

NEXUS

CAMOSUN'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1990

JANUARY 24, 2018
VOLUME 28, ISSUE 9
NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

END OF THE LINE

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PLUS:
CFS SAYS CAMOSUN
STUDENTS CAN HOLD
REFERENDUM TO
DEFEEDERATE, IF BCES
REMITTS FEES
THEY'RE HOLDING
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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

Next publication: February 7, 2018
Deadline: 9 am Monday January 29, 2018

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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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SEND A LETTER
Nexus prints letters to the editor. *Nexus* reserves the right to refuse publication of letters. Letters must include full name and student number if a Camosun student (not printed). *Nexus* accepts all letters by email to editor@nexusnewspaper.com. We reserve the right to edit all letters.

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "Poland is the North Dakota of Europe."

COVER ILLUSTRATION: Sebastien Sunstrum

student editor's letter Goodbye electronic freedom?

If someone asked me, "What do you picture the world being like in 15 years?" in January of 2003, I probably would have said something uneducated like flying drones, cars that double as boats, and robots that do house cleaning. Oh, wait... All of those things (yes, even the last one—it's called a "Roomba") are a reality in 2018.

It's a crazy world. We are completely dependent on our phones, and that's a problem because it means that even if you're locked away in a windowless warehouse, you're never quite alone. It's George Orwell's worst nightmare.

A friend of mine only just responded recently to my message wishing him a happy new year, which is odd: most people take a matter of minutes—maybe hours—to respond these days. He told me he was in China visiting family for Christmas, and that Facebook wasn't allowed in China.

That's the sort of thing that might be coming to North America, now that net neutrality is in danger of being eliminated in the US. We could be looking at the beginning of the end of internet freedom.

It brings up questions about the downfall of other forms of freedom, but I'll leave that to your imagination, because we don't want to get too gloomy. The year has, after all, only just begun.

Features writer Fred Cameron can take it from here—see page 6 for the full lowdown on the evolving state of internet freedom and how it will impact students. As Bob Dylan once sang, "You better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone." In this case, sink to the bottom of a virtual electronic dictatorship.

Adam Marsh, student editor
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback 25 Years Ago in *Nexus*



GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

Blind Melon's rocky start in YYJ: In our January 25, 1993 issue, we caught up with Blind Melon guitarist Rogers Stevens (who is now an attorney) after the band, then on the rise to superstardom, played a set in legendary local venue Harpo's to a less-than-enthusiastic crowd. "This is not indicative of the way all our shows go," Stevens told us. "Usually we have a very enthusiastic crowd of people who all have the album, and know every song on it."

Admiration and respect: For this issue's *Speak Up*, we asked

correction

In "Vince Vaccaro gets honest with his process, his past, and the industry," we said that *So Long Wicked Tide* is Vaccaro's latest album when in fact *79* is his latest. We apologize for the mistake.

Camosun students who they admired and respected. The answers varied from the very era-appropriate Kim Campbell—who would become prime minister in June—to polarizing CBC hockey announcer Don Cherry. "You've gotta love him!" opined Applied Communications Program student Gary Barnes.

Yesterday's modern community, today's values: In "For those on the outside looking in," our editorial this issue, writer Mike Rhodes said that Camosun's campuses "should be an example of what a modern working and co-operative community can be; a showcase for the rest of society to emulate." He went on to berate those who litter and vandalize the campuses. As I was reading this, I wondered if we still strive to make Camosun's campuses that example of what community can be. Just something to think about as we go about our days here.

open space

The cost of post-secondary education is costing Camosun students

CINDY PECKHAM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The cost of post-secondary in Canada has become too high, and it's preventing people from pursuing an education.

In Canada, we have developed policies and regulations to ensure that all Canadians, regardless of their backgrounds, are afforded the same opportunities to advance. Nothing more clearly demonstrates this equality than persons from all walks of life enrolling in post-secondary studies.

On the surface, yes, all does appear equal, but on closer examination we may find that disparity still exists.

Students face a potential financial roadblock pretty early on when registering at Camosun, where domestic students cannot use a credit card to pay for tuition fees. The college implemented this change in 2010 as a cost-saving measure, and to avoid cutting student services and programs (other post-secondary institutions also have this policy). But some student programs did end up on the chopping block in 2014, when the college had to come up with some creative solutions to budget deficits and try to save the English as a Second Language program.

Students who rely on financial aid may find themselves unable to fund their education, or to participate fully in available options. For example, unless an internship is mandatory, it does not qualify for financial aid; since many internships are 16 weeks of unpaid work and the fee to participate is \$600, many students find this valuable work-experience option beyond their reach.

Additionally, Camosun recently launched the one-year Live Event

and Audio-Visual Technician program, aimed at filling the local worker shortage in these industries. However, the program costs \$15,250 for domestic students. Since student aid is capped each semester, some students would either have to forego taking this program, find alternate funding options, or increase the amount of loan they take and complete the one-year course in multiple years. Seneca College in Toronto delivers a similar program as a two-year diploma program for an estimated \$5,249 per year; it's slightly cheaper, but there are other benefits to students taking a two-year program. For example, in BC, students qualify for additional grants, such as the completion grant or the low-income grant; these effectively reduce the student loans taken or make up for shortfalls in funding.

While Camosun does offer many bursaries and awards funded by public sponsors, the reality is that applying is not a guarantee one will be awarded, and they are paid out at the end of a semester, not the beginning, when tuition and books are needed.

Although tuition rates have gone up at Camosun, they've also gone up across the country in the last decade. And while other provinces have been trying to combat this by looking at ways to reduce student debt and offer free education, the amount of government funding per domestic student has decreased during this same period by as much as 20 percent.

Will the next number to decline be domestic student enrolment?

And what will the future of Canada, and the future of Camosun, look like if a generation of young people find they have to opt out of higher education?

letters

Stigma stigma

(Re: "What if? What if? Former Camosun student uses personal struggles to illustrate comic about anxiety for kids," January 10, 2018 issue) [In regards to the quote] "We try to reduce stigma," I'd much prefer you educated people who say there is one. They have done sufficient harm. Why would you possibly abet them?

HAROLD MAIO
VIA FACEBOOK

SPEAK UP

Are you concerned about the recent changes to net neutrality in the states?

BY ADAM MARSH



ANDREW YORK

"Yes. I'm from the States originally, so I feel for them. I'm not sure how it's going to affect us, but it probably would have repercussions. A lot of the servers are based in the US, but I don't know that it will affect our internet service providers. There's a hope that it might not go into vote in congress."



CAITLYN RADOS

"If they do something with Facebook or whatever and you have to message someone that's in the States, and you can't get messages, that's not going to be good."



PARKER BAIRD

"Yeah, it's a little concerning. Hopefully the idea isn't to follow in the US' footsteps."



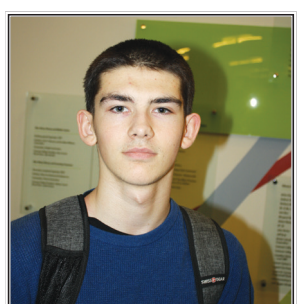
ANDREA VAN DYCK

"I think the internet should be in our control, not government control."



MADISON CARNEYIE

"I'm not too worried, because I feel like Canada won't follow in their footsteps. I feel like that's something that Canadians don't want to follow."



ALEX BEAUNE

"I suppose that would be bad in certain ways; it would also, obviously, be good in some ways. Probably more negative than positive."

student politics

Camosun CFS student fees at centre of referendum dispute

“The bulk of membership fees over the last three years remain outstanding.”

PEYTON VEITCH
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Following the approval of a petition from Camosun students to begin the process, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has proposed March 7, 8, and 9 as dates to hold a referendum in which Camosun students can vote on whether or not to defederate from the organization.

But the referendum can't happen, the CFS says, unless the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) remits the approximately \$200,000 of Camosun students' CFS membership fees that it's holding.

CFS bylaws state that all unpaid fees must be remitted at least six weeks before a referendum, which means the BCFS would have to remit the fees by Wednesday, January 24.

The BCFS, however, say that the CFS has no grounds to stop the referendum, as those fees have been remitted to the BCFS, which is a provincial component of the CFS.

The BCFS is holding the fees because the CFS owes the BCFS money, part of which is also Camosun students' fees, and because of

ongoing concerns about how the CFS is being run (see nexusnewspaper.com for our past coverage).

The CFS says the BCFS has no right to be holding Camosun students' fees, as students were led to believe the money was going to the national organization. The BCFS says the two organizations are separate legal entities.

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) has sent an email to the CFS saying that those dates in March would work for them for a referendum but notes that those dates are coming up very soon, whether or not the BCFS remits the fees.

“It's tight, regardless,” says CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte.

CFS treasurer Peyton Veitch says the referendum cannot move forward with outstanding fees.

“The [CFS] bylaws are clear that in order for a referendum to proceed as scheduled the local needs to be up to date in its remittance of national membership dues six weeks before the first day of voting,” says Veitch. “Provided that requirement is met, the referendum will proceed.”

However, BCFS chairperson

Simka Marshall says that because fees have been remitted to the BCFS, the referendum should be able to happen.

“What we know is that fees have been remitted by the Camosun College Student Society to the BC component of the CFS, so they have completed their duty when it comes to fee remittance,” says Marshall. “The dispute between the CFS and the BCFS, including the withholding of fees, shouldn't affect Camosun students' rights to have a referendum on membership. The only reason why [the CFS] would be a refusing a referendum at this point in time is because they don't want them to have a referendum.”

The CCSS also feels that the fees that the BCFS is holding shouldn't stop the referendum from happening. Turcotte feels the CCSS is in compliance with the CFS bylaws; he says the CCSS remitted fees to the BCFS with the understanding that the BCFS would remit the national portion of the fees to the CFS, but the BCFS held them instead of passing them along.

Veitch says the CFS has made proposals to the BCFS in regards to settling its debts that “have not been reciprocated in a meaningful way.”

“[We have] offered to exchange full accountings of fees outstanding with the BCFS as a first step towards the issue of outstanding membership fees,” says Veitch. “We acknowledge that there are provincial allocations that haven't been provided to the BCFS that will be made available upon receipt of the outstanding membership fees.”

Marshall denies that the CFS has made these proposals; Veitch provided *Nexus* with an email from himself to Marshall dated April 18, 2017 where he suggests the two organizations exchange full accountings of amounts owing to and from each other.

Veitch confirms that the CCSS

“The dispute between the CFS and the BCFS, including the withholding of fees, shouldn't affect Camosun students' rights to have a referendum on membership.”

SIMKA MARSHALL
BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

has started paying CFS fees directly to the CFS, but the fees that the BCFS is holding are still considered outstanding.

“The bulk of membership fees over the last three years remain outstanding,” says Veitch.

Turcotte says the CCSS “would not be in favour” of a referendum not happening because the BCFS hasn't remitted fees. He says what the BCFS does is beyond the CCSS' power. As far as he's concerned, the CCSS has remitted those fees; the national office just doesn't have them yet.

“It's a conversation that Peyton and I are going to have,” says Turcotte. “When we became aware that there weren't transfers or communications, we split up the fees and paid both, which I believe we are still the only local in British Columbia to do. I believe we've done everything in our power.” (Veitch says that while he understands Turcotte's position, the fees need to be remitted to the national office before a referendum can happen.)

But Marshall says that the CCSS knew about the BCFS' decision to withhold the fees at the time when the decision was made.

“They were a part of the conversation,” she says. “That's all I have to say. They were a part of the conversation at the time.”

Turcotte says one option is that the CFS and BCFS go to court and put the fees into a lawyer's trust account. He says that the CCSS has conducted itself in accordance to both organizations' bylaws.

“National owes the BCFS a chunk of money as well,” says Turcotte. “They're obviously having a fiscal dispute of some kind to which we, as the Camosun College Student Society, are not a part of that dispute. National has not paid the provincial allocation that rightfully belongs to the BCFS, and, obviously, the BCFS has not remitted national fees that rightfully belong to the Canadian Federation of Students.”

Marshall says there's “no legitimate grounds” for the CFS to stop this referendum from taking place.

“Camosun students have done their job by remitting their fees to this component of the CFS and it's clear, through getting a fulfilled petition, that students on that campus want to be able to exercise their right to decide on whether or not they want to stay in this organization,” she says.

Marshall says the CCSS has done what they needed to do in regard to fee remittance and stresses that the referendum should be able to happen.

“We stand by saying that the local has completed their duty by remitting their fees to the BC office of the CFS,” she says.

If the referendum doesn't happen, Camosun students will have to pay CFS fees until a referendum does happen. CFS bylaws state that a referendum cannot happen between April 15 and September 15.

See nexusnewspaper.com for the latest on this developing story.

With files from Greg Pratt, managing editor



FILE PHOTO

Camosun students are paying members of both the CFS and BCFS.

college

Camosun student support manager fired, says she “will never know” why



CAMOSUN COLLEGE A/V SERVICES
Camosun has fired Lori Horne.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Former Camosun student support manager Lori Horne has been fired, and she says she'll never know why. Horne was hired into the then-new position in May 2017 to provide students with support, specifically around non-academic misconduct violations. Horne was

“I cannot comment other than the reason I'm no longer at Camosun is that I was fired without cause. I too would like to know why but I never will.”

LORI HORNE
FORMER CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SUPPORT MANAGER

fired without cause, meaning she didn't do anything illegal that led to her firing.

Horne declined an interview but gave *Nexus* a brief statement via email.

“I cannot comment other than the reason I'm no longer at Camosun is that I was fired without cause,” she said in her statement. “I too would like to know why but I never will. I can only trust Joan [Yates, Camosun vice president of student experience] will respond with integrity and truth but that is out of my control. All I can say is I

have a clear consciousness [sic] and know in my heart I did a good job serving the college community.”

Yates says she can't comment on why Horne was fired.

“I'm not going to discuss a personnel issue,” says Yates. “I simply can't. It's not fair to her, and so I won't. What I can say is that the position is really new for the college, and it's new in the BC college system. There are not a lot of these types of positions.”

The college's new student support manager is Jenny Holder, who started on the week of January 22.

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun holding consent-education workshops

Camosun College is holding free consent-education workshops in February and March for students and employees. The workshops are happening on February 8 and March 8 at Lansdowne, and February 22 and March 22 at Interurban. See camosun.ca/services for info.

College changes fee-policy wording

Camosun has changed their wording in a fee policy regarding how tuition is calculated. The previous policy was the source of a recent complaint from a student (see our November 29, 2017 issue). Tuition at the college is calculated on a cost-per-hour basis; however, as we previously reported, not all in-class hours are the same for courses with the same material, learning outcomes, and credits. To account for this, the college has added a paragraph in its policy saying that

although tuition is calculated by the hour, in-class hours could differ due to differences in delivery methods.

Camosun alumni joins board of governors

Camosun grad Phil Venoit has joined the Camosun College Board of Governors. Venoit received the Camosun College Distinguished Alumni Award last year. His term runs until December 31, 2018.

CFS-Ontario chair reported to police

Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario chairperson Nour Alideeb spoke at an anti-Israel rally on Saturday, December 9, saying that tuition from the students she represents is “going to pay for military resources in Israel to kill children.” The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, an organization that fights racism and anti-Semitism, reported Alideeb to the Toronto Police Hate Crime unit.

-ADAM MARSH

event

National Geographic photographer Ami Vitale looks behind the pictures



AMI VITALE

Samburu warriors with a rhino in one of Ami Vitale's photographs; Vitale will be speaking in Victoria on January 24.

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Getting that perfect photo can be hard; for photographer Ami Vitale, getting the right photo means spending time learning the stories of wherever she is. Vitale is a photographer for *National Geographic* and an ambassador for camera manufacture Nikon; she's spent time in almost 100 countries honing her art and telling the stories of the people and wildlife there. Vitale says that constant effort and a want to grow as a person allowed her to end up where she's at today.

"Photography was basically this way of overcoming my fear of people. I was incredibly introverted and shy, but when I picked up a camera, it all of a sudden gave me a reason to be with people and explore. It became a passport for me in a way," says Vitale. "It wasn't until I started to produce these works of art that started to gather some traction that I got noticed by *National Geographic*. It took a long time."

Vitale will be giving a talk on her journey at the Royal Theatre; she says that she hopes to bring attention to some of the issues go-

ing on in our world right now and to showcase that no matter where in the world they are, most people want peace and hope.

"I think now more than ever the world feels so polarized. You turn on the news and all of a sudden we're talking about nuclear war... I think we need to tone it down," she says. "I think if we only sit and watch the news from our armchair, the world looks like this terrifying place. My message is that everywhere I go, there's so much more, and that most people on this planet want the same things. I think it's a matter of

"The wildlife pieces are really these stories about how intricately we are connected on this planet and how I'm searching for the way forward from these seemingly big, intractable problems."

AMI VITALE
PHOTOGRAPHER

getting a much more accurate look of what the world really looks like and to remind people of what we can achieve. There are a lot of hopeful stories out there."

Vitale's work mainly consists of photos of people, but many of her shots centre on wildlife. She says that we all have to work together to maintain the balance of our planet, adding that recent events across the globe prove that we need to start taking action fast and that we need to respect the world we live in.

"We can't talk about wildlife without talking about people," she says. "We have to coexist on this planet and we only have one planet. I think everybody knows; it's like watching the future unfold in slow motion. We're watching this happening and we understand it. This summer was a great illustration—between forest fires, flooding, landslides, and hurricanes, weather is becoming more violent more frequently. The wildlife pieces are really these stories about how intricately we are connected on this planet and how I'm searching for the

way forward from these seemingly big, intractable problems."

Vitale's advice to aspiring photographers is to focus on the stories behind the pictures rather than on the pictures themselves.

"An image can be beautiful, but that's not enough," she says. "If you really want to make it to this level, pick up *National Geographic* and realize it's not just pretty pictures. The craft of what we do is really about storytelling. Every image needs to tell a story. All the images need to work together to tell that story. My advice would be to pick a story in your backyard and for a minimum of a year work on only that. Until you start to reveal something deep and meaningful that teaches us something, it's just not enough to take a pretty picture."

Rhinos, Rickshaws, and Revolutions

7 pm Wednesday, January 24
\$20 to \$54.50, Royal Theatre
rmts.bc.ca

know your profs

Camosun's Stuart Berry on unorthodox approaches and unused office hours



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Camosun Accounting and Information Systems instructor Stuart Berry.

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.

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 Accounting and Information Systems instructor Stuart Berry about being a storyteller, educating himself, and enjoying the sun.

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

Introduction to financial ac-

counting and strategic management; 24 years.

2. What do you personally get out of teaching?

I love the conversation because I am a storyteller. Michael Oakeshott, in his book *The Voice of Liberal Learning*, writes that the value of conversation "lies in the relics it leaves behind in the minds of those who participate." I believe that every moment in the classroom is a conversation, a story to be told, and my joy is sharing rich conversations with my students knowing that the process of learning is the true relic and value we all seek. By personalizing our shared stories, we become more vested in the time spent together. I gave up teaching content some years ago and instead focus on the process of learning. It is so much more fun working with my students as they become excited about their process of discovering what they need to know about their subject, and I get to be their learning guide.

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

I really have one goal, which I believe is the goal of everyone in this business: the success of my students. My approaches may, at times, appear unorthodox but I ask my stu-

dents to trust my years of experience and to know that if they are willing to actively participate and join in our 14-week journey together, they will find success. I would also like my students to know that I have all the time in the world for them and I am saddened when students get to the end of their term and tell me that they did not understand something, yet they never made the time to come and visit me and talk through their issues or concerns.

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

Like any good storyteller, I can get off track.

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

Having the freedom to grow and educate myself in the art of teaching and learning, and in the process I have come to better understand my relationship with my students, my craft, and what keeps me here.

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

Losing sight of the richness we have to offer every day; however, maybe I needed those moments of negativity to help me better appreciate our craft and the lives we impact and change.

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

We are in the middle of a period of "what we learn" for the sake of an external, economic imperative rather than a time of "that we learn" for the sake of understanding each other and our inter-relationships that allow us to connect with the world we inhabit. There needs to be balance and the current swing of the pendulum has created an imbalance towards Pascal's spirit of geometry, a clearly defined, reasoned, and rule-bound vision of education rather than one that seeks to understand from a deep and personal level that Pascal referred to as the spirit of finesse. I cannot foretell the future of post-secondary education; however, I wish for a more balanced view of the educated person.

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

Spend time with my family, read, and enjoy the sun wherever I can find it.

9. What is your favourite meal?

Cantonese cuisine, or Mexican.

10. What's your biggest pet peeve?

Years of unused office hours and closed, inflexible minds: what a waste.



VICTORIA FILM FESTIVAL

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Picking up today's paper, Alanah saw...

1

The dog had got there first

FRENCH PROGRAM

2

Uncle Bob didn't like the new bridge

BC PROGRAM

3

Her new boyfriend had some peculiar habits

WORLD PROGRAM



beauty + pain + political

Maker of Monsters: The Extraordinary Life of Beau Dick BC Program

Beau Dick was many things: a Kwakwaka'wakw artist, enigmatic carver, environmentalist, former drug addict, political activist and an inspiration for positive change. Working within an ancient carving tradition he created remarkable masks which are vibrant expressions of West Coast Indigenous culture. His work broke barriers, finding a place among the white cube world of contemporary art and enabled him to rise to international success.



breathtaking + sublime + evocative

Mountain BC Program

There is something so primal about mountains that they're almost indescribable. With *Mountain*, director Jennifer Peedom (*Sherpa*) and writer Robert Macfarlane (*Mountains of the Mind*) have set out to capture the magnitude of mountains. This isn't just your run-of-the-mill IMAX eye-candy on offer here. With an incredible score from the Australian Chamber Orchestra and narrated by the legendary Willem Defoe, *Mountain* flies the world over to find the most amazing peaks and what they bring out in us.



poetic + revelatory + introspective

Shut Up And Say Something BC Program

If you have heard of Shane Koyczan, you will never forget his name, much less his words. This Yellowknife-born, Pentincton-based poet captivates audiences with his spoken word performances, most notably with his appearance during the Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, when the world looked on and heard him move us to tears with "We Are More (Define Canada)". *Shut Up and Say Something* is so much more than a portrait of an artist; it cuts to the heart of Shane's life off stage as he comes to terms with his past.



suspence + twists + artful

The Third Murder Japan Program

Festival favourite and director Hirokazu Kore-eda returns, bringing the drama to the courtroom rather than the living room this time. Tomoaki Shigemori is the lead defense lawyer in what should be an open and shut case. His client Misumi has openly confessed to the murder of his industrialist boss and Misumi clearly had some deep gambling debts to pay back too. With two prior murder convictions to boot, he seems only too happy to go back to the pen. Just like the classic *Roshomon*, Truth has many sides and only gets more complex the closer you get to it.



End of the line

What the end of net neutrality in the US would mean

Imagine an internet where your service provider chooses what you see. Imagine paying more to have the ability to send your mom a Facebook message. Imagine a censored web.

Without net neutrality, this could happen. And, although Canada still has net neutrality, the USA, as of December 14, is moving away from the internet freedom we're used to. This could easily impact Canadians. It could impact Camosun students.

Now, net neutrality is relatively new; the rules were implemented under the Obama administration. Internet freedom was a given, or so I had thought when the principle of net neutrality was solidified. But now, I found myself wondering who might be affected by the repeal. The answer initially presented itself as "everyone who accesses information, communicates, and/or conducts business online."

Which is a whole lot of Camosun students.

Once I entered the rabbit hole, it was clear that it would be impossible to forget what I had seen. I walked down Douglas Street through a sea of people who stared down at their phones to pass the time while they waited for their bus. Most things are, in some way, connected online today. The free and open internet has become a part of not only our culture, but the very fabric of society. It is largely taken for granted as a result, and it is very difficult to imagine a world without an open internet.

But it might be coming, and it might be coming sooner than we think.

FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS

A good percentage of Camosun students hadn't yet been born when the world wide web was opened to the general public on August 6, 1991. It was introduced quietly, but the new technology eventually took the world by storm, ushering in a shift in the way people interact socially and conduct business. The world wide web remains the primary tool people use to communicate on the internet to this day.

Since its inception, the internet has been a decentralized network. But someone has to provide the service to people, which is where internet service providers (ISPs) come in; these for-profit companies bring with them potential conflicts of interest that threaten online freedom. What happens if, for example, an ISP also has a financial stake in a social media site so decides to limit user access to a competing social media site?

The need for protection of internet freedom was first addressed in Canada in 1993, under the Telecommunications

Act. The legislation essentially saw parliament categorize ISPs as utility providers, stating that they can't give "undue or unreasonable" preference or influence the content transmitted on the network. The Telecommunications Act was a precursor to net neutrality.

Camosun Economics, Statistics, and University Transfer Business chair Bijan Ahmadi says net neutrality is a fundamental principle of the internet.

"Internet freedom is essential," says Ahmadi. "The whole point of the [networking protocol suite] TCP/IP stack is that it doesn't discriminate. Since the internet was created there has been no permission for throttling

[slowing of service] and there's a reason for that. If you have a two-tiered system, the winners will always be the people or companies with the most to invest. What we saw in the last 20 years is a shift from major media centres dominating the information we have access to to an environment where anyone can put information on the internet and anyone can access it."

Ahmadi says the internet "is and should be public property" but what's happening now is that it's becoming a paid commodity.

"That is a fundamental problem in our economic system right now," he says. "Companies create scarcity and withhold information in order to profit from it. Net neutrality is an example of that. The purpose of the internet was to connect people, and give everybody access to as much information as possible."

It's too early to tell at this point, but the internet freedom that so many of us take for granted may have been jeopardized, as the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted 3-2 in favour of a repeal of the 2015 Open Internet Order. The repeal gives American ISPs the ability to block content, to slow services offered by rival companies, and to offer "fast lanes" to paying partners. The repeal is widely seen as a victory for the major ISPs.

"The current FCC head [former Verizon lawyer Ajit Pai] seems to be in the pocket of some of the major telecommunications corporations," says Ahmadi. "They seem to have the misguided logic that if they create a non-neutral network, there will be better incentive to invest and make a better product. I'm pretty certain that that is misguided;

it's a fallacy that's been propagated. However, it has ma

Ahmadi says that without net neutrality people suf

"We will end up with less access to media, less news, produce it," he says. "The only people who get it will be there is less incentive to create growth and more incent

The repeal of net neutrality regulations will get a se announced on January 9 that they had exceeded the ne floor. The Democrats face a steep uphill battle to surp

Republicans hold a 51-49 majority, meaning they could kill the bill if they all vote against it. The Democrats must now convince two

Republicans to cross over and support the motion in order to review the bill in senate.

Following the review there would then be a final vote, requiring a second majority in senate. This would have to be followed by a

similar vote in the House of Representatives, where the Republicans have an even larger

majority (239-193), in order to move the measure to the president.

What does all this mean? Net neutrality

exists as of today in the USA, and although it could be that's the most likely scenario.

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"The purpose of the internet was to connect people, and give everybody access to as much information as possible."

BIJAN AHMADI
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

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Story by Fred Cameron, features writer
Illustration by Sebastien Sunstrum, cover illustrator

n for Camosun students

managed to make its way to the government of the United States.”
ffer because of limited options online.

less access to information, because there will be less incentive to
the people who pay for it. When you create a two-tiered system,
ive to contract it and support people moving to the upper tier.”
econd look in senate before it becomes official. The Democrats
ecessary 30 cosponsors necessary to secure a vote on the senate
ass 50 votes and move the bill past the motion to proceed. The

ffic should be given equal treatment, with
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internet users by the provider.”

PATRICIA VALLADAO

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

months before it's removed from the books, it's looking like

THE CRTC STANCE

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
7 percent of Canadians were using smartphones. As a result,
Commerce, communication, and entertainment are all at our
the internet is fast approaching dependency.

on the planet but, even today, those principles are not enshrined
—an autonomous body with the support of government—re-

be strengthening its commitment to net neutrality in response
l. CRTC manager of media relations Patricia Valladao says that
ic equally, regardless of the content.

imited music service,” says Valladao. “They were providing the
e called that differential pricing. This directly influenced the
ork to protect the concept of net neutrality. All traffic should be
interference, prioritization, or discrimination of preference of

ers, says Valladao, adding that this is what the CRTC wanted to
content providers.

id not reply to requests for comment for this story.

INTO THE CLASSROOMS OF CAMOSUN

as a result of today's connectivity. Camosun has kept up with
s have had to adapt in classrooms as they seek and share infor-

Boraas began his educational journey as an elementary school
rked with immigrant groups. Boraas has been a vice president
for 20 years, so he's had the chance to witness first-hand the

ne work here at Camosun,” says Boraas. “The hope is that we
earn. The element of relationship building that is part of being

an educator is still huge and primary in terms of the work we do. What's changed, of course, is the way we access
information and how we share information.”

Students and instructors evolve together in post-sec-
ondary institutions. There is such an enormous wealth
of information at our fingertips that the course content
sometimes changes in real time with the world. Boraas
says that the world is certainly much smaller in terms
of the ability to explore ideas.

“Recognizing that a student in the classroom has
access to just as much information as an instructor
standing at the front of the classroom has changed the
dynamic,” says Boraas. “Rather than thinking that as
instructors we hold all of the knowledge, we have had
to develop our skills as facilitators and investigators.
The ability to scan the headlines of Al Jazeera or BBC
World Service is an absolute game changer.”

The recent repeal of net neutrality regulations in the US likely won't bring about immediate change to our education
system, but Boraas says the uncertainty is definitely worrisome. What concerns him most is the economic connection
to access to education. The added costs that might accompany bundled internet access would create an unfair divide,
says Boraas, and “for individuals who can't afford bandwidth, access to information and support services would be
diminished,” he says.

“Our neighbours to the south are grappling with an environment that is very different from anything we have
ever experienced,” he says. “The values that are driving things seem to be forgetting some of the underpinning that
we have held as supporters of the public library system and of universal access to information. Moving forward, there
seems to be more corporate control of what is present on the internet, as well. This seems like a harbinger of what the
internet is going to look like in the future.”

Boraas says that in the short term, we in Canada shouldn't see an immediate impact of the repeal. But he says it's
“difficult not to speculate.”

“In the immediate future,” says Boraas about if net neutrality ceases to exist in the US, “we would likely see changes
to the information we may not have access to. Some valuable resources may not be given a place of prominence within
the web. What happens down there really does affect us, and we need to watch closely, monitor our own government,
and respond appropriately.”

One movement quietly gaining momentum is the Internet Piracy Review Agency. The coalition is made up of a
number of Canadian media corporations with the goal of stopping piracy with the use of a block list. Ahmadi says that
the agency is in direct conflict with net neutrality, and says that this is not the first time that this angle has been used.

“We've got certain privacy laws that protect us,” says Ahmadi. “Do you want someone to read all of your traffic
just in case you're pirating some music? That isn't something I want. That seems like a draconian measure, and I
really don't think that's the main argument. I think what's happening now with the new regime is that they're pretty
much trying everything they can to change the rules under the banner of anti-piracy. They tried this with the Protect
Intellectual Property Act and the Stop Online Piracy Act in the US.”

Ahmadi says that ISPs have been traffic shaping and stopping traffic altogether “based on their desires.”

“It isn't until we discover that they are doing it they get stopped,” he says. “The illegal content will always exist.
People will move to options like the onion routing system, and they've developed a separate web for doing that. If you
are going to shape the traffic for everybody because a few people are breaking the rules, you're damaging our liberty.
I don't support the Internet Piracy Review Agency in any way. It just seems like a header.”

Ahmadi says that in the past there have been attempts to interpret comprehensive language around telecommuni-
cations in an effort to avoid writing neutrality laws.

“They've tried to use the laws that are already there and say that they already have it in place,” he says. “If you
look at the ISPs, there are so few that it is essentially an oligopoly. There are examples of price fixing, and, obviously,
they are a powerful lobby. As that lobby grows, it becomes more necessary for our government to respond positively
and promote strong neutrality laws.”

Each and every one of us is impacted by changes to the internet, but most of us are watching quietly as our
freedoms slip away. Net neutrality is the principle that allowed the internet to grow into its current form,
and it is now essential in our economy. Net neutrality remains essential in maintaining free speech. The role
of government should be to protect our freedom, and net neutrality is perhaps our best weapon if we want to maintain
our freedom moving forward.

There is no way to tell for sure what might happen in the internet's future. There's still an off chance that the
repeal is stopped in senate or congress. There's still an off chance that the powers that be will act in good faith and
maintain net neutrality.

And there's an even greater chance that the internet is about to change in ways that none of us saw coming.

“Our neighbours to the south are grappling
with an environment that is very different
from anything we have ever experienced.”

JOHN BORAAS
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

music

Legendary punk rockers DOA still going strong after 40 years



PHOTO PROVIDED

Joeey Keithley (centre) and DOA are Canadian punk pioneers, now in their fourth decade as a band.

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Canadian punk pioneer Joe “Shithead” Keithley has seen a lot in the past 40 years, from Thai police charging a gig in Bangkok that DOA—who he sings and plays guitar for—was playing to running for the Green Party. And, at 61, Keithley’s still got fire in his soul. Some people mellow with age, but for him, and for the band, that is certainly not the case.

“Not DOA,” he says with a laugh. “We’ve played a lot of festivals in Europe and some bigger

things in the UK; you get 6,000 or 12,000 people at a festival and the PA’s working properly, there’s food and there’s beer, and there’s a big audience.”

But shows aren’t always that glamorous, and Keithley loves the diversity of his lifestyle. A gig in Malaysia a few months ago, for example, was on the other end of the spectrum.

“It was a squatted warehouse with a PA that barely worked, a drumset, a bass amp, a guitar amp that barely worked—we borrowed everything,” he says. “I’d say it was

one of the most fun shows that I’ve been to in years and years.”

Even at the squat, people were crowdsurfing; Keithley calls that “a healthy portion of chaos.” He hopes that the band’s upcoming show in Victoria will be fun, too.

“Hey, c’mon, Victoria. Wake up!” he says. “Gigs in Victoria can be out of control if you get the right audience, so we’ll see if this is one of those. It’s well organized and people know, so there’s a good chance of having a great vibe to it.”

Keithley says that sometimes when the band is travelling things

“Being a political candidate didn’t change me; I was trying to change politics more towards me.”

JOEY KEITHLEY
DOA

such as just crossing borders can get dicey.

“Like in Thailand,” he says. “You may or may not be arrested.”

But DOA is a group of fighters, and they stand up for what they believe in, fighting against income equality, sexism, and environmental destruction, to name a few causes that mean a lot to the band. As mentioned above, Keithley’s passions also brought him to politics: he ran in the provincial elections for the Green Party in 1996, 2001, and 2017. Politics didn’t change him, he says, adding that campaigning for change all comes down to consistency and “strength in numbers.”

“What I was attempting to do in that sense, with politics, was to put my vision of what I’ve learnt along the way with DOA into a practical use in the term of provincial politics. It’s a little bit more the other way around,” he says. “Being a political candidate didn’t change me; I was trying to change politics more towards me.”

Keithley’s main focus at the moment is getting DOA’s upcoming record—which doesn’t have a title yet—on the shelves. He was recently in Nelson working hard to get ready for recording sessions for the album,

which will be out in late April on his own Sudden Death Records. But even releasing his own music isn’t a guarantee to bring in money these days, and Keithley knows it.

“That’s just been obvious for a while,” he says. “There was transition into downloads and now that’s transitioned into Spotify, which pays really complete fuck-all to the artist. It’s pretty much a rip off.”

It comes down to the aforementioned income equality, which Keithley says affects everything from the environment to families to “people having to rob stores because they got no money to pay for prescriptions when their kid is sick; that kind of injustice. That’s a lot of what our focus is on.”

Surviving, he says, comes down to being resourceful.

“You’ve got to be quick and think on your feet and adapt,” he says. “We seem to be doing okay. I’m carrying along here with my record label and with the band and dabbling in politics part time.”

DOA

Friday, January 26
\$16, Logan’s Pub
loganspub.com

art

Camosun alumna uses nature, Emily Carr for art inspiration

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

You’re out for a run, bundled up to ward off the cold. Your heart rate is soaring and you’re starting to feel like you could take on the world. The endorphins aren’t letting you down. Local artist and former Camosun student and *Nexus* contributor Jean Oliver says painting gives her this same sense of invigoration. She says that she often paints in nature—on the beach, for example, or at Beacon Hill Park—and people love it.

“They’ll be walking by with their dog or something and I’ll be painting, and they’ll want it,” says Oliver, who got an associate degree in Creative Writing in 2013 and one in Psychology in 2014. “I’ve actually had a few commissions that way—they like what I’m doing, and later on I’ll do them a painting that’s sort of to their living-room colours.”

Oliver’s latest show, *Murmuring*, is named after what birds do to fly with cohesion and not hit one another.

“Painting art is kind of like murmuration,” she says. “I really find that interacting when I’m creating is quite inspiring, and then if I need to work hard I come into my studio and don’t talk to anyone while I’m working.”

“The idea that you’re dealing with the elements is invigorating. The pieces are rougher; they’re not tidy controlled pieces.”

JEAN OLIVER
ARTIST

Coming up with ideas is not an issue these days, says Oliver; the challenge lies in “channelling and focusing.”

“I’m just really comfortable with either painting over a piece of crap, or cutting the canvas up entirely,” she says. “Sometimes you can’t paint over, because the image comes through the ridges and things from the previous disaster.”

Oliver gets inspiration from Emily Carr, who also painted in nature a lot. Oliver has been working outside since she was young.

“As a child, I always sketched and did watercolour outdoors and Emily Carr was kind of my invisible friend. Her teachings have always been something that has inspired me,” says Oliver. “One of the things she urges is painting outdoors. There’s a spontaneity to the piece that you can’t get in the studio in a controlled environment.”

In the past, Oliver has worked

indoors, using photographs as her inspiration, particularly when she had her kids to look after. She says she got bored with it and put it aside for a long time, but now she’s back in nature, where she works best.

“The idea that you’re dealing with the elements is invigorating,” she says, adding that being outdoors is reflected in the piece. “The pieces are rougher; they’re not tidy, controlled pieces.”

The people who consume the art play an important role, too, she says. She says the idea of murmuration extends to humans, as well. If we move as one, and support one another, we will help each other.

“We’re all connected in this grand conversation,” she says. “An artist without art lovers, without people to see our art, people to talk to about our art—it’s just pictures. Creating is a layered thing, and that’s why I love the idea of murmuration, where we can all move



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jean Oliver’s *Sistahs*, an example of the artist’s nature-based work.

together as a community and support the artist and at the same time increase our own mental health.”

Oliver has struggled with mental-health issues for much of her life. She is one of the founders of the Pandora Arts Collective, a mental-health project that started up 12 years ago.

“That was a place for people to create without boundaries,” she says, giving as an example of a boundary the time limits imposed in similar programs offered by the government.

Oliver’s dedication to the project comes from her own experiences. She knows as well as anyone how important art can be.

“I do it,” she says about painting, “because if I didn’t, I would go crazy.”

Murmuring

1 pm to 4 pm Tuesdays and
Thursdays,
February 3 to 27
Free, Little Fernwood Gallery
(1923 Fernwood Road)
littlefernwoodgallery.ca

film

Victoria Film Festival back with new films and new directors



PHOTO PROVIDED

A shot from director Charles Officer's *Unarmed Verses*, about the residents of a Toronto housing complex.

ELIAS ORREGO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Victoria Film Festival (VFF) is back, once again featuring new, unique films from filmmakers from around the world. Each year, film enthusiasts and filmmakers come together at various theatres around the city to watch these newly released films. There's voting, there's competition, there's a whole lot of fun.

"The great thing is always about expanding your community and connecting with filmmakers," says Toronto-based director Charles Officer. "You get to kind of experience each unique spirit of each city."

Having been involved in making movies in Toronto since 2000, Officer—who has also directed television shows like *Private Eyes*—has attended many film festivals.

Officer will most likely not be able to attend this year's VFF, but he is excited to see how his new film *Unarmed Verses* will play out here. As a director, Officer says, there's always the anticipation of finding out where your film has been selected to be played, and then finding out in which cities it does well.

"Each festival reflects a portion of the city, of what they're interested in," he says. "Sometimes it is very surprising."

Unarmed Verses is a documentary that follows the emotional journey of the residents of the Toronto housing complex Villaways as the complex is being demolished and its members displaced to make way for high-rise condos.

"The idea was to look at a broader scope of racism in North America," says Officer. "Because we are

Torontonians, we wanted to focus on a community in the city where we grew up, particularly a black community that we are familiar with. A lot of the media and everything really focuses on things that are happening in the United States and we don't deal with our [issues] here."

Officer says that residents of Victoria and Vancouver should be able to relate to the housing crisis shown in this film. However, due to our social dynamics here, it's less likely to be a reflection of racism.

"People from Toronto Community Housing are becoming completely disenfranchised and have no voice," says Officer, "but the whole idea about developers and housing and the market and the basic things that we need to survive in our society is being treated as if it is for the elite.

There aren't plans that are going in place for affordable housing. It's not part of the development scheme for a lot of the developers across the country."

Officer says he wanted to display what was happening in these communities without any preconceived notions. He listened and watched, and the story emerged on its own. The story follows a 12-year-old girl as she finds her voice through writing and performing poetry to music.

"I spent about a year and change in the community before I even brought a camera in there," he says. "It led us to this young girl and the youth that are in the film."

If Officer were to give one piece of advice to someone starting out in filmmaking it would be to find your voice and use it. His success has come from telling the stories important to him, in a way only he could tell.

"Do you have a film you want to make?" he says. "What is it you want to make and why? Why now? Why [are you] the best person to tell the story? Be critical of yourself and what you want to put out in this world."

First-time director Daniel Leo's *Man Proposes, God Disposes* will premiere this year at VFF. Leo, who lives in Vancouver, shares Officer's opinion that directing is really about using your unique thoughts and experience to tell an original story.

"You could make a movie about aliens or about whatever you want," says Leo, "but I think that normally, the people that succeed in their art-form are the ones who do what they

know how to do or something that is personal to them that maybe nobody else can express how they can."

An avid world-travelling backpacker, photographer, and cinema-goer, Leo decided he wanted to put it all together and make a movie. He came up with the plot idea of an unplanned international, intercultural pregnancy. Then things started to fall into place.

"I just started asking friends to help me make a movie," says Leo, "to act or something. I met this Polish guy in Cuba who was taking videos. He sent me a short film that had his friend acting in it, who was Polish. I asked [the actor] if he'd be interested in acting and he said, 'Yeah.' So I knew I had a Polish guy. The Brazilian girl was a friend I met in Sao Paulo who studied acting and she said, 'If you come to Brazil, I have friends and we can help you.'"

And just like that, the 27-year-old finds himself with his directorial debut screening at VFF. And there's no better place for it, as Leo says he enjoys movies that are off the beaten path.

"I grew up watching mainstream films," says Leo. "When I discovered this world of arthouse films, I was like, 'Wow, it's way more realistic.'"

Victoria Film Festival
Various times,
Friday, February 2 to Sunday,
February 11
Various prices and venues
victoriafilmfestival.com

stage

Forget About Tomorrow playwright says writing was therapeutic

JAYDEN GRIEVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The play *Forget About Tomorrow* examines the life of a woman whose husband developed early onset Alzheimer's. Playwright Jill Daum originally began writing the piece in a workshop several years ago, before it had been made public that her husband, Spirit of the West vocalist John Mann, had developed the disease.

"It was really therapeutic, and I loved writing about it. The fact that nobody knew that that was my life was somehow cathartic," says Daum. "I got to talk about things that were actually happening to me, under this pretence that I was making up this story. It's not John's and my life, it's a fictional story, but I stole things that were happening to him, and happening to me. The story is about the caregiver, not about the person who has Alzheimer's. It's about the person who loves somebody who gets Alzheimer's."

Daum expresses the difficulty that the family and friends of a person with Alzheimer's can have, starting even before the disease has been identified.

"It's actually a really slow unravelling that happens," says Daum. "No one can figure out what's going on for quite a while. All of a sudden

"The fact that nobody knew that that was my life was somehow cathartic."

JILL DAUM
PLAYWRIGHT

someone isn't acting how they used to—they're disappointing people a lot, just in little things. They forget to take out the recycling or they just don't do their share anymore. They sort of surreptitiously, in a way, rely on other people to do things for them; it's like a coping mechanism that they learn almost without realizing."

When Mann began encountering issues, doctors were not drawn towards an Alzheimer's diagnosis, as he was still on stage performing at his usual capacity.

"It took a couple years for us to figure out what was happening, and then it's not like you become incapacitated all at once; now you know that you have this horrible future in front of you, but you're still functioning and leading your life," says Daum. "I'd like people to have an understanding about early onset Alzheimer's; it's different. It's not that it's not all horrible, but there are things about getting Alzheimer's when you're 49 or 50 years old that

are really different from getting it when you're 79 or 80. One of the main things is a lot of people are still working; [that age is] supposed to be the pinnacle of your career."

Daum says that *Forget About Tomorrow* is all about having to go from finding out to finding acceptance. She says watching the play is like watching a dream come true; she no longer sees herself in her character, but, rather, someone who she can identify with. The play also includes two songs by Mann, who has been involved in the process; true to their life together, the show also features some light-hearted, comedic moments.

"That's my life with John—we laugh a lot and we try and make each other laugh a lot, so I just imagined that would be a part of this family's life; that seems true to me," says Daum. "I'm in awe of what they're doing when I watch it. You envision it and then you see it before you. The actors that we have here are incredible. I get completely sucked up in it



PHOTO PROVIDED

Forget About Tomorrow playwright Jill Daum.

every time. I feel like I could watch it every day. I end up just watching something with someone who's got so much in common with me. I really hope other people feel that too."

Forget About Tomorrow
Various times, until Sunday,
February 18
\$20 to \$53, Belfry Theatre
belfry.bc.ca

event

Black History Month amps up schedule, unifies heritage

ADAM BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

Black History Month is more than just a historical examination. Officially recognized in 2008, the month-long celebration of culture has grown into so much more. Victoria African and Caribbean Cultural Society founder Pulchérie Mboussi says that Black History Month grows into a bigger festival of celebration every year.

“This year is going to be huge. It’s getting busier and busier each year, and we’re just trying to have more events going on. This year we have over 15 activities over the month,” says Mboussi. “We will be starting with a launch reception on January 31. This year we also will have what we call an African supergroup—there are about five African-born artists that are world renowned that are going to be here

in Victoria to join one of our local artists. We have a lot more going on throughout the month.”

This year’s theme is “united by heritage.” Mboussi says they chose this theme because they want to help celebrate all heritage together as opposed to having separate events throughout the year.

“We chose the theme because we all come together for Black History Month, whether you’re from the Caribbean, Canadian born, American, or originally from one of the 54 African countries. In February we all come together because we are all African-descent people,” says Mboussi. “This is why we say this is the only time we can really say, ‘Yes, we are together.’ We are trying to just raise awareness about that. During the rest of the year we have plenty of events, but people don’t really know if they’re

about Africa, the Caribbean, or somewhere else. We’re really trying to let people know that, February, we are all united by our heritage.”

Mboussi says that the name “Black History Month” can cause some issues; she hopes that in the future, people here will start to follow in other provinces’ footsteps and start calling it by a different name, one that can allow for other cultures to also have their own celebrations.

“I found that in some provinces, they’ve been calling Black History Month African Heritage Month. I think that it’s to help avoid this frustration that some people have about, like, ‘What about white month? What about this?’” says Mboussi. “If we say ‘African Heritage Month,’ it’s easier to talk to people because you could have Asian Heritage Month, or other ones, too. So that’s

also another reason why we chose the theme this year.”

Mboussi says that part of what makes Black History Month important is that it allows people to come and learn about different cultures. She says that bringing the community together is rewarding and great to experience.

“Talking about Black History Month is, honestly, not my strength,” she says. “My strength is talking about the African continent, so if people want to learn about the diverse heritage of black people, we invite them to attend something this month and learn about our diversity. The artists in the music events will be representing around 10 African countries alone, so we want people to come and learn about this. I spend my days saying, ‘Please don’t say “black people” because we are all really different!’”

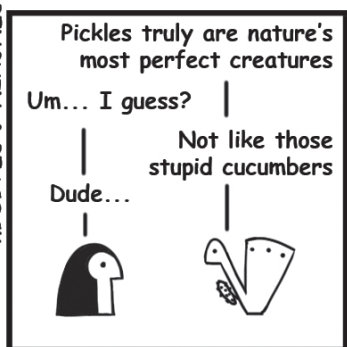


PHOTO PROVIDED

Akra Soumah is here on February 2.

Black History Month
Various times,
Wednesday, January 31 to
Saturday, February 24
Various prices and venues
vaccsociety.blogspot.ca

PENGUIN & PEACOCK



By Jayden Grieve

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, the issue was hidden on top of a storage unit on the third floor of Ewing.

Who will find this hidden *Nexus*? Bring it to us once you find it; we’ve got gift cards, shirts, and more for the winner to choose from!

January 10 issue word search

Did you check out our last issue? Our writers worked really hard to bring you a nice variety of stories, and we used key words from those stories to create this issue’s word search.

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 something from our pile o’ prizes (which includes gift cards to local coffee shops, *Nexus* T-shirts, books, CDs, and more).

- ANXIETY
- AUDIT
- CAMFEST
- CAPITALISM
- CORPORATE
- DIFFICULT
- DRAFT
- FEES
- FINANCIAL
- HEALTH
- INITIATIVE
- INSURMOUNTABLE
- OPPRESSIVE
- POLICIES
- REMITTED
- RESOLUTION
- SEXUAL
- STIGMA
- URINE
- VIOLENCE

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

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Web Exclusive

NEXUS

What's happening at nexusnewspaper.com

Week of January 15, 2017

Top five most read stories:

1. "Know Your Profs: Camosun's Genevieve Beninger on dramatic Jeopardy, losing her voice, and tending chickens," December 15, 2017
2. "First Nations artists' collaboration explores the meaning of form," January 8, 2018
3. "Open Space: Modern Capitalism is an oppressive lie," January 8, 2018
4. "Camosun students serve it up with new food truck," January 8, 2018
5. "What if? What if? Former Camosun student uses personal struggles to illustrate comic about anxiety for kids," January 8, 2018

Filed under: Arts, Web Exclusive

October 19, 2016
 October 5, 2016
 September 21, 2016
 November 2, 2016

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Mind Matters

by Cindy Peckham

It's time to talk about stigma

An estimated one in five people will be diagnosed with a mental illness at some point in their life. Maybe it will be a friend, or a loved one, or the person next to you on the bus.

Maybe it will be you.

Nobody knows for sure what causes mental illness; the best-educated theories point to genetics, hormones, chemistry, trauma, medical conditions, and stress, or a combination thereof. But what we do know is that a person who has a mental illness is not a weak person, or a person of poor character; they are not lacking in intellect, and they did not cause their illness.

A mental illness is just that—an illness. But it's a serious one. It requires treatment, and the sooner the better. The good news is that it is 100-percent treatable, manageable, and survivable.

So why are so many people who have it dying? They don't have to. We can help.

There's a wall. You can't see it. But you can sense it. It permeates

A person who has a mental illness is not a weak person, or a person of poor character; they are not lacking in intellect, and they did not cause their illness.

the space around us. It's the look on someone's face, and the words used by strangers; it's the portrayals in media, and it's the well-meaning but misinformed pep talks from family and friends. It's even the thoughts in our own heads. It's stigma. And it creates a barrier as real as a physical one.

A diagnosis of a mental illness comes loaded with biases and assumptions about what it means to have it, and about the person who has it. The person may be perceived as less intelligent, incapable of managing their affairs, or even dangerous; these perceptions are rooted in stigma.

"Stigma" has been defined as a mark of shame, or disgrace. At

its best it's simply ignorance and fear of the unknown. But at its worst, it's life threatening, because it keeps people at odds with the rest of society and it becomes a barrier that prevents them from reaching out for help.

For the person it's directed at, it represents a battle. It's a battle to be seen and heard. A battle to be understood.

And, sadly, it's often a battle to live.

January 31 is Bell Let's Talk Day, a day of support for mental health. Its aim is to end stigma. So, let's talk. Let's tear down the walls and keep the conversation going. Maybe together we can help someone win their battle.



Calculated Thought

by Sean Annable

Get ready for tax season

A new year is upon us, and that means it's what we call in the accounting business "busy season." Students, workers, and businesses all need to get their affairs in order to keep things legit with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Much is changing, and below is a primer to get you updated with tax changes for the 2017 tax year.

The big change for students is the gutting of the education and textbook tax credit. Alas, 2016 was the last year you can claim this juicy cash-back that can save you up to \$558. Unused credits from years prior to 2017 can be carried forward and claimed, so don't leave them behind.

That credit was replaced by an increase to the low- and middle-in-

wants to give students a break. After the Liberals slashed interest rates on the provincial portion of government student loans, the NDP said they plan to eliminate interest all together. This move will meet some opposition, so stay tuned for that.

Another simple way to save money: don't pay anyone to file your tax return.

Unless you have a complex return—say, you run your own business, or have investment income—you won't need a professional. SimpleTax is an example of free online software that is easy to use and should be sufficient for most students who just have a T4 from their job and a T2202A from school. Keep your T4 from your employer, grab the T2202A from Camlink, and

The big change for students is the gutting of the education and textbook tax credit. Alas, 2016 was the last year you can claim this juicy cash-back that can save you up to \$558.



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

The road ahead looks promising for *Vainglory*

With *Vainglory*'s biggest update on the horizon, developers Super Evil Megacorp recently released a roadmap for the game's future. The release focuses on January and February, when they plan to release their 5V5 mode globally.

The company started off by outlining what changes we can expect in the next update, which they predict will hit between January 29 and 31.

For the past month, players have been able to receive golden tickets from loot boxes in the game. These tickets get players early access to the new 5V5 mode and an exclusive skin for the game's hero, Lance. This skin will never be available again, but a substantially different version will be available for purchase later down the line.

Also, an update for the out-of-game user interface will be tested and changed over the course of future updates, and accounts will

What's after February remains to be seen, but from the direction that the developers are going—and given how much they've been listening to the players—*Vainglory*'s future looks bright.

be able to level up an additional 10 levels and receive more rewards.

The last big change coming to the next update is the skin system and pricing overhaul. Instead of crafting each component of a skin, players will get one blueprint of the whole thing, which they can then use to "buy" the skin. The goal is to make crafting skins more streamlined and less repetitive; this is definitely a good way of doing that. As a result of this change, it's becoming harder to get a particular skin; to compensate for this, the cash value of skins is being lowered

across the board to better match spending on the game.

The game's biggest February release is a full new game mode and map. While not many additional details have been revealed about the update, it's safe to assume that new heroes and items will be released and that many existing ones will receive balance changes.

What's after February remains to be seen, but from the direction that the developers are going—and given how much they've been listening to the players—*Vainglory*'s future looks bright.



Unpacking the Bags

by Renata Silva

The joy and sadness of leaving your country

It's normal to have classes full of international students in Canada. It is not strange to listen to several languages on the streets and interact with many different cultures in a classroom. But what makes so many people choose to leave their countries?

Most international students come in search of something they could not find at home. It could have been a development in their education, an opportunity to improve their life, or a career growth. If you're an international student and came here with the goal of spending a lot of time in Canada, you certainly looked at the pros and cons of leaving everything behind

and saw that taking a gamble on living in Canada was worth it.

When I came to the conclusion that I needed to leave my country, Brazil, in search of something better, I felt a certain sadness. I recognized my country's limitations, which prevented me from continuing there to improve my career and education.

It's almost as if I had no choice but to leave my city.

On the other hand, I also recognized the love I have for my nation. So, instead of getting on the plane with that sadness, I entered with courage, perseverance, and certainty that the great opportunity to study abroad also brings me the

opportunity to represent Brazil wherever I go.

Stories similar to mine are not unusual among international students. Each one represents their place of origin. As we leave home we get in touch with our roots and deeper cultures and realize who we really are and how we can contribute to society. Here in Canada, we are privileged to be able to count on there being several "pieces of the world" in a classroom.

The adventures of life are not happy or sad—they are what we want them to be. And I believe that having Canadians and international students in my daily life is a very positive experience.

come student grants. You can only qualify for these grants if you are eligible for federal student aid. So, even if you feel you may not need student loans, and are grinding at work to pay your way, there's no shame in qualifying for a modest federal student loan. If you're eligible for at least one dollar, you get the grant. It's money you don't have to pay back.

The BC government announced in its 2017 budget that the BC Education Tax Credit would end in 2018, but that budget did not pass. There has been no mention of slashing the tax credit in the latest budget announcement, so it may be safe, but this may be the last year you can claim it.

Hold on to your pitchforks, though; the BC NDP government

fill in the blanks. Also, Camosun has the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, where you can get your return filed free by Accounting students.

If you do have capital gains to report from all the cryptocurrency you bought after reading about them through this column, make sure you pay taxes on them. The CRA is still catching up to the craze, but they want their cut. Each trade of cryptocurrency for cash, or for another cryptocurrency, is considered a taxable event as if it were a barter transaction, and you must report capital gains as if they were a commodity.

If you became one of those cryptocurrency millionaires, laugh your way over to a professional for help filing your return.

NEXUS HUMOUR

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

what's going on
by adam boyle



PHOTO PROVIDED

Christine D'Onofrio's art will be on display at *Real Tears*, an exhibit being hosted at Deluge Contemporary Art Gallery until Saturday, February 24.

UNTIL SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Dancing in Victoria

Dance Days in Victoria is back for its eighth year. All the dance studios in town open their doors and offer free dance classes of various styles during Dance Days, which is hosted by Dance Victoria. Also included are free performances that include question-and-answer periods with the artists. All events are free; for more information, visit dancevictoria.com.

UNTIL SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Using tears

Deluge Contemporary Art Gallery is hosting *Real Tears*, an exhibit that examines the social and political struggles of power, liberty, exploitation, and humiliation through Vancouver-based artist Christine D'Onofrio's art. For more info, visit deluge.ca.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Developing the telescope

The Victoria Historical Society will be presenting *Science, Civic Identity, and Tourism at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (DAO)* with guest Dan Posey at the James Bay New Hor-

izons Centre on January 25. The talk focuses on the Canadian astrophysics program and its rapid development. Details can be found at victoriahistoricalsociety.bc.ca; admission is free.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Celebrating female musicians

The Victoria Mendelssohn Choir will be presenting "*Vox Femina*", a *Celebration of Five Centuries of Female Composers*. The show will be performed for two concerts only and highlights the achievements of female musicians who helped pioneer women in music. Tickets are \$20; the January 26 show is at Christ Church Cathedral (911 Quadra Street), and the January 28 show is at Shoal Centre (10030 Resthaven Drive, Sidney). Email katie@newfoundfiddle.com for more info.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Blending the genres

Stephen Fearing is currently on tour with Oh Susanna in support of his ninth solo record, *Every Soul's a Sailor*. Fearing blends folk, roots, and pop to create his own sound. Tickets are between \$28 and \$38; for more info and details, visit tickets.uvic.ca.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Collecting the communities

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria will be hosting *Communities and Collections: Re-search* as part of their ongoing series about the complexity of how knowledge is spread around. This event will focus on how ideas of place are illustrated. Admission is free; details at aggv.ca.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

In a state of change

Canadian singer-songwriter Laila Biali will be at Hermann's Jazz Club on February 3. Known for working with artists like Sting, Biali's music mixes jazz with contemporary pop. Tickets are \$22 in advance or \$25 at the door. For more details about the concert or to buy tickets, visit rmts.bc.ca.

Got an event that students should know about that you want to see listed here? Email all the relevant information today to editor@nexusnewspaper.com for potential inclusion.

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