



CAMOSUN CHARGERS

UP FOR

THE CHALLENGE

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Location: Lansdowne Richmond House 201
Phone: 250-370-3591
Email: editor@nexusnewspaper.com
Website: nexusnewspaper.com
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Jasmine Wagstaff

FEATURES WRITER

Ashley Hagel

CONTRIBUTORS

- Aetius Arden
- Lane Chevrier
- Jazmyn Hodges
- Isabelle Kaercher
- Matias Li
- Trillum McNabb
- Amelia Wilde

COVER PHOTO

Camosun Chargers Athletics

ADVERTISING SALES

Greg Pratt
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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "You'll have to commit a misdemeanour, though."

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editor's letter

The whales and I are overheated

If you're feeling entirely too busy, overheated, and overwhelmed right now, you're not alone.

Autumn is my favourite time of year, but this go-round, it's not behaving itself. When I picture myself in autumn, I picture a spooky man dressed in some sort of a cloak, striding down the middle of a tree-lined lane, leaves falling around me and crunching underfoot. I quite possibly have a book under my arm, perhaps a murder mystery that's beautifully written and has startling twists, or it could be a grimoire that I will use to unleash eldritch horrors the likes of which the world cannot possibly contend with. I'm probably smoking a pipe, either corncob or meerschaum, à la Sherlock Holmes. I'm definitely wearing a big hat with a stiff, broad brim. Passersby would avert their eyes, were I not dripping with spellbinding intrigue and beguilement.

Instead, I'm forced to dash from place to place, class to class, sweating through clothes I tried to take out of rotation weeks ago, carrying the multiple thin layers I've already stripped off like some sort of erratic, bargain-bin Salome performing a harried and hirsute version of the Dance of the Seven Veils.

My cloak and big hat will have to wait.

The climate crisis is moving right along with a skip in its step, and it is affecting me, the main character of reality, in an adverse way. This is an egregious and unpleasant outcome and must not be allowed to continue.

As the seas slowly but surely start bubbling, I think of the old adage about a watched pot never boiling, and how it has taken on a whole new meaning. We must—must—watch the ocean to keep it from coming to a boil. Watch what we are putting into it, and what we are taking out of it. We are disrupting our fragile ecosystem with our insatiable hubris toward the tightrope we walk, hauling out Chinook salmon by the literal boatload, without a thought for the southern resident orcas who depend on them, and in their place we are gleefully dumping dangerous industrial chemicals, toxic wastewater, and urban runoff, not to mention microplastics and “forever chemicals.” All of this contributes to hypoxia, which means there's not enough oxygen in the ocean, and algal blooms—algae that sucks yet more oxygen out of the breathless Salish Sea when their tiny carcasses decompose after the bloom—has its annual fun. Not only are we stealing the endangered whales' food, but we're also stealing their breath—the ol' one-two punch.

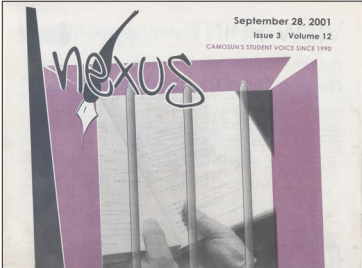
This has all caused the sea to heat up by a little over three degrees, in turn causing the whole damn system to get warmer.

All of this to say, the planet is suffering, animals are dying, and I am far too hot and just want to wear my autumnal clothes so I can run between classes and still look absolutely stunning. Jeez.

Nik Ovstaas, student editor
nik@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

25 Years Ago in Nexus



JASMINE WAGSTAFF
STUDENT EDITOR

Smoothie operators: If you were wandering around the Interurban campus in September 2001 looking for something a little more exciting than coffee, tea, or pop, students in Camosun's Basic Food Services Training program had you covered. In our September 28, 2001 issue, we visited the Mixt Greens Juice Bar, where students prepared smoothies, fruit juices, chocolate-dipped bananas, and the occasional truffle while gaining work experience. The eight-month program combined classroom learning with job placements in restaurants, cafeterias, hospitals, and senior-care centres. Student Kuan Oake said the program taught him “a sense of responsibility and how to manage my work.” Honestly, if someone wants to reopen the juice bar and start selling chocolate-covered bananas at Interurban again, I see no downside.

Waitlist woes: Registering for classes can still be stressful, but students in 2001 had an additional

enemy: Camosun's new Camlink registration system. In this issue, writer Celeste Gust reported students struggling with system issues, confusing waitlists, registration difficulties, and the dreaded problem of required classes filling up. Camosun Registrar Kate Ross acknowledged that the system had experienced “many glitches,” while one student said that because she couldn't register she had no books for her classes as she waited to find out if she was actually in them. Technology has changed, but the timeless tradition of staring at a required course that's all filled up and wondering what exactly to do next remains alive and well.

Reality TV, island edition: Before *Love Island* gave us beautiful people making questionable decisions in villas, Vancouver Island had The New VI. The newly launched television station promised local programming alongside familiar shows including *The Simpsons*, *Frasier*, and *Ally McBeal*. In this issue, we reported that its Victoria headquarters would produce 26.5 hours of original programming each week, including news and morning programming. The station also celebrated its arrival with launch parties across Vancouver Island. Twenty-five years later, local television may look very different, but *The Simpsons* is, somehow, still making new episodes.

open space

Camosun needs to offer more night classes

MATIAS LI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camosun has long been the go-to school for career changes, academic rematches, education with less financial pressure, and friction-free pathways to heavy-weight institutions such as UVic and UBC. Camosun's purpose is built on the principle of accessibility. But let's be real here: if you work, if you have familial responsibilities, if you have to wrestle with corporate or government departments that are practically sulfur-perfumed sardine cans on the weekends, if you have anything that keeps you occupied outside of school, Camosun becomes far less accessible. But there's a way to ease this pressure: night classes.

Students need to keep the jobs they have, and those often require day shifts. Life is expensive. For

serious studying and deep-thinking time in, gaps that are too short to allow students to clear some of their responsibilities, gaps that are too short to go anywhere, and gaps that are too long for quick revision.

Even if the gaps were less awkward, almost all university-credit courses seem to occur during morning-afternoon periods, the exact periods where the college's vital help centres and facilities open. For us residen... uh, users of the college's help centres, having the time to really sit down, think deeply, get into flow state, and ask silly, awkward questions in real time to experts about why acceleration points inwards in circular motion, why our essay doesn't seem to scratch that emotional itch that makes it feel just right, or what on Earth an eigenvalue is is often is the difference between a B- and an A+.

Night classes let those with jobs and other responsibilities work their way toward courses in a way that both eases stress and is financially feasible, removing the dilemma between choosing one's education or survival.

most full-time workers, adults, and those with significant responsibilities, walking away from a shift isn't just risky or stressful—it's logistically impossible. Walking away from paid hours to most of us means cutting parts out of our grocery lists, feeling the nagging worry of a rent increase itching in the back of the skull, neglecting responsibilities, or losing out on a promotion.

Night classes help to bridge this gap. They let those with jobs and other responsibilities work their way toward courses in a way that both eases stress and is financially feasible, removing the dilemma between choosing one's education or survival.

Furthermore, while this may sound unusual, full-time students benefit hugely from night classes, perhaps even more so than part-time learners.

Firstly, full-time students often deal with the uniquely suffocating annoyance of having the awkwardly placed 45-minute gaps in between their back-to-back afternoon and morning classes; gaps that are too short to realistically get much

This hurts all students, but STEM students suffer especially greatly from the lack of flexible night courses.

Not only are they tethered to two-to-three-hour labs mostly stuffed into prime study and help-centre time, but their lectures are too. For those of us taking these courses—students in programs such as Biology or MechE technologies—the lack of night courses practically walls off the prime time where tutors are active and the brain is the most awake.

While of course the omnipotent, all-powerful issue of funding hangs over this like the Sword of Damocles, the potential for increased enrolment coming from granting breathing room could help to offset this.

And, yes, online courses do exist. However, having an actual instructor correct your mistakes and talk to you in real time is invaluable for sinking one's teeth into complex, new topics.

Camosun offering more night classes could be a win-win situation, and one that the college will hopefully consider moving ahead.

Something on your mind? If you're a Camosun student, get in touch with us with your *Open Space* idea! Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com. Include your student number. Thanks!

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Got something to say?

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student politics

Camosun College Student Society to hold fall elections

“The nature of student governance is it turns over very quickly, but every single person plays an important role.”

MADISON HUYNH
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

JASMINE WAGSTAFF
STAFF WRITER

Campaigning is underway for the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) fall elections, with Camosun students set to vote for several student representatives later this month.

Voting will take place online from Tuesday, October 20 to Thursday, October 22, with students receiving information on how to vote through their Camosun email. Positions up for election include directors at large as well as off-campus director, international director, and external executive.

CCSS women’s director Madison Huynh, who is also on the CCSS electoral committee, says student elections give students an opportunity to become more involved in the college community and have a say in decisions that affect them.

“It’s one of the best ways to actually interact with your college community. It’s a great way to make an impact in people’s lives, and also impact your own,” says Huynh. “It can be a hard job at times, but it’s incredibly fulfilling.”

The positions that students elect have different responsibilities within the CCSS. Directors at large primarily serve a supporting role, helping campus executives and constituency directors organize events and other initiatives. They also participate in CCSS board meetings and have voting power. Huynh says these supporting positions are important because of the amount of

work involved in running events and initiatives across the college.

“A single person can’t facilitate all of this,” says Huynh.

Other positions have more specialized responsibilities. The international director advocates for international students and helps organize events and support for international students at Camosun, while the off-campus director represents students who study outside of Camosun’s two main campuses or take courses online. Huynh says this can include supporting students and activities at locations such as the recently opened John Horgan Campus in Langford and bringing the concerns of off-campus students to CCSS board meetings. The external executive works with organizations outside the CCSS and acts as an intermediary between the student society and other groups it works with.

“Their role is to facilitate contact with external groups that we might associate with, that we might work with,” says Huynh. “They’re kind of our main go-to person.”

Huynh says the external executive position can be particularly demanding because of the travel and communication involved in the role.

“I would say it is one of the hardest roles to fill,” says Huynh. “It involves quite a lot of travel and, I think, very strong interpersonal skills.”

While the different positions carry different responsibilities,



Huynh says students don’t need previous experience in student government to consider becoming involved with the CCSS.

“I think that’s the nature of student governance. Everyone who comes into these roles is often new and has never done something like this before,” says Huynh. “It is one of those jobs you learn on the job, and normally you are supported by your peers and you are supported by staff.”

Students who are interested but unsure about taking on an elected position can contact current CCSS board members to learn more about their responsibilities. Huynh says staff members are also available to answer questions, while volunteering can give students an opportunity to become involved before deciding whether they want to pursue a larger role.

“If you’re curious about what the job entails, I think it’s completely valid to ask,” says Huynh.

For students who are worried that they don’t have the qualifications or experience necessary to run for a position on the CCSS board,

Huynh says willingness to learn is more important than arriving with everything figured out.

“No one is expecting you to be perfect. You just have to care,” says Huynh. “I think that’s the most important thing.”

Huynh says participating in student elections is important even for students who have little interest in politics or student government because decisions made on campus can still impact their college experience.

“Even if people don’t want to mess in politics, or they don’t want to mess with changing things, the things that happen on campus will affect them no matter what,” says Huynh. “The policies that change on campus are going to affect people, and I think it’s important that they actually get a say in what happens.”

Huynh acknowledges that finding the time and energy to become involved in the college community can be difficult for students balancing classes and other responsibilities.

“I think recently it’s been a challenge, just due to the nature of the

world, for everyone to get kind of involved in their communities,” says Huynh. “More and more, I think people are focusing on survival, focusing on getting through school.”

However, Huynh says student governance and advocacy provide students with an opportunity to improve the experience of others at Camosun.

“It is one of the avenues in which you can make everyone’s life a bit easier, or at least, you know, work towards a better future,” says Huynh.

With student governance positions regularly changing hands as students move through college, Huynh says each person who becomes involved can contribute to what comes next.

“The nature of student governance is it turns over very quickly, but every single person plays an important role,” says Huynh. “Everyone who joins a board, everyone who volunteers, takes another step towards students experiencing a better quality of education or having better experiences on campus. I just want to see more people take part in that.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun Board of Governors gets returning chair

Monty Bryant is the new chair of the Camosun College Board of Governors. Bryant, who has been on the board since 2019, previously served as board chair from 2020 to 2023. Bryant replaces outgoing chair Lindsay Kearns.

Visiting artists to speak at Camosun

Camosun’s Visual Arts Department will host filmmakers Jonathan Andre Culliton and Graham Kolbeins for a free visiting artist talk on Friday, October 16. Culliton is a BC-

based trans filmmaker and comedy writer whose works include *Spookable*, *Willa Justice: Drag Queen Private Eye*, and *Minister Chucky*. Kolbeins is a queer filmmaker, writer, and designer who was the director of the feature documentary *Queer Japan*. The pair are currently working on *Cracked Eggs*, a documentary about multidisciplinary artist Linda Sibio. The talk runs from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm in Young 216 at Lansdowne and is open to everyone.

New Library Instruction Lab opens at Interurban

Camosun has opened a new Library Instruction Lab in room

357 of the Liz Ashton Campus Centre at the Interurban campus. The 34-seat space can be booked by instructors for librarian-led research instruction and library orientations. Instructors using the lab must separately book laptops through Information Technology Services, as the room does not have computers. When the lab is not being used for instruction, the space will be available to students as a silent study room.

Camosun alum releases short film

Camosun College alum Simon Rasmussen’s short film *The Ballad of Sloth Shot* is now available online following an award-winning festival run.

The sci-fi western, filmed in Victoria and Invermere, follows a sharp-shooting cowgirl whose life is disrupted by an injured time traveller. The film screened at four Canadian festivals and won Best Comedy Film at the Wildsound Film and Screenplay Festival and Best Story at the Fantasy/Sci-Fi Film and Writing Festival. Rasmussen is a graduate from Camosun’s now-defunct Applied Communication Program.

Camosun College Foundation board chair passes away

Camosun College Foundation Board of Directors chair Grace Ven den Brink passed away on

Monday, September 7. Ven den Brink, who was first a donor to the Foundation in 2009, had been on the board since 2021. Flags at both campuses were lowered in her honour. The Camosun College Foundation is a registered charity that was founded in 1981 to raise money for the college.

–JASMINE WAGSTAFF, STAFF WRITER AND GREG PRATT, MANAGING EDITOR

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sports

Camosun Chargers up for challenge of new season, new faces



CAMOSUN CHARGERS ATHLETICS

Fifth-year Chargers women's basketball guard/forward Jordyn Broekhuizen.

“Sometimes we’ll come into a game as a mismatch, but that team should fear our team coming into the game.”

JORDYN BROEKHUIZEN
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

NIK OVSTAAS

STUDENT EDITOR
WITH FILES FROM ASHLEY HAGEL,
FEATURES WRITER

The Camosun Chargers are gearing up for a brand-new season of striving to be the best and having fun on the courts. The Chargers teams—women’s and men’s volleyball, and women’s and men’s basketball—all have quite a bit of turnover from last year, so there are plenty of new faces on the rosters.

“We have a lot of people who graduated before going into this year, so we lost a lot of key roles and key mentors who were older players with a lot of knowledge to give to the whole team,” says fifth-year women’s basketball guard/forward Jordyn Broekhuizen. “So that was an adjustment. But it was our second year last year with our coach. So that was good. We’re just building the trust and creating that culture and just continuing to carry that through to this year.”

Along with the struggles that come with having lost a few important key players, new teammates bring new opportunities.

“Just kind of seeing what our individual roles can be and how we mesh together, like each year, it’s

very different with new dynamics,” says Broekhuizen. “This year, we have a lot of rookies coming in, a lot of fresh faces. So, it’s just what each person can bring to the table and how we can work with that. It definitely starts off the court with team bonding and just building that trust to be able to work together when it comes to game time.”

Last year was not an easy one for the women’s basketball team, as they came in second to last with 7 wins to 17 losses, but Broekhuizen has a balanced mindset looking forward to the new season.

“I would say definitely [there were] some games that we should have won when it came down to the wire, just in high-pressure situations,” she says. “Like, we’ve got a little taste of it last year, and we’re feeling pretty strong this year. So definitely, a fourth-quarter finish and we go on some high runs and then some low dips, just staying consistent throughout the whole game and finishing strong.”

Broekhuizen describes the team this year as “a high-energy team with a lot of intensity.”

“Sometimes we’ll come into a game as a mismatch, but that team should fear our team coming into

the game,” she says. “They know they’re going to get a run for their money. When we step on that court, we play as a unit, and... we’re diving on every ball, we’re rebounding, like, just the areas where we’re putting in effort, we bring that. I think that’s one thing that makes our team successful.”

The women’s basketball team aren’t the only ones learning their way around the playbook of a new coach. The women’s volleyball team welcomed coach Scott Freeburn in the last season.

“I think he had a lot more time this summer planning and figuring out how he wanted to plan out our season and our team and stuff,” says fourth-year women’s volleyball libero Sloan Thomson. “So far, it’s been really good. And I think he learned a lot, both from our feedback to him and also just kind of seeing, because this last year was his first year coaching at this level. But yeah, I think we all really enjoy him. He’s a super awesome human being, but also very knowledgeable and always willing to learn from us or getting mentorship from other coaches that we’ve had in the past or that he looks up to and stuff like that. And he’s really big on making sure we have a good team dynamic over just [being] good players.”

And while that dynamic is an important goal for the team, they still have room in their schedule to gun for the championship.

“I feel like we all put pressure on ourselves to do well, and everyone likes to win and to do well, play well,” says Thomson, a fourth-year student. “I would say we all want to and are striving for winning provincials, like going to nationals. But that’s not a main goal, like, we need to do this. [What’s important is] growing together as a team.”

The Camosun Chargers men’s basketball team had quite a run last season, taking home the bronze medal at nationals and nabbing 19 wins throughout the PACWEST season. This was the best season on record in the program’s 32-year history, and they’re hoping to do even better this coming season, despite some changing faces.

“We had a really good season last year,” says fifth-year guard Jakob Neufeld, “and we definitely lost some big pieces that contributed to that success, but I think we have guys from last year’s team that can step up into those important roles, as well as if we brought in some new transfers and rookies that would also be able to help us find success.”

Incoming coach Craig Beaucamp is one of the elements, along with the new teammates, that Neufeld is looking forward to working with.

“Our new coach, as well, is very experienced and smart, and I think he’ll help us accomplish our goals in terms of accolades and success, [but] our team culture, I think that’s been what’s set us apart from other teams,” he says. “How hard we work, and how close we are off the court, it contributes to our success.”

While national bronze was an achievement, the team has their eyes set on a higher prize.



CAMOSUN CHARGERS ATHLETICS

Fifth-year Chargers men’s volleyball leftside Jake Bolton.

“I think that’s kind of what we’re looking to do is just treat every game like it’s the last.”

JAKE BOLTON
CAMOSUN CHARGERS

“In terms of improving, I would just say, probably the way we finished our season in the playoffs, we lost in the final of our conference last year, and then we got a national bronze, so I guess improving upon that,” says Neufeld. “So that might look like winning a PACWEST championship, and then hopefully a national championship would be ideal.”

For Neufeld and the other outgoing team members, the pressure to do even better than last year is palpable.

“Personally, being my last year, I just want to have no regrets,” he says, “so I just want to do everything in my power to be successful, whether that be individually [or] with the team, just [so] I can put myself in the best position to succeed in my last opportunity to play basketball at Camosun.”

The men’s volleyball team also has a new incoming coach, Camosun alum Elion Wong; fifth-year leftside Jake Bolton is looking forward to working with Wong and the new round of players.

“I’m very excited; it’s really good to have new faces in the gym. We brought in a lot of new guys—transfers and rookies... as well as a new head coach, and pretty much all new coaching staff,” says Bolton.

“[Wong’s] a bit of a local legend, and I’m very excited to work with all of them.”

While last year did not go in the men’s volleyball team’s favour, this influx of new blood brings with it new hope.

“I think last year we left it a little bit too late when it came down to the end of the season,” says Bolton. “We needed our last few wins to make it into the playoffs, and I think we just need to do a better job of getting on top of it early, and you know, every game matters. I think that’s kind of what we’re looking to do is just treat every game like it’s the last.”

But hope springs eternal for Bolton and the rest of the team, and while they know there are tough matches ahead, they’re determined to put their best foot forward.

“I think we’ve struggled in the past with overcoming adversity, and I think this year will be kind of our year to really test how hard we’ve worked on our team culture, but I think we can expect a good challenge within our own conference, the PACWEST... it is usually the top in the country for men’s volleyball,” says Bolton. “We can always expect a lot of good competition, and I think it’s going to come down to how hard we work.”



Student Society Board Elections

Voting opens 9am Oct. 20th to Closes Oct. 22nd 11:30pm



EXTERNAL EXECUTIVE



Daniella Quesada

I am running for External Executive because we need change at Camosun. The last year has been a very difficult for the College and for students but especially the relationship between the two. Mending the relationship means having a strong advocate for students who has experience navigating these pathways, and has built relationships within the college faculty. I have had over a year and a half of experience in this area and am committed to having student voices in spaces where decisions are made and creating a affordable community oriented college that delivers quality education to its students. In the past work I have done with CCSS I have supported numerous constituencies (including Pride, Womens, Indigenous & International) and plan on improving support if I get elected. Apart from that I have had the opportunities to make real change in provincial decisions by meeting with numerous politicians including the MP of education and members of parliament. I am ready to advocate for you.



Liam McCallum

Too many of us just go to class and then head straight home, as an External Executive I will create a stronger sense of community at Camosun College. Compared to other schools, Camosun College is lacking in the amount of clubs. Through my platform as External Executive I will focus on creating a more inviting active community. I'll work with student society staff to put clubs and club creation as a top priority. I would love to hear any feedback about the current state of the community at Camosun College, feel free to reach out to me.



Silvana Ramos Cabrera

My name is Silvana Ramos, and I am a second-year college student. I am running for the External Executive position because I believe strong communication and student representation are key to building a connected and engaged campus community. I want to help students feel informed, heard, and involved in decisions and opportunities that affect them. If elected, I would focus on improving communication between CCSS and students, making orientations more accessible and engaging, and ensuring important information from external organizations is shared clearly and consistently. I would also support campaigns and initiatives that encourage student participation in community issues. I am excited to contribute my ideas, learn from others, and actively represent Camosun students. I hope to bring commitment, organization, and a genuine desire to make a positive difference in this role.



INTERURBAN DIRECTOR



Eimy Gomez

Hi! My name is Eimy Gomez, and I have been a Camosun student since early 2025. I completed the Health Care Assistant program at Interurban and am currently pursuing my Associate Degree in Biology. Having studied at both Camosun campuses, I have had the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds and experience different student lifestyles. I have found a great sense of community here, which I want to give back by helping create a welcoming and fun environment where students feel connected, supported, and able to find their own place at Camosun.



LANSDOWNE DIRECTOR



Angela Chou

Hi! I'd love to continue to help out the best I can and facilitate meetings that allow us to best advocate for you and do fun things for you! It would be my honour to serve as a Lansdowne campus director for the following term. Thank you for your consideration!



Angelina Obrien

Hello! I love cats, Halloween and pink things. I love Camosun and I want to contribute to this school in any way that I can :D



Jessie Rousseau-Hanson

Hey fellow students! My name is Jessie Rousseau-Hanson, and I'm running for re-election as Lansdowne Director-at-Large to continue the work I began this year representing Camosun students beyond campus. Through this role, I have served as student representative on the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, raising concerns about overcrowding, accessibility, and connections between campuses. I've also connected with student representatives from Camosun, UVic, and Royal Roads to discuss shared transportation concerns and explore ways we can collaborate so students have a stronger collective voice. If re-elected, I want to continue bringing student concerns into CCSS discussions and supporting students in turning their ideas into projects and initiatives. I'm always happy to chat about any concern, idea, or project, and to represent students when they need a voice at CCSS. Email me at rousseau-hanson@camosunstudent.org or stop and chat when you see me on campus!



OFF CAMPUS DIRECTOR



Kevin Shawn Anthony Coughlin

Hello! This in my first time campaigning for a student leadership position. I would love to have the opportunity to advocate for off campus students and amplify their voices.

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



INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR



Phillip Dagson

With the aim of increasing international student support, I will establish social events and committees specific to the international body to ensure they're better supported and heard during their stay. For starters, international students currently don't have specific peer-to-peer connection programs, having no social bridge dedicated to international students. To solve this, I will make it my goal to work with student clubs (like Peer Pods) to host ice-breaker events specifically to welcome the international body. Additionally, I will form a dedicated international advisory committee to democratically plan events and address student concerns. Through this, international students will have a say on the activities (like events) that are organized specifically for them, making them feel like they're heard. Ultimately, my goal as an international director is to create better-supported and involved international students by giving them a voice and events that are tailored to their needs.



Nataliia Merkusheva

My name is Nataliia, and I am a student at Camosun College. I am applying for the position of International Director because I understand from my own experience how challenging it can be to start a new life, study in a new education system, and adapt to a new country and community. As someone who came to Canada from another country, I know that international and newcomer students can face many challenges — not only with language, but also with understanding college systems, finding the right information, meeting people, and feeling connected to the community. I believe international students should feel that they have someone who is willing to listen to them, understand their concerns, and help bring their ideas and needs forward. If elected as International Director, I would like to focus on clear communication, helping students learn about available resources and services, creating opportunities for students to connect with each other, and listening to what international students



Kendra Gutiérrez

Hi! I am an international student from Mexico. Being an international student is an exciting journey, but it can also be stressful at times and bring uncertainty and homesickness. My goal is to work toward providing support to international students creating their academic lives in another country. I plan to advocate for what the students need, listen to what truly matters to you and build an energetic community where everyone feels welcome. I would like to promote campus resources to facilitate access to mental health support, the Writing Centre, additional housing information, and more, paving the way for successful students and helping them have the best possible college experience. I would like to bring more international cultural events, such as exhibits, social gatherings, and cuisine from around the world, to help students feel confident and represented. I am committed to making Camosun more engaging and memorable, making students feel heard and supported during their time here.



Indy Kang

Greetings and blessings, Im a Rastafarian healer, environmentalist, artist, psychologist, teacher, therapeutic arts facilitator, human rights practitioner, auricular acupuncturist and much more! I advocate and represent the interests of diverse ranges of people and work tirelessly meeting the needs of marginalised and vulnerable groups across the globe. I create dynamic, welcoming, creative and healing calm spaces for people of all backgrounds, needs, ages and abilities to thrive together. Rastafarian principles, of love, oneness, freedom and unity, drive my commitment to working with people and our lands in a holistic inclusive way. I bring thirty years of practical knowledge and application of working in health, wellness and education with me. As International Director, I will run meditation, ear seeding, creative expression, wellness and peer to peer support and empowerment sessions and create a sensory space, for students from a variety of backgrounds to, unite, share, thrive and uplift one another.

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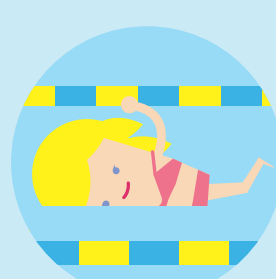
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Public Transit

ELECTION DAY: Vote on October 17

film

Camosun Visual Arts lab technologist screens film at Antimatter

“As a visual artist I never want to do the same thing twice because then I think that really sort of short circuits the potential to learn something new.”

MIKE ANDREW MCLEAN
FILMMAKER

AETIUS ARDEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As October begins, Victoria prepares for its 29th annual Antimatter [media art] festival, during which 21 programs of short films and experimental videography pieces by 136 artists from 31 countries will be displayed to the public. (The films will also be streamed online for free for 24 hours after they screen at the festival.)

Included this year is Camosun College Visual Arts lab technologist Mike Andrew McLean, with his short film *below the ghost forest - volume I*. In this piece, McLean puts together some of his long-term documentation of a personally inspiring landscape: an industrial logging site he came across between Port Renfrew and Lake Cowichan. The plot had been damaged by a fire previous to its first clearcut, leaving behind a ground of only rock, “blackened stumps of old-growth trees,” and bleached-white dead

trees looming up above: “it looked like a ghost forest,” he says.

“It was a really compromised place, but there was also a really strange beauty to it,” says McLean. “Something about it really captured my imagination, and I just wanted to know it a little bit better so... I started to explore and to photograph this place and I’ve been doing it ever since, so this video artwork that I’ve made is kind of a culmination of that exploration.”

McLean has been able to capture many sides to the forest he has come to know through this project, visiting regularly “not only through a calendar year, but also through 24 hours of a day,” he says.

“I had a realization that I was only seeing it when the sun is up and there was a whole other side to the life of that forest that I was not familiar with, and that was when it was dark... and so I thought, ‘Well, this is probably something that I should investigate.’”



PHOTO PROVIDED

A screenshot from Camosun’s Mike Andrew McLean’s *below the ghost forest - volume I*, which is screening at Antimatter.

Emphasizing the importance of challenging oneself and inspired by those who continuously evolve their creations to become unlike their previous, McLean recognizes this artwork as being a new endeavour in his artistic practices.

“As a visual artist I never want to do the same thing twice,” he explains, “because then I think that really sort of short circuits the potential to learn something new... You’re not challenging yourself as an artist, nor as a human being.”

Despite it being a new medium for him, the process of finally piecing together a section of his long-standing art project gave McLean enough confidence in his film to enter it into the Antimatter festival.

“It felt like something where I just kept collecting footage,” admits

McLean. “I didn’t really know if it was any good... I wanted to take a risk and this film festival is quite renowned... I was kind of nervous, I was sort of scared about that, but that was a good place to be. I’ve never made a film, I’ve never really shown a video artwork before, so I wanted to take that risk and I sent it in and I was so excited when I heard back that it was going to be part of the festival... It just confirmed that it was a good decision. It puts a period at the end of the sentence. You can be an artist and work on a particular piece or a series for a long time and you can keep going almost indefinitely, but when you have the opportunity to maybe show your work in an exhibition, or group show, or a film festival, it kind of takes that sentence and

it puts a punctuation mark at the end of it and it makes it somehow a little bit more tangible, it makes it somehow a little bit more whole.”

McLean places importance on learning and growth in art and life, and this new direction for him proves his commitment to these principles.

“All of it is just me learning about this place, and for me art-making is about learning,” he says. “It’s a learning process, so I want to be committed to that learning process.”

Antimatter [media art]
Various times,
Thursday, October 15 to
Sunday, October 25
Various prices and venues
antimatter.squarespace.com

review

The Uprising tedious action film with no substance

LANE CHEVRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I enjoy horrific depictions of wanton violence just as much as the next well-balanced man, but this comes with a caveat: it must be entertaining.

The Uprising is a historical dramatization of the Peasant’s Revolt of 1381. The Peasant’s Revolt was a response to unfair taxation and poor treatment of serfs in England, resulting in a riot and a march on the capital to try to beseech the king at the time, 14-year-old Richard II. Richard was young, naive, and arrogant. He was manipulated freely by his council, later developing a God complex and becoming tyrannical.

Across the film, thousands of peasants carry out this revolt in what seems like only a few days. In reality, many more members of the middle and upper class were also involved, spurred on by general discontent, as well as fear of retaliation if they refused.

During the revolt, a great deal of violence was inflicted upon innocent citizens in reprisal for unrelated grievances; predictably, things got out of hand. When all the dust settled, the retaliation by the Crown

was brutal, and the immediate goals of the revolutionists were met with abject failure; however, there were significant reverberations through the socioeconomic fabric of society, reforming tax laws and creating massive cracks in the feudal system due to landowners being fearful of another revolt.

The film stars Andrew Garfield as a fictional and unnamed ploughman who leads the rebellion. Garfield gives an honest and impassioned performance in keeping with his theatre background, and while his acting is decent, it’s weakened by the general blandness of the character. Meant to represent the noble everyman, Ploughman is depicted as the main driving force behind the revolt, but, like every other character in the film, no time is taken to establish who he is as a real person. He’s just a cardboard cut-out.

This is what makes *The Uprising* so wearisome. Director Paul Greengrass appears to prioritize historical accuracy by hitting key points within the timeline, but with only two hours to depict a months-long tale, there’s no room for any actual story. The result is two hours of non-stop fighting. Thousands of nameless

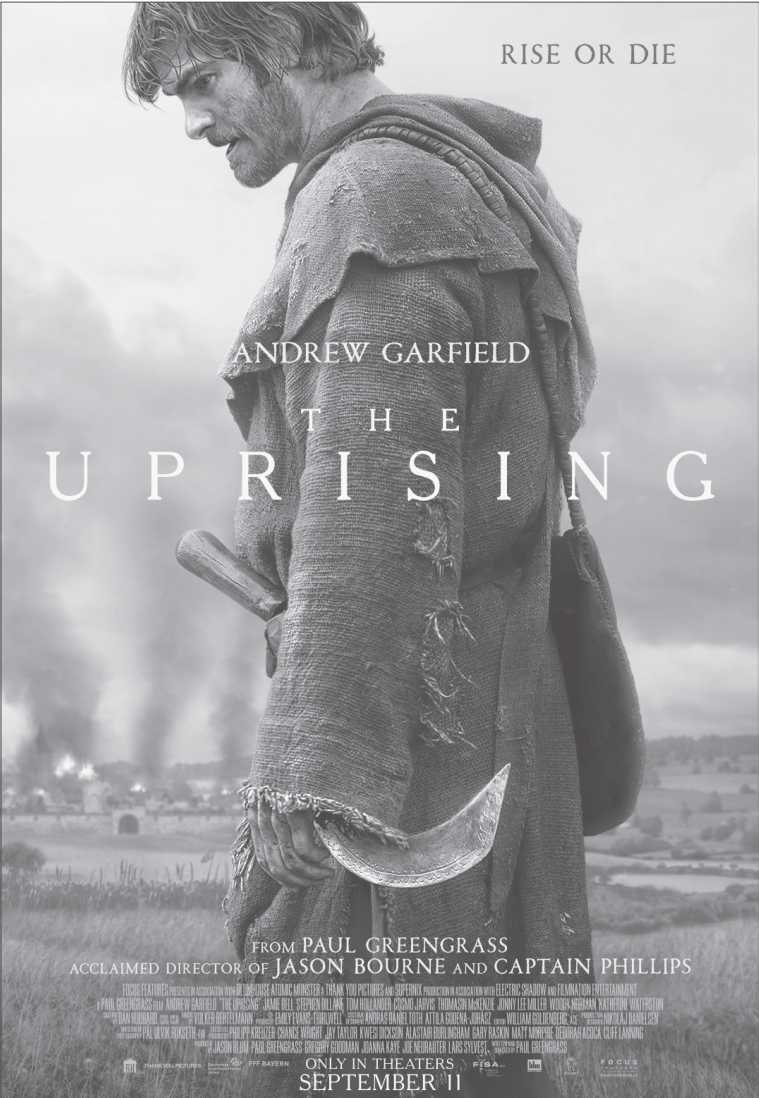
extras slaughtering each other. The film lacks any sense of pacing, and has no character development.

During the movie, I couldn’t help but think of *Braveheart*, which also follows an uprising of lower class against tyrannical royalty. The key difference is that *Braveheart* was well-written and well-produced, and is a rich, entertaining story full of character dynamics and emotion. While many may decry its historical inaccuracies, I would rather watch an inaccurate dramatization than a blandly accurate depiction, which forgets that the truly interesting stories behind any historical event are born out of the surrounding context and human relationships, which usually come to boil long before the primary incursion.

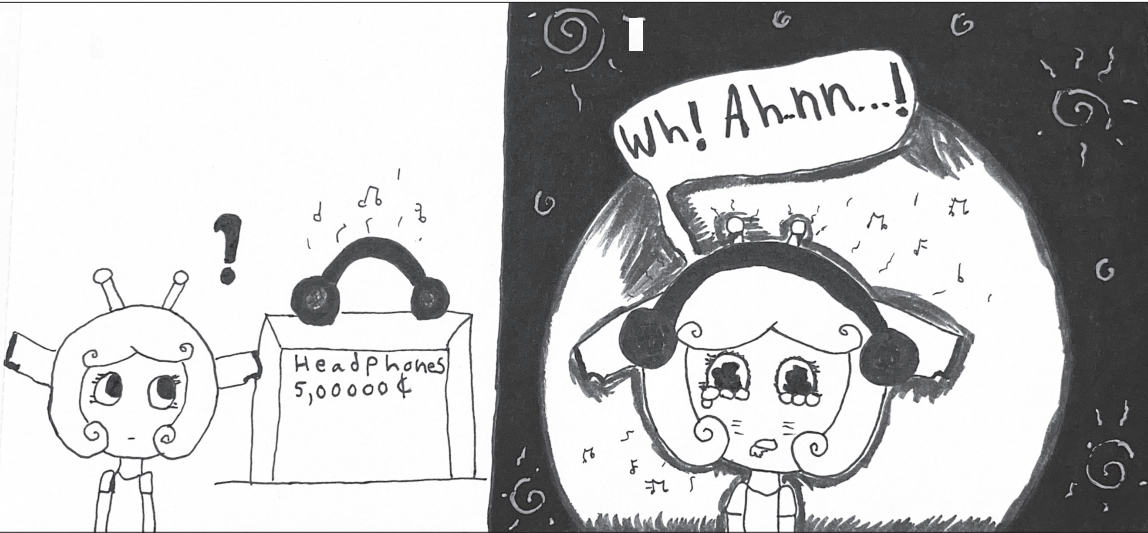
The Uprising may have been better realized as a 10-hour mini-series, taking the time to establish context, characters, and backstories as the driving force behind the plot, while the actual revolt spans the final two episodes as a fitting climax to a rich story.

Unfortunately, Greengrass seems to think that turning the climax into the entire film makes for an entertaining movie.

It does not.



Evie the Alien - Jazmyn Hodges



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.

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Trill's Recipes

by Trillium McNabb

Fish and chips

- Ingredients:
- 2-3 large potatoes
 - 1 tilapia fillet
 - 1 cup flour
 - 1/2 cup cornstarch
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 1/4 tsp pepper
 - 1 tsp seasoning salt
 - 1 tsp garlic powder
 - 1 tsp paprika
 - 2 eggs
 - 2 cups vegetable oil

Here's a recipe for the iconic dish of fish and chips. This is easy and quick to put together to give yourself a treat for dinner. And this recipe has a little twist: instead of using the traditional cod, it uses tilapia. Tilapia is a light-flavour fish that's cheaper and cooks very quickly. This recipe also uses the shallow-fry technique; please read the instructions carefully to prevent injuring yourself with hot oil or fire, and have a fire extinguisher close by.

Preheat the oven to 475 F. Then, peel 2 or 3 large potatoes and cut them into quarters. Cut the quarters

in half, making sure to cut along the length of the potato. Then place your potato wedges into boiling water and cook for about five minutes. Place the drained wedges on a lined baking sheet and spray them with oil spray. Sprinkle some seasoning salt and put them in the oven for 15 minutes.

To make the breading station, set aside one bowl for the dry ingredients. Put in the 1 cup flour, 1/2 cup cornstarch, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp seasoning salt, 1 tsp garlic powder, 1 tsp paprika, and 1/4 tsp pepper and thoroughly mix together. In the wet bowl, whisk 2 eggs together.

To bread the fish, cover all the sides of the fish in the egg dredge. Then, with one hand, place the egg-coated tilapia into the breading bowl. Make sure all sides are coated in the breading, using the non-wet hand. Gently dust off the excess. With the wet hand, give the fish another coating of egg. Place the fish back in the breading bowl for the final coat.

Put 2 cups of vegetable oil in

a cast-iron pan. Set the stove to medium-high. If you have a thermometer, make sure the temperature reaches 375 F. If you don't have a thermometer, you'll know the oil has reached temperature when the surface of the oil appears shimmery, and when you drop in a clump of breading it floats and sizzles.

Place the tilapia gently into the oil and cook for 2 to 3 minutes, or until the breading turns golden brown. Gently flip the fish with tongs and let it cook for another 2 to 3 minutes or until golden. I recommend using a mesh oil catcher to help prevent oil splattering during the cooking.

When done cooking, let the tilapia drain on a paper towel and cool for a little bit.

Top the fish with a little extra salt and plate with your potato wedges. And—ta-da!—you have fish and chips.

It tastes great with a little lemon and tartar sauce, but I personally enjoy my fish and chips with a good helping of plum sauce.



TRILLIUM MCNABB/NEXUS

It's the classic fish-and-chips dish, but with a tilapia twist.



A Student's Guide to Local Politics

by Amelia Wilde

Understanding where your tax dollars go

These problems in Langford arose from a lack of steady increases to taxes over time, meaning resources were not put aside when the time came to maintain these issues as they came up.

Let's be honest: taxation doesn't seem like the most exciting topic off the jump. I mean, who's jumping for joy at the thought of spending an extra dollar every time you order a coffee? The truth is that taxation is an unfortunate byproduct of the world that's been laid out before us, but that doesn't mean it's not important to think about where your missing dollars are going every time you tap your card.

Due to the sheer breadth of this topic, I've decided to narrow it down to a single level: what taxes do our local governments—cities, districts, or towns—obtain from you as a citizen, and where the heck does all that money go? The truth is that municipalities don't typically receive the same level of funding a provincial or federal government might have access to (we're talking billions of dollars there), which means they must be way more strategic about their spending habits.

Municipalities generate most

of their revenue through property taxes. I know what you're thinking: "I could never afford a house in this economy." But maybe someone you know has been ranting about Langford's 57-percent property-tax increase over the past four years (yes, that did happen) and you have no clue why a local government would ever need that much money. So let's dig in a bit and find out where this money is really going.

In early 2026, Langford council announced they would be increasing property taxes during their new five-year financial plan, the final increase that led to the 57-percent total. In addition to these property taxes, local governments can also generate revenue via business licences, grants, or parking tickets. This may make it seem like local governments would have plenty of money to spare, but once you total up the long list of responsibilities a municipality must handle, the bigger picture becomes quite

daunting, to say the least. In the case of Langford, growth of the community happened in such a shockingly short window of time that all the infrastructure ended up needing maintenance at the same time many years later. This included road upkeep, facility maintenance, building inspections, transit-system updates, hydro and sewage installation, staffing emergency service buildings, and endless other menial tasks that we often take for granted.

These problems arose from a lack of steady increases to taxes over time, meaning resources were not put aside when the time came to maintain these issues as they came up. After the new council was forced to take drastic measures to maintain a healthy equilibrium, many community members were rightfully outraged at the stark change in taxation from the previous government, yet the community's overarching end goal probably looks the same as what the new council hoped for—clean, functional, well-thought-out infrastructure that keeps our neighbourhoods healthy, happy, and safe for years to come.

As this next election cycle approaches, I encourage you to keep an open mind about what sort of community you hope to live in, and try to notice the small details that make everyday experiences in your neighbourhood that much more vibrant, for everybody around.

eyed on campus



NIK OVSTAAS/NEXUS

Students with the remnants of a pinata at the Camosun College Student Society's recent Latin Festival, held on Wednesday, September 23 at the Lansdowne campus.

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review

The Sound Inside tackles big questions, big soliloquies

NIK OVSTAAS
STUDENT EDITOR

Adam Rapp’s *The Sound Inside* is an interesting departure from what most plays I’ve seen recently are trying to achieve. Its set is minimal—just a bench on one side acting as a synecdoche for a larger park, and a table and chairs playing the roles of office, kitchen, and dormitory. The rest of the set is brought to life through lighting changes and the rich, eloquent, and expositional dialogue and monologue, written by Rapp and brought to life by Lindsay Anderson, playing the role of Yale University creative writing professor Bella Baird.

The sheer magnitude of how many lines Anderson had to commit to memory and spit out, rapid-fire, at the audience during numerous soliloquies was staggering, and I found myself wondering more than once how many times she had run these lines in the mirror; the delivery, while not completely flawless—there were a few stumbles and pregnant pauses, typical for a pre-opening-night preview showing—was still far better than most of us could have done.

The character of Bella Baird edged her way deftly along the edge

of being a trope, the grandiloquent Ivy League English professor, without ever falling into that trap. The poignant insights offered through the aforementioned soliloquies, as well as some of the more questionable choices made by the character, kept her safely in the realm of the believable, and Anderson’s almost conspiratorial connection to the audience helped to seal the deal.

Joining Anderson on stage was Dawson Rutledge in the role of Bella’s young student Christopher Dunne, who also filled the role very well. Although his stage time was far less, and the main character was inarguably Bella, Rutledge did a bang-up job of being the boyishly-good-looking-but-slightly-unsettling student that gets, shall we say, entangled with the professor.

This play, like much of Rapp’s work, keeps you guessing until the end and is full of melancholy and an introspective look at the choices we face in life, as well as the promises we make and sometimes must break. However, much like life itself, there is hilarity, as well as genuine and highly relatable moments of comedy sewn throughout.

The Sound Inside is mostly a character study focused on Bella,

as she catalogues the successes and failures of her life to date before meeting a student who frustrates and beguiles her. As the relationship between the two transforms and pushes the envelope of scholastic propriety, Christopher spells out his ideas for a novel that ominously resemble what could be a real-life crime, the details of which are eerily close to what Bella knows of Christopher’s own life. Bella, for her part, faces the crushing weight of a decision that must be made, and weighs the pros and cons of whether or not to bring her strange but brilliant student into her confidences. She ultimately must decide whether or not she can ask for Christopher’s assistance in an immense and irrevocable undertaking.

How much can you ask of another person? This is the question *The Sound Inside* grapples with, and it stuck with me long after the curtains closed.

The Sound Inside
Various times,
until Saturday, October 10
\$12 student tickets,
Theatre Inconnu
theatreinconnu.com



EMME SAIT

The Sound Inside runs until Saturday, October 10 at Theatre Inconnu.

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Did you know Matt is a former Camosun student!?

He started his English and Political Science degree at the Lansdowne Campus!

Authorized by Ashley Arden Ceraldi, info@mattdell.ca

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