

# FUN IN THE SUN



**...that won't  
break the bank**

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# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990  
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## editor's letter

# Lessons learned

And with that, the winter semester is done and dusted. For some reason known only to the person I was last fall (and completely inscrutable to present-day me), I decided it would be wise to do five classes, on top of my duties here at *Nexus* as your faithful student editor, and somewhere around reading week I was ready to fling myself into the unforgiving seas. But somehow, some way, I made it through to the final bell with my sanity as intact as it ever was, and if you are reading this, you have too. I've learned a few things outside of the curriculum this semester and I will outline those for you now.

Firstly, doing really well in a few courses is better than doing mediocre in lots of courses. This may seem like common sense, but it's not always. At least not to me. I still managed to maintain my grades for the most part, but one measly little B knocked me out of getting the institutional accolades that my wanton, needy little soul so desires. Drat. Not to mention, I felt like I was on the edge for much of the term.

If something doesn't feel like a good thing, or doesn't seem worth your valuable time and effort, don't try to force it into working out. Don't be afraid to cut and run and let those stupid bridges go up in flames behind you.

Secondly, that Career Development course that the college promises is going to result in a co-op job placement is a total money-grab. I suffered through that agonizingly childish charade for weeks, dancing in icebreakers like a circus monkey, only to fail and be stonewalled because I didn't want to write about my non-existent skillset just to apply for a fake job when the goal is to write a real resume for a real job. Seriously, run away from this monstrosity, unless you love playing childish name games and desire an underpaid internship in a marketing start-up.

Expanding on my vitriolic last point, a good lesson to learn early and learn well is that if something doesn't feel like a good thing, or doesn't seem worth your valuable time and effort, don't try to force it into working out. Don't be afraid to cut and run and let those stupid bridges go up in flames behind you. Life is short and playing by the rules will only get you so far.

And lastly, having fun is paramount. I'm taking a few summer classes that are strictly because I think they sound fun (and I didn't want to look for another job). The classes have absolutely bupkis to do with my degree or intended career, but they seem like things that will stimulate my mind and make me appreciate the world in new ways. Besides, time waits for no one. As I mentioned, life is short, and what is life without whimsy?

Nik Ovstaas, student editor  
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## open space

# Students need to take back the reins from AI

NOAH COSSENAS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Post-secondary students rely too heavily on artificial intelligence. AI should not be doing the job a human can—and should—do.

I've witnessed Camosun College students go against the academic code of conduct and submit an assignment written by AI as their own work. Normally this would result in expulsion, but teachers don't seem to notice, or care. This is because even some teachers are using AI to

lowed people to make some difficult facets of their lives easier—for instance, using AI to figure out what to say to their partner in an argument. Using AI in situations like this will negatively impact humanity because eventually nobody will be able to think for themselves and every person will have to ChatGPT everything they do not understand.

I believe that originality is what makes us unique. It is the most important aspect of our humanity that separates people from artificial

I believe the use of AI needs to be policed more by Camosun instructors, and I also firmly believe that some of the negative impacts of AI are already permeating our lives. Using ChatGPT to make a point in an academic environment shows that people are relying too heavily on AI in their studies.

create their slide decks; the same people that express their fears about AI replacing *our* jobs are using it for *their* jobs. While I understand the convenience of using artificial intelligence, I do not understand the constant reliance on it.

I'm very against using AI tools for work assistance and writing—among other things—and something needs to be considered: AI does not always correct information. It simply wants to validate you and shower you with compliments and boost your self esteem.

Whether it's writing an email or a term paper, using AI for a job that's assigned to you is a bad look. It's overused and people are too reliant on it for big projects. There can be extenuating circumstances—such as language barriers—that can be remedied by asking AI for help; however, if a person is willing to sit back and let AI do all their work, what are they actually doing?

In 2015, OpenAI, an organization that purportedly focused on advancing AI in a way that benefits humanity, was launched. This al-

intelligence. Watching the cursor blink is a shared experience for all post-secondary students, whether or not they do their work and follow Camosun's codes of conduct.

I believe the use of AI needs to be policed more by Camosun instructors, and I also firmly believe that some of the negative impacts of AI are already permeating our lives. Using ChatGPT to make a point in an academic environment shows that people are relying too heavily on AI in their studies. Original thoughts are soon going to be a novel thing because people will Google everything and read the AI overview just to have a point in their paper or a slide in a PowerPoint deck, and I fear that honest students will soon have to prove that they wrote their own essays and did their own research. If something doesn't change, at some point we're going to be frighteningly reliant on AI for just about everything.

The only thing I can say for sure right now is there was no AI used in the writing of this article, as it should be.

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

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I don't understand where people get chickens. Like, live ones."

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Camosun students!

Look for our next print issue on  
stands Wednesday, June 3!

student politics

## Camosun College Student Society gets new board members with spring elections

JASMINE WAGSTAFF  
STAFF WRITER

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) held its spring elections from Tuesday, March 24 to Thursday, March 26.

Athena Pimentel was elected as Interurban executive, and Riley Lam as Lansdowne executive.

Terence Baluyut was elected as finance executive, Mia Purnell as wellness and access director, Aariska Sharma as sustainability director, and Madison Huynh as women's director.

Juan Samaniego was elected as pride director, Jeremy Frederickson as Indigenous director, Aleah Ann Peterson as a Lansdowne director at large, Nyleah Sigouin as an Interurban director at large, and Angela Chou as off-campus director.

All of these positions have been ratified.

This year, 751 Camosun students voted in the spring elections, compared to 670 students last year. Despite the increase in the number of voters, this turnout is below what the CCSS anticipated. Baluyut—who is the outgoing external executive—says that this is a problem for many student unions, not just the CCSS.

“We always try to aim for more than 10 percent [of Camosun students voting]... Many student unions actually experience the same thing as well,” says Baluyut. “If you go to other student unions, it could go up to 14 percent, but it's very hard to engage with students sometimes, especially in our setting at Camosun College, where people aren't that involved in campus life.”

In the weeks leading up to the spring elections, the CCSS put up

“Something I've realized: the closer the government is, the lower the voter turnout tends to be. For instance, federal elections usually get the highest turnout, then it goes down at the provincial level, then municipal, and then even smaller for things like student societies. But I think what people should acknowledge is that the closer the governance is, the more it directly affects your daily life.”

TERENCE BALUYUT  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

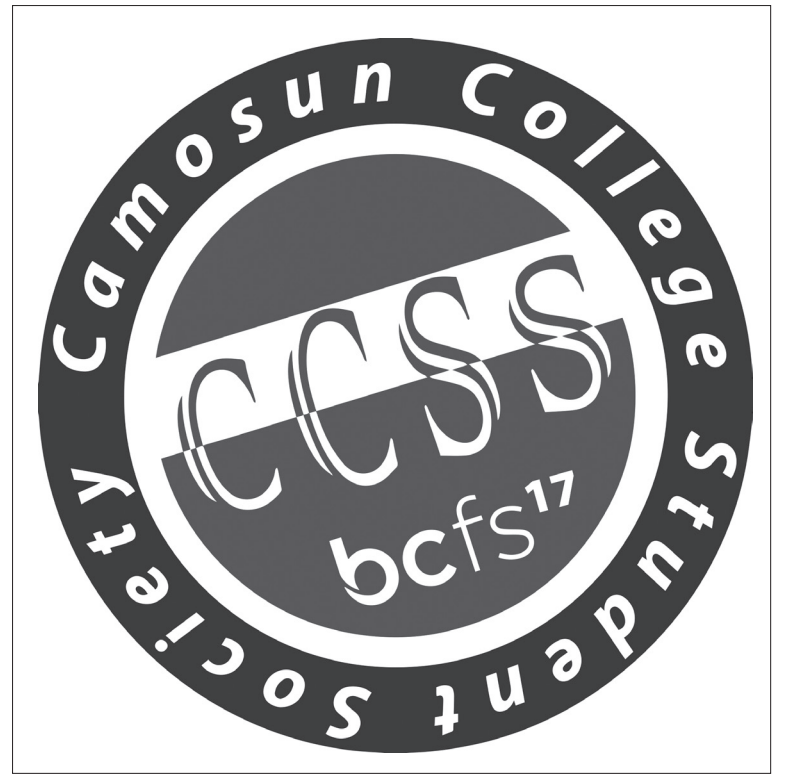
posters around Camosun's campuses and set up tables during Campus Life Days to inform students on the upcoming election in hopes to increase engagement and voter turnout. Additionally, there were posts on the CCSS Instagram page and website about the spring elections.

“Yeah, it's been difficult to get turnout for this kind of thing,” says Baluyut. “We've done social-media promotions and some in-person marketing. During our Campus Days, we've been announcing the upcoming elections as well as putting up posters around campus. I think moving forward, one thing we could improve on is organizing a better AGM. For the last few years, ever since I joined the student society, I've noticed that the AGMs we organize are mostly online virtual meetings, which helps us reach quorum and be able to call a meeting. At the same time, if we want to ensure better engagement

and participation in elections, we should create an event where people can actively participate and be more informed about what's happening at the AGM, including what we're voting on beyond just the candidates.”

Baluyut says that there are a few reasons why students aren't engaged in campus life, and says that the CCSS is trying to address that to connect with as many students as possible.

“I think that reflects the reality for students right now,” he says. “Students are very busy. Apart from being students, many are also working, supporting their families, and managing other responsibilities and commitments. It can be hard to engage in extracurricular commitments because of that. That's where we, as a student society, need to step up more. We have to meet students where they are and find interactive and creative ways to increase engagement from our members.”



Baluyut says that voting in post-secondary student society elections is important because these organizations make decisions that directly affect how student fees are spent, what services and events are offered, and how student issues are represented.

“Something I've realized: the closer the government is, the lower the voter turnout tends to be,” says Baluyut. “For instance, federal elections usually get the highest turnout, then it goes down at the provincial level, then municipal, and then even smaller for things like student societies. But I think what people should acknowledge is that the closer the governance is, the more it directly affects your daily life. People should recognize

that and understand the importance of their vote, because it can make a real difference in their everyday lives. Now that we've wrapped up the student society elections, I hope it's something people take note of moving forward. For example, we'll be having municipal elections soon, and people should be reminded of the power of their vote. People fought for that right in our history, and it's something we should take advantage of today.”

Since the elections, the CCSS put out a call for nominations for remaining open board positions. The nomination period closed on Wednesday, May 6; on Monday, May 11, the board will vote to appoint new members. See [camosunstudent.org](http://camosunstudent.org) for more information.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Camosun Board of Governors approves 2026/27 budget

The Camosun College Board of Governors has approved a balanced budget of \$160.2 million for the 2026/27 fiscal year. This is down from the 2025/26 budget of \$171.95 million as the college faces budgetary pressures mainly resulting from the federal government's cap on international students. The college is expecting approximately 650 international students in 2026/27, down from approximately 2,200 two years ago. The 2026/27 budget's revenue includes a one-time investment of \$2.1 million from the provincial government; this additional funding will support new equipment for trades training, development for health-care programs, and other educational pathways.

### Camosun student wins Canadian

### Junior Powerlifting Championship title

Tate Commandeur, a 19-year-old Camosun student, has won the junior title in the 105-kilogram weight class at the Canadian Powerlifting Championships for the second year in a row. The championships were held on Saturday, March 14 in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador; Commandeur broke four personal records at the event. He will be on Team Canada for the International Powerlifting Federation World Sub-Junior and Junior Powerlifting Championships in South Africa in August.

### New boardwalk aims to improve accessibility at Interurban

A new pedestrian pathway has been added to Camosun's Interurban campus. The boardwalk is built from yellow cedar and stretches 325 feet. Beginning near Portable A

and ending at Parking Lot 6, this pathway is designed to improve accessibility across the Interurban campus. Additional pathway improvements are planned for summer 2026.

### One year of solar power at Lansdowne Library

April marked the first year of solar energy at Camosun's Alan Batey Library, located on the Lansdowne campus. The solar panel installation, Array of Hope, has produced 49.2 megawatt hours (MWh) of clean energy, surpassing its initial target of 46 MWh in its first year of operation. This has helped avoid approximately 35.1 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and saved an estimated \$8,900 in electricity costs.

### Songhees elder Skip Dick passes away

Baptiste Harry “Skip” Dick passed away at the age of 85 on April 10. Dick was a widely respected elder, teacher,

and advocate for Indigenous education. He was a welcoming voice at UVic and Camosun College, offering territorial acknowledgements for events such as campus orientations or special events. Camosun flew flags at half-mast on both campuses for seven days to honour Dick, and, in keeping with Indigenous traditions, all pictures of Dick will be covered or removed from campus for one year.

### Camosun Innovates helps advance zero-discharge manufacturing

Camosun Innovates, the college's applied research department, has been working with Islander Reels, a precision fishing reels manufacturer based in Saanichton, to create a closed-loop water recycling system that has significantly reduced water use in the production process for the precision reels. This system captures fine

aluminium and plastic particles created during manufacturing and returns cleaned water in the same process. A working prototype is operational and is expected to reduce water usage by 1,500 litres a month.

### Camosun Innovates unveils rapid-deployment sprinklers

Camosun Innovates is partnering with Nanaimo-based fire-protection equipment supplier FireBozz to further develop a compact wildfire-protection system designed for rapid deployment in case of wildfires. Conventional sprinkler systems often rely on agricultural irrigation sprinklers, which are not designed for wildfire conditions. This project focuses on portability, efficiency, and performance under variable water pressure and flow conditions.

—JASMINE WAGSTAFF,  
STAFF WRITER

awards

## Camosun instructors receive awards in recognition celebration

JASMINE WAGSTAFF  
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, April 28, 56 Camosun instructors received awards recognizing their contributions to teaching and learning at the college. The Teacher Recognition Awards began five years ago and are organized by Camosun's Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). The awards have been growing every year as more and more teachers are recognized for their contributions to students.

Martha McAlister, a member of Camosun's Teaching and Learning Council and CETL, has been helping with this event since it started. She believes it's important to have a celebration for the Camosun teachers that make a positive impact on their students' lives.

"I think, particularly right now as we are going through difficult times in post-secondary education with cutbacks and other challenges for teachers, that it's important for them to get recognition for the work they do," says McAlister. "And I think that students really appreciate the opportunity to give positive feedback to their teachers; it's just amazing what students have to say. They don't have to do this, they do this because they want to and I'm just so heartwarmed by the response from students who really want to take the time to appreciate the contribution that their teachers make for them in their lives. So I think that



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fifty-six Camosun instructors were recently recognized for their contributions to teaching and learning at the college.

it's good for them, for both teachers and for students. We need chances to celebrate and have something positive, because things have been really challenging in post-secondary these past couple years."

The teachers who received awards at the event—held at Sherri Bell Hall in the Wilna Thomas Building at the Lansdowne campus—were nominated primarily by students, as well as some faculty. The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) helped with the event by providing snacks for attendees.

"Everyone who gets a nomination gets recognized," says McAlister. "It's not a competition, it's a

celebration. Nominations mostly come from students, but also colleagues like other teachers, but it's almost always from students. The students will send in their words describing how a teacher made a difference for them in their education, and, yeah, everyone who gets a nomination gets recognized. [At the event] we read out the quotes that students have submitted and you can hear in the students' own words the impact that a teacher has had on them and it's just beautiful. Like, it's just so heartwarming."

Thuy Nevado, an instructor in the School of Arts and Science, was a recipient of one of these awards.

She has been teaching biology courses at Camosun since 1999 and uses interactive demonstrations in her classes to help students understand how complex biological concepts like DNA replication come together in a tangible way.

"Official recognition is a big thing. Whether it's unofficial or official, any kind of recognition just validates what we're doing. I think I've always wanted to do work that's meaningful, that makes a positive difference in the world, that makes the world a little bit of a better place. And when you're teaching you don't really know what kind of an effect you have," says Nevado.

"You don't really know what kind of an effect you have on a student, or how they're doing overall. Not just in that course but just overall in that day, how are they doing. For a student to be able to say that, 'Yeah, you made a difference for me,' that's really important and that means a lot to me."

Nevado hopes that more instructors being recognized for helping students will make students more inclined to reach out for the help they need. She wants students to be able to ask for whatever they need to succeed in their courses and in their lives.

"One thing that's really great about having this information out there, for people to know that somebody else found me helpful, is I hope that other students will step forward and ask for help too. I think that one of the things I'm always working more towards and a challenge I always find is how to help a student," says Nevado. "If it just helps one other student go, 'Hey, I saw... that all these other students like Thuy so maybe she's not so bad and I can ask her for some help, too,' that would be great because that's what I'm here for. I just want to help make someone else's journey a little bit easier; that's what I'm here for."

Visit [camosun.libguides.com/celebratingteachingandlearning](http://camosun.libguides.com/celebratingteachingandlearning) for more information and a complete list of all the instructors recognized this year.

event

## Students showcase art at Camosun College Comic Arts Festival



ALL PHOTOS BY GREG PRATT/INEXUS

Camosun Comics & Graphic Novels students showcased their work at the annual Camosun College Comic Arts Festival, which took place this year on Thursday, April 16 at the Lansdowne campus.

alumni

# Camosun alumna nabs big award for big sculpture



ERIN BERRY

Camosun College Visual Arts alumna Erin Berry's award-winning piece, *Hyperprocess*.

MIKA TURQUIE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun Visual Arts graduate Erin Berry recently won a national award for emerging ceramics artists: the Winifred Shantz Award, worth \$10,000.

The award recognizes her master's thesis piece, *Hyperprocess*, a large walk-in spiral made from 238 ram-pressed bricks. The installation functions almost like a library of artifacts containing everything from fossils to computer chips alongside Berry's own ceramic works, creating a complex and immersive narrative piece.

Berry was introduced to clay

by her grandmother, a production potter, who taught her how to work with clay and provided her with the equipment to set up her first studio at her parents' house. There, she was able to hone her skills before attending Camosun, where she began to work on larger pieces and sculptural ceramics pieces.

"In [high school], she asked if I wanted to learn how to work with clay," says Berry. "She taught me how to throw in a little porch area at my parents' house, [where] we set up a little studio. Eventually, I ended up getting the old kiln off [my grandparents]... but the first

sculptural ceramics I did was at Camosun."

After graduating from Camosun in 2012, Berry moved to Montreal to pursue sculptural ceramics at Concordia University. But her path took a detour when a spot on the National Sailing Team led her to take three years away from school to focus on making it to the 2016 Olympics. Her sailing career was cut short when she got a severe concussion during an event in France in 2015; after recovering, her focus shifted back to ceramics, leading her back to Concordia and eventually to Alfred University in Upstate New York.



COURTESY OF ERIN BERRY

Camosun College Visual Arts graduate Erin Berry.

"Alfred is a very highly regarded university for ceramics," says Berry, "the calibre of... graduate work coming out of [there] is really incredible... My thesis work, *Hyperprocess*, could have only happened at Alfred; I don't think there's any other university in North America where I could have made that work."

Aside from the demanding technical aspects, *Hyperprocess* is an exploration of human connection with geological "deep time." The name is partly inspired by Timothy Morton's concept of "hyperobjects," which refers to things so vast—like global warming or the Earth—that they cannot be fully perceived from one angle. During her first year at Alfred, Berry took 3D scans of local shale walls that were remnants of a 300-million-year-old ancient seabed. These scans became part of the exterior texture of her bricks, referencing the origin of the town of Alfred and the clay industry in New York, which exists due to these shale deposits, and geological sedimentation as an archive of the processes that happen on earth.

"Where does the iron in our blood come from?... Was it once within the core of the earth? We often as humans think of ourselves as separate from the processes that are constantly happening in the earth and from time itself," says

Berry. "If you look at the processes of deep time, we are very small and insignificant... it's healthy to keep that perspective."

Now back in Victoria, Berry is continuing to work on pieces in preparation for an upcoming exhibition in Toronto. While she was aware of the Winifred Shantz Award before winning it, her main focus was on bringing to life the concept she had for *Hyperprocess*, as well as continuing to maintain a high calibre of work.

"I wasn't thinking, like, oh, this work is going to win awards... I was mainly thinking about the conceptual side of it at the time and kind of really pushing that. I'm really honoured because I feel like I'm among some really incredible artists that I really admire who have won this award in the past."

For now, Berry continues to embrace the unknowns of the early stages of an art career, advising young artists to "make work that makes you a little uncomfortable. There's usually something there. Don't let judgments from exterior voices prevent you from making the work you really feel you should be making. There's always going to be people that don't like your work or don't understand it—and then on the other side, there's people that really need to see it."

## eyed on campus



PHOTO PROVIDED

Graduating Camosun College Visual Arts students at their graduating exhibition, *Ruminate*.



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Stickers saying "Joy is an act of resistance!" have been appearing around campus.

# Summer fun on a How to have fun without

Story by Ashley Hage  
Graphic by Marian Restrepo G

As the stresses of school begin melting away in the sometimes pleasant but otherwise sweltering heat, I find myself wondering what there is to do with all this newfound free time. Between shifts at work and maybe a summer class or two, it can be difficult to find things to occupy yourself with when the choices aren't laid out for you. Especially when you've spent the past eight months abiding by rigorous schedules, deadlines, and extensions for deadlines.

It's easy to feel lost, but that's where I come in. Consider me a personal tour guide of sorts. And believe me, I've been around the block. And around, and around, and around.

Now, if you're like me and you've lived in this city for most—if not all—of your life, then the difficulty of finding something to do increases tenfold. I mean, most days, I feel like I've already experienced everything the island has to offer. What else could there be? Or, more specifically, what else could there be within a reasonable price range for a 20-something college student living in one of the most expensive cities in the country? Narrows the options a little bit. But still, there are options! As such, I've taken the liberty of compiling a list of some things that you can do this summer to spice up your life, even if you're just a salt-and-pepper kind of person.

Now, before we begin, I'm going to have to ask that you turn off your phone and put it away for the duration of this tour. You won't be able to embrace the levity of summer break if you have the whole world at your fingertips at all times. Trust me. You may not be in Mexico or Italy, but you are here, so be here. Thank you! Now we can begin.

Without your device, you may be wondering how exactly it is you're supposed to scratch that visual-media itch, and I'm happy to tell you that the answer is actually simple: movie theatres! Movie theatres are your friends. Well, maybe not those big-budget blockbuster theatres that overcharge you for everything from seating to snacks, but the local theatres. The theatres people forget about.

The first stop on our tour is Cinecenta, located in the Student Union Building at UVic. Here, you can watch everything from the classics to somewhat new releases to obscure, micro-budget indie films and beyond. Just a few years ago, I watched *The Death of Angel Candy* in this very theatre. Twice. It's safe to say my views of cinema were changed forever. There's something so magical about seeing your city up on the big screen and supporting local production companies' passion projects in the process. Victoria has a lot to offer in the way of film, so be sure to check something out. And, remember: tickets are only \$11 for non-UVic students.

Now, if you'd rather not spend the duration of your summer break on some university campus watching random flicks, I don't blame you, and there are plenty of other options out there. So, the next stop on our tour is Oswego Video in James Bay. Growing up, on hot summer days, my sister and I used to walk to Oswego for popsicles and see how many taxis we could count on their way to the cruise-ship terminal. An unassuming pastime, sure, but I still find it pretty enjoyable.

Inside, the options are endless. In fact, when Pic-a-Flic closed down just a few years ago, Oswego acquired its entire stock. So if you're looking to buy or rent your favourite film, this is certainly the right place to go. With thousands of DVDs, many of which are priced under \$5, you can see as many movies as you want this summer and still barely make a dent. So go forth, browse! Or, if you find yourself closer to downtown, consider checking out what Audio Video Replay has to offer. Those streaming services do not deserve you.

Now, as we move through James Bay, let's make a quick stop at the Greater Victoria Public Library on Menzies Street. This is one of 12 locations across the capital region, all of which you can access with the same library card. You can borrow books, take out movies, listen to music, and more, all for the low, low price of absolutely nothing. Plus, they have air conditioning. Sounds pretty sweet, huh?

As we get closer to downtown, let's pop into Archer's Community Hub, the next stop on our tour. This volunteer-run art gallery showcases creatives from all walks of life, and on Friday evenings, the space transforms itself, giving singers, musicians, DJs, and other musically inclined types the opportunity to put their talent on display at an open mic. And the best part? It's totally free. So, whether you're performing or just there to watch, you'll certainly be in for a very interesting night.

Now, if you're like me and you can't get enough of live music, don't worry. The options don't end here. Outdoor concerts are a staple in Victoria, and many of them are free. From Beacon Hill Park to Willows Beach, you can listen to cover band after cover band, each trying desperately to recapture the magic of the original, and, for a moment, almost succeeding.

In addition, The Duke Saloon offers live country music every Friday and Saturday

night. So if you're not particularly interested in live music, you may want to make sure you don't have to miss out. We've got the good stuff right here. The Honky Tonk Society hosts Honky Tonk Tuesdays at Emery Park. You can get your do-si-do on for just \$20 a person.

Or maybe you'd prefer to move a little slower. There's a free yoga class in Beacon Hill Park, Irving Park. You can also download the app to be sure to stretch first!

On your way to Willows, you may find your favourite artist's latest art pieces, and that's because, in June, Art Alive has a lot of sculptures all around Oak Bay. And while, per se, you can't see what I can find, you can also download the app to get more direction.

You may also discover a brightly painted piano in the community, and you'd be amazed at how many people play! Sometimes, they're even subject to pop-up performances in the community, and you'd be amazed at how many people play!

Now, if, for whatever reason, you find yourself in the community, you may want to visit the Bowker Creek Brush-Up, where local artists paint a small section of the creek for the 21st year in a row. It's a great something, although it's also just a great place to go.

And if you feel inspired and hoping for more art, you may want to visit the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, where you can see art from June 25. But if you or a loved one doesn't quite fit with the theme, you can go for free on the first Saturday of every month and see a hot pink, watercolour oyster!

Now, I realize that all these events are a bit of a track. As we approach the inner harbor, you may want to take the causeway. Well, sort of. On a big day, you can map out exactly where in the city you can find art. The causeway features 12 life-sized bronze hands, each perfect for a different history. But be warned: they do blend in, so keep your eyes peeled. I found them all, and I've lived in Victoria my whole life.

While we're on the causeway, let's check out the Causeway is an open-air gallery and a stage for local artists. Paintings, sculptures, jewelry, and more. This summer, you have plenty of time to swing on by and take a look. Similarly, if you're in the Saanich area, you can check out the garden locations. Seems like a pretty good summer activity.

But what about the non-artists? Don't worry. There's a lot of fun to be had the same weekend as Scattered Artists, the Ultimate Cosplay at the Arena. For just \$5 a day, you can explore figurines, costumes, and cosplayers. It's sort of like a giant comic-book store. More rare, so take it all in! It's nice to show up.

For this next portion of our tour, we're going to look at some options for things to do this summer, but not for yourself. You can go for a swim, take a walk, or do whatever you like. Places like these exist to provide you with a reasonable cost—take advantage of that.

Or, if you're slightly more balanced than I am, you may want to Currently, Greater Victoria has four major skate parks. At the end of this month, now, I'm not in the business of skateboarding, but for those of you who have a little more time to get out there and soak up some sun at the park, you may want to join a meet.

Not interested in going alone? Join a meetup group. Meetup groups are a great way to meet new people and make new friends, especially if you're hoping to join a book club, crochet at the beach, whatever. Meetup groups are a great way to meet new people for everything out there.

One of my favourite ways to meet new people

# student budget without breaking the bank

[Name], features writer  
[Name], contributing writer

When visiting Alberta this summer, you don't have to look too hard to find them here in town! Plus, the Victoria Honky-tonk scene is still pretty far away, so let's get back on the road, our next stop is located directly on the waterfront. Behind a stone wall, you'll find a detailed plaque commemorating the installation of *The Hands of Time*. This installation is a performance art piece forming an act associated with the city's history. Keep your eyes peeled. Even I still haven't seen the whole life.

Check out some of the artists and vendors. Artists Alley in the inner harbour, featuring a showcase runs until the end of October, so go take a look at what this year's artists have to offer. You can check out the Scattered Artists tour where they're playing their work across seven different locations. Summer for artists, doesn't it?

Every year, I haven't forgotten about you. On the Toy Fair will be setting up shop in Parkes Street, collectibles, comic books, and see local art; these events are becoming more and more popular.

When going to explore some more recreational activities, quite obviously, with rec centres and parks, you can try going to the skatepark. Skateparks, with another set to open in Sooke, are a business of falling on my face too much these days. If I have the skill than I do, I strongly encourage you to go.

Join a group online: you can find people to go for a walk with, or even learn a new hobby. It's a great way to interact with the people around you and find a common interest. You can find a group for you like. I promise you there's a group for everyone.

One way to spend time is by going to car meets, and, believe

me, you don't have to look too hard to find them here. With no track left on the south island, the car community has changed dramatically in recent years, and it's nice to be able to attend and help keep those spaces alive. And don't worry about having a cool car. I've bused to more meets than I can count.

In truth, if you have a U-Pass, you should be taking advantage of it as much as possible this summer. Victoria regional bus routes extend all over the south island and can get you as far as Langford, Goldstream, even Sooke. You don't have to be confined to downtown Victoria.

One of my all-time favourite places to explore is Sidney. It's just far enough out of my way to feel different, and despite it being such a small town, there's always something going on. First, there's Star Cinema, an independent movie theatre with reasonable prices and a welcoming atmosphere. They may even give Cinecenta a run for its money.

Then, just across the highway, there's the Victoria International Airport, where you can go to plane-watch. This is, I believe, one of the most underrated no-cost activities, and you can do it all year. Grab a coffee, sit in the field, and just watch. Or, if you're looking for a more hands-on experience, go to the BC Aviation Museum. There, you can explore 40 different aircrafts, read up on Canadian aviation history, and chat with expert-level tour guides, all for a reasonable admission cost. You can even take a walking tour through the Hawaii Mars, a WWII cargo plane that stands roughly four stories tall and was converted into a water bomber in the 1960s. I don't know about you, but I certainly intend to find myself back there this summer.

I also plan to find myself back at Botanical Beach, scouring the shoreline for critters and crawlers. You see, I'm the kind of person who could spend hours turning over rocks and looking for crabs, or staring into a tide pool in search of starfish and sea cucumbers. To me, there's no better summer pastime than going to the beach and having a poke around. After all, the classics are classics for a reason.

In fact, another classic is Ska Fest, which will be returning to Victoria from June 24 to 28. There, you can listen to local and international talent, and experience ska and reggae music at its best. And, some of the concerts are even free.

The following week, Wheelies Motorcycles is hosting its 12th annual block party, complete with live music, vendors, and vintage bikes. This party, in my experience, is always a blast, and is a great way to show appreciation for the Rock Bay area. So stop by on July 5, grab a bite, and join in on the celebration. You won't regret it.

You also won't regret cashing in on some student discounts around the island. For example, if you're hoping to get out on the water, Palli Palli Paddle Adventure Rentals offers a few different 15-percent-discount deals. WildPlay (which has locations in Victoria and Nanaimo) offers 15 percent off for students—but not during July or August, so get over there before June ends.

Or maybe you're not planning on being a student for much longer, in which case, job fairs are great events to visit this summer. Boring as they may seem, they are chock-full of industry professionals just waiting to talk to someone about what they do. And who knows? Maybe you'll find something you're interested in, or make connections that'll help you out later in your career. It's a fun way to learn and meet new people, and also to secure your future.

But if you'd rather not think about that right now, you can always go to the Compost Education Centre on North Park Street to reconnect with nature. This summer, they're hosting a ton of free workshops where you can learn about gardening, harvesting, plant identification, and more. You can even go on a plant walk and learn all about their traditional uses.

But, of course, this is just a list of suggestions. And, at the end of the day, summer is what you make of it. So whether you're working or trapped in a classroom or some mysterious third option, it's important to take the time to do the things that make you happy. Take a yoga class, go to a concert, meet new people, and appreciate the art that's all around you. And most importantly, do not wish this time away. There is so much for you to enjoy, and you don't have to break the bank to make it happen.

Now that our tour is over, I hope you can take some of these ideas with you into the rest of your summer. And who knows? Maybe we'll bump into each other again. You certainly know where to find me.



art

## New exhibit showcases rare traditional Japanese works

“Normally we either see paintings or prints, like they are separately shown. But for this exhibition, visitors can see directly, can even compare the original painting and the print, which is created based on that painting, side by side.”

HENG WU  
ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA

MATIAS LI  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A new exhibition at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV), *From Brush to Block*, will be showcasing a rare, unique collection of traditional Japanese works. The exhibit will feature art by Meiji-era (1868-1912) artists Kono Bairai and Imao Keinen, who are known for their usage of the *Kacho-e* style during this period in Japanese history. This traditional East Asian artistic genre revolves around detailed portrayals of birds and flowers.

For AGGV curator of Asian art Heng Wu, *From Brush to Block* represents a unique opportunity to not only showcase the gallery’s Asian art collection, but to also present to Victoria residents culturally relevant art and to show the intricate process and artistry involved in creating such works.

“The visitors can see a painting, and its corresponding print, side by side,” says Wu. “Like the title suggests, from brush to block. [A] brush is a tool that artists use to paint the work, and the block refers to the wood block used in printmaking... Normally we either see paintings or prints, like they are separately shown. But for this exhibition, visitors can see directly, can even compare the original painting and the print, which is created based on that painting, side by side. So, the visitor can examine or even trace the changes between the two media. For example, what has been changed, what has been lost or what has been added? Because you have these two pieces side by side. So, it’s a very direct visual comparison.”

Wu says that this exhibition makes use of one of the AGGV’s

strengths: the gallery’s Asian art collection.

“We have over 2,000 Japanese woodblock prints in our collection, and our Asian art takes up half of the entire collection,” says Wu. “So Asian art is a big part of AGGV. That’s why we not only have a permanent gallery of Asian art but also have these special exhibitions all the time, always with different themes. I joined the gallery in 2020, and I have always been trying as much as I could to give opportunities to those pieces that sit or sleep in our storage because we cannot show them all, right? We’ve got so many, but I really want to find opportunities to show them as much as we could.”

Wu says that the exhibit’s focus on the *Kacho-e* style, with its detailed birds and flowers, will be perfect for Victoria, as the city’s well-known love of nature and gardens will translate to an appreciation for this traditional artistic genre.

“Bird and flower imagery is like [a] perfect match to Victoria’s audience,” says Wu. “Gardening and nature are so important. I want to emphasize that both Bairai and Keinen, the two artists featured in this exhibition, are from [the] Kyoto painting school. The characteristics of this art school is that [it] emphasizes close observation to nature. So that’s why you can see the vivid... details of the bird, the feather, the plants, the flowers are well captured in their works. So, I think that’s something really



COURTESY OF WES HARTLEY ESTATE/ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA

Imao Keinen’s *Brambling, Rose and Bamboo* is part of *From Brush to Block*.

anchoring the local Victoria culture here. So, I hope local people come to see that this exhibition can really have this resonance with themes, even the atmosphere, contained in these works.”

*From Brush to Block*  
Sunday, May 16  
to Sunday, October 11  
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria  
aggv.ca

review

## *Orpheus & Eurydice* creative take on Greek tragedy

LANE CHEVRIER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In Greek mythology, the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice is a classic tragedy of conflicting desires. The story is simple: Eurydice falls ill and dies, and her lover Orpheus is beside himself with grief. He travels to the underworld to beseech Hades to return her to him. Hades agrees, on the single condition that Orpheus is not allowed to look at her until they return to the surface.

Initially, he follows this rule, however, Eurydice, who is not aware of the limitation, believes he is ignoring her out of disgust. Heartbroken, she refuses to follow him, saying she is as good as dead without his gaze. Orpheus breaks, but the moment he looks upon her, she dies, for Orpheus has broken his promise.

This simple tale, like all Greek myths, defies logic or reason. Certainly it would have been easy for Orpheus to tell Eurydice about his promise. Yet, this failure to communicate is a commentary on human nature: caught up in our desires and personal torment, we fail to see what is right in front of us. We refuse to speak in plain terms to those closest to us, and it tears us apart.

Performed at the Royal Theatre

from April 22 to 29, Pacific Opera Victoria’s *Orpheus & Eurydice* features dancers from Ballet Victoria, a score from Victoria Symphony, and vocals by Pacific Opera Chorus & Supernumeraries. Orpheus and Eurydice are played by Christian Sanders and Andriana Chuchman, respectively, and Amore (the messenger from Hades) is played by Suzanne Rigden.

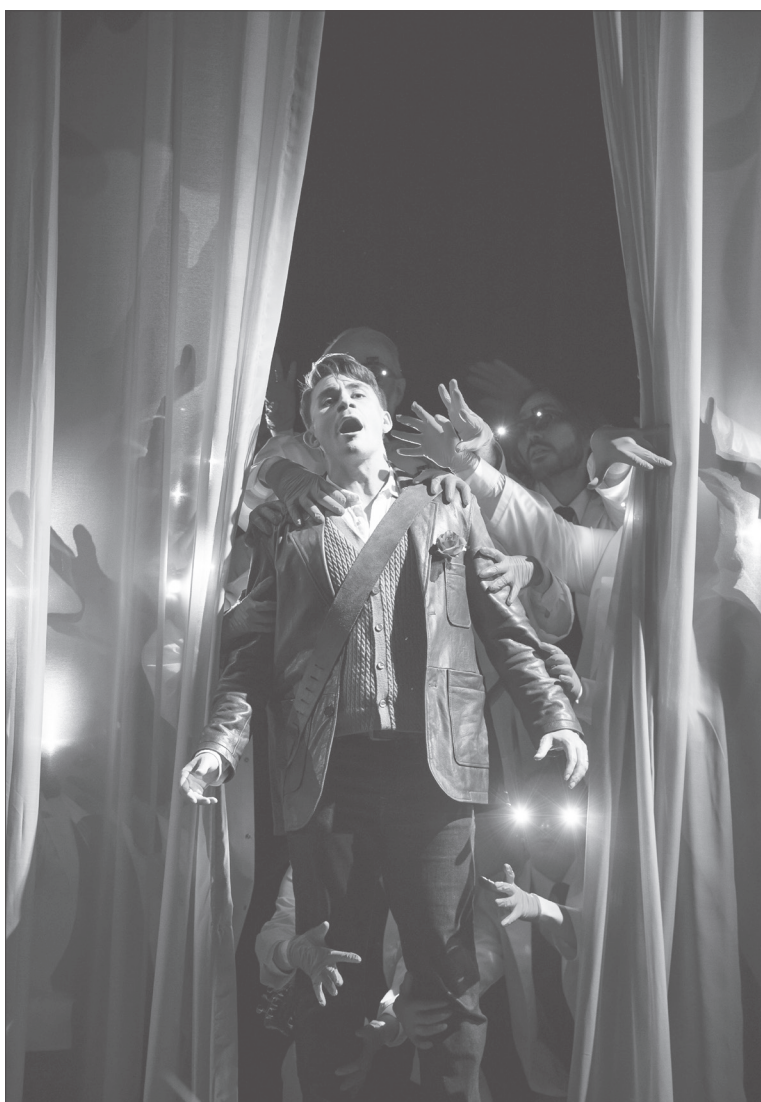
An impressive feature of the show is its use of visual storytelling. The prologue opens within a modern hospital room, where Eurydice is dying with Orpheus by her side. Without dialogue, we see that Eurydice is sick; her nurse offers her morphine, which she initially refuses but later succumbs to pain and changes her mind, clinging to Orpheus. In her last moments of delirium, she sees a hallucination happen before her, wherein the classic Greek tragedy unfolds.

The set uses creative interpretation and abstract design to portray the locales of the underworld, including some pleasing work with translucent curtains and silhouette to create the ghostly, ghostly figments of the Furies of the Underworld, who initially threaten to pull Orpheus into the depths of hell but are charmed by his story and allow him to pass.

As far as the performance goes, it’s heavily carried by Sanders, who has the vast majority of lines in the two-hour production. Fortunately, he is excellent at his craft, singing with boldness and powerful resonance for long stretches, with one solo nearing 40 minutes of continuous song. How he can sustain such power for so long without destroying his voice is beyond me; it was the most impressive part of the show. The performances from Chuchman and Rigden were equally well done, and the accompaniment by the orchestra and the ballet dancers was beautiful to listen to and delightful to watch.

Based on the 1762 libretto by Ranieri de’ Calzabigi, the script is entirely in Italian. It’s presented as dramatic, flowery poetry, and can lead to audience fatigue, as Orpheus at times comes across as an insufferable melodramatic who loves to hear his own voice. This was the status quo for many operas of the time, which take far too many words to portray a simple story. Classic, but wearisome.

Pacific Opera Victoria’s *Orpheus & Eurydice* is well produced and well performed, and, despite being a little longer than the simple story demands, is a delight for opera fans.



EMILY COOPER PHOTOGRAPHY

Pacific Opera Victoria’s *Orpheus & Eurydice* ran last month at the Royal Theatre.

review

## Casey and Diana compelling but inconsistent

Each performer brings a strong sense of authenticity to their role, allowing the audience to genuinely feel the emotions being portrayed on stage.

KYLE WOLFE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

*Casey and Diana* by University of Victoria grad Nick Green explores the lives of men living with AIDS in a hospice home as they explore community and search for dignity in their final days. Centred around the anticipated visit of Princess Diana, the men grapple with the knowledge that they will likely die in the place that they now call home.

One of the play's greatest strengths is its characterization. Each character feels distinct, and their personalities complement one another in a natural and engaging way. They often have humorous banter amongst themselves, making them very real and relatable.

Thomas (played by Morgan David Jones), in particular, stands out for his frequent monologues and witty comments, often delivering cultural references that keep the audience entertained. However,

the heavy reliance on monologues becomes a weakness over time. While some are well-timed and effective, many feel unnecessary and repetitive. Their frequency diminishes their impact, making them feel less significant and, at times, better suited to written text than a spoken performance such as this one.

The acting also shows a clear strength in the production, elevating the atmosphere even when the script feels a little awkward at points. Each performer brings a strong sense of authenticity to their role, allowing the audience to genuinely feel the emotions being portrayed on stage. The actors deliver their dialogue with convictions, giving the play a sense of realism that makes the characters' experiences more impactful. In particular, the performances of Jones and Celine Stubel (who plays Pauline), really



DAVID COOPER

*Casey and Diana* runs at the Belfry Theatre until Sunday, May 17.

stand out given the emotional depth of their characters. Both actors display intense vulnerability and really make scenes especially emotional. Overall, the cast works cohesively; their skill and commitment to their parts significantly enhances *Casey and Diana*.

The play's handling of tone is a partial success. The comedic elements are consistent and often genuinely funny, making the production more lighthearted than one may initially expect. In some cases, it makes it feel more real; it reflects how people may use comedy to cope with difficult circumstances. However, several scenes spend time building tension, completely

silencing the audience, only for that silence to be quickly broken with a comedic comment. This repeated interruption significantly prevents the audience from fully resonating with the emotions going through the characters.

From a production standpoint, the play is thoughtfully executed. Although the set remains consistent throughout, the use of the stage is very meaningful, with furniture pieces and props dictating spaces; even the lighting helps separate areas more distinctly in an interesting way. Although there's limited use of exaggerated lighting and sound, the play does not suffer a lack of it at any point.

Ultimately, *Casey and Diana* is a compelling albeit inconsistent production. It tackles an important and emotionally charged subject with energy and humour, supported by strong performances and thoughtful design. However, its tendency to undercut serious moments with comedy really prevents it from reaching its full emotional potential.

*Casey and Diana*  
Various times and days,  
until Sunday, May 17  
Pay what you can,  
Belfry Theatre  
belfry.bc.ca

review

## The Mummy reboot dead on arrival

LANE CHEVRIER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Lee Cronin's *The Mummy* is a cold reboot to *The Mummy* franchise, which ditches the swashbuckling archaeological adventure for an ordinary, mundane family. The father, Charlie, is an American journalist living in Cairo, Egypt, with his wife Larissa and their young son and daughter. The daughter, Katie, is soon abducted by what seems to be an Egyptian witch, and all efforts to recover her are futile.

Eight years later, a 4,000-year-old sarcophagus is found in a plane wreck. When scientists open the sarcophagus, they find a mummy swathed in dressings bearing a strange, ancient script. Unwrapping it, they're horrified to discover the body is that of a teenage girl... and she's alive.

The tragedy of Katie's disappearance is made all the more anguishing for the family when they are reunited with her—now 17 years old—and find that she is disfigured beyond recognition and is unable to speak or communicate in any way

about what happened to her. Now they must try to integrate Katie back into the home, but it doesn't take long for her to begin to show strange and worrisome behaviour.

As a storyline, the events of the film occur in isolation to the dark cosmic lore of ancient Egypt we've come to expect from a tale about resurrected mummies. Most people have no experience in Egyptian tombs, but everyone can understand the uncomfortable idea of a family torn apart and put back together in a way that is disturbing and ghastly. It's for that reason that this film can (and should) be presented as its own standalone story, rather than piggybacking off a classic franchise. The mummy theme does not add to the ambience of the film and is quickly forgotten, and what we're left with is a fairly generic body-horror story.

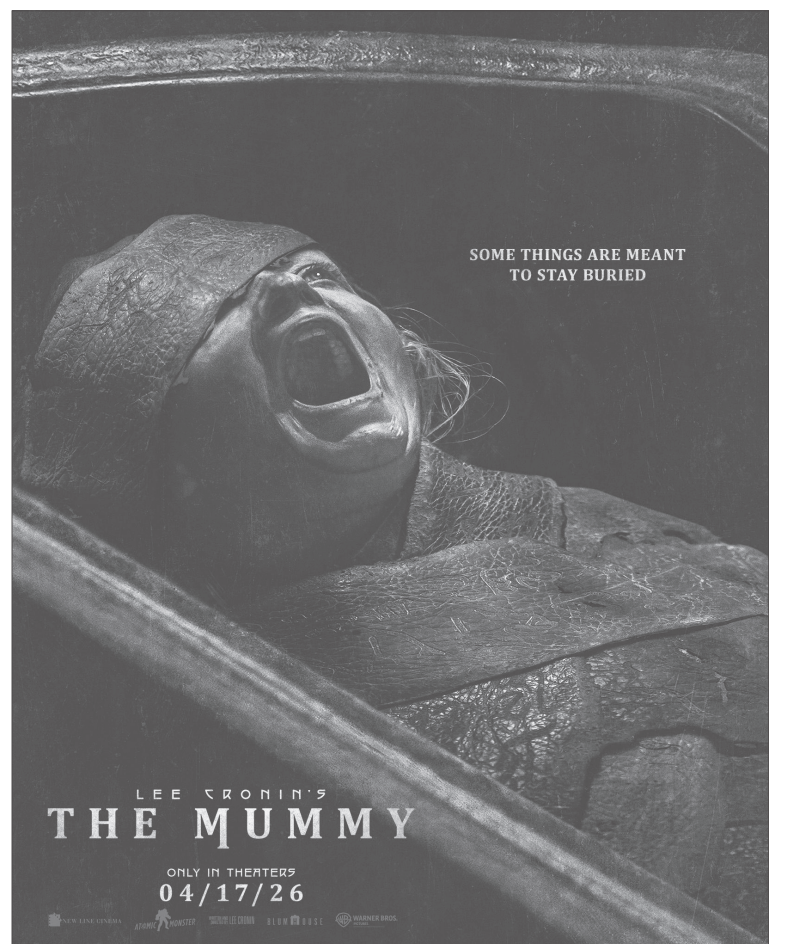
The best examples of emotional horror are *Hereditary* (2017) and *Midsommar* (2018), where the fear is derived from a feeling of being inexplicably unsafe in what should be an ordinary situation, rather than unrelenting gore.

*The Mummy* misses this point. It has spooky events for the sake of spooky events, gore for the sake of gore, and characters who don't behave like real people, instead acting as convenient plot devices that make inexplicable choices that only serve to disconnect the viewer from any sense of that feeling that this could be you.

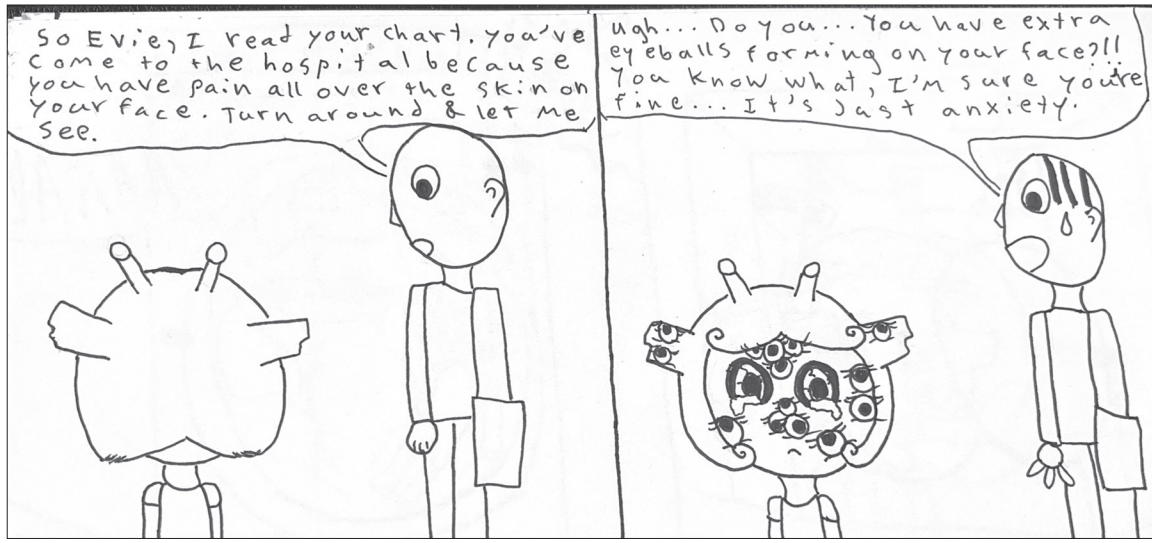
It's that subliminal ability to relate to a horror protagonist that gives a viewer the chills, and if a character behaves unrealistically just for the plot to happen, the suspension of disbelief is shattered.

While technically well shot, the film suffers from poor writing and unconvincing acting, particularly embodied through an insufferable performance from Jack Reynor, who seems to have drawn inspiration for the character of Charlie from a thick plank of wood.

Die-hard horror fans may enjoy *The Mummy*, but if you're looking for an interesting storyline and gripping performances from talented actors, you could probably stand to sit this one out.



Evie the Alien - Jazmyn Hodges



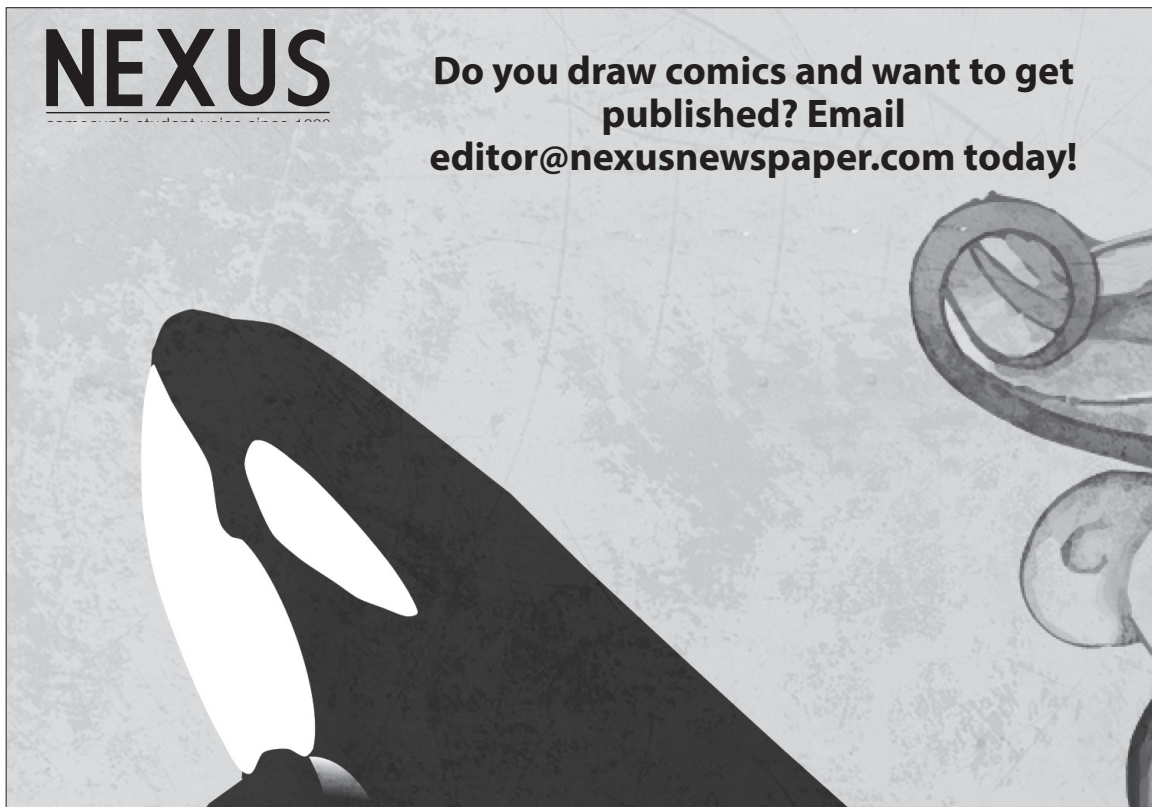
word search



Looking for ways to have fun on a budget this summer? We've got you covered. Read the story on page 6, then find the words in the story to the right above.

Watercolour  
Skatepark  
Vintage  
Nature  
Sculptures

Jewelry  
Oyster  
Cosplayers  
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Reconnect



Wild World of Wendland - Huxley Wendland



Telescopic Penguins - Michael Erwin



contest

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GREG PRATT/NEXUS

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Trill's Recipes

by Trillium McNabb

## Loaded macaroons

This recipe elevates macaroons with some extra textures and flavours while still being easy to make.

### Ingredients:

3 1/2 cups unsweetened coconut shavings

1 cup sliced almonds

1 can sweetened condensed milk

1/2 cup dark chocolate chips

1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Caramel cubes

Macaroons, also known as haystacks, are a gooey, delicious coconut cookie that are easy to make, and all it takes is coconut shavings and sweetened condensed milk. This recipe elevates macaroons with some extra textures and flavours while still being easy to make.

First, preheat your oven to 375 F. Get a medium-sized bowl, measure out 3 1/2 cups of unsweetened coconut shavings and put in the bowl; measure out 1 cup of sliced almonds and put in the bowl with the coconut. Pour the whole can of sweetened condensed milk into the coconut and almonds. Make sure to scrape the inside of the can to get as much of the milk out as possible. Then add 1/2 tsp of vanilla extract.

Mix everything together with a rubber spatula. The mixture may seem dry at first, but as you mix it will get thicker and stickier. With



rubber gloves take about 2 tbsp of the mixture and form a small cup. Then place your caramel cube in the cup and form the mixture to cover it. Roll the mixture to make a ball approximately the size of a mandarin orange. Place the balls on a lined baking tray and bake in the oven for 13 minutes on the second-highest rack.

Make sure to check the balls halfway through the baking time to make sure they're not over-baking. They're done when the outer

coconut shreds and almond slices are toasted and there's a golden ring surrounding the balls. Let the macaroons cool on the tray until they're cool to the touch. Then let them cool the rest of the way on a cooling rack.

To make a chocolate drizzle, use the double-boil method. Get a pot of water and let the water get to a gentle simmer. Place a heat-safe glass bowl on top of the pot. Make sure the bowl is large enough to touch the water without falling into



PHOTOS BY TRILLIUM MCNABB/NEXUS

Take your macaroons to the next level with chocolate and almond.

the water; when chocolate makes contact with water it will seize and not drizzle properly.

Measure out a 1/2 cup of dark chocolate chips and place it in the glass bowl. With a fork or a whisk, gently mix the chocolate. When there are no clumps left and the chocolate is liquidy, use the whisk or fork to drizzle it onto the macaroons. Let the chocolate set a little before eating.

You can also leave out the almonds and replace them with an

additional cup of coconut shavings.

It's tough to mix everything together all at once. I recommend mixing the batter in half-cup increments to make it easier. Be careful when removing the glass bowl off of the pot, as steam can rush out and burn you, and the bowl itself will be hot. Keep both to the side to cool down before handling to clean. I also recommend putting a lined baking tray underneath your cooling rack for easier clean-up after drizzling the chocolate.

# NEXUS

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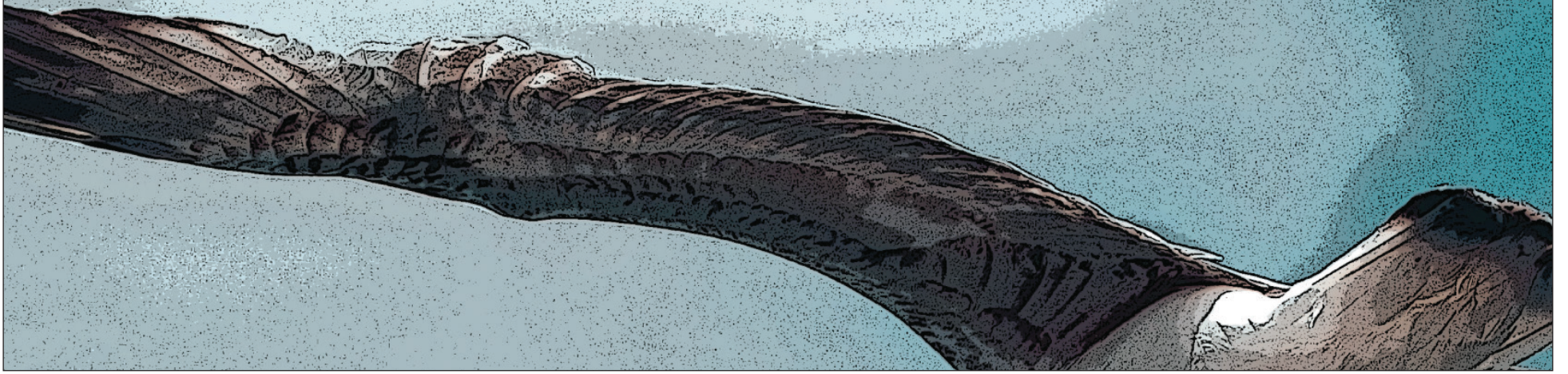
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VICTORIA CHORAL SOCIETY | BRIAN WISMATH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

BRAHMS' REQUIEM

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MARBLE OF THE WEST  
BY IMAN HABIBI

MAY 24, 2026  
2:30PM

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AUDITORIUM

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