Lower Wisdom. Hailing from California, these guys have a bright, beachy sound that will not offend anyone. You can hear the palm trees blowing in a mellow breeze. You can feel the teal vinyl mid-century modern Eames chair sticking to your salty skin. They are definitely not reinventing the wheel with this mishmash of acid jazz and lounge house; it feels a bit like Thelonious Monk on a very pleasant mushroom trip.

The funky, disco-inspired groove they lay down is solid enough to prop up the somewhat abstract

but never discordant lushness that fills the soundscape, but when you least expect it you're suddenly ambushed by indie pop, which I found a bit jarring. I was never quite sure when to expect it, or what it was doing there once it arrived.

The musicality is technically proficient; you can certainly tell that the clarinet player knows precisely which end of the instrument to blow into, and the crystalline notes of the synth wash over you precisely like soothing waves on a rather boring beach.

I wouldn't be mad at this album if it were playing softly in a surf shop or in the soundtrack of a movie about a mildly dull person realizing they were actually mildly interesting, but there's nothing groundbreaking going on here.

You'd be hard-pressed to differentiate this from any other album in the same vein.

Lyrical, *Saints and Aliens* is kind of neat because there seems to be an overarching theme of feeling lost and confused, tossed into a world not meant for us, out of place. All of which is very much how I felt while listening to *Saints and Aliens*, so maybe that was intentional. The lyrics, however, don't really match the sound.

Overall, I would say that I didn't intensely dislike this narcotic, soporific album, because while it certainly has a sort of jazzy acceptability to it, it doesn't shoot for the moon. It's... just fine.

-Nik Ovstaas

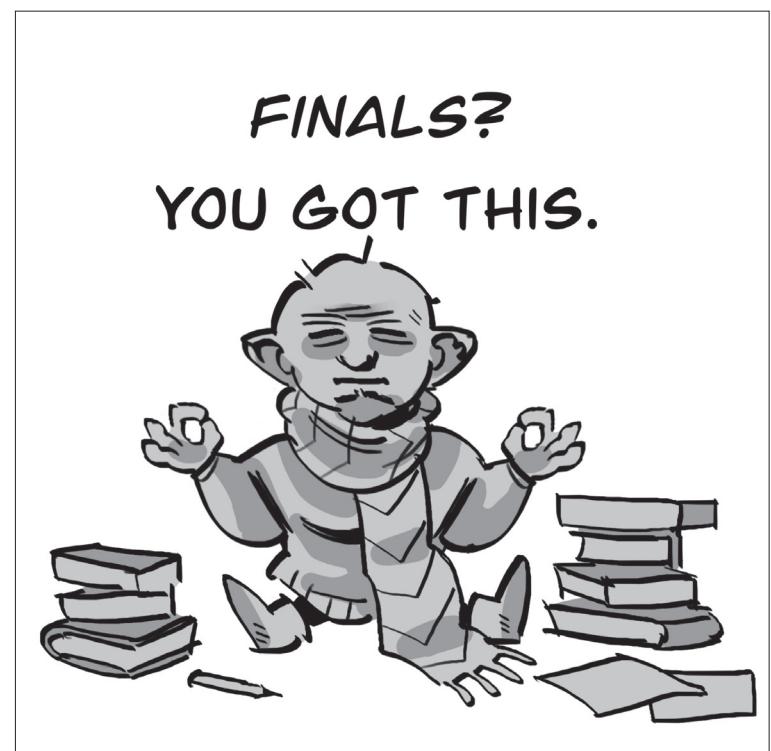
Natural Selection - Emily Welch



Cool Thing - Kamau Stallings



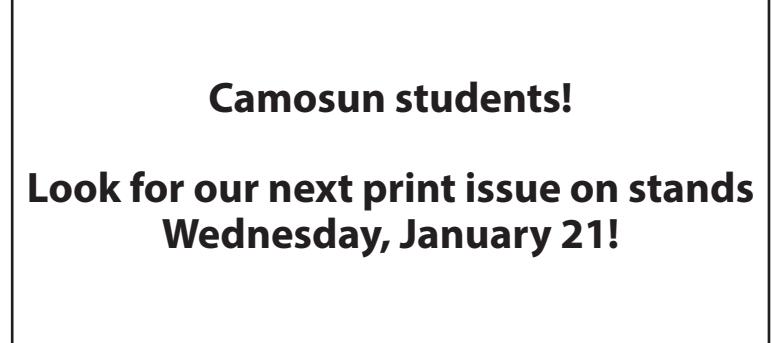
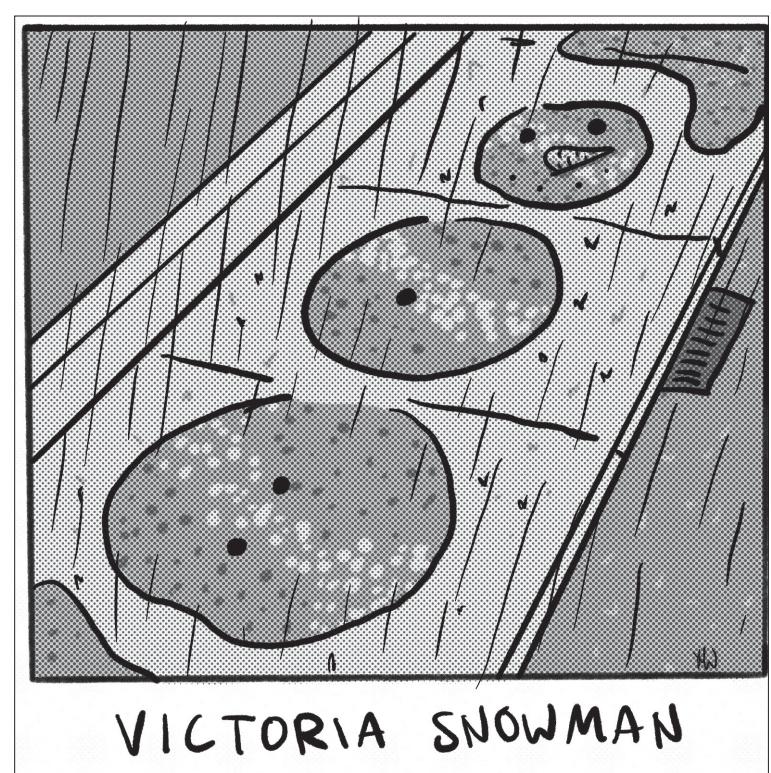
mr. andy - Sofie Mott



Telescopic Penguins - Michael Erwin



Wild World of Wendland - Huxley Wendland





Trill's Recipes

Chocolate chip cookies

I use butter nowadays, but growing up my mom would make these cookies with margarine, and, really, they were just as tasty.

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 pinch salt
1 cup white sugar
1 cup brown or golden sugar
1 1/3 cups melted butter or margarine
2 eggs
2 tsp cream
2 tbsp vanilla extract
2 cups chocolate chips or chopped chocolate chunks

If you've got a sweet craving to curb, here's an easy chocolate chip cookie recipe that makes about two dozen treats—just for you or, if you're feeling generous, to share.

The recipe is very forgiving, and it's easy to make with on-the-fly substitutions. I use butter nowadays, but growing up my mom would make these cookies with margarine, and, really, they were just as tasty. There have been times when I ran out of white sugar, so I used raw sugar instead, or I melted too much butter, or forgot the cream. In the end I still ended up with something delicious.

The dough is great to experiment with other fillings, such as raisins, nuts, caramel, or other types of candies. This dough also does well frozen, so you can make large

batches to bake later. The recipe is easy to scale up or down to make different sized batches.

The tools you'll need for this recipe are one large bowl, one medium bowl, measuring cups and spoons, a microwave-safe glass measuring cup, a rubber spatula or wooden spoon, a whisk, baking trays, parchment paper, cooling rack, cutting board, butter knife, and two large spoons. Or, you can simply improvise.

First, make sure the oven racks are spaced one above the middle and one below the middle slot. Then, preheat the oven to 375 F. In the medium bowl, throw in the flour, baking soda, and salt, and give them a gentle mix.

In the large bowl, add the white sugar, brown or golden sugar, melted butter or margarine, eggs, cream, and vanilla extract, 2 tbsp or measured with your heart. Thoroughly mix these ingredients together.

Pour the contents of the medium bowl into the large bowl in small increments, mixing thoroughly between each increment. When everything is combined, add in the chocolate chips or chopped chocolate chunks and mix again. Get two baking trays and line them



TRILLIUM MCNABB/NEXUS

This easy and delicious chocolate chip cookie recipe can be made with on-the-fly substitutions.

with parchment paper. Use two large spoons to scoop and shape the dough and put the dough onto the baking sheets. Put the cookies into the oven and bake for 18-20 minutes.

When done baking, let the cookies cool on a tray for a few minutes. Then transfer the cookies to a cooling rack to cool further. Then enjoy!

Here are some extra tips to make this recipe even more stress free. Beat your eggs before adding to the

large bowl; doing this helps with the mixing process later on. These cookies spread quite a bit, so keep this in mind when portioning the dough onto the tray if you want a round shape. Depending on your oven, your cookies may bake unevenly; switch the baking trays on the oven racks halfway through the bake time to help prevent the bottom tray of cookies from burning. Also, depending on the size of the cookies, you may need to bake them in

batches. The dough is okay to sit and rest, but make sure to cover it and put it in the fridge between baking.

There are tools involved in this recipe that you only need to use once; I recommend cleaning them when waiting for the cookies to bake so you don't have a giant pile to do afterwards.

Next issue, we'll be making gnocchi. It's a budget-friendly recipe that's a great leftover hunger buster.

The Trash Bash - Gabby Bond



NEXUS
camosun's student voice since 1990

Do you want to write a column in every issue of your student newspaper?

You can!

Email
editor@nexusnewspaper.com
today!



Message from your student board

While the Ministry didn't directly say tuition will rise, it did say that everything is on the table.

In late November, the BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills released news that made student unions across the province hold their breath. The Ministry announced a full review of BC's post-secondary sector, calling it necessary after 19 out of 25 public institutions forecasted at least one annual deficit over the next three years.

On one hand, it's a relief to see the Ministry finally recognize the crisis students and campus staff have been talking about for years. On the other hand, the announcement came with a major catch: the government has no plans to add new funding to the sector. So, you might ask... "How do you fix a funding crisis without actually funding anything?" While the Ministry didn't directly say tuition will rise, it did say that everything is on the table. That includes the current Tuition Limit Policy, which caps annual tuition increases at 2 percent. With that cap potentially

up for discussion, many students worry that higher tuition fees could be one of the outcomes of this review. If that cap gets weakened or removed, students could face steeper tuition hikes at a time when many are already struggling with affordability.

Leading the review is former deputy minister Don Aiston, who is expected to make recommendations on the governance and operations of BC's entire public post-secondary system. But there's another major concern that student unions keep raising, which is the timeline. The review begins in January, and the report is due March 15—a tiny window for a sector this large and complex. Naturally, people are wondering whether the conclusions might already be written.

Experts are also warning about the possibility of consolidation being recommended. They point to what happened in New Zealand, where the government merged



16 polytechnics into one in 2020. The result? A mess so severe that by late 2023, the country walked it back and created 10 standalone institutions again. Consolidation would be especially difficult here in BC, where our geography makes regional access a huge part of the conversation.

The BC Federation of Students, our key advocacy partner, has been invited to participate in the consultation process. Still, the Camosun College Student Society has reached out to the Ministry to request a seat at the table as well. We believe it's important that the lived experiences of students at Camosun are directly heard, especially at a time when the future of our education system is being reconsidered.

In solidarity,
Terence Baluyut
Camosun College Student Society external executive



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.

New Music Revue

Aunt Cynthia's Cabin
Misty Woman
(Black Throne Productions)
4/5

Aunt Cynthia's Cabin play psychedelic rock with some heavy doom influences, and I am here for it. Hailing from San Diego, their desolate, sun-bleached sound is evocative of vintage motorcycles, LSD-fuelled key parties, and skulls nestled amongst cacti. Their latest release is a redux of their 2020 debut album, *Misty Woman*, with an added bonus track, "Magic Touch."

I normally think re-releasing music for no apparent reason is tacky, but it seems to have worked in this instance because I had forgotten just how much I enjoy these guys. (I might even buy one of their magenta/cyan-coloured vinyl records.)

Diving into this album for the first time, you'd be forgiven for thinking that you're in for a gentle, folksy ride through a sunny meadow, as the first track "Kennel and the Dog" starts off with a relaxed, meandering guitar melody. It doesn't last, though, and you'll soon discover yourself wheeling across a scorched desert pursued by spooky bass riffs and blistering chord progressions straight out of a '70s exploitation flick about death cults... and I mean that in the best way possible.

Fans of psych rock from groups like Graveyard, 1000 mods, or Earthless will be in familiar territory with Aunt Cynthia's Cabin, as they employ some of the same time-honoured stoner-rock traditions: liberal use of spring reverb and plodding bass lines give tracks

like "There's No Saving Cass" an ethereal, dream-like quality, while songs like "Rider In The Desert Sun (Part II)" are shoved along by punchy guitar riffs that'll make you want to start your own biker gang. The title track is a spell-binding, sultry romp that feels like red velour and tarot cards, hand-rolled tobacco, and the backseat of a '67 Camaro.

Misty Woman is accessible enough to make those that aren't dyed-in-the-wool psychedelic-rock connoisseurs want to dance, but still heavy enough to have even the most seasoned metalhead staring at the floor and slowly nodding their head.

I'll be putting this album (back) into my regular rotation, and I advise you to do the same.

-Nik Ovstaas

word search

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

The new year is here, and with it, resolutions. Pesky, pesky resolutions. See our story about keeping those real on page 5 and find the words to the right above.

Expectations
Repetition
Stagnant
Exciting
Envisioning

Illusion
Stronger
Performance
Flourish
Paradise

NEXUS
camosun's student voice since 1990

Langford learners! You can now find copies of *Nexus* at the John Horgan campus!

Become our next volunteer writer!
No experience necessary.
Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com today.

