

BEER

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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "The Bum spread looks amazing."

COVER IMAGE:
Beer: Greg Pratt/*Nexus*
Camosun student showcase: Camosun College A/V Services
Bitcoin: Photo provided
Bum: Photo provided

editor's letter

It's a sudsy September

New students and returning students, we'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you (back) to Camosun and welcome you to the first issue of *Nexus* for the fall semester. We'd like to offer you a beer, but we drank 'em all. Which brings me to the first order of business: this issue.

Head on over to page 8 to read contributing writer Zoe Harvey's story about the local beer scene. Now, we've all read the story about how craft beer and microbreweries are taking over, and, to be frank, we're bored of it. So we decided to take a closer look at Victoria's beer scene to find out what's behind all the hype and, to keep it interesting, sample a buncha brews to let you know what's good and what's not.

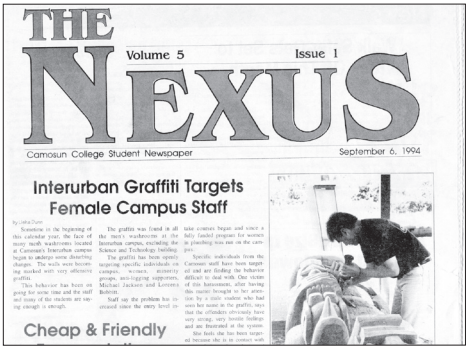
Speaking of what's good, let me tell you as someone who saw Victoria pop/punk legends Bum perform back in the early-to-mid-'90s, Bum are good. Really good. So when news hit that the guys are reuniting for an appearance at this year's Rifflandia fest, we knew we had to talk to them to get the scoop. Find our never-thought-it-would-happen feature story on page 6.

There's more to explore, so I'll just let you get to it... but not without first mentioning that we here at *Nexus* are always looking for new writers! No experience is necessary and you get to do all kinds of fun and interesting things. Drop us a line today to get involved with your student newspaper! We hope you enjoy this issue and hope to hear from you soon.

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

flashback

20 years ago in *Nexus*



Walk Safer turns 20: We're not sure if it's cause for celebration or dismay that 20 years after its inception a program helping students walk safely to their cars or off campus is still needed, but, hey, happy birthday Walk Safer! Back in our September 6, 1994 issue, we wrote an article announcing the program's launch; their work is still very much appreciated, but hopefully they won't be needed in 20 years. No offense.

Graffiti of the times: The cover story of this issue talked about some disturbing graffiti over at Interurban that was targetting female campus staff. But in an only-woulda-happened-20-years-ago twist, the graffiti also targetted, among other things, "Michael Jackson and Loreena Bobbitt."

Tech gets big: In this issue we also had a story talking about how the Interurban campus had become larger than the Lansdowne campus. Seemed a bit strange back then, but with the amount of attention, and money, that the Interurban programs get compared to the Lansdowne programs nowadays, it makes perfect sense.

Commonwealth comment: Our *Sports Comment* column took a jab at the Commonwealth Games, which were happening at the time in Victoria. In regards to synchronized swimming, writer Chris Siver said that "although the judges would never admit to it, the women are judged by what music they choose and how good they look in a bathing suit." Any ex-Commonwealth judges out there care to comment?

open space

Canada's cops a light in the dark

There's something distinct about Ferguson: the pictures could just as easily have been from Afghanistan or Iraq as small-town Midwest USA.

MATTHEW HELLIWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The year is 1968, and Chicago is rioting after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Er, maybe it was 1992, with people in Los Angeles rioting to express anguish at their perception of racist policing. Wait, no, it was London in 2011.

No, scratch that, too. I'm thinking of last week in Ferguson, Missouri.

Riots started in the small suburban town outside St. Louis after the police shooting of an unarmed black youth named Michael Brown. Details around the shooting are murky, with both sides telling radically different stories, but none of that is the point here.

The most radical difference between the aforementioned riots and Ferguson was the police response. In Chicago in '68, people were beaten and arrested. In LA, the National Guard was called in, and there were major oversteps in power. London was the one of few times people in the international community actually complained about the British police.

And yet, there was something distinct about Ferguson: it was the only one of the riots where the pictures could just as easily have been from Afghanistan or Iraq as small-town Midwest USA.

Cops in full combat camouflage and tanks, equipped with snipers and assault rifles, stood alongside

rioters like some kind of post-apocalyptic video game screenshot.

The police response spawned opinion pieces from US Congressmen, former cops, lawyers, and judges all over the country, mostly shocked at the militarization of police. Ferguson has been proof that regardless of what sparked the riots, the militarization of police has simply gone too far in the US.

But before you get out your pitchforks, look at our own little patch of grass as a catalyst for positive change. Canadian police departments have, in recent years, been attempting to change how they are perceived and really start to work for the communities that employ them.

Little semantic things, like changing "police force" to "police service," or the recent program by the Edmonton Police that attempts to reconcile their poor relationship with Edmonton's Aboriginal community, go a long way to re-establishing trust.

Some places have further to go than others, like Montreal, whose response to being criticized for abuses in handling the student protests were met with new tanks and middle fingers.

Even here in Victoria, our cops have a history of protecting and serving the *shit* out of you. Still, maybe Canadian cops are on the right track to beginning to work for the people again.

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

SPEAK UP

What's your favourite beer?

BY GILLIAN SELLMAN



JASMINE WEYNSCHENK

"Pabst Blue Ribbon. I just found out about it when I was in Kensington and Calgary. It's really cheap, so you get a lot of it, and it tastes good."



MOTRIA IWAN

"Budweiser, because my guy friend drinks it, so that's what I drink."



LEO ZHANG

"I don't drink beer for health reasons."



NICOLAS LOPEZ

"Cerveza Club Colombia, because it's kind of sweet and kind of bitter, but not too much. And it has 7.5% alcohol."



RAE GALLIMORE

"Blue Buck, by Phillips, because it's local and awesome."



CHARLIE OZKAN

"Tuborg Red. It's a Danish beer but they sell it here, and it has a really strong taste and good effects."

technology

Camosun Mechanical Engineering showcase brings new inventions, beer to campus

GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

A new invention that could change the face of the craft-brewing scene is just one of the projects on display at the upcoming Camosun Mechanical Engineering showcase.

Second-year Mechanical Engineering technology student David Gilmour has no shortage of enthusiasm for his team’s project, which is one of many student inventions being showcased at the upcoming event.

What Gilmour refers to as an “automated carbonated beverage-dispensing device” is, upon further investigation, a beer-vending machine.

“It was quite daunting,” admits Gilmour about the machine, which will be used to refill Phillips brewery growlers. “There was a lot of work involved. But we got a good group of guys together for my team and we did a lot of research to make sure

“It’s a great demonstration of ingenuity of inventive thought, no matter what your discipline is”

JEFFREY STEPHEN
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

everything was going to work at the beginning, so it made it nice and smooth for us once we got into the actual building of the machine.”

The showcase, which is happening on Friday September 19 from 10 am to 2 pm at the basketball court on Interurban’s campus, provides students a chance to show their peers what they’ve been working on. It also serves as a chance for them to think back on their program and what they’ve learned. Gilmour

says that the hands-on experience of getting the projects ready for the showcase has been one of the most important parts of his program.

“Almost as much as I’ve learned theoretically through the rest of the program I’ve learned practically doing this,” he says. “It really applies a lot to what we’re actually doing as technologists and engineers. It’s good to sit and learn about the theory as the backbone, but to actually put it to use solidifies a lot of the ideas we’ve learned.”

Second-year Mechanical Engineering technology student Leslie Culbard agrees, saying “the amount that you learn in three months is a lot greater than what you learn in classes over the two years.”

Culbard and her team have created a dough dispenser that extracts gluten-free dough for Origin Bakery. She says it’s been difficult but the rewards are obvious to her when she’s in job interviews.

“I’ve been to a couple interviews,” she says, “and the first thing they say to me is, ‘Oh, you’re going to Camosun? What project are you working on?’”

Mechanical Engineering Technology faculty advisor Jeffrey Stephen says that the momentum of the showcase and the students’ talents are becoming “much more well known” in the community.

“We’ve had a few successes in the past, word of mouth has spread, and other companies are coming to us and saying, ‘Hey, why don’t you come pay us a visit? We’ve got a few ideas in the fire that we’d love for you to tackle,’” says Stephen. “As the program goes along, we’re becoming quite an interesting bit of the local commerce.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

A team of Camosun students are designing a beer vending machine.

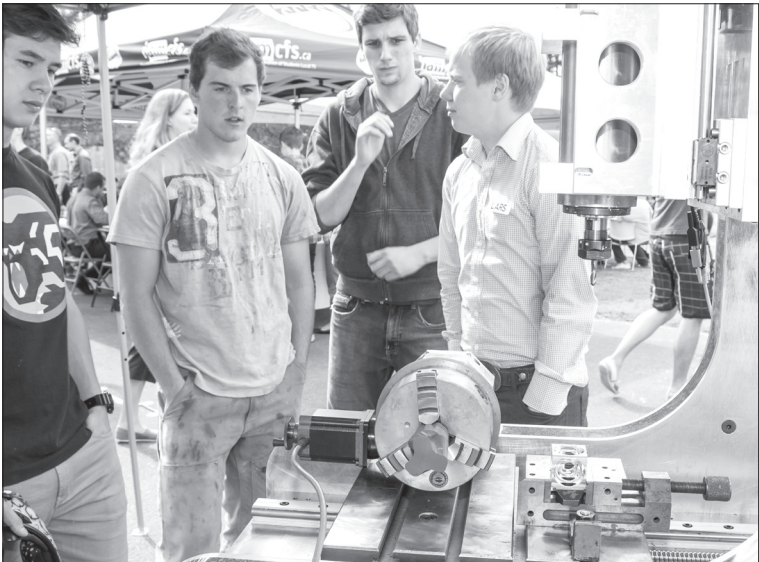
All of which sounds great, but is the average student studying, say, psychology at Lansdowne going to venture out to Interurban for the event? Well, apart from the draw of the aforementioned beer, Stephen says that the skills on display can be applied to all disciplines.

“It’s a great demonstration of ingenuity of inventive thought, no matter what your discipline is,” he says. “And our students have really studied that process. To go and talk to them, to get explanations from them about how the process started with zero ideas on the board to an actual physical product, that can be applied to every discipline. Whether

you’re in software or hardware or a cook, we all go through this creative process.”

Stephen says the showcase has ventured out this year, and as a result the ties with local businesses have expanded, which brings us back to the beer machine, definitely something worth making the trek out to Interurban for.

“We really put ourselves out there this year,” says Stephen. “We have stronger ties within the community and industry, and the industry is moreso coming to us with their issues rather than us going to them. And we’re more than happy to take it on.”



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

Students at a previous year’s Mechanical Engineering showcase event.

NEWS BRIEFS

The Camosun Express returns

The Camosun Express shuttle bus, which offers free intercampus travel and links to the West Shore for students and staff, will resume September 2 until December 5, and then start again in the winter semester. Free wifi and bike storage are provided on the shuttles, which leave Interurban hourly on the half hour, from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm, and leave Lansdowne hourly on the hour from 8 am until 4 pm. The shuttle also does a morning pickup at the Langford Exchange and the Six Mile Pub, and returns at the end of the day. Go to camosun.ca/about/transportation/camosun-express.html for more details, maps, and schedules.

Easy way to update your UPASS

New kiosks are now available at both campuses to easily update the UPASS information on your student cards. The easy-to-use

kiosks are located in the Fisher Foyer at Lansdowne and the second floor of Campus Centre at Interurban and should eliminate some of those pesky lineups for returning students (new students will still need to line up to get a student card, unfortunately). One simple swipe at the beginning of each semester and students will happily be back on the busses.

Camosun childcare centre has spaces

For those looking for on-campus childcare, the Camosun child care services has fall openings for preschool children aged 3–5. Remaining spaces fill up quickly, so anyone needing a spot for their child or children is encouraged to contact manager Lisa Stekelenburg as soon as possible at 250–370–4889.

Camosun Chargers tryouts

Feeling sporty? Camosun’s men and women’s sports teams are looking for new athletes to proudly sport the college’s blue and whites this year.

Spots on the basketball, volleyball and golf teams are available and camosun.ca/sports/chargers/news/2014/august/tryouts.html has more information on all of the tryouts.

Youthspace needs volunteers

Want experience working with at-risk youth? A great opportunity to work for one of Victoria’s crisis lines has opened up. This October, Youthspace Crisis Chat will be accepting a small group of volunteers who will be trained to provide support to chat visitors. Those interested don’t need experience, as volunteers will receive over 40 hours of training in reflective listening, risk assessment, and crisis response. Visit youthspace.ca/volunteer for more information.

CRD and MEC host races

The Capital Regional District and Mountain Equipment Co-op are hosting two races that are open

to everyone. The races both start at 8:30 am and take place on September 7 starting at Harbour Road in Vic West and October 26 starting at Hamsterly Beach. The races are a way to promote public parks and inspire a healthy, active lifestyle, according to the organizers. This is a perfect chance for students to get back into running shape, but remember to drink lots of water and try your hardest not to throw up in front of a crowd of strangers. Go to events.mec.ca for more information.

Auditions open for new Victoria theatre company

The newest theatre company in Victoria, BEMA Productions, is searching for three men and two women, ages 20–60, for the world premiere of 17 Stories by award-winning Canadian playwright Caroline Russell-King. Non-union actors are preferred and those interested should be prepared to read a two-three-minute monologue.

Bring a headshot and resume to the September 7 auditions, but first book an audition by emailing zoe.seige11@gmail.com.

Vancouver Island wildlife needs your help

The North Island Wildlife Recovery Association (NIWRA) needs support for their Call of the Wild Campaign. The centre was one of only five Canadian wildlife organizations chosen to receive a percentage of \$100,000 in donations, based on how many votes they receive. Located in Errington, BC, the centre was established to care for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife. To vote for the centre, go to facebook.com/jamiesonvitamins and select the NIWRA link.

-JASON SCHREURS
AND ZOE HARVEY

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

currency

Bitcoin debate to take place at Camosun

JAYDEN GRIEVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Most postsecondary students have at least heard of bitcoin currency. Though a popular topic in the media for the last year, what bitcoin actually is has remained an unclear concept for many people.

To help inform Camosun students who wish to learn more, a debate has been set up for mid-September between two of the college’s instructors, Bijan Ahmadi and Francis Michaud, to discuss bitcoin’s legitimacy as a currency.

About five years ago, a computer scientist and researcher wrote about a concept called crypto currency. The idea was that an electronic medium of exchange could be established based off of a set of encrypted codes.

Basically, to “mine” a bitcoin you set your computer, using a program called sha1sums, to try

“The beauty of bitcoin is that I can hire some guy in Bangladesh to do coding for my website and I can just send him a bitcoin, and it takes 10 minutes and it’s free.”

BIJAN AHMADI
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

to solve one of 21,000,000 existing mathematical equations. If the program is able to solve one, then you get a bitcoin.

The idea is that this crypto currency could actually be a decentralized, totally anonymous, private, nongovernmental, non-country-



Bijan Ahmadi is pro-Bitcoin.

based form of exchange between partners.

In recent months, bitcoins have been a controversial topic with many people divided over the value and usefulness of such a currency. With some making a lot of money off only a few dollar investments and others losing just as much, the crypto currency stands on unstable ground. Despite this, Camosun professor Bijan Ahmadi says that the system isn’t as complex as it may appear, and that bitcoins are simply trying to find their place.

“Imagine instead of bitcoins it’s done with purple pieces of paper,” says Ahmadi, who will be on the pro-bitcoin side of the debate. “I could give you a piece of paper for some work you did for me, then you take that piece of paper to the store and buy a pair of jeans with it. The guy from the store takes that piece of paper and gives it to his window washer, and she takes that piece of paper and gives it to someone else, and if everyone else just traded these pieces of paper that’s what bitcoin is like; a fiat currency, they call it. It’s a

“We don’t see this as a battle between him and me, but more as a nice activity to try to teach everyone a bit about what crypto currencies are.”

FRANCIS MICHAUD
CAMOSUN COLLEGE



Francis Michaud: arguing anti-bit.

Ahmadi. “It’s just that high volatility has led people to hold on to their bitcoins.”

On the other side of the debate, professor Francis Michaud isn’t so optimistic about bitcoins, and he says they shouldn’t be considered a currency at this time.

“My side of the debate is that bitcoin is not, or should not, be considered currency right now,” says Michaud, who will be facing off against Ahmadi. “Basically, in economics we define money as having three characteristics, and I feel that bitcoin essentially lacks two of these characteristics. The first one is that money should be a reserve of value, and the other one is that it is a medium of exchange. I think that bitcoins don’t satisfy these two characteristics that money has; I don’t think it’s actually useful as money.”

Michaud goes on to enforce his argument, basing it on the concerns that Ahmadi previously mentioned.

“With the fluctuation of the price of bitcoin right now, who wants to pay in a currency that can lose hundreds of dollars of value in the span of one hour? You can make a payment in the morning and by the time the person you were trying to pay can receive it and transfer it back into dollars, it’s lost hundreds of dollars of value,” says Michaud. “Who wants to accept that as a currency?”

With both sides making some excellent points, the debate promises to be an exciting event for both those going and those debating.

“We’ve never had debates, [Ahmadi] and I,” says Michaud. “We work together and we talk often, so I know he’s a pretty smart guy, but I have no clue how he debates. Our goal is not to destroy each other, it’s to better inform students on large. We don’t see this as a battle between him and me, but more as a nice activity to try to teach everyone a bit about what crypto currencies are.”

Ahmadi agrees that the debate should be an interesting event for the Camosun community.

“I’m really looking forward to debating [Michaud],” says Ahmadi. “He’s very well read on the subject as well, and it’s promising to be a fun event.”



Bitcoin is a controversial new alternative to money as we know it.



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Wednesday Sept 24th 3:45pm LEVEL II HATHA
Thursday Sept 25th 12:00pm YOGA HOUR
Friday Sept 26th 9:30am BIKRAM YOGA
Saturday Sept 27th 10:00am BIKRAM YOGA
Sunday Sept 28th 5:00pm YIN YOGA

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Bitcoin speaker debate

5:30pm Monday, September 22

Campus Centre, Interurban campus, Room 124 A/B

know your profs

Life after ACP with Camosun video and audio production instructor Andy Bryce

GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

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 video and audio production instructor Andy Bryce and talked about his own school struggles, him being a cream puff, and life after the Applied Communications Program [ACP].

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

I teach primarily video and audio production and I have been at Camosun since September of 2000.

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

I get satisfaction out of watching students grow by learning new skills and by learning about themselves. At the end of the school year I often reflect back on where individual students started at and how far they have come. I like that we give students an opportunity to grow.

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

As a student, I was never at the top of the class. I always had to put

time and effort into whatever I did to succeed and I was one of those students who needed to ask questions. School was never easy for me.

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

I'm a cream puff. When students ask for deadlines or exceptions, it's hard for me to say "no."

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

It became clear that I would need to get a masters' degree to continue teaching when ACP was cancelled. Getting one opened new doors for me and gave me opportunities to explore issues and meet new people.

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

As I mentioned, the program I taught in was cancelled. The worst part of that was saying goodbye to the talented and dedicated people who had become my colleagues and friends over the years, and to let go of a program that had been so important to former students and staff.

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

In the short term we will continue to see instability as our political masters continue to cut funding, but in the longer term I think society will recognize that our education system is key to our success as a nation, and



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

The man who describes himself as a "cream puff," Camosun College's Andy Bryce.

that will spur innovation and new approaches. What those will look like, I'm not sure.

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

I'm a dedicated amateur musician who most recently played in a middle-aged hobby band, now

disbanded, sadly. I also grew up playing sports, so currently I like to play golf.

9: What's your favourite meal?

I've always liked Mediterranean-style cooking—chicken, fresh vegetables, olive oil, and lemon, tzatziki, and flatbreads.

10: What's your biggest pet peeve?

There are companies out there who make money by providing space to park cars. I understand it's a necessity, but it seems parasitic to me. How does paying for parking add to Canada's gross domestic product?

PEERS HELPING PEERS AT CAMOSUN

Camosun College International Peer Connection Program

- International and domestic students that join the Camosun College International Peer Connections Program receive training in cross-cultural communication skills that are invaluable for personal growth, cross-cultural learning, and career development and exploration.
- Peer Connections provides Camosun students with a unique leadership opportunity to help their peers while learning about culture and global perspectives from other students.
- Students in the program enrich their campus life intellectually and socially by learning from a variety of guest presenters and student-centered activities with a global focus.

Students interested in joining Peer Connections can attend one of the following information sessions:

Sept. 15 or Sept. 16 - 5-6 pm
Lansdowne Campus - Wilna Thomas Building, Rm. 234

Sept. 15 or Sept. 16 - 12-1 pm
Interurban Campus - CBA Building, Room 120

For more info, please email

peerconnections@camosun.bc.ca

Your tomorrow starts here!



The Camosun College Chargers will be holding tryouts in basketball, volleyball and golf for the 2014-2015 season. See if you have the game to back your name.

GOLF

The 2014 Chargers Tryout Qualifier Tournament will be held at the Chargers' home course at Bear Mountain – Canada's only 36 holes of Nicklaus Design golf. Saturday, August 30th and Sunday, August 31st at Bear Mountain.

Cost:

Entry fee \$110 +HST
(includes two rounds, cart and range balls)

Registration:

Students must register for the qualifier tournament no later than one week prior to the first day of tryouts.
To register, or for more information, please contact Head Coach John Randle: john@randlegolf.com



BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL

Tryouts for the Camosun basketball and volleyball teams will be held in the Chargers' home gym in the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence on Camosun's Interurban Campus (4371 Interurban Rd).

Men's Basketball

Wednesday, Sept 3rd (Open Tryout) 6:30 - 8:30 Thursday, Sept 4th (Open Tryout) 4:30 - 6:30
Contact: Head Coach Scot Cuachon scotcuachon@gmail.com

Women's Basketball

Tuesday, Sept 2nd (Open Tryout) 6:15 - 8:30 Wednesday, Sept 3rd (Open Tryout) 4:30 - 6:30
Contact: Head Coach Carl Macdonald carl650@telus.net

Men's Volleyball

Tuesday, Sept 2nd (Open tryout) 6:30 - 8:30 Wednesday, Sept 3rd (Open Tryout) 4:30 - 6:30
Thursday, Sept 4th (Open Tryout) 6:30 - 8:30 Friday, Sept 5th (Closed Tryout) 4:30 - 6:30
Contact: Head Coach Charles Parkinson cparkinson@shaw.ca

Women's Volleyball

Tuesday, Sept 2nd (Open Tryout) 4:30 - 6:30 Wednesday, Sept 3rd (Open Tryout) 6:30 - 8:30
Contact: Head Coach Chris Dahl cbdahl@shaw.ca

Find pics of the Camosun Chargers in action on Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/camosunchargers/sets/>

Derrien

The return of Victoria



The reunited Bum in 2014.

Instant kool ayd

A curious message went out from Rifflandia headquarters during their epic campaign when they announced 100 bands in 100 hours—they were readying the reveal of band number 100 and it was promised to be something special. Amongst the many hip indie rock, electronic, and hip-hop artists, the band that ended up being singled out as number 100 was Bum, something that excited fans of Victoria's '90s music scene. (The band is playing at 2pm on Saturday, September 13, at Royal Athletic Park; see rifflandia.com for more information.)

But, according to vocalist/guitarist Rob Nesbitt, when Bum was releasing songs seemingly faster than they could record them in the early to mid-'90s, their fan base in Victoria left something to be desired. Strangely, it was places like Spain and Japan where they got the most attention.

"It didn't seem like too many people around here cared back when we were doing it; it seemed like a struggle all of the time," remembers Nesbitt. "In Spain, it was different, they were so overt in their love and appreciation of Bum that it was fairly obvious what we meant to kids there, and we still get letters all the time from Spanish people. In the pantheon of bands that they all love, Bum is the commonality, and I still find that pretty astounding."

Definitely a time-and-a-place type of band, Bum's music feels intrinsically linked to being young, growing up and finding that next chapter in your life. Now that the four members (Molloy, Nesbitt, bassist/vocalist Kevin Lee and drummer Graham Watson) are in their forties, getting the band back together might be considered an act of pure nostalgia, and, conveniently, the guys in Bum are embracing that feeling.

"Because time has passed and we're all older, we're able to appreciate things with a different set of eyes. And maybe people who even thought we sucked back in the day might say we're pretty good now," says Nesbitt. "It's going to be cool to get together, and hopefully all of our friends are going to show up and say, 'Oh, I remember 'A Promise Is a Promise' or whatever. I think it has huge nostalgia associated with it, and I like sentimentality and nostalgia."

Nesbitt and Molloy both admit there have been offers for Bum to reform the band over the years, and even as recent as two years ago they were approached to play a festival in Spain, but until now the timing and circumstances haven't been right.

"I'm pushing 50 now and I'm feeling like things are coming full circle in my life," says Molloy, "and you reach an age where a few years ago you'd say, 'Oh, I'd never do that,' which is what we all said about getting Bum back together, and not because we didn't love doing it, or weren't proud of the legacy, but it's just now that we're ready to do it."

This is the story of a '90s Victoria band on labels based in places as diverse as they disbanded, Bum are back. How this all happened is a bit of a surprise. Close friends wanted to surprise him with a show at Rifflandia, and see what happens from there. "We've been approached various times, but I thought, 'Why not?' so I sent emails

A promise is a promise

It's hard to explain the feeling Bum's music gave those who were affected by it. Starting out in the early '90s, their aforementioned first single *A Promise Is a Promise* (see sidebar) was the kind of perfect pop-punk song where you'd throw the needle down on the turntable, jump around your room a lot, and then put the needle right back down and start the song again. Once you got bored of that, you'd flip the record and crank the back side, "Wedding Day," once or twice, then right back to repeated listens of "A Promise Is a Promise" and its peppy harmonies. Or at least that's what this '90s-music-obsessed scribbler used to do.

The band followed their debut EP with another knockout single, *Debbiespeak*, and they quickly became one of the most prolific underground bands in Victoria history, putting out a long line of vinyl and CD releases on labels all over the world (they even had a live album recorded in, you guessed it, Spain). Meanwhile, back at home, they played to the same crowds and sometimes felt as though the locals were sick of seeing them.

"We were playing a lot back then, and don't get me wrong, it was always fun to play in Victoria, but it felt like people were getting burnt out on seeing us, and I totally understand that," remembers Molloy. "It often felt like we got a better response in other places. When we came back from Spain, over there we were actually treated like a band of consequence, and the idea to come back and play a few days later to the usual mediocre live crowd was sobering."

Which leads us to their upcoming second-stage performance at Rifflandia (2 pm on Saturday, August 13 if you're looking to get front row centre). Instead of waiting it out for the home run of some Spanish or Japanese music festival, where the band is almost guaranteed a knockout crowd of superfans, Bum chose the very place they started over two decades ago, and, at times, struggled to find an audience.

re redux

'90s pop-punkers Bum

By Jason Schreurs, Assistant Editor
Photos provided

Victoria pop-punk band that got pretty huge in faraway places like Spain and Japan, and put out records as distant as Australia, but never really got enough respect in their hometown. Now, almost 20 years since their last show at Rifflandia Festival, Victoria's biggest music event of the year. Behind-the-scenes, personal story but let's just say one of Bum guitarist/vocalist Andrew Molloy's with an offer that he hoped Molloy couldn't refuse. Get the band back together, play the outdoor stage from there. "Over the years by various people, but we were never in the place to do it," says Molloy. "This time I said to the other three guys and I wasn't sure if they'd be gung-ho and, lo and behold, they were."

"We're not adverse to trying to do all sorts of things, but we have to see how this show goes first."

Rob Nesbitt
Bum



Compare the hair: Bum in 1994.

Bent on being bent

Something about this whole Bum-playing-Rifflandia scenario feels like redemption time. "In Victoria, we always felt like people never really cared about us after the first year or so," says Nesbitt. "We felt like they were really tired of us and we'd get a lot of slags from people in the punk scene. Some of them thought Bum was lame and it was very hurtful." Haters be hating in the '90s, but the band's lovers (and not just the Spaniards) are anxiously hoping that Bum's Rifflandia performance isn't just a one-off performance; they're hoping that it could be a springboard for a full-fledged reunion. "We're treating it with no boundaries. We're talking to a lot of people about a lot of different things right now, but I keep saying to everyone who's contacting us, 'Look, we haven't even played one note on a stage together yet. We don't know what's going to happen,'" says Nesbitt. "We're not adverse to trying to do all sorts of things, but we have to see how this show goes first. And we have to give this opportunity the amount of respect it deserves, and that means focusing all of our attention on doing a good job that day. And if it goes well, then we'll go from there. But right now we need to do a good job for Rifflandia." Molloy's place in the Bum reunion is instrumental, since he and his thoughtful friend were the ones that spurred things on. So Molloy, like Nesbitt, isn't ruling out the very good chance that Bum could roll on from Rifflandia with inspiration anew. If the band rehearsals so far are any indication, they might just pick up right where they left off. "It's something that we've talked about, but we're going to see how this show goes first," cautions Molloy. "I'm not going to lie to you though, I'd be pretty disappointed if it ended up just being this one show. I really hope we do more, but I can't say for sure."

A promise is still a promise: the best of Bum

GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR



A Promise Is a Promise (Lance Rock Records, 1991)
Sometimes a 7" is the perfect format for short, fast, sugar-sweet poppy punk. Take this example, a brilliantly short and punchy two-song affair that will go down in Victoria history as one of the best seven inches of black wax documenting homegrown sounds. Ever. B-side "Wedding Day" is an almost perfect upbeat-yet-melancholy pop/punk tune; A-side "A Promise Is a Promise" is a perfect upbeat-yet-melancholy pop/punk tune. And it came from Victoria. And it was their debut.

Debbiespeak (Lance Rock Records, 1992)
How do you follow up such an amazing debut release? With a song that is beyond perfect: "Debbiespeak" has been stuck in my head for 22 years. Every day I hear this song, even when I haven't actually listened to it in years. But I have no idea why I bother listening to other music when such a perfect song exists. B-side "Bullet" is a fun romp through a Misfits tune that is entertaining but not phenomenal, but I'm not sure anyone could have handled another perfect Bum original anyway.



Wanna Smash Sensation (PopLLama Records, 1993)
By this time they had put out four great 7" EPs and one great split 7," and it was clear that they dominated the EP format. On their first full-length, they collect some of their previously released tunes and added new ones, creating a listening experience that was almost like a retrospective with some bonuses. A bit jarring, but we got a bunch of amazing new tunes like "Bent on Being Bent" and "When She Walked," plus the most perfect of all perfect Bum songs: "Instant Kool Ayd." A world where the band that wrote this song is not eternal legends is a cruel world indeed.

drinks

Victoria’s booming craft-beer scene fosters fest, online museum, breweries

“Nowadays, the typical craft-beer consumer is thought of as being a younger, urban hipster type.”

TOMMIE GRANT
SPINNAKERS BREWPUB

ZOE HARVEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Homer Simpson once extolled on an episode of *The Simpsons* that beer is “the cause of, and solution to, all of life’s problems.” So it’s the cause of much excitement (and hangovers) that the Great Canadian Beer Fest will again take place in Victoria on September 5–6. Two days may not seem like a lot of time to consume beers from over 30 Canadian breweries, but with the right knowledge of local beer and a strong thirst, anyone can get through the weekend unscathed and enjoy all the local beer that Beer Fest has to offer.

BC has been adding about a dozen new craft breweries a year during the past five years, so there’s quite the pick of the crop when it comes to local breweries. Most of these breweries are on the mainland, however, Vancouver Island has become home to quite a few new breweries and microbreweries.

Meanwhile, breweries such as Vancouver Island Brewery, the Island’s first craft brewery, and

Phillips Brewing are gaining nationwide recognition for making some of the best craft beer in British Columbia.

Some experts are calling the surge of breweries and brewpubs in the area a craft-beer renaissance, and even going so far as to say that we’re in the golden age of the craft-beer industry.

“Because of enthusiastic craft-beer lovers, who aren’t necessarily always brand loyal and are always willing to try something new and support the newest kid on the block as best they possibly can, it’s a real community and it’s a blast to be a part of it,” says Matt Schmitz, creator of the Victoria Beer Museum, a website documenting local beers.

Tommie Grant, brewmaster of Spinnakers Brewpub, recommends anyone interested in craft beer to “get out there and experience as much as possible; visit breweries, try and new and different beer styles, give home brewing a try and just make an effort to scratch beneath the surface of the craft beer scene.”

Schmitz says that a person who crafts a great beer is “somebody who cares enough to pay attention to all the details and is striving for his or her version of perfection.”

Organizations such as CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) are popping up in more and more cities, advocating for craft beer and local ingredients. People are now more conscious about the beverages they drink, says Grant.

“A few years ago, craft beer folk

were mostly thought of as older, bearded dudes with beer bellies,” says Grant. “Nowadays, the typical craft-beer consumer is thought of as being a younger, urban hipster type.”

Held at Royal Athletic Park since 2005, the Great Canadian Beer Fest gives brewers an opportunity to share their craft with people, and gives loyal consumers a chance to meet and greet with the brewers.

Over 8,000 people attend the event annually to sample the participating Canadian beer vendors.

Great Canadian Beer Fest
September 5-6
Royal Athletic Park
gcbf.com



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Just a small sampling of some fine local beverages.

Five fave local brews

We all have our favourite local beers, so here are beer recommendations from two beer pros, as well as our own personal recommendations. From easy-going lagers to caffeinated stouts, it shows the diversity of the local scene.

Tommie Grant, Spinnakers
Moon Under Water’s session lager. It’s pretty much the perfect summer drink!

Matt Schmitz, Victoria Beer Museum
Weather, mood and circumstances are big factors. If it’s hot, and I mean Death Valley hot, my go-to is the Potts Pils from Moon Under Water. It’s light, has a gentle but crisp hop to it, and is lovingly refreshing. If I’m in the mood for a hoppy monster of an IPA, I’ll usually go for the Lighthouse Switchback, or the classic Fat Tug from Driftwood. But if I’m indecisive or just have a momentary lack of brainpower, I’ll go for a Dark Matter from Hoyne Brewing. It’s like a warm hug when you need it.

Greg Pratt, Nexus managing editor
Not a word of a lie, one rainy afternoon last year I drove around to various beer stores in town, my two offspring in tow, to try to find the last remaining bottles of Hoyne’s Voltage Espresso Stout in town. I found one store that had a box of 12 remaining. I bought the whole box, without second thought.

Jason Schreurs, Nexus assistant editor
Hoyne’s Hoyner Pilsner is my go-to brew. So crisp and clean, it goes down smooth and is, by far, the most refreshing beer I’ve ever tasted. All of Hoyne’s beers are great, but their pilsner is the best. An amazing summer drink, but pretty adaptable for every season, and it pairs well with all kinds of food dishes.

Zoe Harvey, Nexus contributing writer
Much like having the rose as a favourite flower, my favourite local beer has been, and always will be, Phillips Blue Buck. It’s the crispiest, smoothest, and sexiest beer I have tried and it will always have a special place in my liver.

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New Music Revue

Wish for more Mastodon



WISH
WISH
(Hand Drawn Dracula)
2/5



Mastodon
Once More 'Round the Sun
(Reprise Records)
4/5

After a couple of mugs of coffee I sat down to listen to WISH’s self-titled and self-described “alternative/psychedelic” album. I quickly became irritated by the excessively grungy sound of feedback from heavily distorted guitars going off on unending solo jam sprees.

Perhaps the coffee had made me overly sensitive that morning, but the album was certainly not music to my ears and, upon first play, a creeping headache forced me to skip to the second half of the album, which at that time seemed more tolerable.

I realize, however, that psychedelic music is meant to enhance the experience of psychedelic drugs, so I was certainly doing WISH a disservice by critiquing their new album in a (relatively) sober state of mind. I would recommend anyone who has recently ingested LSD have a listen to this album and pass their personal judgements, but I would personally prefer to stick to the old-school psychedelic sounds of The Beatles or Jimi Hendrix.

-MATT O’CONNOR

On album six, Atlanta technical metal juggernaut/unlikely success story Mastodon hit a mean median middle ground of all the elements that makes Mastodon Mastodon: technical and expansive progressive metal, swarming and disconcerting melodies, smart upbeat rockers, and intense sludge metal.

The album peaks early: the second song, “The Motherload,” is an absolutely amazing melodic hard rocker that channels early Ozzy Osbourne and the best of Queens of the Stone Age and makes you feel great to be alive. That’s what good metal does, and Mastodon nailed it here, with some unexpectedly bright melodies shining through the din just perfectly.

This is a dense album, more so than the relatively straight-ahead *The Hunter*, their last; even after repeated listens, I couldn’t hum any tunes off it except for “The Motherload.” Frustrating, but it shows they’re reaching, hard. And, man, “The Motherload”... that’s how to write a chorus.

-GREG PRATT

New Music Revue

Latest round of Led Zeppelin reissues explores rich, and stoned, history

Man... sometimes there’s another batch of Led Zeppelin reissues and you just want to close your eyes and wish it all away. I mean, the band put out eight (nine if you count *Coda*) classic, timeless albums, and then we have to suffer through a lifetime of BS because of it?

Well, good news: while these latest remastered (in other words, “sounds exactly the same as the version you already own”) reissues may seem like just another ennui-inducing sleepwalk to the bank for the blokes, there are some gems to be found in the bonus material, and it also serves as an important reminder as to just how great this band’s catalogue is.

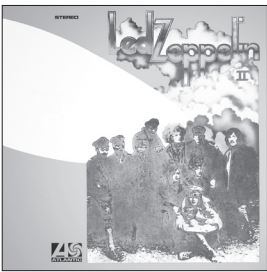
It’s easy to not want to ever put on a Zeppelin album again, having suffered through their classics too many times to remember, having sat through one too many “baby”s from Robert Plant, having dealt with it all so many times.

But, what if you haven’t, and, like everyone does at some point, you’re just about to realize that this is in many senses the greatest band to have ever existed? Well, then, dive into these reissues of the band’s self-titled album, *Led Zeppelin II*, and *Led Zeppelin III* and discover exactly why your creepy uncle, your drunk dad, and your rocker bus driver all agree that there will never be another band that even comes close to these guys.

-GREG PRATT



ATLANTIC RECORDS



The original material sounds like...	...a band accidentally stumbling into great things. There’s a blues base, an eye to the new hard rock of the time, and a whole lotta baby-babys, end result being a who-cares debut album that made everyone care. All these years later, parts of it can still give shivers.	...little teeny wizards with big big swords playing majestic rock music, and a brilliant, legendary, maniac drunk of a drummer getting a FULL DRUM SOLO ON A STUDIO ALBUM. And, against all odds, it works. This has more personality than their first, too.	...a most natural amalgamation of crashing, bashing rockers and acoustic tunes that never drop to the level of cheap, heartstring-pulling melodies. It’s a great mix, and perhaps the first time Zeppelin utilized some maturity to go from outstandingly great to classic.
The bonus material sounds like...	...absolute torture. An unholy live set from the era. You need to be stoned out of your bloody mind to think that this masturbation is remotely engaging. It’s not. Only highlight: mics picking up madman drummer John Bonham screaming during his drum solo.	...different versions of the same songs, the kind of novelty warts-its that give grown men boners and make grown women question why grown men care about such things. But “Heartbreaker - Rough Mix with Vocal” made me, um, sit up erect, I must admit.	...stuff that will appeal to lonely men and audiophiles (so, we’re back at lonely men), as it consists of studio outtakes, alternate versions, and some unreleased blues jamming. Interesting for one listen, but, as always, the original album packs more of a punch.
This album is still important because...	...of the proto-heavy-metal riffing and bent-acid production sound. Although the heavy-handed blues is tiring, the album is nonetheless full of other, more life-affirming moments. A rare thing, indeed: a stoned-out ‘60s album that still sounds great.	...while the middle of “Whole Lotta Love” is red-faced psychedelic meandering, that tune’s main riff is one of the best classic rock riffs ever. Not to mention “Heartbreaker” and “Living Loving Maid (She’s Just a Woman)”. And “Thank You”? Classic.	...it showed that rock bands can lay down acoustic material without it being a gimmick or overly cloying. Here, about half the damn album is unplugged, but it was no big thing: it was what it was, and it was great. And the proto-metal stomped, hard.
You will enjoy listening to this all in one sitting if...	...you’re stoned.	...you’re stoned.	...you’re a grown man who collects Led Zeppelin bootlegs, rarities, studio outtakes, singles, alternate versions, cover songs, and isolated guitar, bass, keyboard, vocal, and drum tracks. Or you’re stoned.

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Age of Geeks

by Vishal Pandey

Tech gadgets you just don't need

It's that time of the year again, when fresh young minds merge into the world of education, while returning students continue to take on the real world in the coming years.

Packing the right tech goes a long way to making your life easier and, of course, more fun when you go back to school, but there are gadgets that we buy that we could've survived without.

In the August issue we had a look at some must-have back-to-school apps, which should make school life easier. Moving forward, in this edition let's have a quick look at certain gadgets that just aren't worth the money and space they'll occupy.

So, here are some devices you can forgo this back-to-school season.

Printers
Having your own printer may be convenient, but it isn't necessary. Sure, you can buy a wireless all-in-one printer for as little as \$100, but online programs are decreasing the need for hard-copy assignments. Students can submit papers and assignments to their professors online, and professors can edit documents or add feedback to send back to the student. That doesn't mean you won't need to print documents occasionally, but the printers in your school's libraries or labs should do the trick.

Voice recorders
Voice recorders can be crucial for saving lectures and research interviews, but if you own a smartphone you won't need a dedicated recording device. Basic 2GB digital voice recorders can cost between \$30 and \$100, but there are several free recording apps. Smart Voice Recorder, for example, records content and allows users to easily share clips via email, WhatsApp, and Dropbox. The app also performs voice recording in the background, so you can use other apps or turn off your display to save battery power while recording.

Digital camera
This generation of smartphones has undoubtedly seen an upgrade in camera quality, with 13MP sensors quickly becoming the norm. A smartphone can't compete with a DSLR and wouldn't suffice for a photography course. But if you're looking for a simple point-and-shoot to snap and share photos, your smartphone will definitely do the trick. Plus, newer smartphones come with robust built-in photo editing and sharing features that you won't find on basic digital cameras, such as the ability to add sound to your images, create GIFs, and shoot using the front and rear cameras at the same time.

Camosun College Student Society columns

Ability's Muse

by Andy Chen

camosun college students with (dis)abilities collective

Working poor students

I came to the conclusion this year that I'm a member of the working poor. Sadly, I'm not alone and, because of that, I'm surely becoming an antipoverty activist.

Many will argue poverty doesn't exist in the western world and that we have to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps and find work. Well, there's a sobering reality out there that most postsecondary students know all too well.

The US Department of Labor suggests that in 1978 a college student could work a minimum wage job all summer long to pay for the next year's tuition and fees, plus 50 percent of that year's rent. By today's standards, you would have to continue working another 4.5 months more *just* to cover tuition and fees.

While colleges have managed to find clever ways to raise tuition in response to declining government subsidies, they don't address the growing social inequality that most political pundits would have us ignore.

The prevalence of a part-time, lower-paid workforce is even more distressing for those on razor-edge budgets.

Far too many friends of mine have suffered years of indignity due to precarious employment or unemployment, income or social assistance, mental illness or disability, high student-loan debt coupled with consumer debt, and so forth.

Trickle-down economics really isn't what we need. Fairer distribution of wealth ensures society's continued success.

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College recognizes Chargers student athletes in 20th annual awards ceremony

April 16, 2014 by Jason Schreurs, managing editor (Edit)

Filed under Campus, Sports, Web Exclusive

Elyse Matthews and Lucas Dellabough came away as co-winners of the President's outstanding achievement in academics and athletics at the recent Camosun Charge awards ceremony. Matthews, a fourth-year wing on the college's women's basketball team, studies in the environmental technology program this year with a perfect 9.0 [...]

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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 are currently hard at work getting their Elsewhere ready. The 37th graduation show put on by Camosun students in the program, Elsewhere has an

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A photograph of three students, two women and one man, standing behind a table. They are all wearing blue t-shirts with 'NEXUS' printed on them. The woman on the left is holding a Nexus magazine. The woman in the middle is holding a white bag. The man on the right is holding a white bag. On the table in front of them are several boxes of snacks, including 'Nexus' brand snacks, and a large white sign that reads 'NEXUS' and 'camosun's student voice since 1990'. The background is a plain wall.