

Christmas illusions

Finding the meaning of
Christmas with Santas
of all kinds.

Page 6



The weird
and
wonderful
world of
*The
Nutcracker*
Page 8



Camosun
interns rock the
Victoria Royals
Page 4

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 was Santa once. The children were terrified of me."

COVER PHOTOS:
Jason Schreurs of *Nexus* as Santa: File photo
Nutcracker: Charles Hope
Victoria Royals interns: Victoria Royals

editor's letter

December delights

What a thrill it's been getting this issue's feature story together. Taking a look at the life behind mall Santas, incredible Google searches leading to wild and wilder stories from people who have done time behind the suit and beard, and... a man named Santa Claus with a big white beard who lives in North Pole, Alaska, and wants to run for president of the USA? Yup.

It's that time of year, and we wanted to bring you a story that was more fun than it was cynical, which is all too often the prevalent mood during December. So head over to page 6 for contributing writer Dorothy Eggenberger's feature story about the different sides of Santa... which includes a chat with the aforementioned "Santa Claus."

Travelling away from Santa's world and back to our own, there's plenty of Camosun content in this issue. Page 3 features contributing writer Giustina Qualizza's news story about the prayer spaces at Camosun and the misunderstanding that caused the belief that they were shutting down (spoiler alert: they're not). Page 4 features a story about Camosun interns working with the Victoria Royals, and page 5 has a profile of Camosun prof Brenda Clark.

Back in our ever-trusty arts section, there's an *Annie* preview from contributing writer Gariele Braaksma (page 8) and a *Nutcracker* preview from contributing writer Andrea Eggenberger (also page 8). Plus, puzzles (page 12), comics (page 10), and our humorous take on astrology (page 12)! Lots to read over the break.

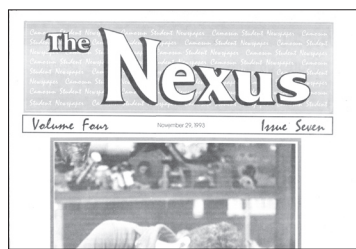
Speaking of the break, our next issue is on stands on January 8, just in time to welcome you all back, but keep your eyes on nexusnewspaper.com throughout December for some web-exclusive stories.

Happy holidays, and if you happen to find Santa on your own December adventures, send him our way... we have a few questions.

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

flashback

20 years ago in *Nexus*



Long-term forecast = not good: The cover story for our November 29, 1993 issue was a surprisingly grim look at job prospects for students, rising tuition fees, and budget woes for Camosun. "The '80s will never be recreated, and for some of us, these will be the good old days," is how the story ends. Of course, hindsight being what it is, some people might now refer to the '90s as good old days indeed. What do you think? Are students in a better or worse position now than they were 20 years ago? Let us know your thoughts.

No penises, no vaginas: Gender issues are always sensitive, as

displayed in a letter to the editor in this issue from Athena Tupatsch. The student says she was offended by a flyer that the Camosun College Women's Centre was handing out at the time, which had a "detailed illustration of female genitalia" on it. Tupatsch, who also clarified that she is indeed a feminist, said, "Just as I do not want to see the penis paraded across my eyes, I do not want to see the vagina paraded across my eyes. Nor do I see any need to pull my pants down to demand my moral rights."

The future is now: In the *Eco-Logic* column, Jonathan Beckwith decries the rebuilding of the Island Highway, saying the money could be better put to use with light rapid transit lines and bicycle paths. He ends off by saying, "And by the way, whatever happened to solar and electric cars?" It took a while, Jonathan, but electric cars are finally buzzin' up the streets.

open space

Canada's future in our hands, not looking good

RYAN BREZZI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What does it mean to be Canadian? If you've ever asked yourself that question and thought about it, I'm betting you found there's no good answer. Individually, it's hard to define what my identity is as a Canadian. Pancakes? Beavers? Maple syrup?

Economically, Canada is the globe's resource prostitute: it's always there, ready to provide, and it's always cheap. As the global economy grows, and the future

looks bleaker in terms of energy, we need a plan, despite not knowing who "we" are exactly. Canada currently depends on exporting its resources to stay afloat, but what will transpire when resources can no longer be used?


Canada is supposed to be the land of the "true north strong and free," but I don't see much freedom. I see governments that rely on a shock doctrine to achieve their goals, and I see an economy that's owned primarily by foreign companies.

Now, there's nothing wrong

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

correction

In "Transgender vigil targets transphobia" (November 13, 2013 issue), we incorrectly said that the Camosun College Women's Centre was directly involved with the Trans* Day of Remembrance event; they were not. We apologize for the mistake.



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We want to hear your story tips.

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NEXUS

SPEAK UP

Do you think it's a good idea for Camosun to have prayer rooms on campus?

BY RACHEL SOVKA



SASHA GOATLEY

"It's nice to have the opportunity for people to go there and meditate or do whatever it is they believe in."



SHAWNA CHEYNE

"Yeah, if people want that to go and express their religion, I have no problem with that."



RYAN VERWOORD

"It shouldn't have an impact on me, but you come to school to study, not to pray."



MARK TRUEMAN

"I'm more about freedom of choice than freedom from religion."



JAMIE PEARSON

"Colleges are government-subsidized organizations where students find their individuality; if it's not being taught it's not necessarily an issue."



CHELSEA VOWELS

"If you have to get up at six in the morning and you need a little break before you hit the next class, in my opinion I'd just like a place to go to take a quick nap."

student services

Camosun prayer spaces to stay open

“It’s a really important service that our students depend on.”

SIMKA MARSHALL
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

GIUSTINA QUALIZZA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Despite what was written in the Camosun College Student Society’s column in our November 13, 2013 issue, Camosun’s on-campus prayer spaces will not be closing, according to the college’s director of physical resources, Ian Tol.

A notice on the Camosun prayer space website was worded that “quiet space for prayer and meditations has been scheduled to the end of April 2014 at Lansdowne and the end of 2014 at Interurban,” which caused confusion.

The wording on the website, which the college says is going to be changed, suggests that the rooms would no longer be in use after these dates, says the student society’s external executive Simka Marshall, adding that the student

society needs to be informed of any changes to services.

“It’s actually in our agreement with the college that we have to have that prayer space,” says Marshall. “So we just find that wording weird, because if the college were to be making changes then they should have consulted with us, and we shouldn’t have to be the ones going to them for information.”

Tol says that the phrasing of the information on the website is what created a misunderstanding, and he assures students that the prayer rooms aren’t going to be closing any time in the future.

“In conjunction with Student Services we recently made the decision to change the website information for the prayer space page,” says Tol, “and we’ll remove the date notice from the website to avoid confusion, or the idea that the use would end on that date. The current prayer spaces will continue to be used for their function. If, in the future, a room shuffle needs to take place, the necessary notice will be provided.”

Tol explains that the confusing note on the website, which was still up as of press time, was put there because the booking period for the rooms was coming to an end, but the room was going to be rebooked for the prayer space.

He says that since there have



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

The prayer spaces at Camosun College’s Interurban and Lansdowne (pictured here) campuses will remain open.

been no internal conflicts with the bookings, the prayer spaces will continue to be available in their current locations. He notes that the department is working with the people responsible for booking the rooms to start a new policy ensuring their use as permanent prayer spaces.

University Transfer student Isa Ouellette says that having a designated prayer space on campus is needed.

“I don’t practice a religion that would lead me to use a prayer room,” says Ouellette, “but I can

see that it is still important to have. It could make students feel at home on campus.”

Second-year Criminal Justice student Angelina Atkinson agrees that having a space for students to practise their faith while on campus is an important service for the college to provide.

“It’s definitely important. Everyone has the right to feel included, and have a place to express themselves at school,” says Atkinson.

Marshall says the student society is relieved to hear that there will not be any changes made in the future,

as they feel it’s their responsibility, as well as the college’s, to provide this service to students.

“It’s a service that our students depend on,” says Marshall. “It’s important to have a safe and quiet space, free of judgment, to practise your faith. For some students, being able to practise your faith, or do any meditation or prayer, is really, really important. Without the prayer rooms, I’m unsure of where we would send students within the community, and the good thing about this space is that anyone of any faith can use it.”

economy

Camosun adds over \$1 billion to Victoria, study says

JASON SCHREURS
MANAGING EDITOR

A new economic impact study commissioned by the college shows that over \$1 billion annually gets put into the Victoria economy due to direct and indirect contributions from Camosun.

The study, conducted by Gardner Pinfold Consulting, was partially a strategic move by the college

and was commissioned by the office of Joan Yates, Camosun’s vice president of communications, advancement, and planning.

“It certainly highlights really well the role that we play in the community,” says Yates. “We wanted to understand all of that because it gives you considerable leverage when you’re having conversations with influencers and business, in-

dustry, and government decision-makers in the community.”

Yates says the college wanted to pinpoint how much they contribute to the community through their programs, but also as an economic entity.

“We spend a lot of money in this community,” she says, “and as you can see in the study, it’s quite substantial what we do here.”

The study found that Camosun alumni enjoy a 15 percent annual rate of return on their educational investment every year and recover their educational costs, on average, within nine years. It also noted a student satisfaction rate of 92.9 percent, something that has been steady for about five years, says Yates.

“We’ve been seeing satisfaction

rates as quite healthy for some time now,” says Yates, “certainly not in every area, but overall the fact that students keep coming, that our numbers are increasing, and that our retention rate is so good would lead us to believe that students, by and large, are satisfied with the education they are getting.”

The study can be found at camosun.ca/accountability.

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun offers dental services

The Dental Hygiene students at Camosun are ready to tackle the teeth of the general public! Basic cleaning services, X-rays, and assessments are available at the dental health clinic on the Lansdowne campus for a low cost. To book, email smile@camosun.bc.ca or call 250-370-3184.

Chargers women on a roll

The Chargers women’s basketball team have been on a roll this month with three wins in a row, while both women’s and men’s volleyball teams have been about 50–50 on wins and losses. There will be a few matches left by the end of November, so come out and help keep the winning streaks going!

Victoria’s bike master plan updated

Victoria calls itself the cycling capital of Canada for many reasons, including mild climate and a condensed destination area. The city council has announced that its Bicycle Master Plan will be updated to reflect the capital’s changing needs. With new infrastructure, Victoria could reach cycling rates as high as 25 percent in high-density areas, compared to the current nine percent. The Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition is holding a discussion and feedback session on November 30; check out some info at gvcc.bc.ca.

Kitchen scraps shouldn’t go to waste

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is upgrading its kitchen

scraps processing capabilities at the Hartland Landfill to meet projected demand. Waste removal companies are currently receiving an incentive to deliver kitchen scraps as separate loads from landfill waste and will eventually pay a surcharge on garbage loads containing kitchen scraps. Beginning in 2015, the CRD plans to ban such material from the landfill altogether, using it to create compost or biogas instead.

BC a hot spot for international students

In the past three years, BC has seen a 13 percent increase in the number of international students. The amount of money these students bring to the provincial economy has also jumped, according to a recent report. New Canadian legislation for 2014 is intended to strengthen the system and increase the desirability

of Canada as a study destination. The government has lent support to a new website that aims to further increase international student numbers, including those from BC who wish to travel. You can find it at bcstudyabroad.ca.

New indigenous activist website makes connections

Victoria-birthered group Indigenous Nationhood Movement (INM) has launched a website that intends to be a platform for sharing support and vision with people across the country. Large-scale movement Idle No More jumped into the media limelight last year with countrywide protests. The new INM website continues that momentum with more specific principles and campaigns, which everyone is invited to support.

Find it at nationsrising.org.

Doorknobs, use the door

Vancouver has officially become the first city in Canada to ban the installation of doorknobs in new building construction, including residential. The intent is to improve accessibility by using levers instead. The new building code also makes changes to faucets so they are easier to use for people with arthritis. The changes are predicted to influence building codes across the country, as Vancouver (the only BC municipality to have its own bylaws regarding construction and building design) has been somewhat of a trendsetter in the past.

—SAMANTHA PETTIFER

Got a news tip? Let us know!
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

internships

Hockey behind the scenes: sport interns reap team rewards

“We’ve seen some spectacular things from these students, and some of them become very integral to what we do here.”

JEFF HARRIS
VICTORIA ROYALS

JASON SCHREURS
MANAGING EDITOR

When Camosun’s Sport Management Program invited Jeff Harris of the Victoria Royals to do some mock interviews for their students a few years ago, it’s doubtful either party could have predicted the beginning of such a mutually beneficial relationship.

Harris, the local Western Hockey League (WHL) team’s director of hockey operations and communications, has since hired several Camosun students per year to do internships with the Royals and last year was named Camosun’s Co-operative Education Sport and Exercise Employer of the Year.

And at the danger of this becoming a “rah-rah-rah,” “I’ll pat your back if you pat mine” scenario between the two organizations, the Camosun interns working with the Royals franchise are reaping the rewards of internship positions that are preparing them for jobs in the professional sports team industry.

“We want to make sure that the students find value in these internships, and we want to give them lots of opportunities to succeed, and we’ve been very lucky,” says Harris from his office at the Save-On Foods Memorial Centre. “We’ve seen some spectacular things from these students, and some of them become very integral to what we do here.”

Putting in his time

Bryden Burrell is a fourth-year Camosun student currently finishing up his bachelor’s degree in Sport and Exercise Leadership at the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence on the Interurban campus. Burrell

is also the longest-running intern with the Victoria Royals, now in his fourth year with the hockey team, currently acting as the team’s communications coordinator.

Four years as an intern in any industry is a long time, but Burrell sees the value in putting in his time with the WHL hockey team.

“I didn’t really know what to expect with that first year and where it could lead,” says Burrell, “but just to be able to spend these past four years with the team, I’ve learned so much with regards to the WHL and working for a hockey team in general. That four years’ experience that I’m gaining from working with the Royals is just as valuable as the degree that I’ll walk out with when I’m done.”

Burrell now acts as a mentor for a new group of interns, overseeing them as they compile stats to distribute to the media before games, live tweet during the action, and write press releases and game reports for the team.

“I try to give them some advice,” he says. “I tell them that if they just keep putting in their time and working hard and showing them that you’re committed, by the end of it they’ll walk out of here with the experience and qualifications to get a job, even potentially into professional sports.”

With the end goal of getting a full-time job with a professional hockey team after he graduates in April, Burrell says over the four years of working for the Royals he has mastered the art of balancing his studies with his work responsibilities, and he has passed along this knowledge to new interns.

“One of the biggest things was the ability to balance your time properly between school and work, and that’s one of the things I’ve learned over the four years of doing this,” he says. “So I don’t have to scramble to do schoolwork at the last minute or anything. It’s definitely manageable, and to gain that experience has been so beneficial.”

Fresh, unbridled passion

Second-year Camosun Sport Management student Jeff Phillips is

currently a couple of months into his first internship with the Royals.

Phillips, who grew up playing hockey in Alberta but moved away from it in recent years to focus on track and field, saw his interest in the sport reignited when he returned to Victoria and started going to Camosun. PISE, he says, is a hotbed of hockey interest.

So, when a classmate who interned for the Royals last year mentioned there were more openings coming up in team communications, Phillips jumped at the opportunity. He remembers what it felt like the first time he walked through the arena doors.

“It was like a nervous excitement because it was something I hadn’t done before, in terms of the area of communications and writing. I wasn’t 100 percent sure, but I’ve actually turned out to be a pretty decent writer,” he chuckles. “I was nervous because I wasn’t sure if this was the right thing for me, but it was exciting because it was a new challenge and a new opportunity.”

Harris says having the interns around the rink creates a fresh energy that helps to keep all of the team staff invigorated, as well as make their daily tasks interesting.

“One of the things that students bring is unbridled passion. They want to be here and hockey is like any job, it has its day-to-day monotonies and the moments where you can feel a little bit run down, and the students come in with this enthusiasm and they want to learn everything,” says Harris. “They are so willing, but more importantly they are capable, and they come in with a really good skill set that they’ve been taught at Camosun.”

While Phillips is new to his intern position and will likely see it pay dividends as he puts in more and more time, he’s already feeling pretty good about working within the Royals organization.

“I’m enjoying myself quite a bit. It’s a lot of hard work, but for the most part it’s right up my alley and what I like to do,” he says. “It also gives me a different view on how sports teams run.”



Victoria Royals interns Bryden Burrell (left) and Jeff Phillips.

Success stories

Camosun Sports Fitness and Leadership and Sport Management graduate Rachel Sproule found her way to the Royals after she bumped into Corey St. Laurent, the team’s current manager of communications and hockey operations coordinator, at UVic.

After interning with the Royals last year in hockey operations, Sproule snagged a full-time position as manager of special events and hockey programs with the Moose Jaw Warriors WHL team in Saskatchewan. Now a success story for both Camosun and the Royals, Sproule has some keen advice for new interns.

“Try and experience as much as you can with the Royals; they do give you a lot of opportunities within,” she says. “They definitely give you the tools and leeway to do what you want, but they also expect a lot of you.”

Burrell, who hopes to follow in Sproule’s footsteps and secure a WHL job of his own in April, says her getting hired in Moose Jaw bodes well for other Camosun students interning with the hockey team.

“With Rachel getting that job it just shows what Jeff [Harris] and Corey [St. Laurent] are able to do with the individuals that are going through the Royals who are qualified to go into these jobs. And it also gives a good name to the school,” he says.

Rah-rah-rah and pats on the back

Although their work duties aren’t quite as fast-paced and exciting as the young WHL hockey players who hit the ice for the Royals and their opposing teams, there is a common thread for young interns looking to rise in the ranks of the sports industry, according to Camosun’s Sport Management department chair Nevin Harper.

“I have heard from students that they are excited seeing players jump from local minor hockey to the WHL, as well as the potential for the next step to pro hockey,” shares Harper. “A parallel experience exists for these students in their envisioning themselves working full-time in the WHL, as well as demystifying the thought of working in professional hockey.”

Dealing with Camosun College, says Harris, has been a pure pleasure for the Victoria Royals. “They’ve just been absolutely fantastic to work with in every possible way. They’ve been very supportive of what we’re trying to do here and they have an understanding that our commitment is a little larger than most internships,” says Harris. “They’re a first-rate organization to work with. From the work advisors to the teachers we’ve been dealing with, they’ve been absolutely top notch.”

Well, maybe those pats on the back and cheers we alluded to earlier might just be in order after all.

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Know Your Profs: Camosun's Brenda Clark

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 an 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 anthropology instructor Brenda Clark and talked about unzipped zippers, her potty mouth, and being late. Don't be late!

1: What do you teach and how long have you been a teacher at Camosun?

I have been teaching at Camosun for 22 years. In addition to teaching our Introductory Anthropology course, I teach Prehistory of Pacific Cultures, Human Evolution and Diversity, and Forensic Anthropology. My main specialization in anthropology is bioarchaeology, the study of human remains from the past.

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

Anthropology is a passion for me, so teaching gives me a captive audience, so to speak, to talk about all things anthropological. The best moments come when students make a connection between what we are discussing in class and their own lives. Teaching the second-year labs is the most fun for me because it is more informal than lectures and I

get to interact with the students on a one-to-one basis.

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

I love to travel. When I travel, I like to find places where I can explore the natural and cultural landscapes. So being outdoors in places like the Amazon or the Arctic, or rural England or rural Vancouver Island, is the best sort of experience for me. I find it impossible not to find at least one archaeological site to visit when I am travelling.

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

Well, I have been told that I have, on occasion, a "potty mouth." So I work hard at not having naughty words escape my lips.

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

Although it sounds counter-intuitive, teaching can be isolating. Therefore, I am extremely lucky to have the most wonderful anthropology colleagues. Tara [Tudor], Nicole [Kilburn], and I have worked together for the better part of a dozen years, and it's been great. We share ideas about teaching, research, marking, gardening, child rearing, and lots of other things.

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

Several years ago I was lecturing to my second-year students. Since it was a two-hour class, we had a break at the 50-minute mark. At the break, a student came forward



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun's Brenda Clark has learned about the power of laughter in life; she also likes corn on the cob.

and slipped a folded piece of paper across the table towards me. I unfolded the note and read: "Your zipper is undone." In this type of situation, you can either crawl away in embarrassment or you can laugh. I laughed. Now, I always check my zippers and buttons before class.

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

I might as well put in a plug for the social sciences, which must continue the excellent work of helping students develop the skills they will need in a dynamic workplace: critical thinking, problem-solv-

ing, understanding people, and understanding processes of change in both institutions and societies. These are skills that prepare students for a variety of jobs and a variety of situations. I think there also needs to be a bit of change in public attitudes surrounding skilled and unskilled labour. Canada needs all kinds of workers to make our society function well, and not everyone wants or needs to attend a college or university.

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

I have a very large garden, so I


spend lots of time planting, weeding, pruning, and creating outdoor space to relax in. I am also an avid reader, especially of murder mysteries, though I am currently reading [astronaut] Chris Hadfield's memoir.

9: What's your favourite meal?

Barbecued sockeye salmon and corn on the cob is a favourite summer meal. In winter I really like a good curry.

10: What's your biggest pet peeve?

Students coming late to class. It drives me nuts.



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“That’s the only moment I lost my composure.
I had never been
propositioned by a 14-year-old.”
Hank Angel,
former mall Santa



Finding

One writer’s quest to understand the highs and lows of mall Santa

A few weeks ago, I sat in Starbucks drinking my first eggnog latté of the season. For me, every Christmas season seems to start with the release of perfectly packaged beverages and the presentation of beautifully themed and decorated displays at Chapters. But as December approaches, I can’t help but search for the spirit behind the spectacle. Just like Charlie Brown, I want to know what Christmas is all about. And who better to ask than Santa Claus?

Charlie Brown, you need involvement!

My search for Santa started here in Victoria with the elusive mall Santa as my target. Perhaps the man behind the beard could help me out.

Victoria-based musician Hank Angel was employed as your typical mall Santa for two years at Tillicum Mall. His Christmas career began a few years prior when he volunteered at an elementary school in Edmonton where his sister was employed.

“She asked me to do it because whenever they used one of the staff at the school, the kids would always guess who it was,” says Angel. The kids failed to guess Angel’s identity, but not for lack of trying. “I remember this one girl, she was like 14 going on 19,” says Angel, “she walked up to me and looked me in the eye and said, ‘If you tell me who you are, I’ll let you kiss me.’ That’s the only moment I lost my composure. I had never been propositioned by a 14-year-old.” Undeterred, Angel applied for the position at Tillicum Mall.

There is more than one type of Santa here in Victoria. The Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) hires a Father Christmas every holiday season. He and Mother Christmas wander downtown giving out candy canes, posing for pictures, and spreading holiday cheer. Shawn Fehr, a local insurance broker, was hired as Father Christmas last year.

Fehr met Dianne Kanstrup, DVBA’s holiday organizer, through the Program for Academic and Creative Enrichment (PACE) at School District 62. “I’ve been quite involved in the PACE family for a number of years now,” says Fehr, the father of two girls. “Dianne just said she needed somebody, so I said, ‘Sure, what the heck, I’ll give it a try.’”

The big red suit has its perks and quirks, according to Fehr. “It’s a really unique experience,” he says. “The way the costume works is nobody can tell who you are. It can be completely anonymous.”

That can certainly help with stage fright. But the outfit can also be incredibly laborious, according to Angel.

“It was incredibly hot and incredibly itchy,” he says. “When you see Santa and he’s laughing and waving and smiling, they really should give him an Academy Award.”

Angel describes the suit as a one-man oven. “You’re wearing a red velvet suit with a pillow tucked into your pants,” he says, “so the heat has nowhere to go but up to your collar, but your collar is covered up with fur, and overtop of the fur is this big white beard. And then you have your own hair, a wig on top of that, and on top of that the velvet hat with fur trim. You’re cooking, basically.”

Fehr, having the benefit of walking outside, didn’t comment on the heat of the suit but did agree on the costume having difficulties. “We’ve certainly been offered free hot chocolates,” says Fehr, “but it’s really hard to eat with the beard on.” Unless he can get a treat to go, Fehr says he has to decline. It turns out milk and cookies are only available for certain Santas.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Victoria musician Hank Angel as a mall Santa.

It’s a wonderful life, says Santa

On the whole, playing Santa seems to be a positive experience. “Most of the time you’re running into visitors or tourists,” says Fehr. “They get so excited and it’s really neat to be able to make people’s days. I smile and give them a candy cane and they’re just so excited to have the experience.”

It wasn’t just the children who lit up to see Father and Mother Christmas. “There’s a lot of Japanese tourists that come to town and they just love it,” says Fehr. Even university students are still chasing after Santa Claus. Literally. “Last year,” remembers Fehr, “we had a group of students that ran two or three blocks to catch up to us to get a picture.”

You often hear horror stories of kids pulling Santa’s beard or going potty in Santa’s lap, but Angel says mishaps like that are few and far between. “Where I was,” he says, “nothing like that ever happened. The kids were great.”

Hank remembers one particularly heartwarming story about a family who visited him. After asking one of the children what they wanted for Christmas, the child turned around and asked what Santa wanted for Christmas.

“The kids were a little older,” says Angel, “so, instead of saying, ‘New bells for the reindeer,’ like I tell the little ones, I said, ‘A fedora,’ because the night before, I watched *It’s a Wonderful Life*, and seeing Jimmy Stewart in his hat, with his pipe and a holly wreath over the arm of his overcoat, made me think that someday I’d like to get a hat like that. The kids gave me a hug and I gave them a hearty ‘Ho, ho, ho!’ as they went on their way.”

An hour later, after Angel’s shift was over, the family came knocking. “There stood the family,” recalls Angel, “the youngest of the three kids holding out a black, Jimmy Stewart-style fedora.” The astonished Santa wanted to send the family a thank-you card, but the mother just said, “You work hard and it’s Christmastime, and we wanted to give you a gift. So, Merry Christmas.”



“Less than a minute after I finished praying, a plain, white sedan passed me on the road going in the opposite direction. Its window was open and I heard what sounded like a male in his 20s shout out, ‘I love you, Santa!’ I considered that as the answer to my prayer and decided to go through the process to change my name. I haven’t regretted it since.”

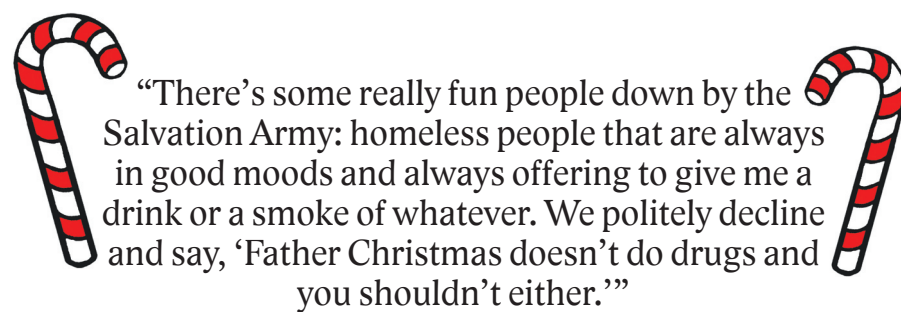
Santa Claus,
Christmas advocate



g Santa

and Christmas leads her through s and a man named... Santa Claus

By Dorothy Eggenberger, contributing writer



“There’s some really fun people down by the Salvation Army: homeless people that are always in good moods and always offering to give me a drink or a smoke of whatever. We politely decline and say, ‘Father Christmas doesn’t do drugs and you shouldn’t either.’”

Shawn Fehr,
insurance broker/former Father Christmas

Deck the parents

As touching as that one family was, once in a while, Santas can be exposed to some pretty forceful parents. Angel recounts one woman who put so much pressure on her kids about getting their picture taken with Santa that at the last minute one of the kids decided that they didn’t want to do it. “And she just laid into the kid and made him feel so bad that I just wanted to deck her,” says Angel.

“The younger the kid is, the less you can predict how they will react,” explains Angel. “You can’t really see Santa’s face: he’s got this big white beard, and these glasses, and this big fur hat. And some kids are just uneasy about that. And you have to respect that.”

Luckily, this Santa can strategize. “You’re going to be my special helper,” Angel told one kid. “You can stand right here and hand out the candy canes. That way you can watch how it’s done and think about whether or not you want to do it.” Hank says that this approach was successful. “He watched a few other kids get their picture taken, and he saw that they didn’t get killed, and then he was fine.”

Father Christmas, on the other hand, has different problems to consider. The homeless folks living in downtown Victoria can sometimes be aggressive, he says. “There was one time that a group of homeless folks started swearing at us because we wouldn’t give them any candy canes,” says Fehr. The group followed Father and Mother Christmas for a block or two. “It was a little unnerving,” he says.

However, the city’s homeless have been able to provide some holiday cheer as well. “Our walk takes us down by the Salvation Army,” says Fehr, “and there’s some really fun people down there: homeless people that are always in good moods and always offering to give me a drink or a smoke of whatever. They’re always entertaining. We politely decline and say, ‘Father Christmas doesn’t do drugs and you shouldn’t either.’”

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus! No, really.

As my search led me away from mall Santas, to my absolute shock and subsequent joy, I discovered a man legally named Santa Claus who lives in North Pole, Alaska. Yes, folks, there is a Santa Claus!

He’s a volunteer child advocate and Christian bishop and monk who named himself after Sinterklaas (Saint Nicholas), the real deal who lived during the fourth century in Asia Minor (now Turkey). But why change his name at all?

“In 2004, I grew out my naturally white beard,” says Claus.

“Due to my new appearance, many folks suggested that I do the Santa thing that holiday season. I was Santa for numerous non-profit organizations and enjoyed it. Early the following year, I was walking to the post office on a brisk, sunny day and prayed to God regarding my new image. Should I use my image to help children? Less than a minute after I finished praying, a plain white sedan passed me on the road going in the opposite direction. Its window was open and I heard what sounded like a male in his 20s shout out, ‘I love you, Santa!’ I considered that as the answer to my prayer and decided to go through the process to change my name. I haven’t regretted it since.”



PHOTO PROVIDED
Santa Claus

Claus is the founder of the Santa Claus Foundation, which advocates for two million children in the US who are abused, neglected, exploited, abandoned, homeless, and institutionalized. “Meaning they don’t have peace at home,” says Claus, “they don’t have love at home, usually, and that stems into the community, the country, and, ultimately, the world.”

However, the Internal Revenue Service restrains the foundation from lobbying or endorsing candidates that support their aims. Santa has since left his position as director to work independently.

“I still do the same work now, without the foundation,” says Claus. “Most of my volunteer advocacy work centres around prompting state and federal legislators to support a variety of legislation designed to improve children’s health, safety, and welfare throughout the United States. My legal name and location are powerful tools I employ to garner legislators’ attention and draw media attention to those legislators I feel are short-changing children.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Downtown Victoria Business Association’s Father and Mother Christmas.

Naming names

The name Santa Claus is definitely a powerful one. The Santa’s Bless the Children Tour and the Vote for Santa campaigns, just two examples of this man’s work, have drawn the media’s attention to several children’s issues on a national level.

The 2006–2007 tour, in which Claus visited every governor’s staff throughout the US, discussed a variety of issues affecting vulnerable children, including the formulation of new processes to streamline government and agency systems designed to serve vulnerable children, particularly those eligible for foster care and adoption.

“Since [the tour],” says Claus, “there appears to be more cooperation among the various states and increasing interest at the federal level in protecting these children and facilitating their new foster/adoptive parents’ clearance and placement processes.”

Claus’ independent write-in presidential candidacies in the 2008 and 2012 federal elections had equal triumph, with recognition from the Federal Election Commission and 15 states. He used his platform to address a variety of children’s issues. “I may run as Alaska’s sole seat in the US House of Representatives in 2014,” he says.

Reflecting upon Claus’ work, it’s no surprise that in 2009 he received the International Peace Prize from the Santa Claus Peace Council in Turkey, where St. Nicholas lived in Asia Minor many centuries ago. “Since 1993 [the council has] been giving the international peace award to folks like me,” explains Claus, “but also to the Dalai Lama. So I think that I’m in pretty good company.”

Sleep in Heavenly peace

Claus’ story is an inspiring example of what all people are capable of. He views world peace as something we can accomplish together. “We can do it, there’s no reason we can’t, and it starts in the heart of each child,” he says. But how can we, as students, get involved in this cause?

“Instilling a sense of love and security is very important in a child’s early developmental stage,” says Claus, “and often lacking in families stressed by financial and other limitations. Stopping bullying at home, in school, at work, in the community, our country, and the world is incredibly important. There are many non-profit institutions and government agencies that try to address this area of concern.”

Perhaps this Christmas we should dump the excess presents and spend a few hours volunteering at a local non-profit concerned with child welfare. To quote one wise holiday TV special, “That’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.”

A special Santa blessing for you and your family.
Wishing you lifetimes filled with happiness, peace, good health, prosperity, and, most of all, love.

ballet

The Nutcracker continues to enthrall audiences

“This, in my estimation, is the most beautiful *The Nutcracker* in western North America.”

STEPHEN WHITE
DANCE VICTORIA



CHARLES HOPE

The Nutcracker is coming back to Victoria, and this time, they've pulled out all the stops to make it look beautiful.

ANDREA EGGENBERGER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Snowflakes sweeping across the stage in a sea of white tutus, the Nutcracker battling the scheming Mouse King, Klara saving the day with her slipper... what Christmas is complete without the magical story of *The Nutcracker*?

This enchanting tradition began in the early 1950s when Russian-American George Balanchine, already celebrated in his own time as the greatest choreographer of the 20th century, shocked audiences by announcing his first full-length ballet would be *The Nutcracker*.

From its first premiere, the ballet was an instant classic.

Dance Victoria has presented *The Nutcracker* every holiday season for the last 10 years. This year, Alberta Ballet is returning with their multimillion-dollar production of *The Nutcracker*, which that premiered in 2009. Set in Imperialist Russia, Emmy-winning designer Zac Brown painted this classic in rich purples and reds, and bright blues and oranges.

“What’s really special about this production, for me, are the incredible costumes: coats lined in fur, beautiful white foxes, creepy,

life-like mice with rubbery tails... This, in my estimation, is the most beautiful *Nutcracker* in western North America. I have seen a lot and can say this with confidence,” says Stephen White, Dance Victoria producer for the past 14 years.

The dance company has grown incredibly since they began; their success is due to their passion for dance and their ability to pick productions that resonate with their audiences, like *The Nutcracker*.

“When I started, it was a small operation, a part-time gig that had an annual budget of about \$25,000,” says White. “Today, we

have our own 12,000 square foot studios at Hillside and Quadra, four staff, and an annual budget of \$1.3 million. It has been and continues to be a labour of love.”

White says fitting a large show like *The Nutcracker* on a relatively small stage like The Royal Theatre creates some interesting challenges.

“In 2009,” recalls White, “the Alberta Ballet brought two full-size transport trucks full of sets and costumes, only to find that they were only able to use about half the sets.”

Alberta Ballet partners with

60 local children from 15 different dance studios who auditioned in September and have been drilled on their steps since then by local rehearsal director Wendy Vernon.

“The whole thing comes together,” says White, “at one dress rehearsal that involves all the kids, the 31 professional dancers, and the 36 musicians from the Victoria Symphony.”

The Nutcracker
December 6-8
\$58-90, The Royal Theatre
dancevictoria.com

musicals

Annie provides a beacon of light in hard times

“Down to its bare bones, *Annie* is a story of hope, packaged in a nice family-friendly show.”

BRODIE NICHOLLS
ANNIE

GARIELE BRAAKSMA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Recent rainstorms in our area make it hard to believe that tomorrow there’ll be sun, but our favourite spunky orphan, Annie, will set out to prove us West Coasters wrong. Directed and choreographed by Tara Britt, this heartwarming story, put on by the Victoria Operatic Society (VOS), is a musical the whole family can enjoy.

“It’s a classic for a reason. Hopefully kids who see the show will remember it forever,” says Brodie Nicholls, ensemble cast member. “Down to its bare bones, *Annie* is a story of hope, packaged in a nice family-friendly show.”

Set during the Great Depression, the story trails the vivacious orphan Annie (Mariah McDonald)

on a search for her parents. Along the journey, billionaire Oliver Warbucks (Douglas Crockett) opens his home and, eventually, his heart to the bubbly protagonist.

Also in the cast are two conniving but hilarious villains, Rooster (Alex Judd) and Lily (Sadie Evans); six young, lovable orphans; and two adorable dogs that share the role of Sandy, Annie’s canine buddy.

What Victoria’s theatre community lacks in numbers it makes up for in talent and spirit. Most of the cast members in this production are under 12 years old, but in no way do their ages hinder their professionalism or performance skills.

“When I look at some of the choreography the kids do, I think, ‘Wow, that looks hard!’ I wish I was that talented when I was 11,” says Nicholls with a grin. “They’re all amazing artists. Everything is new and exciting for them. It’s refreshing to see. It reminds me of why I love acting.”

Nicholls also hopes that *Annie* inspires some of the younger theatre-goers: “I hope that kids get inspired and decide to do theatre, because there’s not enough kids in theatre nowadays. It would be great to inspire a future community of actors.”



DAVID LOWES

Annie director and choreographer Tara Britt surrounded by orphans.

Now in his fourth season with VOS, Nicholls aims to continue his passion for theatre, even drawing inspiration from the redheaded star herself. Annie has always been a story about beating the odds and achieving even the most incredible dreams.

“If you take away all of the happy music, it’s actually a pretty depress-

ing story. It was a really dark time in history. Parents were either dying, usually of starvation, or giving up their children,” explains Nicholls. “When Annie sings ‘Tomorrow,’ what she means is: stay focused and keep positive, because there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. She’s a beacon of light.”

And, hey, if Annie can soften

even the hard heart of Warbucks, maybe she can shine some light on this city’s notoriously grey skies.

Annie
December 6-15
\$21 and up,
McPherson Playhouse
vos.bc.ca

event

Fight 4 the Cause returns

ANDREA EGGENBERGER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fight 4 the Cause is back for its second annual charity event that combines the rolling red carpets of classic Hollywood glamour with the powerful gloves of the boxing ring. Last year, the event raised \$16,000 for four local charities.

When Kevin Brett, president of Studio 4 Athletics, saw Justin Trudeau's charity boxing match with Patrick Brazeau in 2011, it made an impact on him. After a friend suggested creating a boxing event in Victoria for charity, the wheels were quickly set in motion.

"None of these people have set foot in the ring before," says Brett. "It's bank manager versus construction worker, chef versus chef. Over 200 pounds was lost collectively by the team. Lives literally changed, because they had a big enough reason; they were inspired."

Celma Freitas is in the sixth week of the fighters' eight-week training program. This labour of love began with two days of technique, two days of cardio and weight training, and weekly guest speakers whose topics ranged from technique, conditioning, and nutrition to various aspects of health.

"One of the best parts is becoming part of a team," says Freitas.

"You get to know people, and you get support from everyone. We are about 10 in each team, training six times a week together, so you get pretty close to them, and, yeah, it's like family in my team."

The fights will be three rounds of two minutes with one minute of rest in between. "It sounds like nothing," says Freitas, "but, honestly, imagine two minutes punching nonstop. Two seconds is like an hour."

Only in its second year, the event has added a new fight in Battle of the Badges: the Victoria Police Department versus the Victoria Fire Department, with each department choosing charities to fight for.

"We find, particularly in the gym business, that sometimes motivation isn't enough. Motivation can wane over time. To stick with it you also have to be inspired. Inspiration is stronger than motivation," says Brett. "It's also pretty motivating to know that when you're looking at the snooze button someone else is already up training to kick your butt."

Fight 4 the Cause
6 pm Saturday, November 30
Carson Hall (Victoria Conference Centre)
fight4thecause.ca

what's going on

by samantha pettifer

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Literary love-in with local writers

As a fundraiser to start a scholarship at UVic, instructor and poet Lorna Crozier is gathering friends and associates for an evening of literature. Guests include Anne Michaels, Jane Urquhart, Patrick Lane, Esi Edugyan, Steven Price, and Carla Funk. Tickets are \$20, and it starts at 7 pm in UVic's David Lam Theatre. More info at finearts.uvic.ca.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Band on the run

Folk musicians The Fugitives are bringing their new album tour to the Copper Owl this week. Playing as a collective in Vancouver has given the founding duo's material an eclectic feel. One member describes the band as "like Broken Social Scene. But acoustic, and way less famous," in a press release. They might become more famous if you go to their shows, so check it out!

NOVEMBER 29-30

Force to be reckoned with

Eddie Izzard is bringing his standup comedy show, *Force Majeure*, to the Royal Theatre in Victoria. His style is surreal, absurd, rambling... if you're a Monty Python fan, you've probably already heard of Izzard. If not, you're missing out on some truly strange and awesome comedy, and should really be more on top of things in the future. Show info at rmts.bc.ca.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Shad is pretty rad

Juno-winning hip-hop artist Shad will

be in Victoria touring his new album, *Flying Colours*. Not content to just be a musician, Shad also has a business degree and a Masters degree in Liberal Studies. His music is unique: unapologetically Canadian, humorous, thoughtful, and genuine. The show is happening at Sugar Nightclub.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Music and mushrooms

Mushroom spore prints? Only an artist could imagine that: not only imagine, but actually create! If mushroom prints weren't enough, the prints themselves form a John Cage-inspired music score. There will be a free performance of the mushroom music by LaSaM's Experimental Music Unit at UVic's Legacy Art Gallery Downtown at 2 pm. More info at uvac.uvic.ca.

UNTIL DECEMBER 8

Romeo and Juliet, without the suicide

Would anyone raise an eyebrow anymore when Shakespeare's stories are changed, retold, or re-imagined? Not really. Many people mess with the Bard, but when it works, it can be stage magic. In *A Tender Thing*, playwright Ben Power imagines that Romeo and Juliet lived and grew old together, and they end up confronting an altogether different pain. The show plays at the Belfry Theatre with info at belfry.bc.ca.

DECEMBER 13-15, 20, 21

Do you love Christmas music? Like, really love it?

The holiday spirit is upon us, so trust

the Victoria Symphony to play its soundtrack. If Tin Pan Alley is your thing, there are plenty of classic favourites in *A Sentimental Christmas*, from December 13-15. "White Christmas" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" will never go out of style. Christmas purist? Handel's *Messiah* will fill your music needs, with guest soloists and a grand chorus, on the 20th. If you're more of an East Coast soul, Natalie MacMaster will likely thrill you with her exceptional fiddle playing in *A Celtic Christmas* on December 21. All shows are at the Royal Theatre; among others. Reservations can be made through the museum at victoriasymphony.ca.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Do you believe in ghosts?

The Maritime Museum is playing host to a paranormal investigation. Ghost-lovers will likely find plenty of spirit evidence in the old building, and the event team will be using some classic techniques: table tipping and glass moving, among others. Reservations can be made through the museum at 250-385-4222.

UNTIL DECEMBER 14

Neglected spaces have stories, too

Local artist Sandra Meigs formed her current project from the idea of unseen architecture, such as crawlspaces, basements, and storage spaces. The show uses giant canvases, ghost robots, and panoramic headgear to evoke the feeling of being in these spaces. The ghost robots also have a soundtrack, specially written for them. Seriously! Experience *The Basement Panoramas* at the Open Space gallery downtown: openspace.ca.

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Noms!

words and photo by Patrick Hallihan

Akemi offers seriously good sushi

Akemi Sushi serves a plethora of great authentic Japanese foods, including dozens of sushi, sashimi, and more. Located in what is now called the Goldstream Village, next to the Station House, it has an open design and plenty of space for big and small groups.

I have been to Akemi numerous times, and it's always great, so it really is about time I did a review on them (spoiler: I like this place).

The staff members are always courteous and friendly and seldom leave you waiting. Upon arriving this time, we were quickly seated by the host, followed shortly by our waitress, who took our drink orders.

While waiting for our food, I took in my surroundings more than I normally would (I had a review to write, after all). Akemi has a very simple design, focusing on open space and an overarching feel of cleanliness. No real knick-knacks to speak of, with tables unadorned and spaced neatly apart. It has an almost formal feel to it. It's a nice atmosphere and would make a great date restaurant for this reason.

We started with a bowl of edamame beans and tempura vegetables. The tempura was fresh and



Akemi Sushi has several delicious dishes.

delicious, and the edamame beans were... edamame beans. I never quite got the fascination with these things, to be honest, and apparently it's weird that I eat the shell and all (and, yes, I'd rather eat the shell than not). They're basically peas in a pod!

For our mains, my friend had a chicken teriyaki box, while I had the beef teriyaki box and a Rock 'n' Roll sushi roll.

Both boxes came with a simple salad and dressing, rice, and the teriyaki. Both the beef and chicken were well cooked with a superbly delicious teriyaki sauce. The rice was perfect, and who doesn't love sticky Japanese rice, anyways? I

would highly recommend both teriyaki dishes.

The Rock 'n' Roll sushi is also one of my favourites: deep-fried California rolls with spicy mayonnaise. They are amazing, and you should go get some. Seriously.

In terms of price, I would put Akemi somewhere in the middle bracket. We each paid about \$20 before tipping. The teriyaki boxes ran about \$10 and my sushi roll came in at about \$9.

If you're looking to eat a lot of different types of sushi I recommend getting a group together and sharing numerous orders around the table. It's more cost effective, and you get a great selection.



Age of Geeks

by Vishal Pandey

Xbox, PlayStation battle for domination

The last two weeks have been very eventful in the gaming world. Next-gen consoles from both the giants, Sony and Microsoft, are here. So this issue's column is dedicated to comparing these two consoles to see who wins in this battle of domination in the gaming market.

Xbox One

The new feature in Xbox One is a built-in and improved Kinect motion and voice sensor. It also has an HDMI pass-through, so users can watch and control their TVs through it. Microsoft's next-gen console retails for \$499, which is 100 bucks more than Sony's device.

Microsoft has really focused on integrating the TV and providing a complete living room hub environment to users, but critics say it's not quite there yet. So, a suggestion? Don't ditch your remote for this toy.

Xbox Live now has more apps and features and is still the same price, so that's good news for Xbox enthusiasts. Xbox One isn't appealing enough that a lot of PlayStation users will make a switch, but for Xbox enthusiasts it's a blessing.

The Xbox hardware has undoubtedly improved, and the new chipset improves the gaming performance by a mile compared to their last-generation console.

PlayStation 4

Just like Microsoft, Sony has tried to give its users a lifetime gaming experience. But, unlike Xbox, the new PlayStation 4 doesn't have a camera and motion sensor, which have to be bought separately. It has all the other features that Xbox One has and is priced at \$399, which makes this console more affordable than its competitors.

Sony has tried to keep it simple and precise. They have made a

gaming console that's focused on gaming without losing its charm in providing other perks. So they got that right!

The simplicity and main focus on games for this console can be a major selling point among users. PlayStation Network is now more affordable and more free games have been optimized for this console.

On the software side, PS4 lacks in making itself a complete living room package. But you can always expect quality and top-notch hardware from Sony consoles, and the company doesn't disappoint. The new PlayStation is highly comparable to the competition and does better in certain areas of usability.

Users will have to determine which new gaming console will dominate the market in the coming weeks. For now, both companies have displayed their cards on the table and left it up to users to decide.



Gameplay

by Stacey Young

New Nintendo titles battle console competitors

A lot of big things happened this month for us gamers. For months we anticipated the release of both Sony's PlayStation 4 and Microsoft's Xbox One, and now they're finally both here. How many gamers are enthused to go out and buy the new consoles? Honestly, I can say I'm not. At the moment I'm pretty content with my present consoles. So, while these two competitors duke it out with each other to see which console is the best, Nintendo has decided to jump into the fun by releasing new titles from two of the most recognizable franchises in Nintendo's history: *The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds* and *Super Mario 3D World*.

The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds

Platforms: Nintendo 3DS

Release Date: November 22

A Link Between Worlds is a sequel to *A Link to the Past* and is set in the same world as the Super Nintendo classic, but with new dungeons to explore and a new storyline to follow. This Nintendo 3DS version is unlike any of the recent *Zelda* games. First of all, those who are familiar with the process of obtaining weapons and valuable items in any of the recent series all know that we must go through dungeons and defeat bosses before getting any of the good stuff, right? But in *A Link Between Worlds* we don't go through that long, dreaded process that takes forever; no, we have immediate access to all the goodies. A rabbit-eared-wearing merchant named Ravio sets up shop in Link's home. You can purchase

or rent items and weapons from this wacky character and head out on adventures. The downfall is that if you die, Ravio will take away the weapons and items you rented, and you have to travel back to him to obtain these weapons and items again. Also, players have the choice to head in any direction they want. The game doesn't just push the player into a specific journey: the player gets to decide which journey they would like to carry out first. It's nice to play a *Zelda* game where you're given the freedom to explore wherever you choose.

Super Mario 3D World

Platforms: Wii U

Release date: November 22

Now Mario players can enjoy multiplayer gameplay while not being restricted to a two-dimensional plane. What makes this game so different compared to all the other *Super Mario* games? Princess Peach! For once, she is not being kidnapped by Bowser (finally) and she's been added to the character list. Yes, Nintendo has presented Peach as a playable character for the first time since *Super Mario Bros. 2* in 1988. Now, players can enjoy using Mario, Luigi, Toad, or Princess Peach, who all possess unique abilities (think about the abilities in *Super Mario Bros. 2*; kind of the same thing).

Well, I am leaving Camosun, so this is my last installment of *Gameplay*. Before I go I want to thank you to my readers and a big thanks to *Nexus* for encouraging me to write this column!

Earth Council By Adrian Behennah



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write epic stories
gain killer experience
beef up the Nexus crew

editor@nexusnewspaper.com

Camosun College Student Society columns



In Search of Lost Time

by Daphne Shaed
camosun college women's center

Gendered violence is learned behaviour

On December 6, the Camosun College Women's Collective will be hosting a poetry slam and spoken word event to raise awareness around gendered violence.

The focus of the evening will be the stories, experiences, and performances of those who have suffered from gender violence or have lost loved ones due to systemic brutality aimed particularly at women in western society.

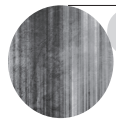
In media such as television, film, video games, literature, and the news, women are treated either as sexualized objects or the victims of brutality. However, there's another consideration: what about women who are so marginalized in western society that their suffering remains invisible and silenced by the mechanisms

of colonialism and racism?

Indigenous peoples may be absent from the multibillion-dollar industry of voyeuristic media portraying acts of brutality; however, they are certainly not estranged from the brutal acts of racism, colonialism, government legislation, white privilege, institutional oppression, sexism, classism, and, worst of all, inaction.

Gendered violence is a systemic and structural problem in this country that has pervaded unchecked. What are we doing? What more can we do? The first step in creating a dialogue is listening.

Please join us on December 6 at the Victoria Event Centre from 5–8 pm. Remembrance in our hearts and honour through action!



Queerly Forward

by Piotr Burek
camosun college pride collective

Ever been fisted?

Well, I hope that headline got your attention. Oftentimes it can be difficult to talk about sexual fetishes and practices that escape the norm.

You might get a lot of awkward stares and gasps, if all of a sudden, you start talking about the arm that went up your ass the other night, or the clamps that turned your nipples into giant purple bruises, or the whips received by perfectly constructed leather flogs that left you reeling in pleasure. Many forms of sexual practices are left out of mainstream sex talk.

It's important to understand that not all fetishes are sexual in nature. For example, some people just enjoy being wrapped up in cellophane, and others just enjoy putting needles through their skin in wonderful play-piercing patterns.

The practices by no means have to have a sexual connotation. Even without a sexual element, some of these practices can be risky, so it's important to inform yourselves about the risks. There are always ways to make play safer!

Stigma has been a leading factor in keeping these conversations under the rug, but it's time to start speaking up.

Really, in the end, who cares about what people do in terms of their sexual desires? People should be enabled to explore their desires freely, as long as the imperative lines of consent are in place.

Fetish and kink can be really hot, and, who knows, it just might make you cum in ways you've never imagined.



Mind Your Business

by Gariele Braksmas
camosun college DECA club

Don't rue the resumé

One of the most stressful and complicated processes when applying for a new job is preparing that dreaded resumé. Sometimes the only hurdle that stands between you and a coveted position is a resumé that fails to impress. Here are a few tips that will make this process a little easier.

It's okay for a resumé to be longer than one page

The business world has finally accepted that there's no possible way to include 10 years of experience on just one sheet of paper, never mind the margins! Today, a standard, comprehensive resumé can be up to three pages, including a reference sheet.

No objective? No problem

In fact, if you're not aiming for a specific and targeted goal, it's better to leave out the objective altogether. The last thing an employer wants to read is a generic, bland statement, such as "looking for a rewarding position that will allow me to showcase my skills." Instead, emphasize your accomplishments in a "summary of qualifications" section.

Important information goes first

The best place for your qualification summary is right under your contact information. Imagine how many resúmes an employer sifts through. Most employers decide if you're a potential candidate before

even reaching the midpoint of the first page on your resumé. Imagine your page folded horizontally into three equal parts. The first third of the paper is where your most important information should reside.

Carefully edit before submitting

Now, this should really go without saying, but submitting an error-free resumé is absolutely essential. Because it's easy to miss common errors, proofreading should definitely not be overlooked. Prior to submitting your resumé, search extensively for errors (even double-check that your name is spelled correctly!) or have a friend suggest small changes.



Ability's Muse

by Rachael Grant
camosun college students with (dis)abilities collective

Social violence and (dis)ability

There are many forms of social violence, and those with visible (dis)abilities, and to some extent invisible (dis)abilities, are at the brunt of this violence on a regular basis. The type of social violence directed towards those with (dis)abilities often comes in the form of psychological harm as a result of insults, the questioning of the existence of a difference in ability, invasiveness, and the blatant disregard of the humanity of the individual(s).

Social violence in its essence is a form of harm that can be based out of curiosity as well as lack of regard for, or awareness of, another's social boundaries. Social violence can be subtle and slightly frustrating to the individual it's directed at, but it can go so far as to be blatantly evident and devastatingly damaging.

Questions such as "How do you have sex?" or "Why are you like that?" are far too frequently exercised examples of this disrespectful engagement. Use of the word "retarded" as an insult should also be considered a form of social violence.

This is harassment and is oppressive, and shouldn't be taken lightly, as it's damaging to a substantial community. The use of phrases such as these is nothing short of a potential assault to the well-being of another.

This behaviour comes about as a result of a dramatic power imbalance that exists between those who don't perceive themselves as (dis)abled and those who are perceived as such. The harassment of another based on a (dis)ability is an affront to the basic human rights of safety, well-being, and dignity.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

by Simka Marshall
ccss external executive

Time to make transit work

Have you ever been passed up by a bus that's too full? Being passed up by BC Transit buses is a regular occurrence for many students who travel along the major routes servicing both Camosun campuses and the UVic campus. Having a bus go by them has many negative impacts on students' lives, including forcing them to be late for or miss their classes.

Last September, over 16,000 bus pass-ups were recorded in the Greater Victoria area, and the actual number of pass-ups is believed to be higher, as many go unreported. There are many reasons why pass-ups happen, but almost all of them are linked to funding and governance.

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS), the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS), and UNIFOR 333 (Greater Victoria Bus Driver's Union) are working together through the Make Transit Work campaign, which advocates for a reliable, quality transit system for all public transit users.

The coalition of organizers has been circulating a petition that calls on the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC) to implement bus-only lanes, ask the province for an increase on local gas tax, and lobby the province to allocate a portion of the carbon tax towards public transit.

Postsecondary students make up the single largest portion of transit riders in the region and provide over \$4.5 million in funding to the system through the U-Pass. Students pay more than their fair share, and that's why we're petitioning the VRTC to make changes now.

The Make Transit Work coalition will be holding an awareness and appreciation day on Wednesday, December 4 at UVic from 12:30–2:30 pm.

Free hot dogs and coffee will be served and petitions will be circulated. For more information on this campaign, please visit our website at maketransitwork.com or email Simka Marshall at external@camosunstudent.org.

NEXUS



Dunlop House Pub

November 28 - When In Vegas



December 5 - Under construction

Every Thursday from 4 to 6 pm.
Off Lansdowne Road,
across from the Camosun staff parking lot.



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

Find Your Voice. Speak Your Mind.
Lan: 6:45 PM Thur, Paul 216 Int: 5:15 Tue, Campus Ctr 320
Info on the web: <http://camosuncollege.toastmastersclubs.org>

sudoku

answers for #1 (left) and #2 (right) online at nexusnewspaper.com today! head to our web exclusive section to find them.

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

nexus cover word search

The first five people to come by the *Nexus* office with this word search completed get... well, nothing. We were giving away CDs but they're all gone. As of press time, we still have leftover Halloween candy. Just lollipops, though. All the good stuff went fast. Still.

This issue, we decided to look back at our covers for this semester and pull some key words off them for you to find below. Have fun!

What puzzles do you want to see in the paper for the January semester? Get in touch and let us know.

- ALUMNUS
 - BEER
 - CHAOS
 - CHARGERS
 - CHIP
 - CLARITY
 - ENDURE
 - FUNDING
 - HUMANITIES
 - IDEAS
- KING
 - LGBTQ
 - MADNESS
 - NASA
 - NURSING
 - PIPELINE
 - PRISON
 - PUPPET
 - SPOOKS
 - YER

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astrological asininity

by River Rainfall

Hi! So, totally someone thinks I'm making fun of astrology. Totally I'm not! Why WOULDN'T the stars and planets be able to tell me what's in your future? Totally real. Totally go away if you don't believe me. I've even got a crystal ball! It's got little lines of electricity that come up to my fingers when I touch it! Totally real.

Aries: Hi! LOL you're always first. So, you'll probably be first in line somewhere the next couple weeks.

Taurus: Uh-oh, umm, last time I said I meant 77 when I said 76 the time before last time but, um, totally meant 76 to begin with. Can we just go back in time and fix that? LOL, as if!

Gemini: I'm eating chips and I think it's making things greasy. So, avoid chips! No, don't, they're the best!

Cancer: Hi! How's everything going? Look out for business meetings and try to get that love life ramped up a bit, k?

Leo: So, after last issue's column, I met a Leo named Lee! SO COOL! I figured if we combined our names we'd be Riverlee. Say it loud, it's like Riverly, LOL. Hi, Lee!

Virgo: Lucky number is 13! Ummm... whoa. That's some freaky stuff right there!

Libra: Focus on the classes you think are easiest; they're not always. And, buy me a drink. LOL, didn't see that coming!

Scorpio: Holy cow, how many more of these are left?

Sagittarius: I get you mixed up with Scorpio because you both start with "s" and you're right next to each other. So, to you AND Scorpio, I say this: a mistake with homonyms will lead to a humorous, if not catastrophic, misunderstanding. Look out!

Capricorn: Mo! LOL... oh, wait, that's what I said last time. Doesn't make much sense here, does it? Capricorn! What's up?

Aquarius: You probably don't know this, but I'm an Aquarius, too! NO KIDDING. Totally best sign. What's your sign? AQUARIUS, if you're me, LOL.

Pisces: So, um... did you get up on the downlow, like I predicted you would? Um... what did that end up meaning? Like, was it dirty, or was it just like "things are good, man," or what? Let me know! Bye, everyone! Especially you, Lee!

Your student voice.

NEXUS
camosun's student voice since 1990



If you're interested in volunteering at an award-winning student newspaper, stop by our offices at Richmond House 201 on the Lansdowne campus, or contact us by email (editor@nexusnewspaper.com) or phone (250-370-3591).

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N.Y.E. 2014

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PARTY STARTS AT 9:00PM \$20 ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT STRATHCONA HOTEL FRONT DESK AND TICKETZONE.COM