

# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990



**Camosun College Student Society election lowdown: 3**



**Adding up with Camosun instructor Erin Booth: 4**



**What's in the room at the top of the stairs?: 8**

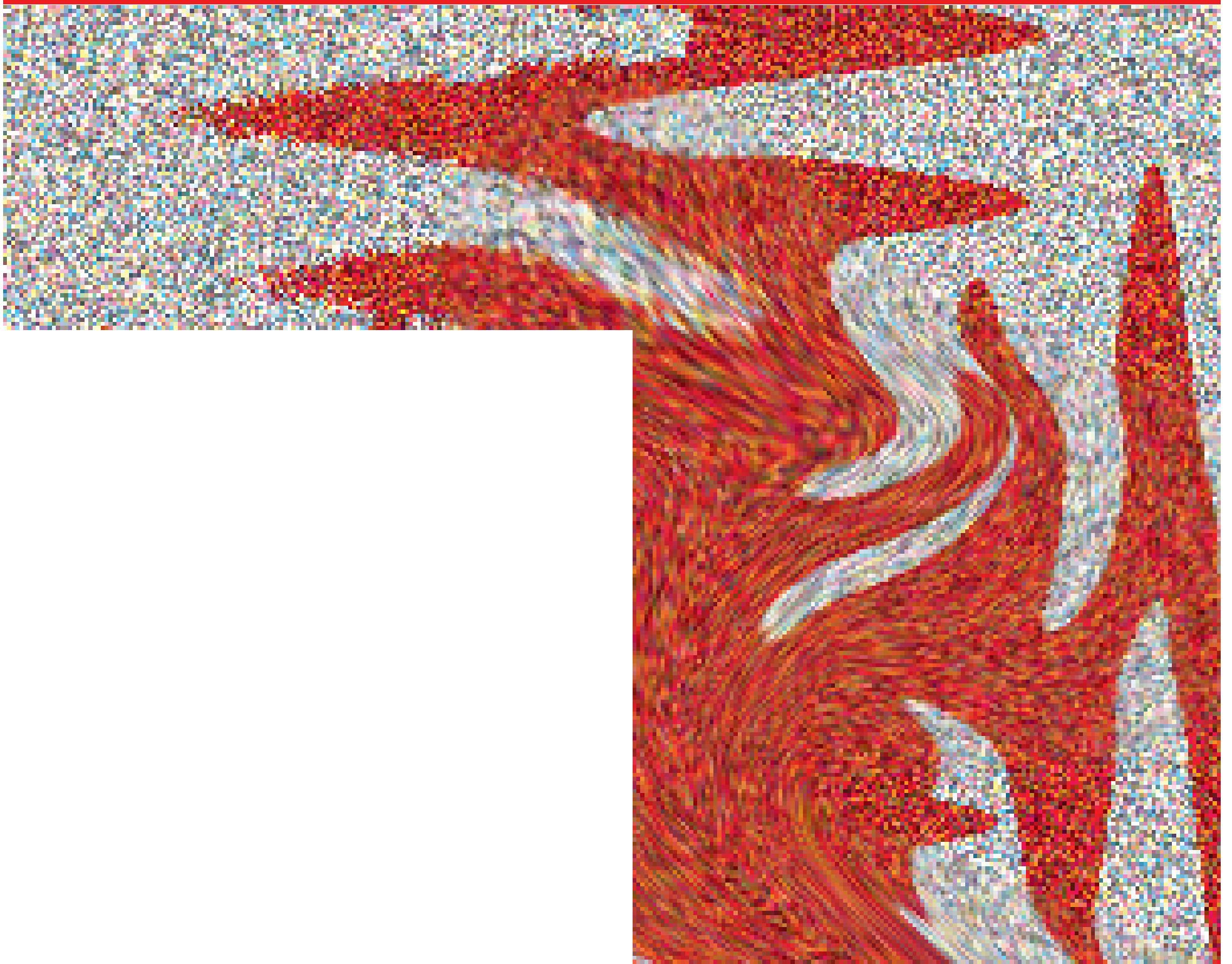
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## STATE OF EMERGENCY

**Three nights in a hospital hammer the point home.**

**Things need to change.**

**Page 6**



# NEXUS

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

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "So now I'm a garbageman."

COVER IMAGES:  
Student society elections: File photo  
Erin Booth; Jill Westby/*Nexus*  
Room at the Top of the Stairs: David Lowes

## editor's letter

# Hospital hijinks

It was late at night when I decided to stagger out of my hospital bed in an attempt to break free. I stood up, light-headed, and began to navigate the confusing labyrinth of IV tubes and other items hooked up to me and the machines. Frustrated, I just started walking, hoping that the cords would work themselves out.

It was either that or pee on the floor.

I was in a local hospital, where I spent a couple days about a year ago. The woman working the overnight shift in ER was, most likely, the meanest person in Victoria. She got angry at me for shaking and shivering and she wouldn't let me go to the bathroom; when I told doctors the next day, they were unimpressed.

I understand how some jobs can wear you down and make you jaded. I try to be sympathetic to anyone having a bad day at work. I also realize that working in ER is one tough, demanding job, and I have much respect for those who do it. But I'll likely never forget what it felt like to be scolded for being sick, or be told I couldn't go to the bathroom when I knew the doctors would let me.

So I was happy to extend the big metaphorical middle finger to this lady as I walked down the hallway in my absurd hospital gown, the cold air hitting my bare butt as I mooned not just that angry worker, but a system that is creating more and more angry workers.

I was also happy to let contributing writer Gillian Sellman tell her story about her hospital experience for this issue's feature (see page 6). Because while Canada's health care system has great aspects, there's a reason the receptionists are scowling, the ER nurse is angry, and your physician is always rushed. And it's time that changed.

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

## flashback

# 20 years ago in *Nexus*



**Women's Centre debate:** The November 28, 1994 issue of *Nexus* featured the cover story "Male student kicked out of Women's Centre sparks debate," in which writer Bowen Moran explains how student Martin Moreau had been, according to Moreau, "in and out [of the Women's Centre] all day, actually," when two women in the centre demanded he leave. The Camosun College Student Society women's executive said that kicking men out of the women's centre was a step in the wrong direction.

**Family funnies:** In a humour piece, writer Brett Gosman discussed how the comic *Family Circus* is actually not funny at all and proposed putting together a group dedicating to hating it. "We would

talk about how stupid the strips are, especially those where Billy is sent to do something and he does a bunch of other things on the way and leaves a dotted trail behind him," Gosman wrote. "Let's all join together and stop it before it goes any further."

**The next big thing?:** Everyone loves to talk about "the next big thing." You'll notice the phrase doesn't get bandied about *Nexus* too much anymore, because it's been used for everyone and everything at some point, it seems. Back in this issue, we predicted Victoria ska-punks Pressure Cooker would be the next big thing. Alas, they weren't, but they were a great band, even if they are now mainly forgotten in the unforgiving passage of time.

## open space

# Stop worshipping false deities of celebrity

These false gods live perpetually between Scylla and Charybdis, teetering on the edge.

JAYDEN GRIEVE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The gods are dead. Jehovah, Zeus, Venus, Vishnu. Shadows of these once universally worshipped deities may drift through our present time, but their great influence has faded into the umbra.

With the fall of these champions of immortality, we had almost escaped the basic human requirement they provided: the need to worship. To this end, we have taken it upon ourselves to create our own, more mortal, deities.

Celebrities represent a deep loss for the human collective and a desperate attempt to raise surrogate effigies of our fallen gods. What else could our behaviour towards them be described as, other than worship? We lap up their words like hungry dogs, read their writings, watch each and every move they make, wish deeply that we could one day become like them, and yet we know nothing of their true nature.

Like the gods of old, these people, these human beings, are a manifestation of ourselves. Those whom we love represent everything we love, or, perhaps more honestly, *want to love* about ourselves. They have beautiful, glowing bodies, minds of crystal thought, and pockets of gold.

Alternatively, those who receive our loathing represent the deep,

dark places inside ourselves: vanity, rage, sloth... We chastise them for that which we ourselves are more than guilty of.

These false gods live perpetually between Scylla and Charybdis, teetering on the edge. We train them to beg for our love but then scorn them when they grow greedy. And, as such, those whose novelty wears off, we choose to cast out like cold lovers who have lost their ability to please.

Veronica Lake, perhaps one of the biggest sex icons of the '40s, died penniless. Sometimes, though, the good memories remain: Molly Ringwald, one of the biggest stars of the '80s, is remembered fondly and still lives today.

Even now we have begun to see the decline of many who were once widely worshipped by us or our peers. Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, the Kardashians: each tries desperately to hold on to our love, but their seats have already been filled.

What this says about humanity is tragic. What will it take for us to realize that these men and women are not a substitute for our own lives?

The only thing required to escape this cycle of worship is simply to look away, to find happiness in ourselves, and to worship ourselves and each other.

That is where true happiness will be found.

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

# SPEAK UP

How do you feel about the municipal election results?

BY GILLIAN SELLMAN



CHANEL RAWCLIFFE

"I haven't really followed the election, since I'm not from Victoria."



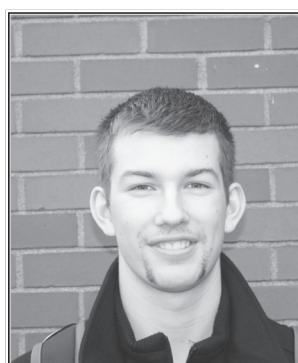
KATRINA LEFFELAAR

"I haven't checked the results, but I worked the election and it was cool to see so many people come out to vote. We had over 1,100 people at our school."



JON WILMOT

"I wasn't too happy. I live in Langford and the same guys got back in, so it was just more of the same."



LIAM GORMICAM

"The person I voted for retained leadership, Alice Finall in North Saanich, so I was happy about that."



COLIN STEPHEN

"I regret that I didn't have the opportunity to vote, because I was away working."



DELAINA OLSON

"I'm ambivalent to the results. I don't vote because I don't think it has much of an effect."

elections

# Student-society elections bring in fresh faces and new enthusiasm

**SERA DOWN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students recently participated in the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) elections, voting for fellow students to represent their needs and concerns on October 29 and 30.

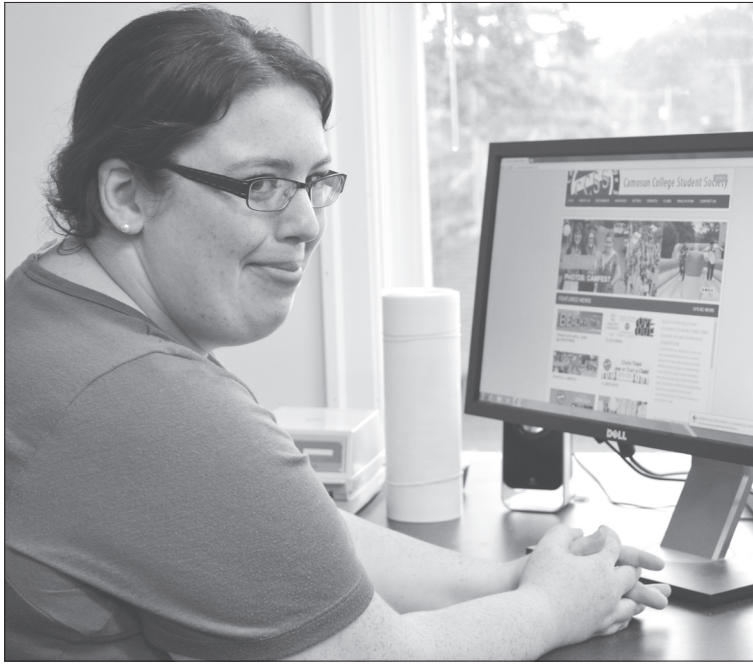
In total, 348 students handed in their ballots, which is a turnout consistent with previous CCSS elections.

CCSS external executive Rachael Grant is ready to welcome the renewed energy of her new and returning board members.

“It’s exciting to see turnover within the student society board,” says Grant. “For students, this means new ideas and energy, all with the intention of making a difference in the quality of student life, both on campus and in the community. It’s a right for every student to have a say in who’s representing them.”

Returning board member and First Nations director Shayli Robinson has ambitious plans for Indigenous students on both Lansdowne and Interurban campuses.

Along with “Crafternoons” (weekly at Lansdowne and bi-weekly at Interurban) to provide a safe and creative environment for Indigenous staff and students, Robinson also plans to head Canadian Federation of Students initiatives at Camosun, such as distributing *Where’s the Justice?* postcards and partnering with UVic for the Stolen Sisters march.



FILE PHOTO

**Camosun College Student Society external executive Rachael Grant.**

“My primary duty is answering to Aboriginal students’ needs and concerns,” says Robinson, adding that she’s excited to continue her work from her previous term. Go to [camosunstudent.org/clubs-groups/fnsa](http://camosunstudent.org/clubs-groups/fnsa) for more information about the First Nations Student Association.

Travis Moore is Camosun’s new Pride director. Increasing awareness for LGBT2IQ-related issues and creating a comfortable environment on campus for members of the LGBT2IQ community is Moore’s objective, as well as creating an educated, compassionate, flexible, and fun learning environment for students, he says.

“We continue to face discriminatory practice, and I want to try and educate our community in hopes of eliminating the stereotypes and harassment that we face today,” says Moore.

Moore’s priorities during this term are initiatives to end the blood ban on LGBT men, push for universal washrooms for non-cisgender students, and to promote safe-sex education.

“I feel confident in my ability to represent and support the needs, concerns, and interests of LGBT2IQ in our community,” says Moore.

Moore urges students to attend Pride Collective meetings; visit the Pride Lounge in the Richmond

“For students, this means new ideas and energy, all with the intention of making a difference in the quality of student life, both on campus and in the community.”

**RACHAEL GRANT**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

Building on Lansdowne campus, or check out the Pride Facebook page at [facebook.com/groups/camosuncollegepride](https://facebook.com/groups/camosuncollegepride) for more information.

Vishal Pandey was elected in as international student director. While ESL and funding issues will be the primary focus carrying over from last term, Pandey (who is also a *Nexus* columnist) hopes to bridge the divide between international and domestic students by organizing workshops and campus events while building strong and transparent representation within the CCSS.

Pandey commends students who took the time to vote in the CCSS election.

“If you’re not willing to select a representative, they won’t just appear out of nowhere,” says Pandey. “The manifestos at the back of the election post helped students make informed decisions, and students were great this election.”

Students can find information

about international programs and international student assistance through Camosun College’s official website and at [camosunstudent.org/clubs-groups/international-students/](http://camosunstudent.org/clubs-groups/international-students/).

The newly elected members have already started organizing events, starting with Trans Remembrance Day on Thursday, November 20 to commemorate those killed or lost to suicide because of their gender identity.

Other representatives elected this year are new CCSS Lansdowne directors Hyun Kee Lee and Adrian MacLaren, Interurban directors Michael Chaves and Lei Lei (Bingke Sun), and Mary Rickinson as off-campus director. (Rickinson represents Camosun students at programs that aren’t at Lansdowne or Interurban, such as students at the Victoria Conservatory of Music.)

Students can find out more about the Camosun College Student Society at [camosunstudent.org](http://camosunstudent.org).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Victoria election polls

Lisa Helps was voted mayor in Victoria’s recent election. Polls show that voter turnout was at 39.10 percent. Dean Fortin, who held the position for two terms previously, lost the vote by a mere 89 ballots and didn’t ask for a recount. Eight councillors and nine school trustees were also voted for in this election. This will be the first four-year term in Victoria since the Province of British Columbia passed legislation extending the length of term from three years.

### Chargers basketball

The Camosun Chargers women’s basketball team recently claimed their first win of the season against Langara College, beating the team 66 to 50. The following day the women lost 68–55 for the second time this season against the Douglas College Royals. The Camosun women also lost to the Quest Kermodes but beat out the Capilano University Blues 75–70. The Camosun men’s basketball team won their first game of the season against the Capilano University Blues by epic proportions (92 to 62), raising spirits just in time for the midseason break after being

crushed by the Quest Kermodes (84–67). The Charger’s men’s team has recently suffered losses to both the Langara Falcons (78 to 40) and the Douglas Royals (99 to 69).

### Volley news

The Camosun Chargers women’s volleyball team is playing its all-time best, remaining undefeated after eight challenging games this season. Recently, the team beat out the College of the Rockies Avalanches after an intense two-day travel, which nearly did the women in before they even hit the courts. The Charger’s women’s volleyball team is number one in the PACWEST standings and is ranked in second place in all of Canada for the third week in a row. The Chargers men’s volleyball team had a tough five matches against the College of the Rockies Avalanches on the first day of the weekend games, but came out victorious. The following day proved to be much easier for the Camosun players as they beat out the Avalanches in just three matches. This brought the Charger’s men’s standing up (5–3) as they sit in fourth in the PACWEST standings and 12th in Canadian rankings.

### So you think you can promote compost?

The Capital Regional District is searching for resident fats, oils, and grease slogan masters. Think you have what it takes to impress and enchant the Environmental Services Committee with your compost-promoting slogan magic? Each week four random winners will be chosen to receive \$25 gift cards to a local restaurant, and the grand-prize winner will win a \$75 Big Wheel Burger gift certificate, as well as an opportunity to have their slogan printed on T-shirts for future community events. Submit your slogans to [@crd\\_bc](https://twitter.com/crd_bc) on Twitter or by email to [rscp@crd.bc.ca](mailto:rscp@crd.bc.ca) before December 12.

### Poetic justice

One of Canada’s best-known and highly regarded writers, Patrick Lane, has been awarded the honour of the Order of Canada, recognizing his lifetime achievements. Lane has previously won the Governor General’s Literary Award for Poetry, the CAA Award for Poetry, and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. His memoir quickly became a national bestseller and was recognized in

British Columbia for Canadian nonfiction writing. Lane, whose writing career has lasted over 50 years and boasts an impressive 25 volumes of poetry, has a special connection with the West Coast after once teaching at the University of Victoria and now resides near the city. This fall, after seven years, Lane published a collection of his new works called *Washita*, which is full of his powerful use of imagery and focuses on meaningful and often inexpressible experiences.

### Local television station makes broadcast history

A new book by Victoria journalist Diane Dakers tracks the story of CHEK TV and how the local television station made broadcast media history as employees saved the 53-year-old station from being shut down by Canwest Global Communications. *CHEK Republic: A Revolution in Local Television* is a behind-the-scenes look at the history of the station, from its black-and-white bunny-ear days of variety shows to its present day status as the only locally owned and operated television station in all of North

America. Dakers will be giving a presentation about her book, available for \$19.95, at Bolen Books in Hillside Mall at 7 pm on Tuesday, December 2.

### The Rifflandia store

The eighth annual Rifflandia Music Festival, Victoria’s biggest music fest, has been booked for September 17 through September 20, 2015. Early bird super passes (\$136.25) and VIP passes (\$240.00) are officially available online at [rifflandia.com](http://rifflandia.com), or in person at Lyle’s Place and the Royal McPherson box office. A new location, the Rifflandia General Store, has opened at the Victoria Public Market in the Hudson Building downtown, which provides information and festival merchandise and showcases photos and Artlandia posters from years past. (If you ordered posters at Rifflandia this past summer, the General Store is also where you can pick those up.)

**-MATT O’CONNOR**

Got a news tip or a story that you think we should be covering? Let us know: email [editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com) today!

know your profs

## Camosun instructor Erin Booth chose accounting for purely financial reasons

**JASON SCHREURS**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Know Your Profs is an ongoing series to help you get to know the instructors at Camosun College. Every issue we ask a different instructor at Camosun the same 10 questions.

Do you have a favourite 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@nexus-newspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexus-newspaper.com) and we'll add your instructor to our list.

This issue we talked to Camosun College accounting instructor Erin Booth about falling into a career choice, the joys and sorrows of different kinds of student feedback, and the secret to being a good accountant.

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

I got my first big break teaching with Camosun last year when I was offered the Introduction to Managerial Accounting course. I must have done something right, as I have since taught the introductory level financial accounting courses and am currently teaching introductory tax.

**2: What do you personally get out of teaching?**

I get to learn! There is an incredibly sharp learning curve when it comes to instructing, and with every class I teach I take away a new insight into how I can be a better teacher, how I can convey concepts better, or simply how I can keep the class from falling asleep.

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

There are two things. One, I never wanted to be an accountant.



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

**Camosun instructor Erin Booth knows about the joys and sorrows of student feedback.**

All of my close friends thought I was going to be an astronaut. I realized in my early 20s that I'm interested in many fields of study, from sciences to the arts, but I didn't have the financial means to be a professional student. As a result, I strategically switched into Camosun's accounting program so that I could be employable and establish some financial security for myself. Two, I am a lot older than many people think. And, yes, I am old enough to have earned my designation. And, no, I did not graduate high school when I was 14.

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

I never wanted to be an accountant. In reality, choosing to do my accounting degree at Camosun was one of the best decisions I have ever made, and I look forward to

all the self-interest courses I will be taking.

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

Getting super-positive, unsolicited feedback from students, whether it's a nice message at the bottom of a final exam, or emails. It's just always wonderful to hear that students have enjoyed my class. I keep all notes, emails, and cards.

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

Getting super-negative, anonymous feedback from students. The negative nature of the comment doesn't bother me because I am new to teaching and have so much to learn, but it's the fact that I won't ever get to ask the student

how I could have helped more, or how I could improve, that sticks with me.

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

I believe postsecondary education will be free... Which is great, but then I wouldn't have to be an accountant to fund all my self-interest studies.

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

Anything outside, unplugged and with my Vizsla, Barley, who also looks incredibly young for his age!


**9: What's your favourite meal?**

This is going to sound odd, but I don't eat meals. I never have enough time to put thought into actually creating a "meal." As a result, I live on random pieces of food: bananas,


tuna from a can, microwaved oatmeal and water in a bowl...

**10: What's your biggest pet peeve?**


Students that apologize to me for their grades. It makes me feel awful, as I don't want anyone to feel responsible to me for their learning and progress in my classes. I've been a student; I know what it's like to have many competing priorities, and what it's like to neglect a class and then cram it all in during the last week, promising yourself you'll always stay up to date with your homework. I'm just happy that students have chosen me to lead them through their class. Good accountants are not necessarily those who achieved straight As; good accountants are those who have passion and interest for the subject.



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January

**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 *Elsewhere*, ready. The 37th graduation show put on by Camosun students in the ambiguous title that has given the artists freedom to interpret and create as they graduating students, Owen Parnell and Kellen Read, [...]

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***The Adventures of Superman* returns to spirit of 1940s radio plays**

April 10, 2014 by Jason Schreurs, managing editor (Edit) Leave a Comment

social issues

# Darrell Dennis examines First Nations assumptions in new book

**ERIN BLONDEAU**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Assumptions are made quickly, often without facts to back them up. Especially assumptions about First Nations people. Darrell Dennis knows this well, and the LA-based writer's novel *Peace Pipe Dreams: The Truth About Lies About Indians* explores these assumptions.

"People really are willing to believe the first thing they hear," chuckles Dennis, who also is a comedian and actor. He's on a mission to spread the real truth about First Nations, blasting biases that "non-natives" have gotten wrong.

In *Peace Pipe Dreams*, Dennis, who recently spoke at the Victoria Writer's Festival, takes time to debunk the misconceptions surrounding the word "Indian" and the ignorance that goes along with it.

"As a result from my experiences as an actor, I really felt that

there was a need to bring awareness and positive portrayals of the Native people," he says.

Dennis got his first acting gig on a hit Vancouver-based television series called *Northwood* when he was 17. He went from living on an isolated reserve near Williams Lake to acting on national television, being on the receiving end of plenty of racism along the way.

"It was a series of experiences like that all my life that frustrated me and angered me, and sometimes just made me laugh outright at just how many misconceptions there are about our people," recalls Dennis.

He toggles between cold, hard facts and light-hearted humour in the book, making it an interesting read. Every page is loaded with information, but instead of leaving the reader feeling confused and bitter, it's a refreshingly amusing read.

"People really grabbed on to

that approach, as opposed to being preached at, or being yelled at," says Dennis. "That's more of an effective message to send to people."

*Peace Pipe Dreams* picks you up and plops you directly in the shoes of First Nations people, experiencing racism from the colonial era to the '90s. Dennis forces the reader to ask questions that feed the soul: if you could change the word "Indian," would you? What is an Indian, anyway? Does it mean First Nations or indigenous, or does it really mean a person from India?

Although humour is well constructed throughout the novel, Dennis understands that there is a line of respect for his people and knows not to cross it.

"One of the hardest chapters to write was about residential schools," says Dennis. "It's really hard to strike that balance of humour and seriousness."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Darrell Dennis is out to shatter assumptions.

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# State of emergency

## The problem with health care in Canada

By Gillian Sellman, cont

### The story

"I neeedd soommmee heellppp!" a scratchy-voiced elderly woman called down the hall.

"No, you don't. Now shut up and go to sleep," I thought to myself.

Did I think that I'd ever be the kind of person to be cruel to an old woman, an old woman who perhaps has dementia? Well, no, but that's what the hospital did to me.

I've always hated hospitals, so I was kind of reluctant to go with my mom as she dragged my very ill self to our local centre of care. I could barely stand, my lymph nodes were the size of two small potatoes, and it felt like I had a cold, a flu, and something else all at once, but I still thought they were going to tell me to go home, drink lots of water, and sleep it off. So my slightly dazed self was very confused when that was not what happened.

situation, and I got moved to what grew to be a temporary home.

I encountered my first experience with hospital food (mushroom soup, vegetable something, and real cake!), and I was starting to think I could survive this night. I was learning how to manoeuvre an IV; they'd put my medicine into my IV so I didn't have to swallow through my very swollen and sore throat, and I was going to survive.

It was a couple hours later when I first heard an elderly woman, who would end up calling loudly at all hours of the day for somebody to help her. Finally, I managed to tune her out and get a bit of sleep, but when a nurse woke me up to check my vital signs I felt nauseous.

Halfway through my blood-pressure check I managed to choke out an "I'm going to throw up" and vomited in the hospital bathroom for the first time.

Skip forward five or six hours: I've gotten barely any sleep, I'm puking for the third or fourth time, and all I can hear is "I neeedd sooommmee heeellppp!" It was, unsurprisingly, not the best sleep of my life.

Still, the night ended, the sun rose, and a new day started. The puking had stopped and I was feeling a little better about life; I figured I would probably be home by tomorrow and everything would be fine.

Somebody from the kitchen came to ask me what my food preferences were, which I thought was nice, but ultimately unnecessary due to my being unable to swallow. It was also because I was definitely convinced I was going home tonight.

Until the afternoon, the only health-care personnel I saw were the people that came to take my blood three times a day. Eventually, the doctor came to check on me. He asked me how I was and I laughed. He didn't laugh; he was serious. We briefly discussed how my medication had made me ill and he promised to change it for that night.

"So I'm staying another night, then?" I inquired. He didn't answer, although he had been trying to communicate telepathically through intense eye contact; apparently, that communication wasn't his strong point.

I napped through the afternoon until the nurse came to give me my meds before bed. She had the same IV antibiotics from the night before.

"Oh, those made me sick last night; he said he'd change them," I politely informed her.

"He didn't," she rudely responded.

"Can you double check?" I asked.

"Fine," she replied. It turned out he didn't change it, so she gave me the same ones

as I shed a tear and looked forward to night two.

It was exactly the same as night one.

I awoke on the morning of day three much less optimistic and much more haggard. That day my family doctor visited me. She didn't ask me how I was, which I appreciated. I talked to her about the meds and she promised to change them. I trusted her because I taught her how to son impro; I had leverage. I slept through most of the day since I hadn't slept at night.

When evening came around, a nurse came to check on me. I had noticed that the area around my IV (which hadn't been changed since I was admitted) was getting quite red. I later asked my former-nurse grandmother about this, and she gasped and told me that was an infection and should never have happened, especially in a hospital.

Anyway, the nurse told me she was going to take my IV out and let me have a shower

The nurse took my vital signs, said, "Wow," and then left. Then the doctor came in to look at me, said that I had the biggest glands he had ever seen, and told me to change into a hospital gown, which I was very confused about.

Then I got multiple vials of blood taken from both arms, and, after a failed attempt or two, I got an IV in my right hand on the inside of my wrist. After a few more tests and several minutes of explaining to the doctor that, yes, I was sure I wasn't pregnant, I finally got my diagnosis.

It was explained to me kind of like this: "We're going to have to keep you; you have mono, and hepatitis, and blah, blah, blah." I tuned out the rest because he'd just used the words "keep you" and "hepatitis" in the same sentence.

After several minutes of conversation where my mom and I got nothing but vague answers, we deciphered that I had mono with a non-contagious swelling of the liver they call hepatitis, and a possible side of an infection or two. I was going to have to stay in the hospital. I was, understandably, extremely distressed.

So, there I was, lying in an emergency bed with a fever and the heart rate of an overweight asthmatic who'd just run a marathon, going through multiple boxes of tissue paper disguised as hospital Kleenex, with my very first IV in my arm and a very distressing diagnosis. And the nurse was telling me to pee in a cup.

I eventually managed to calm down enough to figure out how to wheel my IV into a washroom in my gown and gumboots and pee in said cup (which, by the way, is one of the most difficult things I've ever done in my life). I returned to my bed, where I stayed for what felt like a couple of hours while they arranged my room.

Eventually, all the admittance forms were filled out, I was feeling a bit better about my

**We have some of the best health care in the world for free. I didn't go into debt from my hospital stay; I am privileged to be living in a place where that's possible. But that doesn't mean there aren't issues.**

**I awoke on the morning of day three much less optimistic and much more haggard.**

Contributing writer

was great news, since by that point I smelled somewhat like a mix between a wet Chewbacca and Oscar the Grouch. I was given a towel and soap and told that she would be back later to put a new IV in. I showered and waited... and waited.

It had been several hours, and I was worried she'd forgotten. I was feeling chipper after my shower, so I walked to the nurse's desk. The nurse looked annoyed that I had moved. I told her the other nurse was supposed to give me a new IV; she said the other nurse had gone home, but she could do it.

She came to my room and tried to get the IV in. Four times. She said she needed better light and we went to another room where she tried again. Four times. She then got the head nurse, who, after three tries, put the IV in my hand. Brilliant. My arms were a little sore, but thankfully the meds got switched and I spent the night barf-free.

And on the fourth day of mono, the doctor gave to me... three blood tests and the all-clear to go free... kind of. I still had to go back for daily blood tests for two weeks, where I was occasionally threatened with further hospitalization if I didn't get my potassium up, or my fever down. By the end of it all, I looked like an emancipated drug addict with the track marks to prove it.

When asked what arm I wanted blood taken from, I would just hold them both out in their bruised, scarred glory and ask, "Which one looks better?" Eventually, after a month of bed rest, three weeks of blood tests, and one echocardiogram (essentially an ultrasound for your heart), I was cleared free to leave my life again.

**The issues**

I may sound a bit bitter, and I am a little, but I know I'm lucky. In Canada, we have some of the best health care in the world for free. I didn't go into debt from my hospital stay, my mom wasn't afraid to bring me in case we couldn't afford it, and I am extremely privileged to be living in a place where that's possible.

But that doesn't mean there aren't issues.

In my stay in the hospital, there were multiple miscommunications between staff and mistakes in my treatment. Am I blaming the nurses and doctors for this? Absolutely not.

Let's start with nurses. In the 1990s, most provinces weren't hiring nurses. This led to many qualified candidates entering other fields or leaving the country. Over time, this caused a nursing shortage.

Nursing, to begin with, is a difficult job. Most of us likely can't imagine doing a lot of the things nurses do every day. It's stressful and strenuous work. It's work that's difficult to do in any capacity, but because of the shortage, nurses are working double shifts and overtime. When pushed to their maximum capacity, nurses are unable to perform to the best of their ability.

According to the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF), "Hospital nurses

working more than 12.5 hours at a time are three times more likely to make mistakes, including medication errors. In fact, errors increase significantly when nurses work overtime or when they work more than 40 hours a week."

As well, working at such a high-stress job puts the nurse at risk for injury and illness.

"Research shows that job stress increases the risk of musculoskeletal injury, accidents, physical and mental illness, substance abuse, and smoking," says the CHSRF.

Short-staffing can also increase the risk to the nurse when they must do things like lift patients by themselves.

There's also always the danger of violence as a nurse, whether from coworkers or unwell patients, and "over-worked nurses—those working more than 40 hours a week or working overtime—are most likely to report

incidences of violence," says the CHSRF.

All of these factors combined lead to higher absenteeism among nurses; in 2002, absenteeism for full-time registered nurses was 83 percent higher than for the rest of the labour force. Increased absenteeism only increases the strain on nurses, creating a vicious cycle.

There are issues with doctors, too. A problem easy to understand if you've ever tried to find a doctor in Victoria is the inability for patients to find the care they need in a timely manner. If you're lucky enough to have a family doctor—and 15 percent of Canadians don't—it may take longer than usual to be able to see them: in a report by the Health Council of Canada, it was found that Canada had the longest wait times of countries surveyed to see their family doctor.

That study also found that 47 percent of Canadians had recently gone to the emergency room for something a family doctor could have treated, even though our wait times were the longest of all countries surveyed, with 26 percent waiting more than four hours for treatment.

This is troubling, since if emergency care isn't being used for emergencies, it's unlikely that the best care possible is being given. Wait times for surgeries are also high in Canada. In a study by the Fraser Institute, the median wait time in 2013 from referral to procedure was 18.2 weeks.

As a patient, it's difficult to wait so long for surgery, and as a doctor, it's difficult to be overworked and keep up with higher demand than availability.

**The solutions?**

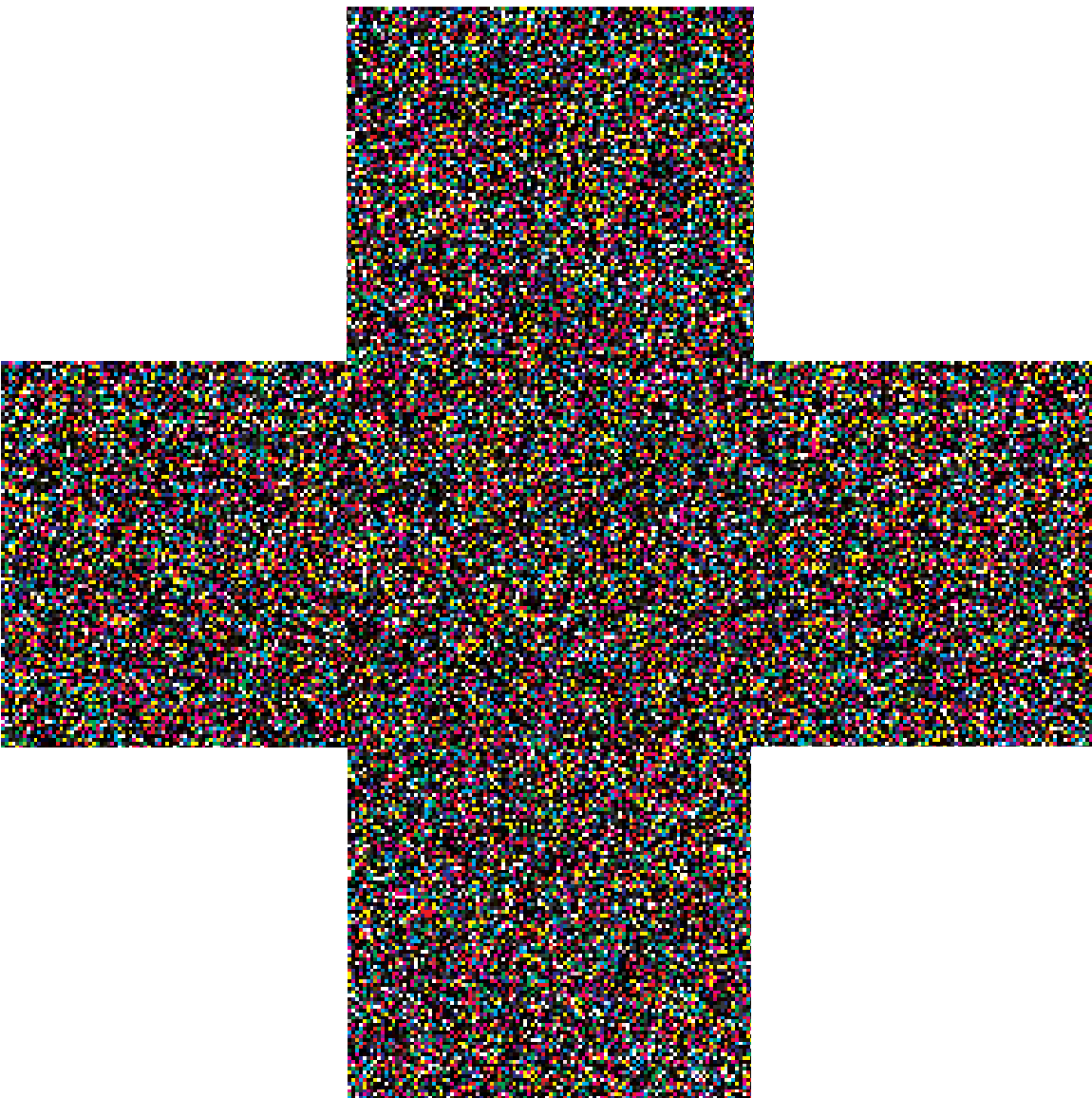
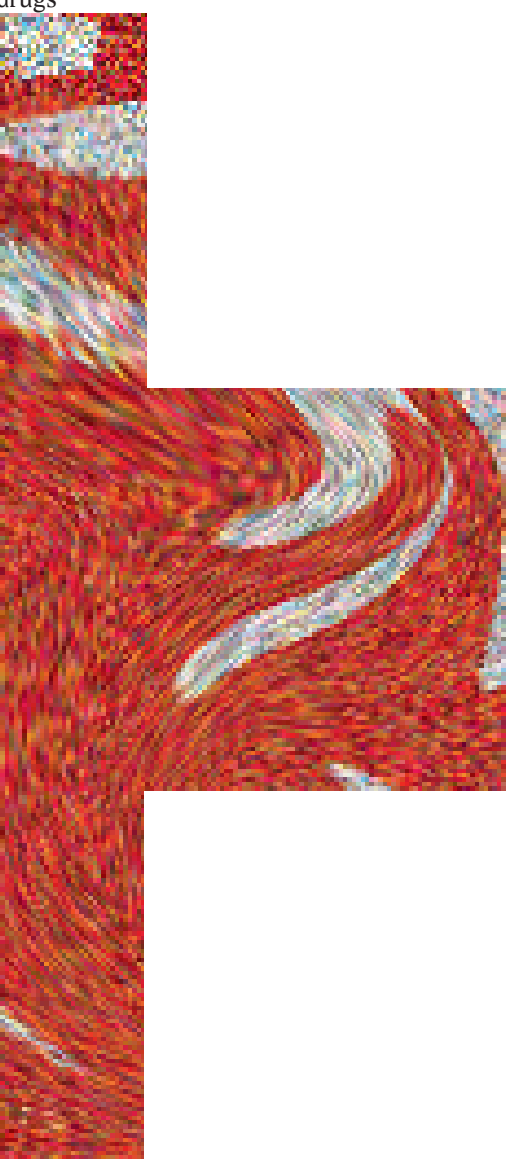
These are only some of the issues affecting doctors, nurses, and patients, and there are many more. It's evident that the system isn't working to the best of its ability. So this brings the question of how do we fix it?

It seems that many of the problems could be fixed by simply having more health-care workers. However, many say that by only hiring more workers we could create a boom-and-bust cycle, where we have too many doctors, and then not enough again.

Other than that, it gets more complicated. A solution to our health-care problems requires analysis and funding on provincial and global levels.

But I'm not a policy analyst; I'm not an expert in health care; I'm simply a patient. And I'm a patient that sees flaws in a system that could be way better.

We're lucky to have a health-care system in Canada that allows everyone to access the help they need, but until some problems are addressed, it will fail to live up to the potential it's capable of.



This

theatre

## Directors of *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs* embrace darkness in art



DAVID LOWES

*The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs* is a psychological thriller.

“I tend to stay away from the tame and trite for entertainment value. In fact, I absolutely rally against it.”

**NAOMI SIMPSON**  
LANGHAM COURT THEATRE

**TORI DMYTAR**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When someone says the word “director,” images of Broadway and Hollywood come to mind. But speaking to director Naomi Simpson, images of prison replace all thoughts of celebrity life. No, she’s not an inmate, but she has directed shows in Victoria at William Head Institution. And despite her unique directing background, she hasn’t been doing it for long: her true passion is acting.

“I’ve been an actor all my life, and I have done some directing. It’s just been in the last couple of years that I started to direct again,” says Simpson. “I like directing, but my heart is as an actor.”

Her assistant director at Langham Court Theatre, Julian Cervello, feels the same way. His background is also as an actor, and he is just now developing his directing career. But these two passionate actors have come together to direct a psychological thriller, *The Small Room*

*at the Top of the Stairs*. Both were drawn to this play for the darker themes, and jumped on the opportunity to explore the story further.

“I gravitate towards dark themes because I brought myself up on Shakespeare and the tragedies and history plays; they have so much vital life,” explains Cervello. “It’s the kind of theatre that I like to see, so it’s the kind of theatre that I like to do.”

Simpson agrees with Cervello and also takes it a step further: she says theatre shouldn’t just be about happy endings, because that’s so rarely the case in reality. She feels responsible for shining light on the gloomy things encompassing humanity.

“I definitely also veer towards work that is darker,” says Simpson. “I do believe that we have a responsibility as storytellers not just to entertain but to hold up that mirror to society because the world we live in is so very complex and often dark.”

Simpson says this play in particular will leave the audience pondering questions about themselves and their relationships. It’s important to tell stories with real life themes and problems because that’s what people can relate to and what audiences find thrilling, she says.

“Telling stories that reflect the nature of society that way is not only important but also exciting for the audience,” she says. “I tend to stay away from the tame and trite for entertainment value. In fact, I absolutely rally against it.”

Maybe it’s the actress in her, or maybe it’s the director who accepts the dark themes with an artistic heart. Either way, both Simpson and Cervello agree that they chose this project because this play is not only entertaining and funny, but also a terrifying journey.

“I just found it to be a sublimely translated play with a lot of beauty in the language,” says Simpson, “and yet a very suspenseful, curious play that took me down hallways and up staircases and through doors and dark alleys in my mind.”

*The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs*

November 20 to December 6  
\$19-\$21, Langham Court Theatre  
langhamtheatre.ca

stage

## University of Victoria students mount entirely German play

**JASON SCHREURS**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Students in UVic’s Performing German Drama class are readying a two-night run of a dark comedy entitled *Der Besuchen der alten Dame* (roughly translated to *The Visitor*), performed entirely in German.

And if that sounds like a vast undertaking, it’s because it totally is, according to UVic student Caitlin Burritt, who performs two supporting roles in the play.

“It’s been a very interesting experience, especially since we’re not all native German speakers,” says Burritt, who, along with other English-speaking members of the cast, had to use dialect coaches to master the language for the performance. “The rest of us not only had to figure out our characters, but also exactly what we’re saying and how to pronounce it, so it’s been really unique that way.”

The play, written by German playwright Friedrich Dürrenmatt, is an absurdist tragic comedy about a wealthy woman who returns to her hometown, which is completely dilapidated and filled with ridiculously poor townsfolk. Soon, everyone is trying to impress the woman in hopes that she will turn the town around financially.

“We not only had to figure out our characters, but also exactly what we’re saying and how to pronounce it, so it’s been really unique.”

**CAITLIN BURRITT**  
UVIC STUDENT

But the story turns dark from there.

“She offers to donate \$1,000,000,000 to the town if they murder her ex-boyfriend, who jilted her 45 years prior,” explains Burritt. “So it’s a really weird premise, and the play starts out very humorous and absurd and over-the-top, and then it becomes more serious and heavy-handed as it shifts from comedy to tragedy.”

Now in their third year of performing, the Germanic studies students—under the tutelage of UVic professor Elena Pnevmonidou—are responsible for mounting the production, including sets,



Students from UVic’s Performing German Drama class had to study up on their German before their new play.

costumes, acting, and directing. The performance of *Der Besuchen der alten Dame* features three student co-directors, as well as several leading actors who were already fluent in German.

“It’s definitely very student-driven,” says Burritt, “which is unique to any other course I’ve taken because our professor is there to help, but she’s very much in the background and encouraging us

to take the leading roles in putting this play on.”

As for the entirely German dialect for the production, Burritt says that although the play is meant to be staged in front of primarily German audiences, it’s not impossible to understand for English speakers.

“It is spoken in German, so it’s somewhat difficult to get the idea if you haven’t heard of the story before, but at the same time the

way that the play is staged isn’t very subtle, and it’s pretty abrupt,” she says. “Because it’s absurdist, a lot of the humour is really in your face.”

*Der Besuchen der alten Dame*

8 pm, Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6  
\$5, Merlin’s Sun Home Theatre (1983 Fairfield Road)  
gmst488.weebly.com



christmas

## Dickens holiday classic gets unique local treatment

**JACQUELINE CHAPOTELLE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Kelt Eccleston is somewhat of a local celebrity; he's been a local musician for "too many years to count," he says, and also keeps busy as an actor. The last notable performance Eccleston has done was a Belfry Theatre production of the homelessness-themed *Home Is a Beautiful Word*, but this time he's starring in a heartwarming holiday classic.

In December, the Victoria Symphony, accompanied by Eccleston, will present *A Sentimental Christmas Carol*, a concert based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Eccleston, who is the narrator and also does all the voices and characters, hopes that with his latest performance he can make people reflect on their lives.

"When I read *A Christmas Carol*, I got really emotional. When I was reading the script, I wanted to touch people with it," he says. "I want people to come away feeling they can be better people."

That's what Christmas is all about, right? Being better people, learning from our mistakes over the year, coming together with our family and friends, and loving the ones in our lives. The whole performance is about personal growth, and the play won't vary too much from Dickens' story, according to Eccleston.

"I want people to kind of reflect on themselves, because the story

"It's about greed, and capitalism, and how dark that can be, and how isolated that can be."

**KELT ECCLESTON**  
*A SENTIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CAROL*

is really just about being a better person," says Eccleston. "I kind of stay away from watching movies of *A Christmas Carol* because it gets all about the ghosts and it gets sensational. And this script is not sensational. This script actually stays quite close to the Dickens version."

The classic holiday story also shows us that no matter how far down we go, there's always hope for redemption. Eccleston will be a character that we can relate to because we all have a dark side; we will be able to love and grow with him, he says.

"It's more about looking at your fellow man, because the character of Scrooge is kind of an everyman, in a way. He's kind of the dark side of humanity," says Eccleston. "It's about greed, and capitalism, and all that, and how dark that can be, and how isolated that can be."

Seeing how the character of Scrooge changes, and how he reflects on his mistakes, will help us see our own faults and make this Christmas a more meaningful one.

After all, doesn't everyone want to be a more giving person?

"And at the end, to see how he's such a changed man, and he comes to that conclusion not so much because he's scared out of his wits, but because he gets a chance to actually reflect on his life and realize the mistakes he has made, and at the end he is a better person," says Eccleston.

Eccleston says he and the symphony hope the production makes attendees feel good and feel closer to their community.

"With classical music, and the symphony being so amazing, I think it will really have an effect on the audience," says Eccleston. "It will be a great holiday experience."

### *A Sentimental Christmas Carol*

8 pm Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13; 2 pm Sunday December 14  
\$30 and up, Royal Theatre  
victoriasymphony.ca

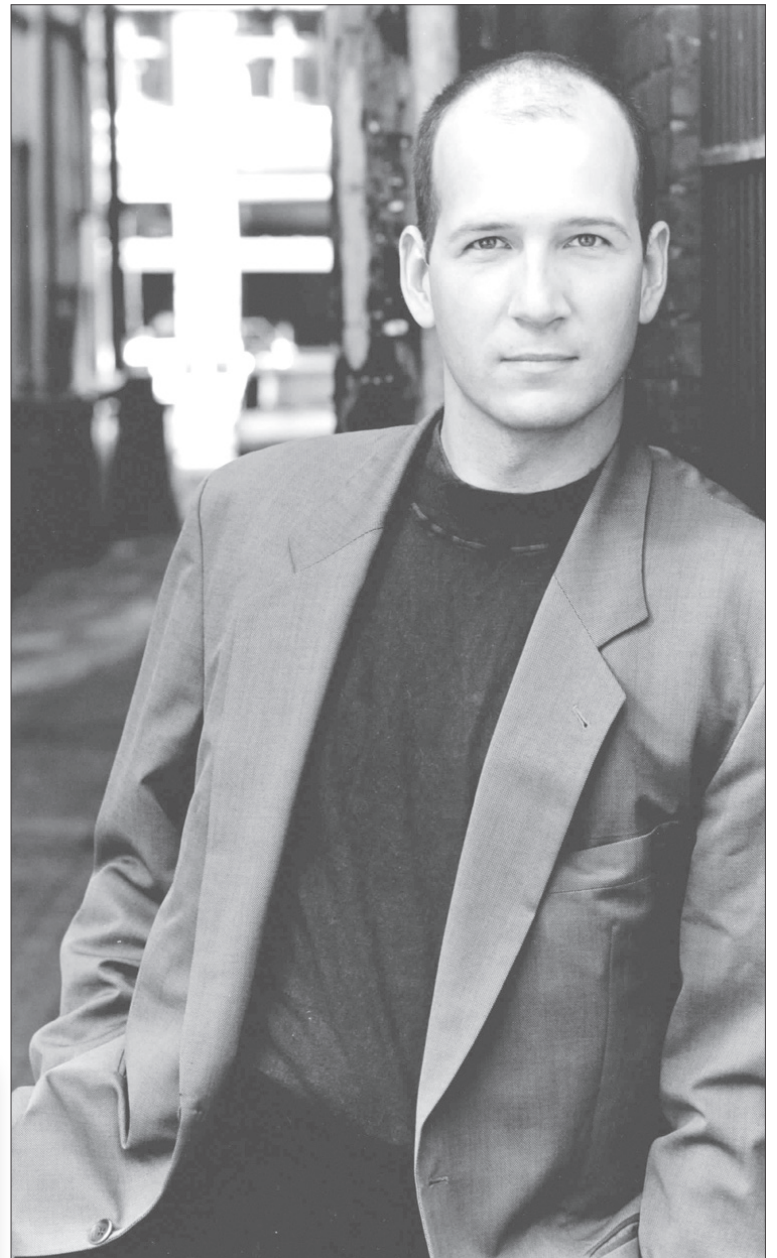
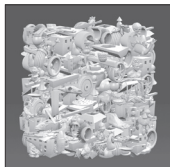


PHOTO PROVIDED

Kelt Eccleston keeps very busy during *A Sentimental Christmas Carol*.

### New Music Revue

## Machine sounds, dream pop



**Noah Wall**  
*Print the Legend*  
(Driftless Recordings)  
4/5

Noah Wall's soundtrack for the documentary *Print the Legend* blends instrumentals with dream-like technological sounds. The songs, which aren't longer than a minute or two, are mesmerizing.

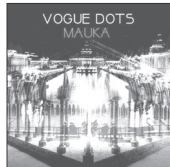
I listened to the album without any knowledge of the manufacturing and industrial elements of the film, and I was still able to get the sense that these sounds were the language of machines.

Wall has created music that brings you into another world—a somewhat alien world—of blended mechanical sounds and instrumentals transformed into beauty.

After watching the film, and experiencing Wall's music within context, it is given life. The songs perfectly highlight the experiences of the entrepreneurs exploring the potential for 3D printers.

The fantastical, poetic tunes mimic the ambition and hope the developers have, and their dreams about what groundbreaking technology could mean for civilization in the future.

-REBECCA DAVIES



**Vogue Dots**  
*Mauka*  
(Indica Records)  
4/5

*Mauka* is the latest EP release from Vogue Dots, a dream pop duo hailing from New Brunswick.

Right from the start, I found myself being consumed with this release.

"Way with Silence," the first track from the record, sounds like drowning in electronic bliss. It's a really great track, and I just couldn't help but play it over and over again.

Singer Babette Hayward's voice seems to float effortlessly over the sea of synths that fill up each song.

The rest of the cuts on this four-song EP get more experimental but never breach on the inaccessible. Where this record really captivates isn't in the lyrics; it's in the ambience.

This is an EP that feels like an album: it's consistent, but never boring, and at the end of it, it feels like you listened to an album and not just a string of four songs.

-JOSH TRAILL

## weird words to have in cd reviews word search

We extracted 20 words from the CD reviews you just read (to the left of this) for this word search; find the words above in the puzzle to the right.

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

ALIEN  
BLENDED  
BLISS  
CIVILIZATION  
CONTEXT  
DEVELOPERS  
DOCUMENTARY  
DREAM  
ENTREPRENEURS  
FANTASTICAL

FLOAT  
INDUSTRIAL  
KNOWLEDGE  
LIFE  
MANUFACTURING  
MESMERIZING  
PRINTERS  
SEA  
SOUNDTRACK  
TECHNOLOGICAL

K	S	K	F	M	T	W	N	A	J	F	R	I	N	S
C	P	R	S	R	E	P	O	L	E	V	E	D	O	E
A	I	E	U	N	C	A	V	Y	I	T	M	F	I	A
R	N	G	P	E	H	D	R	E	A	M	A	W	T	J
T	D	D	R	S	N	K	L	O	K	N	B	B	A	M
D	U	E	I	S	O	E	L	I	T	G	L	N	Z	E
N	S	L	N	I	L	F	R	A	F	E	Y	C	I	S
U	T	W	T	L	O	N	S	P	N	E	P	N	L	M
O	R	O	E	B	G	T	E	D	E	F	X	Q	I	E
S	I	N	R	L	I	M	E	I	A	R	R	H	V	R
O	A	K	S	C	C	D	K	D	L	M	T	M	I	I
B	L	X	A	E	A	Q	J	Z	G	A	T	N	C	Z
J	F	L	A	K	L	T	X	E	T	N	O	C	E	I
G	N	I	R	U	T	C	A	F	U	N	A	M	O	N
D	O	C	U	M	E	N	T	A	R	Y	I	Y	X	G

## music

## White Lung's Mish Way says haters gonna hate

JASON SCHREURS  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

White Lung vocalist Mish Way is not only the front-person for one of the best punk rock bands going right now (even though she'll be quick to point out they "don't play punk"), with one of the best albums released in 2014 in *Deep Fantasy*, but also an accomplished freelance writer for publications such as *Vice*, *Salon*, and *The West Ender*, where she recently started writing a sex-advice column.

Signed to the Domino Recording Company last year before the release of *Deep Fantasy*, the four members of White Lung—Way, guitarist Kenneth William, drummer Anne Marie Vassiliou, and bassist Hether Fortune—have, deservedly, been exposed to a much bigger audience than the underground Vancouver punk scene that spawned them.

Way is always outspoken and direct, qualities that can be sometimes rub people the wrong way, yet demand respect. As we found out in our recent interview with her, what people think of Way and White Lung is entirely up to them, because this is a band that's not willing to let what others think change their musical vision: kick ass, take names later.

*Last time we talked, the Domino signing was pretty fresh and you weren't sure what the response would be. Have you noticed much difference in attendance at your shows and the size of your fan base?*

Yes, I notice a difference, but that's expected. There's more people interested because more people know about us, but, look, it's not like Domino waved a magic

"Anyone who thinks our minor success is undeserved can say that to my goddamn face."

MISH WAY  
WHITE LUNG

wand and things transformed. We have been touring for years and years; pushing ourselves, sneaking into the USA to play any show we could for next to nothing. That's what happens. Anyone who thinks our minor success is undeserved can say that to my goddamn face.

*Every time I write about White Lung, there seems to be a lot of backlash and debate about it. Why do you think White Lung is such a polarizing band?*

I'm not sure about the flak you speak of, because I don't read comments on articles about my band. I learned years ago that it's pointless. I imagine the flak has something to do with undeserved success, or calling us a shit band, or calling me a whore, or posers, or whatever: the usual, unoriginal hate. It's no skin off my back. I really could care less, and I don't care to analyze why someone would hate on me, or my band, because we all know exactly why.

*Do you think people mistake the band's social awkwardness for being aloof or stuck up?*



PHOTO PROVIDED

Vancouver's White Lung plays "pop songs at the speed of hardcore," according to vocalist Mish Way.

Probably, but what can we really do about that? Is it really our problem? Kenny [William, guitars] and Anne-Marie [Vassiliou, drums] are both witty and sick humans, but they don't come out with that right away. I'm not aloof. Hether [Fortune, bass], who has been playing with us for the last year, is not shy or aloof either.

*You once told me that playing with Kenneth is like watching a professional skateboarder, just marvelling over how he pulls off what he does. Can you explain what he brings to the band?*

Kenny's guitar is the most important element of this band. I mean, okay, we are all essential, but his guitar playing is unique and he's an excellent melodic writer. No one plays like him. I'm so glad you asked about this and not about the "girl thing," because nothing makes me angrier than when our three-

quarter femaleness is focused on more than his guitar work. When Kenny sends me what he's working on, the vocal melodies come so easy. We have been writing together for five years now and it's like this unspoken thing... we don't need to talk about it. It's really psychic. His frantic, anxiety-ridden guitar playing complements my direct vocal delivery. We are such opposite performers, and it works.

*Some of your live shows seem like the band is on the brink of implosion, like everything could fall apart at any given moment. How does that uncertainty and riskiness feel when you are performing?*

Things are different now with Hether in the band. We are much tighter. We move as a unit. It's a better live show. I have stopped getting so fucked up before we play, for a few reasons, so it's a more powerful performance now. We haven't

played in Vancouver in almost two years; we've grown a lot.

*What does punk rock mean to you?*

We don't play punk. We play pop songs at the speed of hardcore.

*What's been the most fulfilling part of being in White Lung?*

Look, all I've ever wanted to do since I was a child is perform, to sing. I found punk rock when I was 16 and finally realized I could do it and feel excited, fulfilled, and welcomed instead of being inadequate. I started a band with my friend Anne-Marie and we worked our asses off. This is my career now, as well as my writing, so the most fulfilling part of White Lung is everything.

White Lung  
8:30 pm, Saturday, December 6  
\$12, Lucky Bar  
luckybar.ca

## theatre

## Venus in Fur brings a bit of masochism to the Belfry

JOSH TRAILL  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

*Venus in Fur*, currently playing at the Belfry Theatre, is an intimate play about the provocative power relationship between an auditioning actress and a director; in other words, this isn't a play you would want to bring children to.

Based on the book by Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, the play deals with themes of masochism, power, and seduction. The plot revolves around an actress, Vanda Jordan, who shows up late to an audition and tries to convince the director to give her a chance through seduction.

Celine Stubel, who portrays Jordan, says her character "craves that intimacy" and because of the sensual and masochistic nature of the play, she says it's important to have a strong "comfort level and trust."

"For me it's a real gift to play a part like this," says Stubel. "It's good to get an opportunity to go outside of your comfort zone."

*Venus in Fur* is a show that is

"The play addresses the power and balance that are ingrained into our society from the beginning of time."

CELINE STUBEL  
VENUS IN FUR

comprised of only two main character roles, the actress and the director, accentuating the themes of power conflict.

"It addresses the power and balance that are ingrained into our society from the beginning of time," says Stubel. "My character ends up taking control of the play through magic elements like lighting and bits of costumes."

Of course, this isn't a play that only deals with themes of power and sex; it also contains elements of comedy and lightheartedness.

"It's really entertaining and



DAVID COOPER

Plenty of hot-topic themes are explored within *Venus in Fur*.

smartly written; it's really, really funny," says Stubel. "It's a great mix, presented in an accessible way."

The actors crack jokes throughout the show; at one point they make fun of the Lou Reed song "Venus in Furs." And you don't have to be a kinky masochist or a power-hungry sex deviant to enjoy this play; it's done in a certain way that every

audience member can both enjoy and be curious towards.

One reason the play has found ever-growing support is through its sophistication, dealing mainly with the characters' personality clashes. The dialogue is fast and witty, so the audience will need to pay attention to keep up.

"I think it's exciting that the Belfry is doing this play; I don't

think they've ever done a play like this before," says Stubel. "It's always a gift when you add in the audience; they're the final piece of the puzzle."

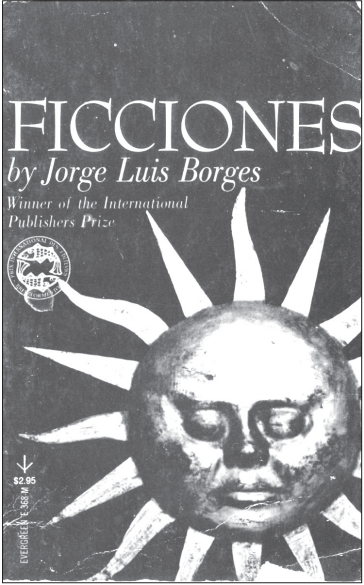
Venus in Fur  
Until December 14  
\$33 and up, The Belfry Theatre  
belfry.bc.ca



Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

## How Jorge Luis Borges invented reality



The idea of a blind man in charge of a nation's books may sound like something from a fantasy novel, but this was the real-life story of Argentinean writer Jorge Luis Borges.

Borges is best known for his strange tales about libraries that

have no end, traitors who betray themselves, and gardens with paths that fork into infinity.

The idea of a blind librarian is, in fact, a rather "Borgesian" idea; a word that has come to mean ironic or surprising things that involve inversions of reality, mirrors, and repeating mazes.

Born in 1899, Borges lived most of his life in Buenos Aires, where he wrote, gave public lectures, and taught at the local university. By the time he was appointed director of the National Library at age 55, a genetic condition had made him go completely blind.

Like the poets Homer and Milton, who were also blind, the loss of the visual world only fueled the life of Borges' imagination and its expression in his fiction.

His stories are always short and often read like essays explaining some invented discovery, like the secret society rewriting history in *Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius*, or

reviews of books that have never existed, as in *The Book of Sand*.

The joy of reading Borges is that his stories are puzzles that resolve in the end, making sense of a seemingly disjointed reality.

This sense-making through fiction was Borges' way of processing some of the horrors he experienced in his own lifetime, including WWI, oppressive dictatorships, and his own failing body.

In fiction, he conjured a reality that is, as he said, "surely a labyrinth, but a labyrinth devised by men, a labyrinth destined to be deciphered by men."

The texture of Borges' writing is that of a luminous imagination at work, making sense of the senselessness of the world.

**Borges Must-Read:**

*Ficciones*

(Lansdowne library code: PQ 7797 B635 F5)



Age of Geeks

by Vishal Pandey

## Operating systems go head to head

The war of the operating system (OS) has existed since the early days of the OS. It's not about which OS is the best, but rather which OS suits you best. Everyone has different needs and usage habits.

The flexibility of Android devices accommodates my affinity for tweaking settings frequently. On the other hand, you may not care as much for customizations and would rather have an easy smart device that lets you chat and take great photos; why not consider an iPhone, or even Windows?

Here's a breakdown of the different operating systems:

**Android**

Android does everything: gaming, multimedia, photography, everyday calling and messaging, and more. Plus, it offers users a heavy control over their experience. Want a simple phone-and-SMS-only experience? A custom lock screen and launcher with informa-

tive widgets? Enhanced camera app? Android's got it all, with apps and settings for almost everything. The latest version, Android 5.0 (Lollipop), introduces a new design language that's more refined, consistent, and focused on content. If you want a flexible OS and access to a huge variety of apps and games, give Android a try.

**iOS**

Since its first appearance, Apple has worked hard to refine the usability and simplicity of their platform that makes even novice users feel at home. Also, it attracted enough developers to fill their App Store with over 1.3 million apps (and counting). iOS is conveniently integrated with other Apple services, like iTunes for purchasing media and sharing it across your devices, iCloud for backing up your photos to the cloud, iCloud Drive for all your other files, and Mac OS to handle SMS and calls from your desktop.

The current version, iOS 8, is geared to securely handle home automation, in-car navigation and entertainment, personal-health tracking, and cross-device app management. If you want to plug into the Apple ecosystem and get the most popular apps on a powerful, well-built mobile, check it out.

**Windows**

Simple, easy, personal: that's Windows Phone in a nutshell. Currently at version 8.1, Windows Phone includes a novel interface that first-timers can get used to in a pinch and allows quick access to messages, contacts, and content you care about right on the home screen.

Where it falters, in comparison to other mobile OSs, is its app ecosystem, which is smaller by comparison; this may or may not be a problem for you. Those who like it simple will love Windows Phone's bloat-free interface.

Camosun College Student Society column



As I Was Saying

by Megan Dunn  
camosun college women's centre

## Don't forget to spread the love, Franti style

I recently saw Michael Franti in concert, and the power of his music changed the way I see the world and the way I think. I was sharing my feelings about the show and the intense emotions I was feeling afterwards.

The message through the music really touched me; I've often heard of people being inspired by positive messages, through music or art, but I'd never really experienced this feeling.

The message was living with love, and sharing your love with people, because we're all connected.

I've always believed this, but I've never really applied it in my life on a regular basis.

Many can easily express how much they love their family, friends, children, pets, and superficial individual loves, like our favourite foods or music. But we often forget to tell the people in our lives what they mean to us, and that we love them.

After the concert I made a decision that I was going to tell every person in my life who really means something to me that I love them.

I was recently having coffee with

a dear friend of my mine; we were having a heart-to-heart conversation. I was feeling honoured that she was comfortable enough to share her unique story of the obstacles she has been facing lately.

At the end of the chat, I hugged her and said, "I love you." I was feeling that she needed to hear that she was loved—and I do love her—and she replied back, "I love you, too!"

Since that day, I make it a daily effort to say these three little words to the people I love. I encourage everyone to do the same.



Bite Me

by Megan Dunn

## Lasagna perfect comfort food

As cold weather settles in, we crave hot comfort food. If you have a crock pot (if you don't, you should invest in one), here's a really easy and great way to make lasagna.

**Crock Pot Lasagna**

Total time: 4 hours, 45 minutes

Prep time: 45 minutes

Cooking time: 4 hours

Serves: 8

**Ingredients**

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1 cup water
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 8 ounces lasagna noodles, uncooked
- 4 cups mozzarella cheese,

- shredded
- 1 1/2 cups small curd cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese, grated

**Directions:**

1. Brown beef, add onion and garlic. Cook until onion is softened.
2. Stir in tomato sauce, water, tomato paste, salt, and oregano. Mix well.
3. Spread one fourth of the meat sauce in an un-greased slow cooker. Arrange one third of the noodles over the sauce.
4. Combine the cheeses.
5. Spoon one third of the cheese mixture over the noodles.
6. Repeat layers twice.
7. Top with remaining meat sauce.
8. Cover and cook on low 4-5 hours.



Booze Clues

by Andrea Valentine-Lewis

## Cenote suffers from bad service

I've been to Cenote a handful of times and I will go again; maybe not this month, or next month, but sometime in the future. Would I recommend it to tourists or friends? Definitely not. Several bars and restaurants of similar status in Victoria are much better.

The night I went Cenote, a few musicians played, and I thought it was fun, despite the fact that I generally dislike live music at pubs/restaurants. The musicians played some popular covers, such as Outkast's "Hey Ya," and many patrons (including myself) sang along. I ordered a Phillips Analogue 78 Kolsch, which is always a treat. It's a light beer with a balanced malt-to-hop ratio.

The big *however* at Cenote is that the service was very weak. Only one server and one bartender were on shift. When two people ordered a

beverage at the same time, often one patron would receive their drink long before the other.

I ordered a cocktail next, which was called The Devil's Workshop, consisting of Hendrick's Gin, Campari, Pimm's No. 1, Black Walnut Bitters, muddled mint, and fresh lemon. It was delicious... when the server eventually served it to me.

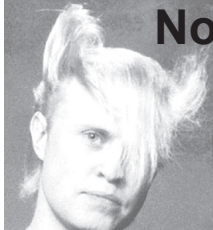

When we decided to leave, the bill took an inappropriately long time to get to our table. We had to walk across the room and speak to the bartender about settling up.

Cenote is good when it isn't too busy, or when it isn't understaffed. The drinks all received good reviews from the patrons at my table, so it's clear Cenote has good products. But service has the ability to taint the overall experience, and Cenote only gets 2.5 shots out of 5. A passing grade.


**Dunlop House Pub**  
At Camosun College

**November 27 - '80s rock**

**December 4 - Australian**

Every Thursday  
from 3:30 to 6 pm. Off Lansdowne Road,  
across from the Camosun staff parking lot.



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

what's going on

by matt o'connor



PHOTO PROVIDED

Untangle reality with *Beyond the Tangible Universe As You Understand It*, running until December 20 at Deluge Contemporary Art Gallery.

UNTIL SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

### Human nature examined through art

Adam Davis, a Los Angeles-based artist known for his sculpting, videography, and photography work, is bringing a four-channel video installation to the Deluge Contemporary Art gallery at 636 Yates Street. The 33-minute piece encompasses audio, video, and manipulated images inspired by quantum physics, religious devotion, and atheism. *Beyond the Tangible Universe As You Understand It* looks into the nature and diversity of human beliefs, hopes, and skepticism. The exhibit is open Wednesday through Saturday from 12 to 5 pm. Go to adamhdavis.com for more information about the artist.

UNTIL SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

### West Coast Art Show

The *Plenty of Art: Passions and Pleasures* art show opens to the public at 7 pm at Cenote Restaurant and Lounge, located downstairs from Lyle's Place at 768 Yates Street. The art show will feature various works of differing styles by 16 artist members of the Art Meet-up Group of Victoria. The pieces will be on display until December 27.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

### Buggin' Out

Camosun Anthropology students are hosting Pestival, a chance for fellow students and the public to have a taste of and learn about insect protein foods (see last issue's feature story at [nexusnewspaper.com](http://nexusnewspaper.com)). This oddly intriguing event will run from 7–9 pm at the Lansdowne campus in room 300 of the Young Building.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

### Canadian rock, some old, some new

Toronto-based hard rock band The Trews are headed west on their Canadian *Rise in the Wake* tour. Being the Canadian music scene veterans that they are, The Trews are travelling with The Glorious Sons of Kingston, Ontario. The Sons, who recently released their debut album, *The Union*, will be opening the show at Sugar Nightclub; doors will open at 8 pm. Opportunities for band meet and greets as well as VIP packages can be found at [thetrewsmusic.com](http://thetrewsmusic.com), and tickets can be purchased in person for \$26.50 at Lyles's Place and Ditch Records.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

### Vinyl Café Christmas Special

Vinyl Café is once again coming to Victoria for two nights of old-fashioned Canadian storytelling with CBC Radio host Stuart McLean. This special Christmas-time show will feature two new Dave and Morley stories, as well as musical performances by Chic Gamine, a Winnipeg band who has performed at the Olympics and for the Queen. Both show times at the Royal Theatre will begin at 7:30 pm, with tickets for the shows starting at \$56.75. Tickets are available in person at the Royal Theatre Box Office or by phone at 250-386-6121.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

### Band of the month

This is your chance to see part two of The Zone 91.3's Band of the Month winners from all of 2014: Zerbin, Isobel Trigger, The Carlines, and Thieves. These west coast artists will bring a mixture of alternative/indie pop rock to Distrikt Nightclub. Advance tickets can be purchased at The Strathcona Hotel, Ditch Records, and The Zone for \$10, or at the door for \$12. All proceeds from the event, which runs from 7 to 11 pm, will go to The Zone's TLC Fund for Kids.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

### Out of Hand artisan fair

The Out of Hand art fair at Crystal Gardens has celebrated veteran and emerging artists, designers, and food producers in Victoria for 26 years. The fair showcases art and expression with an emphasis on green living, specifically up-cycling and repurposing. There will be live music, cocktails, and a pop-up beauty salon, as well as chances to win prizes throughout the entire weekend. Tickets are \$8 for the day or \$9 for a weekend pass, except for Friday between 5–7 pm, when tickets will be \$5 for "happy hour" (students and seniors get \$1 off). This is an opportunity to check out local creations and pick up unique gifts for the holiday season. Crystal Gardens is located at 713 Douglas Street. The fair hours are Friday from 10 am to 9 pm, Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Check out [outofhand.ca](http://outofhand.ca) for more information.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

### The Harpoonist & The Axe Murderer

Vancouver blues band The Harpoon-

ist & The Axe Murderer have recently released their third album, *A Real Fine Mess*. Their modern take on classic blues is uniquely infused with folk, soul, and rock 'n' roll. The band will be performing an early show (doors at 7 pm) at Distrikt Nightclub in the basement of the Strathcona Hotel. Tickets are \$18 and can be purchased in advance online at [ticketweb.ca](http://ticketweb.ca) or in person at Lyle's Place, Ditch Records, or the Strathcona Hotel.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

### Fair Trade Fair

The First Metropolitan Church is hosting the Victoria International Development Education Association's annual fair trade show from 10 am until 4 pm. The event will feature 35 local vendors, including Level Ground and Ten Thousand Villages, with chances to chat with representatives of each. There will be music, door prizes, and food provided by the International Women's Catering Coop. The First Metropolitan Church is located at 932 Balmoral Road and admission is by donation.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

### The only time you'll hear live banjo all month

Banjo-playing singer-songwriter Lisa Leblanc from New Brunswick, now based in Montreal, is bringing her show to the Canadian west coast after playing an impressive 400-plus shows since hitting the road in 2013. Leblanc recently released her mini album, *Highways, Heartaches and Time Well-Wasted*, featuring five original songs all in English (something new for the 23-year-old Acadian-Canadian artist). Tickets to see Leblanc perform at Lucky Bar are \$18 and are available at Lyles Place, Ditch Records, and at [www.ticketweb.ca](http://www.ticketweb.ca).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 TO SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

### Alice has been drinking in Wonderland

The one and only master of the drunken piano, Tom Waits, has created a musical based upon Lewis Carroll's classic tales *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Alice through the Looking Glass*. This musical version of the children's classic has been given an adult edge with Waits' music and Paul Schmidt's script. Theatre Inconnu and musical renegades The Party on High Street have teamed up to bring this production to the Victoria stage. There will be both matinee and evening showings of the production at Theatre Inconnu, located at 1923 Fernwood

Road. On Tuesday, December 9 admission is pay what you like, but regularly tickets are \$14 or \$10 for students, seniors, and the unwaged. Ticket info is at [ticketrocket.org](http://ticketrocket.org) or by phone at 250-590-6291.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

### Hunky Wrench

The four-piece, harmonic, queer-sass-bluegrass band Hunky Wrench will be playing a show downtown on Pandora Street at the Solstice Café. Elder Sister Plum will be opening the night with acoustic renditions of eerie folk tales, and Tooth and Claw customized jewellery of the cruelty-free variety, made by Gorn, will be on display and for sale alongside this night of queer music and happy times. The sliding-scale admission fee is suggested at \$5-\$10.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

### Holiday festivities kickoff with the lighted ships

The holiday season will kick off with the 25th Annual Lighted Ship Parade, put on by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority at the Ship Point Pier from 5–9 pm. There will be hot apple cider, artisan creations, festive tunes, and, of course, beautifully lit ships. All proceeds from this event go to the Cool Aid Society's Every Step Counts Running program, which facilitates runs/walks for individuals in Victoria experiencing difficulties with housing, addictions, and mental illness.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

### Free Christmas concert

A free Christmas concert will be held in Market Square from 1–3 pm with donations being accepted in support of Our Place Society. The Greater Victoria Concert Band's junior, intermediate, and senior bands will all be performing at this free family event.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

### Oh my, Mother of Mother

Due to a rather large number of people wanting to see Mother Mother perform in Victoria, two nights of shows have been added to their *Very Good Bad Thing* tour. The British Columbian indie group, who have garnered some worldwide success, clearly have a lot of fans. Ubiquitous Synergy Seeker (or USS), an alternative dance duo born out of Toronto, will join Mother Mother for all three shows at the Royal Theatre. Tickets, starting at \$32.75, can be purchased in person at the Royal McPherson box office or online over at [rmts.bc.ca](http://rmts.bc.ca).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

### Epic art battles of Victoria

At 7 pm on December 11 the Victoria Event Centre will transform into a live competitive art-creating space for Victoria's 196th Art Battle. Painters have 20 minutes to create a piece in front of an audience using acrylic paint, brushes, palette knives, or non-mechanical implements. Once the 20 minutes are through, it's up to the audience to vote democratically on the winner and bid on their favourite pieces. Apply to paint at [artbattle.ca/register](http://artbattle.ca/register), or simply show up and watch the talent unfold with every stroke. Tickets are \$15 at the door, or \$10 for early birds, students, and seniors. Tickets are also available online at [artbattle.ca/196-victoria](http://artbattle.ca/196-victoria). The Victoria Event Centre is located at 1415 Broad Street.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

### A very West Coast Holiday Special

Jon and Roy, the folk rock/reggae group whose hometown is Victoria, will be playing their sixth annual Holiday Special show at Alix Goolden Hall. The show, which has sold out five of six years, will consist of multiple musical guests, including Vince Vaccaro, Carmanah, Luca Fogale, and alternative pop artist Old Man Canyon. Tickets are \$22-\$25 and are available at Lyle's Place, Ditch Records, and online at [ticketweb.ca](http://ticketweb.ca). Doors for this all-ages show are at 7 pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

### Punk rock Christmas

Tired of all the reindeer games and milk and cookies crap? Get a load of this: the yuletide punk band Angry Snowmans, with guests Orange Krush, will be playing their festive punk rock at Logan's Pub starting at 9 pm. This is your chance to get a little festive without all that sappy shit that comes with the season. Cover charge to be announced.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

### Young filmmakers wanted

The FilmCAN online competition is looking for Vancouver Island or Gulf Island middle-school and high-school student filmmakers to submit their two- to five-minute films for the chance to be screened at the 2015 Victoria Film Festival. Previous winners have won scholarships to the Gulf Island Film and Television School, as well as computer equipment and creating and editing software. Entries must be uploaded to Vimeo and added to the FilmCAN group by midnight on December 21. Go to [vimeo.com/groups/filmcan](http://vimeo.com/groups/filmcan) for more information.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

### A little Kandle for a winter's night

Victoria native and indie swamp-rock singer/songwriter Kandle Osbourne, daughter of 54–40 frontman Neil Osbourne, is returning to her home city with musical partner Sam Goldberg Jr. of Broken Social Scene and the rest of The Krooks. The musicians will be playing Lucky Bar (doors at 8 pm) with opening guests to be announced. Advance tickets are available for \$12 at Lyle's Place and Ditch Records.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

### Campus shutdown

Both Camosun Lansdowne and Interurban campuses will be shut down for the holidays between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Student services, such as administration, libraries, bookstore, gym, etc., will all be unavailable during this time.