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**They are all children of the same despotic ideals:  
the Commander in Chief of the US of A,  
the war machine that he alone controls,  
our own country's nearsightedness in closing the  
borders to those seeking knowledge,  
and our own province's knee-jerk reaction to a  
fluctuation in revenue allocation.**

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# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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## editor's letter

## Finding where we are, together

Friends, Camosunites, classmates, lend me your ears.

Allow me to introduce myself: I'm your new student editor, and I couldn't be more excited to be here.

My predecessor and friend Lydia has moved on to greener pastures across the country, and while I wish her all the best, I'd also like to thank her for vacating what is now my seat.

What you can expect from me moving forward: I'm interested in many things, including but not limited to: science, current political climates, weird and spooky history, and the animal kingdom. However, where my heart truly lies is with art and literature. Thusly, in this space you can expect to hear about books that I couldn't put down, punk shows I'm planning on attending, and art exhibits that I think will be fascinating, as well as my opinions on policy changes here at Camosun, what I think of political strife at home and abroad, and myriad other things that strike me as newsworthy. This also includes my puppy Archie's most recent conquest in his never-ending battle to destroy things I hold dear. He's lucky he's cute.

While I'm on my soapbox, I'll expound a bit about myself: I'm originally from Victoria and survived most of my misspent youth here before setting sail for the distant shores of Montreal. While there I lived in glorious squalor for the better part of a decade before moving to Vancouver. There I worked in the film industry for over a decade, eventually returning to the land of my provenance, the prodigal son, much older but no wiser than when I left. At this point I came to Camosun as what they politely call a "mature student," and here we are: a grizzled old man attempting to keep up with the young whippersnappers of post-secondary education. Fingers crossed that you can teach an old dog new tricks.

While this experience will be entirely new for me—much like starting college is for most of us—I can't wait to learn together as we go.

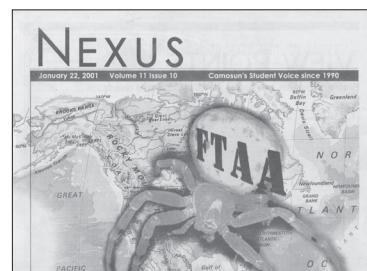
In Seneca's play *Hercules Furens*, Hercules returns to his homeland of Thebes after many moons of adventuring around the known world, and, upon finding himself back in the place of his birth, he asks himself a pertinent question: "Quis hic locus, quae regio, quae mundi plaga? Ubi sum?" which, as Google Translate will tell you, means "What place is this? What kingdom? What shores of what worlds? Where am I?"

Let's sally forth and find our way together.

Nik Ovstaas, student editor  
nik@nexusnewspaper.com

## flashback

## 25 Years Ago in Nexus



JASMINE WAGSTAFF

STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

### Computer lab controversy:

Nowadays practically every student brings their own tablet or laptop to school to work on assignments, but that wasn't the case back in 2001, as we detailed in our January 22, 2001 issue. Tensions were already high between Computer Science students and Camosun faculty over the lack of computer labs on campus, but the situation worsened when a Computer Science instructor had an altercation with a student over the usage of dedicated lab space in the Ewing building. There were guidelines in place to ensure students were only in the labs at their designated times, but they were never properly enforced or followed. Luckily, this is no longer a problem and students can easily access any computers they need, regardless of their program.

**Textbook prices suck:** The price of college textbooks has always been absurdly high, due to,

among other factors, publisher markups. Required materials were costing students upwards of \$300 a semester, and students were sick of it. *Nexus* writer Sarah Petrescu wrote in this issue that "for the amounts of cash I dished out for textbooks this year I could've paid a month's rent. It hurts." In a time before e-texts were common, students struggled to come up with alternatives. However, there were a few ways to save some money on books, such as trading with friends who had already taken the course or checking out the second-hand book market. With the rise of virtual materials and course packs fewer students today have issues gathering the books they need for their courses... and the internet is full of free resources.

**Proposed free trade:** The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) was an attempt to unite the economies of the North and South Americas in order to, according to its website, "achieve an open and secure market for goods produced within the free trade area." In this issue, we covered how this was perceived as yet another way for the US to dominate the global economy, which Canadians and South Americans alike were strongly against. Considering what the US is up to these days, we're very fortunate that this proposal never got past negotiations.

## open space

## It's time to overcome post-pandemic isolation

ASHLEY HAGEL

STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Over the past few years, the world around us has undergone changes faster than we can process. Global pandemics; televised wars; the decline of democracy as we know it—nothing is certain. Perhaps it never was.

There are times it feels as though the world has ceased to spin. While days fly by on a constant loop, we

comfort in myself socially that I realized just how important it was to interact with the people around me.

The prosperity of community is essential to our well-being. It is not optional—it is vital. And I strongly believe that without the ritual of social practice, we'd be stagnant and purposeless.

Now, presently speaking, there is still so much aversion to human interrelation, even after the throes

The truth is that no person could survive the events of the past decade unaltered, and to pretend as though we have is ludicrous. Not only were we thrust into a life of abnormality, but we were expected to bounce back immediately, too. As if freedom and rehabilitation didn't demand growth.

stand still in our unmoving orbit. And if it were possible to pinpoint the beginning of the end, I'm certain it would trace back to the year 2020.

We rang in the new year with a collective sense of uncertainty. Then another. Then another. We spent years in isolation, working and studying from home. And outside, behind every corner, there was an unmistakable presence of fear. I don't believe that fear has gone away. At least not as gracefully and completely as we'd like.

The truth is that no person could survive the events of the past decade unaltered, and to pretend as though we have is ludicrous. Not only were we thrust into a life of abnormality, but we were expected to bounce back immediately, too. As if freedom and rehabilitation didn't demand growth.

Some of us even viewed the COVID-19 lockdown as a sort of reprieve; a mini-vacation from the harsh demands of our day-to-day lives. I was one of them. Back then, I didn't feel capable of keeping up with the world around me. I felt alone. I was alone. Then, suddenly, everyone else was, too.

I thought I was in my happy place. No social engagements, no human interaction. It was awesome! Then came 2022. No lockdowns, no excuses. I realized pretty quickly, then, that I had been in my comfort zone. Nothing happy about that place, let me tell you.

I learned the hard way that humans are not meant to be alone. And it was only when I started finding

of the pandemic. We see connection and we reject it. We confuse separation for solitude. Some would even argue that a secluded life is the best life, that maintaining relationships is simply too much work.

To a point, I understand this line of thinking. We exist in an age of digital dominance, where everyone has access to anyone all the time. Perhaps isolation is a form of rebellion. Or, more accurately, perhaps isolation is a white flag flown above the heads of those who feel as though they've cheated the system by doing exactly what it wants.

There is nothing virtuous about being alone—truly alone. And while I do consider it essential to take some time for oneself, I also consider it essential to have someone to talk to when you feel you've finally had enough.

But throughout this decade, we've neglected that nuance. We're so concerned with protecting our peace that we've completely closed ourselves off from meaningful opportunities. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, we failed spectacularly to re-establish our social practices. And I don't blame us.

We spent years worrying about other people, feeling our safest when we were completely alone. We became wary of one another: reluctant, distrusting. We lost a level of understanding for social importance that had already been falling apart for years. And if you ever wonder why we haven't found our way back, just take a look around. Take a look within.

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

Got something to say?

Letters to the editor:  
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post-secondary

# Camosun College Student Society represents island students in post-secondary review

“The pathway to financial sustainability [for the region] will require additional provincial funding.”

REGINA CERVANTES  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

NIK OVSTAAS  
STUDENT EDITOR

The provincial government has launched an independent review of the post-secondary education sector's sustainability, and the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) is representing island students in the review.

CCSS members attended a meeting in Vancouver on Tuesday, January 13 to bring student concerns from Camosun, Vancouver Island University, and North Island College to those undertaking the review.

“I went to Vancouver to talk about the problems we were having in not just Camosun [but] the island,” says CCSS Lansdowne executive Regina Cervantes. “It was amazing because we had a meeting with all these... students from BC as well, and we were all talking and chatting, and it seems like we all have the same problem, right?”

Lawyer Don Avison is overseeing the review and its results. Avison has previously worked for the Attorney General of Canada to litigate criminal cases involving

interpretations of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As well, he was the first president of the University Presidents' Council (now known as the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia).

“You know what? I was actually surprised because I thought he was going to be just listening and being a good politician, but no, he actually mentioned that we sent him a document, and he actually read it,” says Cervantes. “He was like, ‘I read it and I am prepared, and I am ready to listen to you,’ and you could see he was taking notes. You kind of know when someone is interested; he was making very good questions. He said he was going to take it and talk about it, so hopefully he will actually do that. I think he actually wants to help, but, you know... it's very hard to say.”

The CCSS discussed at the meeting with Avison how current budget strains are impacting course selection.

“You're going to get no students, so we were talking about that, and he was very open, he was actually very nice about it,” says Cervantes.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Don Avison (right, middle) listening to student concerns at a recent meeting regarding the provincial post-secondary review.

Critics of the review have pointed out that the government has already indicated that it will not increase funding, which could lead to the current domestic student tuition cap being changed, something Cervantes says is unfair and unrealistic.

“The pathway to financial sustainability [for the region] will require additional provincial funding,” she says.

Cervantes also points out that if the review results point to raising domestic tuition but institutions

continue to cut student services, this will have a negative impact.

“If you keep raising the tuition, and then you keep on cutting the student services,” she says, “well, you're, like, making the students not graduate and most of them will just... be like, ‘I'm just going to drop it because I cannot graduate.’”

Cervantes says that because she's a student, she has that firsthand knowledge she can bring to the table; she adds that the CCSS really cares for Camosun and for the community.

“We are very integrated with the community, so we want to make sure that students can educate themselves so that they can go out in the community and help.”

Cervantes says that the CCSS is representing students and are advocating for students.

“CCSS is up for that, so we are just trying to get ourselves there and just trying to help all the students,” she says.

The review, with its recommendations to the provincial government, is due by March 15.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Camosun instructor victim of homicide

An instructor in Camosun's Management and Human Resource Leadership department has been identified as the victim of a homicide. Laura Gover-Basar, who also taught at Vancouver Island University, was killed on January 5 in Saanich; Gover-Basar, who was 41, is believed to be the victim of intimate partner violence. Gover-Basar's ex-partner Muhammed Ali Basar has been charged with

second-degree murder. Gover-Basar had been at Camosun since 2021. A GoFundMe has been set up to help support her two daughters, who are 7 and 11, at [gofundme.com/f/support-for-laura-govers-daughters](https://gofundme.com/f/support-for-laura-govers-daughters). Look for our full story next issue.

### CRD on track for emissions target

The Capital Regional District (CRD) recently announced that it remains on track to hit the targets in greenhouse gas (GHG)

emissions that were enshrined into law in 2007's provincial Greenhouse Gas Reductions Target Act. With an aim of dropping GHG emissions 40 percent by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050, new reports from 2024 indicate that the CRD's emissions of approximately 1.8 million tonnes of CO2 annually show a 30 percent drop per capita within the CRD.

—NIK OVSTAAS,  
STUDENT EDITOR  
AND GREG PRATT,  
MANAGING EDITOR



VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Camosun instructor Laura Gover-Basar has been identified as a victim of homicide.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun College Student Society board members and staff during a recent meeting with MP Will Greaves (fourth from right).



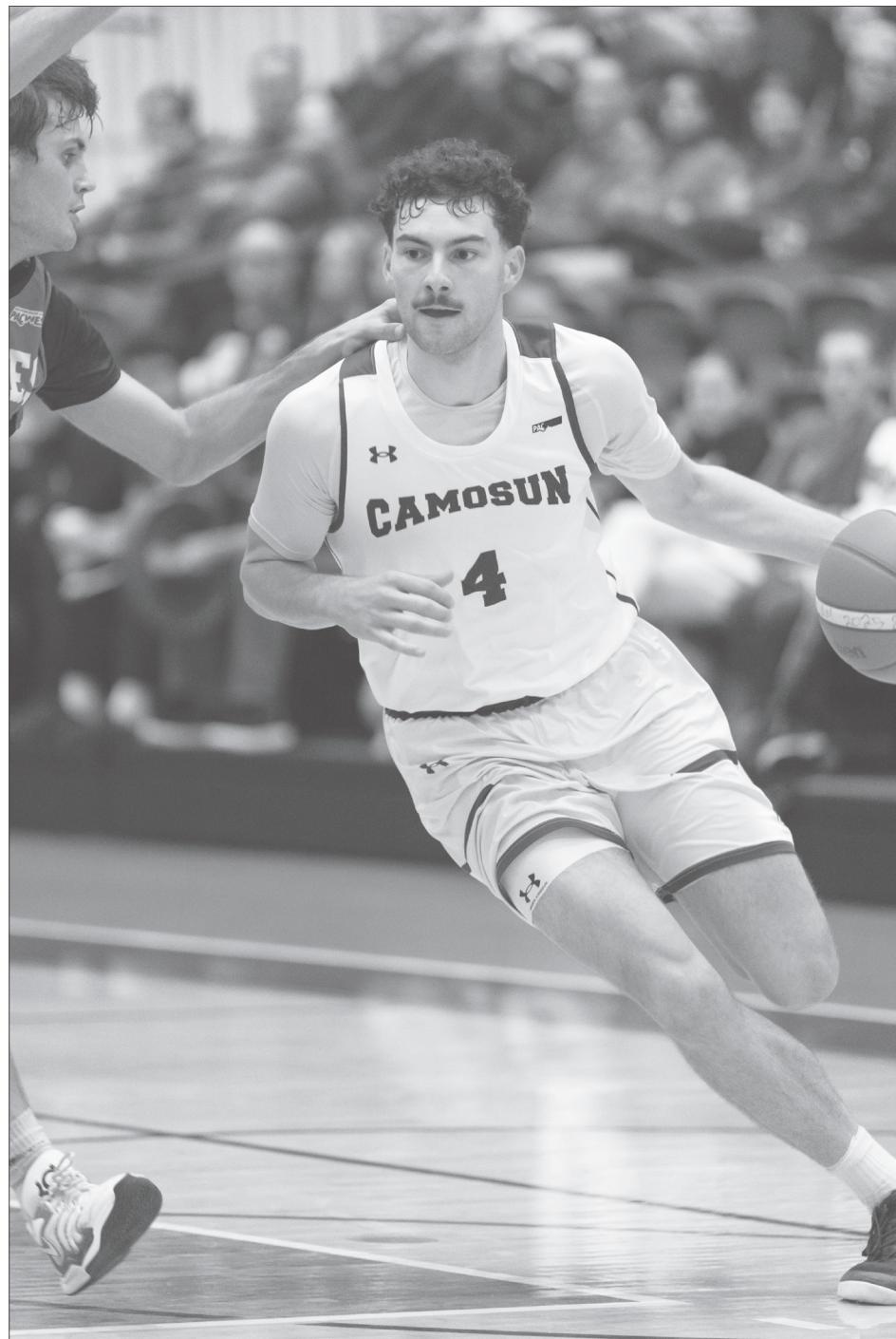
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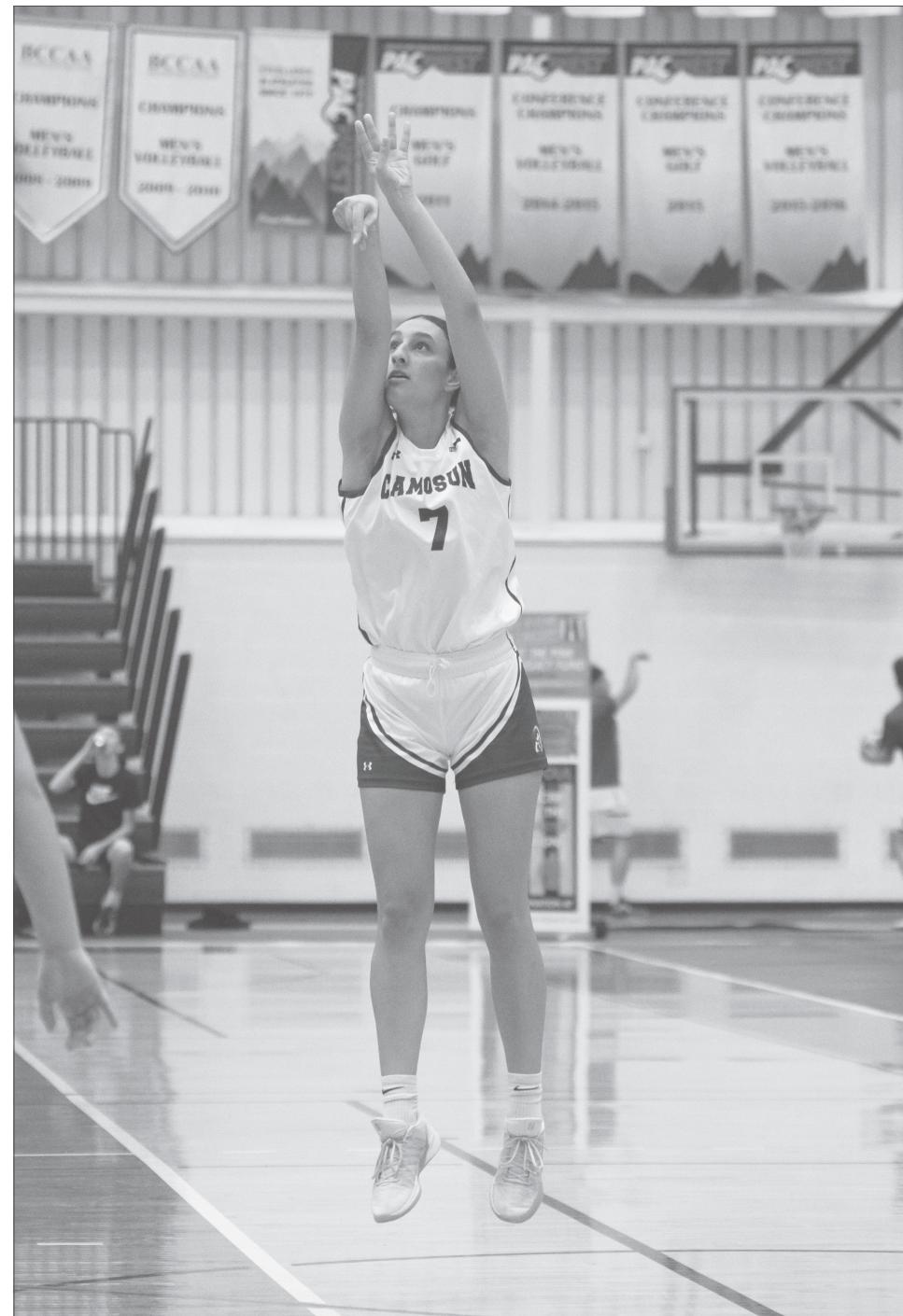
## sports

## Camosun Chargers basketball teams hit mid-season, keep pushing



CAMOSUN CHARGERS ATHLETICS

Camosun Chargers men's basketball forward David Finch.



CAMOSUN CHARGERS ATHLETICS

Camosun Chargers women's basketball guard Jordyn Broekhuizen.

“The goal for us, always, has been to win a championship—something the Camosun Chargers men’s basketball program has never done—so that’s going to continue to be the goal, and we all have the utmost belief that we can get the job done this season.”

DAVID FINCH  
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

“We have a new team, we had a new coach coming in last year, and we have a lot of rookies. So, it’s just about putting the puzzle pieces together.”

JORDYN BROEKHUIZEN  
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

ASHLEY HAGEL  
STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

The Camosun Chargers basketball teams are entering the second half of their season with some much-needed optimism. With both teams recovering from losses against the VIU Mariners in late November, fourth-year forward David Finch believes the best is yet to come.

“We definitely feel like there’s tons of areas where we can improve,” says Finch. “But considering we had a bunch of people banged up in the first semester... and we were still able to win a bunch of games and come out ending the first semester second in the conference, I think we’re pretty satisfied with that and know that we can still be so much better.”

The men’s team got off to a rocky start this season, with a number of injuries plaguing their roster. Because of this, they’ve had to adjust their approach and become more reliant on unlikely candidates, including second-year forward Ty Bunn, who scored a career-high 24 points earlier in the season.

“I think one of the great things about our team is just all the different people we have and the personalities they bring, and how everybody’s so supportive,” says Finch. “And I can think of a few times where different guys who maybe didn’t have a consistent production role on the team have kind of chipped in and had big nights.”

The team also underwent a coaching change ahead of the season, bringing in Camosun alum

Jake Wilmott to serve as interim head coach.

“Jake’s doing a fantastic job,” says Finch. “But, again, it’s just different. It’s his first time coaching a college-level team, so there’s some challenges with that as well. But he’s doing a great job, and we’re all coming along together pretty well, I think.”

The team remains focused on their goals despite the many challenges they’ve faced. With eight games left in the season, they’re hoping to capitalize on every opportunity to further establish themselves as legitimate playoff contenders.

“The goal for us, always, has been to win a championship—something the Camosun Chargers men’s basketball program has never done—so that’s going to continue

to be the goal, and we all have the utmost belief that we can get the job done this season.”

The Chargers women’s basketball team has been adjusting to some new additions of their own, and while their record reflects poorly, third-year guard Jordyn Broekhuizen is confident in the team’s foundation.

“We’ve gone up against some of the best teams, had some pretty competitive games, and stayed with them,” says Broekhuizen. “So I think just seeing the potential that we have and, for next season, just being able to follow through and keep getting some good results.”

The team welcomed eight rookies this season and have been settling into an adjustment period ever since. And with the prospect

of a playoff run now entirely uncertain, the team’s focus has shifted to workshopping and structure.

“We have a new team, we had a new coach coming in last year, and we have a lot of rookies. So, it’s just about putting the puzzle pieces together,” says Broekhuizen. “We’re improving every day and I think, moving forward, we just have to define our roles and continue to improve.”

With strong leadership and coaching, the players on the Chargers women’s basketball team are hoping to find success.

“I think we’re a tough team and everybody’s giving 100 percent. We’re really improving in practices, so I think just continuing with that mentality of, ‘We’re meant to be here and we’re going to succeed.’”

## sports

## Camosun Chargers volleyball teams heading into second half of season strong



CAMOSUN CHARGERS ATHLETICS

Camosun Chargers women's volleyball captain Edyn Van Brabant.

JASMINE WAGSTAFF  
STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

The Camosun Chargers women's volleyball team struggled a bit in the first half of the season, but they're determined to make a solid comeback during the latter half. The team has undergone some notable changes in recent history, losing their coach Brent Hall back in April, with Scott Freeburn taking his place. The players on the team also shifted around and all three team captains left Camosun before the start of this season: Avery Hansen and Paige Roslinsky both moved on to the University of Victoria, and Thalia Cooke is playing for the University of Saskatchewan.

Current captains Edyn Van Brabant and Olivia Trionfi have been

leading the team to success in the last few games. And while their performance on the court suffered in the first half of the season, Van Brabant is sure that they can make it to provincials if they keep up the steady improvements for the last few months.

"I think that we're still in the upper checkmark, not as good as we can be, but we've definitely improved since the beginning of the year," says Van Brabant. "There's still work to be done, so much work, like you can never be high enough. We're probably like in the middle to being closer to that provincial mark, but I think we're improving super fast."

The team has been through a lot of changes this past year and have

adapted to all of them, bouncing back within the second half of the season to try to end strong. Van Brabant says that the players are happy to be playing for the Chargers.

"We're all super grateful that we have this opportunity... It's something that we don't take for granted," says Van Brabant. "And just because we know that people pay to be on college teams, and we appreciate the support from people who watch the games and things like that."

Things are also looking up for the men's volleyball team. There were some games lost in October, but it seems that in subsequent games their teamwork and skills have become stronger.

"It's not the start we're used to having, usually we come out of the games a bit hotter, but with a younger team now we're still adjusting. We're hoping that the second semester goes better," says captain Jake Bolton. "I think things are going to be going well for us in the second semester. We didn't have the start we wanted to the start of the year. But I think that's just going to motivate us more for the second semester."

There was a big shift in players as the team received four rookies and two transfers at the start of the season. Thanks to the guidance of their head coach and the leadership from their three team captains—Bolton, Matt Rapin, and Edvard Adolfsen—the new players seem to be settling in nicely with the others, and that teamwork is really starting to show on the court.

"We've been in transition for the last few years; we had an old team for like three or four years, so it's been kind of a rebuild lately," says Bolton. "I'd say we're nearing the end of that and we've got a bright future ahead."

The team has been training, both individually and as a whole, several times a week to continue improving their skills to perform better on the court.



CAMOSUN CHARGERS ATHLETICS

Camosun Chargers men's volleyball captain Jake Bolton.

"We train Monday through Thursday in two-hour training sessions as a team, and then there's lifts on top of that," says Bolton. "Outside of practice, we're expected to lift two times a week and then one team lift as well. Three total—one with the team and then two individually. So, that's a lot of work and it's what the guys signed up for, and we all enjoy it."

It looks like all that hard work is paying off, as the team has their eyes set on provincials. The players are confident that they can make it happen this year with just a little more effort.

"Currently we are one spot out of a provincial spot, but again I am very confident that we'll work our way in," says Bolton. "Nationals is

a bit more difficult; it's something we've missed the last two seasons. But I really do think we can get there; we're just focused on making provincials first right now. And once we can do that and secure our spot there, then we'll worry about the national championships. I'm very confident that we can get to both of those platforms if we put our minds to it."

Bolton says that he hopes that the team continues to improve and perform better in the second half of the season in order to secure a spot in provincials, and he's feeling optimistic.

"I've got nothing but confidence," he says, "that we're going to be doing better in the second semester."

## wellness

## Tips for improving mental health in the dark Canadian winters

MIKA TURQUIE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I hated winter in Canada so much that I numbed myself through it for eight years straight.

Even after all these years of living in Canada, I still dreaded being here every winter instead of being back home in Los Cabos, Mexico, where most winter days are 25°C and sunny; however, I've finally settled and started enjoying the winter in Canada for the first time in my life.

Here's what changed this year.

I decided to adapt instead of partaking in my usual winter habits of staying indoors, using substances to numb myself, and binging on social media. This winter, I'm making an effort to get out as much as possible, even on dark and rainy days. I'm choosing to be sober and intentional with my habits, and I'm

consuming good media like movies, books, and music.

This doesn't fix another problem I've had: loneliness.

I've changed this this winter by calling and staying in touch with my family back home as much as possible. I used to get sad about them not reaching out to me; however, I think that it was me not reaching out to them that was keeping me depressed. It only takes a few minutes every week to talk with everyone I love and catch up with them.

I've also started making a bigger effort to see my friends here in Victoria. While they are scattered all around town and I used to have many excuses for not seeing them, I now call them often to see what they are doing and make plans, and I've even begun just showing up at their door when I know they're at home.

Lastly, I've started making an effort to connect with people who are not my friends yet, but are part of my everyday life. This has led to many great new friendships, like Julia, a worker at the Lansdowne cafeteria who recently moved here from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and always cheers me up when I get my morning coffee. I try my best to cheer her up, too, every time I see her. Or Ray, also known as Knowledge the Wordsmith, a busker downtown who has some fantastic stories, poems, songs, and riddles he wants people to hear, yet he gets ignored by 99 percent of people who walk by.

One of the most significant changes I made this winter was choosing to be more active.

I started running or walking five kilometres every day; I recently

got injured but I am determined to get back to it as soon as possible. Running and walking have been incredible for my mental health; even when it is cold, dark, and rainy, I never regret going out and moving my legs.

I've also been making a bigger effort to go out skateboarding—my passion—every opportunity I get. Skateboarding in the winter is hard due to the weather; however, when the conditions are right, the skatepark becomes a vibrant place where skateboarders make the most of the opportunity to get outside, socialize, and have fun.

Because running and skateboarding are both high-impact sports, I've picked up going to the gym again to work on my strength, mobility, and coordination.

I've found that people who go

to the gym are always very positive, driven, and happy to help anyone on their journey of self-improvement if approached with kindness and respect.

So, if you struggle during the winter, like I've been for the last eight years, here's what I recommend: don't numb yourself, adapt to the weather as best as possible, and pick up habits that make you feel alive. Make an effort to stay connected with family and friends in town, and form connections with new people. Last but not least, stay active. Move every day, play sports, and work on your physical health however you can; remember that every step counts.

Don't forget that seasons come and go, and you're going to want to be feeling your best by the time spring comes around.

## We are sorry for the inconvenience

I like to consider myself politically savvy, or, at the very least, politically informed, not to mention politically opinionated. I am not, however, one who enjoys endless political debate or long, drawn-out political discourse. I find my eyes begin to glaze over and I start thinking about monster trucks or old episodes of *The Golden Girls* after a few minutes. I attribute this to the fabulist nature of anyone who desperately wants you to side with them. It reminds me in a roundabout way of my feelings toward endless bureaucratic red tape: just say what you mean, tell me what you are going to make me do so that you'll go away, and let me live my life the way I want to live it. All the grandstanding and false narratives that politicians and their acolytes wear like a second skin are stupid and make me wish I were allowed to face-punch. Ditto for bureaucratic cogs that make you stand in Line A to fill out Form B so that you are eligible to stand in Line C to get within striking distance of Form D. Face-punch.

On the off chance that you dislike the things I dislike, I have marshalled my thoughts on a few of the pressing matters of the day and will be employing my unique and specially designed rating system for these issues. This system is called "Face-punch or no face-punch," but that's still a working title. I think you'll find that, despite being slightly unimaginative in the naming department, the system itself is exceedingly handy.

I'll provide a brief example. Camosun deciding to build student housing is not a face-punch; on-campus housing will be great for international students, or domestic ones with enough coin to not live in their parents' basement. Deciding to do it in the busiest part of the parking lot when there is a huge chunk of the parking lot that is primarily used by driving instructors teaching people to park, fine-arts majors smoking weed before heading to the pottery studio, and elderly people taking their dogs for a walk? Well, my friends, that is a face-punch. With temperatures dropping, it unfortunately seems like we, the current students, are on the receiving end of this particular face-punch.

Now that we understand my system, and before we drift too far from my intentional segue of mentioning international students, let's get down to brass tacks.

With the federal government's nascent cap on international students being admitted, the number of enrolments from abroad has decreased quite drastically, which means that Camosun —already among those facing a deficit—will further have to tighten its belt. With the impending review of post-secondary funding in British Columbia due to give its findings on the quickly approaching date of March 15, a grim picture begins to emerge.

Let's imagine for a brief and shining moment that we live under a system where everyone wants the best for everyone else, and that the "bottom line" is a happy, productive life for your fellow humans instead of the almighty dollar. If that were the case, then why has this review been proposed, accepted, and executed so hastily, during a time when the government was largely shut down for its winter break?

One of the concerns advocacy groups have raised is that the allowable two-percent cap on tuition hikes might end up on the chopping block. It seems that since our institutions need oodles more money to stay open due to the fact that those institutions are no longer raking in the big bucks from international students, it would serve the province quite nicely if the colleges and universities in question could just make up the difference by charging domestic students through the nose. Now, I'm nothing if not a big picture kind of guy, so I understand that the money must come from somewhere, but I just think that there are other avenues than forcing students to sleep in their cars (which are presumably parked anywhere but in our drastically reduced parking lot).

Another cause for concern is the much-maligned and intentionally vague talk of "duplication." When the powers that be use this term in regard to post-secondary education, it means one thing and one thing only: more than one school offering the same courses. Why on earth should the provincial government fund multiple schools when I, a resident of Saanich, could just make the commute to Nanaimo to attend Vancouver Island University for classes? While Camosun may seem like the obvious choice to be the one to remain open, being in the urban centre of the island, we must remember that Nanaimo is closer to the geographical centre of the island, which looks better on paper. Another way it could go is that each school would remain open, but would only be able to offer what the other school doesn't, so you would have morning English classes in Victoria, afternoon Psychology in Nanaimo, and then hop a ferry to Powell River's VIU campus for your evening Anthropology class. Conversely, if you are in a silly program like Creative Writing, like me, you could kiss your

Nik Ovstaas, s

ce, but this is a revolution.

-Subcomandante Marcos

program goodbye altogether, since the reviewing committee will also be looking at which programs make the best economic sense—the salt-of-the-earth trades will surely survive, but the pie-in-the-sky creatives may not come out of this looking quite so rosy.

I guess we have to wait until March to see what the fickle hand of fate will deal us, but this certainly feels like a Sword of Damocles moment, and you know how the old adage goes: if it walks like a face-punch, and talks like a face-punch...

**N**ow that I've really got my bilious juices flowing, let us segue once again to international affairs. What the hell, man? It seems like every day we have a new potentially catastrophic event to contend with. While the politics within academia may seem riddled with occlusion and subterfuge, can we really blame our government for being sneaky and trying to horde it's doubloons like Smaug when we are literally at the doorstep of a madman?

The US has always been... interesting. It's a bit like the sloppy, drunk, racist, sexist uncle that you hope to only interact with at family functions but still want to stay on the right side of in case he dies and bequeaths you a bunch of money. Or at least you hope that he spares your life if and when he builds himself a Killdozer and wages war on the town.

Unfortunately, however, it seems that our neighbours to the south have reached a new level of insanity; they are not only waging war and annexing countries like it's going out of style, but they're also waging war amongst themselves. It hasn't escaped my attention that the only states being brought to task are the ones that historically lean towards the liberal. The most frightening part is that they are not even pretending anymore that it's all done for some greater good that only they know about. It's like if God came down to earth and said, "By the way, I wasn't killing babies with cancer and causing natural disasters as part of a grand design, I was just doing it because I don't like you guys and think you suck."

I think the biggest concern right now is if they decide to bring Greenland under their heel, effectively stealing it from Denmark. We would literally be surrounded by America, and then who do you think is the next target? We would be a sitting duck, and not just any duck, but one that's plump and juicy with all our softwood lumber, minerals, and the ubiquitous opiate of the oligarchy: oil. It's a terrifying prospect. The rotting pumpkin that is Donald Trump is a maniac that moves quickly; he's not like the lumbering horror movie zombies that you can outrun at a brisk power walk, he's a zoom-bie, and one with the arsenal of the most powerful military in the world to bring him whatever his fetid heart desires.

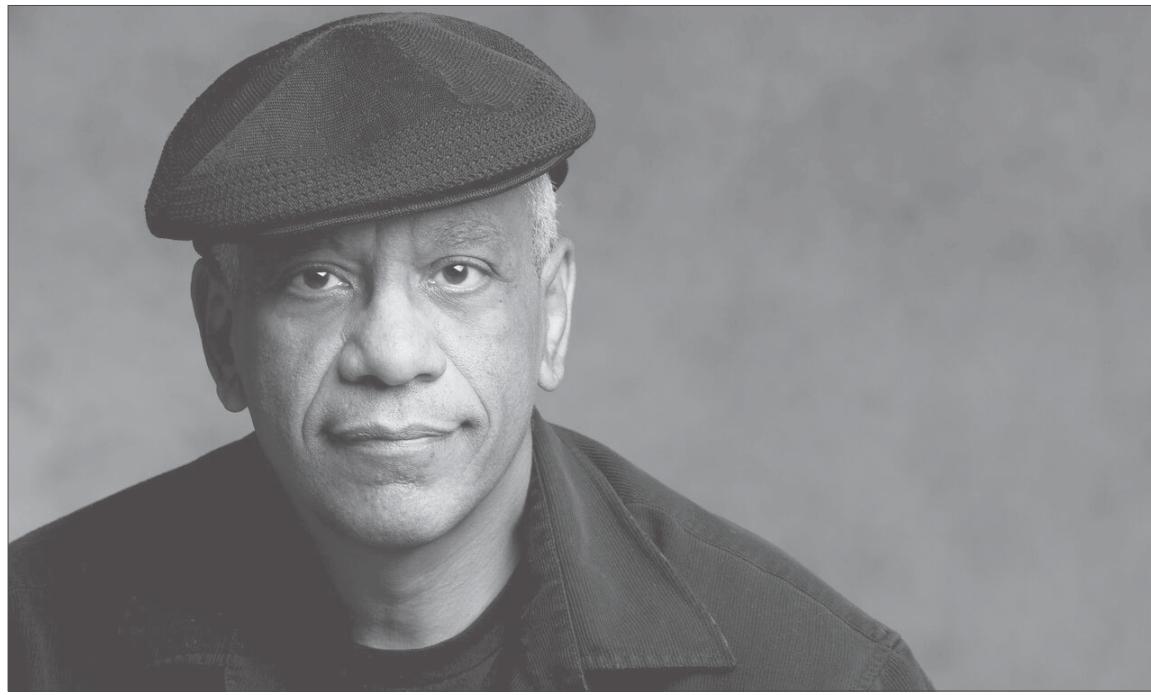
Trump reminds me of Hexus, the villain from the movie *Fern Gully*; a sludgy little blob that gets more powerful as it consumes natural resources for love of oil. The main differences, aside from one being a cartoon voiced by the inimitable Tim Curry, is that Hexus had a really great theme song and was eventually defeated by fairies and the power of love. Now, I'm a fairy of a different sort myself, and I will be the first to admit that the power of love seems like a lacking weapon. What it will take to defeat this monstrosity is something far greater, but the old "power of love" trope is not without merit. They are all children of the same despotic ideals: the Commander in Chief of the US of A, the war machine that he alone controls, our own country's nearsightedness in closing the borders to those seeking knowledge, and our own province's knee-jerk reaction to a fluctuation in revenue allocation. The only weapon that has a chance, and one already in our arsenal, is for all of us to truly remember what we love and what it will take to see it thrive.

I want to learn about long-dead poets of the romantic era, and the secret symbolism of rococo art, and I want to do it while rubbing elbows with people of every conceivable race, creed, origin, and intersectional identity. I want to do this in a place that is green and thriving, unsullied by war and our world's vulgar and unnecessary dependence on oil. I want to do this in a place of my choosing, close to the people I care about. I want to do this without going into debt so massive that it will be passed down to my dog, and then my dog's dog after I'm dead and buried. All of the myriad issues we are facing today are interconnected by threads—some gossamer, some as big as a pipeline—but all those in power who deserve so many face-punches that my knuckles are bruised just thinking about it are just products of our world, products of the same systems as us, and it would help us all to keep that in mind and move forward with understanding.

Understanding, and a good swift face-punch to anyone who is obstinate or unscrupulous enough to continue to cling to the old ways that no longer serve us. To borrow the eloquent words of the visionary Subcomandante Marcos of the Zapatista movement, "Our choice is not between war and peace, but between life with dignity, or life without."

stage

## *Maanomaa, My Brother* tells tale of childhood friends reuniting in Ghana



DAVID COOPER

Director Phillip Akin is bringing *Maanomaa, My Brother* to the Belfry Theatre next month.

ASHLEY HAGEL

STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

This February the Belfry Theatre will serve as the backdrop for a highly praised theatrical production not yet seen on the west coast: *Maanomaa, My Brother*. Co-created by Tawiah M'Carthy and Brad Cook, the play tells the story of two childhood friends reuniting in Ghana after decades apart.

Director Phillip Akin says that the vibrant and emotional storytelling seen on stage has moved audiences.

"I've never seen so many teary-eyed, 'Oh my gosh, what a wonderful show,' people in my life. I couldn't believe it," says Akin. "People come by and they're so touched... And I'm like, 'What's the matter with you?' But it does that because of the charm of the two guys and the compelling story that they're telling."

The play features a blend of Canadian and West African cultures, signifying a celebration of storytelling. While its back-and-forth structure serves to emphasize the overall themes of the play, Akin says it also creates a flexible, imaginative opportunity for those working behind the scenes.

"It's quite fast paced," he says.

"There's some remarkable movement and characterizations, so it was really interesting for me to be brought in to direct it because I was looking at it from a very different point of view, I think, than they were. They'd already been working on this thing for a couple years, and then I show up and say, 'Oh, no, that's stupid. We're not doing that.' But, you know, we work well together, the three of us."

Akin says the process of bringing this production to life has been a labour of love, relying heavily on collaboration to allow this story to evolve.

"The guys already had really strong creative ideas about how things went. So when I was coming in—and I tend to have some pretty strong ideas—it was about finding a balance of what they were doing and what I was trying to do theatrically," says Akin. "And so I came in with a real idea of, 'How do I shape what they've created and make it the most concise and clear and theatrical production?' So we worked together to do that."

Akin says that this collaboration was prominent during rehearsals, as well as during their first run in Toronto at Berkeley Street Theatre. This production of *Maanomaa, My*

*Brother* was developed over half a decade and has gone through a number of precise, sometimes minuscule, changes.

"We had a particular opening night in Toronto and I changed what they wanted to do, and I think they actually hated what I made them do," says Akin. "But they did it every night and it worked every night because, theatrically, it was right... There's a lot of things that they do that I go, 'Oh, that's fabulous. All

we have to do is change the timing a little bit, make this turn a half-beat later.' That's the kind of stuff I hope to bring to the show."

Akin says that *Maanomaa, My Brother* leaves audiences feeling nostalgic for childhood connections and past selves.

"I think it touches a real nerve with people who had good friends—really good friends—when they were kids, and then go, 'I wonder where they are now,' you know..."

So, I think there's a resonance there in who we used to be and how our memory takes us back to those encounters we had when we were kids."

**Maanomaa, My Brother**

Various times,  
Tuesday, February 3  
to Sunday, March 1  
Various prices, Belfry Theatre  
belfry.bc.ca



### New Music Revue

Gavial

*Thanks, I Hate It*  
(Exile on Mainstream)

4/5

I'm a sucker for bass-driven rock 'n' roll. I also really love a plodding rhythm that feels like a war machine slowly picking up speed. Because of these reasons and more, which I will get into momentarily, I quite enjoy this little peach of a record.

Hailing from Germany—more specifically, from that magical triangle of weird art for weird art's sake that is Dresden, Berlin, and Leipzig—Gavial are right at the cutting edge of weirdo rock, which for me can be pretty hit or miss. These guys know what works, though, which comes as no surprise considering they've been around for nearly 20 years. They formed as

Tourette Boys in 2008 and rechristened themselves under the moniker Gavial in 2021 following a lineup shuffle, which brought with it the addition of that bass sound I like so much.

The album opens with "Control," which immediately shows off bassist Paul Kollaschek's impressive chops. This low, pensive bass line is pitted against the Robert Plant-esque, pleasantly nasal, straining voice of the hilariously named Benjamin Butter, the band's lyricist, guitarist, and driving force. The song crescendos into a buzzing, harsh, cacophonic cymbal smash of distortion and noise that I really jive with because it's like angry bees are trapped in my head and I love it, or something. IYKYK. After this assault, it drops back down, pares

itself down, and exits through the entrance, a low, pensive bass line. Chef's kiss.

The album carries on in this fashion, at times getting a bit repetitive. After the first few songs, as much as I dig it (remember what I said about the angry bees?) my mind starts to wander. I could very easily envision myself putting this on in the car with the intention of driving to the gas station down at the corner, and suddenly realizing I has halfway to Nanaimo.

*Thanks, I Hate It* packs it in with a cover of Chris Isaak's timeless classic "Wicked Game," because why not.

Overall, despite the repetition, I'll be listening to this weird little record again.

-Nik Ovstaas, student editor

review

## Angry Snowmans return for annual evening of festivities



PHOTOS BY NIK OVSTAAS/NEXUS

Local Christmas-themed punk rock supergroup Angry Snowmans in action during their annual Victoria concert.



NIK OVSTAAS  
STUDENT EDITOR

If you're like me and approaching what feels like infinity years old, you probably need to pace yourself when it comes to going out at night. I will happily go for months on end without ever leaving my house after dark, but even despite my advanced age there are some things I just can't resist.

Once a year, on some night directly before relatives descend upon my house but after we have all left behind such silly things as jobs and school, something magical happens, and it's been going on for years and years. Something so mystical and alight with the glow of the holiday season that it's impossible not to be swept up in the revelry.

I'm referring, of course, to the annual Angry Snowmans non-denominational holiday hoopla. For the uninitiated, Angry Snowmans are sort of a supergroup of Victoria-born and -bred punk rockers, with members of bands like Knife Manual and The Gnar Gnars taking the stage dressed like disgruntled elves and ranting and raving about unfit working conditions in Santa's

workshop, the poor treatment of the elvenfolk, and where to get the best hooch this side of the North Pole.

as well as their children. The next generation of degenerates is apparently now legal bar-show age. If that weren't enough to make one feel ancient, the show also gets earlier and earlier each year as we continue our slow, agonizing march into our dotage. This year, the whole event was wrapped up like a Christmas gift by about 10:30, and we were getting elbowed out of the bar by slightly bewildered hip-hop children whose event was starting around the same time I was getting home to watch my stories and fall asleep on my couch.

So, if you, like me, love to go out approximately once a year, may I suggest you dust off your dancing shoes? You know the ones; they've got curled winklepicker toes and are adorned with studs and spikes that jingle as you walk.

And don't hesitate to keep checking for the Snowmans in local show listings, or to get tickets to next year's show presale, because while it's never exactly a secret when or where the Angry Snowmans show will happen each year, it is criminally under-promoted. This is perhaps because everyone there has a failing memory, bad eyesight, and can only mosh for about three minutes before we need to sit down somewhere. It is so much fun.

### New Music Revue

Annabelle Chairlegs  
*Waking Up*  
(TODO Records)  
3/5

Anyone that grew up in the '90s like I did would be forgiven for wondering if they had ricocheted back through time while listening to Annabelle Chairlegs' new album, *Waking Up*. Those were the days when DayGlo-coloured pleather covered everything, and soft breathy lyrics layered comfortably over gritty bass hooks, facts not lost on Annabelle Chairlegs, the inexplicably named project from Austin, Texas.

The band are fronted by Lindsey Mackin, whose voice is by turns dulcet and sultry. The album was produced by Ty Segall, so that's neat, and definitely fits the vibe.

Employing the same tricks that bands like Garbage and Imperial Teen are so enamoured of—like mechanically assisted vocal fry and dissonant guitar riffs worthy of an episode of *The X Files*—Annabelle Chairlegs may be fashionably late to the party, but they fit right in with the aforementioned bands. The resurgence of '90s tropes is not just limited to butterfly clips and soaking wet pant legs, and tracks like "Heavy Sleeper" remind us all about the simmering apathy and blatantly, hedonistically commercialized glitz of the industrialization of youth by the MTV generation.

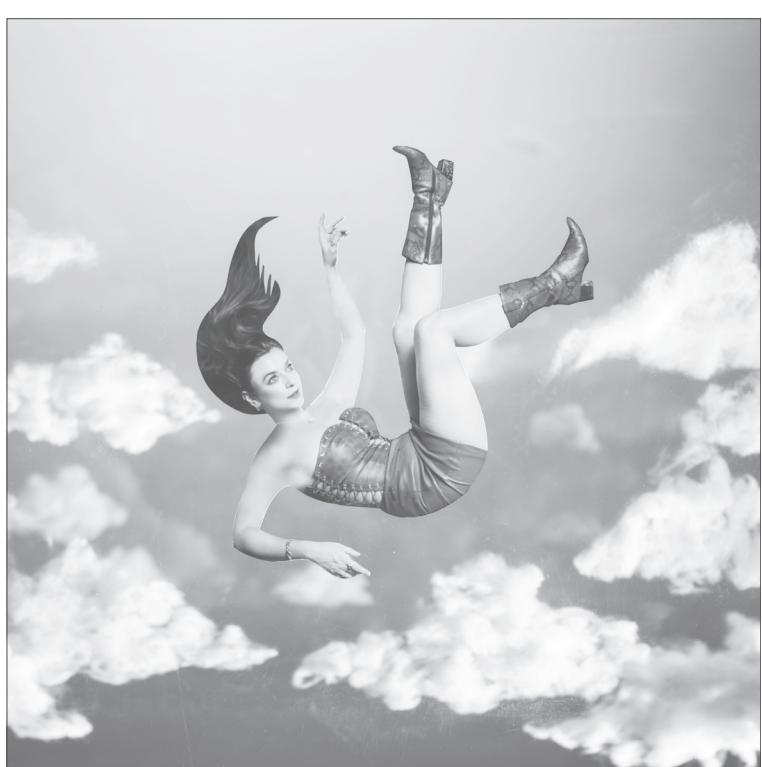
"Concrete Trees" will make you want to throw on some Dr. Pepper Lip Smackers and some blue eyeshadow and make your way down to the parking lot behind the Kmart,

because Mackin and crew are here to party like it's 1999.

But wait, there's more—just when you're melting into your apathetic puddle of CK One-scented nostalgia, we take a sharp left and find ourselves in a blissfully soft-focused dreamscape that would make The Cardigans and Six-Pence None the Richer swoon with tracks like "Ice Cream on the Beach," where Mackin sings dreamily about her one true love over a frolicking up-tempo guitar that feels like a minuet that got bitten by the Y2K frenzy.

If you want Courtney Love-style rage that is tempered with a bit of Spice Girls *joie de vivre*, look no further than Annabelle Chairlegs. Although I still think that's a silly name.

-Nik Ovstaas, student editor



Cool Thing - Kamau Stallings



mr. andy - Sofie Mott



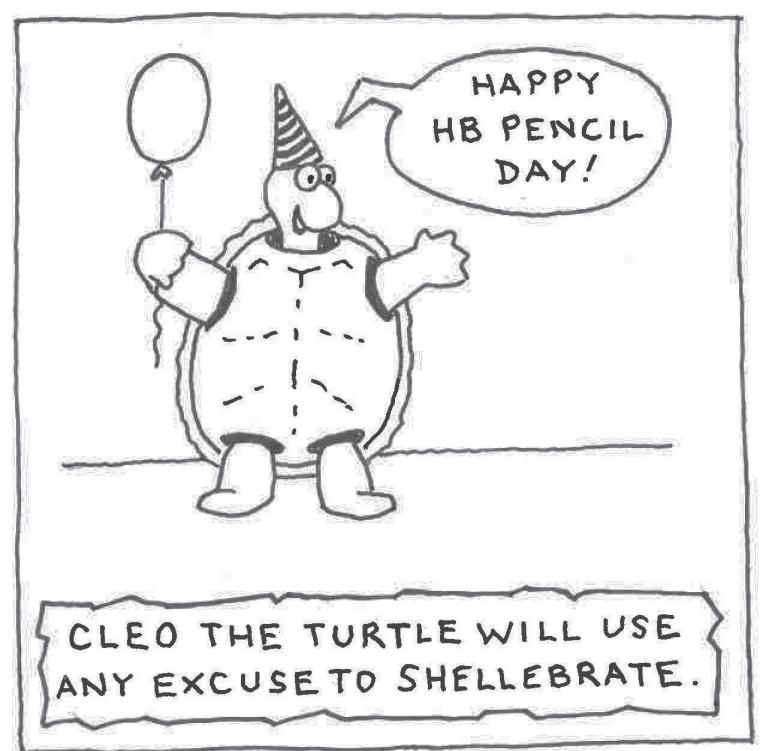
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**Camosun students!**

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Wednesday, February 4!**



Trill's Recipes

by Trillium McNabb

## Gnocchi with cream sauce

This recipe is a fun way to use up any mashed potatoes that didn't get eaten over the holidays and is easy to scale up or down.

Ingredients for cream sauce:  
 2 tbsp butter/margarine/neutral cooking oil  
 2 tbsp all purpose flour  
 1 cup milk  
 1/2 cup broth of choice  
 Salt and pepper, to taste  
 1 tsp garlic powder and onion powder  
 1 cup grated mozzarella or parmesan cheese

Ingredients for gnocchi:  
 1 cup mashed potatoes  
 2 cups all purpose flour  
 2 eggs

There's often a lot of leftovers after the holidays. This recipe is a fun way to use up any mashed potatoes that didn't get eaten and is easy to scale up or down.

Have a pot of salted water boiling beforehand to cook right away. Measure out 1 cup of mashed potatoes and put it in the bowl, then add in the 2 cups of flour. Once



the mixture turns into a shaggy dough, lightly flour your counter and knead the dough into a smooth consistency.

The texture of your dough will be affected by how moist your mashed potatoes are. Add flour by the teaspoon to the dough if it's too sticky. Add a teaspoon of whisked egg if too dry.

Cut the dough into smaller chunks and cover with a towel so it doesn't dry out. Roll out dough into a long snake then cut into desired

gnocchi size. Gently put the gnocchi into the water with a slotted spoon. The gnocchi is done cooking when it rises to the surface of the water, which only takes a minute or two.

If you want to cook the dough later, put it into a ziplock bag. Zip up the bag most of the way, but leave a gap for air to escape, the press the dough flat. Fully close the bag, and using a fork make grooves into the bag to shape the gnocchi, then freeze for later.

To make the cream sauce, melt



PHOTOS BY TRILLIUM MCNABB/NEXUS

This gnocchi with cream sauce recipe is easy and adaptable.

the butter in a pot on medium-high. Add the flour and quickly whisk both ingredients together to make a roux. Once combined, continuously whisk to prevent the roux from sticking and burning.

Once the roux turns golden and smells toasted, continue whisking while putting in the milk. When there are no more clumps and the milk is starting to thicken, stop whisking.

Add in the garlic and onion powder and stir in thoroughly. Put in the cheese while whisking continuously until the cheese is fully melted. Slowly add the broth while whisking; once combined add salt and pepper to taste and give one final stir.

Gently put the cooked gnocchi into the white sauce and mix with a slotted spoon.

Then serve and enjoy.

The Trash Bash - Gabby Bond



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### Message from your student board

Student voices must be included if government decisions are going to reflect real experiences rather than financial projections.

2025 has been a challenging year for student advocacy. On our campus, students are dealing with service reductions tied to Camosun's structural deficit. Provincially, the BC government has launched a rushed post-secondary sector review that could affect tuition limit policies. At the federal level, the Canada Student Grant program is facing major reductions. Taken together, these pressures have created uncertainty for students across the country. It has not been a smooth year, and that reality is why the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) is already treating 2026 as a year that demands action.

One of the most important developments this year is the CCSS being selected to represent Vancouver Island students in the BC government's post-secondary sector review. Known as Local 17 within the BC Federation of Students, the CCSS is one of only four locals across the province invited to participate. This review will help shape the future of post-secondary

education in British Columbia, particularly at a time when institutions and students are under growing financial pressure. Our Lansdowne executive, Regina Cervantes, will engage directly with the ministry to share what students are experiencing on the ground. This includes reduced access to services, rising costs, and institutions being expected to do more with fewer resources. Student voices must be included if government decisions are going to reflect real experiences rather than financial projections.

The CCSS has also been active at the federal level. In the first week of the semester, we welcomed Victoria MP Will Greaves at the Lansdowne campus to discuss student priorities and policy recommendations. A central focus of that conversation was the Canada Student Grant, which is set to change in July 2026. Currently, eligible students can receive up to \$4,200 in grants and \$300 per week in loans. If no action is taken, these amounts will revert to pre-pandemic levels



of approximately \$3,000 in grants and \$210 per week in loans.

Reducing student financial support to five-year-old levels while rent, groceries, and tuition continue to rise is deeply concerning. Many students rely on this funding to stay enrolled, and a reduction will have real consequences.

We also raised concerns about the challenges faced by trades and international students and shared recommendations with the MP. Looking ahead, the CCSS is working to establish regular meetings with the MP to ensure Camosun students are represented in Parliament. Advocacy does not pause when the calendar changes. The challenges of 2025 make it clear that the work toward 2026 starts now.

In solidarity,  
 Terence Baluyut  
 CCSS 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.

## word search

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

Have you read our new recipe column, *Trill's Recipes*, yet? Check it out on page 11 (this time around: gnocchi with cream sauce) and find the words to the right above.

Gnocchi  
Cream  
Sauce  
Roux  
Scale

Grated  
Eggs  
Dough  
Whisk  
Leftovers

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