

Floating on the surface

Carpentry student wins gold at national competition

Camosun students present at geoscience conference

Brian Regan brings his comedy to town

NEXUS

Next publication: August 19, 2015 Deadline: noon August 12, 2015

Address: 3100 Foul Bay Rd., Victoria, BC, V8P 5J2

Location: Lansdowne Richmond House 201

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Website: nexusnewspaper.com Publisher: **Nexus Publishing Society**

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "That was intense. You were looking

Greg Pratt/Nexus

editor's letter

Summertime reading time

I'll admit it: I've lived here all my life and only recently made it to Tofino for the first time. My wife often talks about how going down to the water at Dallas Road isn't quite the same as seeing "the real ocean." I never really knew what she meant. When we arrived at the beach at Tofino, the sight, literally, took my breath away for a moment (literally; so did seeing the Grand Canyon in person, a strange physical reaction to seeing natural beauty of such scope with your puny, insignificant eyes).

So I was happy to run something a bit different this issue for our feature story. It is summer, after all, a time to (hopefully) kick back and relax and read a good story. And while I think all our features are good, it seemed like a perfect time to run a piece that was a bit off our beaten path for some summer reading.

Enter contributing writer Rebecca Davies and her creative non-fiction account of a journey to Tofino. At a glance it may seem like it's just about her first time on a surfboard, but stick around for a story that is both fun and breezy to read and filled with some serious insight. Head over to page 6 to read the story.

Once you're finished with that, head back to our arts section to read contributing writer Julianne Daze's interview with comedian Brian Regan on page 8, then backtrack to our campus section for some good news about Camosun students winning national awards (page 3) and presenting at geoscience conferences (page 4). We've been hearing from readers that people like stories about student achievements, so there are a couple that should do the trick.

There's plenty more to dive into, so hop around the issue and spend some time with it. And while I've got you, don't think that we haven't noticed our off-campus readership doing excellently lately. We get lots of feedback from those in the community who read the paper, which shows the power of a good story: it goes beyond the students it directly involves or impacts and reaches out to a wider audience.

Happy reading and we'll see you next month.

Greg Pratt, managing editor editor@nexusnewspaper.com

letters

CFS debates continue

If Jess [McCormick, now-ex-national chairperson]'s agenda [re: "Canadian Federation of Students national office denies corruption allegations," April 1, 2015 issue) is to improve the transparency, accountability, and overall effectiveness of CFS national, then I think she has acted within her rights, and IS indeed furthering the mandate given to her by the membership.

I also think that people should look up the phrase "union busting" before throwing it out there. Being pro-union, pro-workers-rights and defending the right to collectively organize does not mean that the employer cannot and should not deal with any issues that may arise with individual staff members.

In the years that I have known Jess, I have known her to be nothing but progressive and principled. It is not easy pushing back against the status quo. Change can be difficult, but it is often necessary.

With a federal election on the horizon, I hope, for the sake of students across this country who are in need of a strong national leadership, that those attending the national meeting can come out of it united and fiercer than ever.

> GIL VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

"Different individuals were put forward for the positions than originally arranged." Jesus, as if you needed any more evidence of how undemocratic this organization is.

KELSEY

open space

A message to the anti-feminist

Standing against feminists so firmly is disrespectful to the women who have struggled for years for us to have the rights that anti-feminists so ungratefully enjoy.

REBECCA DAVIES

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Feminism, like any body of theology, has extremists and opposing opinions. Still, most feminists agree that our goal is simple: for everyone to be given the same opportunities to live without being discriminated against.

But somehow this message has been skewed, as the recent trend of young women declaring themselves as anti-feminists online shows how feminism has a negative connotation to some people. How can a movement so unifying and important in achieving social change become something to be ashamed of identifying with?

I can see how delving into understanding feminism may seem daunting. It takes a lot of self-reflection and acknowledgment of some complex ideas like privilege, capitalism, and the ever-looming patriarchy. I can't even look at a tomato now without thinking of the starving fingers that graced its skin in the hot Mexican sun. I get it: it's much easier to go about one's day oblivious to the atrocities around us, but they're there, and nothing will change by simply accepting it.

I don't expect everyone to call themselves a feminist, but standing against us so firmly is disrespectful to the women who have struggled for years for us to have the rights that anti-feminists so ungratefully enjoy.

I've been told that there is nothing left to fight for. Women can vote and work, have access to birth control, and are accepted and equal. Great, but is that all we're entitled

Mainstream society (white, straight, middle-class) can live freely, and the fact that those rights aren't universal doesn't seem to matter.

Indigenous women going missing is a huge problem, and their communities are devastatingly impoverished.

Bigotry has led to more homeless gay youth than ever before.

Women are still told that avoiding rape is our responsibility, while men cannot speak out about assault without their masculinity being questioned.

There is still plenty to be fight-

Most of society has basic rights; it's now time to see where else we can lend our support so those rights are for everyone.

Please don't let a name and a few misinformed feminists give you the wrong impression. All most feminists want is for everyone to be able to live the life they choose without feeling the need to conform to society's ideals of what's acceptable.

Society will always have issues greater than our individual selves, but by educating each other and sticking together we can accomplish great things.

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

BY SARAH TAYLEI



AKIO YASU

"I feel I have a responsibility to pay to get this class, which is really good. I don't want to be greedy, wishing for free tuition. I'd be happy to pay, for this quality of the class."



MOATH ALLUHIDAN

"For international students, I would say they're better than UVic."



MEGAN CARRIGAN

"I think books are very expensive. One of the books I had to get was \$180, and I think \$180 is quite a bit for one book."



RYDER MCRAE

"I really don't know because I have nothing to compare them to. I know it's a lot more affordable than UVic and other universities around."



CINDY MIGVAR

"I think right now [summer semester] it's reasonable. In September, not really."



HANA ALI

"I have a certificate from my country, and I wanted to upgrade it. I wanted to study engineering again here, but I find it much too expensive for me, for my budget."

students

Camosun College student wins gold at national competition

KEAGAN HAWTHORNE

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When he was offered the chance to compete in the Skills Canada national carpentry competition, Camosun College student James King didn't think he was quite up to the task. But King had been singled out by his teachers for his good work and the speed at which he got it done.

"I thought, 'Why me?' I'm not the head of my class or anything," King admits.

Turned out, the teachers knew what they were doing: with a little bit of coaching and support from them, King managed to snag a gold medal at the competition, held in Saskatoon in May.

King, a Level 3 carpentry apprentice, was up against carpenters from across the country. Contestants had 12 hours spread over two days to build a child's playhouse. They arrived with a set of plans but were handed a surprise "change order" of amendments which needed to be worked out on the fly.

"It was very by the book," says King about the competition. "There were meetings beforehand with all the rules, and the judges were walking by you all the time. They were very strict."

But that kind of pressure is part of King's day-to-day routine.

"I just treated it like I was going in for a day of work," he says. "The guys I work for are really smart carpenters. You have to be on the ball with them because they're always riding you. They'll catch any little mistake vou make."

Camosun has a long history of competing, and winning, at the competition; the Carpentry department has been participating in the competition since 2002. A banner with King's name on it will be added to the already long line of medal winners hanging up above the woodshop floor at the Interurban campus.

Camosun chair of architectural trades Al Van Akker has been coaching students for the Skills Canada competition for many years; he also acted as a judge this year. Van Akker sees these trades competitions as important venues to showcase essential skills.

"They provide opportunities for individuals who excel to take their skills and their dedication and showcase them," he says. "And they give positive exposure to our trades programs, which benefits the college."

But more importantly, says Van Akker, they provide a way of showcasing the value and excitement of a career in the trades to the public.

"It's especially important to show youth," he says. "It provides them with a fun industry introduction to a whole bunch of different trades. The competition element makes it really engaging. It's not just a demo of some technique or job. Here are people competing, and that gives universal appeal."

Almost all aspects of the trades are changing rapidly, with everything from cars to carpentry becom-



James King hard at work at the Skills Canada competition.

ing more technologized. Van Akker worries that without greater public exposure, the trades might suffer from an outdated schooling model because of all this change.

"The model used to be you were either in the academic stream or you were in the trades stream," he says. "That may have been appropriate 30 years ago, but it's not today. You look under the hood of a modern car and what do you see? Dozens of computers."

Van Akker hopes that trades competitions like the Skills Canada nationals will raise awareness of

the trades as an exciting and challenging career path for those who are looking for a more academic career as well.

As for the gold-winning King, he says that when it comes to choosing a career path, when you see people working and you feel like you want to do that job, that's probably the

"If you're working a job that doesn't interest you, then you're only going to be so good," he says. "It's just going to be another day's work, rather than something you can put your heart into and love."

Some of Camosun's previous awards from Skills Canada competitions.

NEWS BRIEFS

Thousands graduate at Camosun ceremony

On June 18 and 19 over 3,000 students graduated from Camosun College at official ceremonies held at the Interurban campus. The ceremonies also saw six awards given, including one to Camosun Anthropology teacher Nicole Kilburn and her students for their bug festival, which was featured on the cover of Nexus in November of last year. See a complete list of the winners at camosun.ca/news/press-releases/2015/june/grad2015.html.

Students rewarded at Camosun Trades and Technology event

Camosun's school of Trades and Technology gave out over 100 awards and gifts at their annual awards ceremony, held on May 28. More information on the awards and the ceremony can be found at camosun.ca/learn/school/tradestechnology/awards-2015.html.

Camosun Athletic & Exercise Therapy Clinic grandly opens

The new location of Camosun's Athletic & Exercise Therapy Clinic had a grand opening on June 25. The clinic is located at suite 204 in the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence at the Interurban campus. See camosun.ca/learn/school/sportexercise-education/aet-clinic/ for more information on what the clinic

Tech students show their projects

Camosun's Computer Systems Technology and Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology-Renewable Energy students recently showcased their projects to the public and potential employers at the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Hotel. Head over to camosun.ca/ capstone for more information.

Former Camosun instructor allegedly captured by Israeli forces

We reported last issue that former Camosun instructor and human-rights activist Kevin Neish was in Gaza as the chief engineer on a ship carrying cargo and passengers with the aim of breaking the Israeli occupation and blockade. According to a press release, the ship was allegedly captured by Israeli forces and two Canadians were being held captive; Neish was one of them. The press release also states that Israeli forces used "an electric weapon" against one crew member. After being held in an Israeli prison, Neish was released and deported back to

UVic students protest in Rankin's office

A group of 10 University of Victoria students had a sit-in protest in NDP MLA Murray Rankin's office to voice their concerns over tar-sands expansion on July 3. Sitins occurred at the same time in various politicians' offices across the country.

BC students want what Alberta's got

You read that right: due to a recent proposal from the Alberta government to freeze tuition fee rates, the Canadian Federation of Students-BC (CFS-BC) are calling on our provincial government to do the same. The Alberta NDP recently introduced Bill 3, which offers a two-year tuition fee freeze as well as a 2 percent increase in funding for institutions. The bill also cancels tuition fee increases through market modifiers, according to a CFS-BC press release. CFS-BC also say in the press release that tuition fees in BC have increased by over 300 percent since 1990.

Wastewater updates

Twenty potential wastewater treatment sites were recently announced for Victoria's "westside communities," which includes Langford, Colwood, Esquimalt, View Royal, and the Songhees Nation. See westsidesolutions.ca for profiles of the sites. Members of the community are being encouraged to voice their opinion in an online survey at fluidsurveys. com/s/westsidesitespeak until July 22. As well, Westside Solutions was accepting proposals put forward by private property owners who were interested in using their property for wastewater treatment sites. The "eastside communities" hits

closer to home, including Saanich, and while the survey for those communities is now closed, head to crd. bc.ca/eastside for more info.

Cool Aid program gets housed

Cool Aid's REES program, which aims to provide resources, education, employment, and support to those struggling with addiction, mental illness, and poverty, has found a permanent home at Cool Aid's Swift House, located at 465 Swift Street. The program has had to move three times in the past five years.

Victoria-born punk band recognized

Legendary prog-punkers NoMeansNo, who got their start here in Victoria, have been named as this year's inductees for the 2015 Western Canadian Music Awards Hall of Fame. The band was formed in 1979 by brothers John and Rob Wright.

Arts grants awarded

\$84,200 in grants was recently awarded from the Capital Regional District (CRD) to 22 local organizations to "encourage the innovative use of arts from non-arts-mandated organizations," according to a CRD press release. Among the recipients were William Head On Stage, University of Victoria Student Radio Society, Victoria Disability Resource Centre, and Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre.

Heavy metal wins

Victoria's Craigflower Bridge recently won the Outstanding Steel Structure award in the sustainability division from the Canadian Steel Structure Awards for BC. The bridge project will now go on to compete in the national awards.

Cycling and walking pilot also wins

The Capital Regional District's Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan project, a two-year initiative which recently wrapped up, won a gold award for excellence in planning practice from the Planning Institute of BC. The project aimed to encourage residents to walk or ride bikes.

Cinema Politica wants you

Or wants your political documentary, anyway. Got one? Head over to cinemapolitica.org or email programming@cinemapolitica.org for the scoop.

Maritime Museum gets new space

The Maritime Museum of BC recently announced that they have a new location for their society office and a small exhibition space. They are now located at 634 Humboldt

-GREG PRATT

Got a news tip for us? Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com today!

student achievements

Camosun students present their findings at geoscience conference



Camosun student Julio Flores and his discovery: a bone from a Salish Wool Dog, which are now extinct.

PASCALE ARCHIBALD

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Two Camosun College students were recently given the unique opportunity of presenting at an annual geoscience conference.

The conference, held in Victoria in June, was the 17th annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT).

Among the presenters was first-

year Environmental Technology student Julio Flores.

A few months ago Flores made an interesting discovery during a geoscience field trip: he found a now-extinct Salish Wool Dog bone. Flores says it was a nerve-wracking experience presenting his research at the conference, but given the chance he would do it again without hesitation.

"It was a good overall experi-

ence and I feel honoured to be able to be a part of it," he says. "I'm game to doing it again, now that I know how to approach it, to make it a little easier, a little better."

To be able to present a finding at a geoscience conference as a first-year student is an amazing experience, says Flores. He says that it provided a platform to begin refining the scientific process of discovery.

"It was a good experience. I feel honoured to be a part of it."

JULIO FLORES
CAMOSUN STUDENT

"It's exciting to tell the story," says Flores, "but at the same time you want to stick to being scientific about it. It was a good overall experience, and I feel honoured to be able to be a part of it."

The second student from Camosun to present his research was second-year Environmental Technology student Alex Semple.

Semple's presentation was on the precarious situation of some of Victoria's newest waterfront properties. His research involved the instability of cliffside waterfront properties, which are in the process of erosion.

Although Semple was pleased about the opportunity to present his research, he got the most out of spending time with people working in his chosen career.

"I really enjoyed just getting to see the type of people or the type of atmosphere in geology," says Semple. "I think that there was a really nice spread of people, and that everyone is very passionate and keen."

Semple says any doubts he had about going into geoscience as a career are gone after the conference.

"It's a cool atmosphere when everyone is clearly an expert at what they do but still have a very fun, engaging attitude," he says. "It didn't feel like a lecture or a seminar where these people are standing in front of you just talking to the room. It felt more like sitting at the bar with a bunch of friends, having a couple of pints and talking about whatever it is they're up to."

The professor who organized this year's conference and made it possible for Flores and Semple to attend was Camosun Geoscience instructor Tark Hamilton. Victoria doesn't often host the geoscience conference, Hamilton says, so it was fortuitous that he had two great students who were keen enough to attend.

"I had two students who did remarkable enough things to present their own self-driven research in geoscience," says Hamilton. "They both seemed very happy, and it was a professional job the way that they presented," says Hamilton. "Most people find public speaking terrifying and they both did well, in spite of that."

Hamilton says he invited both students to present at the convention with the intention of giving them a leg up in starting their careers in science.

"It's a chance to build these skills and, ultimately, we are trying to make better-educated citizens and better communicators. That's what this NAGT group is about," says Hamilton. "None of us may be stunning teachers, or stunning scientists, or doing cutting-edge anything, but we are learning as we go along, and we really care about involving students and making a better-informed public. It's a good place for a first paper."

know your profs

Camosun Pipe Trades instructor and chair John Gordon sees trades fighting entitlement



FILE PHOTO

Camosun's John Gordon doesn't like seeing unprepared students.

GREG PRATT

MANAGING EDITOR

Know Your Profs is an ongoing series of profiles on the instructors at Camosun College. Every issue we ask a different instructor at Camosun the same 10 questions in an attempt to get to know them a little better.

Do you have an instructor that

you want to see interviewed in the paper? Maybe you want to know more about one of your teachers, but you're too busy, or shy, to ask? Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com and we'll add your instructor to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we talked to Camosun Pipe Trades instructor and chair John Gordon about seeing students mature, the entitlement generation, and patience.

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

I instruct in the Pipe Trades, which includes Plumbing, Steam/Pipefitting, Gasfitting, Sprinklerfitting, and Refrigeration; my specialty is Plumbing and Gasfitting. I started in May 2005 and took over the chair position in 2012.

2: What do you personally get out of teaching?

I now enjoy seeing the younger students mature. There seems to be a generation of students who believe they are entitled to an education, but trades training forces students to take ownership of their careers, which results in a noticeable, positive, change in attitude.

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

How much extra work instructors do every day to make sure students get the best possible experience while here at Camosun. Many students enter training without any understanding of what to

expect and have nothing to compare the experience with, since it is so different from the secondary-school experience. Many instructors try to accommodate the students by helping out as mentors, counsellors, advisors, and even pseudo-parents to support the students' success.

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

That math is not my strongest subject.

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

I feel fortunate that I helped a young man go from being the worst first-year student I have had to becoming the best fourth-year student in his graduating year. I've learned to be a very patient person when dealing with apprentices.

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

There are some students who we just can't seem to adjust to trades training. With this "entitlement" generation some will go as far as to get their lawyer involved. When

lawyers are involved nobody is happy.

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

The Pipe Trades department at Camosun is spearheading the blended delivery of trades training in BC, perhaps even in Canada. We are moving forward with online curriculum for many of our programs. Although this is not new to the academic world, trades have been slow on adopting this method of training, but it is the way of the future.

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

My wife, dog, and I love to hike. I am also an avid mountain biker and travel the island "shredding." I may also be a golf addict.

9: What's your favourite meal? Anything on Friday night with a nice glass of red wine.

10: What's your biggest pet eeve?

Underprepared students. Trades training is fast-paced, and when students come to class underprepared the entire cohort suffers.

student projects

Camosun Fine Furniture and Joinery students show their chairs to the public



Camosun student Paloma Shankar's award-winning chair project.

GREG PRATT

MANAGING EDITOR

Fifteen Camosun College Fine Furniture and Joinery program students who recently graduated showed their final projects in an exhibit open to the public.

Studies in Seating was on display in June and July at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre; the students whose work was exhibited had been in the program for the past 10 months, and their final projects were a diverse and interesting collection of chairs.

And while the prospect of staring at a bunch of chairs might not sound too thrilling to some, hearing Camosun College Fine Furniture and Joinery program leader Ken Guenter talk is enough to change anyone's mind about those seemingly boring objects we sit on.

"The chairs are as varied as the students that we have," enthuses Guenter. "They certainly reflect personalities; they reflect skill levels and their interest in particular historical periods or particular aspects of nature."

Guenter uses student Paloma Shankar's work as an example of how chairs can be so much more than initially meets the eye.

"Her mother's from Denmark and her father is from Fiji," he says about Shankar. "So when she started looking at chair design, of course Danish modern came into play immediately, and also Fijjan tapa cloth in terms of decorative design. Paloma put those two together and created this absolutely stunning piece of work that deals with both sides of her culture. And you can sit on it," he laughs.

Shankar, who says that the projects were a lot of work, agrees with Guenter that her piece does indeed take from both her mother and father's cultures.

"After both [my mother and father] immigrated to Canada, they finally met here on Vancouver Island, where I was later born and raised," she says. "I tried to highlight the unique qualities of both cultures in a cohesive way."

Shankar, who is now looking for work in cabinetry and custom woodworking shops, says she enjoyed the program so much she wishes there were a second year of it.

"It was an intense 10 months," she says, "but I learned a great deal about not only the woodworking side of things, but also how much you can get done in so little time."

For Guenter, the exhibit represented the end of a year of work for the students and teachers, and he says it's great to see how far the students have come.

"I absolutely love it," he says. "We get students of such varied skill levels. Of course, we'll get some who have been doing woodwork all their lives and furniture has been an interest, so they come into the program and blast forward very quickly. We get others who for them it's an interest but they've never actually done it before. It's such a joy to see those students move ahead,

and even sometimes surpass the students who came in with previous experience."

"It was an intense 10 months, but I learned a great deal about not only the woodworking side of things, but also how much you can get done in so little time."

> **PALOMA SHANKAR CAMOSUN ALUMNUS**

> > The wood used for the projects was donated by the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild through their annual \$800 donation. As well, every year, one student whose piece is judged as being the best in the exhibit is given a \$500 award from the Guild: this year's winner was Shankar.

> > Shankar herself admits that the idea of an exhibit of chairs might not sound too exciting at first but says no one walked away unsatisfied.

> > "A chair exhibit was a tough sell when I was explaining it to people," she says, "but I don't think anyone was disappointed once they saw it."

Fill in this survey to let us know how we can make your student newspaper even better. Take a photo of the finished survey and email it to editor@nexusnewspaper.com or cut it out and bring it to us: Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus.

All completed surveys will be entered into a draw for a prize pack! Get it to us by Wednesday, August 19 to be entered. Thanks for participating!



- 1: What would you like to see more or less of in our news coverage?
- 2: What would you like to see more or less of in our feature stories?
- 3: What would you like to see more or less of in our arts stories?
- 4: Do you read our event listings? YES/NO
- 5: What would you like to see in our columns page?
- 6: What other suggestions/comments/feedback do you have for Nexus?
- 7: Please enter your name and email here if you'd like to be entered in the prize draw:

6 July 15, 2015

Floating on the surface

Story by Rebecca Davies

Photo by Greg Pratt/Nexus

have not been much of a risk taker in my 26 years of life.

Nothing I did was ever to the extreme, and like most sane people, I avoided putting my life in danger. For some reason, I did not classify surfers in the category of "adrenaline junkies." It might have been because I had never felt the wrath of the ocean as it drives me into the sand at its bottom. It might have been because skilled surfers seem to glide over the surface of the water with a laid-back ease, carving in and out of the funnel as if the surfboard were cemented to their feet. When my friends John and Alex asked if I wanted to go surfing for the first time in Tofino this summer, I agreed. I was no professional surfer, but I was comfortable in the water and thought it would be easy enough to paddle hard and lift myself onto the board.

I was wrong. I was so very wrong.

re pulled up to the local surf shop on the Pacific Rim Highway about five minutes south from the eccentric town of Tofino. It was early on a Wednesday morning; we wanted to beat the rush. The forecast told us to expect seven-foot waves, and the beaches were expected to be packed. The three of us laid our rented surfboards across the bed in Alex's 1985 Westfalia. I bounced around in the back of the van, unable to hang on as one hand kept the pile of boards from toppling over and the other grasped my hand-crafted café mocha from a local Tofino coffee shop.

Chesterman Beach is a common destination for beginner surfers. The islands scattered off the shore create a break for the waves, making them less intense than the 10-to-15-footers found down the road at Long Beach. The surfers there are exposed to the vastness of the open ocean. We unloaded our gear, and I squeezed my healthy curves into the neoprene wetsuit. We joked that we resembled stuffed sausages, and I watched the boys pick up their boards with ease and tuck them under one arm. I attempted this method and realized my arm was not quite long enough to reach around the edge. My biceps burned as I heaved the

nine-foot board above

I watched the guy left out of their boy's reached the sandy at the end of the tra was presented beforwalking in the distant of blue skies and occ Sitka and fir trees reached them, alreat carrying the 15-pound (I could have sworn maybe the long, aw feel heavier, or maybe body strength.)

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rs ahead of me and felt club. They had already beach that opens up il. A postcard picture e me: two dark figures ce, with a background an, framed by the tall that lined the trail. I dy out of breath from d board above my head. It was at least fifty, but kward shape made it e I just have no upper

wanted a quick lesson. who had surfed before orn, independent self, I ached the water on my by paddling for his first too busy conquering ry about me.

ath and embraced the rsed in. The air sent a ngs, even in the depths ght, miles of fine sand ed out before me. Scatne distance, covered in it reached out for the uite clear for an area eing blanketed in fog A few tufts of clouds nite tops of the waves , the beach ended at a ocks made a large wall ent out into the water ards, forming a large tal note to avoid that ne idea of surfing near y idea of fun.

d into the frigid water. Infboard was already already also of pounds of water force of the wave on a had me swirling and es of water, unable to the surface. I was held ether to my surfboard into the fetal position at as the board came to this the the the the the the the the position and as the board came to the fetal position and as the board came to the fetal position and as the board came to the fetal position and as the board came to the fetal position and as the board came to the fetal position and as the board came to the fetal position and as the board came to the fetal position and as the board came to the fetal position and the fetal position are the fetal position.

that my life was in danger more than I did at that moment. Both the boys might as well have been miles away. Without my glasses, everyone looked like seals swimming about. Even if they were within earshot, I don't think I would have asked for help, even when salt water poured from my nose. I am much too proud for that.

At some point after having my body bashed into the ocean floor, I got angry. I was tired of being shoved around, and like a four-eyed kid standing up to the schoolyard bully, I decided to fight back. I sank my toes deep into the sand beneath me, like roots, and tightened my trunk, my core, in order to brace myself for impact. I pulled my board up close against my body, as an extension of myself, and dove nose-first into the base of the wall of water. A chaotic sense of calmness gave me the strength to force my body out the other side. I saw the surface break as my head breached and I erupted from the water.

made it out past the breaks, where it was calm. I bobbed at the surface of the endless ocean with my legs suspended on each side of the surfboard. I took a moment to reflect. It didn't matter that I was able to paddle fast enough to propel myself out over the break of a six-foot wave. It didn't matter that I was able to put all of the energy I had into pushing myself up off the board and jumping up into an awkward standing position. It also didn't matter that strangers waved and cheered as I glided past, high above them, until the wave died at the shore and I leaped into the shallow water.

What mattered is that for once, I did not listen to the nagging voice inside me that told me I was too weak, too inexperienced, too anxious to be able to achieve victory. I basked in the warmth of mother nature's rays, and I understood why she had to push me to the edge of my own limits in order to show me true value. I am capable of more than I know, and it took a surfboard to the head to discover it. I thanked her, I thanked her out loud, and she responded with the cry of the seagull soaring high above my head.

stand-up

Comedian Brian Regan on his long road to laughter

"I used to write a column for the school newspaper; I had a cartoon strip. I started being known for being kind of funny."

> **BRIAN REGAN** COMEDIAN

JULIANNE DAZE

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There is exactly one comedian who has appeared on the $Late\,Show$ with David Letterman 28 times: Brian Regan.

The American has explored his talent in various avenues—including TV specials, corporate gigs, and film—but it's his stand-up that really stands out as being the defining aspect of his career. All the while, Regan maintains a downto-earth quality that's accessible to audiences.

"The person who is on stage is me, but it's an amplified version of me," says Regan. "Sometimes in a punchline you might adopt a character that's dumber than you really are, or angrier than you really are, but in the set-ups I keep trying to come back to ground zero, so

that the audience is looking at a real person. Comedy works best if it's rooted in reality."

From an early age Regan knew exactly what he wanted to do with his life, was a model student, and woke up at the crack of dawn each morning to work towards achieving his goals. Well, kind of. Okay, fine, so he slept through his classes and switched majors partway through his degree (perhaps that narrative rings a bell?).

"I was a little disillusioned as to why I was in college because I was not enjoying economics," he says about his major. "My football coach was the one who said, 'Have you considered the communications and theatre arts department?' That was the first time that even popped on my radar, that direction."

Even before Regan realized

comedy would be his career path He says his predilection for socializing was an education in itself, even though it often occurred at the

"I used to write a column for the school newspaper; I had a cartoon strip. I started being known for being kind of funny, you know," he says. "So even though when I looked at my report card I wasn't getting good grades I was still learning how to move forward on my path."

Nearly 20 years later, Regan, who left college during his final year in dedicated pursuit of his comedy career, registered for distance education in order to complete his theatre degree.

"I actually wanted to go to campus to do the graduation, like I wore the robes and the hat and the whole

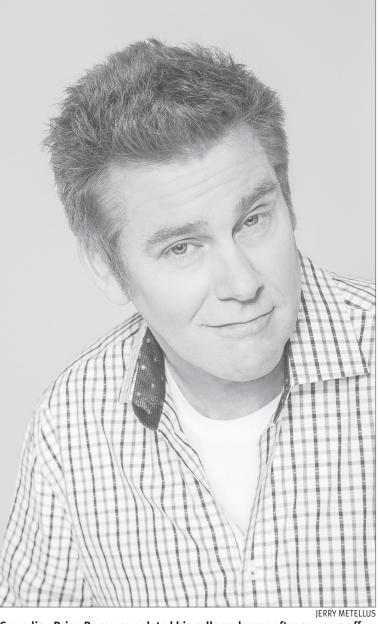
he was being shaped as a comedian. expense of his academics.

> thing. I had my mom and dad up in the stands. Here I was, this grown man walking with all these 21-yearolds. The other students didn't know

who I was. They were like, 'Who is this guy?" he says with a laugh. And all his life journeys have led to him performing his stand-up here in Victoria in July. He's looking forward to returning and remembers

his last visit fondly. "I had a great time," he says. "We took one of those speed boats from Seattle [the Clipper] to get out there. I would say half the people on the thing got sick. I was like, 'Where the heck are we going?' Then, sure enough, you get there and it's like Shangri-La."

Brian Regan 8 pm Saturday, July 11 \$51.25, Royal Theatre rmts.bc.ca



Comedian Brian Regan completed his college degree after 20 years off.

review

Marvel Universe Live! worth seeing next time around

The most magical moment of the night was

unscripted: Thor caught a glimpse of my boy

and his hammer, smiled, and pointed his own

GREG PRATT

MANAGING EDITOR

Like every other adult in the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre on June 11, I was taken back to my childhood in a huge way with Marvel Universe Live!, a live show extravaganza that wowed, shocked, and awed for its entire 90-plus-minute duration.

Make no mistake: this is a show worth going to. And it's tempting to say "for everyone who has kids," but I saw plenty of people without kids there, and everyone had a huge smile on their face. How could they not? Spider-Man flew across the arena, Wolverine did tricks on a motorbike (huh?), and there was enough non-stop action to stimulate even those senses you forgot you had.

The choreography is amazing: how that many people can be riding motorbikes (I had no idea motorbikes had become so popular in the Marvel Universe) in a small area and

hammer at my son. not colliding had me scratching my head in wonder. Heck, everything about this show is amazing, the only thing worth complaining about being the merchandise pricing (and complain people did; it was actually

a repeat conversation starter in

the section I was sitting in, includ-

ing a kid, to me, which was pretty

unique). The show is exciting, fun, and extremely well put together. With the skill of pro gymnasts, the superheroes flip and jump around, getting into an endless array of fights while the Loki-centred plot progresses throughout the night. The props look convincing, and the brief periods of visuals on the big screen

during set changes were entertaining enough.

But the most magical moment of the night was unscripted: my four-year-old son was brandishing his mini Thor hammer throughout the night as he was enjoying the show. At the end of the night, Thor came up near us to wave goodbye. He caught a glimpse of my boy and his hammer, smiled, and pointed his own hammer at my son. Definitely one of those great moments, and one we won't soon forget.

Speaking of kids, how did the harshest critic of all, a four-year-old, like the night? He loved it, being excited beyond words to see the superheroes in person, constantly



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Marvel Universe Live! delighted children and adults in Victoria.

pointing and exclaiming throughout the night. The explosions made him jump a bit, but he ate it up; with just a couple minutes left to go he said he was getting tired, so the length was perfect. It was one of the most exciting nights of his young life, and very inspirational: we've been "fighting like superheroes" daily since.

This show is easily worth the ticket price for those who love superheroes and/or those who have kids who love superheroes.

But, listen, one thing: if anyone ever tells you that they saw me inexplicably welling up when the Incredible Hulk made his entrance, I admit nothing.

theatre

Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival returns to its roots

PASCALE ARCHIBALD

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When it came time for those involved in the Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival (GVSF) to plan how they were going to celebrate their 25th anniversary, they decided to celebrate the present by looking to the past. So they decided that two of the first productions they ever performed will be performed again.

GVSF artistic director Karen Lee Pickett says she is very excited about the productions this year and has brought in some talented people to make both performances fantastic.

"We've got two amazing productions planned for this summer," says Pickett. "Romeo & Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream; it's going to be just a feast for the eyes and the ears."

Romeo & Juliet is directed by Christopher Weddell, who was a founding member of Vancouver Shakespeare festival Bard on the Beach.

"We are really excited to be working with Christopher Weddell," says Pickett. "He's really a very important figure in the Shakespeare world, as he teaches and directs Shakespeare all over the world."

Pickett's enthusiasm for theatre is apparent, which isn't surprising, given that she has spent her entire adult life immersed in the theatrical world. Early in her career she received classical training as an actor and participated in many

"The easy part is learning the lines; it's making them your own that's the hard part."

SUSAN MULLEN

Shakespeare productions. It was only when she moved to Canada that she started to focus on directing, playwriting, and producing.

"For me, working with the Shakespeare Festival is a dream job," says Pickett. "It combines a lot of my artistic creative side with my experience in administration and production."

When it comes to dream jobs, Susan Mullen, an actress for the festival, has found hers here.

Mullen retired a couple of years ago; since then she has been doing shows non-stop. She started acting in the '80s and says that it means a lot to her.

"It's always been my passion and I enjoy the overall challenge of it all," says Mullen. "Especially with Shakespeare, the easy part is learning the lines; it's making them your own that's the hard part."

Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival Until August 8 \$19 student rate per show, Camosun College Lansdowne campus lawn vicshakespeare.com



DAVID BUKACH

Sarah Jane Pelzer as Juliet and Kiaran McMillan as Romeo in, you gussed it, Romeo & Juliet.

NEXUS

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Rain Over St. Ambrose Still Waking Up (Independent)

This second album from Nova Scotia indie rockers Rain Over St. Ambrose is slow to start: the repetitive "29 Takes" fails to take full advantage of the band's vocals. But things pick up fast.

While "Broken Love" sounds like two other songs I know, the added harmonies took me off-guard and overthrew the initial impression of a gritty and gravelly lead. After only a taste, the growl came punching back, sounding even more passionate after being subdued. The well-timed electric guitar fused so well with the backup vocals that it sounded as if the instrument itself was singing the words.

Rain Over St. Ambrose presents a spectrum of different styles of rock music, integrating thunderous and intricate instruments and soulful and raw vocals. Surprisingly, the band abandons vocals, their strong suit, altogether near the end of the album in "Un Orage," a completely instrumental track that does wonders with saccharine violin accents.

-SARAH TAYLER

music

No Sinner ignore the negativity and return to rock the shores



AMY RAY

No Sinner vocalist Colleen Rennison doing what she does best.

GREATER VICTORIA

Shakespeare Festival JESSICA WILLIAMSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Colleen Rennison, vocalist of Vancouver rockers No Sinner, says that being a musician is pretty wild, so it makes sense that people who have personalities that aren't exactly moderate end up in this line of work

"I'm either trying to save the day or absolutely destroying it," says Rennison. "It feels like that's just the nature of my life."

1991 - 2015

Rennison, who was raised in

"You sort of decide that you're not taking the beaten path. I mean, all of my friends that I grew up with got fake boobs and have babies."

COLLEEN RENNISON

NO SINNER

Vancouver, started out in acting and musical theatre, appearing in several films. She also won a Gemini Award for her role in the 2000 drama short *A Feeling Called Glory*. Her tough-girl attitude helped her pave a unique route and prevented her from having the same life arc as other 27-year-olds she knows.

"You sort of decide that you're not taking the beaten path," she says. "I mean, all of my friends that I grew up with got fake boobs and have babies."

Rennison hasn't always felt supported when pursuing her main goal of being a musician. But by pressing on and not letting negativity influence her, she stayed dedicated to her goals.

"There are always going to be people out there who will tell you not to chase your dreams and put you down, because maybe they didn't get to actualize their dreams themselves," she says. "I think that it's really important to stay true to yourself and keep your eyes on the prize and not let people sway you from your goal."

Rennison has spent time in Victoria and on the island; she attended Shawnigan Lake School when she was younger. She says she's excited to get back to Vancouver Island and play Rock the Shores.

"To play with The Black Keys, I mean, when they first came out, they were a band that really blew my mind and changed my idea of modern music," she says. "And getting to play on a big stage like that for all these amazing people, on this beautiful chunk of land, I'm just so ecstatic. I can't wait."

Having experienced the behindthe-scenes goings-on of the music industry across North America, Rennison knows about the differences between Canadian musicians and musicians from across the border.

"The scene in Canada is a little more tight-knit," she says. "I know that Canadians have obviously made a huge impact in the States. And we certainly owned the '90s."

Difficulties and instability are some of the things that influenced Rennison to write music about the balance of good and evil in life. Dabbling between the sacred and the profane, Rennison stays strong, despite challenges.

"Its always feast or famine for me," she says. "You know, like you're either rolling in it and flying high or you're in the gutter and crawling your way out."

No Sinner (at Rock the Shores)
Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19 \$84.50 per day or \$149.50 for weekend pass, West Shore Parks and Recreation, lower fields



Outdoor theatre on the lovely grounds of Camosun College Lansdowne

Gate opens at 7:00pm Showtime 7:30 pm

TICKETS: 250-590-6291 TICKETROCKET.CO

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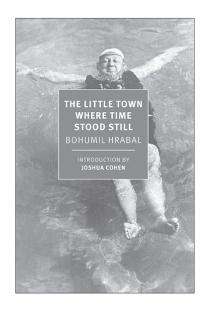
And while Peter staged a version of the radio play a couple of years ago, another



Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

The fantastic humanity of Bohumil Hrabal



Hrabal's characters are always well-meaning fringe dwellers, like eccentric uncles who come for a fortnight and stay for fourteen years, or misbehaving housewives who scandalize small towns.

"I was always lucky in my bad luck," quipped Bohumil Hrabal, a Czech writer famous for his lovable characters and raucous plots.

In his novels, a wastepaper compacter quotes philosophy, a man narrates a whole book in a single sentence, and an innocent, clumsy young train-station attendant manages to blow up a Nazi munitions train, but only after he loses his virginity.

Hrabal's characters are always well-meaning fringe dwellers, like eccentric uncles who come for a fortnight and stay for fourteen years, or misbehaving housewives who scandalize small towns. His hallmark style comes with a distinctive raconteur's flair. Hrabal, who had a law degree, laboured for many years at odd jobs (from salesman to stagehand), taking

inspiration from the real-life characters that surrounded him.

Later in life he, famously, found his inspiration while drinking beer in the Golden Tiger Pub, where he spent most of his time when not writing and where he once shared a pint with then-president Bill Clinton.

Part of his comic genius lay in his penchant for unexpected turns of phrase. "No book worth its salt is meant to put you to sleep," he said with characteristic humour, "it's meant to make you jump out of your bed in your underwear and run and beat the author's brains out."

But beneath the humour lay a mastery of craft and a love of literature and ideas that was forged during the oppression of mid-century dictatorship. His irreverence towards stolid institutionalism earned

him the attention of the communist censors, and many of his books were banned in Czechoslovakia, appearing only in underground samizdat publications or printed, in translation, abroad.

The incredible human warmth and outlandish foibles of the people who populate his novels—presented with loving detail—was a conscious reaction against the cold, faceless concrete of dictatorship and censorship.

Hrabal reminds us that, however flawed we each may be, we can have a lot of fun if we remember our humanity.

Bohumil Hrabal must-read:

The Little Town Where Time Stood Still

(GVPL Emily Carr Branch, Adult Fiction)

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

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OFFICE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU
CAN GET INVOLVED. WE'RE
AT RICHMOND HOUSE 201,
LANSDOWNE CAMPUS.

student-debt word search

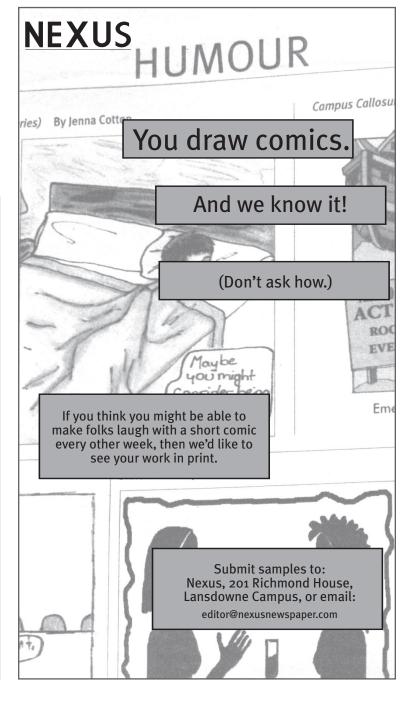
In keeping with the theme of our feature story, here's a whole bunch of student-debt related words to stress you out for this issue's word search. Sorry for the anxiety.

Bring the completed puzzle in to the *Nexus* office and grab some prizes!

BANK
BUDGET
CAP
DEBT
DOLLARS
EXPENSIVE
FEDERAL
FOOD
FREEZE
GOVERNMENT

INTEREST
LOAN
MONEY
PAY
PROVINCIAL
RELIEF
RENT
TUITION
VALUE
WORTH

S Ν D R R В Η E S T 0 Y Α P Η Ι Η W R Ι 0 K Μ Α Ν R W D Ι X U R W 0 \mathbf{L} \mathbf{L} J V F C \mathbf{E} \mathbf{L} 0 Т Q U D K Q Ι Η Ρ S \mathbf{E} F В Y Ι X \mathbf{L} Ι W Q W U Q F Ρ X G \mathbf{L} В U 0 F 0 0 D Ν F R 0 F Т Y V G U V R D В Ε D R Η Ε Т V R S Y O Χ Q Μ O Χ В В Q C D Ν Ε Ε K Ρ Q Ι V Q Ε \mathbf{E} \mathbf{L} Ν Т Т R \mathbf{E} Ρ G Ι K Ν Y Α Μ Ι Ν Α Ι C В \mathbf{E} Ν Ν \mathbf{Z} P S X Ν K Ι X R C V \mathbf{E} \mathbf{E} S D Y Μ \mathbf{E} \mathbf{L} Ι Ν В J Ε \mathbf{T} Α C D 0 Ι В U D G \mathbf{E} 0 Ι U D 0 V \mathbf{E} U V R S Α В P G \mathbf{E} \mathbf{L} Α Ν Т Т C F Ε S E R Ε Ν Ι \mathbf{T} \mathbf{L} Ν В



what's going on

by greg pratt



PHOTO PROVIDED

Michael Doerksen's Coupling is being exhibited until August 1 at Deluge.

VARIOUS DATES IN JULY

Symphonic summer

The Victoria Symphony is seeing to it that there's lots of historic music being played in nice sunshine-y places, such as the Inner Harbour and the

Butchart Gardens, this month. See victoriasymphony.ca for info.

UNTIL AUGUST 1

Get coupled

Michael Doerksen's Coupling is a

three-part exhibit based around cast bronze sculptures of an extinct marine invertebrate which was kickin' butt 145 million years ago. It all goes down at Deluge Contemporary Art, 636 Yates Street; see deluge.

scan for menu TAKEOUT & DELIVERY 10am - 10pm Greater Victoria, Langford & Colwood Daily Lunch Buffet from 11am **ALL YOU** Dinner Buffet from 4:30 pm **CAN EAT** 30 items includes Seafood, Dim Sum & DRINK Sushi Roll & Vegetarian Dishes

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Shakespeare fest returns The Greater Victoria Shakespeare

UNTIL AUGUST 8

Festival is celebrating their 25th year, and they're doing it right here on the lawn of Camosun's Lansdowne campus. Come see them tackle classics Romeo & Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream while you put off doing schoolwork. See vicshakespeare.com for the scoop.

> FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS IN AUGUST

Free flicks outside

Hard to say no to free classic movies like The Secret of Nimh (!) being screened for free at various locations outside (Beacon Hill Park, Broadmead Village, and the Legislature). Check out freebfilmfest.com for info.

> FRIDAY, JULY 17 TO SUNDAY, JULY 19

It's a romp

Suddenly Dance Theatre's ROMP! Festival of Independent Dance is in its 18th year; head to suddenlydance.ca to see the whens, wheres, and whats of the fest this

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Moss Street Paint-In returns

The popular Moss Street Paint-In is back for its 28th year; see aggv. ca for all the details on this event, which runs from 11 am to 9 pm and includes live music with Groove Kitchen.

> SATURDAY, JULY 18 AND Thursday, July 23

Make your beachy voice heard

The CRD wants to hear from the public about Island View Beach; come to these sessions at the beach to make your voice heard. See crd.bc.ca/ project/island-view-beach-management-plan for the whole lowdown.

> SATURDAY, JULY 18 AND SUNDAY, JULY 19

The shores shall be rocked

The Black Keys. Jane's Addiction. And there you have it: without even mentioning the slew of other bands playing Rock the Shores, it's already sounding pretty amazing. Go to rocktheshores.com for all the info.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Horror cabaret punks unite

The New Jacobin Club are from Saskatoon and play what is known as horror cabaret punk; their stage show promises to be pretty wild. Check 'em out at the Cambie, 856 Esquimalt Road; see cambiepubesquimalt.com for more info. See your weirdest friend to find out what "horror cabaret punk" is.

> MONDAY, JULY 20 TO FRIDAY, JULY 24

You got the write stuff?

The Victoria Film Festival's Shoot the Write Stuff! summer camp is for youth aged 11 to 14; the camp costs \$225 per student, each of whom will get to experience all the different aspects of film production and create a short film, which will be screened at the camp. See campscui.active.com for registration info.

> THURSDAY, JULY 23 TO SUNDAY, JULY 26

The woods shall be rocked

Rock of the Woods is back, this year with Gob, The Dudes, Dante DeCaro, and many more. For more on this Cowichan Valley-based fest, including the full lineup, see rockofthewoods.com.

> THURSDAY, JULY 23 TO Monday, July 27

Get salty

The SALT New Music Festival and Symposium is a series of five concerts at Open Space focusing on new music that is voice-centred. See openspace.ca for the lowdown on this and other events.

> THURSDAY, JULY 23 TO Thursday, August 6

The art of parenting

Caleb Speller's Patina is a collection of ceramics and works on paper inspired by parenthood. It's on display at Polychrome Fine Art, 977a Fort Street. Head on over to polychromefinearts.com for info.

> FRIDAY, JULY 24 TO SUNDAY, JULY 26

Yes in our backyard

The Phillips Backyard Weekender 2015 has a bunch of cool bands playing live in the Phillips Brewery yard. Sold yet? Performers include legendary indie rockers Built to Spill, along with a diverse lineup including Talib Kweli, The Easy Star All-Stars, USS, Jon and Roy, and many more. Prices vary; check out backyardweekender. com for more information.

> FRIDAY, JULY 24 TO Sunday, July 26

Get the folk out

The Islands Folk Festival is bringing three days of folk to this fest, happening just outside of Duncan. If you're into making the trip up there, check out islandsfolkfestival.ca for the scoop on the fest, including who is playing, times, and more.

Monday, August 3

Go for Baroque

Raven Baroque are performing tunes from 1600 to 1750 in full costume at a bunch of outdoor events, for free. On August 3 they're at the Mt. Tolmie Reservoir at 1:30 and 3 pm, but you can also catch 'em at St. Ann's Academy Chapel at 7:30 pm on Thursday, August 6; the Christ Church Cathedral lawn at 10 am on Saturday, August 8; the Government House at 6 pm on Thursday, August 13; the Beacon Hill bandstand at 1:30 on Friday, August 14. They're also playing a not-free concert at 7:30 pm on Saturday, August 15 at St. Mary's Anglican Church. See ravenbaroque. com for the full scoop.

Tuesday, August 4

The Wooden Sky bring good indie to town

The Wooden Sky are a great indie band, and as an added bonus, Hawk and Steel, featuring Nexus musiccolumnist alumnus Peter Gardner, are opening. See atomique productions.com for info.

Friday, August 7

A little taste of Toronto

Toronto singer/songwriter Justin Nozuka will be playing at St. Ann's Auditorium; doors are at 7 pm, tickets are \$21.50, more information is at atomique productions.com.

> Monday, August 10 to FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Indigenous youth wanted

Up to 15 Pacific indigenous youth will take part in Pacific Voices X-Change, a two-week training program featuring guest mentors to help those in the program learn about Coast Salish lands as well as creative endeavors such as storytelling and spoken word. See pacificpeoplespartnership.org for information and to apply.