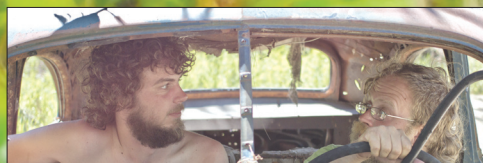


The life of a student tree planter

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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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SEND A LETTER
Nexus prints letters that are 250 words or less. *Nexus* reserves the right to refuse publication of letters. Letters must include full name and student number (not printed). *Nexus* accepts all letters by email to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. We reserve the right to edit all letters.

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I'm not sure the in-house ad with the phone cord is entirely up to date."

COVER IMAGE:
Tree planting: Photo provided
CamFest: Camosun College A/V Services
Fringe: Photo provided
Shakespeare gets funky: Candice Albach

editor's letter

Got them summer job blues

The summer job: it's one of the (many) plights of the postsecondary student. Trying to find a gig that you can get in and out of in just a few months, while making decent enough money to help you get to and/or through the next semester... it's never easy. And when it comes to tree planting, it's also extremely difficult.

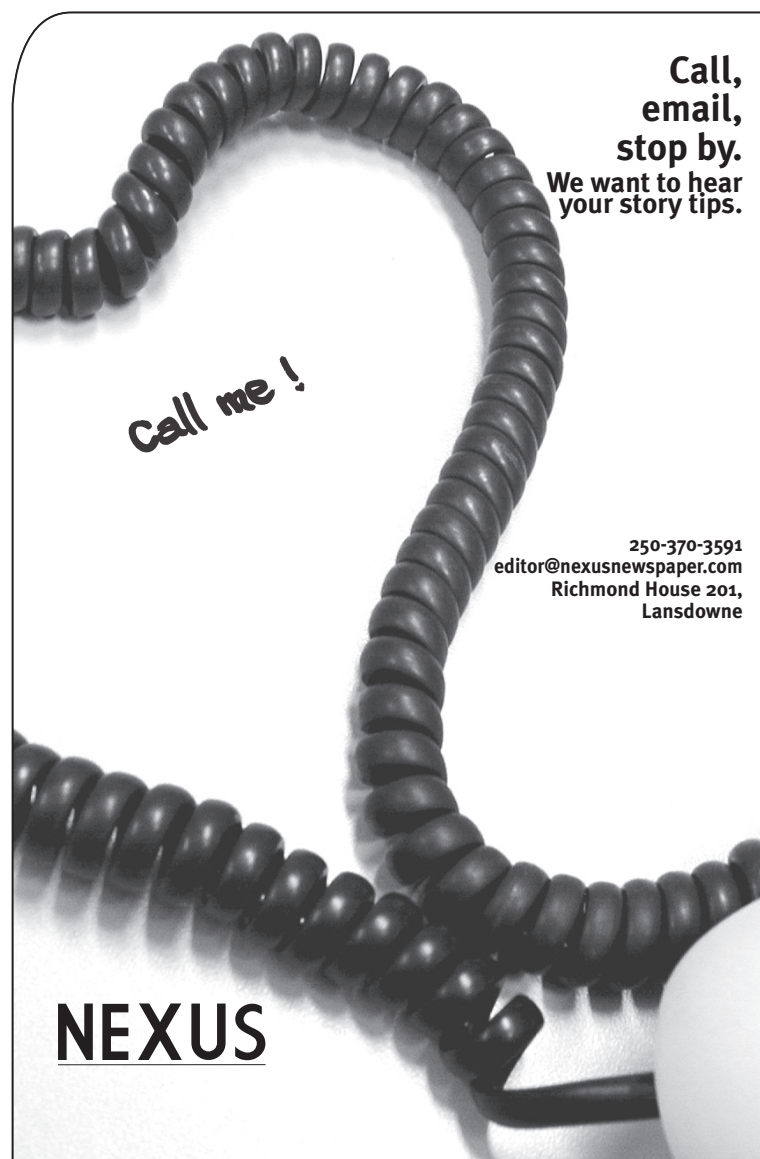
Contributing writer Rachel Sovka shares her summer experience planting trees with all of us over on page 6. It ain't pretty: my TMI alarm went off several times during the editing of this story, but for the sake of full honesty, we left all of Sovka's sordid details in the piece. Sovka, who previously wrote about her time in Laos for us in a very popular story, is leaving Camosun and *Nexus*, and this excellent story is a fitting goodbye.

Yes, it's true: writers leave us, usually because they're leaving Camosun. Which means we need more writers, especially looking into September; we want to start the year off strong with a big team.

So if you think you could write things like riveting news stories (see our story on Camosun's new digital media program on page 3), fun campus stories (see our Camfest preview on page 4), or cool arts stories where you get to interview neat artsy people and go hobnob at arts events (our Fringe preview, page 8), drop us a line at the email below. No experience necessary, and even though sometimes our writers get physically and emotionally tortured in the writing of a story (thanks again, Rachel!), it's usually a ton of fun.

We've been taking things at a slower, monthly pace throughout the spring and summer semesters, but we're getting ready to go back into our once-every-two-weeks mode, and we're excited to do it with your involvement. See you in September!

Greg Pratt, editor-in-chief
editor@nexusnewspaper.com



Call,
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We want to hear
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NEXUS

open space

So-called border crisis raises questions

Busloads of kids are showing up at the border, some with their single moms and some on their own. And, in true 'Murica style, they have been confronted by angry, screaming Tea-Partiers waving "Speak English Dammit" signs and rocking "Take America Back" T-shirts.

MATTHEW HELLIWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the past few weeks, the US has been facing what has been called a "border crisis." What's essentially happening is that information on US immigration reform is being lost in translation, and citizens of poverty-stricken Latin American nations are sending their children north in hopes that they will receive papers upon crossing the border.

The whole mess has caused a fury, not only in the US, but also in Mexico, whose government has finally agreed that they should maybe start regulating "La Bestia," the gigantic freight train on which Central American immigrants are illegally taken through the country by so-called "coyotes."

Busloads of kids are showing up at the border, some with their single moms and some on their own. And, in true 'Murica style, they have been confronted by angry, screaming Tea-Partiers waving "Speak English Dammit" signs and rocking "Take America Back" T-shirts.

I won't go into the theoretical, airy-fairy conceptual arguments about the validity of a politically constructed line in the sand we call a "border." The fact is we have borders in the world, and crossing one illegally is indeed a crime.

But there are times when one must overlook what is politically the best option and search for what is morally the best. If the US claims itself to be the beacon of

hope, liberty, and opportunity, its government and citizenry must place themselves in the shoes of the frightened immigrant kids and rethink their stance.

Last time I checked, the Bible that so many Tea Party protestors at the border claim to stand behind mentions nothing about turning people away if it will cost government money. I'm sure the verse must have gone, "And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all... unless it will cost a lot, or they are a different colour than you... oh, or they don't speak English."

The kind of hardline response that has been stirred up in the far-right "Nobama" crowd might seem to be the common-sense response, but it doesn't line up with truly "bringing America back." (And again, let's ignore the always-obvious irony that any non-indigenous people in the US were, in fact, immigrants.)

One need look no further than the Statue of Liberty, that oh-so-famous beacon of everything American. Printed on its pedestal is "The New Colossus," an 1883 poem by American poet Emma Lazarus, offering America as a place for the "tired, poor... huddled masses yearning to breathe free." If that doesn't perfectly describe the desperate people I have seen in photos showing up at the border, I don't know what does.

Something on your mind? Send *Open Space* submissions (up to 400 words) to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. Include your student number. Thanks!

SPEAK UP

What was the wildest thing you did this summer?

BY GILLIAN SELLMAN



CHEVY NAJERA

"I went to a fundraiser zipline event."



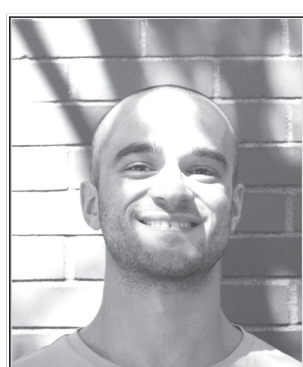
ELOISA CAMARILLO

"I went camping in Sooke."



JEAN GALGER

"I jumped from the rock in Thetis Lake."



CRAIG WEARE

"I went to an outdoor obstacle course for a bachelor party."



TREVOR CAMPBELL

"Taking pre-calculus math over the summer."



IRENE ZHANG

"The craziest thing I did was deciding to take four summer courses!"

programs

New digital communication programs offered at Camosun

JASON SCHREURS
MANAGING EDITOR

Although some debate remains over whether they will fill the gap left by the now-defunct Applied Communication Program (ACP), two new certificate programs at Camosun have faculty and students excited for the future of communications programs at the college.

Digital Communication, which started last September, and Digital Production, Writing and Design, which begins this fall, are one-year certificate programs that communications faculty began developing in late 2012 when they first heard that the Applied Communication Program was being cancelled.

"We realized there was a real need for programming like this on Southern Vancouver Island, and we knew nothing like this would be offered elsewhere," says Lois Fernyhough, chair of the communications department and longtime Camosun communications instructor. "We knew there was going to be a void when ACP shut down."

Camosun Arts and Sciences dean Dominic Bergeron says that the new certificate programs aren't meant to fill the gap created by the cancellation of ACP; rather, they are filling an already existing gap that was discovered during a market survey the college conducted around communications programs.

"The survey told us many things and amongst them was the fact that we needed to fill a digital production niche," says Bergeron. "This program is completely different from ACP, which focused on the 'traditional media' with little connection to the digital world."

"We think it's a better version of what we had before. It's building on the past, but it's definitely a different approach."

LOIS FERNYHOUGH
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Fernyhough and Bergeron agree that the focus for the two new programs is quite different from the video production and radio broadcasting courses that dominated ACP. Most of the courses in the two new programs pertain to developing website content for communication and marketing purposes.

And while Bergeron stresses the new programs' different approach and target demographic (marketing and communications students looking for hands-on experience), Fernyhough sees them as a more practical improvement on ACP.

The one-year certificate programs are more flexible in that they can be part time or full time, and they are keeping up with technological advances and the need for digital communication skills in the current workplace, she says.

"We think it's a better version of what we had before," says Fernyhough. "It's building on the past, but it's definitely a different approach."

Another big difference is that while ACP was a closed program,



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

Camosun's Lois Fernyhough is excited about the college's new media programs.

Digital Communications and Digital Production, Writing and Design courses are open to a certain number of students not registered in the program. This means more cross-pollination of students and a more vibrant learning environment, says Fernyhough.

"I'm really excited that we have these new courses open for anyone to take," she says. "It gives students from a whole variety of areas the opportunity to take these courses as electives, and that really enriches the classroom. Students can take some of these courses, get enthused about it, and consider studying communications."

So far, the programs have been successful. Last year's Digital Communications intake was full, as is this year's Digital Production, Writing and Design. Currently, there are still some spots available for Digital Communications in September, with approximately \$45,000

available in entrance awards and bursaries for the new communications department, which also includes a Comics and Graphic Novels program.

Tuition costs for the new programs are a concern for the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS), a reflection of the college's cost-recovery model and funding shortages within postsecondary education, they say.

"The CCSS is confident in the quality of instruction and is hopeful that the new communications programs will meet the needs of both students and the community," says CCSS external executive Rachael Grant. "Unfortunately, the cancellation of the old program and the creation of new ones is far more about money than curriculum. Sadly, these changes are becoming more and more common as Camosun intensifies its efforts to circumvent tuition fee guidelines and move pro-

gramming towards a cost-recovery model, rather than just updating existing course curriculum."

And while the two new certificate programs may be signs of the financial times, Fernyhough and the communications department are just happy that they were able to navigate through the cancellation of a decades-old program and come away with two new programs that offer practical skills and knowledge to students.

"We thought we could fix ACP and that would be okay, but as things moved along it became apparent that that wasn't going to happen, and that was frustrating, but it did force us to look at what else was out there, what we can do and what needs weren't being met," she says. "So now we just feel good that we are able to offer students something that they are interested in and can lead them to meaningful employment."

NEWS BRIEFS

BC government funds energy-reduction projects

Postsecondary institutions in BC have received \$3.8 million in funding this year as part of the Carbon Neutral Capital Program. Camosun and UVic have both received improvements to their heating systems. The yearly reduction in energy costs for the postsecondary sector is estimated to be over \$433,000 after upgrades. In 2010, BC's public sector was the first major district in North America to achieve a carbon-neutral footprint.

Government funds more trades training

Camosun College is among the recipients of the BC government's Skills For Jobs Blueprint funding to support the liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry. \$423,000 will go towards 90 LNG-related seats at the college, which include steam/pipewriter, welder, carpenter, and electrician trades. The blueprint has

targeted crucial industries based on current labour market trends, predicting a million job openings in BC by 2022.

Mental health clubhouse proponents seek support

The Camosun College Student Society is collecting signatures to forward the initiative for a non-profit clubhouse supporting mental health in Victoria. The group Moms Like Us, whose adult children live with mental illness, is spearheading the plan to create the resource by partnering with Clubhouse International. The Pathways Clubhouse in Richmond, BC is the group's model for a clubhouse in Victoria; members are offered help in all aspects of their lives, including employment, housing, family issues, meals, and education.

Daphne Shaed hits the airwaves

Daphne Shaed, known for her previous work as Camosun College

Student Society women's director and pride director, as well as being a former *Nexus* columnist, brings her unique perspective to a new radio show. Breaking Binary covers diverse topics relating to gender, sex, and identity. The show airs from 4-5 pm on Tuesdays on UVic's CFUV 101.9 FM.

Ontario man develops date-rape drug detector

David Wilson has created a tool he hopes will save people from becoming victims of date-rape drugs. The USB-sized device is called a pd.id (Personal Drink ID), which is used by placing in a drink to collect a small sample. The device is programmed to recognize signatures of known drugs through ultraviolet light, temperature, and electrical current tests. An app can then provide an alert for any tampering. Wilson's project is currently being funded through an indiegogo campaign with a target release date of April 2015. The

device is expected to cost around \$75.

Victoria releases phase one of Bicycle Master Plan

Following public consultation this past spring, the City of Victoria has released an outline of proposed changes and improvements to the region's cycling system. Upcoming priority projects over the next five years will likely include Pandora Avenue, Johnson Street, Vancouver Street, and off-Bay and off-Shelbourne routes. The report also identifies the need for "all ages and abilities" routes that are safe and comfortable to ride. Pending approval, upgrades to Pandora Avenue will begin next year.

Canadians picked to create prototype in car-design challenge

Automotive supplier Valeo is close to choosing finalists for their inaugural innovation challenge. The international contest invited

all engineering students to submit ideas to make future cars more intuitive. Two teams from Canada, from the University of Waterloo and the University of Ottawa, made the shortlist of 20 out of 969 teams from 55 countries. Their prototypes will be submitted to judges this month and the finalists announced in September. Valeo has already confirmed that the contest will run for a second year, with submission timelines yet to be released.

-SAMANTHA PETTIFER

Got a news tip or a story that we should be covering? Let us know!
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

Interested in writing news? We're looking for someone to write the News Briefs section in September.

Email
editor@nexusnewspaper.com if you're interested!

We're also on the hunt for people to write news stories. Like sniffing out exciting leads? Examining hot-topic issues? Get in touch and be the next Nexus news reporter!

festival

Camfest returns bigger than ever this September

JASON SCHREURS
MANAGING EDITOR

With all of the gorgeous weather this summer, a beach-themed Camfest seems like the best option, and that's exactly what the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) is planning for their annual welcome-back festival at the college during September.

Taking place September 2 at Lansdowne and September 4 at Interurban, with a beach-party-themed beverage tent at Lansdowne on September 12 and a barnyard/harvest-themed beverage tent at Interurban on September 25, the summer-style Camfest promises to be bigger and better than recent years, featuring activities, games, live music and performances, and tasty food. Oh, and fire dancers. Did we mention fire dancers?

"We're always striving to make Camfest bigger and more festival-like."

RACHAEL GRANT
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

"This year we're stepping it up a notch," says Interurban executive Andrea Eggenberger, one of the CCSS reps responsible for the planning of the event. "Think fire-

dancers, live bands, and large-scale puppets!"

The annual event, besides being a fun beginning-of-year celebration for new and returning students, is also an integral part of raising awareness about the CCSS and the services it provides to students.

"It's an excellent opportunity to meet and connect with other students and learn about what resources are available to them to help them in their educational process," says CCSS external executive Rachael Grant.

But who has time for education when there's so much fun to be had? This year's planning team spent a lot of time going for the festival vibe, so the first couple of weeks back at school should be a blast, if everything goes according to plan.

And although most of the live performers haven't been confirmed yet, Grant promises that the CCSS has "some pretty exciting people lined up."

"It's looking to be bigger than last year," she says. "We're always striving to make it bigger and more festival-like. We have some really fun activities for the beach-themed beverage garden."

Camfest is also a chance for the CCSS team to get used to working together, something that they will do over the course of the school year, not only on events but also important campaigns for students.

"Planning Camfest has pulled our new CCSS team closer togeth-



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

Someone getting the ride of their life during a previous, particularly wild, CamFest.

er," says Eggenberger, "and that's just the feeling that we want Camfest to embody."

Despite planning taking place over the summer months, when many of the CCSS board members are away on holidays, Grant says

planning the event has been a positive experience for everyone.

"It's been really fun planning this event," she says. "We have a lot of new faces on the CCSS board right now, and it's been really great working with them because they are

really keen and excited to seek out new ways of having a really fun and exciting Camfest."

Check out the CCSS website at camosunstudent.org for more information on what's going on at this year's Camfest.

Scenes from Camfests past

From belly dancing to *Nexus* volunteers spreading the good word (come say hello!), there's always a lot going on at Camfest. Here's some images from years past. (All photos by Camosun College A/V Services.)



know your profs

Behind the words with Camosun English instructor Laurie Elmquist

GREG PRATT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Know Your Profs is an ongoing series of articles helping you get to know the instructors at Camosun College a bit better. Every issue we ask a different instructor the same 10 questions. Got someone you want to see interviewed? Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com and we'll get on it.

This time around we caught up with English instructor Laurie Elmquist and talked about her spelling skills, the upside of online classes, and keeping peeves as pets.

1: What do you teach and how long have you been a teacher at Camosun?
I teach creative writing and academic writing. I've been teaching at the college for 19 years.

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

I like being with students. They are so hopeful about the future and hardworking. I like reading their stories and looking at the comics and novels they are writing.

3: What's one thing you wish your students knew about you?

I am getting a new puppy this fall and am slightly distracted by all the things that have to do with raising a responsible Jack Russell.

4: What's one thing you wish they didn't know about you?

I'm a terrible speller. When I make notes on the board, the

students have to help me with my spelling. It's kind of embarrassing as a writer.

5: What's the best thing that's ever happened to you as a teacher here?

Being on the ground floor of the new Comics and Graphic Novels program was so exciting. I remember when the dean tapped me on the shoulder in the hall. He thought that creative writing and comics would be good together. Later, [Camosun prof] Ken Steacy designed the program, the first of its kind to combine creative writing classes and visual storytelling classes.

6: What's the worst thing that's ever happened to you as a teacher here?

Oh dear, do people really answer this question? The first thing that comes to mind is losing a colleague to cancer. It was years ago, but she was very special to me. Her name was Leslie [Ashcroft, Camosun English prof], and she was my mentor. She was the person who plucked me out of the Writing Centre and said, "Go talk to the Chair of English and apply for a job."

7: What do you see in the future of postsecondary education?

With fingers crossed, I hope to see the development of more online classes. I am a huge advocate for this form of delivery, and I lament that people still know so little about its benefits. I took an online course



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun's Laurie Elmquist: be sure to check her spelling when she's making notes on the board.

this summer from Brock University that enriched my understanding of online education. This fall I'm teaching two online creative writing courses, and I'm employing some of the ideas. I want students to know that online learning is dynamic and rigorous. There are deadlines just as if you were sitting in a classroom, and also lots of laughter and fun. Friendships are formed with other

writers. Novels get written. It's terribly exciting from my perspective as someone who designs the courses and teaches them.

8: What do you do to relax on the weekends?

My husband and I just bought a 1999 Roadtrek, and we hope to roar around the island stopping at campsites and beaches.

9: What's your favourite meal?

Fish tacos and a Corona with lime and salt.

10: What's your biggest pet peeve?

I never really understood the pet peeve. Why would you want to hang onto a peeve and make a pet of it? It seems like an uncomfortable thing to do.

what's going on

by samantha pettifer



PHOTO PROVIDED

T. Nile is bringing her synth-pop to the Copper Owl on August 30.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Super-powered Sugar showcase

SpaceBoots, Ellice Blackout, the Roper Show, One Night Stand, and Magic in the Woods will all strut their stuff at Sugar this Friday. If you like your rock hard, this is the place to be. If you like your rock soft, well, there are always Lionel Ritchie records at the thrift store (any thrift store!). Get here a bit early, as doors for this one are at 8 pm.

AUGUST 15-16

Love your local art!

Discover Victoria's fabulous visual arts scene at the Integrate Arts Festival: go on the Friday evening art crawl, where all venues are free of charge, or take a family-friendly bike tour through different venues on Saturday. Venues include dedicated galleries as well as the central library branch and local restaurants. And don't forget to leave enough energy for the after-party at the Copper

Owl! Event details can be found at integratearts.ca.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

History in color

Aboriginal artist Dana Claxton will talk about her most recent series of images, *Indian Candy*, now showing at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Claxton draws from her own heritage of Hunkpapa Lakota ancestry, as well as Canadian and American colonialism, for her work. *Indian Candy* brings together vibrant colours with historical documents and images, questioning the impact of culture on different versions of history. The talk is at 7 pm and the show runs until September 7. More info at aggv.ca.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Synthesizers, you're all right

Vancouver-based T. Nile is a hot new voice in synth-pop, fusing electronics with acoustic instruments on her slick new EP, *Tingle & Spark*. Get on

the dance floor at the Copper Owl and enjoy the sounds.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Probably still needs some water

Rock icon Melissa Etheridge is coming to the Royal Theatre as part of her new solo tour. One of the genre's female trailblazers, she has been hugely successful since the start of her career in the '80s. She is still going strong with her 12th album of original songs, *This is M.E.*, featuring an all-star cast of musical collaborators. More info at rmts.bc.ca.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Jann's jams

For the release of her recent album, *Everything Always*, Canadian superstar Jann Arden is taking to the road. Since her debut album in 1993, Arden has won a huge number of awards, written books, and made numerous TV appearances, but fans everywhere still love her for her

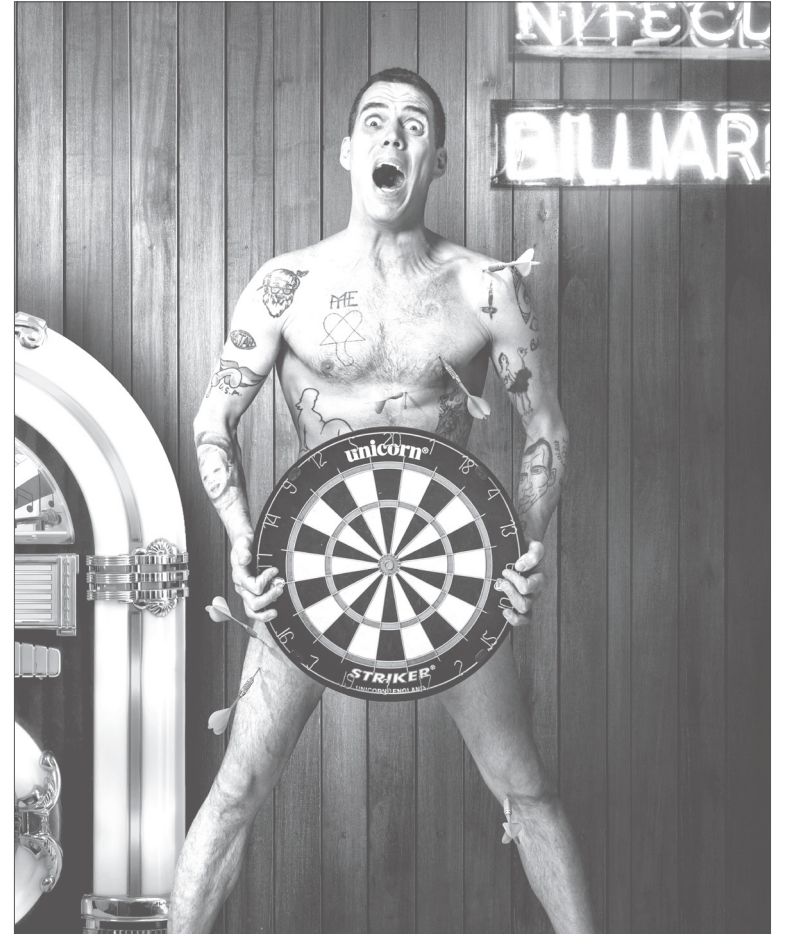


PHOTO PROVIDED

And then there's Steve-O... see his stand-up routine on September 6.

music. She will be playing in Victoria at Royal Theatre. More info at rmts.bc.ca.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

His life as an idiot

Is it a good thing to be referred to as being "of Jackass fame"? Well, Stephen Glover, also known as Steve-O,

hasn't entirely given up the stunts that made him famous; beyond the wildly successful MTV show, however, he also performs standup comedy. Check out the routine of a self-described "professional idiot" at Club 90NEg. More info on what is sure to be a wild time can be found at rmts.bc.ca.

Toilet paper of a rookie tree

Tree planting is not a job; it's a way of life. And by way of life, I mean way of death.

It's a brutal lifestyle that deeply impacts every aspect of your being and brings you closer to the end of your being every day. Living in the vast Canadian wilderness all summer, pushing the limits of your physical strength and emotional sanity, no part of you goes unaffected as you fight off harsh weather conditions, wild animals, and your own failing lucidity while the perils of the great outdoors slowly kill you.

Or quickly kill you. There were plenty of times this summer when I nearly got eaten by a bear, dropped dead of exhaustion, lost an eye to a sharp stick, or smashed in my own skull with my shovel.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

You've probably heard of this pitiless Canadian rite of passage; you may even know people who have done it. But everyone's tree planting experience is different. Only one thing is agreed upon across the board: it really sucks.

Giving birth in the wilderness

I like to compare tree planting to giving birth. It's the most physically painful thing you've ever done, it scars your body permanently, and doesn't pay off for at least 18 years. But somehow you loved it, you're stronger because of it, and you want to do it again in another nine months.

When you're a tree planter, the entire purpose of your existence is reduced to frantically digging in the dirt to secure 11-cent seedlings in the ground as fast as you can among a crew of a dozen people. I'm aware of how easy that sounds. I'm also aware of how much it hurts to bend over thousands upon thousands of times a day, scaling vertical hills in sweltering heat, covered in mud, slamming your shovel into rocks while carrying over 50 pounds of baby trees on your hips.

It's very hard work, but as with families, weather, and bad tattoos, what you can't change you learn to love, so many planters return each year to the woods to go through it all again. But, let me assure you, it's not what you're picturing. Unless you're picturing a bunch of dirty hippies in their twenties, ubiquitous dirt, dogs, and drugs, trying to make enough money to avoid work for the rest of the year. Then it's exactly what you're picturing. But tree planting is more than a group of shovel-wielding alcoholics living in the forest; it's the *best* worst job ever.

If you like getting up at 5 am every day, and suffering alone for nine to 14 hours under the scorching sun in your own sweat and blood, being bitten within an inch of your sanity by mosquitoes, black flies, horseflies, and wasps, then tree planting is for you! If you like sloshing through swamps in the pouring rain, climbing over piles of sharp logs in a driving hailstorm, and clambering through thick, claustrophobic brambles slicing your legs to shreds like you're walking through a patch of cheese graters, then you will love this job!

Suffice it to say, many people quit within the first week.

Truly, the intensity of tree planting cannot be exaggerated. There are tree planters who

and other daily manifestations of mild PTSD. Remember shaving and similar forms of personal hygiene? I don't.

Tree planting isn't for everyone, but if you can efficiently plant a tree in six seconds, then you could make a lot of money. If you can't, then you'll get a lot of exercise, injuries, and friends, and you might just leave with financial debt.

Expectations and reality

Although I had a 34-hour bus ride home to mine the depths of my adjectival vocabulary to describe the experience, it's still hard to explain in mere words what tree planting is like.

For instance, just because you think that you like hard work doesn't mean you enjoy determining the success of your day based on how

much blood comes out your nose, or how many times you vomit into your mouth. Or, furthermore, that you appreciate spending your day off in the hospital for second-degree sunburns, infected slash wounds, and 47 swollen bites on your face.

Just because you think camping in the woods is real cute doesn't mean you'd jump for joy at the chance to sleep in a leaky tent for months on end surrounded by your rank, festering laundry and the snoring (and other bodily emissions) of your crew.

Just because you're comfortable wiping your squatted ass with a leaf does not mean you like changing your tampon precariously balanced in the middle of unconcealed, open wasteland coated in more grime and pesticides than you'd prefer to contaminate yourself with.

Just because you don't mind going a week without a shower doesn't mean you'd rather abide in your own stench such that the holy sanctuary of your tent becomes a cesspool of your own filth and your hair couldn't be called a rat's nest without offending the rodent order. And just because you think you're above make-up and such cosmetic drivel doesn't mean you're elated to catch a glimpse of yourself in a reflective surface and hardly recognize the dirty, sunburned, duct-taped, swollen, calloused, freckled face grinning wildly back at you.

One of the misconceptions people have about tree planting is that after spending months in intense physical labour, you will look fantastic by the end of the summer. False. Unless you like the look of permanent nerve damage, chronic back and knee pain, tendonitis, and the bizarre tan lines of a sociopath. You may even gain weight, as some of us did, since camp grub is food for fuel, not renewal.

I also quickly realized that there are 50 ways to plant a tree wrong, and only one way to do it right. Whether it's too shallow, too deep, too bent, too close, or too far, the only thing worse than planting trees is replanting trees. For no money. All day.

The nature of nature

Depending on the diurnal sunlight or frost on the ground, planters begin the day as early as 3 am to avoid the most dangerous heat of the day and, believe me, hell hath no fury like the northern noonday sun. Next, we load the trucks, which have all seen better days, with equipment as hazardous as it is ancient. Then, as thunderclouds roll ominously overhead, you fight the wilderness while chlorophyll proliferates with patient aggression and wild animals roam, generously offering to put you out of your misery.

As a first-year rookie, you're falling constantly. You load up your planting bags with 400 seedlings, chug a litre of water, and tramp back into the land where, inevitably, you plant about five trees before you slip on a wet log, narrowly avoid getting impaled on a stick, and land in a thistle bush. The struggle to get yourself back up with 50 pounds of unplanted trees crushing you like a whale causes you to question the investment of getting back up at all.

The forestation industry is an empire in which tree planters reside uncomfortably on the bottom rung.

have been struck by lightning and continue planting. You are warned not to have children two to five years after tree planting, presumably due to all the pesticides you've ingested, but I think it's because you've gone so bush-crazy that you can no longer function in civilized society.

It's not just a job, it's your life for the summer, and the faint memory of civilization seems foreign and irrelevant when you're choking back your own puke all day. You feel no need to conform to the accepted patterns of a normal, professional environment that requires you to shower, keep your clothes on throughout the work day, refrain from crying, swearing, smoking, drinking, setting things on fire, and peeing wherever you please.

Tree planting affects all aspects of your consciousness; you can say

goodbye to regular sleep patterns and eating habits. Table manners and polite deportment are the first to go; then begins the confused tree-planting nightmares, bear-attack dreams,



the future: planter's guide to survival

by Rachel Sovka, contributing writer
photos provided

And, cue existential crisis: why do we plant trees? Why do we cut down trees? Why do we even use paper? If you're not careful, your mind is your own worst enemy out there. You spend all day in solitude wondering how long a person can go without speaking, before losing the ability to communicate entirely. You're plagued by the same song in your head over and over, a song that you did not choose; it chose you. You have sarcastic conversations

we cut down trees? paper?

is an emotional rollercoaster. You begin planting each tree with such intentional care and leniency, that by contrast it's as if you said a prayer over each one, tied a bow around it, and stood there singing "Kumbaya," because by the end of the season you're swearing at each tree and its family as if vengeance will soon be yours and stepping on its head as you run away. It may be the only job where I've been nearly suicidal after a coyote stole my lunch, but, on the plus side, it's the only job I've ever had where you can fart constantly, or ride a helicopter to work when the land is too remote to access.

You're sequestered with your crew 24/7, which has both blessings and curses. Overall, whether you're picking thorns out of each other's skin, setting the hotel room on fire (literally), dislodging vehicles from mud, or out for a night on the town, your crew is your family and you need them more than you need a shower. That's why people say they love tree planting, but hate planting trees; as the song goes, you get by with a little help from your friends.

I told them that no matter how brutal things got, they'd have to fire me before I'd ever give up. So they did. And when they did, I missed it terribly. (But that's a different story. A story that left me stranded in the middle of northern BC with nothing except a can of bear spray.)

Dumb ways to die

There are many unfortunate ways to die tree planting, but other than falling off a cliff, catching Beaver Fever, or what is fearfully known as "the dangue," if you're not eaten by bears or wolves, or trampled to death by a moose, fear not: you could still choke to death on poisonous gas. H₂S gas is a naturally occurring vapour in planting areas that, in low doses, gives you a smelly headache and, in high doses or with long exposure, causes instant death.

The main concern is that working long hours without rest causes your body to deteriorate and you begin to be grateful anew for the simple things in life you used to be able to do, like

touch your toes, clutch a pen, or use a fork. The problem with repetitious, asymmetrical motions is that nerve damage causes you to lose your fine motor skills. For a long time I couldn't write, type, brush my teeth, or even wipe my own ass (had I actually remembered the toilet paper to do

so). I still can't feel some fingers or any of my toes. This common tree planter's affliction is called "the claw," and it's like a serial killer. It makes you wake up in the night, writhing in agony; it turns against you with a will of its own, trying to strangle you in your sleep as your hand involuntarily clenches in a fist.



with your trees as you plant them, and you realize you've truly lost it when you start to hear the trees talk back to you.

A day in the life of a rookie tree planter

is an emotional rollercoaster. You begin planting each tree with such intentional care and leniency, that by contrast it's as if you said a prayer over each one, tied a bow around it, and stood there singing "Kumbaya," because by the end of the season you're swearing at each tree and its family as if vengeance will soon be yours and stepping on its head as you run away. It may be the only job where I've been nearly suicidal after a coyote stole my lunch, but, on the plus side, it's the only job I've ever had where you can fart constantly, or ride a helicopter to work when the land is too remote to access.

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Tree planting is more than a group of shovel-wielding alcoholics living in the forest; it's the best worst job ever.

Canada contains 10 percent of the world's forests, and I am proud to say I planted a few thousand of those trees, but it disturbs me on a fundamental level that our agonizing labour is essentially in vain. Those same trees will be hacked down again in 80 years by the same unscrupulous logging companies, and all I've done is help make my grandchildren's toilet paper.

You try to tell yourself that you're saving the planet by replacing fire-damaged forests and bringing oxygen and green habitat back into the ecosystem, but by planting trees I was actually capitulating to a system that perpetuates an unsustainable cycle of pollution created by the forestation industry.

I struggled to reconcile these ideas as I contemplated the obscene amount of fuel it took to transport all the workers and goods involved in a tree-planting camp, the waste we produce, and even how many trees it takes to make the boxes we keep the trees in. The forestation industry is an empire in which tree planters reside uncomfortably on the bottom rung.

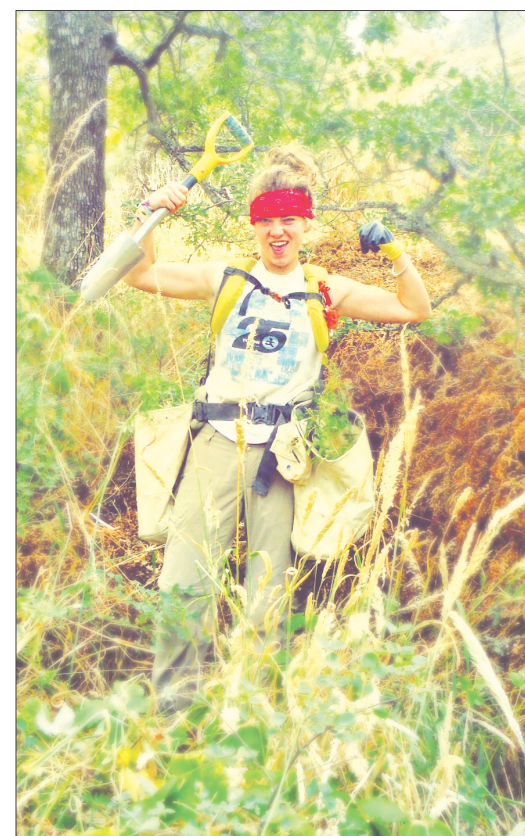
My advice to future rookies is, first, never drink the water. Seriously. And, second, create milestones for yourself, like the first day you've officially planted a tree for every day you've been alive, then the first day you plant 2,000 trees before 3 pm, then your first \$300 day. Find what inspires you and fight for it!

In my first season as a tree planter I learned a lot about perseverance, teamwork, the difference between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, and the power of a

happy song. It changed my perspective on life, made me hate the colour green, and perfected the long-lost art of relieving oneself in the wilderness. I'm grateful for the experience; it was an adventure I'll never forget. At least my back won't forget it anytime soon. Until next season!

Your hardships are for a greater good; you get to tell all sorts of elaborate lies when strangers ask you about your trench foot or the eight-inch scars on your legs. Regrettably, these stories are often the only payoff for your infected wounds.

Toilet paper and environmental responsibility



theatre Victoria Fringe Festival all about community, discovery

JASON SCHREURS
MANAGING EDITOR

With 54 shows spread across multiple venues during 11 jam-packed days of live theatre, it's easy to get overwhelmed by Victoria Fringe Fest. But, according to festival organizers and those who are mounting live theatre productions during Fringe, the best way to embrace the organized chaos of the annual live theatre festival is to jump right in.

And while you may lose yourself for a few days in the wonderment of various styles of live performance art, what you'll end up finding is even more important, says Rose Jang, the festival's first guest producer.

"The best thing about Fringe is the sense of community and the sense of exploration," says Jang. "I don't come from a theatre background, and it's something that I got myself into, and a lot of my first discoveries in theatre came from the Fringe—discovering the theatre community and discovering what theatre actually is."

Fringe producer and Intrepid Theatre director Janet Munsil approached Jang to take over the reins this year, an opportunity that the recent Camosun graduate didn't hesitate at grabbing. A longtime volunteer for the festival, the former Applied Communication Program student and *Nexus* contributor has experience volunteering, working at, and attending different Fringe festivals across Canada, but Victoria's Fringe has always held a special place for her.

"I like that it's different every year and it's such a huge community," she says. "Every year there are people that just pop out of the woodwork and I only see them at Fringe and it's a big, huge family. I love seeing my Victoria Fringe family every year."

Included in that family are the casts and crews of the 54 different plays from all over the world that were selected this year in the Fringe Festival's lottery system. Every year the festival includes many local pro-

duction companies, some of which camped outside of Intrepid's offices in January in order to secure one of 10 guaranteed local spots.

"This is the second time our company waited outside overnight for an early-bird guaranteed spot," says Dyana Victoria of Broken Rhythms, a Victoria-based dance company and former Pick of the Fringe winner that's mounting a new show called *SEVEN* this year. "It always feels great to perform in Victoria."

First-time Fringer but longtime local spoken-word artist shayne avec i grec will be performing in a two-man show called *The Anthropocalypse* this year and says although Fringes around the world share the commonalities of bringing art lovers together through live theatre, the Victoria festival is particularly special for him because it's happening in his community.

"The thing that excites me most about Victoria being our first Fringe Festival is the community that rallies

"A lot of my first discoveries in theatre came from the Fringe—discovering the theatre community and discovering what theatre actually is."

ROSE JANG
VICTORIA FRINGE FESTIVAL

together this time every year, and all of the smiles that I see throughout downtown," says grec, who also camped out in January to get his spot. "I know these are commonplace things of any Fringe, but this community is directly mine and I've always loved to ride that glow. Now I'm excited to help create it."

As a mid-sized Fringe festival, Jang says Victoria has the benefit of being small enough for theatre-goers to get to know each show in the program just enough to decide



Victoria Fringe Festival guest producer Rose Jang loves the fest vibe.

what they want to take in.

"Victoria's Fringe is big enough that you can't see every show; it would be physically impossible," says Jang. "But it's small enough that you can get to know every show a little bit."

As opposed to smaller Fringe festivals such as Calgary, which only has about 30 shows, and much larger ones like Winnipeg and Edmonton, with nearly 200 shows apiece, Victoria is a good balance of variety. And some inherent risk for good measure.

"Fringe is also about that sense of discovery," says Jang. "Because it's a lottery, we have no idea what the shows are going to be; whether they're going to be any good, what genres they're going to be... It's the cheapest theatre you can possibly see, and either you're going to see something amazing like you've never seen before, or something horrible like you've never seen before, which I think is a great reason to see as many shows as possible at the festival."

One of the shows hoping for attention this year is *The Princess Rescue Force* from Robin Gadsby's New Blood Theatre. Gadsby agrees that the theatre community in Victoria is a wonderful place for creative minds

to develop their shows.

"My favourite thing about the Victoria Fringe is the close support of the community," says Gadsby. "There's a great mix of reliable favourites, but it's also the perfect city for new writers and creators to try out their work for the first time, and it's going to be exciting to see what fresh stuff comes out this year."

UVic Fine Arts undergraduate Markus Spodzieja is such a fan of performing in the Fringe that he's actually in two shows this year, *The Rise of Basement Boy* and *Improv on Trial*.

"It feels good to be a local in the festival because Fringe is something that Victoria does extremely well, and I'm glad to not only be surrounded by local talent, but also be witness to everyone that travels great distances for our festival," says Spodzieja. "And any festival that has the creativity to make their mascot a llama mixed with a unicorn is alright in my books."



The Broken Rhythms dance crew are bringing *SEVEN* to Fringe.

A closer look at some local Fringe picks

The Anthropocalypse

Being billed as a "talk-opera," this two-man show is the culmination of three years of touring the North American poetry and spoken-word circuit. "We started building a reality-bending mythology, or fakelore, with the goal of creating the world's first psychedelic talk opera," says the show's co-creator, shayne avec i grec.

SEVEN

A 50-minute visual dance performance, *SEVEN* deals with the seven different stages of grief, "both the ugliness and the beauty," according to artistic director Dyana Victoria. The show uses rhythmical contemporary, a unique style of dance that "brings animalistic qualities into movement and highlights the importance of music in storytelling," says Victoria.

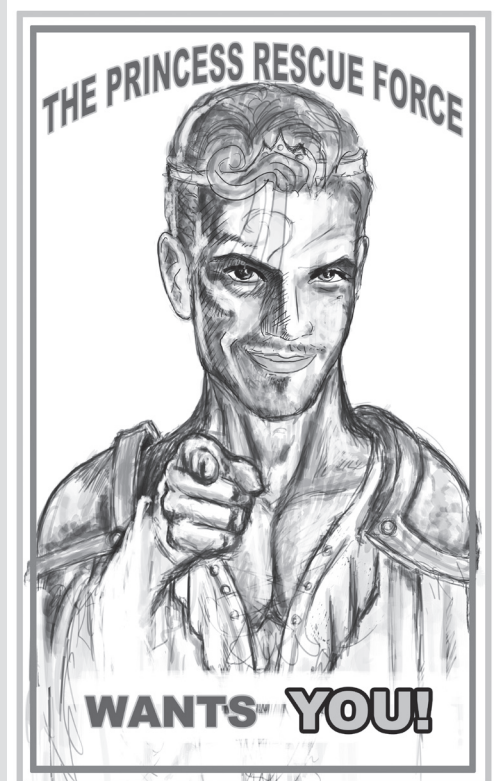
The Rise of the Basement Boy

Started as a UVic writing assignment by writer/director Shane Campbell, the play began to take shape when fellow UVic student Markus Spodzieja, who had previous Fringe experience, got involved in development. "To say our show is heavily geek-influenced would be an understatement," says Spodzieja. "Expect catchy songs, a few swordfights, plenty of nerdy humour, and a never-ending satchel of laughs."

The Princess Rescue Force

A farcical journey through a fairy tale world, Robin Gadsby plays 15 different characters over the course of this one-hour comedy show. "Fringe-goers can expect to see something completely ridiculous the likes of which they've never experienced before," says Gadsby.

-JS



review

Hip hop Bard play hilarious

MATTHEW HELLIWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What do you get when you mix Shakespeare with old-school, down-and-dirty hip hop? Probably either a laugh riot or a train wreck. Thankfully, Belfry's *The Bomb-itty of Errors* is the former.

Set in modern-day New York City, *Bomb-itty* loosely follows the plot of Shakespeare's original *Comedy of Errors*, plus some of the writer's own flair. Two sets of identical twins, separated at birth but hilariously named the same way, find each other on the same mean streets, confusing wives, lovers, prostitutes, and themselves.

Bombitty's cast is fantastic, and it's not until the final curtesy that you realize that five actors performed the entirety of the play. The company worked well together, not only in the directing of the play but also its choreography, with players jumping over, under, and around each other with the ease of gymnasts.

The play's original script is hilariously reworked from Shakespeare's iambic pentameter to a street-savvy set of rhymes, while retaining much of the eloquence of the original. Still, the true magnificence of the script is in its delivery.

Each of the actors is excellent in the rapping of their lines, accompanied by original music from the always-present DJ standing centre



CANDICE ALBACH

Shakespeare on hip hop: hilarious. stage. While you certainly don't need to know hip hop to enjoy the play, don't go expecting an original script with an occasional rhyme. The entirety of the play, minus a handful of lines, is rapped.

Bomb-itty remains true to Shakespeare's style beyond the script, too. Much of the play is a hilariously politically incorrect romp, which, while poking fun at many groups, may offend some very sensitive audience members.

My one gripe with the play was the way that the playwright chose to recreate the ending; it felt forced and untrue to the original classic.

The Bomb-itty of Errors is a hilarious play, which, while based on an amalgamation of old-school hip hop and Elizabethan theatre, requires a deep knowledge of neither and will leave you liking both.

The Bomb-itty of Errors
Until August 24
\$23 and up, Belfry Theatre
belfry.bc.ca

review

New hair metal book rocks

GREG PRATT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Even though the hair metal scene of yesterday is alive and well, it's not quite the same: you don't see Poison videos going viral or tweets from members of Cinderella all over the place. But, once upon a time, they were on every television and radio station across North America. It was the '80s, and *The Big Book of Hair Metal* by Toronto-based music critic Martin Popoff documents the hair metal scene.

Popoff is one of the world's foremost authorities on this kind of music, and it shows with this book: he's crafted a oral history as told by the people who were there, as well as creating a day-by-day breakdown of important events in hair metal's history.

The oral history is the only stumbling point, as Popoff's style here is to give the reader a verbatim transcription of the interviews (most of which he conducted himself). While it paints a fun, conversational picture, it also means there are moments of contextless confusion. It can be frustrating, but it's worth it.

So, wondering when Poison moved to California to break big (or where they moved from, for that matter)? When did David Lee Roth leave Van Halen? What exactly can you tell me about Hanoi Rocks? Probably not much now, but a lot more after you read this book.



And read it you should, if you have any interest in rock music. It was a fascinating time, filled with more ups and downs than people realized, and the story is told here. Plus, the visuals are stunning, every page full colour and jam-packed with artwork from rare singles, magazine ads, shirts, and more.

The book ends with the release of Nirvana's *Nevermind*, which hair-metal proponents have long argued killed the genre, or at least killed its mainstream momentum. (I'd argue that hair metal was wearing itself out anyway.)

It's important that scenes like this are documented, because I, for one, never want bands like Frehley's Comet or Salty Dog to be forgotten. Even if they were fluffy, disposable '80s hair metal bands, they were important. This book helps to ensure that their brief moment in time is remembered.

New Music Revue



Haverford
Alaskan Summer
(independent)
1.5/5

Long Island, New York is known for iced tea and being the most populated island in the United States. It is also home to the dreary alternative indie band known as Haverford.

Haverford does not disappoint on their latest EP... unless you were expecting music that was actually worth listening to.

Alaskan Summer sounds, ironically, as though a band that stayed in all summer wrote the music. The angst in Haverford's music is hard to accept in the middle of bikini season.

Perhaps if they had released this nasally sung EP while listeners were shovelling snow, not shotgunning PBR, they would have been easier to resonate with.

While the singing is desperate, the music is actually pretty good. With practice and dedication, Haverford might be a band worth listening to.

Unfortunately, for now, their music is forgettable at worst, bearable at best.

-ZOE HARVEY

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 Politically Speaking

by Matthew Helliwell

Canada's stance on Gaza conflict troubling

Canada's relevance on the world stage has only been increasing since World War II, for better or for worse. We still have far less sway than the US or the European Union, but on the rare occasion that Canada speaks, people actually tend to listen.

That's why I thought it was important to mention the Harper government's current stance on the ongoing conflict in Gaza. In an email circulated to party members and subscribers, the Conservative Party called themselves "the only party that stands with Israel" and listed several unsavoury labels for anyone who disagrees.

The problem here is the black-and-white thinking. Let's get one thing clear: not blindly following Israel doesn't mean one supports Hamas. Hamas are terrorists, and they do not shy away from that label.

At the same time, acknowledging Israel's right to exist doesn't mean I must support all of their defensive strategies.

Israeli and Palestinian citizens both have the exact same right to life, which is a sentiment not shared by many Israeli and Hamas leaders. Hamas policy is awful, Israeli policy is awful, and the citizens are left to suffer for it.

How many Palestinian mothers and children had anything to do with bringing Hamas to power? How many Israelis signed off on the bombing of UN shelters? It may be politically convenient to brush over the civilian loss of the Conservative's oh-so-ballsy "stand with Israel," but Canadians aren't stupid.

We know that there are two sides to every story. So when the Harper government calls total blind support

for Israel "Canada at its best," most of us at least do a double take.

They say that those who remain neutral in the face of injustice are siding with the oppressor. I'm glad that Canada is sticking up for something. I just wish that something could be security and opportunity for all of the millions of innocent bystanders in Israel and Palestine.

What do you think? Pipe in on this and all our stories online at nexusnewspaper.com. Make your voice heard!

Also find us on Facebook and Twitter to keep the conversation going.

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@nexusnewspaper.com.

 Age of Geeks

by Vishal Pandey

Handy apps for college students

College is a place to have fun, but it can also be challenging. It's almost time for the stores to be stacked with back-to-school offers, and the tech industry will be stacked with new releases. Adjusting from beer pong and beach parties to five days of college every week can be a bit challenging, but our good old smartphones can definitely help make the shift a bit easier.

Since smartphones have become a part of everyone's life in the sense that it's the first thing we check in the morning and last thing we do before we go to bed, why not use it for things that make college organized and let you ease into the classes? Here are my top picks for Android applications that should be a must-have for any college student.

myHomework
An excellent school schedule or-

ganizer, myHomework is free, with some ads popping up a few times. It has a class schedule and homework calendar, and it also sends you reminders and displays completed tasks. With these features, you're unlikely to miss anything important. You can also create an account with the website that will let you sync your stuff in the cloud and access it later on any device.

Smart Voice Recorder
This app is very useful during long lectures that you aren't really excited for. It specializes in long, hard voice-gathering sessions with excellent quality and good compression so that the recordings don't take up too much space on your phone. The cool part is that it pauses the recording when it detects relative silence, so you don't have to worry about those big gaps when the teacher goes silent.

EasyBib
One of the most boring tasks when writing papers is collecting and recording citations and references and formatting them into whatever the professor uses: APA, MLA, Chicago... it can be an exhausting exercise. With this app you can scan the barcode or input the name of the textbook and it creates a reference for your paper, preformatted in the required style. You can then email or share the citation.

These were some of my top picks for apps that college students will find useful, but there are tons of other apps to suit your college needs out there. For example, offline dictionaries, Wattpad, Pocket, and Scribd are few other noteworthy applications that you should have on your smartphone to make student life easier.

Camosun College Student Society columns

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

by Rachael Grant
ccss external executive

Hungry for affordable education

It's no secret that the cost of a postsecondary education is steadily climbing, causing students to feel the squeeze as it gets more and more difficult to pay bills, make sure rent is paid, and purchase food.

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) offers a food bank at both Lansdowne and Interurban campuses, and its high rate of usage speaks to how students are being put in positions where they need to make decisions that no one should have to make, such as choosing between food and tuition fees.


Going hungry shouldn't be necessary to get a postsecondary education, and getting by shouldn't mean that it's necessary for students to work while in school. Not only do high tuition fees generate additional stress, it's also a key indicator that our government isn't prioritizing postsecondary education.

Getting an education is an investment for society that benefits everyone, and increasing tuition fees to the point that students are struggling to eat is a blatant sign that these fees aren't realistic for many students.

The CCSS, as a member of the Canadian Federation of Students, is working hard to advocate for education that is accessible to all. Being a starving student shouldn't be such a standard phenomenon.

If you are a student who's having a hard time getting the food you need to get the most out your education, there are a variety of services in the community that provide food to those struggling financially. And, these days, that's a reality for far too many students.

Email external@camosunstudent.org for more information on what services exist in the community, what the CCSS offers for those needing food, or how you can get involved in advocating for accessible education.



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- BRUTAL
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- FESTERING
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- PAINFUL
- PEEING
- PESTICIDES
- SMOKING
- SOCIOPATH
- SWEARING
- SWOLLEN
- TAMPON

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Well now, that got your attention, didn't it? The first five people to find those colourful words above (taken from this issue's feature story) in the word search to the right and then bring it to our office will get a free pass for one admission to a drop-in session (swimming, skating, weight room, etc.) at any Saanich Recreation Centre, courtesy of Saanich Parks and Recreation.

The content doesn't end in the paper.

NEXUS

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College recognizes Chargers student athletes in 20th annual awards ceremony

April 16, 2014 by Jason Schreurs, manager
Filed under Campus, Sports, Web Exclusive

Elyse Matthews and Lucas Dellabough came outstanding achievement in academics and a awards ceremony. Matthews, a fourth-year w studies in the environmental technology prog

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Camosun students prepare to launch *Elsewhere*

April 10, 2014 by Giustina Qualizza, contributing writer (Edit)
Filed under Campus, Web Exclusive

Twenty-seven second-year Visual Arts students ar
Elsewhere, ready. The 27th graduation show out on by Camosun students in the program. Elsewhere has an

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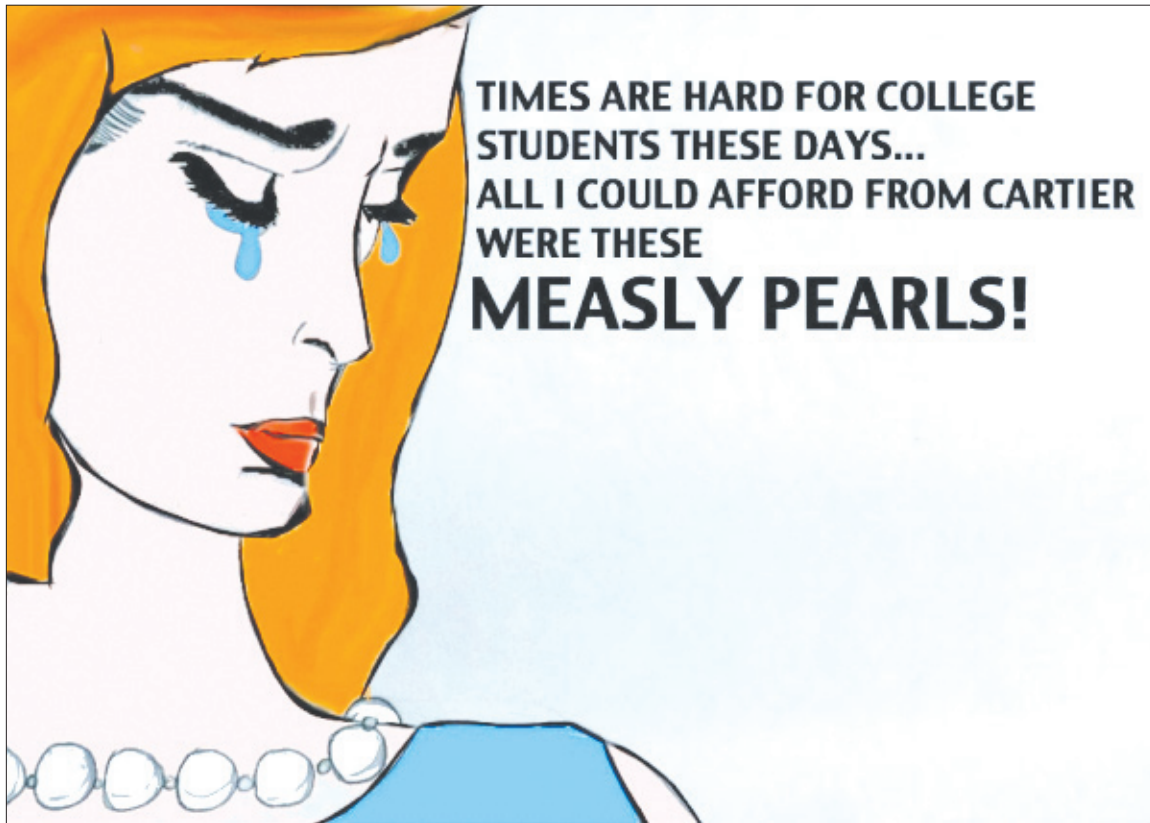
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#trustfundbaby By Zoe Harvey



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astrological asininity by River Rainfall

Aries: The fortune's kinda weird but here it is: watch out for Santa because it's totally the wrong time of year so it's probably not Santa and instead just some weirdo so just stay away K?

Taurus: You know what word I hate? Antipasto! Like, LOL! Antipasto, yeah right. Anyway, watch out for people who casually talk about antipasto because they're trouble. And people who say "antipasta," well, I can dig it!

Gemini: Totes thinking you're the coolest, just kinda tucked away in third place here but always being quietly awesome. The clouds are parting for you, my friend! Gemini rocks!

Cancer: LOL just kidding, I hate Geminis. Anyway, I'd like to draw your attention to your last exam marks and say this has nothing to do with fortunes, it has everything to do with you, LOL, can you just study a bit harder please and thanks? And your lucky number is 66... uh, forget it. Just keep studying.

Leo: Keep your eyes peeled for old acquaintances and new life opportunities. LOL just kidding that was my fortune cookie from last night.

Virgo: Okay, every time I go running across the Lansdowne campus, late for class, I turn a corner and plow headfirst into a deer! So I'm not even giving you a fortune, I'm giving you advice: don't run on campus! Or, don't be late for class! Or, just watch out for deer because getting impaled by their antlers

is really intense, just trust me on that one.

Libra: So last time I told you to go to Arizona. LOL if you did.

Scorpio: So, here's a true story. My editor keeps telling me that someone else is doing this column soon. I don't know what he means because I do it! LOL to him. But then I got this weird feeling that a Scorpio will be writing this in September... LOL if that's you!

Sagittarius: Watch out for little red devils with pitchforks poking your bum. Totes serious.

Capricorn: Hi! I've been drinking all this bottled water that expired two years ago and I feel a bit funky-funnily topsy turvy LOL. But why waste it? Anyway, your fortune is kinda related: stay away from water that expired two years ago. Weird.

Aquarius: The capture is on, the sun is left to right, and the beak is forgiven. Umm got it? See you on the upside-down-io!

Pisces: All right, these water bottles are now flying around my head! LOL to expired water, I love it! Pisces, get a pie and watch it fly, and come find me meditating on Hillside to get a slice or give me a slice or something uh-oh here comes another unicornio!

(Editor's note: The time may have come for River Rainfall to retire. We're on the hunt for someone to take over the astrology humour column or to do a new humour column. Get in touch with us for details!)

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