

camosun's student voice since 1990

student money

Camosun board of governors approves new Student Services fee

GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

The Camosun College board of governors approved a new Student Services fee at its meeting on Monday, February 3.

The fee, effective September of this year, will cost each full-time student \$52.50 per semester; part-time students will pay \$26.25 per semester. Details on the fee are still being finalized.

The fee will be used for services and programs led by the college's Student Services department. According to the college meeting agenda, the fees will go toward, among other things, "services and programs related to the physical and psychological health and well-being of students," "social, recreational, and cultural activities and programs," academic and career planning, learning supports, campus life and engagement, and financial aid and awards.

The college has been working on the fee details with the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS), with the two organizations having monthly meetings for almost two years to figure out details.

"The college approached us in relation to instituting a Student Services Fee to cover those non-academic services," says CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte. "We're pretty much the only institution in British Columbia that doesn't have that type of fee currently, and it was felt that the services were needing that sort of a boost."

CCSS external executive Fillette Umulisa says that the two-year process of getting this fee together started with input from Camosun students.

"Student feedback led to this," says Umulisa. "They had students tell them that it wasn't enough—the waiting list was too long for services like counselling, the library was only open until a certain time when students need it—so they felt the need to increase those services. So they did an electronic survey in 2018, and the results were overwhelmingly in favour of increasing the services that are provided on both campuses. That's how we got here."

Camosun vice president of student experience Heather Cummings says that the college is very excited

about the fee, and is also excited about the Student Advisory Committee that is being set up around the fee.

"We're very, very excited," she says. "As excited as anyone can be when you introduce a fee for students. We're excited about the opportunities that the fee is presenting us, in terms of being able to invest further in services. We're excited that we're going to be able to be responsive, and we're also very excited about how we set up this fee with the Student Advisory Committee."

What is being proposed currently is that the committee be made up of, according to Cummings, "a couple of college representatives as well as a number of student society representatives, and a number of students at large."

"The thought was to basically invite students to identify themselves as someone who wants to be on the committee," she says. "We're only going to meet a couple times a year, but it really is just to check in—how did we spend the money? Where did we spend the money? What are the numbers? Are students using those services? Is that the right service for us to be investing in? Where are students still seeing some challenges in terms of accessing support?"

The CCSS will receive six percent of the total fees collected each fiscal year to go toward existing CCSS programs that are in line with the new fee's objectives. Turcotte—who says that the CCSS will hold the college accountable for where the money goes and will have regular reviews to see those data—says that this will help avoid the college and the CCSS offering the same services.

"One of the things that I've noticed in looking at these fees across the province is that sometimes when institutions bring in a fee and it hasn't been quite as organized in how to do it, then they're looking at how to spend it, often the student society and institution end up in a bit of conflict, because they're trying to operate in the same areas. So part of the discussions we had in the agreement was that we wanted to avoid the duplication of services, because if you're going to collect a fee from

students, you want to make sure that you're being as efficient as possible in as many ways, and duplication never provides financial efficiency. The six percent we get is actually to enhance some of the related services we offer while ensuring that we're not duplicating services provided by the college and vice versa."

First-year University Transfer student Luke Leger says that he is okay with paying the fee as long as it's implemented properly.

"I feel like it would be useful if everything's being provided well," he says. "I think it's a small fee to pay for mental health and physical health; I don't know what that pertains to exactly."

Leger adds that while he sees the potential for the new fee to be a good thing, he also feels it should be optional, like dental and extended health is.

"It's not essential. Yes, taking care of your mental health is very good for you, and your physical health," he says.

First-year Early Learning and Care student Hailey Flader says that the fee looks good on paper but it's one of those things you need to see in action, and she notes that she knows students who do find fees difficult financially.

"It seems reasonable," she says. "Myself, I don't pay for my education, but I know that a lot of my friends do and they struggle with the already [existing] student fees," she says.

Flader says that it's the little things that add up when it comes to finances, so she too suggests making it an optional fee depending on the resources each student intends to use.

"People like me would be a part of it. I wouldn't mind," she says. "But I know some people really struggle paycheque to paycheque."

First-year student Patricia Sterling—who has not yet chosen a program, but studies psychology—says that it's a reasonable fee considering it's covering services students need.

"They need to be funded if students are taking advantage of the services," she says. "I think it makes sense."

Cummings says that the college always considers whether it is possible to facilitate a way for students

to opt out of a fee, but with that comes other challenges.

"When we create the ability to opt out, that means that a smaller number of students would be contributing to cover those services. We have no ability at this point to tell students, 'You can't access the service,' so then it would end up being subsidized by a few and used by the mass. I guess my simplest answer is when you apply the fee to everybody it creates more affordable access. So for \$52.50 a full-time student literally will have increased access to services that would cost exponentially more if they were to try to access them on their own, off campus, or if it was a fee for service. So it is the drawback to having that type of principle going into fees, and I do appreciate students that wish that was an option, it just currently is not the option."

A referendum on whether to adopt the fee could have given students a chance to voice their concerns about the fee not being optional. Turcotte says that this is something that was discussed, but in the end the college decided to make the decision to implement the fee.

"Yes, it was discussed," he says. "Various options were discussed, including the idea of having a referendum on this. In British Columbia, there's two ways of implementing fees on students. One way is doing it through your student societies, and you have to do a referendum in that case, or the institutions can do it and get the Ministry [of Advanced Education, Skills and Training] to approve. Ultimately, the institution decided that it would be better to have this as an institutional fee, and that's their choice, and considering most of the money is going to enhance their programs and services, in some ways that may make more practical sense in this particular instance."

Cummings says that while the college didn't do a referendum, it did still get student input on how the fee will be implemented.

"As I understand it, a referendum was not a requirement for us to implement this fee, but we did want students to be consulted, and we did want to have a process by which there was some account-

ability around such a fee," she says. "Some of the things you look for through a referendum we thought we would build in within the consultation process we did as well as the MOU [memorandum of understanding]. So in that way we've kind of made sure that students are the voice behind how we implement the fee, and that there's processes built in place to get that feedback from them. So it's my understanding that that's why we went the route of the MOU, so that we were getting that type of feedback from students but we were also creating the accountability in the fee."

Turcotte—who feels that this could be used as a model for similar fees in BC—admits that it's never easy for student societies to accept the idea of more student fees, and he says that it's "unusual" for a student society to work this closely with its students' institution, but he feels that there are useful tradeoffs on both sides.

"This is a brand-new experience for us," says Turcotte. "We've never quite been sitting on this side of the table or having this experience. When this conversation started, we were left with certain choices, and compared to how it works at most other institutions, I think students will ultimately benefit more from the model we've adopted at Camosun, because of that level of cooperation and mutual respect between both the college and student society that will lead to greater accountability in how this fee works out in the end."

However, Cummings says that working closely with student societies is par for the course for her.

"I'm not used to it working any other way," she says. "This is the model I used in my previous life at another institution. I didn't negotiate fees like this without this type of partnership, and it was a partnership that we had an MOU on; we would have a Student Advisory Committee providing us constant feedback. It was great, so, yeah, I know it's new for Camosun and folks here, but it's not new for me. This is just my way of doing business."

With files from Adam Marsh, student editor

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NEXUS

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I find poo in here sometimes."

student editor's letter

The roots of segregation

The idea of women and men not being paid equally is a joke. It's disgusting. I don't care where it is, or when it is, but it's especially pathetic now, during a time of progressive thinking, a time when I—someone with a fairly constant amount of social anxiety—can walk into a gender-neutral bathroom and shamelessly lay down a big dump without feeling any more self-conscious than I would in a segregated bathroom.

There are few things in this world as underrated as a good shit. Oh, c'mon: you know it's true. But we don't talk about shitting, boning, getting mad, feeling sad, or gender equality. At least we didn't until relatively recently. Because that post-Galileo, neo-Protestant work ethic told us to keep focused on the job at hand, and to keep our mouths shut.

And, rest assured, there is a time and place to keep quiet and focus on the job at hand.

I don't want to open up the Protestant can of worms. It's for me to recognize that suffering and the desire for change go hand in hand. Things change, and the humility in our humanity is the only possibility we have of recognizing—and becoming better in the face of—our shortcomings.

To believe—subconsciously or otherwise—that women should make less than men in the workplace or be treated as inferior is shameful.

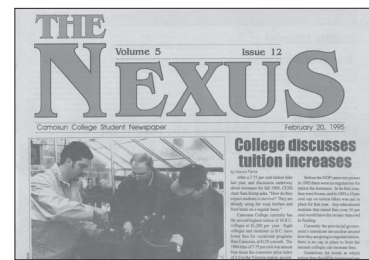
The idea of jobs being “for” a certain gender is weird, too. After my time is up at Nexus, I'll take on a caregiving job, working with youth with disabilities. I'll be a nanny, and I'll love it.

And I hope that the women I work beside make the same amount of money as I do.

Adam Marsh, student editor
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flashback

25 Years Ago in Nexus



GREG PRATT MANAGING EDITOR

Never-ending raises: The story “College discusses tuition increases” in our February 20, 1995 issue talked about how Camosun was in discussions about increasing tuition for the fall 1995 semester. This was following a 7.75-percent tuition raise in 1994. Then-chair of the Camosun College Student Society Sara Kemp said in the story, “How do they expect students to survive? They are already using the soup kitchen and food bank on a regular basis.” Sadly, tuition raises remain at the forefront of student concerns here in 2020; thankfully, there are still resources like food banks and soup kitchens to help out.

Never-ending raises for international students, too: The story “Proposed tuition fee increase forces international students to reconsider college choices” reported the same issue we did in our recent two-part story looking at concerns of international students today: they have to pay a lot of tuition. There's a simple reason—domestic students' tuition is subsidized by the government—but that doesn't take away the sting for the students, some of whom, in this story, were saying that they might as well go to the USA to study if it was going to be so expensive at Camosun. “There are many opportunities there,” said student Tejo Wahidin, “and much more things to do, compared to Victoria.” Burn.

Answering the tough questions: After all this dour talk of tuition, a random article called “Why do men have nipples?” really got the bottom of things. I mean, it's a fair question, after all. Among the answers was that nipples are an erogenous zone, there to encourage hugging. Aww.

open space

How to celebrate Valentine's Day next year

CELINA LESSARD CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Valentine's Day has finally passed, and the leftover chocolate is going on clearance in stores nationwide. Pretty much every Shoppers Drug Mart, Walmart, and Dollarama is getting rid of their sugary treats, offering a lower price for the past-holiday items. Now, I love discount chocolate, don't get me wrong, but Valentine's Day has always kind of bugged me. I didn't mind it growing up, but as I've gotten older I've come to the realization that everyone slowly comes to: the holiday is a bit of a scam.

The origins of Valentine's Day are complicated, and not anything near what you traditionally think of when someone mentions the holiday, but it's become a day to recognize that special person in your life who makes you feel all warm and fuzzy inside. I think this is probably my main problem with Valentine's Day—how it's celebrated and how it should be celebrated are two different things.

For a holiday that's supposed to represent our love (and not just romantic love) toward all kinds of people close to us, it's centred on spousal relationships exclusively. This leaves people without these connections feeling left out of what should be a universal holiday. You've probably heard people calling February 14 “Forever Alone Day” or “Sad Singles Day.” This is a perfect example of the divide that can be created by this holiday.

Spending the day without a romantic partner can make you feel lonely, especially when you're bombarded by social media posts and advertisements featuring happy couples having a good time.

What I'd like to know is why the day that celebrates love doesn't seem to include every kind of love.

The love you feel for your friends differs from the kind of love you feel toward your family, and the love you feel for your family differs from the love you feel toward yourself. Ancient Greek philosophy actually breaks the English word “love” into many different categories that take these differences into account. There's, among others, *philia*, which refers to the affection seen between friends; *eros*, which refers to a sexual or intimate love; *storge*, which includes the love between parents and children; and *philiautia*, meaning love directed toward yourself.

The way I see it, Valentine's Day should be celebrated with everyone you love, no matter what kind of love that may be. Have a good friend who you love chatting with? Why not make them a card telling them how important they are to you? Or what about your mom/dad/guardian? Why not grab them a treat? Something that I like to do every year is take my friends on a “friendship date.” It's nothing too fancy—maybe dinner at a local restaurant, or a fun night bowling—but I make sure that the people close to me know how much I value them.

At the end of the day, Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love, and that love doesn't have to mean romance. If you've never done anything for friends or family, give it a shot. Maybe next year you can make your own cards, go on a friendship date, or just spend some time with the people you care about. Perhaps in the future celebrating our connections will be more of a central theme for this holiday, but for now, you can make sure to get the message out there: Valentine's Day isn't just for couples. It's a day for friends, family, and everyone else we care about.

corrections

In “Outside looking in” (February 5, 2020), we said that the mezzanine in Camosun's Centre for Trades Education and Innovation had no elevator; the college is in fact almost finished putting an elevator in. We apologize for the mistake.

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!

student services

BC government launches 24/7 mental-health support for students



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

CCSS wellness and access director Eleanor Vannan.

EMILY WELCH STAFF WRITER

The British Columbia government recently announced the creation of a mental-health service for BC students that will feature online and telephone counselling services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The service will launch this spring,

and the government has contracted human resources services and technology company Morneau Shepell, who are headquartered in Toronto, to create and operate the service. The three-year contract has a \$1.5-million-per-year budget.

Camosun College Student Society student wellness and access

director Eleanor Vannan sees the need for a 24-hour mental-health service for students, so she set out to help make it happen.

“I am the campaigns coordinator for the BC Federation of Students, and I got involved with that when I became Camosun's wellness director,” says Vannan. “I am a student with a learning disability but I have also had struggles with anxiety and depression, which I'm quite open about, because my personal opinion is that it is more common than anyone thinks. So, the BC Federation of Students knew that I worked with mental-health initiatives, that it was something I am very passionate about. We had a conversation and they asked me to join the procurement team, so we did the groundwork and had the consensus meeting and we all came to the agreement that this was the service we wanted.”

Vannan got in touch with minister of advanced education, skills and training Melanie Mark and minister of mental health and addictions Judy Darcy and found them both very enthusiastic about the idea.

“It is going to be a 24-hour help line where post-secondary students

will be able to seek support,” says Vannan. “It will involve both referrals to services and also the chance just to have an immediate conversation with someone. Both Judy Darcy and minister Melanie Mark are so very aware that this province has a mental-health crisis going on right now, and with some of the issues going on around affordability, the cost of living, the housing crisis.”

Mark is proud to be part of the decision to create the help line.

“As soon as I became minister back in 2011, I went on the road and visited all 25 public post-secondary institutions, and during that time students were very upfront with me about some of the challenges that they are facing on campus, what kind of action they wanted to have taken,” says Mark. “Things get off the ground working together. And something that I am also very proud of is the 24/7 help line is free, and that makes it accessible for the students that are struggling.”

Camosun director of student affairs Evan Hilchey was involved in the conversations with Vannan and Mark, and he believes that there has been a gap in services in mental health.

“I think the first area is providing 24-hour service, and community support services,” says Hilchey. “Providing an opportunity and way in which students can reach out for support 24/7 really increases the access to support for all students at post-secondary. The hope is, clearly, that students will access those supports and find those supports beneficial to them.”

Vannan says that when students are struggling, a great way to cope is through others with similar struggles.

“There are people who want to support you, but there are also people who are going through the same thing,” says Vannan. “So, there is going to be camaraderie with them, a common ground.”

Mark says that the service will have several different options for help, geared toward students in today's society.

“There is going to be a chat option, a telephone option, and a text option,” says Mark, “because we want to make sure that we are available to the students of the 21st century. Picking up the phone and reaching out—that is what is going to save lives.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun still coronavirus-free

Camosun College is continuing to monitor the coronavirus outbreak and is prepared for rapid response in cooperation with the Island Health Authority. As of February 14, no cases have been reported on campus; see camosun.ca for updates.

College opens massage clinic

Camosun opened a massage therapy clinic in January. The clinic is connected to Camosun's new Massage Therapy diploma program, which launched in September 2019. The clinic is located at the Interurban campus and is run by students under the supervision of registered massage therapists. The first 75-minute booking is free, with subsequent sessions ranging from \$10 to \$20. Appointments are booked on a per-term basis. There are currently no openings for the rest of the winter 2020 term, but people can sign up for the waitlist. Visit camosun.ca/massageclinic

or call 250-370-4747 for more information. The clinic is open to everyone.

Camosun Psych journal launches

In fall of 2019, the Camosun Psychology department debuted *The Journal of Camosun Psychology Research*. The academic journal will be released twice yearly and will feature research conducted by Camosun students. It was developed by Psychology instructor Michael Pollock, who encourages students to choose their own research topics and explore new ideas. Students retain full authorship of all published work. The online-only publication can be read for free at cc.arcabc.ca.

Camosun athletics on the move

On April 1, Camosun's Athletics and Recreation department will relocate from the Centre of Sport and Exercise Education in the School of Business to the college's Student Experience division.

College offers new sports degree

Camosun recently announced its new Sport Management degree, which replaces the former Bachelor of Sport and Fitness Leadership—Sport Management Specialization degree. The credential can be taken as a two-year diploma or a four-year bachelor's degree and includes an internship. The starting dates of the program are September and January, and the program takes place at Interurban. For more information, visit camosun.ca/spma.

Saanich agrees to form amalgamation assembly

On January 28, Saanich Council entered into an agreement with the City of Victoria to create a Citizen's Assembly to evaluate amalgamating Saanich and Victoria. The assembly will consist of randomly selected citizens from each municipality. The total cost of the assembly is \$750,000, split equally between

Victoria, Saanich, and the province of BC. The main goal of the Citizen's Assembly is to generate a think tank where citizens of the two districts may discuss the issue without interference from politicians and lobbyist groups and focus on facts, not emotions. Following the discussion, recommendations will be served to the Saanich and Victoria councils, where the final decision about amalgamation will be made.

Writing competition on now

The Victoria Writer's Society is launching its 19th annual writing competition, which is geared toward Vancouver Island writers of short fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry. The first-prize winner nets \$300, with \$200 going to second place. Publication in the Island Writer journal will be offered to first- and second-place winners, as well as two honourable mentions. Entries require a \$25 fee and must be submitted by mail, postmarked by May 1. Visit victoriawriters.ca for more information.

Saanich announces climate plan

On January 28, the District of Saanich announced a Climate Plan intended to reduce Saanich's negative climate impact. The two-year plan explores which actions should be prioritized, and what resources are necessary to implement them. The plan is intended to improve living conditions for Saanich citizens by improving how Saanich interacts with its local ecosystems. For example, some of the proposed initiatives would reduce air and noise pollution, build safer streets, and focus on renewable-energy-based

-LANE CHEVRIER

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SPEAK UP

The Camosun College board of governors recently approved a new Student Services Fee of \$52.50 per semester per student for full-time students, and \$26.25 for part-time students. How do you feel about that?

BY ADAM MARSH



STEPH KOSMAS

“I don't really mind it because I already pay so much. If you're not taking a lot of classes, it's kind of not needed... It definitely should be optional.”



JOHN DELAMOTHE

“I can't really make a judgment on that, not knowing how well they use the money. I don't like that I have to pay more; it's already expensive... I can't judge the value of their intentions, whether it's good or bad. I would prefer not to pay it, though.”



MIRENA OSBORNE

“I think it would be good. It's not that expensive.”



TOBIAS LAKE

“It's probably good to have some form of extra cultural activities, recreational... Good for physical, psychological health for students.”



BRIAN LAWLESS

“How resources are being used is something to consider. The thing that's most important in my mind is physical and psychological health for students. Whether that money actually gets funnelled into that or gets muddled into the bureaucracy that is a post-secondary institution, who knows?”



MARIANITA VERDEJO

“For me, it's expensive how it is [as an international student]. This is more like an investment because everyone gets the advantages. It's justifiable.”

NEXUS

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student activism

Camosun student petitions to save Hully House

LANE CHEVRIER
NEWS WRITER

The Hully House is one of the oldest structures on Camosun's Lansdowne campus, and one Camosun student is petitioning to have it designated as a heritage building and to stop the college from tearing it down.

First-year Employment Training and Preparation student James Fink-Holder was fascinated by the building on a recent tour of the Lansdowne campus.

"I saw what I only knew was an old house by the Dawson Building, and I said, 'Hey, that's a nice looking house,' and the lady who was running the tour said, 'No, it's actually kinda garbage, they're probably gonna knock it down,' and I said, 'I don't really like that, I think it should stay,'" says Fink-Holder.

According to the Victoria City Directory, the Hully House was built between 1917 and 1921, and its most recent resident was Frederick Charles Lewis Hully—known as "Old Man Hully" in Camosun lore—who died in 1991 as the Lansdowne Library was being built.

Fink-Holder has been a long-time advocate of saving old buildings in Victoria. He says that he's tried to rescue others but they've all been torn down or have burned down.

"I've always liked preserving the heritage of Victoria, and I've tried promoting the sparing of other houses; there was one on Cook Street, but it burned down, and another house in my area that got knocked down, and the most recent one was the Plaza Hotel, which also burned down."

In an endeavour to preserve Hully House, Fink-Holder created an online petition, which, as of press time, has 10 supporters. One section of the petition states that the building will be demolished within two months, but Camosun director of facilities services Ian Tol says that isn't true.

"We don't have any immediate plans to remove the Hully House," he says. "What the Campus Master Plan says is that those buildings in very poor condition would be candidates for replacement or removal, and that would be whenever the college has a plan to do that, or a need to, or if we have another building that might go in its place, or something like that."

Tol says that repairing the building would be cost prohibitive, particularly since Hully House doesn't have much utility for Camosun. He estimates it would cost "in the hundreds of thousands" to bring the building up to code.

"It's a former residence," he says. "It's not well suited for what we typically use in a college when we have educational buildings."

Although Fink-Holder has suggested the possibility of relocating the house, Tol says that this is also not practical or economical.

"There's a lot of work that goes into moving a building, and even though this one is relatively small, [the cost of moving it is] still high," he says.

Richard Rickard, a fourth-year UVic Geography student taking Creative Writing electives at Camosun, says that the Hully House might be well utilized as a social space.

"I think it's a nice building; it

could be a nice place for people to gather and convene on campus," he says.

However, Rickard says that the number of renovations required to make Hully House safe may take away from the building's historical appeal.

"As far as trying to be inclusive and accessible to all abilities, you do need to be able to get into a building like this; they'd need to put a ramp or an elevator, and that would probably take away from the character of the house itself, as a historical house. If you had to slap a big hydraulic lift on the side of it, I don't know if it would look the same," he says.

First-year Arts and Sciences student Chance Wasieczko believes that the space could be put to better use and that restoring the building might not be economical.

"A community garden or something like that could go in there, and it would probably be a better use of the space, as it were, and I definitely think that there's more beneficial ways the area could be used," he says. "Especially as far as a cost analysis goes, if it doesn't make sense logistically and they're not going to do anything with it, then there's other things that the school's money could be used for."

Second-year Psychology student Kate Johnson thinks that the building adds some much-needed flavour to the campus.

"I kind of like it; I think it's really unique," she says. "I think the campus is getting a little drier. They're painting the Wilna Thomas grey; I think there needs to be a bit of character here," she says, adding that restoration costs could be bun-



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

The Hully House is located on Camosun's Lansdowne campus.

dled into student fees. "If you can protect it, I'd pay extra tuition to keep it. I'd go maybe \$5 a student."

Johnson says that smart choices about usage would prevent renovations from unnecessarily compromising the structure of the building.

"I could see maybe an art studio," she says. "I don't see a science lab going in there—that would be a little too complicated—but I could see art, or maybe philosophy, something like that, something you don't need a lot of space for."

Fink-Holder believes that old buildings should be shown more respect, and this is the main drive behind his campaign.

"Heritage architecture is a really big part of our city, and now a lot of corporations are compromising it, and it's really sad to see that happening at this house and hoping that it

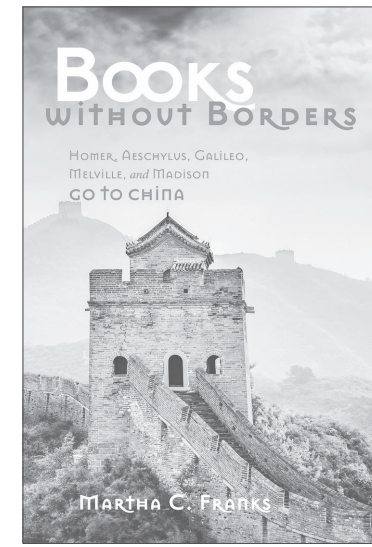
could be saved, but unfortunately, the economics of that idea are very difficult. It's just not doable," he says. "Plus, we also have to make decisions about where we spend our money, where we invest, and we want to do that in the areas that make the most sense and that support the mission of the college the best, and so, unfortunately, trying to restore a residence to usable condition is not really in line with what we're trying to do here."

Tol says that he is sympathetic to Fink-Holder's plight but that the cost and complication of everything involved is not a priority for Camosun.

"I do understand his interest, and I do feel for him that he's looking at this house and hoping that it

review

New book offers cultural journey, falls flat

LINDA OSTROM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I wasn't sure what to expect when I started reading Martha C. Franks' *Books Without Borders: Homer, Aeschylus, Galileo, Melville, and Madison Go to China*. The book is Franks' account of teaching the liberal arts to high-school students in Beijing from 2012 to 2014.

Guided on a cultural journey of Western literature through discussions and dialogues, we learn of the high-achieving Chinese students attending Franks' classes. The interactions and reactions of the students to the literature taught in class are interesting, but I find the depth of their characterizations flat and in

need of emotional development, which would help the reader feel more invested in the book.

The book, centred mainly around the classroom and the students, is a well-written personal narrative that flows with lyrical prose carrying Franks' narrative. At other times, Franks goes on a tangent to put in context a memory to support the narrative of the book. Sometimes it works, but other times these tangents become distracting and unnecessary, and they occasionally made me ask how many more pages were left to the end of the book.

This brings me to the question of who is reading this book—who is her audience? I wasn't quite sure if she is writing for her peers or for

those who think the liberal arts aren't as valuable as the maths and sciences.

It's not that I didn't like the book. It's helpful in how it explains through each of the chapters the importance of the liberal arts to the students; each chapter focuses on a specific humanity to show how especially important it is to the educational system.

But it wasn't enough. When I first started reading *Books without Borders* I found myself wondering what was next. I wanted to know more about these students and why they think the way they do.

But as I kept reading, all I wanted to know was how long before I reached the end.

review

The Ministry of Grace an explosive yet graceful experience



ANGELA FUNK

There's a wildness to *The Ministry of Grace*, on until March 1 at The Belfry.

EMILY WELCH
STAFF WRITER

I was utterly unprepared for what I saw when I went to the explosive drama *The Ministry of Grace* at Victoria's Belfry Theatre.

Written by Niitsitapi Nation resident Tara Beagan, *The Ministry of Grace* is a mind-bending, emotion-seizing trip through Beagan's familial history. The play is set in 1950s California and revolves around the protagonist Mary, an Indigenous woman who is separated from her children because of colonization and residential schools. Mary meets a travelling minister, Cane, who recognizes her natural

The Ministry of Grace is a force to be reckoned with.

out what to do next. Stafford Perry is Brother Cain; he is so convincingly repulsive and dirty, poor Perry may have to dodge when he exits the building after a show. Sheldon Elter plays strong-as-oak Clem and really represents the human being everyone should aspire to be; Lara Schmitz is Lizzie-Mae, a naive southern teenager who makes every mistake possible and yet managed to melt my heart.

Andy Moro designed a realistic set of a travelling sermon that captures the play's essence of both warmth and dislocation, and Jeff Chief's costume designs have a windblown, lost-on-the-prairie look to them.

Not neat or tidy, and not goopy or fuzzy, there is a wildness to this production. *The Ministry of Grace* is a force to be reckoned with—it will reach across the stage, grab your heart in its hands, and make off with it. See it happen. I dare you.

The Ministry of Grace
Various times,
until Sunday, March 1
Various prices, Belfry Theatre
belfry.bc.ca

know your profs

Camosun Business instructor Ernie Ogilvie searches for Zen

EMILY WELCH
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 never-ending list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we talked to Camosun Business instructor Ernie Ogilvie about Munich Oktoberfest, procrastination, and trying to find Zen when a student won't get off their phone.

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

I teach mostly business law now and also negotiations and contracts. I started teaching part-time at Camosun in 1999 while being a lawyer downtown and a single parent to an amazing little son, and then I taught full-time after I retired from practicing law seven years ago.

2. What do you personally get out of teaching?

I have so much fun. I enjoy the teaching part of the job—I hate marking exams. I love the intense class discussions, especially between students, over relevant controversial subjects. I love encouraging students to "Go for it!" "Yes, get your CPA!" "Do a PhD!" "Explore the world!" "Go to law school!" (Three students of mine have.) It is also so satisfying on a deep level for me to pass on to my students some of the stories, experiences, lessons, failures (students love hearing about my big failures—I survived), and hard-gained wisdom from being in the business world for 30 years.

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

I prepare for every class, especially trying to keep up to date on changes in the law and in our society that impact the courses I teach.

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

As a student, I often did not read the required course material before the class (not recommended). I have struggled with procrastination all my life. Mom said, "Ernest, you

have my disease—procrastination." I agreed with her. But what saved me was I always went to class—even if I was unprepared—and participated. Also, by chance, I am a very good competitive exam writer (bring it on!).

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

Receiving emails or little hand-written notes from students saying how much they enjoyed the class and me being their teacher. That always feels really special. (Yes, I save the notes...)

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

Being put in a situation where I have to decide whether to remove a student from the class for continually being very disruptive, for the benefit of their fellow students and myself. I am a compassionate person, so I do ask myself: "Did I do the right thing?"

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

There will be more international students, particularly from Africa, and more Indigenous students, so



EMILY WELCH/NEXUS

Camosun College Business instructor Ernie Ogilvie.

understanding the dynamics of interculturalism will be even more important. Conversely, Canadian students will choose to study overseas for at least one term to get worldly experience. Lastly, there will be more technology advances in the classroom, although the essence of the student/teacher relationship will always be there.

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

I hike long distances with my backpack for training. I read the news in the Cook Street Village coffee shops and have excellent coffee.

9. What's your favourite meal? In Victoria, a mushroom burger

with house salad and a large glass of fine red wine at Bin 4 after 9 pm. Outside Victoria, a rotisserie half-chicken with a one-litre beer Masskrug (with singing and dancing) at Oktoberfest, Munich (been there many times).

10. What is your biggest pet peeve?

I believe in mutual respect and good class boundaries, so having to enforce these is so unpleasant. For example, students who crack their knuckles, are lost in their smartphons, or come into class quite late and walk right in front of me while I'm teaching... Grrrr. I try to turn these situations into "teachable moments."

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Finding a safe space in the trades

Three Camosun students tell their story

Story by Jéssica Navarro, features writer



CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Camosun student Danelle Campbell is working toward a Plumbing and Pipe Trades Foundations certificate.

Choosing a career is a complicated decision for many people. It's a struggle that often starts at the transition that follows high school but may last much longer, as there are rarely guarantees of straightforward professional pathways. Social circles of influence such as family and school play a key role in presenting possibilities, discussing programs of studies, and sharing common experiences. Expectations of what lies ahead in the job market may cause anxiety; even once a person has stepped into the workforce, issues such as work/life balance and job satisfaction may come into play, raising a whole range of questions again.

That process becomes even more complex when you are a woman, and not only because of long-standing gender pay gaps in so many industries. The fact is that there is a whole other world of possibilities that a woman may never consider for herself, in large part because it has simply not been presented as an option. It's a matter of some work areas being historically seen through a gender-biased lens—the trades are an example of what used to traditionally be a man's world of possibilities.

Fortunately, times are changing and an increasing number of women have been finding their way into the vast trades industries. We caught up with a few here at Camosun to find out why they've chosen the path they have.

At Camosun College, the Women in Trades Training (WITT) program offers two Trade Sampling Programs, with funded tuition for eligible participants. The 12-week programs are designed to present an introductory path to women who are interested in pursuing a career in trades but don't know where to start.

Camosun WITT program coordinator Sarah-Jayne Roe wants Camosun to be known as a place of hope for women in trades.

"One of the most important things about having the trades exploration program for women is that it's a safe space for women to come in and try new things and not feel out of place," says Roe. "And they are all kind of coming in from the same perspective, so it's students who were totally green to the trades, totally new to the trades, and they can kind of all go in together."

As the main contact person for the women who are not yet sure what kind of trades they are interested in, or if they even want to go into trades, Roe acknowledges that this may not be an obvious decision to make.

"It all comes down to the fact that they may not have had the opportunity to try different trades in the past," says Roe. "They may not be so comfortable to go into it."

Currently enrolled in the Plumbing and Pipe Trades Foundations certificate, Danelle Campbell began her studies at Camosun by taking the WITT sampling program.

"To start off, I was just open to anything," she says. "I wanted to try it all, but to begin

with I said, 'Yeah, I will try anything, probably, except plumbing—I don't think that's for me.' And then I did [the WITT sampling program] and I was like, 'Oh, yeah—this is totally it.'"

Likewise, the WITT sampling program was Heidi Waugh's starting point to get into the Sheet Metal and Metal Fabrication Foundations program this January. Waugh took the marine focus stream of the program and now she aims to complete a dual apprenticeship by later pursuing a Marine Service Technician certification.

"Through the WITT at Camosun we went for a few tours to different shipyards and different marine sites," says Waugh. "We found a few shops that I really fell in love with, and that's how I ultimately found my desire to do sheet metal and work around boats."

Madison Briche has also been in the Sheet Metal and Metal Fabrication Foundation program since January; she's a former care worker who restores old cars as a hobby.

"My main drive to go into the trades was to get in the automotive restoration business," says Briche. "There are not a lot of women out there."

A career change is not an uncommon reason for women entering the trades. Campbell had heard about WITT and decided to research it; she had always been searching for something that she would want to do for work that she actually liked.

"I've never had a job over a year," says Campbell. "I've come back to jobs but I've never worked for a year because I'd just feel bored and I'd get over it, then I'd look for different opportunities."

Before enrolling in WITT, Waugh had no experience in trades—she used to work in an administrative role in the healthcare industry—but she was looking for a change.

"I had had a point where I knew what I was doing wasn't something I was passionate about," says Waugh. "I wasn't excited to go to work; I wasn't inspired to be at work."

Briche says that she got introduced to sheet metal by looking at projects on social media, which actually helped her to figure out the program of study she was interested in.

"I initially was registered for Welding and I asked around for every guy who would build things and I would love the things they built," says Briche. "You would just assume they were welders and it just turned out they were metal fabricators, so I changed my course. I'm so thankful I asked."

Waugh heard about WITT from a roommate who had gone into construction work. But even with two brothers who had gone through trades school, Waugh had never considered it as an option for herself up until that moment.

"Not that it wasn't there, it was just too daunting of a field and too unknown, especially as a female," says Waugh. "And the WITT was a huge help in that sense, just to give me the confidence and a little bit of a platform to step into the trades world."

It ended up being a very fast change for Waugh. She was at work on a Friday, and then

"It's not always about being super strong; it's about being smart, and I'm going to be fine."

DANELLE CAMPBELL
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

on Monday she was in the WITT program. She has never gone back to that job. Waugh says that that was actually the only sense in which her new trajectory was shocking for her family.

"The fact that I'm interested in building boats, being mechanically pushed throughout the day and using my creative side a little bit more, I don't think has been a surprise," says Waugh. "It's kind of just like this big aha moment that has happened for everyone around me and makes sense."

Campbell is also glad that she had the support of family and friends about her stepping into trades. Nonetheless, she says that a friend's mother once questioned how she would manage the idea that plumbing involved a lot of brute force and strength.

"I'm really not concerned. I'm pretty strong, and there are a lot of mechanical advantages for different machines that we can use," says Campbell. "And it's not always about being super strong; it's about being smart, and I'm going to be fine."

Briche describes how her family—although probably being protective—was quite taken aback by her change of career.

"When I told them I was changing to go into the trades, everyone told me I was crazy," says Briche. "Everyone just kept telling me that I was going to have to have much thicker skin because it's a men's industry."

"I walked into the shop and everybody lifted their helmets and there were three women staring back at me. That was just quite a profound moment to realize that there's a future for me in this industry, there's safe spaces in the industry, and there's a lot of women out there that are just really killing it in the sheet metal world and trades in general."

HEIDI WAUGH
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

In terms of her own expectations for the program, Briche didn't foresee the program having so much math, and she says that she didn't even know how to properly read a tape measure before enrolling. Despite that, she feels confident after only the first few weeks of classes.

"I'm so impressed by how much I've learned in such a small amount of time," says Briche. "When you called, I was in the middle of building ducts, air ducts. All of us, we just walk up to the machine and we know what we are doing now."

The hands-on aspect of the trades programs has met Campbell's expectations.

"It's good you can divide up some study time and then some shop time so you're not all sleepy or you're not all sometimes flustered, because projects can get a little flustering sometimes."

Additionally, Campbell loves how the Plumbing courses are self-paced but also allow her to have a group of classmates with whom she goes through the program.

"You just kind of move around with your group, just as long as people don't fall behind or people don't go ahead," says Campbell. "I think we all kind of encourage each other to do a good job."

Roe points out that the students usually make lifelong friends because of the mutual support experienced during their learning processes.

"What will naturally happen—and it happens in all classes—if you do have someone who has tried things before, they create this peer support within the classroom and they help each other out," says Roe. "So, you know, if one of the women sees someone struggling, they will go and help them with that."

Waugh mentions that during the sampling program she met women from many different backgrounds but who all had in common the will to do something more and to try something different.

"The WITT program acted as a guide to open up a lot of doors for us and to kind of dip our toes in and see what felt good," says Waugh. "But, as well, it gave me a network of really strong women, and all of us coming out of our program have ended up staying in the trades."

Briche, who is in her 30s, feels good going to school because she can share her experience with other women, especially younger ones.

"It's hard to know what you're going to do when you're 20 years old," says Briche. "And I wish that I'd had a female [role model] in the trades that could've told me, 'You can do it.'"

It was with her younger sister's group of friends that Briche started to speak out about the industry.

"There was a bunch of them over and I was telling them about how not intimidating it is," says Briche. "Because you think, trades, like, it's just full of guys, and guys are grungy and vulgar, but it's actually so respectful."

Campbell encourages other women interested in working in a physical job and being in the field to try the trades programs at Camosun.

"All the teachers are rad, all the students are sick, all the projects so far are great. I'm loving it," says Campbell. "I just tell everyone how excited I am to go to school."

Briche recently heard that her class might be the first in Sheet Metal to get a female instructor, and she is really excited about it.

"That would just be a really cool thing to eventually aim to," says Briche. "If I can go into the trades and have a good job, then I can maybe one day become an instructor. That would be so cool."

"My main drive to go into the trades was to get in the automotive restoration business. There are not a lot of women out there."

MADISON BRICHE
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

Moving forward into the job market, Waugh believes that she can rely on that network of women whom she can help and be helped by.

"Just to know, even walking onto a job site, there's still those 13 other women I was in the WITT with that are out there doing the same thing as me," says Waugh, "and they have the same frustrations and the same worries, but we're there to support each other."

Campbell has observed the job market becoming more open to women in trades.

"I'm not going to say it's an advantage, but I think it's like a new way that companies are thinking," says Campbell. "They are more cautious; there are different perspectives from our part to work alongside men."

Roe says that today there is a need for trades workers, and the initiatives around WITT focus on getting more people—in this case, women—into the trades industry.

"Women right now are in low percentage in the majority of the trades," says Roe. "The only ones at the college that we have that there are already over 25 percent is horticulture and cook."

Campbell believes that there is a boom in the job market. She is open to going to other places in Canada but ideally wishes to get an opportunity to work and live on the island.

"I'm pretty hopeful," says Campbell. "I've already got in contact with some companies before I'd been in the programs and they essentially just said, 'Contact us when you're done.'"

At the end of the WITT sampling program, Waugh was placed in a female-owned sheet metal shop for a one-week work experience placement.

"I walked into the shop and everybody lifted their helmets and there were three women staring back at me," says Waugh. "That was just quite a profound moment to realize that there's a future for me in this industry, there's safe spaces in the industry, and there's a lot of women out there that are just really killing it in the sheet metal world and trades in general."

Camosun holds various events to create a community and a relaxed environment for women in trades programs at the college. One of these events is a monthly networking breakfast, which Roe says is very well attended.

"What we do is we work together so that we have women of all different levels, of all different trades, to come to the breakfasts," says Roe. "We have employers come in sometimes; we have staff come in. It's primarily for the women, but we don't ever turn anybody away."

Roe highlights the fact that Victoria is a small place where everybody somehow knows everybody, which also makes this kind of networking opportunity highly valuable for the students.

"By coming and meeting these people straight away, you already know 60 other women in the trades," says Roe. "Straight away, you get all these connections."

Being connected and supported by a network of women is an essential part of a woman's experience in becoming a trades worker. It is largely about women inspiring each other—this is why representation matters. May there be more female-owned trades shops with increasing ratios of women working. May there be more women teaching in trades courses. May there be more women trades students.

Women who have stepped into trades have the chance to empower other women in order to get rid of gender stereotypes that long have held off a range of career possibilities from women.

Initiatives such as Camosun's WITT are paramount in opening up safe spaces for women to give trades a try and to potentially thrive in a new career path. Further, its power to impact the labour market goes beyond pragmatic outcomes of filling in job demand—it opens up the dialogue with the companies and other stakeholders in terms of supporting more education initiatives and, importantly, creating more inclusive workplaces, like the ones the Camosun students of today will occupy tomorrow.

music Polaris Music Prize winner Haviyah Mighty finds her voice

“There is a stigma of what rap is, who creates rap, and what those people are like.”

HAVIAH MIGHTY
MUSICIAN

ADAM MARSH
STUDENT EDITOR

Growing up in an area of 1990s Toronto enveloped by racism, hip-hop artist Haviyah Mighty lived a somewhat sheltered upbringing. As a Black woman, she often couldn't walk down the street or play outside as a child at all; looking back, she says music was her solace. Mighty—who is touring in support of 2019's *13th Floor*, and who recently won the Polaris Music Prize for that album—eventually realized that rap would come with its own set of challenges.

“There is a stigma of what rap is, who creates rap, and what those people are like,” says Mighty. “It's got such a bad rap in certain facets; it affects you protecting yourself with insurance and the types of shows that they'll cover. It gets pretty deep, so for me, as somebody who does rap... There are ways I've tried to combat that in so many different parts of my life.”

That Mighty has a voice in rap is indicative of social change, which she's hoping to remain a part of.

“Whatever that shift may look like with the music that I create, with

the representation that I have, just as a woman of colour in the field that I'm in, having a voice, and that void that I know is there that, by existing, I'm filling,” she says.

The reward in speaking about positivity, equality, and creating more space for those things in a world largely populated by people who oppose them is far bigger than any burden.

“The concept of it even being something that we can discuss, I think, is so much growth from what I know in my past,” says Mighty, “and just how dismissive of our own narratives we kind of had to be.”

But now there's laughter and listening in a way that allows people to safely speak to these things in a way that Mighty never felt she could have when she was growing up. That's progress, but Mighty says “an inability to process actualities and realities” prevents people from finding their voice in the realm of social issues.

“I think there are preconceived notions that make it difficult for people to see somebody's experience, or maybe it's just the fact that they can't resonate with it, as



MATT BARNES

Toronto hip-hop artist Haviyah Mighty is touring in support of last year's *13th Floor* album.

they haven't felt it—it's difficult to validate someone else's experience that might seem so far from your own reality,” says Mighty.

There's still a lot of pushback from that lack of familiarity, but empathy can be found in music, and Mighty says she tries to apply it to other areas of her life where she might be ignorant.

“If someone was speaking to their experience, I might say, ‘No, I don't think that that's how it goes,’

yet I maybe don't have the jurisdiction to speak to that, and that's kind of what I think is happening in this [larger] conversation, and so I try to think from those perspectives with my own music,” she says. “I'm hoping to speak to the audience that doesn't get it yet. That's the whole point. And also increase the dialogue with those that do, so that you can help push that conversation along. So for me, it's important to understand the ignorance.”

For Mighty, it all centres around empathy.

“Trying to understand people who don't understand that, or don't resonate with that,” she says, “is of the utmost importance to me.”

Haviyah Mighty
8 pm Sunday, March 1
\$18.50, Capital Ballroom
thecapitalballroom.com

art A Grammar of Loss explores the actualities of decolonization



PHOTO PROVIDED

A sample of Chantal Gibson's art, on display at Open Space until March 28.

SAMARA OSCROFT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Liquid black rubber drips off the pages of *White Man's Africa*, a book written in 1899. This record of white supremacy in Africa is no longer readable, and that's the point. Along with many other altered and redacted works, this piece in Chantal Gibson's upcoming exhibit at Open Space explores what it actually means to decolonize.

Gibson is multimodal, just like her work. She is an award-winning educator, a highly respected artist,

and a genre-bending writer. Her deeply moving book of poetry, *How She Read*, examines the representations of black women in Canadian culture.

A Grammar of Loss takes its name from the first section of *How She Read*. Through the use of cloze activities—the blank spaces in words used to teach children how to read and spell—Gibson points out that when learning to read, we begin with loss. The exhibit expands on another exhibit and residency Gibson presented last year, *How*

She Read: Confronting the Romance of Empire.

“When I left that residency, I left with some questions about... what does it actually mean to decolonize?” says Gibson. “I started thinking about how ideology works.”

Gibson explores the lessons we learn as children, both the curriculum and the cultural lessons that are imparted through that process. Whether intended or not, our classrooms include a lesson about our identities and what our place in the world is.

“If you are a young black girl reading texts that don't contain any representation of you, or the representation of black people is really pejorative or racist, or we see old books that contain very sexist or misogynist imagery, we take that in,” says Gibson. “That's also what we learn.”

Using the liquid rubber, Gibson communicates in her art the stickiness of these insidious ideologies. Some of the texts she uses can never again be opened—on one hand, that can feel uncomfortable, but that's the nature of redaction.

“I imagine maybe this is what it's like when the Black voice gets to speak,” says Gibson. “There's something about redaction that has this privilege, even redacting of who understands—who gets to read what.”

What Gibson is exploring in *A*

“There are some books—there'll be a few books in the show—that I don't think need to be read again. I think we're good.”

CHANTAL GIBSON
ARTIST

Grammar of Loss is understanding what's meant not only in the exclusion but also in the letting go of certain books in the process of decolonizing.

“There are some books—there'll be a few books in the show—that I don't think need to be read again,” says Gibson. “I think we're good.”

Gibson's 2018 installation *Souvenir* is featured in *A Grammar of Loss*. This work was commissioned by the Royal Ontario Museum for *Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art*, the first show of its kind. It's a collection of 2,000 souvenir spoons painted black. The spoons represent the complicated realities of Black people in Canada. Everyone's story is unique, but Black people have been homogenized.

“At the same time, when you see 2,000 Black hanging bodies [they] bring up a long kind of shared history of Blackness,” she says.

“Working with black paint, black ink, and now this liquid rubber, it is a rhetorical device.”

The pieces in these exhibits are meant to be visually appealing, but this art is designed to be evocative and thought-provoking.

“The only reason I'm making art [is] because I'm trying to find a way to communicate something that means a lot to me,” says Gibson. “Even with my book of poetry, every one of those poems is just a sculpture, but there are some things that we just cannot communicate in words.”

A Grammar of Loss: Studies in Erasure
Friday, February 21
to Saturday, March 28
Free or by donation,
Open Space
openspace.ca

music Hotel Mira find inspiration in unconditional love



PHOTO PROVIDED

Vancouver's Hotel Mira released their debut album, *Perfectionism*, on Valentine's Day.

RHEA GEORGE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After releasing two albums under the name JPNRGRLS, the Vancouver indie/alt-rockers changed their name to Hotel Mira and dropped a self-titled EP in 2018. The band released their debut full-length, *Perfectionism*, on Valentine's Day.

Vocalist Charlie Kerr says that the idea of perfectionism lives in him; when it came time to think about the new album, he looked at how perfectionism is “weirdly glorified” in our society. In his personal life, Kerr says, perfectionism is in-

sidious, and it creates an imbalance in his self-image.

“For some reason, my identity is this good person who always gets it right, or the worst person on the planet,” says Kerr. “There's no room for a middle ground, and that's what I'm striving for... or else I'll lose my mind.”

Through his evolution as an artist and in collaboration with his bandmates, Kerr believes that his playing and his technical ability to write beautiful melodies can provide a foundation strong enough to support the dark lyrical complexities of *Perfectionism*.

“Somewhere along the line as a songwriter, I started to identify as wanting to top what I've done before,” says Kerr. “In songwriting and in storytelling, a lot of that is just digging deeper and finding more stories in yourself that ask uncomfortable questions, and hopefully there's something universal about those things.”

Kerr says that sharing such intimate and personal stories still terrifies him. *Perfectionism* dives into Kerr's personal vulnerabilities and his experiences of love and heartbreak.

“I think that I was able to take

“A lot of the reason why I was able to dig deeper on this record for a lot of the material is being inspired by unconditional love.”

CHARLIE KERR
HOTEL MIRA

that risk and be that vulnerable because I was in this loving relationship at the time,” he says. “It feels like you're in one way or another invincible because you know no matter what you're up to in this pretty mercurial realm, when you get home there's somebody who accepts you and loves you no matter what. A lot of the reason why I was able to dig deeper on this record for a lot of the material is being inspired by unconditional love.”

Kerr says that one of his favourite aspects of being a musician is sharing these personal songs with his audiences. The intimate stories told through his music transform and grow in their meaning as the listener applies individual narratives and interpretations. Kerr lives for the moment when his audience and band inspire a connection beyond the intricacies of his personal thoughts.

“I want to leave people feeling a broad connection and a feeling of unity. Our fans come from all walks of life, and we try to welcome that and we're proud of that,” says Kerr. “I think it's gorgeous that we can play a show with everybody in the

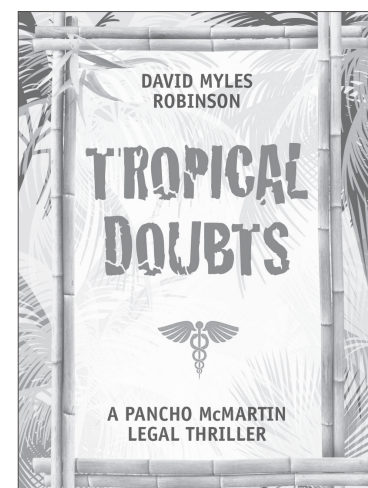
same room and some people are there because they like the aggressive aspect and they're there to have that energy flow through them, and some people are there because they like the poppy elements. Everybody is there for a different subtext of a reason, but then they are all collected together through this concert and feel something.”

Kerr wants to provide a haven for people who feel outcast in one form or another. He says that this world is full of divisiveness, and he wants to provide a time and space to focus on love and resistance, urging his audience to take a step back and really look at the people around them.

“Somewhere along the line I've realized that that's what this music did for me as a kid,” he says. “To pay that forward is such a cool element of the whole thing; it's what makes it worth it.”

Hotel Mira
7 pm Thursday, February 27
\$14.50, Lucky Bar
luckybar.ca

review New novel explores legal system with heart



NICOLAS IHMELS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every writer knows that the key to a good thriller is suspense. It's what holds the reader's attention and is always the first thing that manages to convince someone to actually read the novel in question. David Myles Robinson's expert use of suspense in *Tropical Doubts* depicts to his audience a gripping tale of friendship, suspense, and law and order.

Robinson is a New Mexico-based writer who writes thrillers based on the adventures of protagonist Pancho McMartin. Robinson's third Pancho McMartin novel manages to be a fantastic story without relying on the previous books.

Robinson's writing expertly paints Pancho McMartin as a macho, overconfident, struggling

defence lawyer whose previous three cases have all been misses. He finds a chance of redemption when his friend Giselle is nearly killed in a botched surgery. Her husband, Manny, announces that he is suing the hospital for medical malpractice and pleads with Pancho to take his case. But when one of the star defendants is mysteriously murdered and Manny is framed for the crime, McMartin's simple medical malpractice case is suddenly thrust into a wild and unpredictable murder trial that threatens to push him over his personal and professional limits.

Robinson's book also manages to convey his thoughts about the American legal system. Being a trial lawyer himself, he uses that experience to craft some of the best-written court scenes I have read for quite some time. He does

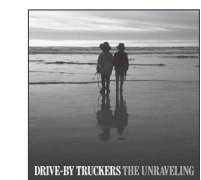
this by really zooming in on how the characters are feeling.

For example, during the course of the book, you can tell that McMartin is always willing to put his friends before his case. If a writer manages to show how much their character cares about someone they have a personal connection with, chances are the reader will fall for them as well.

Well-dramatized suspense, compelling character development, and strategic unpredictability make *Tropical Doubts* a riveting thrill ride that manages to hold its own against its predecessors by staying in the present book rather than focusing on what has come before.

I quite enjoyed this book, and I'm eagerly waiting the next Pancho McMartin novel that Robinson cooks up.

New Music Revue



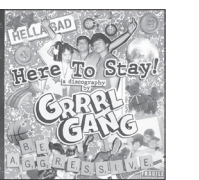
Drive-By Truckers
The Unraveling
(ATO Records)
3.5/5

After a three year wait, Drive-By Truckers are back with their 12th studio LP, *The Unraveling*. The Athens, Georgia-based southern rockers have developed a devoted fanbase, which has translated to minor chart success.

The Unraveling is a collection of stories of our troubled times, covering guns, heroin, and political divide, accompanied by a well-oiled southern rock/alt-country machine. The front end is loaded with energetic rock reminiscent of early Tom Petty on songs like “Armageddon's Back in Town,” “Slow Ride Argument,” and “Thoughts and Prayers,” but the album is loaded with great deep cuts. The last track, “Awaiting Resurrection,” is a great blues number that highlights the studio work that channels Neil Young's late-80s sound.

Drive-By Truckers' latest is really good if you give it time to grow on you. *The Unraveling* won't sell through radio play, but it's a complete album that offers variety, emotion, and great musicianship.

—FRED CAMERON



Grrrl Gang
Here To Stay!
(Damnably)
4/5

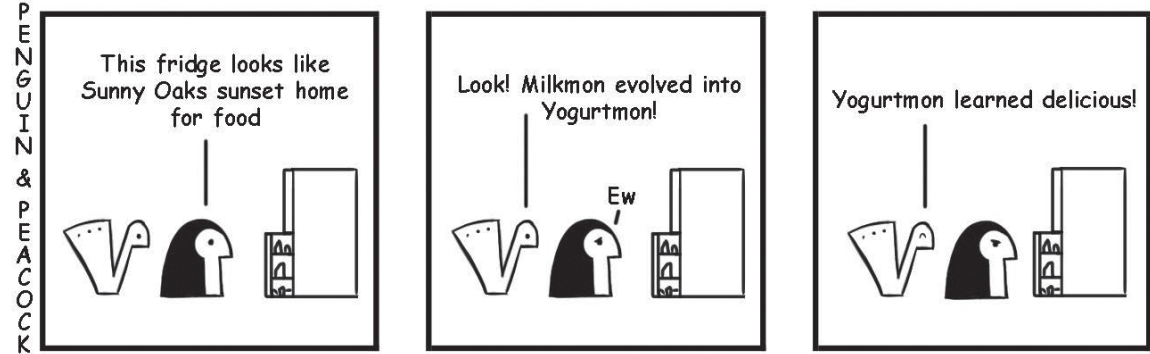
Is there anything more beautifully cliché than a dream girl? *Here To Stay!*, the new discography album from Indonesian indie-pop trio Grrrl Gang, tastes like a nostalgic wish—a childish snapshot of the jubilation of teenage love.

The innocent timbre of Angee Sentana's vocals melds with the quirky tenor of backup singer Akbar Rumandung. Each song ends in abrupt finality that seems to come out of nowhere; I want more.

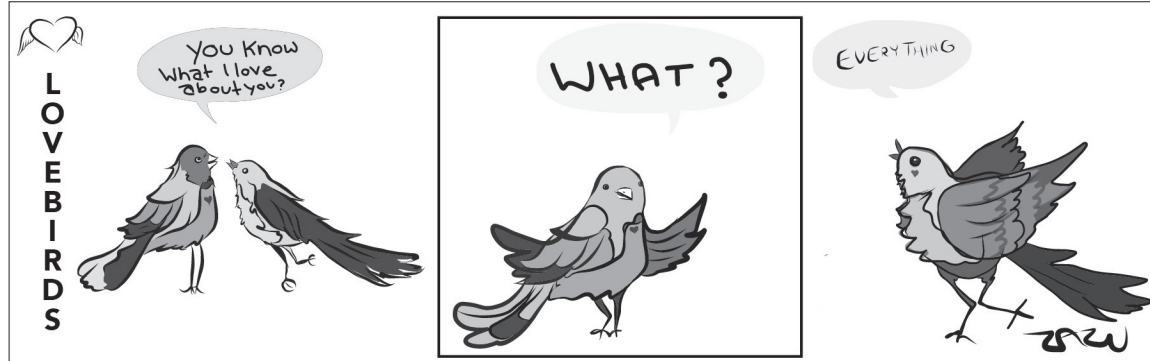
The album is stuffed full of unabashedly chorused-out guitar ladders, complimented by washed-out drums from a basement session. Song titles like “Bathroom” and “Love Song” capture the blasé energy flowing through this washing machine of an instrumental landscape.

This album rides the vibe of a contemporary technicolour danceathon, with the participants wearing poodle skirts and studded collars simultaneously, all looking out of the corner of their eyes for another chance at love.

—RHEA GEORGE



By Jayden Grieve



NEXUS Camosun's student voice since 1989

Week of February 10, 2020, top five most read stories:

- "The Ministry of Grace an explosive yet graceful experience," February 7, 2020
- "Camosun board of governors approves new Student Services fee," February 13, 2020
- "Wilna Thomas Building closed while college decides on plans," February 5, 2020
- "Outside looking in: The ongoing struggle of accessibility at Camosun College," February 5, 2020
- "New Music Revue: The Warhawks fight for cohesion on Starlight Disco," February 5, 2020

Steps is a must-see piece of...
ian thriller of the same...
the audience from the

How a Liberal-NDP minority government will impact students

Patrick Ferreira, contributing writer
October 23, 2019

Plus, head to our site to check out web-exclusive stories!
Check it all out at nexusnewspaper.com, and find us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook today!

CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY CLUB COLUMN
CAMOSUN BUSINESS STUDY GROUP
by Simon Shepherd

The best place to network

No small amount of importance has been placed on networking, especially for students who are uncomfortable in this endeavour. Vancouver Island is small compared to Vancouver, Ottawa, or any major city in the US. Camosun does a great job gathering employers looking to hire freshly minted graduates, but as a student I would argue that these events, while good, aren't the best option available.

Economically, employers who are networking are choice-makers: they get to decide who they hire, if anyone, and on what terms. Students who try to maximize their odds of employment usually do so by applying to as many places that fit their criteria as possible, accepting the best option, if a choice is available. Statistically, however, job hiring does not work like this. Almost 40 percent of hires are made through an employee-referral program.

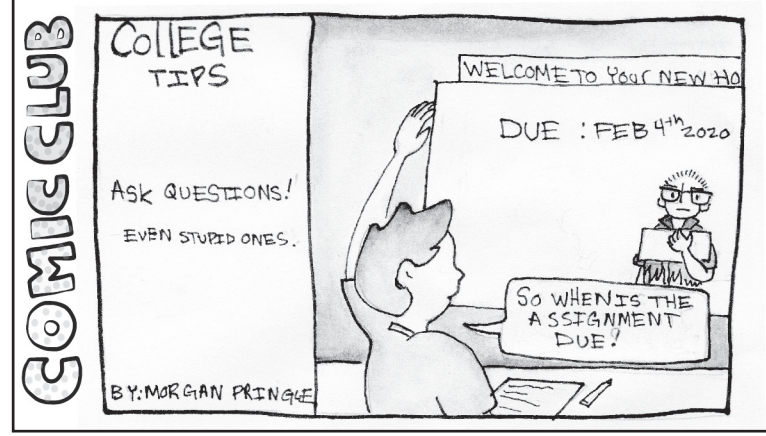
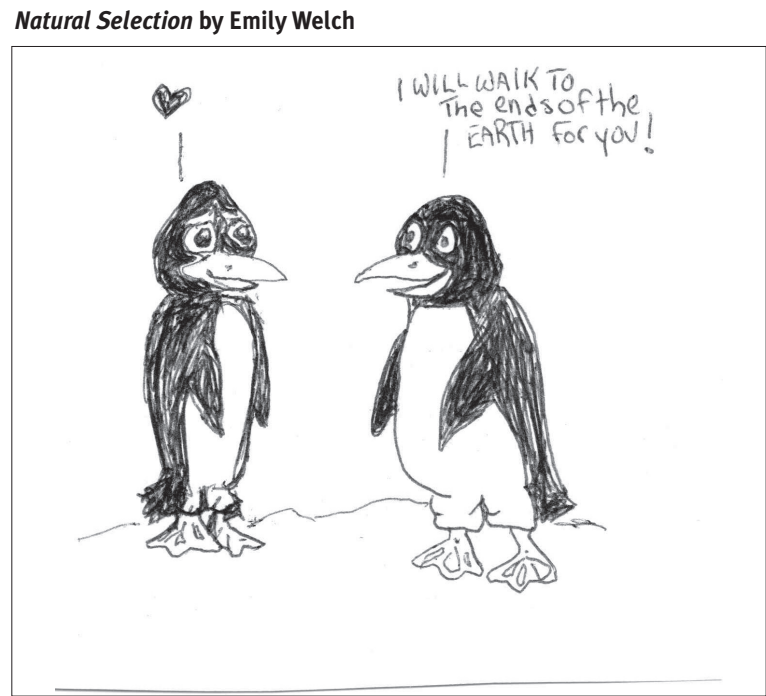
So where is the best place to network? School. Students who work at various co-ops can give you information and resources to ace an interview, and their recommendation is statistically proven to be more valid than what is on your LinkedIn. This leg up will allow you to cinch higher-paying employment, or even connect with businesses that aren't hiring, and it extends throughout your career!

Camosun Business Study Group is focused on students helping students to succeed both in and outside of the classroom. For news and events, follow them at facebook.com/cambussg.

NEXUS

Help us diversify.

We want a wider range of voices in the paper. All Camosun students can write for us. No experience necessary. Bring your view to the paper, to the college, to the students. Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com today.



CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY CLUB COLUMN
MYWELLNESS CAMOSUN
by Jordan Bell

Helping those with mental-health issues

As we roll into February, seasonal depression is in full swing, and so are those year-round disorders that so many of us struggle with. But what if you're on the outside? How can you offer support to someone that doesn't know how to ask for it?

Often, when people you love are dealing with anxiety, depression, psychosis, or other disorders, their first instinct is to push you away. Maybe they think you wouldn't understand, or they don't want to be a burden. Maybe they're frozen, unable to explain exactly what they're going through. Here's how you can help.

- 1. In the heat of the moment**
In the eye of the storm, mid panic attack or depressive episode, it's hard to know what to do. And it depends completely on the person and situation! The most important thing is letting them know you're there, giving them space if they ask for it, and not forcing them to talk before they're ready. It's critical to let them know that all their feelings are okay, real, and valid. Be patient and loving.
- 2. Over time**
Observe your friend or family member, and try to put yourself in their shoes. What do they need most? Offer support and options for counselling or support groups. It's best to get them talking if possible, but you have to remember that you can't make someone get better. It's also okay to take space and time for your own mental health. It's okay to support, but don't take on other people's burdens as your own.
- 3. From a distance**
If this person is someone you don't see every day, it's important to remember that lots of people struggling with mental health issues won't initiate contact. If you haven't heard from them in a few days, send a text! Let them know they're loved; ask to do something. Anxiety and depression will often trick the mind into thinking of itself as a burden, and these people sometimes need a little nudge to socialize. Let them know you care!
If you're ever concerned that the person may harm themselves, don't hesitate to reach out to a crisis hotline—mywellness.com/camosun is also a great place to reach a 24/7 text hotline as well as online video counselling, which can be a great support for those struggling.
Don't wait until it's too late!

Freedom from Addiction
by Katie Mandey

Choose the red pill

Things are as they are. We can see them or not see them, but still, things are as they are. And here's what's really important: we all affect one another. We all share this planet, and everything on it (albeit not always very well).

And here's what's really important: we all affect one another. We all share this planet, and everything on it (albeit not always very well).

When I think of waking up to reality, I often think of the popular 1999 movie *The Matrix*. The main character, Neo, must choose either the red pill, which would allow him to know things as they really are, or the blue pill, which would enable him to continue his life as usual.

Neo doesn't know what he is choosing in taking the red pill, but he senses that there is something important he needs to become aware of. He can feel that something in his current reality is not right.

Part of the reason this film was so impactful lies in the symbolism of the two pills and the choice to face an uncertain reality or to go on in denial. I think facing addiction is like this. It may slowly creep into a person's awareness, or it may come in one swift, ground-rattling moment—a kind of red-pill moment. Either way, there is a deep sense of "oh no" when the reality of how we're living becomes apparent and clear.

Facing reality—if you've been running from it—is not easy or pleasant. It can be downright disorienting, and these effects can last a while.

But here's the thing—and this is important. Ultimately, I do not believe there is any alternative. Things are as they are. We can see them or not see them, but still, things are as they are.

ten- and three-letter words word search

For this word search, we came up with 15 10-letter words and five three-letter words for you to find. Why those numbers? That's a whole other puzzle to solve (spoiler: no reason).

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 (one prize per student per issue). Good luck!

ACCESSIBLE AND AUTONOMOUS BUT COMMITMENT COMPLEMENT CONTINUOUS EFFICIENCY ENTHUSIASM INITIATIVE JOURNALIST LIE PRINCIPLES PROGRAMMED PROPAGANDA REGARDLESS SUCCESSFUL SUFFICIENT TEA THE

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NEXUS

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Politics and Other Nonsense
by Carla Marginean

Bike-lane concerns

Bike lanes are a necessity for many students, especially those who can't afford a car. Many other community members also need bike lanes to travel, as riding bikes to work or elsewhere saves a considerable amount of money on bus tickets, gas, and insurance.

In addition to saving people money, bike lanes encourage greener forms of transportation. They encourage people to be active in the midst of an obesity crisis. They also help the local economy by allowing people easier access to local shops and provide safety to pedestrians by adding an extra barrier between them and cars.

Despite all of these good attributes, there are still some major and very valid concerns about the bike lanes in Victoria.

One of these is that some portions of the bike lanes are too narrow for people with disabilities to safely ride their three-wheeled and four-wheeled vehicles. In fact, many sections of the bike-lane system only meet the bare-minimum standards imposed by the Transportation Association of Canada.

To make matters worse, these bottleneck areas are located in areas with high congestion, such as downtown Victoria, where a lot of people travel to for work or other reasons. This makes it very difficult—if not impossible—for disabled commuters to bike to and from downtown.

Perhaps the greatest concern about bike lanes relates to road safety—specifically, to the lack of regulation and training of cyclists on proper road etiquette. This lack of clarity and training can be very dangerous when dealing with vehicles. There should be stricter enforcement of the laws that do exist, and there should be more laws put into place outlining exactly what cyclists are and aren't allowed to do on the road.

The ICBC website has general guidelines about cycling safety, and the BC government website does have some laws in regard to cyclists on the road. Clearly, however, not enough people are checking these laws before they start riding.

Victoria recently released a plan to expand the bike lanes in 2020. This would definitely benefit the community at large; however, the City of Victoria should definitely try to fix the problems with them first. This way, when the new bike lanes are created, Victoria will have stayed true to its promise to have bike lanes that are accessible to all.

contest
Find the hidden Nexus and win



Let's see if you can find this copy of a previous issue of Nexus that we hid somewhere at Camosun College's Lansdowne campus.

The first person to find this copy and bring it in to our office (201 Richmond House) wins a free prize!

We hid the last copy on a lower window ledge on the top floor of Fisher, overlooking Richmond House.

Bring this copy of Nexus with you if you find it; we've got gift cards, shirts, and more for the winner!

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*Ask us about our FREE student membership program sponsored by the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS)

what's going on

by emily welch



SARAH CASS

22, and 28 at 8 pm, with a matinee on March 1 at 2:30 pm. Tickets start at \$29; student rush tickets are \$15 at the door. The show takes place at the Royal Theatre; see pacificopera.ca for more information.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

That sort of bear

If you, your family, or your children have a fondness for A.A. Milne's beloved stories about Winnie the Pooh, Christopher Robin, and the other residents of the Hundred Acre Wood, Kaleidoscope Theatre's stage adaptation of the *House on Pooh Corner* series is for you. The production is full of comic moments and silly verses, as well as touching insights on the human condition. Tickets start at \$14 and the fun goes down at the McPherson Playhouse; see rmts.bc.ca for more details.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22,
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23,
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29,
AND SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

Guinness and games

From 6 am to 9 pm, the Irish Times pub is celebrating at its best and booziest by tuning into the Six Nations rugby game and day drinking with the best of them. Come on down, put on your best brawler's face, and make the party gods proud. The doors open at 6 am (I love writing that) at 1200 Government Street; see irishtimespub.ca for more information.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Bump and grind with a hair scrunchie

I faithfully say this every time I write about them; if you haven't seen a burlesque show before, then your life is a dark, sad pit of despair. However, you can remedy all that if you head on over to the Victoria Event Centre for the Righteous Retro Revue's 1980s Burlesque Show, where you can mix your garter belts with a whole whack of hairspray and your prettiest fanny pack. The fun begins at 7 pm, and the music will definitely rock and glitter. Tickets are \$20 in advance, and the event runs from 7 pm to 10 pm. See victoriaevent-centre.ca for more details.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

The open groove

Once in a while you come across that extra-special band that gives you those extra-special feelings, especially when they can cover every single genre. The Groove Diggers lay down rock, pop, indie, R&B, and funk, and they're back at Bartholomew's Pub for a night of... well, I really don't know, considering they have all that going on. See bartholomewspub.com for information.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Scout about town

If you're a fan of rock, pop, indie, and something that delves much deeper, you don't want to miss this. Black Belt Eagle Scout is coming to Lucky Bar to belt out her rocking tunes;

she's queer and Indigenous, with a long musical history. She's multi-talented and a multi-instrumentalist with a soulful voice and a guitar strum that transports us to a time we have not yet experienced. Tickets are \$23.90 and doors are at 7 pm; see luckybar.ca for more information.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

All strung out

Spark to Flame features student musicians and vocalists from the Victoria Conservatory of Music and The Ann and George Nation Conservatory School of Classical Music performing alongside professional musicians and the Senior String Orchestra at the Alix Goolden Performance Hall, along with the maestro of maestros, Timothy Vernon, who will be waving his baton in ways that make you feel all strung out with culture and craze. Doors open at 7 pm; tickets are \$15. See vcm.bc.ca for more details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

The highest and the mightiest experience

If you're feeling that your soul is lacking, a night with Haviah Mighty might change that. Mighty recently picked up the Polaris Music Prize and has made a big statement as the first female Black artist to receive it. Mighty is a bit of a prodigy, as she started singing at 4, rapping at 11, and producing at 15. She'll be gracing us with her mighty self at the Capital Ballroom. Doors are at 8 pm; tickets are \$18.50 in advance. See capitalballroom.ca for more details.

Black Belt Eagle Scout is playing Lucky Bar on Saturday, February 29.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Laugh like no one is watching

There's a new stand-up comedy night at The Mint, making Thursday the new most popular hangover day. This could just be so funny that you need that extra pair of pants. Tickets are \$20 at the door or \$10 in advance; see themintvictoria.com for more details.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

A flight to remember

Live theatre is always a creative and fun alternative to the humdrum of regular student life, especially when the theatre involves real stories more interesting than fictional ones. Try taking a trip with *Flight*, Pacific Opera Victoria's true story of a refugee who lived in an airport for 18 years. *Flight* plays on February 20,

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
TO SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

Blood for Life

Saves lives this year!

First-time blood donor? Invite a friend to donate with you and save lives together.

Donate blood

Canadian Blood Services
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Crystal,
blood, platelet and
cord blood recipient



Canadian Blood Services

BLOOD
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ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

The Camosun College Student Society spreading the love in February.

we have a new website!
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