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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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Something on your mind? If you're a Camosun student, send *Open Space* submissions (up to 500 words) to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. Include your student number. Thanks!

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "Maybe he likes being shat on."

student editor's letter

Multiple sides of every story

There's no doubt about it: gender issues are touchy, contested topics. It's easy to see why some newspapers would shy away from them altogether, given that someone's going to be upset at what's written, no matter what. But they're important issues to cover, and are certainly on the minds of students today.

For some talk on the usage of pronouns, see Open Space, on this very page, where new contributing writer Thomas Busteed argues that while we should be respectful, we must never lose our freedom of speech.

For several thousand more words on gender, head over to page 6, where features writer Quinn Hiebert explores what the gaming community is like in 2017 for those who don't identify as male. Are they marginalized? Bullied? Praised? Read on to find out.

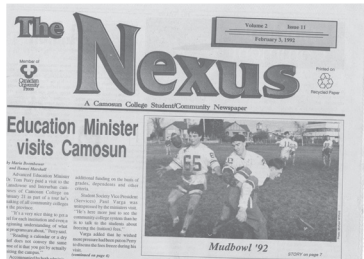
We've got some big news on page 3 about Camosun moving ahead on a new building at the Interurban campus, and what your student society thinks about it; of course, there's tons more that I don't have room to talk about here; read on to find out what else we have in store this issue.

As always, if you've got any ideas about what we should be covering, come by Richmond House 201 on Lansdowne campus for a chat. We send out our ideas to you, but, better yet, we want to hear yours, because it's your paper. That's it for now; we'll see you in two weeks!

Adam Marsh, student editor
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback

25 Years Ago in Nexus



That's one way to get the message across: The story "Tuition freeze unlikely" in our February 3, 1992 issue talked about how Tom Perry, who was the provincial minister of advanced education at the time, had recently visited Camosun College. The Camosun College Student Society, unhappy at the state of tuition, gave Perry a little gift welcoming him to campus:

a coffin with the words "R.I.P. education" on it.

Ho, ho, we report a loss in fiscal 1991-1992: The headline "CCSS loses \$\$ on Santa photos" says it all: apparently, renting a Santa costume and taking photos is a money-losing venture at a college. Noted.

How do they rank up today?: For *Speak Up* in this issue we asked students at Interurban how they felt about some campus-specific issues. Student Richard Neufeld told us, "Some of the instructors here are less than competent. The college should hire better teachers and start evaluating them." Neufeld's comment got us thinking: how do you feel instructors at Camosun are here in 2017? Let us know!

letters

Remembering Peter Verin

I remember Peter holding court in the basement cafeteria of the old SUB at UVic while I was there in the early 1990s (re: "Post-secondary staple Peter Verin dies at 71," January 18, 2017 issue). Fresh young minds were schooled and broadened by this man who proved that one should never judge a book by its cover. RIP Peter.

AL VAN AKKER
VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

Hearthstone blues

And despite all these deck changes, aggro decks still plague the meta and are still the most reliable and cheap way to fish out wins (re: "The Bi-weekly Gamer: Shaking up the play styles in *Hearthstone*," January 4, 2017 issue).

ANONYMOUS STUDENT
VIA NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

open space

Pronoun use shouldn't trample freedom of speech

THOMAS BUSTEED
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction"—powerful words once uttered by Ronald Reagan. And these words could not strike truer in recent days, as freedom of speech is under fire in academia.

We live in a world where we are no longer man and woman, but man, woman, and a growing spectrum in between. We are on a cultural collision course between those who seek to crush the norms within Western society through post-modernist, constructivist philosophy and the more traditional (classical liberal/conservative) old

cause of its lack of definition, to the point where gender boils down to "external or outward presentation through aspects such as dress, hair, makeup, body language, or voice," as justice minister Jody Wilson-Raybould said in a House of Commons debate about the bill.

Peterson does not argue against respecting non-binary people or accepting that transgender and non-binary people exist (as some claim he has), but he does argue against the flawed principle behind the legislation.

In Washington, abuses of the progressive legislation concerned some when a male used a female change room last February. More importantly, it causes a dilemma

Nobody should capitulate to those demanding to put words in one's mouth.

guard, who do not see the virtue in undressing the world around them.

The refusal to submit to the demands of social justice on campus can often result in professors terminated for discussing what they believe to be true. Nobody should capitulate to those demanding to put words in one's mouth, and to do so goes against the principles of liberalism.

Jordan Peterson is a tenured professor of psychology at the University of Toronto, and author of *Maps of Meaning: The Architecture of Belief*, a book that details the psychological mindset of those who justified their atrocities in the name of National Socialist and Communist dictatorships that devastated Europe and Asia.

Peterson spoke up for what he believes to be true in a YouTube video, dissecting the proposal to add gender expression and gender identity to the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and Bill C-16. Kelli Busey of planettransgender.com said on that site that "his articulations are nothing short of crass hate speech"; however, I believe the reasoning goes much deeper.

Bill C-16 is sloppily written, not because it seeks to protect the transgender community, but be-

for psychologists and other scientific professionals who research and report on gender dysphoria, because, according to some experts, the science is far from settled.

Many of those against Peterson have called for his livelihood and career because they believe that he does not want transgender people integrated into society, which is simply not true. He believes that freedom of speech is a fundamental right that we use as a tool to have honest discourse without the fear of violence, because suppressing ideas from public conversation can create resentment.

Ironically, those protesting against Peterson's argument for freedom of speech are protesting against the ground they stand on, stomping on the same freedoms that the gay liberation movement was able to stand up and argue for.

As a freedom-loving, patriotic Canadian, I believe that everyone has the right to argue in civil discourse under the mutual expectation of non-violent debate, for without debate, there is no learning. It's up to students and professors to stand up for each other's freedom of speech, regardless of if you agree or disagree with what the other person is saying.

SPEAK UP

How do you feel about international students paying more than domestic students to come to Camosun?

BY ADAM MARSH



ALYSSA ZICARI

"I can understand the extra fees with travel or housing, but just for tuition to pay for classes to attend, I think it should be the same for everybody."



SAMANTHA ZYCHUK

"I don't think it's really fair for tuition. It should be the same amount; students should all have equal opportunities, and it shouldn't cost one student more just because they're from somewhere else."



PAUL PUPUIS

"I think it's okay, because if it was the same price there would be a risk that domestic students wouldn't have the same opportunities coming to school. International students could sort of flood the market."



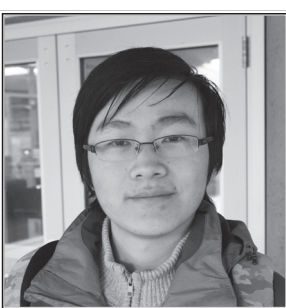
EMMA POOLE

"They should be paying the same. They're just regular students like us."



COLIN TURBIDE

"I don't feel like that's very fair. I'm sure they have their reasons; I don't know too much about it. They pay way more; I saw on the website. It's not really encouraging anyone to come to Camosun besides just domestic students."



KEFU XIE

"For me, to be an international student here... it's expensive for me and also for my parents, because I get money from my parents."

education

Camosun to construct \$48.5-million building at Interurban

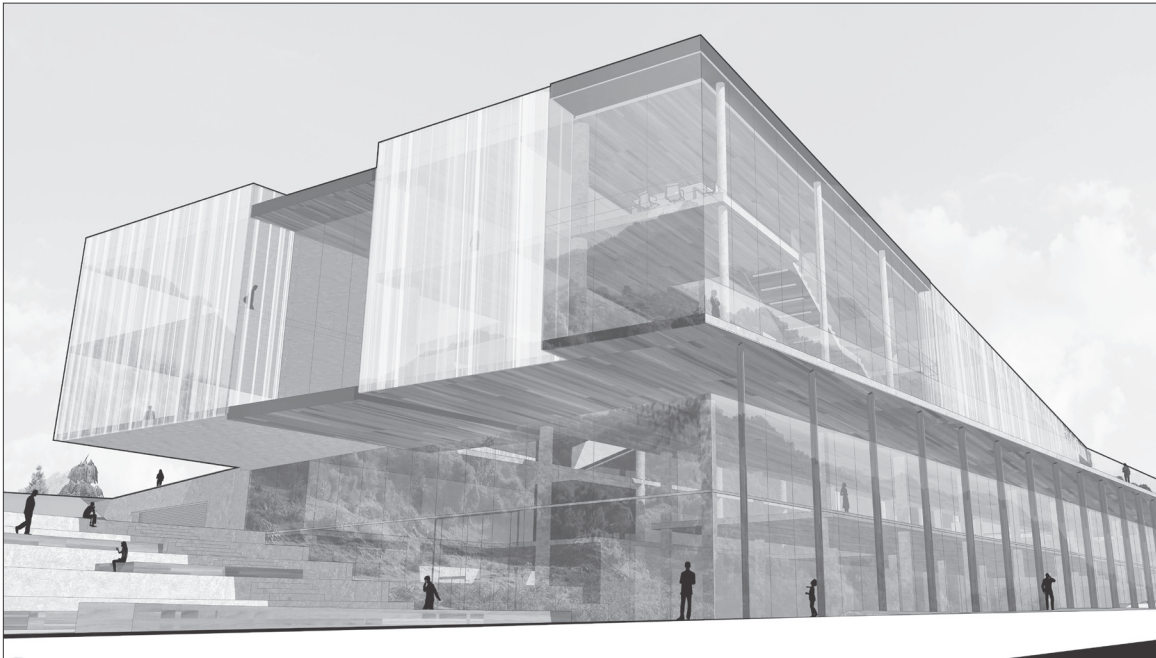


PHOTO PROVIDED

An artist's representation of Camosun's new Health and Science Centre at the Interurban campus.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Camosun College is building a new Health and Science Centre at Interurban, thanks in large part to provincial and federal funding. The \$48.5-million project is being funded with \$12.5 million from the federal government and \$31 million from the provincial government, with the college paying the rest.

Camosun vice president of education John Boraas says dialogue has been bouncing back and forth between interested parties for three decades. Funding for the building, which Boraas says will begin construction within six weeks, didn't get the green light from the government until this past year.

"It's continued to be on our highest priority capital list," he says, "and it's been overtaken by other provincial government priorities. But it's been our highest priority for a very long time now."

Boraas says the \$5 million of the funding that Camosun will contribute will come from community fundraising, an initiative the college began about four years ago.

"We did a massive community engagement on what people saw as the need for health education in the south island," he says. "We re-prioritized it as our first priority for the college, and government picked up on it."

Boraas says the college has hired architects, contractors, and project managers to ensure that the building is completed by the spring of 2018, as per the provincial government's demands. However, Boraas says internal construction may continue past that deadline.

"Keep in mind there are two different funding pots," he says. "We have federal funding—the strategic initiative funding—and then regular provincial capital funding."

Boraas says the federal funding

is "primarily focused on the shell of the building," and he says that is what will be completed by spring 2018.

"A lot of work will continue on the inside," he says. "It's necessary for us to have shovels in the ground, really, within about six weeks. You'll see construction beginning to occur almost immediately."

BC minister of advanced education Andrew Wilkinson says he is very happy with the progress Camosun is making in the area of health and sciences. He says the federal program will fund construction until February 2018.

"We put it forward as a priority project," he says. "We have to push the constructors to do it in a timely basis so that we can take full advantage of the federal funding. Gladly, the federal government agreed, because they don't always agree with our choice of projects."

Wilkinson says this building will

help Camosun students as they're taking courses at the college.

"Both the faculty and students will have the benefits of a brand-new building," he says, "which consolidates all of the teaching."

The new building will be adjacent to the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE). Wilkinson says the two facilities will serve one another in a positive way.

"The students will have an entirely improved learning experience," says Wilkinson.

Camosun College Student Society external executive Rachael Grant says that it's great to see the beginning stages of this building, but that it's troubling that Camosun has to cover any of the cost.

"It is a bit of a concern that the college itself has to take on some of the cost associated with it," says Grant, "because that, by default, spreads the resources of the college more thin. Energy needs to be put

into fundraising for this building rather than, say, fundraising for student bursaries and scholarships. It would be ideal for the government to pay for it in full; it would be of more benefit to students to approach it in that way, but it is positive to see this area being prioritized and expanded upon."

Grant also points out that although having one program all in the same building could "arguably enrich the learning process," she says that the student society would like to see the building placed closer to the Centre for Business and Access.

"The proposed location for this building is so far away from the rest of the buildings, which puts students who will be utilizing that building in a position to be more isolated from accessing transportation hubs and the rest of students on campus," she says. "Ideally, the building would be built elsewhere."

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun seeking feedback on policy

Camosun College is inviting students and faculty to provide feedback on the most recent draft of their Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy. The deadline for input is February 10. An online survey can be filled out at camosun.fluidsurveys.com/s/svmp2feedback. Camosun will be implementing this policy in May of this year as per provincial legislation.

Camosun's Ken MacDonald passes away

Camosun Sheet Metal and Metal Fabrication Foundation program instructor and program leader Ken MacDonald recently passed away. MacDonald started at Camosun in 1998; he helped design the sheet metal shop in the Centre for Trades Education and Innovation. Flags at the college were placed at half-

mast on January 27 in memory of MacDonald.

Camosun gets greener

Camosun College is now a partner with the Ministry of Environment's Carbon Neutral Government Program; the program recently received the Premiere's Partnership Award, which is given for promoting excellence and innovation. Camosun's office of sustainability has been working closely with many provincial initiatives to continue

reducing the college's environmental footprint. More information on the college's sustainability efforts can be found at camosun.ca/sustainability.

Ontario union upset over college executives' salary

Colleges in Ontario want to raise the salaries of their executives by as much as 54 percent, according to the Ontario Public Service Employees

Union (OPSEU). OPSEU says college presidents are not doing what is in the best interest of students. Of the provinces, Ontario receives the lowest funding per student.

-ADAM MARSH

Got a news tip? Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com to fill us in.

Want to be a news writer? No experience necessary! Email us or stop by our office (201 Richmond House, Lansdowne campus) today!

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations last year, 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 on all three. See you there!

student club

Camosun College student Comics Club welcomes all



Camosun College Comics Club organizer Audrey Greenlees. JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

With superhero movies everywhere, video games becoming more mainstream, and general nerd life-style becoming popular through mass media, it's no surprise that comic books are making a huge surge in popularity. Even Camosun has jumped on this and has a program dedicated to graphic novel and comic book design.

There is now also a comic book club started by the students in the program.

The club accepts everyone as members, no matter if they're in the Comics and Graphic Novels program or not, or if they can draw or not. One of the organizers of the Comics Club, Audrey Greenlees, says that more goes on in the club than just their program work.

"We get together and talk about the latest things we've been reading and the animes people are watching," she says. "Last semester, things were really casual. This semester, we've been trying to get fundraising started. We're hoping to contribute toward the Camosun Comic Arts Festival that's happening in April."

Some feel that people are born with a natural talent to draw, paint, or sculpt. Greenlees says that while she had a little talent before she came to college, the program at Camosun has helped her to refine her ability.

"When I first started at Camosun I was a creative writing stu-

"[Club members] come because of their love of video games or comic books."

AUDREY GREENLEES
CAMOSUN COMICS CLUB ORGANIZER

dent," she says. "I found that although through writing I could be very descriptive, [my ideas] never came out quite right on the page with just words. I just started to take my drawing ability and mash them all together. Many of the other club members have similar stories; they come because of their love of video games or comic books."

Fellow club and program member Lorysa Fernandez says that she'd love to see more people who are interested in comic design take a chance and try out the program and the club.

"There are so many people that I've met and as soon as I say what program I'm in, they sound so interested, but then they say that they can't draw," says Fernandez. "The truth is, not everyone can draw, but I've seen some great storytellers who've figured out how to get their story across and work around that. We really hate the notion that art is a natural born talent, because that's not true. It's a skill, and we definitely want to show people if you want to learn how to draw, just start."

Being one of the leaders of the club doesn't come without its responsibilities for Greenlees. The transition from easy club days to

fundraising has been quite the change for her.

"Leading the club is a lot of cat herding," she says. "Last semester was a little more casual. This semester I'm starting to jump through a lot more hoops to get things done, and that's proving to be a little bit of a learning curve. Other than that, it's not too much different from being a regular member, just a few more papers to read."

Fernandez says that she feels that the emphasis on sharing ideas and working together on projects brings a valuable dynamic to comic design that she wouldn't be able to get if she were to work on her ideas by herself.

"It's one thing to look at something you don't like and say, 'I hate you, you're going into a lock box, I'll pull you out in three years when I decide I don't hate you anymore.' You can't do that when you're collaborating; the other person is relying on your part of the work. Collaborating is one of the most important parts of this, and why I would say that being in the environment of like-minded people helps a lot. I already know I want to do some animation work with a couple of others once we are done the program."

know your profs

Camosun's Ada Barker knows the future is bright



Camosun Dental Hygiene prof Ada Barker and friend. JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Know Your Profs is an ongoing series of profiles on the instructors at Camosun College. Every issue we ask a different instructor at Camosun the same 10 questions in an attempt to get to know them a little better. If you have an instructor you'd like to know more about, but perhaps you're too busy to ask them yourself, email editor@nexusnewspaper.com and we'll add them to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we caught up with Dental Hygiene prof Ada Barker to talk about being a samurai, yeast-covered popcorn, and how teaching is good for her heart and soul.

1. What do you teach and how long have you been at Camosun?

Professional practice and clinical theory and practice in Dental Hygiene. 25 years.

2. What do you personally get out of teaching?

The fact that I get to work, learn, and explore with colleagues and students on a daily basis is a real privilege. It's good for my heart and soul.

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

That I'm a samurai re-incarnate.

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

That I watch *The Voice* religiously. #TeamBlake

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

I love being in the classroom and in clinic and working with students who want to learn.

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

When it's Thursday and you think the food truck is coming and it doesn't.

7. What do you see in the future of post-secondary education?

I am hopeful, and in being with my students I know that our future is bright.

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

I like to cook. Friday night cheap dates with my husband means Netflix and Engevita yeast-covered popcorn with butter.

9. What is your favourite meal?

I've never met a meal I didn't like.

10. What's your biggest pet peeve?

Restaurants who charge extra for guacamole.

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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festival

Victoria Tea Fest rises from the dead to bring tea to town



PHOTO PROVIDED

If you like talking about tea, looking at tea, and drinking tea, you'll be happy to hear the Victoria Tea Fest is back.

JAYDEN GRIEVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Victoria Tea Festival ran for several successful years before it ended in 2013. But local tea lovers have cause to rejoice: The International Tea Appreciation Society has decided to put on the Victoria Tea Festival Revival to continue the legacy of the previous festival. “This year we’re doing a tea market and symposium at Nootka Court,” says event co-organizer Ryan Moen. “We’ll be doing kind of an open-air market style, like you’d see at a farmer’s market, and we’re expecting about 10 to 15 different vendors.”

Moen and co-organizer and fellow tea enthusiast Jared Nyberg have decided to put the revival festival in a less formal light and really open it up for everyone to enjoy. Moen claims that tea is a fantastic way to bring people together. “In general, nobody hates tea. People might not like tea, people might have different preferences, whether it’s mint or black or chai tea, but generally it’s an easy medium to bring a large group of people together to celebrate,” says Moen. “There is a lot of conversation around tea. It invokes so much personal notation. Some people only have tea by themselves; some people go through

a whole ceremony, or think about their grandmother. Generally, it’s a pretty happy experience.” The festival will have many local vendors, all of whom are passionate about their product. The organizers have been careful to keep the festival focused on the tea and ensure that only products that contribute positively to the culture will be featured. “What we’ve stayed away from is inviting anybody with what we call ‘candy tea,’” says Moen, “where people start adding sugars, and sort of navigate away from the tea. If they start adding sweeteners specifically to change the taste, that’s where we draw the line.”

“In Victoria, the popularity of tea is definitely growing. I think people on the west coast have a bit more of a connoisseur lifestyle.”

JARED NYBERG
VICTORIA TEA FESTIVAL REVIVAL

Historically, Moen claims, tea may have been a “two brand in the supermarket” product, but in recent years, especially locally, it has blossomed into a thriving industry, with many participants. “In Victoria, the popularity of tea is definitely growing,” says Moen. “I think people on the west coast have a bit more of a connoisseur lifestyle. People want to know more, and with tea you can offer that. You can offer where it’s from, how it’s produced, and really delve into the different types of textures and notes that each cup can have.” Along with the market, patrons will also get to attend the tea symposium, where they can learn all about their favourite beverage. Topics range from tea sourcing and grading to tea ceremonies.

“The main focus of the tea festival is the market to show what’s available, but the other half is that no matter how big or small the festival gets, we are always using education as our backbone,” says Moen. “A thing we encourage is for

people to just come and ask all the vendors questions. We try to make sure that the people we invite have a lot to say, and almost all of them know their tea very specifically. It isn’t limited to the education experience in the symposium.” Moen is very positive about the prospects of the upcoming festival, and he believes that it will be a success that could lead to many more in the future. “The main reason it was created was for the people of Victoria,” he says. “My big hope is that they can pick it up and treat it the way they want to and not have to adhere to any specific medium that we offer, but just celebrate tea and take it and create their own festival.”

Victoria Tea Festival Revival
Saturday, February 4
\$2 to \$10 sliding scale
Nootka Court,
633 Courtney Street
teavictoria.com



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MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI



THE HOLLOW CHILD



FREE FIRE

Playing to win

Post-Gamergate, gaming is no longer a mo

The battle of the sexes within the gaming industry sometimes resembles a playground free-for-all. Words are flung like mud, more than one person is bleeding, and everyone is screaming. Off to the side, a gaggle of kids are scratching their heads and wondering if they hear a noise.

Sometimes, this behaviour draws some attention, an example being the Gamergate controversy. The online harassment directed toward women during Gamergate caused many of them to become afraid for their lives—and they're still dealing with the effects today.

It's difficult to write the words that I've been called, or have seen used toward other female—as well as male—players. They are violent, vicious, and filled with hate. I've been called a cunt, a whore, and a slut; I've been told I need to go back to the kitchen; male gamers have told me they're going to hunt me down, rape me, kill me.

All this because I love games. There are gamers who ignore that women are targeted, violently killed in-game, and hyper-sexualized, and that women lack decent representation in general. Female gamers who speak up are immediately targeted by male gamers, who send enough death and rape threats to achieve the desired result: women being pushed out of the online world.

When video games first came out, they were targeted toward everyone—if you had an interest, you could play—but that's changed over the years. Women still play as much as they ever did, but gaming companies started to avoid acknowledging their existence.

And at some point it was decided that they didn't exist at all.



“I was playing *Overwatch* and someone didn't like my playing style. It's not like I was sitting back or coasting and letting other people play. I was just playing in a way this person didn't view as being perfect... they called me a f-ing c-word.”

LORYSA FERNANDEZ
CAMOSUN STUDENT

TABLETOP GAMING FOR THE KINDA-WIN

While there is still a lot of pushback from the video gaming industry toward anyone who doesn't identify as male,

board and tabletop gamers are a step ahead. LANTasy director of gaming Bonnie Beyea says that when she was hired at LANTasy—a broad-spectrum gaming convention that is being held on March 18 and 19 this year at Pearkes Recreation Centre—she would only come on board if the directors let her write an anti-harassment policy, which they did.

“I'm a huge believer that there has to be consequences for that sort of thing,” says Beyea. “We don't see it a lot—knock on wood—especially in Victoria, but there has to be a policy clearly stating that we don't accept that sort of thing. That way, if there is a problem, it gives the convention people something to turn to and say, ‘You agreed to our policies, you didn't follow them, here's the consequences.’ Maybe you're scolded, depending on what it is, up to ejecting you from the convention, because it needs to be a welcoming environment for everyone.”

Beyea says that there are still troubles at conventions, and a lot of women are afraid to report them. She says she saw it herself when she was doing security at PAX, a convention held in various cities around the world.

“Nothing made me more frustrated, but totally understanding, when, after the convention, you see a post on Reddit or something from a woman who said, ‘I was at PAX and I got harassed.’ And it makes me want to cry, because my security team, that's why we were there. Like, come see us, please, we will believe you. This is our job. But I totally understand why these women, and sometimes men, are afraid to report it, and that's what we need to change. No victim blaming at PAX—if you report it, I'll believe you. It's that simple, right?”

This sense of inclusion that Beyea fights for may explain why women and non-binary folk are more—but not always—prominent in the tabletop or board-games communities. Audrey Greenlees, a student in Camosun's Comics and Graphic Novels program, has found gamers at conventions to be accepting.

“Everyone has always been super happy just to have another person to play with,” says Greenlees. “I've never personally perceived it as a gender thing, but I can be a little oblivious to that sometimes. Everyone I've ever sat down to play with has always been really accepting, really understanding if I don't know how to play a game, and helping me figure out the rules. It's kind of a big thing, because I'm usually very shy with people, but there's something in conventions that brings out the friendliness in everyone.”

For anyone unfamiliar with tabletop role-playing games (RPGs), game night usually involves a game master (GM) or dungeon master attempting to kill off the players in highly creative and entertaining ways. Death doesn't come because of a player's gender or identity; when a player dies, it's usually because dice rolls failed epically, or because of a player's stupidity.

In one of the tabletop games I was in, a player had their plate-clad paladin jump into water to save two other characters—Telkhines—that were born in water. He refused to let go of his shield after he jumped in with it. The Telkhines saved themselves as the GM required the player to make a series of dice rolls to see if he would drown (non-gamers, stay with us here). He almost did—twice—because he was adamant about rescuing his shield.

Beyea says sharing these types of stories is what makes tabletop so much fun.

“When you get a good group together,” says Beyea, “that's why I love board games and role-playing games. It's the shared social experience, sitting around a table, or online via hangouts. But I prefer the table—just sharing those kind of stories, I love that. That's why I get so enthusiastic about my hobby. Find the right group, because it's amazing.”

For casual gamers like Greenlees, playing with people online doesn't have a lot of appeal, but board games do. Greenlees says that when her husband brought home a board game recently, he was worried that she would be upset because he'd been a little frivolous with the budget she sets.

“I like to be sitting with friends in a room and catching up and laughing,” says Greenlees. “Lately I've been playing a lot of *X-Wing Miniatures*. It's a tabletop game where you fly ships against an opponent and try and kill them. He

thought I would be totally against it, but he didn't know that. And so, we proceeded to play five games and I beat him.

As we're chatting, second-year Camosun English student Allen-Lompert says there is a different aspect, especially when you're being called a bad gamer. I'll probably use the words ‘pathetic,’ ‘stupid,’ ‘pathetic.’

I ask Allen-Lompert why he would say things like that. “It's not a normal thing, where I just go up to her and make me a sandwich. This is pathetic, you're pathetic. It's win or lose. And if I lose, then everything is still won.”

Any online player can tell you how much of a pain it is to be through it, they don't help at all, or they do something that makes your tempers flare, screaming happens, and someone usually gets hurt. Comics and Graphic Novels program, says that she has been called a cunt—and sometimes the other player didn't even know it.

“I was playing *Overwatch*,” says Fernandez, “a threat to my style. It's not like I was sitting back or coasting and letting them play. They didn't view as being perfect, and they started typing into my boyfriend's account at the time. That was one of the ones where you possibly know I'm female? If they're going to call you that word in their face, but in a way that makes them respect you.”

Comics and Graphic Novels student Jessica Ruffolo says most gamers she knows are fine. “I usually try to talk to people who aren't misogynistic.”



“Back in high school, I did feel like I was one of those very rare girls who admitted to being a total geek and playing games.”

OLIVIA ROBERTSON
CAMOSUN STUDENT

an's world

that I basically watched all of the dogfights on History channel. I watched at four of them. It was great.”

THE POWER OF ANONYMITY

ish student Dan Allen-Lompert asks if I’m sure I want to hear what he shies away from telling me the most offensive. In terms of the huge difference between video games and tabletop games. “They can troll each other without having to see each others’ faces. They’re all together, either being co-operative or competitive, so it’s more co-operative. A friend of mine will say certain things that I won’t say in video games—even to my little lady—I will tell her she’s a bitch.”

at. His answer is simple enough: he says it’s because he’s in a position where he can go, ‘You’re pathetic, cook my food, go into the kitchen and get me a drink. It’s not that,’ he says. “It’s just, I’m in the mindset of video games. I’m pathetic. If I win, she didn’t help, I did all the work. But we

other players can be. They stand in the fire and expect to live through it. They’re really, really stupid, and everybody dies. When that happens, they usually end up rage-quitting. Lorysa Fernandez, a student in the program, has been called some pretty strong words—including “fucking bitch” because she was female.

ee-on-three elimination, and someone didn’t like my playing. I was just playing in a way this person would. I got the message box, ‘This person’s trolling us, let’s report them.’ I don’t know I’m actually female, because I was playing on my terms. I was the one that really bothered me because it felt more like, how could you do something, you find the exact reason that you get to throw someone out of the game, not want to tear you down.”

o—who recently won the TECTORIA Video Game Industry Award for Best Female Gamer with her being a gamer.

s, so most of the boys I’ve talked to are just fine with it and it’s chill,” says Ruffolo. “But if I do meet strangers, I am a little bit cautious, you know? You don’t really know who they are yet.”

Camosun College Student Society First Nations director Draco Recalma—a two-spirit second-year Indigenous Studies student—laughs when I ask if he’d been harassed online before.

“It’s all the time. All the time,” he says. “When I go out to play games, I have to put on a certain *façade*, I guess, and be more masculine, and then they’ll harass me less. But if I show any kind of sign of femininity, they basically try to kick me out a lot of the time.”

Online players target others in the more notoriously violent video games; Fernandez says that a female gamer is almost guaranteed to get gunned down on the *Grand Theft Auto* (GTA) network if they’re spotted.

“To be fair, if you’re on *GTA*, you know the world you’re stepping into beforehand,” says Fernandez. “But I was on there with my significant other, so I knew I at least I had someone to back me up if someone did come target me. But I didn’t realize, until this first time I was starting to play the *GTA* online features, how male gamers target female gamers in that game. There are people who, if they see another online player, they’re just going to gun them down anyway. But from what I’ve been told, if you’re a female gamer on the network, you’re almost guaranteed to get gunned down if you get spotted.”

I’ve often wondered what someone gets out of deliberately being mean to another player. Allen-Lompert says there’s a certain feeling of catharsis in being a troll.

“Especially if you’re an angry person like me and you dislike people,” says Allen-Lompert, “and you’re very competitive when you want to play games. If I lose, I feel a lot better when I just let it out, instead of just holding it in. And

everybody tells us, ‘You should let it out anyway.’ It’s mostly a catharsis. But if they’re stupid, once again, they deserve what they get. Most of the time, it’s not intentional. Probably about 80 percent of the time, it’s not intentional. But there’s a good 10 percent there when that person just deserves a good reaming.”

Jordan Abrey, a Digital Production, Writing and Design student at Camosun, says that the world of gamers is a world of poorly socialized people who aren’t very good at communicating with each other.

“That’s why they’re there, playing video games,” says Abrey. “It’s easy; it’s comfortable for them. They don’t have to worry about embarrassing themselves or saying the wrong thing. And when they’re in a situation when they’re playing with a girl—there’s probably like two girls in a server, or whatever—they find themselves in this position where they actually try. And they try and they fail. They have elementary-school capabilities of getting along with the opposite sex. Because they’ve been so suppressed that they try, and they’re failing, and they’re hurting... they’re offending the girls, and a lot of the time they feel really bad. But I don’t really feel bad for the guys. I mean, I don’t think that they’re the villains. They’re saying the things, they’re doing the things, and they’re really wrong, obviously, but they’re just trying.”

While more of a console gamer, Olivia Roberts, also in the Comics and Graphic Novels program, says that she hasn’t really experienced harassment.

“But back in high school, I did feel like I was one of those very rare girls who admitted to being a total geek and playing games,” says Roberts. “If you think about it in an isolated way, to me it’s not considered a bad thing. It actually made me feel more unique, in a way.”

Story by Quinn Hiebert, features writer
Photos by Jill Westby/Nexus



“I usually try to talk to people who aren’t misogynists, so most of the boys I’ve talked to are just fine with it and it’s chill.”

JESSICA RUFFOLO
CAMOSUN STUDENT

DIVERSITY DILEMMAS

Today, diversity in video games leaves a lot to be desired. Women are shown to be weak, witless, incompetent, and expendable. Fernandez says that the issue has become a lot more transparent over the past few years.

“In the ’90s, there was such a definitive boys-versus-girls side to it,” says Fernandez. “Because I played *Assassin’s Creed* and I never once took a moment to realize there are several times when prostitutes in those games get held at knifepoint or at gunpoint and you never have an opportunity to save them. They’re literally pawns in the game. You can also use them to distract people, by basically walking in front of them and flirting with them. That’s what happens in an industry where we let the other gender dictate how we are depicted.”

To the ire of the old boys’ club of the online world, gaming companies—board, tabletop, and video—are realizing this need for better representation of non-male characters and are starting to embrace diversity. What the boys’ club doesn’t seem to realize is that a lot of people aren’t actually asking that scantily clad women in video games disappear altogether. Greenlees says there’s nothing wrong with sexualizing some characters.

“There’s a niche for that,” she says. “I think the problem is that niche being mainstream. I look forward to it being less mainstream and having more body positivity in all ways. I look forward to having a game sometime where heteronormative characters—male or female—are either equally proportionate to all others or the token characters, for a change. Because it’s not just the women in gaming, it’s the trans women, the trans men, the asexual characters who you basically don’t see.”

Ruffolo says that she wants to see more diversity in games as well, pointing specifically to the representation of women of colour.

“I don’t even necessarily want strong girl characters, just characters that aren’t objectified,” she says. “They can have their flaws, and maybe they’re sensitive and everything, but they’re not treated so static, as a girl character often is. Just a real character.”

Roberts hopes that gaming companies will change their representation of women characters in the days to come. “It’s fine to sexualize a little bit, but too much, and you’re kind of losing the main focus,” she says. “But in the future, I’m hoping that there will be more fleshed-out characters, as opposed to just, ‘Oh, hey, you’re a female character, let’s put the bounce simulator on you, and we’re good to go.’”

Allen-Lompert doesn’t see a problem with the way women are portrayed in video games now, but he also says he wouldn’t be upset if women got better representation.

“I think women are in a huge position of power, because men just want to be with them,” he says. “That alone, you can bend us to whatever way you want to bend us. I don’t have a problem with the way it is now. If I want to play a video game where there’s a smart lady, who’s dressed up in a formal uniform, like an office uniform, fine. I’ll play that game. If it’s a good game, I’ll play it. But if it’s sexy ladies, sure, I might lean a little more toward the sexy ladies.”

And Beyea says that sometimes you just have to call guys out on their behaviour, and make them think about it. “All the guys I’ve ever dealt with, once you tell them, they’re like, ‘Oh, okay. That’s a thing, let’s start doing that,’” says Beyea. “Or often, they just don’t realize. Like, ‘Okay, what you just said there, that’s not cool, and here’s why,’ and they’re like, ‘Oh, okay.’ So, personally, I’ve had to learn to stop doing the puff-up, because that doesn’t work, because then they’ll get hostile to me.”

Male gamers took something I love—gaming and nerd culture—and turned it into something I refuse to do with others. Which takes some of the fun out of it. Part of being a nerd is getting really excited about the super-cool thing—board game, tabletop RPG, video game, console game, whatever—and sharing it with as many people as possible.

But nerds—like myself—are generally antisocial misfits with little to no points in charisma or social skills. We get passionate about a thing and don’t like to see other people tear it down.

So it’s time to rebuild.



was one
to being
.”

BERTS
STUDENT

theatre

Victoria Film Fest brings films from around the globe to town



PHOTO PROVIDED
Burn Your Maps is about a boy who wants to be a Mongolian goat herder.

FINLAY POGUE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Victoria Film Festival (VFF) is a city-wide event, with different movie houses pulling their own weight, taking on showings; it’s a silent culture of film that takes hold of the town, enthralling those in the know. The fest is host to a

multicultural cast of players, with films from around the world—Japan, Australia, France, Denmark, Canada—on display, all converging, bringing new perspectives, shining new light on an old town so that its good qualities may be seen anew.

The smaller size of the festival and its location, at the centre of a

smaller town, actually serves to foster anticipation for the event; larger film festivals are often swallowed whole by their cities.

“In big cities the festivals are invisible, but in smaller places the festival is everywhere and it creates a unique feeling,” says Finnish filmmaker Juho Kuosmanen, whose movie *The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki* is playing at the VFF. “At their best, they feel like family meeting, not like a festival.”

Regardless of location and statistics, it’s the films that are the beating heart of any festival; they’re vehicles of emotion, good and bad, and a chance for people to be together witnessing something beautiful. In that regard, VFF is bigger than life, offering films such as Jordan Roberts’ *Burn Your Maps*, about a boy with the dream of living as a Mongolian goat-herder.

“I wanted to tell a story that was about the potential for human evolution, about how to move forward when you don’t know where you are,” says Roberts.

It’s films like Roberts’—ones exploring themes of identity and human relationships—that make film festivals so important. *The Hap-*

“I wanted to tell a story that was about the potential for human evolution, about how to move forward when you don’t know where you are.”

JORDAN ROBERTS
BURN YOUR MAPS

piest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki too is greater than the sum of its parts.

“[The movie] deals with the expectations and the fear of being a failure,” says Kuosmanen, adding that it could be seen as “an allegory for filmmaking—if you want.”

When discussing budding filmmakers, Roberts says that they “need to pay attention to what stories are, go read good ones, go watch great films; tell stories that are about human beings.” And it’s this approach that both Roberts and Kuosmanen have taken, valuing the story—and what the story says—over the glamour of big studios and big names.

“It’s not about the high budgets,” says Kuosmanen. “It’s

about the amount of freedom. That’s the priority.”

As for the fest, it’s the communication that a small festival can offer, and that independent films can bring, that makes film fests so valuable; when people stay cloistered in their Netflix worlds, they lose the acuteness and intensity that films can offer.

“Cinema is communication,” says Kuosmanen. “It happens between people, not inside individuals.”

Victoria Film Fest
Friday, February 3
to Sunday, February 12
various prices and venues
victoriafilmfestival.com

music

Toronto’s USS return to second home Victoria



PHOTO PROVIDED
The members of Toronto’s USS are no strangers to Victoria.

FELICIA SANTAROSSA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Toronto’s USS (Ubiquitous Synergy Seeker) are playing not one but two dates in town on their current tour for new album *New World Alphabet*, and there’s a reason for that: it was Victoria where the band first started to get noticed outside of Toronto.

“In 2008, when our first song got discovered and started getting played on the radio, someone in Victoria heard it, and we played a show for the Fringe Theatre Festival,” says vocalist/guitarist Ashley Buchholz, who calls Victoria the band’s second home. “We played on the street and 800 people came and stood in the rain for four hours to wait for us to play.”

The experience was certainly a monumental one; Buchholz says the rain disguised his tears of joy. Since then, the band has been a regular in Victoria’s festival lineups and at venues around town. This tour

marks the first headlining run for the band. It’s certainly exciting, says Buchholz, who is preparing for the task through meditation and deep dubstep. If that sounds paradoxical, that’s what makes up Buchholz, and he’ll proudly admit it.

“That’s where I like to live—right in the sweet spot of simultaneous opposites,” he says. “I have a philosophy in life that involves just constantly being in present of zooming out. One eye’s a telescope and one eye’s a microscope; you’re able to zoom into things and zoom out of them just to get perspective.”

Buchholz is no stranger to introspection, having spent time in monasteries learning how an attitude can affect a person’s entire reality.

“Happiness isn’t a feeling,” he says. “It’s a choice you make pretty much every moment with your attitude.”

Despite how it may sound, Buchholz says the new album’s themes are lighter than the band’s

previous work; no surprise, considering the mindset around its creation was certainly happier.

“The album is just overflowing with joy,” he says. “The songs might not always seem like they’re happy songs, but it’s because it’s coming from the place where you’re healing things that are moving you closer toward more happiness.”

Assisting other people toward their own happiness is what Buchholz hopes to achieve through music. He also hopes to connect, citing how people often feel isolated despite the linked nature of today’s world. He points to the song “Who’s with Me?” on the album as an example of this.

“The intention is to say, ‘I’m longing to feel connection, I’m dying to feel connected, and that’s me praying for connection,’ and to everybody who’s praying for that connection, let’s just see what happens if we create that intention to connect. Who’s with me?”

As for what the band’s music actually sounds like, the term “strum and bass” has been thrown around; Buchholz describes it as “campfire after-party music.”

“I’ve always had a fantasy of wanting to hear Nirvana unplugged but at a rave,” he says. “So I said, ‘Well, I guess I’m just going to have to make it because I can’t hear it anywhere.’”

USS
7 pm Thursday, February 9
7 pm Sunday, February 12
\$30, Alix Goolden Hall
ussmusic.com

festival

Django Fest brings Roma flair



PHOTO PROVIDED
Django Fest organizer Oliver Swain.

AARON STEFIK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This month, venues along Victoria’s waterfront district will be transformed into a world of near-mystical performance art rooted in the wayfaring soul of the European Roma and the sparkling jazz clubs of the first half of the 20th century. It was by the blending of these two styles that Django Reinhardt, himself Romani, crafted a unique amalgam of musical tradition that is today celebrated across Europe and North America in the form of Django festivals.

“We have a very vibrant local Django community, with a lot of great, important international artists based out of this area,” says festival organizer Oliver Swain. “And I just thought that between that and the culture of Paris in the ’20s and ’30s, there are a lot of elements that are really worth experiencing and emulating, and the incredible music and how much I love it.”

The style of jazz encapsulated by the performers at Django festivals, known as hot jazz or gypsy jazz, has

long stood apart from other musical genres for its unique instrumentation and style of performance.

“The main difference is that it’s a string band,” says Swain, “all strings, and very guitar-driven. Django Reinhardt himself is the greatest guitar player of all time; he really pushed the instrument. It becomes interesting, because with no drums, the stringed instruments can take centre stage, and occasionally a bit of clarinet, and a bit of horns. But with the stringed arrangement, you can sort of hear more; you can hear the guitar more. In the world of guitar music, Django is considered one of the greats, just on the instrument.”

Swain says the particulars of the style of music were very dependent upon social and technological elements that had evolved by the first half of the century.

“Suddenly there was radio really changing the reality for the learning and spreading of music; it became less of a regional expression,” he says. “And so, in this transition away from regionalism as a culture, this incredible mixing together happened with a lot of really unique flowerings around the world, and this example of this group of Roma people getting interested and being able to get very good at ragtime and swing, primarily from Europe, was something that was never possible before that moment in time.”

Django Fest
Friday, February 10;
Saturday, February 11;
Tuesday, February 14
various prices and venues
victoriadjangofestival.com

theatre

Gracie explores polygamy from the eyes of a youth



Gracie explores heavy topics through a one-person format.

DAVID COOPER

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Gracie explores the life of a girl growing up in a polygamist society in Bountiful, BC. Local playwright Joan MacLeod wrote the play; she says that she would like audience members to come away from the play with a conscious mind about what’s happening in BC, and even here in Victoria.

“I’d like for people to listen to what Gracie has to say,” she says, “and think about what’s happening in our own province, and to try and uphold the right to religious freedom, as well as how that impacts children that grow up in a polygamist community. It’s an interesting thing to look at, discuss, and weigh in on.”

Lili Beaudoin plays Gracie and, according to MacLeod, does a fantastic job of taking on the role and responsibilities that come with a one-person show.

“She’s an amazing actor,” says MacLeod. “She’s very young but very well trained, and she’ll try anything. When the play starts, she’s playing an eight-year-old and she conveys the feeling of an eight-year-old. She’s very open emotionally and that’s very important for the type of plays I write.”

MacLeod says that the playwright being present as much as possible really helps get the direction, and the play, right.

“In a premiere production it’s

“I’d like for people to listen to what Gracie has to say and think about what’s happening in our own province, and to try and uphold the right to religious freedom, as well as how that impacts children that grow up in a polygamist community.”

JOAN MACLEOD
GRACIE

important to work closely with your actors,” says MacLeod. “I just came from the rehearsal hall; we’ve been working intensely and I’ve been there every day, except one where I had to teach. In a premiere I think it’s really important that the playwright’s there.”

Although a one-person show might seem intimidating to put together, MacLeod has plenty of experience writing them. According to her, Gracie actually follows a pattern that is quite common in her other work.

“In a way, it’s not different than my other plays. It follows a pattern; this is my fifth one-person play. I tend to write a play with a bunch of different characters and then follow that one up with a one-person show.

It’s inspired by some true and some fiction events, and that’s something I do a lot of.”

MacLeod says that being a playwright requires a lot of focus and tenacity to be successful.

“Writing is hard work; all students know that,” she says. “So just having the discipline to write, rewrite, and persevere, even when it seems kind of crappy, is important. Even when you write for the theatre, you’re doing most of it alone, and, you know, I’d say that’s the hardest part.”

Gracie
Until Sunday, February 19
Various prices, Belfry Theatre
belfry.bc.ca

Valentine Greetings

FEBRUARY 2017

1 WEDNESDAY RETROWAVE WEDnesDAYS VIDEO/BOARD GAMES NIGHT : music theme : CABAL DJS ALL VINYL METAL + PUNK FREE : 8pm - Midnight	2 THURSDAY To Be Announced STAY TUNED... Facebook.com/Loganspub	3 FRIDAY ROTTERDAM MECHANISM OF HATE SAINTS IN HELL Judas Priest tribute 9pm - \$10	4 SATURDAY FABLEWAY CONTRA CODE RIFTHEIST BAD BATCH 9pm - \$10
5 SUNDAY CAROLYN MARK'S HOOTENANNY 4pm - 8pm FREE	6 MONDAY ORIGINAL	7 TUESDAY GRAYSON WALKER'S KARAOKE 9pm - 1am FREE	8 57 Menu 7pm RETROWAVE WEDnesDAYS VIDEO/BOARD GAMES NIGHT : music theme : SYNTHWAVE DUNGEON CRAWL FREE : 8pm - Midnight
9 APB FEST NINJASPY NO LIARS THIS DAY BURNS COFFEE EYES RADco 8pm - \$12 / \$30 Pass	10 APB FEST MALAHAT LITTLE MISTAKES AIR COMBAT AZTEC TOY MAKER 8pm - \$12 / \$30 Pass	11 APB FEST THE BODY POLITIC SHARK INFESTED DAUGHTERS FROM THE WOLVES VOICES LAWN SOCIAL 8pm - \$12 / \$30 Pass	
12 CAROLYN MARK'S HOOTENANNY 4pm - 8pm FREE	13 AUTHENTIC	14 GRAYSON WALKER'S KARAOKE 9pm - 1am FREE	15 57 Menu 7pm RETROWAVE WEDnesDAYS VIDEO/BOARD GAMES NIGHT : music theme : 90s NIGHT GRUNGE & BEYOND FREE : 8pm - Midnight
16 To Be Announced STAY TUNED... Facebook.com/Loganspub	17 ACTION INDEX 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY WOOLWORM SIGHTLINES KRAXXA GLUM 9pm - \$10	18 737 Productions PRESENTS JAMES T. KIRKS 20th ANNIVERSARY THE CORPS SADO MANNEQUIN 9pm - \$14	
19 CAROLYN MARK'S HOOTENANNY 4pm - 8pm FREE	20 UNIQUE	21 GRAYSON WALKER'S KARAOKE 9pm - 1am FREE	22 57 Menu 7pm RETROWAVE WEDnesDAYS VIDEO/BOARD GAMES NIGHT : music theme : EIGHTIES DANCE PARTY FREE : 8pm - Midnight
23 To Be Announced STAY TUNED... Facebook.com/Loganspub	24 THE LEAKS 9pm	25 To Be Announced STAY TUNED... Facebook.com/Loganspub	
26 CAROLYN MARK'S HOOTENANNY 4pm - 8pm FREE	27 OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK	28 GRAYSON WALKER'S KARAOKE 9pm - 1am FREE	

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music

From the Wolves use music to challenge religion



DANNIELLE CHAVALUGHN

Calgary's From the Wolves use their aggressive hardcore punk to deliver serious messages.

DAVID MCEWAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Shane DeGraaff, lead vocalist of Calgary hardcore band From the Wolves, says that his musical motivation came early: his father was into music, so when DeGraaff was a child he was already playing instruments. And when he discov-

ered punk, DeGraaff picked up a bass guitar and started playing in punk bands.

DeGraaff says that playing music has been a good release for him; he says he gets his inspiration for his lyrics from his daily life and experiences.

"I just take from daily life," he

says. "Things that have happened to me. Things I see happening in the world. I try to stick with things that are affecting me personally, for the most part. That way I can feel like I can have more of a message behind it when I do put it to lyrics; then it's not just some hollow, empty thing. I try to pull from those experiences.

"Religion has caused a lot of issues in the world. It's not just one religion—it's all of them."

SHANE DEGRAAFF
FROM THE WOLVES

And if I'm seeing something in the news that is happening in the world I feel connected to, I might write about that."

The message behind DeGraaff's music, he says, is to question religion and deal with depression, death, and loss of loved ones. DeGraaff grew up in a very religious school, and is now an atheist. His lyrics, he says, are critical of all religions, not just one.

"I grew up in a very religious school and I'm an atheist," he says. "In all reality none of us are religious at all. I think religion is a very stupid topic, and it has caused a lot of issues in the world. It's not just one religion—it's all of them."

DeGraaff stands against religion and injustice; what he does believe in, he says, is being a good human being. He says he hopes that the band's message will cause people to stand up for themselves.

"For me personally, I believe in just being good human beings, and a lot of the people that get written about that affect me are due to people being either backstabbers or liars or trying to put on a *façade* that isn't really there," he says. "I want to show everybody that we do have a very hard, aggressive style, and it comes off that we are very aggressive, but in all reality we are upset with what has happened and transpired in the past, and we don't want those things to happen again. And hopefully, through the message that we bring, people stand up for themselves and for what they believe in."

From the Wolves
Saturday, February 11
\$12, Logans Pub
loganspub.com



By Jayden Grieve

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Web Exclusive

NEXUS

What's happening at nexusnewspaper.com

Week of January 23, 2017

Top five most read stories:

1. "Two spirit: beyond sex and gender," April 2, 2014

2. "It's always the season of the witch in Victoria," October 23, 2012

3. "Camosun ranks second in BCcampus Open Textbook review, January 18, 2017

4. "Camosun grad co-founds unique sales outsourcing firm," June 6, 2014

5. "Camosun College faculty member under investigation," November 25, 2016

New, web-exclusive stories:

"Brasstronaut keeps being different," a look at how the Vancouver experimental alternative band manage to keep walking down their own path.

"Fundraising event aims to get your pants down," a story about former Camosun student Piotr Burek's fundraising event Pants off Dance Off, which raised funds for a cause and managed to encourage pants to be dropped all at once.

SMITH vs SMITH

"DIRTY LAUNDRY" BY MATT SMITH!

MATT! WE'VE GOT SO MUCH LAUNDRY AND IT'S ALL YOURS!

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YOU'RE NOT STAYING?!

I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL THE SURPRISE.

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Dearest Reader

by Aaron Stefik

A proposal: Valentine’s day is a grand opportunity

Dearest Reader,

To your most assured awareness, that so-talked-about festival of Valentine’s Day is again nearly upon us.

Rarely has there been a holiday which has come to be reckoned so unpleasant and so widely and vastly despised in the young people of our nation as this one. The burden of lonesomeness that plagues they who are either spurned by potential lovers or otherwise left to fend for themselves on the cold streets while starry-eyed couples fawn over one another in passing and in constancy is—you must agree, dearest reader—amongst the grandest and most rightfully embittering in our society.

In my usual fashion of ingenuity, I have conceived of a manner in which this otherwise divisive and gruelling trial of a holiday may be turned not only to the benefit of the forlorn individual, but to that of the college as well.

It often being deduced among students that tuition fees remain in excess of necessity, the copious unspent remainder of that sum should first be turned toward the subsidization of a student dating pro-

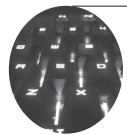
It often being deduced among students that tuition fees remain in excess of necessity, the copious unspent remainder of that sum should first be turned toward the subsidization of a student dating program wherein the most tormented unfortunates the campuses have to offer may be blended amongst one another and encouraged to go about their biological duties.

gram, wherein the most tormented unfortunates the campuses have to offer may be blended amongst one another and encouraged to go about their biological duties. Within a mere handful of years, the resultant format might easily be converted to a veritable student breeding program, and thus a new crop of potential Camosun alumni raised every year from the loins of the current population.

This being accomplished, all other expensive and wasteful endeavours in service of supplementing the college’s populace

semester by semester, such as community advertisement and the entirety of the international student program, might be curtailed, the capacity of the student body being thus manufactured domestically.

Let it be assured, in sum, that wherever social holidays have lost their relevance in a culture of pervasive loneliness, such celebrations may yet always be turned to sensible and pragmatic ends. Wherever the heart of the wayward individual has been made cold to the prospect of love and of comfort, rationality provides.



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

Providing an amateur league

A large amount of players and viewers probably don’t realize that Riot Games has set up a professional-style tournament for *League of Legends* (LoL) for people like you and me. University *League of Legends* (uLoL) is a program organized by Riot Games and student clubs on college and university campuses across the US and Canada.

uLoL gives players of all skill levels and gaming backgrounds a chance to get together and experience the multiple aspects of LoL that many love. From allowing a college team to partake in their uLoL tournament against other schools—like UVic, UBC, or the University of

Washington—to simply supporting the club in gatherings to watch competitive LoL and making friends you might not have met otherwise, this program really provides what I think is a great breeding ground for talent.

This is one of the only tournaments in which we here on the west coast have a strong presence. UBC has won back-to-back titles the past few years in Riot’s uLoL Campus Series. One player that UBC has cultivated—Bob “BobqinXD” Qin—was the mid lane player for UBC’s team. Qin is now getting paid to play for eUNITED, a team in the North American Challenger

Series, which is basically the precursor league all teams have to go through to make it to professional status and the premier league. In addition, he’s had the opportunity to travel to places like South Korea to hone his skill.

The real question is this: when will someone at Camosun take up the task of getting our own uLoL team together? Camosun, like any other post-secondary institution, is eligible for participation so long as we have a structured club in place. For anyone who has dreamed of making their way to professional play, this could provide you with the chance to reach your dream.



Calculated Thought

by Sean Annable

Investing: getting started

Now that you know the difference between an RRSP and a TFSA (see last issue), how do you get started investing? Banks have discount brokerages—services that process purchases and sales of investments—that they work with. Do some research and find one that suits your needs.

Once you have an account, you can start buying and selling securities. An important distinction is

you plan to make continuous, small contributions, mutual funds can be a cheaper way to do it. The downside is you pay a hefty management expense ratio (MER), from one to three percent. If the fund doesn’t do well, losses to your account are magnified.

Another option that provides diversification is buying exchange traded funds (ETFs). They are like mutual funds—without the active

Investing in companies or funds without research and analysis is basically gambling.

the difference between investing and speculating. Investing in companies or funds without research and analysis is basically gambling. Investing means taking a reduced, calculated risk, and knowing what you’re buying.

Rather than analyzing and investing in single companies, which takes a decent amount of financial prowess, mutual funds are a popular alternative. Fund managers pool investors’ money together and invest in different security classes, sectors, and geographic areas, reducing risk through diversification.

Buying a bunch of securities on your own—with transaction fees, they’re around \$10 each—can eat up returns on a small account. If

management—but can be bought and sold on an exchange. Some brokerages offer commission-free purchases of select ETFs, and the MER is up to 10 times lower. If you buy ETFs that aren’t commission-free, transaction fees add up quickly, so some advisors recommend this approach for those with at least \$50,000 to invest.

There is much more to learn about how to actually build an investment portfolio. You should consider your goals and your tolerance for risk, and learn as much as you can.

If you don’t want to think too hard, you could take Warren Buffett’s advice: “Just buy an S&P index fund and sit for the next 50 years.”

NEXUS HUMOUR

You draw comics.

Submit samples to: Nexus, 201 Richmond House, Lansdowne campus, or email editor@nexusnewspaper.com



To See or Not to See

by Finlay Pogue

Whiplash proves that dreams are worthwhile



Whiplash
4.5/5

Whiplash (2014) is one of the

finest pieces of independent filmmaking—and therefore filmmaking as a whole—in recent history. It’s alive, but it’s not desperate to be; it’s funny, but only because life is funny sometimes; it features young characters that aren’t limp or over-inflated with self-awareness.

Most of all, though, *Whiplash* captures what it’s like to be young and to have passion, and what it’s like to sacrifice yourself to something you deem greater than ordinary life. And yet, the film is unusually in touch with ordinary life, despite the fact that its hero, Andrew Neiman (Miles Teller, much more comfortable here as an aspiring Buddy Rich than as an aspiring arms dealer [War Dogs, 2016], or... whatever he was doing in the *Divergent* series), is so determined to leave it behind.

There are numerous quiet, intimate moments that not only act

as a counter-weight to the frantic, adrenaline-fuelled drumming scenes, but also give *Whiplash* the emotional credibility to endure the harsh and wearing nature of life on those with dreams.

That harsh nature comes primarily in the form of the one and only J.K. Simmons, formidable here in the role of abusive-but-maybe-not band conductor Terence Fletcher, who lives with the conviction that “there are no two words in the English language more harmful than ‘good job.’”

But what sets *Whiplash* apart is its unfaltering vision, parallel with Neiman’s own, of doing something great. This is a film that would be just as unsatisfied with a mock ending as Neiman would be with being merely a good drummer—and it’s this duality that makes the film so believable and so truthful.

What’s more is that it’s *Whiplash*’s truthfulness that makes the film so interesting: is it okay to throw a chair at a student’s head in order to push them to greatness? Is it possible to be a ‘great’? Would it be worth it if you could be?

Chazelle never gives us straightforward answers to questions like these, and the film is better for it; we as the audience can, and must, decide.

It’s this freedom that gives *Whiplash* its intelligence; it knows better than to make a singular statement on a subject with so many sides. Instead, it gives us the pieces and lets the audience build a conclusion specific to them, with morals that they believe in.

Chazelle’s latest project, *La La Land* (2016), is also about people with dreams, but its characters seem satisfied to revel in them rather than

act on them. *Whiplash*’s Neiman never pauses to revel in his lofty dreams because his dreams are too uncomfortable, a constant itch that is only soothed by success.

It’s rare for a film to address a character’s desire for greatness and not conclude that the character was great all along or that there is a suitable substitute—love, family, money—for greatness.

Films cop out with one of these two endings because they don’t have any more spine than their characters. It’s hard to look “greatness” in the eye; it’s hard to think that maybe, sometimes, you’re just not good enough; it’s hard, in a world of 7,000,000,000, to be an individual yourself.

Whiplash stands as a testament to greatness, proving that although it’s hard, settling for less is even harder.

jayden grieve’s unusual conversations word search

On Thursday, January 19, *Nexus* contributing writer Jayden Grieve came into the office. At that same moment, we were wondering what theme to base our new word search around. One thing led to the next: little did Grieve know that we were taking the first 20 unusual words out of his mouth to make the word search that you’re about to enjoy.

It took about 30 seconds; dude says lots of unusual things. Talk to him sometime.

Find the words on the left in the puzzle on the right; as always, stop by the *Nexus* office (Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus) if you complete this puzzle to pick up a prize.

Have fun!

CHILDISH
CLOUDED
DEATH
DIABETES
DISEASE
EVIL
GAGS
INSPIRATION
MIDAS
MOLES
OVERARCHING
PETS
PROBLEMS
RAISINS
RIFLE
SALAD
SNIPER
SODA
SUBSIDIARIES
TEA

S O H E R M C A D O S M L M V

C U I U A E N B Y I E A P L H

M Z B Y I T E V Y N T H D V H

N O E S S P R O B L E M S I B

H R L K I S E V M T B G F K M

F J F E N D P E N S A T P D N

L C I N S P I R A T I O N A L

I D R S V Y N A D E D U O L C

K Y S Z O N S R R P T S L A B

T C R C V G L C H I L D I S H

C Z Z Q A S K H T A E D V D L

Z E J G B E D I S E A S E K K

B H I I Q S R N Q Y N J L A U

F E K H B B U G G B K X S J R

W T U C N C B M D G Z B L G E

contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Let’s see if you can find this copy of the last issue of *Nexus*, which we hid somewhere at Camosun College’s Lansdowne campus.

The first person to find this copy of the paper and bring it in to our office wins themselves a free prize!

Last time around, the issue was hidden in the Richmond House, half-behind a poster on the bulletin board outside the pride lounge.

Who will find this issue’s hidden *Nexus*? Happy hunting, and bring it to us once you find it!

know your writers

Nexus staff writer Adam Boyle



PHOTO PROVIDED

John K. Samson (middle) and the Winter Wheat are playing on February 1.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Strongerthans

John K. Samson of Winnipeg indie rockers The Weakerthans is returning to town with his new project, the Winter Wheat. Northcote opens; the show will set you back \$20. See sugarnightclub.ca for more info.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Drum bangin’ and general boogying

A drum and dance festival will be held in the Dave Dunnet Community Theatre at Oak Bay High School (2121 Cadboro Bay Road), from 1 to 9 pm on February 4. For more information, visit vaccsociety.blogspot.ca. Tickets are \$20 to \$25.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Tam plays Sibelius

Victoria Symphony concertmaster Terence Tam will be performing *Violin Concerto of Sibelius* at the Royal Theatre. Originally written by Jean Sibelius in 1903, it was revised in 1905 before it was officially premiered. Attendees are invited to join music director Tania Miller one hour before the show starts for a presentation about the concert. Tickets range from \$32 to \$82; see victoriasymphony.ca for info.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Exploring early music

In honour of Black History Month, the Early Music Society of the

Islands is bringing their new project to the Alix Goolden Hall on February 5. Tickets for the concert—which focuses on the music of Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier Saint-Georges—cost between \$26 and \$35. More details can be found at earlymusic-societyoftheislands.ca.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AND TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

The power of words

There’s a big difference between having someone read to you and reading a book to yourself. Come get read to when Open Space hosts author Jordan Tannahill for three readings across two days. Venue and other details can be found at open-space.ca; entry is by donation.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Get fired up

The documentary *Fire at Sea* will be screened at 7 pm in Young 216 at Camosun’s Lansdowne campus on February 7 to celebrate International Development Week. The movie looks at the European migrant crisis; admission is free.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Stopping stigma

Camosun students put together this presentation about substance use; the event will also feature a live forum about students and substance use. Camosun instructor Mary Harber will facilitate the presentation, which is the final feature of the Living in Our Shoes stigma reduction project. The event runs from 11:30

am to 1 pm at the Library Learning Centre, Lansdowne campus; see camosun.ca for more info on the project.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AND THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

New year, new volunteers

Volunteer Victoria is hosting a volunteer fair February 8 and 9 here at Camosun, in the foyer of the Fisher Building. Email Jingwen Tang at jingwen@volunteervictoria.bc.ca or visit volunteervictoria.bc.ca for more info.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

The other slaughterhouse five

Gut Girls is a new, historically inspired play focused on a group of women who work in a cattle market’s slaughterhouse. After a rich lady closes down the slaughterhouse, the rude girls are trained as maids for the one who closed up the slaughterhouse. *Gut Girls* goes down at UVic’s Phoenix Theatre; tickets range in price from \$15 to \$26. See phoenixtheatres.ca for more info on this and other events.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Stopping the dam

This public forum about the Site C dam will look at what will happen if the dam is built; the project infringes on aboriginal rights and is not economically sound. If this is something that strikes a chord with you, head on down to room A120 in UVic’s David Turpin Building from 7 to 9 pm; see canadians.org for more info.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

The perfect anti-Valentine

Intrepid Theatre is hosting its annual post-apocalyptic dance party on February 11. Dress code is prom attire or post-apocalyptic; all proceeds go toward Intrepid. Tickets are \$10; the event starts at 8 pm and goes down at Intrepid Theatre, located at 1609 Blanshard Street. For more info visit promlove.eventbrite.ca.



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Have you ever wondered about the Camosun students writing the articles you read in *Nexus*? *Know Your Writers* will help you dive into the minds of the writers behind the stories.

This issue, staff writer Adam Boyle talks about making the right choice, getting motivation to write, and his strange amount of free time.

What drew you to journalism?

Honestly, I didn’t know I’d like it until a friend of mine sporadically decided to volunteer for *Nexus*. I tagged along and decided that I would give it a shot; next thing I knew, I had a column about gaming and I loved it, and writing in general, and I wanted to keep going and to push myself harder.

What is the most awkward moment you have had in an interview?

I once interviewed someone thinking their job position was different than it actually was; needless to say, all the questions I had lined up were quickly canned during the interview. There were many awkward pauses while I tried to think of things on the spot.

What would you say are the worst and best parts of your job at the paper?

There are seriously so many high points of writing here. The team is great and the atmosphere that we have in the office is great; meeting so many interesting people and hearing their stories is another great thing. In terms of the worst part, I’d say that getting the motivation to write after something crappy happens in your life is probably one of the hardest parts, although sometimes it can help to just focus on writing and take your mind off of the other things going on.

Why did you originally come to Camosun?

To be perfectly honest, I didn’t want to. I planned to work for a year after high school and just gather myself and figure out what I wanted to do with my life. My parents gave me a choice: pay rent and work or take at least three classes and pay no rent. After they gave me that choice, the choice was really straightforward. I picked three random classes I had some interest in and the next thing I knew, I was sitting in the *Nexus* office writing stories and interviewing people. I wouldn’t change these choices for anything.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I find it weird that I work two jobs, am a full-time student, and am trying to balance a social life, yet I still have a ton of time. Most of the time, I just play video games like *League of Legends* or *Overwatch*, watch YouTube videos, or just spend time thinking of something productive to do. Basically, it can be narrowed down to gaming...