



# GENDER- NEUTRAL BATHROOMS

**Are they coming to Camosun?**

**page 6**

**PLUS:**

**Camosun College gets  
sustainability award**

**Interurban Career Fair  
expands**

***Star Wars* reviewed**



# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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### SEND A LETTER

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

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS CHRISTMAS PARTY: "I can't believe you married Greg."

COVER PHOTO: Jill Westby/*Nexus*

## editor's letter Trusting in media

Every once in a while, the importance, and the sheer reach, of what we're doing here hits me hard. It hit me hard during our coverage in our last two issues of Camosun students using ADD and ADHD drugs to study.

While those issues were on the stands, we had people thanking us for writing the stories in a very profound and honest way. It reminded me of how important it is that schools like Camosun have a student newspaper, and one that can report on issues free of bias.

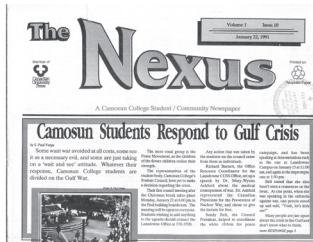
One person came into our office, issue in hand, and told us about how they were once a student but had to leave school because of their ADD. They were very upset that students who don't struggle with the condition use the medication and came in to say how thankful they were that we were covering the issue when no one else in town seems to be. It made me realize we're doing our job, and we're doing it right.

A Camosun student recently told me that they describe *Nexus* as "attitude with integrity." I was beaming for days after that; still am, really. I continually hear from Camosun staff and admin about how they read and respect what we do, and how they look to the paper for an honest representation of what students are thinking and feeling.

None of this is to pat ourselves on the back (although I do think our incredible student writers and editors do deserve pats on the back), and I always maintain it's actually quite easy to be a newspaper with integrity: just show both sides of the story and let the readers see what's happening, without any outside influences. But that's hard to come by in media sometimes. So, when we hear from Camosun students that they trust us to deliver the truth, I feel like we've done a good job. And we'll continue to do so, because we take that trust seriously.

Greg Pratt, managing editor  
editor@nexusnewspaper.com

## flashback 25 years ago in *Nexus*



**No idea:** Our January 22, 1991 issue featured the story "Who stole the man in the window?" The piece looked at the strange case of Cam Olsun, who was not a man but a cardboard cutout (bear with me here). Turns out Olsun had been hanging out on the second-floor window of Camosun's audio/visual department for three years and had recently gone missing. Stay tuned for more on this most curious of stories.

**Student Society retention problems:** The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) were having some trouble keeping their board members back in 1991. In "CCSS resignations raise questions," writer Neil Taylor detailed how the CCSS had lost upwards of five members since the previous Oc-

tober, when CCSS president James Grey resigned. And they weren't pulling punches: "If you don't have the guts to see the job through, then why get involved in the first place?" said Paul Varga, who was then CCSS campus director.

**Opinions may vary:** We reported in this column last issue that the Canadian presence in the Persian Gulf was a much-protested issue among students at the time. And it was, but, as with any contentious issue, that doesn't mean everyone was on the same page. In this issue's "Camosun students respond to Gulf crisis," the majority of opinion was anti-war, but there was mention of one student who, during a presentation for a peace campaign in the cafeteria, stood up and shouted, "Yeah, let's kick ass!"

## open space

### Pass on the McKenzie overpass

PASCALE ARCHIBALD  
STUDENT EDITOR

"The daily commute": a common phrase in modern times. More often than not it means hours spent stuck in traffic in the car. For the commuters who drive in and out of Victoria, this is certainly the case.

the bottleneck will only distribute the sheer volume of cars over a larger network of residential roads and will do nothing to encourage alternative transportation.

A high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane would. All the city needs to do is add some signs and

The "solution" to the bottleneck will only distribute the sheer volume of cars over a larger network of residential roads and will do nothing to encourage alternative transportation.

The possible solutions to the problem have been "in the works" for 30 years. Finally, there seems to be some headway, and construction of an \$85-million interchange at Saanich's McKenzie Avenue and Trans-Canada Highway intersection is expected to begin in late 2016.

Yes, yes, lots of hand-shaking and nodding and smiling at this, but wait a minute... This project has been talked about for 30 years, and in that time, the world has changed. Thirty years ago, we didn't have the irrefutable evidence we have today that greenhouse-gas emissions are harming our home. Today—as Canada is painfully aware, having won the Fossil Award at UN climate talks several times due to our lack of progress in regard to climate change—focus needs to be on public transportation and the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions.

Why is our city going ahead with a plan that was concocted with none of those goals in mind? Our city builders and planners should have more foresight into the future than they are currently demonstrating. The areas surrounding Greater Victoria are growing and will continue to grow, and, quite frankly, the so-called "solution" to

a little more paint to the road. It would be a heck of a lot cheaper than installing an overpass, not to mention the estimated two-year completion window on construction, which, as we all know, will make traffic matters even worse than they already are.

Many cities have successfully integrated HOV lanes into their highways, so we know they work. They encourage carpooling and public-transit use and ensure that those who make an effort to reduce their carbon footprint are rewarded with a speedier commute.

I expect our local elected leaders to make decisions on infrastructure that are in line with Canada's goal to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. I don't see any attempt to reduce emissions in this dated construction plan, which would only enable a larger number of cars to move in and out of Victoria.

The good old standard of infrastructure planning is no longer good; it's just old. We need to change how we think about our world, and the best way to do that is to help people make good choices for our environment. So, ride the bus, carpool, or cycle, and demand that this city take climate change seriously.

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

## letters

### Adult Basic Education conversation continues

Thank you, *Nexus*, for covering an important decision ("Parliamentary committee recommends government reinstate Adult Basic Education funding," December 2, 2015 issue). There is some overlap of jurisdictions on ABE and we need to put pressure on both levels of government.

MICHAEL SUBASIC  
VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

## SPEAK UP

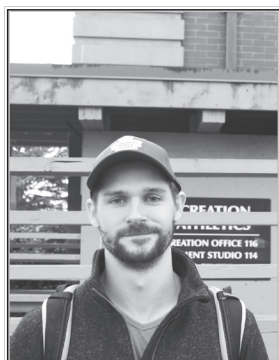
How do you feel about the state of the Young Building?

BY ADAM MARSH



SOPHIE SUN

"It's not consistent with the beauty of the building."



MATT PETERSON

"It's been in the same state since I started here, and I don't think there's been any progress on it."



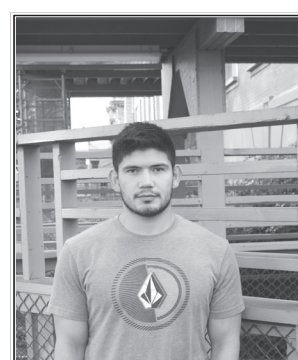
KATE DESORMEAU

"I'm halfway through a two-year program and it's been like this the whole time. I heard that it's been like this for years, and I think that kind of sucks."



RYAN BLACOE

"It's great to protect the aging architecture."



EDDIE LAWSON

"If it's making the school better, then why not?"



JESSICA KARPA

"It's an eyesore, obviously. But it's a beautiful building."



college

# Camosun environmental sustainability plan gets silver rating



FILE PHOTO

Camosun College aims to excel in environmental sustainability.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun College recently earned a Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) silver rating for its official college sustainability plan.

This was the first time the college completed a STARS evaluation, which is done through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS uses a four-point ranking system, consisting of bronze, silver, gold, and platinum.

Completing the evaluation process required nine months of data

collection, according to Shannon Craig, Camosun interim manager of environmental sustainability. She says it was not an easy nine months, and the college had some struggles, as it was their first time doing the evaluation.

“We found quite quickly that the college does not track all of the metrics that we needed to report on,” says Craig, “or some metrics were tracked in units that were different than how STARS wanted the data reported. It was a great learning experience, though, and next time we access the data, collection should go more smoothly.”

“Camosun’s sustainability plan aims to integrate sustainability into teaching and learning, with the end goal resulting in Camosun being a college that excels in environmental sustainability.”

**SHANNON CRAIG**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Craig says STARS data is a great tool and it complements the sustainability plan at Camosun as it allows the college to easily make an inventory of where they are in comparison to the targets set out in their plan.

“The sustainability plan at Camosun has two sub-plans,” says Craig. “One focused on teaching and learning, and one on operations and governance. The plan aims to integrate sustainability into teaching and learning, with the end goal resulting in Camosun being a college that excels in environmental sustainability.”

Craig points out the value of programs such as Ready, Set, Solve, which is an applied-learning challenge put on by the Capital Regional District. She says that such programs will help prepare students to play ecologically friendly roles in their community, which will, in turn, help solve sustainability challenges.

“Cities need to experiment on the ground to help solve the complex sustainability challenges they are facing and involve students directly in those solutions,” says Craig. “Students who go through such a program not only gain experience working on real-world projects, engaging and networking with contacts from across multiple fields, but they also gain a unique perspective on sustainability, all of which are not traditional outcomes of regular academic classes.”

Craig works closely with Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) environmental sustainability director Mark Rosini. Rosini says he is looking forward to Camosun’s sustainability plan growing even more, and he adds that he was pleasantly surprised at Camosun’s performance, given that it was the first time the college had completed a STARS evaluation.

“‘Sustainability’ is a very broad term to catalogue things and for people to see what the college is doing,” says Rosini. “It’s great. And, obviously, to quantify it is great, too.”

STARS is separated into four main categories: academics, engagement, operations and planning, and administration. Craig says the sustainability plan at Camosun combines teaching and learning techniques and adds that it all comes down to making resources available for students to play a first-hand role in sustainability in their community.

“I think part of how we prepare students to be stewards and play a role in sustainability is by involving them directly with their learning while being an institution that excels in environmental sustainability in its operations,” says Craig. “On the education side of things, many courses already focus on these complex real-world issues. Many faculty and areas are already doing this well, but the idea can be accelerated.”

Craig says she is excited to be working to develop new opportunities around campus, which she says could include a sustainability week in 2016, and for faculty to integrate more sustainability into curriculum.

“There is a lot that can be done and a lot of opportunities we want to take advantage of, but only so much time and capacity,” says Craig. “But we have used our STARS assessment as a tool for focus areas.”

Only one academic institution—Colorado State University—has received a platinum evaluation from STARS.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Camosun dental clinic open to new clients

Camosun College’s dental clinic, located at the Lansdowne campus, is now taking new clients of all ages. This low-cost professional dental hygiene clinic offers full assessments, cleaning, polishing, fluoride, X-rays, and sealants. More information can be found at [camosun.ca/smile](http://camosun.ca/smile) or 250-370-3184.

### Chargers check-in

On Friday, January 8 the Camosun Chargers basketball teams faced off against the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Eagles, with both Chargers teams emerging victorious. The women’s team won 86–43 and the men won 97–72. On Saturday, January 9 the men’s and women’s basketball teams played the Columbia Bible College Bearcats. The women’s team experienced their first weekend sweep with their solid 71–57 victory over the Bearcats. The men also defeated the Bearcats for their fifth win of the season, beating the visiting team 81–76. In volleyball, the Chargers faced off against the University of the Fraser Valley Cascades in

Abbotsford on Friday, January 8 and Saturday, January 9. The men’s Chargers volleyball team defeated the Cascades on Friday, January 8, winning 3–2, but the women were defeated 3–0. Saturday, January 9 saw both men’s and women’s teams unable to defeat the Cascades and losing 3–2 and 3–1, respectively. On Friday, January 15, the women’s basketball team defeated the Langara Falcons 68–58; on Saturday, January 16 they defeated the Quest University Kermodes 64–60. The men’s basketball team lost 76–81 to the Langara Falcons on Friday, January 15 and lost again the next night to the Kermodes, 62–78. Meanwhile, the women’s volleyball team defeated the Columbia Bible College Bearcats 3–1 on Friday, January 15 and 3–0 the next night. The men’s volleyball team also defeated the Bearcats on Friday, January 15 (3–0) and on Saturday, January 16 (3–0).

### Carleton University prof won’t be silenced

Carleton University faculty member Root Gorelick has refused to sign the institution’s revised

statement of general duties, fiduciary responsibilities, and conflict of interest in his role as faculty representative on the board of governors. The statement would prevent him from speaking publicly about open board meeting sessions at the university. The Canadian Association of University Teachers supports his decision and unanimously passed a motion to condemn Carleton’s board of governors for enacting this policy and to initiate the censure process unless the decision is reversed.

### Housing facility opens to homeless

On January 5, Our Place opened up a transitional housing facility to house the 40 homeless campers at Victoria’s courthouse. The temporary housing, located at 1240 Yates Street, will remain open until April 30. The facility will provide residents with privacy, mental health and addiction support, hot meals, showers, programming, income opportunities, and access to housing support workers. The facility will be staffed around the clock with support staff and security.

### Start something good

The sixth annual Start Something with Alesse contest launched on January 8. The contest encourages young Canadians to submit ideas for projects they want to start that will create positive change in their community. Winning projects will receive \$5,000 each and a mentorship to help make their ideas a reality. Entries will be accepted until February 7 at 11:59 pm EST. To find out more or to submit an idea, visit [yconic.com/program/startsomethingwithalesse](http://yconic.com/program/startsomethingwithalesse).

### CRD looking for arts advisory applicants

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is looking for applicants to serve on the arts advisory council (AAC). The council comprises elected representatives from each municipality who volunteer their time to funding programs and advising the CRD on issues relating to the arts in the capital region. The deadline to submit a letter or resume outlining experiences and interest is Friday, January 29 at 4:30 pm. For more info please call 250-360-3215.

### Video contest to raise awareness on toxins

EduTOX is a national bilingual video contest that aims to give youth (ages 14 to 22) a voice to promote awareness and action against toxins. Youth are asked to submit creative and compelling short videos that will get people thinking about the toxins that we encounter in our day-to-day lives. Prizes will be awarded to the best French- and English-language entries and include scholarships and electronics. Visit [edutox.ca](http://edutox.ca) for more information and for instructions on how to become involved.

—PASCALE ARCHIBALD

Got a news tip for us? Email [editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com) so we can look into it.

Want to be a news writer? Stop by our office (Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus), email us ([editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com)), or call (250-370-3591) today to find out how you can get started.

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations, we started an Instagram account! Come say hello over there and see what we’re up to online.

While you’re at it, we’re also on Facebook and Twitter, you know...

Find us as [nexusnewspaper](http://nexusnewspaper.com) on all three. See you there!



college

## Camosun Career Fair offers more for business students this year



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES

Camosun students check out the booths from various employers at last year's Career Fair.

**PASCALE ARCHIBALD**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun College is hosting its annual Career Fair from 10 am to 2 pm on Thursday, January 28, and this year's event will be offering something new for the college's students. Camosun College market-

ing officer Sally Coates has been working hard to include companies who may be looking for those who are taking business classes.

"It's been going for 10 years and it's always been just a trades and technologies career fair," says Coates. "But every time the compan-

ies have come they've always wanted business students as well."

This year, business students, alongside Camosun's trade and tech students, will be able to meet potential employers and find out about potential careers after graduation. The turnout for previous events

"It's been going for 10 years and it's always been just a trades and technologies career fair. But every time the companies have come they've always wanted business students as well."

**SALLY COATES**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

has always been impressive, says Coates, but this year she is expecting more students than ever.

"Last year we had almost 2,000 students," she says. "But with business, I would expect to be getting around 3,000 students."

In addition to the added opportunities for business students, this will be a large event for Camosun, as it will be the first major event held in the new Trades Education and Innovation Complex at the Interurban campus.

"We are really excited," says Coates, "about showing off the space to the students and to the employers."

Coates has made an effort to include many local companies, but the event also draws organizations in from Colorado to Lethbridge. The majority of companies who attend are small businesses and value the

training that Camosun students receive.

"The small tech companies don't have time to have fluff and bureaucracy, so the students they hire can't be a one-dimensional person, and Camosun's education really, really emphasizes applied knowledge and a can-do attitude," says Coates. "A lot of the tech companies go to Camosun."

The career fair isn't just about finding a job, Coates says, and over the years she has seen more than one student invigorated and inspired by the event.

"I've seen students actually completely change their focus from what they were studying to something else," she says, "or it energizes them to go right into it even more, and I think both are equally valid."

Career fairs in general can be useful and informative, and an excellent way to get a foot in an employer's door, but that requires a skill set people haven't necessarily learned. To help students get the most out of the event, Camosun has set up two workshops.

"We are having two sessions about how to work a career fair, what exactly they should be doing when they go to career fairs, and for students to learn how to effectively market their skills, experience, and knowledge to potential employers," says Coates. "We teach them how to be the student that the employer remembers."

Go to [camosun.ca/cese](http://camosun.ca/cese) for information on the career fair and the workshops.

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contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Who doesn't love a good scavenger hunt? Take your mind off your studies for a few minutes and see if you can find this copy of the last issue of *Nexus* that we hid at Camosun.

The first person to find this copy of the paper and bring it in to

our office (201 Richmond House, Lansdowne campus) wins themselves a free *Nexus* 25th anniversary T-shirt!

We'll give you one hint: this one is hidden somewhere on the Lansdowne campus.

Happy hunting!



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know your profs

## Camosun's Jodi Lundgren gets creative



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES  
Camosun's Jodi Lundgren.

ADAM MARSH  
STUDENT EDITOR

*Know Your Profs* is an ongoing series of profiles on the instructors at Camosun College. Every issue we ask a different instructor 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 English and Creative Writing prof Jodi Lundgren about weekend hikes, getting creative with the family, and an unfortunate in-class accident.

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

English and Creative Writing are my teaching subjects, and I've been employed at Camosun for nearly 10 years.

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

I love to see students light up as they discover new ideas, make connections, and learn the power of close reading and critical thinking. I also love to see their growth in confidence as they strengthen their skills in writing and public speaking. Recently, I stumbled across a post online and realized that a former student was addressing a crowd in the embedded video, and another former student had written the article that I was reading. It actually brought tears to my eyes to witness their evolution from college students into an inspiring leader and an independent writer, respectively. On another occasion a few months ago, I was at a community event that involved audience participation. One of my former students, in a class that had involved a lot of oral discussion, took the floor and spoke with conviction and compassion. Moments like these are so rewarding because, in teaching English, I like to think that I'm equipping and empowering students to participate actively in social and cultural dialogue.

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

That during the semester, my workload is just as heavy as theirs is! We are all in this together.

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

That sometimes my Friday and/or Saturday nights are spent prepping and marking. (They would know this if they checked the time stamp on some of my emails and D2L posts!)

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

Probably the best thing for me personally was getting converted from a term position into a continuing position. Having job security has allowed me to focus on teaching rather than on worrying about getting laid off. Term instructors get laid off at the end of every semester and have to wait to see if they'll be rehired, which is really stressful.

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

A lowlight definitely took place this semester when I invited a speaker into one of my classes through the Elders' Voices program. We were all outside, and as the speaker was walking across a mossy rock, he slipped, fell, and broke his arm! It was terribly unfortunate.

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

It could go in two directions: one, postsecondary institutions could become credentialing centres for the non-tuitionable learning that is already taking place online, on the job, or peer-to-peer. Or, two, postsecondary might return to its roots in face-to-face learning communities as people begin to recognize their hunger for genuine connection in a world dominated by digital and virtual interaction.

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

I love to get outdoors and, if my nieces are visiting (they are delightful eight-year-old twins), then I like to go on adventures with them. Afterwards, we make up stories or poems based on our adventures, which is a lot of fun.

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

My Secret Garden from Pagliacci's. They call it "vegetarian erotica" for good reason!

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

My biggest college-related pet peeve is, fortunately, a rare occurrence. But twice in the relatively recent past, on days of heavy snow, the president held off on closing the college until about 10 am, when intrepid students and staff had already made their way to campus. As I see it, the whole point of closing the college on a snow day is to prevent accidents as people travel to and from campus. Either cancel classes at 6 am or keep the college open (unless weather conditions change during the day, of course, but in the cases I'm thinking of, the weather at 6 am was already as severe as it was going to get).

entertainment

## Gamers excited about 2016 releases



Adrian McBurney in front of his game shop, Hang & Play.

TABITHA ROSS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

2016 is set to be a huge year for exciting video games, with big-name sequels such as *Final Fantasy XV*, *Street Fighter V*, and *Mass Effect: Andromeda* hitting shelves. Down at Hang & Play Video Games, store owner Adrian McBurney is hearing a lot of excitement from his customers, including much talk about a new remake of *Star Fox*, which originally came out in 1993 for Super Nintendo; McBurney feels it will be a hit, along with a few other exciting games.

"*Uncharted 4* is a big one coming out for PS4," he says. "The first one that came out has done really well. And the other big one, I would say, would be *Mirror's Edge Catalyst*, as it has a very strong following."

With all this hype for upcoming

games, it's interesting to consider whether too much anticipation can harm a game's release. McBurney says it depends on the game—more specifically, the gameplay.

"When the beta version comes out, people will obviously latch on to that. Then, if it's good, there will be more hype put into it, and people will actually buy it," he says. "But if it's not good... like when *Watchdogs* came out, there was a lot of hype on it, but the gameplay wasn't very good, and it went bust."

Another big development in gaming is the announcement that the Oculus Rift—a virtual reality (VR) headset—will be released in the first quarter of 2016. But McBurney says it might not change things all that much for most gamers.

"It's one of those fads, too much gear," he says. "Maybe for the hardcore gamers, but I don't think it's

going to be very popular. A novelty item, just like *Guitar Hero* and all those other ones—when they first come out, they're great, but after a month or two they go down in value and nobody wants them anymore."

However, first-year Camosun Science student and PC gamer Liam Lange says the Oculus Rift might be a big development in gaming.

"A lot of important gaming critics think it's the way going forward and that it's the best way to actually view your game," says Lange. "The problem right now is that not everyone has the hardware to use virtual reality, so we'll have to wait a few years until hardware that can use VR gets cheaper and it becomes a household thing. Right now it's very high-end because the technology is new, so there's no less expensive options. In the future there will likely be different tiers of VR affordability, just like monitors."

Another trend to watch this year is indie games.

Through websites like Kickstarter and Indiegogo, there is no shortage of excited gamers willing to donate to see a game get created. The creators of funding site 8-bit Funding have even put their efforts into a new site called IndieGameStand, where gamers can buy indie games.

"To be honest, indie games are already pretty dominant on PCs," says Lange. "A lot of people play indie games because they specialize more; they usually do just one thing really well."

# CAREER FAIR

A Co-operative Education & Student Employment Event

## Trades, Technology & Business

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# ONE DOOR FOR ALL

The Camosun College Pride Collective is leading the way

Story by Jayden Grieve, contributing writer

Photo by Jill Westby/Nexus

The Camosun College Pride Collective is currently working on a proposal that would see the implementation of gender-neutral washrooms on both campuses. Gender-neutral—also known as gender-inclusive—washrooms are washrooms that can be used by those who identify as male, female, or outside the gender binary. This would be good news for transgender students, who, because they do not necessarily identify with their assigned sex, may feel uncomfortable or unsafe using either the male or female bathrooms.

With more of the trans community coming out, this proposal is more relevant than ever, says Camosun College pride director Lillian Stearns-Smith.

“The visibility of the trans community is growing,” says Stearns-Smith. “As the acceptance grows, then so, naturally, will the amount of people who feel comfortable with showing the world who they really are.”

Though their visibility has increased and people are beginning to listen to what they have to say, the issues of the trans community are often pushed to the bottom of the LGBTQ+ agenda, says Stearns-Smith. But with the leaps and bounds made in progress for the queer community, more focus has begun to shift to trans issues.

“I think a lot of things are unnecessarily gendered and it is forcing the gender binary,” says Stearns-Smith. “A lot of people don’t feel comfortable in the gender binary, but previously—and, honestly, currently—they don’t have a lot of options as to where they can go.”

Stearns-Smith says that the Pride Collective is committed to providing those options. In fact, this is part of the reason why the collective was set up in the first place.

“This is very close to the Pride Collective’s heart. We want to provide these facilities for people who don’t have anywhere to go, or don’t feel safe in their spots,” says Stearns-Smith. “The ideal situation would be that people wouldn’t have to walk all the way across campus to find a washroom they’re comfortable using.”

## Camosun conversion

There are still those who don’t support trans people, and Stearns-Smith says forcing trans people to go to a place they don’t feel comfortable with or making them open up to people who may not be accepting of them is very unfair. The Pride Collective has already begun talks with Camosun’s Facilities Services to see what can be done.

“Facilities Services definitely supports the project,” says associate director of facilities services Brian Calvert. “There are some logistics around it,

but we’re willing to look at their ideas and how they want to come up with this. It’s something that, in today’s society, needs to be considered and supported.”

Calvert says that although this project is a long time coming, it will likely not happen as quickly as some may hope. A lot of consultation and work has to be put into projects like this, and with the new building at Interurban still in the works, Facilities Services doesn’t have the time or the people to get down to the details right away.

“It would be a lot easier if we were putting them in a new facility and designed them that way, but we are looking at existing buildings, and the code implications for washrooms,” says Calvert. “It’s time that we address the issue and move forward with it. We just have to look at all the variations of how to make it successful and see how we can achieve it.”

Camosun Computer Science Technology student and Pride Collective member Luka Hilchey helped to get the ball rolling on this project. Hilchey outlines one of the options that the Pride Collective is considering.

“We are looking into converting single-user bathrooms,” says Hilchey. “Basically, what that means is changing the signage on those so that instead of being for strictly staff or strictly people with disabilities, they’d also be for people who wouldn’t feel comfortable in the male/female bathrooms.”

This is the quicker and easier option and carries a low-to-no cash-investment requirement. The other option is to convert a larger set of male/female washrooms into a set of multi-user washrooms (or one very large one), which is what has happened at UVic.

Either way, Hilchey says that this has been a long time coming and should happen as soon as possible.

“There’s one at Vancouver Island University, there’s one at UVic, and at Vancouver there’s a whole bunch of places,” says Hilchey. “I think the Camosun staff and students do care about this, there just hasn’t been a concentrated effort to actually get it done. The Pride directors had previously tried to do it and for whatever reason there wasn’t the same effort behind it so it didn’t end up getting done.”

Indeed, this is a cause that was championed by past Pride directors, and each moved on from the collective before anything concrete could be done. It’s something that the Pride Collective stands behind; it’s simply a matter of the right push.

“When I joined the Pride Collective two years ago it was sort of a conversation that was generally talked about,” says Stearns-Smith. “After the previous Pride directors left it kind of calmed down a bit, and it was something that I had kept on the back burner and was hoping to eventually bring forward. Fortunately, a couple other members of the collective got really excited about it, brought it to the forefront, and we started working on it.”

“It’s time that we address this forward with it. We just have to look at all the variations of how to make it successful and see how we can achieve it.”

“We need to stop thinking about the problems this might cause and look at the problems it will fix.”

WINTER HAWKMOON  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

“It’s just changing signs. Literally. They’re still toilets.”



# Push for gender-neutral multi-stall bathrooms at Camosun

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...achieve it.”

**BRIAN CALVERT**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

## UVic leads the way

**U**Vic Pride members Tri Nguyen—the office coordinator—and Selina Beltran—the postsecondary outreach coordinator—both think of the gender-neutral washroom as a great accomplishment for the students of UVic. A few years ago, when they started working on it, a lot of research had to be done to decide whether or not this was a feasible option.

“It was a very long process because we had to do a lot of research,” says Nguyen. “We had to do student surveys, we did surveys of staff who work in the building, we did a lot of that sort of research to start with and then we did a report on the attitudes of the students that are using the building and how students and staff would be receptive of using the washrooms.”

The responses to these surveys were mostly positive. Some issues were brought up about religious groups who would not be comfortable with the practice, but the converted bathrooms would be only two of many bathrooms on campus that students could choose from. There were also a few other complaints, says Nguyen.

“Most of the comments I received were things like, ‘I don’t want to poop next to a girl,’ or, ‘I don’t want to make poop noises next to someone whom I would be attracted to,’” says Nguyen.

Nguyen says that for members of the LGBTQ+ community this is not really an issue. The UVic bathroom has been in place for over two years, and is used regularly without complaint. Beltran says that this is a really big step for students, and they hope to see more of it in the future.

“There’s not currently a plan to convert more, but it would be really awesome to have gender-neutral washrooms in every building on campus,” says Beltran. “The thing about gendered washrooms is that, personally, for me, I can’t go in them, ever. I’m genderqueer; I look different. People try to kick me out of washrooms. If I’m in [UVic’s] MacLaurin building I have to walk all the way across campus to the SUB to find a gender-neutral bathroom.”

Both Pride members say they are happy that Camosun has decided to join this movement, and they would like to help in any way they can. With a little work they think that it can be done with minimal costs.

“It’s just changing signs,” says Nguyen. “Literally, it’s just signs. They’re still toilets.”

## Student support

**B**oth Camosun and UVic students seem very open to the idea of gender-neutral bathrooms. UVic Marine Biology student Fabrizio Abate says that although this isn’t something that would happen in their own country they are fine with using the washroom next to a girl.

Female students also seem to be accepting of the idea.

“I think gender-neutral washrooms are really great,” says UVic Sociology and Social Justice student Alicia Cattermole. “It creates space for everyone and makes people comfortable about going to the bathroom.”

Cattermole says that she commonly uses the washrooms in the SUB and has never found it to be particularly strange. She recounts the first time she had an encounter with a man in the bathroom.

“This is very close to the Pride Collective’s heart. We want to provide these facilities for people who don’t have anywhere to go, or don’t feel safe in their spots.”

**LILLIAN STEARNS-SMITH**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

“He walked out of the urinal as I was walking into the stall and we just kind of looked at each other and smiled; it wasn’t an awkward situation,” says Cattermole. “At first it feels different, but once you look at each other and recognize that it’s normal, you forget that it was ever different.”

Students at Camosun seem to feel the same.

“I think gender-neutral bathrooms are a great idea,” says first-year Criminal Justice student Aurora Bilodeau. “All students deserve to feel comfortable in their school environment.”

The issue of gender-neutral bathrooms is a very important issue for some Camosun students. “I find it hard to decide what washroom to use,” says first-year Camosun Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology-Renewable Energies student Winter Hawkmoon. “I don’t feel welcome in either, so much so that I would wait until I arrived at work or home. If this is how I feel, I’d hate to imagine how other trans and non-binary folk feel if they aren’t out of the closet.”

Often in these situations it is people who are not transgender who are making these decisions, and they may not understand the full extent of how it affects the students in question, says Hawkmoon. She says that it is time for change.

“We need to stop thinking about the problems this might cause,” she says, “and look at the problems it will fix.”

So where does Camosun College sit in regard to actually implementing a gender-neutral washroom? The Pride Collective is currently collecting ideas and intends to meet with Facilities Services soon to present some ideas and make some decisions on how to move forward with the issue.

“It seems like single-stall is more promising,” says Stearns-Smith. “At this point we’re not quite sure yet which washrooms would become gender neutral, but we are talking to the Disability Resource Centre as well as Camosun about maybe repurposing some less-used single-stalls. It’s pretty up in the air; nothing is finalized.”

Stearns-Smith goes on to say that although converting some of the lesser-used single-stall washrooms around the school will be a step in the right direction, it is not ideal.

“The single-stall, basically nothing changes,” says Stearns-Smith. “You take a gendered sign off and then you put a gender-neutral sign on. Nothing changes as far as what you have to put inside them, nothing changes as far as you walking into the washroom and seeing someone of the opposite sex, nothing changes. It’s very, very easy to integrate. Of course, it also has no impact as far as getting this issue out there because... nothing changes.”

...ally, it’s just signs.  
...ts.”

**TRI NGUYEN**  
UVIC PRIDE



theatre

# Shawnigan Lake School brings *The Wizard of Oz* to Victoria

**ORIANA SMY**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Shawnigan Lake School is celebrating the centennial year of their grand opening. With that grand celebration they wanted to do something big with their Performing Arts department, and Victoria gets to reap the rewards of it.

“As it turned out, in the school’s 100 years, *The Wizard of Oz* had never been done before,” says Shawnigan Lake School musical director and head of performing arts Morgan McLeod.

The school’s Performing Arts department puts on a play every year, but this is the first time they will be performing at the McPherson Theatre.

“The school has been performing in Duncan at the Cowichan Theatre for a very long time,” says McLeod. “This year we wanted to branch out and break into a Victoria audience. We want to show the calibre of production that we can do up here.”

The production cast is made up of roughly 50 students in Grades 8 through 12, with the four main leads (Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and Dorothy) all in Grade 12.

“All of the leads are pretty traditional and familiar for people, but the Munchkins are very colourful and are absolutely wild. We even have some of our staff’s children filling in as mini-munchkins,” says McLeod. “They’re all very colourful and they’re very, well, ‘wild-child.’”

McLeod’s wife, Kelli, is a dance instructor at the school and one of the two choreographers of the musical. She helps handle the musical direction and the 19-piece orchestra, which is composed of local musicians. All three have an affinity for *The Wizard of Oz* and have assembled what they say is a cohesive team of young performers to fit the bill.

“It’s great for our students to see so many people come out and watch the show and become a part of it,” says McLeod. “To have families, and mainly little kids, come and adore our cast members and look up to them with huge, wide eyes does such a wonderful thing for their confidence.”

McLeod also teaches drama to Grade 9 students as part of the course rotation at Shawnigan Lake School. It’s part of the curriculum—along with other electives such as fly-fishing and woodworking—and gives students the opportunity to get up on stage and express themselves.

“It’s neat to see their confidence grow and see how comfortable they can get in presenting themselves in front of other people,” says McLeod. “Especially in Grade 9, when it can be such an awkward time.”

McLeod believes the skills learned in drama production and on stage are very transferable to their educational and professional careers.

“It all just continues to grow from there,” he adds. “It’s always such a big memory for the kids. Even



PHOTO PROVIDED

The cast and musicians of Shawnigan Lake School’s *The Wizard of Oz* hard at work during rehearsals.

if they don’t go on and do anything remotely associated with the arts, doing a high-school musical is always a big one on people’s memory lists.”

McLeod remembers watching *The Wizard of Oz* as a child and thinks back fondly on his own opportunity to perform in the musical with Stages Performing Arts School in Victoria when he was 19.

“And as it turned out, not only do we have a real, live Toto [in the Shawnigan Lake School production], but the lady that owns the dog was actually one of the trainers who trained a different Toto back when I did the [Stages] performance,” says McLeod.

*The Wizard of Oz* musical is based on the 1939 film, which itself was based on the 1900 book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, written by L. Frank Baum. The movie came out at a very experimental time in film production, when Technicolor had recently been invented. It begins entirely in black and white; as the main character, Dorothy, and her pet dog, Toto, step into a different world, everything is instantly immersed in colour.

Keeping with the colourful tradition, McLeod believes their set will create wonder and awe for their audience. Much of the set has been decorated in LED lights to really amplify the experience.

“My set designer and I have collaborated on a lot of really interesting things on stage, set- and costume-wise,” says McLeod. “We have a huge 16-foot-tall by 32-foot-wide rainbow that will be lit up on stage with LED lights. It’s going to look pretty spectacular. I’m very excited about getting a lot of fresh new faces coming to check out what we do. It’s all going to be very spectacular indeed.”

*The Wizard of Oz*  
January 21-23  
\$23.50 and up, McPherson  
Playhouse  
rmts.bc.ca

review

## Monster X crushes for two-day stay in Victoria



PHOTO PROVIDED

All this and ear-annihilating decibel volumes too.

**GREG PRATT**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Having grown up in the ‘80s, I’m only really sure of a few things: Hulkamania rules (uh, wait...), I’m supposed to just say no, and Bigfoot is king (the monster truck, although the sasquatch was also talked about a lot back in the day).

I was recently in the same building as Bigfoot, and I am a better person for it.

Monster X, which put on two performances at Victoria’s Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre, was my first monster truck show, but from what I have gathered, it’s much like others: a lot of time spent waiting for quick three-second bursts of

destruction. Is it worth it? You better believe it.

The premise is that the event actually has some point to it beyond crush-crush-crush, although we all just want to see the huge monster trucks squash the other cars out there. But the night is set up as a tournament of races, followed by a less structured freestyle crush-crush-crush part, which was awesome (apparently, there was also a wheelie contest, which I somehow missed; the trouble with having to wear so much ear protection is having absolutely no idea what the announcer is saying at most points, and also not being able to communicate with your offspring).

As a lifelong BMX guy, I was thrilled at the addition of some two-wheelers: a couple of dirt bike riders did some absolutely huge airs when it came time to give the monster truck drivers a break. And while we all love a backflip, these two had tons of style in their all-too-brief part of the show; sometimes a smooth tweak is more impactful than a flip, although obviously not as much of a crowd-pleaser. These two ruled, and they were the highlight of the night for me (the crowd loved them, too; the whole event went over great, with everyone leaving the arena in good spirits and talking about how much they liked the night).

The show was suitable for kids, and although my four-year-old struggled a bit to stay enthralled for the whole thing (by nature, these events a lot of downtime, so that’s always a challenge), he was still amazed by the huge metal machines, the enormous tires, the pure spectacle of it all. It’s all a bit absurd in a way, but it was also a night to remember.

And, again: I saw Bigfoot. Eight-year-old me is content; my son fell asleep in my arms walking away from the show, so he was pretty content too. And adult me? Totally content. Sometimes a night of monster trucks hits the spot more than you ever thought it would.

### New Music Revue



Reversing Falls  
*Reversing Falls 2*  
(Independent)  
3.5/5

This Montreal-based noisy rock band storms out of the gates strong with “This Is Why,” the song taking an almost-surf-rock guitar line and filtering it through shoegaze production and a ragged garage-rock/indie-rock sound. It’s a stellar way to start off their second album, and it doesn’t stop there.

Throughout all of *Reversing Falls 2*’s smart 22-minute playing time (brevity packs a punch), the band is nothing but frantic energy. Tunes like the very catchy “Never Let You Go” and the noisily sublime album highlight “Whisper,” for example, never stray far from the noisy chaos the band established with the first tune, but also show some good songwriting smarts.

There’s even some fun ‘80s-pop vibes hidden on this disc too, but for my money, come for the chaotic beauty, stay for the chaotic beauty.

Clearly, this band isn’t aiming to soar to the top of the charts with music that sounds like this, which is the sign of art done for the right reasons.

-GREG PRATT

### NEXT ISSUE

**Bungee jumping for a cause returns to Vancouver Island.**

**The pro-choice/pro-life debate continues on campus.**

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music

Victoria's Astrocolor offer weird take on holiday music with debut release

**JAKE WYATT**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Around the holidays, Christmas music is inescapable. From shopping malls to private parties, the blithe choruses of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Deck the Halls" will follow you from Thanksgiving dinner right up until your Christmas feast. Some relish how these songs carry with them the spirit of the season, while others fiercely detest them.

Victoria-based ambient-rockers Weird Party, working under the name Astrocolor, have turned these songs on their heads on their debut release, *Lit Up*. The mainly instrumental Astrocolor has taken these classical holiday ballads and turned them into chill, jazz-inspired, ambient tracks.

Bassist William Farrant says the band's desire to make their debut release a holiday album came from their constant urge to experiment.

"We're always looking at doing things differently and keeping things interesting and being inventive," says Farrant. "This was an idea that came up at a rehearsal the previous year and we spent a year talking about it, joking about it, and the more we talked about it, the better it sounded as an idea and as something that might work."

While this is Astrocolor's debut, the members are no novices to making music. Although they also play

"We spent a year joking about it, and the more we talked about it, the better it sounded as an idea and as something that might work."

**WILLIAM FARRANT**  
ASTROCOLOR

music together under the Weird Party moniker, Farrant says that they wanted to break away from that name for *Lit Up*.

"We felt it was such a departure from what Weird Party was doing that we'd release it under a different name," he says.

The name Astrocolor is a reference to an old, then-cutting-edge movie technology, representing the band's desire to forge ahead and innovate.

"Astrocolor was actually the original in-flight film technology from the '60s," says Farrant. "It ran on this analog tape on a reel through the entire fuselage. There was an eight-minute delay from the front of the plane to the back of the plane, so you could go back a few rows and catch the previous scene. We liked the idea of flight and travelling and being on a journey; we were trying



KIM JAY

Christmas may be over, but locals Astrocolor have left their collection of unique seasonal tunes to enjoy.

the professional approach to going on a journey."

The journey that led to the creation of *Lit Up* was a very enjoyable one, says Farrant.

"The most fun was taking the songs and really deconstructing them to their bare bones," he says. "We took the core of the song, taking cues from [saxophonist] Stan Getz and a lot of the jazz greats from the '50s and '60s, and built them back up to the parts that everyone knows."

While recording the album re-

quired meticulous care, many of the concepts behind it came from just jamming together.

"When we were coming up with the songs for the album, we did sit down in a living room together and plucked them apart and just jammed on them," says Farrant. "We got the rough framework of them all. Then once we were in the studio we had to commit to a little more structure, and our producer really helped us with honing in on that."

The album is sure to please those who are already fans of Christmas

music, and it may just convert a few Grinches. As for what the future holds, Farrant says that in some form or another, Astrocolor will continue. Farrant says that the band signed with Last Gang Records for the Astrocolor album, and it may not be the last of the union.

"There's an option for more," he says. "We'll see if they pick up to do more records. We retained the rights to record as Weird Party, so we'll see how the future plays out. We'll continue to do both and go wherever it takes us."



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review

## Star Wars: The Force Awakens a triumphant, yet not flawless, return



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Star Wars: The Force Awakens** lives up to expectations, but also has its faults.

**JAYDEN GRIEVE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*  
4/5

How *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* executive producer J.J. Abrams has gone almost 50 years without ever encountering the concept of subtlety is beyond me. Fortunately, he subsidizes this gaping hole in his creative efforts by jamming every

second with dazzling imagery and exciting action.

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is a film designed by Disney to sell toys and anything else that could have the faces of the cast stamped all over it, but the byproduct of this endeavour was actually quite good.

The film unites the cast of the original trilogy with an exciting new set of characters who try earnestly to break free from the tired tropes that

haunt modern cinema. Together they engage in the exciting space adventures we've come to expect from the franchise, but this is where the film hits its first speed bump.

*The Force Awakens* (the seventh installment in the franchise) teeters dangerously on the edge of being an action film. *Star Wars* has always been about the characters and their interactions, and the interesting space battles were the fun result of these interactions. The film man-

ages to rein itself in and avoids becoming like Abrams' laughable *Star Trek* efforts, but at many points we are left to question the necessity of some of his choices.

Another qualm with the film is its frequent use of one-liners and humour in inappropriate situations. *Star Wars* is serious. Within it there may be some inherent humour, which, again, would require a measure of subtlety, but characters making jokes in the heat of battle is simply not something that should occur within a serious film. This is the movie's—dare I say it—subtle approach at a Jar Jar Binks mechanism, designed to garner the approval of a younger audience.

It is also impossible to ignore the amount of name-dropping that the characters do at the beginning of the film, another obvious attempt to lasso the younger generation into the *Star Wars* mythos.

Other than those problems and a few other minor details, the film was executed brilliantly.

The plot is coherent, and any questions raised will almost definitely be answered in the upcoming eighth and ninth episodes in the series.

Newcomers John Boyega and Daisy Ridley performed stunningly individually, as well as carrying a powerful onscreen chemistry that may even rival that of the original cast. But despite the duo's accom-

plishments, it was veteran *Star Wars* actor Harrison Ford who really stole the show.

Much like how the 30 years since the end of the events in *Return of the Jedi* haven't made Han Solo any less spunky, the 32 years since the release of *Return of the Jedi* haven't compromised Ford's ability to portray the iconic space cowboy.

As far as the dark side of the Force is concerned, we get much of the same as we did in the original trilogy. Adam Driver's villainous Kylo Ren provides some interesting insight into the Force itself, and the actor does very well in bringing out the raw emotional nature of his character. The others in the dark side ensemble function as they normally do, providing—even less subtly than the series' previous installments—intense Nazi-like imagery and mysterious, unclear motives.

It goes without saying, but he deserves credit so it shall be mentioned anyway, that John Williams has yet again provided the world with an elegant and fitting score. It manages to retain the sound and feel of the previous installments while differentiating itself enough that it's still new and exciting. The 83-year-old conductor continues to outdo himself.

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is far from perfect, but it is even farther from mediocre.

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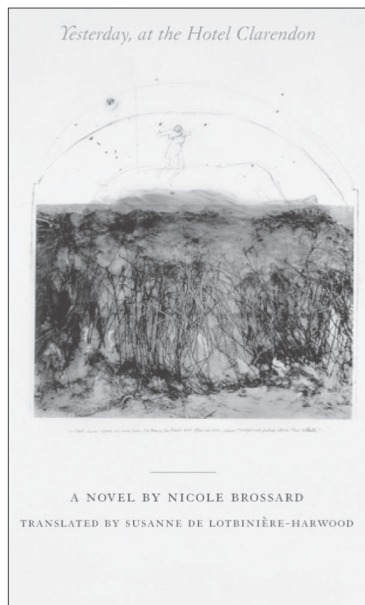




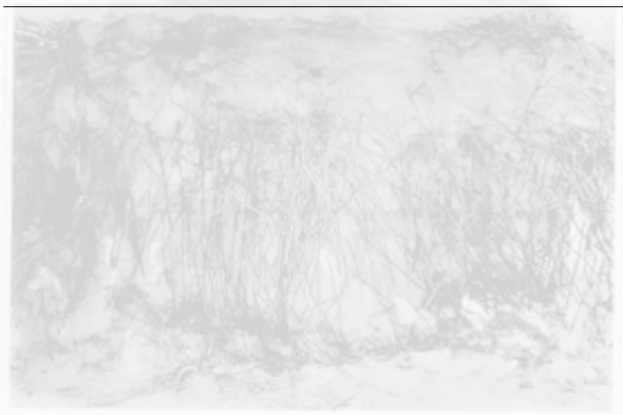
Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

## Nicolle Brossard on making sense out of reality



Nicolle Brossard is a feminist crusader, literary evangelist, lesbian advocate, and avant-garde publisher and anthologist.



“Before I became a feminist, I suppose I was an angel, a poet, a revolutionary,” wrote Nicolle Brossard, a Quebec poet, novelist, and essayist who has written more than 30 books since she began publishing in the 1960s. Along with numerous other awards she’s won, she’s taken home the Governor General’s Award for poetry twice, and she is a titaness of Quebec’s intellectual scene.

Known for the fierce and independent spirit that she applies to everything she does, Brossard is a feminist crusader, literary evangelist, lesbian advocate, and avant-garde publisher and anthologist. As a public intellectual, she engages, and clashes, with ideas of patriarchy and a social narrative that oppresses and constrains women.

But it is in the realm of literature—what she calls “that space propitious for the imagination, for dreams, for interrogating the world”—that she does her most important work.

In her novel *Yesterday, at the Hotel Clarendon*, Brossard follows the intertwining lives of four women whose stories converge on a single night. The novel is full of lyrical, highly poetic turns of phrase, though the complex language is not for the literary faint of heart.

As a writer, she has never shied away from innovation, be it in poetry or in prose. “I enjoy not conforming to what is expected of me,” she wrote. “Playing with fire, with my freedom of expression... I still write in order to explore and to understand.”

And for Brossard, the process of exploring and understanding is integral to the project of reshaping the very world she explores. She maintains that every artistic act of creation “is a way of engendering sense where before there had been merely evidence of reality.”

Perhaps she means a sense of a more open and possible world.

“We live in a fragmented society,” she wrote. “We live in story fragments. And in spite of all, we recreate a coherence.”

**Nicolle Brossard must-read:**  
*Yesterday, at the Hotel Clarendon* (translated by Susanne de Lotbiniere-Harwood) (UVIC Library code: PS8553 R66H5413)



The Functional Traveller

by Sera Down

## A journey into Aokigahara

With the advent of a terribly inaccurate Hollywood film, and a more respectfully documented *Vice* short, I thought the time was right to explore a Japanese topic that many people are curious about: Aokigahara, also known as the Suicide Forest.

I recently went there with a friend under the premise of an anthropological expedition.

This is a real location of serious and solemn nature. It is not a cheap thrill, a spooky attraction in which one may provoke spirits and mystify their friends.

Hundreds of people travel here every year to return their physical vessel to nature, the earth swallowing their viscera, leaving behind only material mementos and memories.

Step off the trail only a few metres and traces of these now ethereal beings are scattered

amongst the moss alongside decaying bouquets of flowers.

The forest lies between two popular cave attractions connected by a main trail. While these two points are often crowded with tourists and families, no one walks this trail; fresh dustings of undisturbed autumn leaves over loose pumice are evidence of this. The entrances of the trail are hidden behind toll-booths, which have a small window so that the park rangers inside may monitor who enters with calculating glances. They do not follow, however, leaving patrons the freedom to decide in which state they wish to exit.

The trail is winding and overgrown, melting into the flora at the seams. The earth beyond this margin is doughy and unstable; fertile soil and rust-tone pine nettles thinly veil crevices between thick varicose veins of Japanese cedars. What little

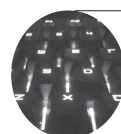
wind passes through the densely woven wood agitates the loosely anchored foliage, trunks moaning as though exhaling in relief for those who have passed beneath them.

Ultimately, the forest is silent, with no fauna penetrating the solemn respiration of Aokigahara.

A sweet, putrid scent of decay is carried on these breathy winds, a reminder that beyond the tails of snaking plastic tape asphyxiating the trunks of equally twisted natural monuments lie the remnants of lives concluded.

Aokigahara is oppressively poignant in its existence. The soil, rich with volcanic minerals and human decomposition, nurtures the natural tombstones of trees that contort in a tableau of agony embodied. There is no fear here, only pardon for the weary.

It is for this that it remains the principal site for suicide.



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

## Smiting the opposition

Although not *League of Legends*, the mythical-god-centered MOBA *Smite* stands out with its own unique style of gameplay, which has led to it being quite a popular game. Recently, *Smite* wrapped up its own world championship tournament.

Starting with best-of-one matches, lesser teams were quickly eliminated by the superior teams, all fighting for a shot at the \$500,000 grand prize.

Coming out of the group stages, European team Epsilon eSports and Enemy looked to be the strongest. Neither teams dropped a single game in the knockout and quarter-final matches, and their skill would later result in them going head-to-head in the finals in Atlanta, Georgia.

Even though these two teams would meet in the finals, both had rough patches in the semi-finals. Epsilon faced off against North American team Cloud 9 G2A in a match that pushed to the final fifth game. Enemy was pitted against the European reigning champions Paradigm Gaming, which ended in a 3–1 win for Enemy.

Going into the finals, both teams fought valiantly for a chance at the prize money, but Epsilon ultimately came out on top with a 3–0 sweep. Game one was one-sided with team Epsilon’s player Yammyn showing some great numbers, going 9/0/10 on the marksman god Neith.

Game two was even until an over-extension in a tower siege resulted in a 4–1 fight in favour of Epsilon.

After this, Epsilon surged ahead and won constant fights to eventually take down Enemy’s base. Going off of this win, tensions were high, as this game was match point for the European runner-ups.

Enemy knew they needed a win to stay alive, and that’s exactly what their plays showed. Gaining an early lead, Enemy seemed to become overconfident as they fought several losing fights. After losing a fight 4–0, Epsilon was able to pick up the fire giant buff. Following another 5–0 slaughter, Epsilon skipped Enemy’s phoenixes and rolled right through their base, claiming their title as world champions and banking a huge \$500,000 for the team’s efforts.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY**

by Andrea Eggenberer  
external executive

## Clubs: the perfect side dish for your education

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) is dedicated to providing advocacy, services, and student life on campus. We are in a constant state of change, re-evaluating our policies each year to ensure we keep up to date with the needs of our members. Last semester we re-imagined our clubs policy to better equate the disbursement of clubs funding across the student body.

The new policy divides student groups into four categories: common-interest clubs, recreation clubs, course unions, and class projects. The first three categories are allotted up to \$400 per semester, while class projects can receive \$300 per semester, depending on availability of funds.

There’s a wealth of clubs on campus! Some add more depth to your program of study, like the ECA, Camosun College Nursing Students, and Interurban Women in Engineering clubs. Others focus around topics of shared interest, like the Science, Comics, Psychology, and Philosophical Saturday clubs.

Feeling creative? Try the I Don’t Give a Craft!, Word Play (Creative Writing), Free Art, Music for Weirdos, or *Magic: the Gathering* clubs. Want to get active? Try out the Surfing, SCUBA, Soccer, Outdoor Soccer, or Outdoor Adventure clubs.

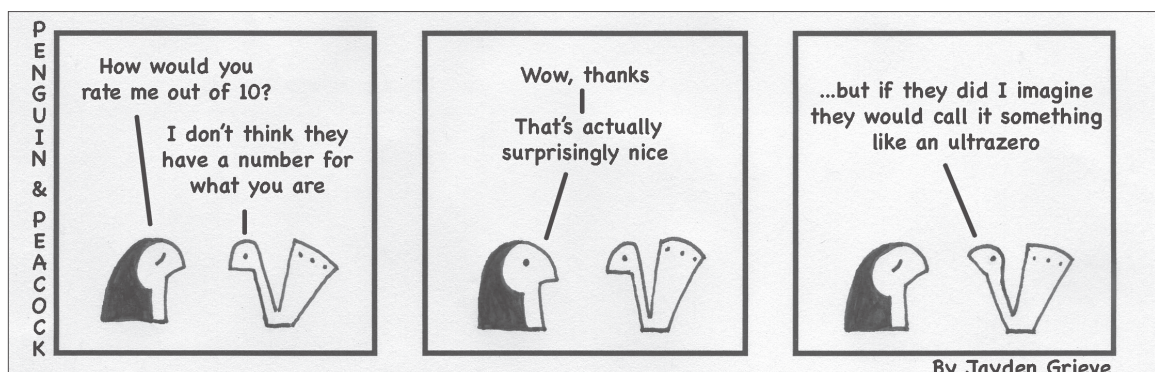
Improve your language skills at the Cantonese Conversation, Hanguk Kulub (Korean Conversations), or the Japanese Conversation clubs. Ready for the next step? Test your public speaking skills at the First Canadian Toastmasters (Interurban) or the Toastmasters Lansdowne (Speakers Corner) clubs.

Want to make an impact on the world? Try the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Environmental Awareness, and Canadian Blood Services clubs. Looking to get social? Try the African Awareness, Mandarin, or TONG XUE (Chinese Social) clubs. There’s also the University Christian Ministries and University Bible Fellowship (UBF) clubs.

Still looking for a club that suits you? Start your own! All you need are two organizers, and at least 10 members (50 percent of whom are current Camosun students). Clubs are required to have at least one meeting per month and post meetings to the CCSS website calendar in advance, so all students have the opportunity to attend. Registration is renewed each semester.

Course unions are a new addition to our Clubs policy. They are only required to hold one public seminar each semester. We currently have two: The Nursing Students’ Society and the Bachelor of Sport and Fitness Leadership (BSFL) Course Union. Now is a great time to start one for your program!

For more information, visit [camosunstudent.org/clubs](http://camosunstudent.org/clubs).





random online words word search

We took five words each from four different stories over at nexusnewspaper.com for this issue's word search. Bring the completed puzzle in to the Nexus office and grab a surprise prize for your hard work!

- BATTLE
- CONSIDERED
- CONSOLATION
- DEMOGRAPHICS
- EMERGE
- EMPATHY
- FIGHT
- GENEROUS
- HOISTED
- MASCOTS
- MUTUAL
- PRESTIGIOUS
- QUOTATION
- RESPECTIVE
- SENTIMENTALIZE
- SYMBOLIZE
- TRAIPISE
- VIGILANTLY
- WEEP
- WILDERNESS

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

what's going on

by pascale archibald

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20 UNTIL  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Tap dancing comedy

The Langham Court Theatre is starting off the new year with *Stepping Out*. Set in the 1980s in a dingy church hall, the show features a group of wannabe tap dancers stumbling their way through dance classes in a comedic way. Shows start at 8 pm, with 2 pm matinees on January 23 and 30. Student tickets are \$19, with \$10 "student rush" tickets available in limited quantities 15 minutes before curtain. For more information visit langhamtheatre.ca.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20 UNTIL  
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Abstract times four

Visit Dales Gallery and Framing Studio at 537 Fisgard Street for their latest art show. Four amazing abstract artists—Lorraine Betts, Joanna Pettit, Lynda McKewan, and Marjorie Allen—have teamed up to showcase their work. For more information and gallery hours visit dalesgallery.ca.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 AND  
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Melodiousness of the Isles

The Victorian Mendelssohn Choir would like to share their melodious voices with you for the weekend with a performance directed by Maestro Simon Leung called *Melodies from the British Isles*. They will be performing at the Oak Bay United Church (1355 Mitchell Street) on Saturday at 7 pm, and on Sunday at 3 pm in the St. Elizabeth Church (10030 Third Street in Sidney). Tickets are \$20; for more information contact cchay@live.ca or call 250-590-6335.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Who hoots how?

Take a stroll through Mill Hill Regional Park on a free all-ages guided walk to learn owl calls and the owls that make them. The guided walk will run from 1 until 2:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining in should meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Avenue. For more information visit crd.bc.ca.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

Albertan honky-tonk

Corb Lund brings his Albertan honky-

tonk style to Victoria with his Winter Campaign tour. His latest album, *Things That Can't Be Undone*, is a collection of songs heavily influenced by '60s and '70s rock and country. The show starts at 8 pm at the McPherson Playhouse. Ticket prices start at \$41; to find out more or to purchase tickets visit rmts.bc.ca.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

Ogden Point history

The Victoria Historical Society presents Ogden Point and the history that shaped it. Doug Rhodes will paint its historical picture at James Bay New Horizons, located at 239 Menzies Street. Visit victoriahistoricalociety.bc.ca for more information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

Quinter wonderland

The Camosun College Women's Collective and Pride Collective are hosting the third annual Quinterfest from 6 to 9 pm on Friday, January 29. It will be an evening of dancing, socializing, and eating, all taking place in the Richmond House. Those who have dietary restrictions, have no fear: there will be a mix of vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options available. For more information check out the Camosun College Student Society Facebook page or camosunstudent.org, or email clubs@camosunstudent.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Iron Mine Bay exploration

Join a merry band of explorers and a trusty CRD guide on an expedition through East Sooke Park. The journey (a guided adult walk) will begin at Pike Road, and those with grit and gumption will end up in Iron Mine Bay. Hopeful explorers should bring their sturdiest hiking shoes, water, and a lunch. Pre-registration for this free hike is required, as there is limited space. Call 250-478-3344 by January 28 to register. More information on this event can be found at crd.bc.ca.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Valentine peep show

The Cheesecake Burlesque Revue is putting on their sixth annual Bump and Grind Valentine at The Roxy Theatre, located at 2657 Quadra St. The doors are at 7:30 and the show is at 8:30. Tickets are \$22 in advance and \$25 at the door.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Corb Lund is bringing a bit of Alberta to town on January 26.

CHINESE

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 The Year of the Monkey

February 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

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