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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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student politics

Camosun College Student Society elections on the horizon

"It makes me feel like I'm part of a really big community and that, to some extent, I do matter."

FILLETTE UMULISA
CAMOSUN COLLEGE
STUDENT SOCIETY



ELI DE LA CRUZ/NEXUS

Camosun College Student Society external executive Fillette Umulisa says she feels like the student society is doing great work on campus.

PATRICK FERREIRA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) is having its fall student elections from Monday, October 28 until Wednesday, October 30. There will be elections for positions on the CCSS board of directors and for student positions on the Camosun College education council.

The CCSS board manages a variety of auxiliary functions for students. These include the Universal Bus Pass (UPass), health and dental benefits, and the Camosun Bookstore Textbookswap program. The CCSS runs advocacy campaigns on behalf of student interests, such as the Get out the Vote campaign encouraging voter participation in the recent federal election. The CCSS also helps organize student clubs and runs events on both campuses.

CCSS external executive Fillette Umulisa says that she feels like the CCSS does great work.

"It gives a person a purpose to know that there's a thousand-plus students out there that are kind of counting on you to represent them," she says.

Umulisa says that being on the CCSS board goes beyond that.

"It makes me feel like I'm part of a really big community and that, to some extent, I do matter," she says.

CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte says that student involvement in the CCSS matters.

"I think of some of the initiatives that would never have happened without student governments," he says. "International students wouldn't be able to work off campus without going through huge headaches like applying for visas; students would still be paying for AUG [Adult Upgrading Grant] and ELD [English Language Development] courses; there'd still be interest on student loans—there's numerous things that students have successfully pushed for over the years that everyone takes for granted."

Second-year University Transfer student Max Glassel says that the upcoming CCSS election is an important exercise in local democracy that provides students with more power.

"I do think it's important because it's democracy at the most local possible level," says Glassel. "For many students with political aspirations it's an amazing place to start, and their first experience running for office."

First-year Interactive Media Developer student Lucius Hall says that he wasn't aware of the election.

"I never knew there was an election," he says, "but I hope to learn more about it now that I do."

First-year Mental Health and

Addictions student Julia Hinse says that she doesn't intend to vote.

"No, I don't plan on it," she says, "because I have no idea what it is."

Turcotte says that people don't get anything by not voting.

"I mean, the opposite is what is

true—if you don't participate, you have no excuse to complain about what happens," he says.

See camosunstudent.org for more information about the election and the services the student society offers.

eyed on campus



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Students wrote down how they de-stress on sticky notes and stuck them to a board in Fisher recently.

NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I've spit-roasted a pig or two in my day."

SPEAK UP

How are you hoping the federal election will impact post-secondary students?



CARSON FOXALL

"I'm hoping getting into schools and classes [will be cheaper]."



RYAN MCDUGALL

"For me, student debt is a huge issue. Student debt and affordability of, just... life. I've got debt from previous education and it's definitely affecting my quality of life."



RACHAEL MORDAUNT

"I honestly don't follow politics too much. I'm only 17 so I couldn't even vote this year at all."



NADINE ALDHOUSE

"Honestly, I don't really follow it, but I should because I'm voting and I'm supposed to get myself to look at it before I vote, because I won't know. I just haven't had time to do that yet, so I really don't know what's going on, honestly."



LAUCLAN STEWART

"I'm hoping at least tuition costs for international students will go down a bit; I find that domestically—especially with student loans—I have enough to survive, but seeing the cost for international students is astounding."



MEDINA DURZIE

"I'm hoping it will help with student loans and the impact that it has on students, which is quite intense for a lot of students."

BY ADAM MARSH

student editor's letter Halloween hang-ups

The smell of burning dust, cinnamon coffee, and productivity is filling Nexus HQ. The burning dust is an all too familiar smell, and one that reminds me of the somewhat inaccurate and subjective nature of time passing; that smell only happens the first couple of times the heater is turned on in the fall. It's like a wish granted by the ghosts of Richmond House: sizzle away all the unwanted excess baggage that built up over the last year.

Ah, if only it were that easy. Instead, October arrives with sniffy noses, early-semester breakdowns, flu bugs, and... pumpkins. Halloween arose traditionally from a mix of pagan, Celtic, and Christian influences (that's an unlikely combination if I've ever seen one). It's supposed to be a three-day celebration of the dead and the lives they lived that starts on October 31 and ends with All Saints' Day, a celebration of martyrs and saints.

In the small window of time where you're actually alive, ask yourself what it means to celebrate death.

I love what Halloween's supposed to be; I'm not a huge fan of what it's become, because it's a modern-day combination of spiritual indecisions and commercialism. My favourite part about Halloween? Writing this.

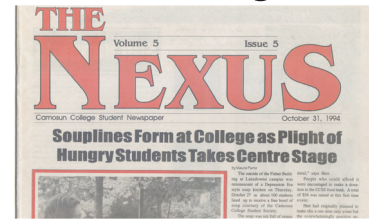
As with Christmas, society has warped the celebrations into something it's not really supposed to be about. Still, I must admit that seeing the little ones run around in their costumes with their pillowcases or plastic pumpkins full of candy is absolutely adorable. It makes a person feel like there's a purpose to aging, to time passing.

It feels like just yesterday that I was driving into the Shelbourne time warp at two in the morning for our Halloween 2017 issue. (See nexusnewspaper.com for that story.) This year, we're getting some hands-on experience with the top haunted spots in Victoria; check it out on page 6.

We give you lots of serious stories throughout the year, but we always like to have fun whenever we can. The Halloween issue is our favourite time to let loose and get ghoulish. Enjoy.

Adam Marsh, student editor
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback 25 Years Ago in Nexus



GREG PRATT
MANAGING EDITOR

CCSS under fire for women-only voting: The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) was laying down some radical gender-based initiatives back in the mid-'90s, as the story "Women-only vote raises questions of sexism" from our October 31, 1994 issue proves. The CCSS had recently held its elections, and its then-policy of only allowing women to vote for the women's executive position had students talking. "If men are allowed to vote, they would then be allowed to run for the position," one woman, whom we did not identify, said. Others didn't like the policy, even those involved with the election: "It's sexist," said student

Shannon Pressacco, who was working a CCSS election polling booth. **Your voice counted then, your voice counts now:** The issue also featured the alarmingly named story "Student elections—ho hum!" which highlighted the frustration felt by Camosun College Student Society staff and volunteers during elections. It's never easy trying to get students to care about student politics, but it would appear students are more eager to vote these days. Final numbers weren't available for the 1994 story, but CCSS office resource coordinator Michael Subasic said, "Interurban has been better than in the past, with about 25 [students] on the first day and about 30 on the second day." In the May 2019 elections, a total of 788 students from both campuses voted. **That's ballsy:** According to a story in this issue, Camosun used to have a Camosun Ball Hockey League, and in that league was a team called The Screaming 'C' Men. That is all.

open space Lansdowne isn't safe for everyone

GWENDOLEN O'CONNOR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have you ever fallen or hurt yourself on the uneven sidewalks of Lansdowne campus? I'm sure that a number of disabled students, staff, and guests on our campus have.

Imagine if you were blind or had another impairment, like myself. Yes, hi, it's me: I'm the stroke girl! You may have seen me struggling with my stiff right leg and curled right arm at Lansdowne. This condition is the result of a stroke that I had when I was 16 caused by an arteriovenous malformation (AVM). I won't bore you with my recovery story but I will tell you that this article is about. This article is all about safety on our Lansdowne campus.

Last year, I fell on campus and landed hard as I tried to navigate the uneven sidewalks caused by the roots of overgrown trees. The accident was between the Paul Building and the Isabel Dawson Building. I was in shock and badly bruised; some students kindly helped me. I told my friends and family about my experience, and some said that I should complain to somebody. I felt embarrassed and ashamed. I thought I should choose another route and park my car in a different location to avoid another fall. The same sidewalk had almost caused me to fall on several other occasions.

For me, it was and still is a serious hazard. I cannot risk breaking my left arm or leg; the consequences that would not be good. I now walk with my head down looking for unexpected obstacles. Last year I also saw a middle-aged, able-bodied woman take a very bad fall in the same location. She had blood on her face and was crying. I realized then that this sidewalk posed a hazard to everyone.

It's time for the college to get serious and think about the issues that hinder the quality of life at this campus.

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!

letters Camosun needs to be more social

I think Camosun could have more student social events. I don't think orientation should be the only student social offered; some people, like myself, couldn't make it to any fall orientations for personal reasons. I'm having difficulty making friends here because I missed orientation and I don't know anybody.

MICHAEL SIMPSON
CAMOSUN STUDENT

student issues

Camosun College Student Society raises concerns over proposed Camosun board of governors student suspension appeal process changes



FILE PHOTO

The Camosun College Student Society has filed a letter outlining its concerns to the Camosun board of governors.

LANE CHEVRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) has raised concerns over a proposed revision to the Camosun College Board Executive Committee Terms of Reference that concerns how student suspension appeals are heard and processed.

The college executive committee is made up of appointed members from Camosun's board of governors. The board of governors consists of members appointed by the government, faculty-elected faculty representation, support-staff-elected student-staff representation, and two student-elected students.

When a student is suspended from Camosun, they may file an appeal. Historically, this appeal is

heard by the college board, including the student representatives, and the executive committee's role is to provide recommendations. Under the revised policy, appeals would be heard exclusively by the executive committee, which is not required to have student representatives on it.

The CCSS has sent a letter outlining their concerns to the Camosun board.

"We are concerned about the proposed policy change, because we think it would lead to a reduction in fairness for our members who may find themselves suspended by the president," says CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte. "Empowering the executive committee to hear appeals is disadvantageous to students because it does not allow

for any of the internal representation that is mandated by the College and Institute Act."

Turcotte says that he doesn't believe this change was proposed with the intent to exclude students.

"We don't believe that was necessarily the intended consequence of the proposed policy change," he says. "We believe [they] were trying to clean up the wording of the executive committee bylaw, initially, because it is a bit convoluted in some respects."

Camosun board of governors chair Laylee Rohani was unavailable for comment. A college representative confirmed to Nexus that the board members will be receiving the CCSS' letter prior to their November 4 meeting and won't be making any

"We are concerned about the proposed policy change, because we think it would lead to a reduction in fairness for our members who may find themselves suspended by the president."

MICHEL TURCOTTE
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

decisions before their December 2 meeting.

The CCSS student board approved paying for legal advice regarding college concerns that student involvement in appeals may result in a conflict of interest. The lawyers the CCSS went to, Arvay Finlay LLP, said they feel there would be no conflict in allowing students to be involved in the process. They also found that other institutions allow students to be involved.

"We have close to 10,000 members, in terms of the student society," says Turcotte. "Maybe [there would be a conflict] if you were the person's brother or sister, or some other reason, but you're not in any conflict of interest purely by being a student."

Turcotte also says that there shouldn't be concerns about students feeling uncomfortable if placed in a position to sustain or repeal the suspension of a peer.

"Students who run for election on the board of governors, I don't think are the type to feel uncomfortable with having to make decisions that come with being in those government bodies," he says. "If you

look at most post-secondary institutions, appeal processes of various kinds have students involved, and in my experience, I actually find that students are harder on their peers than non-students, in the processes I've witnessed, because they actually have a better contextual understanding, and so sometimes that does not work in the benefit of the appellant."

Turcotte says that while it may seem unusual for the student society to invest time and money into this issue when suspension appeals are so rare, it's crucial to uphold the principles of student rights that the CCSS fights for.

"I think it's important for the reading public to know that the student society—and all student societies, generally—this is one of the reasons [they] exist, to help ensure that students are treated fairly in all aspects of their college relationship," he says. "And so, for us, even though suspension appeals are very rare at Camosun, this issue is one of those bread-and-butter issues, because we can't just stand by and watch representation models change in a manner that disadvantages our members."

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun announces sonography program

On Thursday, October 17, Camosun College announced that it is launching Vancouver Island's first Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. Applications for the two-year program, which begins in May 2020, are now open. The first intake will be 16 students; 2021's intake will be 32 students. The provincial government put \$1.4 million into the development, launch, and delivery of the program, and \$4 million in capital funding for equipment and classroom and lab space for the program at the new Alex & Jo Campbell Centre for Health and Wellness at the Interurban campus. See camosun.ca/learn/programs/diagnostic-medical-sonography for more information on the new program, including information on how to apply.

Chargers golf team wins provincial gold

The Camosun Chargers men's golf team recently won the Pacific Western Athletic Association (PAC-WEST) provincial championships gold medal for the second year in a row. The team finished with a three-day total of 930 strokes at the championships, which ran from September 27 to 29 in Vancouver. The Chargers then competed at the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association national championships in Quebec from October 14 to 18, where they placed eighth.

Ontario student group takes government to court

On Friday, October 11, the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario and the York Federation of

Students took the Ontario government to court over the Student Choice Initiative, which allows students to choose which non-tuition fees to pay. This could include fees such as those for student societies, campus media, LGBTQ+ support centres, and other student services. More on this story in future issues as it develops.

Saanich council declares climate emergency

According to an October 9 press release, Saanich council has declared a climate emergency. The council has committed to various climate-related actions, including measures to support a transition to zero-emission vehicles, low carbon heating, and doubling the amount of trees planted by 2025. For more information on Saanich's

climate-related actions and goals, go to saanich.ca/climateplan.

Nomination for Victoria Youth Poet Laureate open

The City of Victoria is seeking its next Youth Poet Laureate. The winner will get \$1,750 plus \$2,000 in project funding. The Youth Poet Laureate is a one-year term from January 1 to December 31, 2020. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, October 29 at 4 pm; for submission guidelines and more information, see victoria.ca/poetlaureate.

-ADAM MARSH

NEXUS

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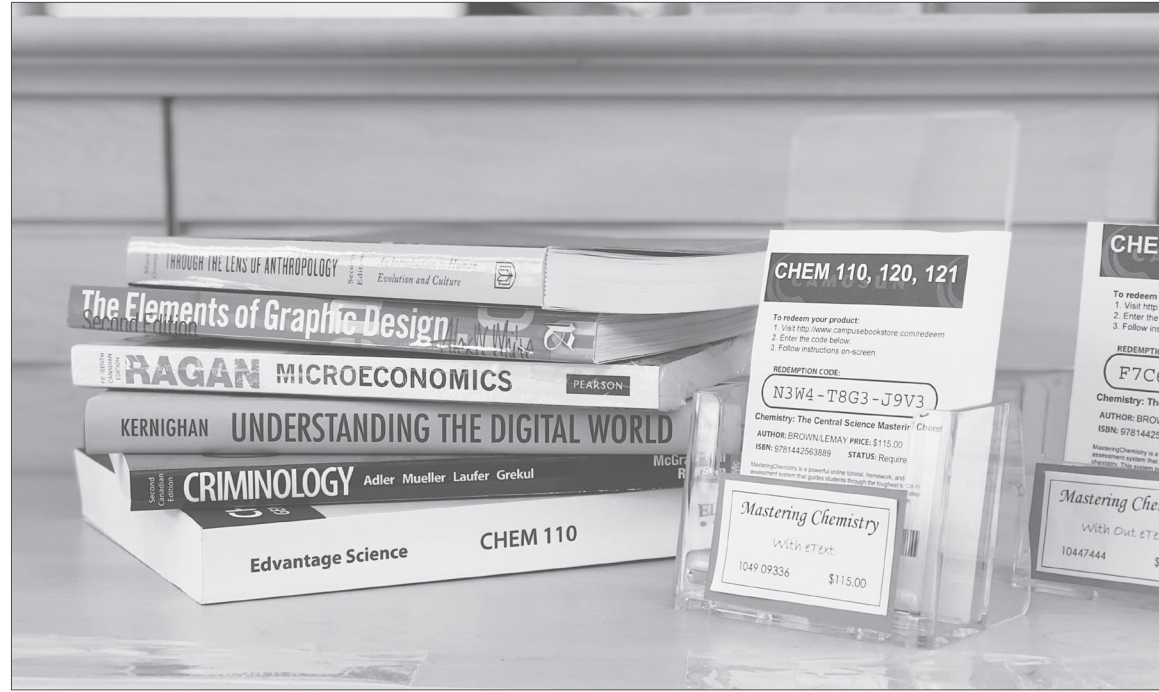
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textbooks

Camosun to establish open education initiative with grant money



ELI DE LA CRUZ/NEXUS

Students have to pay for fewer expensive textbooks with open textbook initiatives.

EMILY WELCH
STAFF WRITER

Camosun College recently received \$32,250 from BCCampus in order to establish the Open Education Demonstration Initiative.

The college received the money in the form of an Institutional Sustainability Grant from BCCampus—a publicly funded organization that aims to make post-secondary education accessible to everyone—and will use it to redevelop 10 courses with open textbooks through a committee of up to 10 faculty members, librarians, curriculum developers, and other specialists.

Camosun College director of learning services Sybil Harrison is very enthusiastic about the grant.

“I think we’ve got the funding for 18 months, so it will take us a little while to get all the work done,” says Harrison. “It’s not just about developing specific resources, but how we as an institution can increase the use and adoption of open educational resources.”

Harrison believes that the development of open learning will be just as helpful for faculty as it will be for students.

“It’s more comprehensive than just thinking about how to support faculty with developing their favour-

ite textbook or course pack,” says Harrison. “Some of them might be developing new material; some of them might need support in adopting materials that have already been developed.”

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Fillette Umulisa says that the CCSS is pleased about Camosun moving forward on open educational resources.

“We all know that the cost of textbooks is a huge financial barrier to many of the students,” says Umulisa. “I think it’s going to save students a lot of money, and it’s going to make it easy for students

“I think it’s going to save students a lot of money, and it’s going to make it easy for students to access textbooks without having to line up at the bookstore.”

FILLETTE U MULISA
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

to access textbooks without having to line up at the bookstore. It’s also going to make it more flexible for faculty to customize their learning outcome.”

Harrison is pleased with how open-textbook learning will support students with educational challenges.

“We can thread some of the important educational initiatives into the work that we’re doing,” says Harrison. “Accessibility is really important to us. So, some students might have visual difficulties, some students might have a learning disability, so... we can use open educational resources to really make the content accessible to everybody, regardless of where you’re coming from or what your abilities may be.”

Harrison says that she wants to make sure that the college’s core values are always taken into account.

“Making sure that the materials reflect our institutional values around Indigenization, around

inclusion... That’s the really amazing thing around open educational resources—you can adopt materials that someone else has created and then put your own spin on it,” she says. “Make it applicable for this context, this place, this time.”

Umulisa says that the availability of open textbooks will create new options for students.

“I feel like a lot more students will have access to educational material, much more than they currently do, because sometimes the bookstore runs out of textbooks, or sometimes we just can’t purchase because they’re really expensive,” she says.

Umulisa believes that this is all a step in the right direction for the college.

“The Camosun College Student Society is really pleased with this initiative,” she says. “We’re going to continue to work with the college, to see that the \$32,500 does make a positive change for the college—and for our students.”

know your profs

Camosun Mental Health and Addictions instructor Kristen Ross on a sense of purpose

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 you’re too shy, to ask? Email editor@nexus-newspaper.com and we’ll add your instructor to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue we talked to Mental Health and Addictions instructor Kristin Ross about faulty technology, Japanese food, and the impact that a struggling student who makes it can have.

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

I’ve enjoyed being at Camosun for over 15 years, since moving from Lethbridge College, where I taught in the Child and Youth Care diploma. I currently teach in the Mental Health and Addictions programs (certificate and post-graduate diploma). I am looking forward to being a part of the new Mental Health and Criminal Justice advanced certificate starting in September 2020.

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

There are so many rewards in teaching, yet one that stands out is being involved in programs that help students develop skills and knowledge to support others. It’s inspiring to hear from graduates who are in a variety of roles and are making a difference for individuals and are building communities. It really connects to my sense of purpose.

3. *What is one thing you wish your students knew about you?*

I don’t share about my dedication to teaching and that I spend quite a bit of time planning the classroom experience. Everything is intentional and tied to learning outcomes, but it’s not always apparent, and students may be left wondering, “Why am I learning this?” That connects to another reward of teaching—hearing a graduate share, “Now I get why we learned that!”

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

When students return to the program after taking time to be in a healthier place, I recall one student in particular who was facing multiple challenges in his life, yet he persevered and excelled in the courses when he returned. He is doing amazing things in the community now.

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

There really hasn’t been anything significant, although something did happen recently. Everyone knows I like to be organized, and part of that includes setting calendar alerts for myself. I was in my new office area when I happened to look up at the clock and saw I was late for class! I had failed to hear the 15-minute reminder because the computer setup did not include speakers. Needless to say, I now have a new system in place.

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

I believe we will see more opportunities to help students engage in project-based learning to meet multiple learning outcomes and better reflect the work they will do in their careers. This will involve



EMILY WELCH/NEXUS

Camosun College Mental Health and Addictions instructor Kristen Ross.

team-building and critical-thinking skills, much needed in all areas of Health and Human Services.

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

I really enjoy time with my nieces and nephews, reading and nature walks with the younger ones, or watching the older ones play league volleyball and soccer.

9. *What’s your favourite meal?*

Definitely anything Japanese.

I’ve been to Japan a few times and appreciate how they highlight different local foods in each region, plus the way the seasons are celebrated through food. For the most part, it’s very healthy.

10. *What is your biggest pet peeve?*

I’ve shared this one with students: When someone can’t make it to a class and asks, “Will/did I miss anything important?” I like to think everything is important.

sports

Camosun Chargers women’s basketball team excited about season



EMILY WELCH/NEXUS

The Camosun Chargers women’s basketball team practicing for their upcoming season.

EMILY WELCH
STAFF WRITER

The Camosun College women’s basketball team is preparing for its upcoming season, which starts on November 1. Chargers women’s basketball guard Tessa Lannon-Paakspuu, who is a fourth-year Sport and Fitness Leadership student, is in her fifth and final year with the team. She says that she’s really excited about this season.

“We have a new coach, and a lot of new, young girls,” says Lannon-Paakspuu. “We have potential to go to nationals this year. This season we have a lot of opportunity for success, and [coach Justin Thiessen] is helping us set that up really well.”

Thiessen started with the Chargers in July; he arrived in Victoria from China, where he had been running a successful basketball academy for several years. Thiessen has been coaching basketball for almost two decades and has high hopes for his new coaching job and for the season.

“I think with any season, you hope to win a championship,” says Thiessen. “But these guys are fantastic. They really help each other and encourage each other; usually that communication is a goal in itself.”

The Chargers teams have competed in more than 100 provincial and national championships and have had over 50 medal-winning

finishes in their combined histories, and that puts a certain pressure on the women basketball players to keep that record climbing.

“Right now, we’re really just using our skills together,” says Lannon-Paakspuu. “We’re not a very large team. Not whatsoever. But we use our abilities to run the ball really quick, and then key in our specific skills and abilities, allowing each girl to play how she can. We are just playing basketball, which is great.”

Lannon-Paakspuu thinks that what makes this year special is the comfortable environment amongst the players.

“The atmosphere of this team is just great,” she says. “Every single

girl gets along with each other; we have no conflicting personalities or difficult people on the team. We all just flow so well together.”

Thiessen says that good communication between the coach and the players on the team is evident this year.

“If we talk to each other, if we check in, if we commit to communicate, then there is nothing they won’t be able to do,” he says.

Lannon-Paakspuu says that the players practice five days a week.

“We have our team lift every Monday, and we also lift on our own time,” she says. “Plus, we try to go to the gym whenever we have a moment.”

The whole team is looking forward

to its first regular season games; however, as this is her final season, Lannon-Paakspuu is also looking forward to a life without playing basketball—at least for a while.

“I jumped into basketball and college right after high school,” she says. “I’ve had five very, very full years. I think I need to do a basic 9-to-5, and just enjoy my life for a while.”

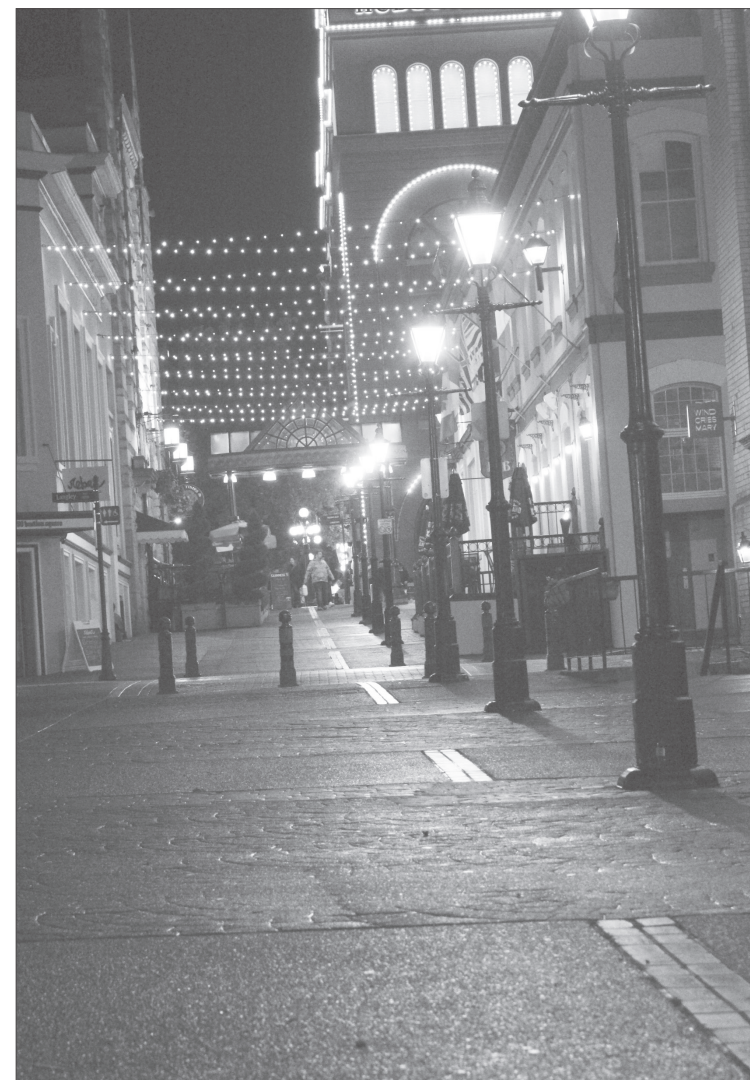
Lannon-Paakspuu says that if she were to offer advice to a woman basketball player just starting out—say, a Camosun student considering joining the Chargers basketball team—it would be to just enjoy themselves.

“The years go by really fast, then once it’s done, it’s done,” she says. “You might as well have fun with it.”

review

Ghostly Walks looking at spooky Victoria locales a Halloween hit

BAILEY LEGARE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



BAILEY LEGARE/NEXUS

What scary Victorian tales await the Ghostly Walks participant?

With the start of the Halloween season comes a chill in the air. The smell of fallen leaves floats on crisp, chilling winds. Also, warm drinks are back in full swing. But, yes: it’s the time of year when people start to think of ghouls and ghosts.

I recently went on one of Victoria’s Ghostly Walks. For people who like ghost stories, the Ghostly Walks are an amazing experience. Two of the best things to have with you on the walk are a sense of intrigue and an open mind. As the tour started, my friend and I joined the crowd gathering in the main lower courtyard of Market Square. The guides knew how to get the groups gathered and separated so they weren’t on top of each other during the tour.

The guide I had for the tour had a really good story voice and knew their material. It can be hard at times to make sure that the history that goes along with the paranormal aspect of the story is just as interesting. We started off with a story that took place right in Market Square that, like most good ghost stories, involves a murder. The guide was lively in telling the stories and their enthusiasm was infectious.

We started off with a story that took place right in Market Square that, like most good ghost stories, involves a murder.

We then left Market Square and went out onto the streets of downtown. The next ghostly location we walked toward was Swans. After that story—sorry, not going to spoil it for you—we headed down Store Street. We stopped for the next location on the edge of Chinatown. The next two stories concerned the two main bridges going into downtown. The night air was a bit more humid once we got closer to the bridges.

Our route took us to the Point Ellice Bridge (or, as most people in Victoria call it, the Bay Street Bridge). One of the stories gave me insight on why my aunt hated to be stuck on that bridge in the middle of rush hour. To be honest, the stories about the deaths surrounding the old Johnson Street Bridge always did interest me a little more, maybe because that bridge was actually

pretty new as far as Victoria history goes.

There were a few more stops on the way before we ended the 90-minute tour downtown in Bastion Square.

With the dark and chilled air that night, the Ghostly Walk was a spellbinding experience. I can definitely say that every penny spent on the Ghostly Walk was well spent (it doesn’t hurt that Camosun College students get a student discount). Anyone who appreciates learning about some local history, even if they’re not a fan of ghost stories, can have a fantastic evening out doing the walk.

Ghostly Walks’ Halloween season goes until Sunday, November 3; the start of the tours is in the archway entrance to Market Square. See discoverthepast.com for more information.

Fright night

A Nexus guide to local haunted hot spots

Story and illustration by Tiegan Suddaby, features writer



I was sitting at my computer, slapping at the keyboard in a frantic effort to set up interviews, edit whatever, take words out, put words in, scribble an illustration, when my blessed editor Greg, probably exhausted from talking to a glorious and endless stream of new volunteers about what exactly we do here at *Nexus*, approached me.

“So, what are your plans for the Halloween issue?” he asked.

He continued with a list of what we did in previous issues, giving me suggestions, talking about ghost hunting... I started looking around the office. The lights were flickering. Bats were screeching outside. A chill autumn breeze was blowing through the room although the windows were closed (and the office was already cold as it was). A thousand spirits began singing old hymns, pumpkins sprouted from the floorboards, and spiders crept up the walls. And Greg kept talking.

We decided, finally, to explore some of the most haunted areas of Victoria and create *Nexus*' own special ghost guide for students. The hymns stopped. There was no autumn breeze, no bats, no pumpkins. I got to work.

After slogging through a rapid and yet dreadfully slow beginning of the school year, I needed the break to go lurk in a graveyard or communicate with the dead. So begins my ghost hunting extravaganza. After much research, I've found the top spots for spooktacular ghost sightings in Victoria, and our journey starts in Fan Tan Alley.

Fan Tan Alley is small—I'm surprised that it has one of Victoria's best ghost stories. The story here is that Chan, a man in Chinatown, had killed a woman in the alley after she rejected his advances. There are variants of the story in which she's either a prostitute (very possible, as the alley was originally home to brothels) or a very pretty woman that he proposed to. Today, visitors in the alley may feel him violently push past them as he runs through. Fan Tan Alley is already a transformative experience to go

through, and you can definitely feel the history in your bones. The ghost of Chan is just another addition to a very intense experience. My rating here is that it's very spooky, but that could just be the claustrophobia and shifting perspective while walking down the alley giving me a fright.

Market Square is the next haunted hot spot to hit up, as it's still haunted by the ghosts of the brothel workers that originally resided there (yeah, there's a bit of a theme here). If you sit in the centre of Market Square, you might hear the footsteps of saloon patrons and ladies of the night from eras past. Apparently, a murder occurred in this very area back in the late 1800s. This spot is highly recommended to visit in the early evening as opposed to later, before the outdoor patios at the restaurants start blaring their music, which the ghosts certainly don't appreciate. One funny thing about ghosts is that they're actually quite shy, and stay away from loud noises... or maybe we just can't hear them. This one gets a reasonable rating on my spook list, but the area absorbs a lot of sound, so it requires the perfect time and place to visit.

Bastion Square is another necessary landmark to hit. This is definitely a favourite of mine, as it connects the modern with the old. Originally, the backyard of a jail built there was used as the spot to watch public hangings. Now, the square is filled with offices for lawyers (plus the market). With the sound of footsteps, maybe a few thrown objects in the court building, the executed folks show that they're, evidently, still

bitter over their deaths. As a nice bonus, Bastion Square houses the building that used to hold the Maritime Museum,

declared Victoria's most haunted building. Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, the “Hanging Judge,” likes to hang out in the building, reminiscing about the executions and such in his area. Even if I didn't see any spooky ghosts, the history of the area is morbid enough to give me the creeps, and seeing how empty it is in the night certainly provides the chilling atmosphere needed for ghost hunting. Meanwhile, Garrick's Pub, the place where you would go for a drink before watching the hangings, is haunted by former owner Michael Powers. He likes to warm himself by the fire, which makes me think that he's probably the best ghost to get along with.

There's also Helmecken Alley, where prisoners would be kept before being hanged. Apparently, one of the prisoners was beaten to death as he was being transported from point A to point B, and you can still hear his chains rattling as he walks through the place he is eternally doomed to wander. Yikes.

As a quick detour, if you're going along Government, you can dip into the original Roger's Chocolates, where the ghosts of Charles Rogers and his wife Leah often visit. While Leah is a bit easier to get along with (she likes rearranging the chocolate on display), Charles is notable for pranking the workers and “misplacing” his less favoured chocolates. The workers would definitely have stories to tell, but Charles Rogers reserves his tormenting for the employees, not the customers. Not cool, Charlie.

The Empress and Legislature Buildings have to share their ghost—the architect Francis Rattenbury, who can be described as being a real creep. At the Empress, he tends to hang around the staircases going down to the lower lobby, or walk through the lobby halls. How he got here, considering he's buried in England, I don't know, but he's probably admiring his own work and criticizing the modern updates (rest in peace, ivy on the walls! Gone but never forgotten). He obviously has a favourite, as the most I've heard for the Legislature is that sometimes he's in one of the windows. His face appeared to me in one of the Empress windows, but

me. The Empress has a few ghosts. One is some lost old woman asking for directions; her room has been demolished. With nowhere to actually stay, she looks around for her old haunting grounds again. She gets a special rating, because I hate the idea of having my private room taken from me.

Continued on page 11

Garrick's Pub, the place where you would go for a drink before watching the Bastion Square hangings, is haunted by its owner Michael Powers. He likes to warm himself by the fire, which makes me think that he's probably the best ghost to get along with.

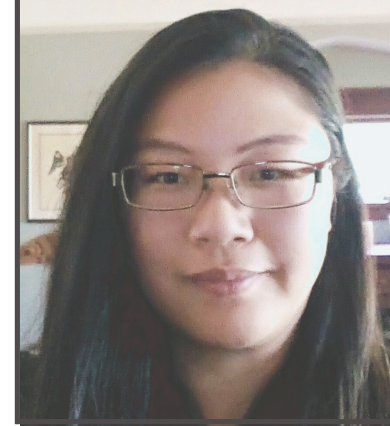
2019 Elections

Student Society

Make YOUR Choice

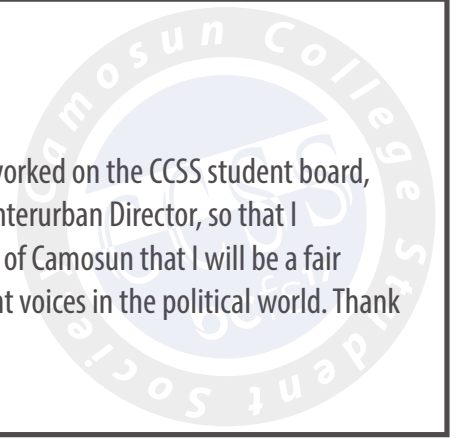
Voting opens Online from
**9 AM October 28th and
closes at 9 PM October 30th**

Hayley Lamb
Interurban Director



Hello Camosun students!

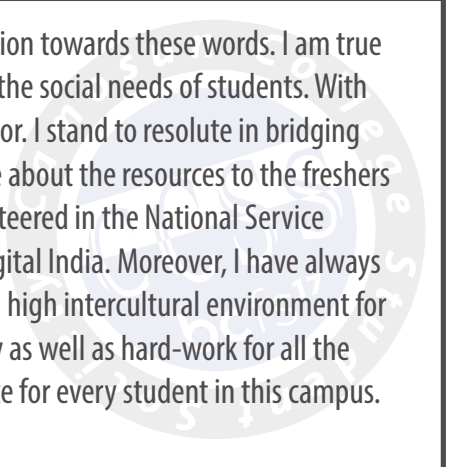
I am Hayley Lamb, and I have been a Camosun BBA Accounting student for 3 years. I have worked on the CCSS student board, campaigning and helping students, for a year and a half. I would like to continue to be an Interurban Director, so that I can continue helping students at the Interurban Campus. I want to promise to the students of Camosun that I will be a fair representation of our values and, should I be voted in, I will continue to advocate for student voices in the political world. Thank you very much!



Shivam Gupta
International Director



“Arise, Awake and stop not till the goal is reached” I, Shivam Gupta uphold a strong inspiration towards these words. I am true believer of powerful building of student foundation. I am visionary and dedicated towards the social needs of students. With the honour of being a Camosun student, I will stand for the position of an Interurban Director. I stand to resolute in bridging communication gap, efficiently meeting the student requirements as well as making aware about the resources to the freshers that Camosun College Student Society provides to enhance the student's skills. I have volunteered in the National Service Scheme in India which was initiative to aware the people about The Clean India and The Digital India. Moreover, I have always been ardent about carry people of all the race, nationality and ages together which forms a high intercultural environment for students in the campus. I will act upon my promised actions and work with all the loyalty as well as hard-work for all the student operations and carry the torch forward in making the joyful and eventful experience for every student in this campus. I thank you for your precious time and aspire, you vote for me. Regards- Shivam Gupta



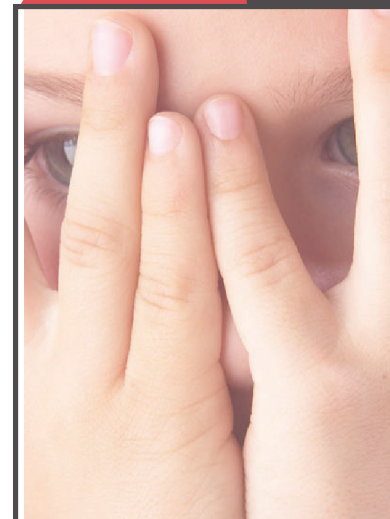
Yara Abaza
Lansdowne Director



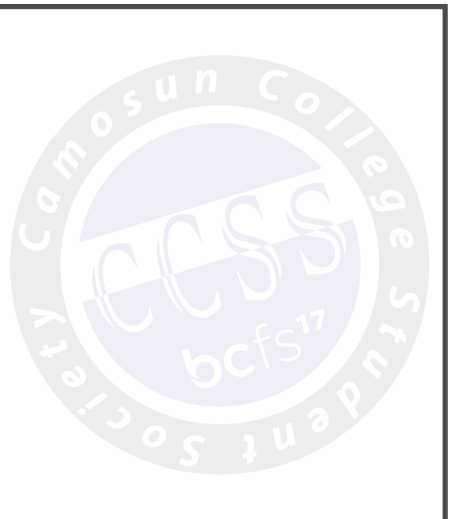
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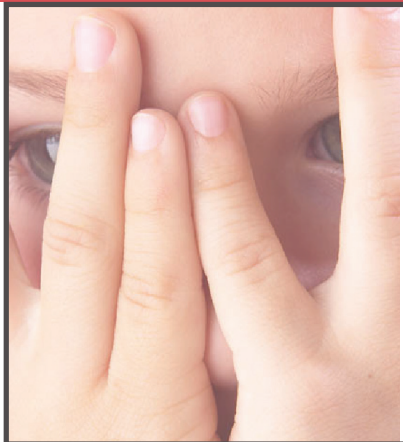
Mai Nguyen
Lansdowne Director



No Statement at this time



Hassan Jorge
International Director



No Statement at this time



Melaniia Frolova
International Director



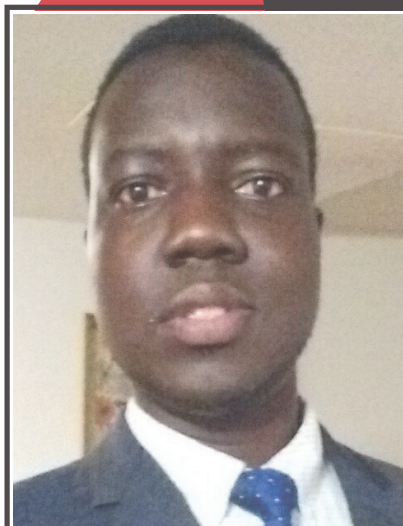
Hey, guys! I am really glad you are reading my introduction :) It means that you are not indifferent to Camosun's future. As you know, now is the time of elections and I would like to stand for the International Director post. Let me tell about my experience. I was born in the cultural center of Russia, in Saint Petersburg where I participated in some student communities (SC). In my high school SC I was the president and developed a new system of self-government over two years. Also, I was an active member of the city SC where I learnt more about the structure and the way of organization our association. This gave me a lot of new experience and knowledge of networking. At that time I recognized that I really enjoy communicating with people. It makes me really happy and useful for society! So, if you still have doubts about my candidacy I would like to give you one more reason for choosing me. I see the International Director as a person who is really interested in other cultures. As for me, I enjoy learning languages. Now I speak Russian, English and have started learning French, Spanish and Japanese. I have a big dream to learn more and be able to speak at the same good level ;)

Takshak Takshak
International Director



My name is Takshak, I am a student of Camosun college under associate degree in biology and I am applying for International director position because I believe along with all of you I can bring a vision for certain changes or necessities that Camosun needs to become a more welcoming, inclusive and reproductive college for international students. I would like to mention some of the problems international students face as they move to Canada. Most international students find it very hard to organise and get a hold of the education environment as it is very different from the one back from their countries. I would like to introduce certain programs and activities through which they could interact with students that have been a part of Camosun for a while and already got a hold of it. Moreover, as international students pay a lot of tuition fee and most students try to find jobs outside campus, they are not fully oriented towards that part. I would like to organise a program every month under which we could talk about the job opportunities for students under different programs. Together, we will create a very friendly and learning environment at Camosun.

Isaiah Jurkuch
International Director

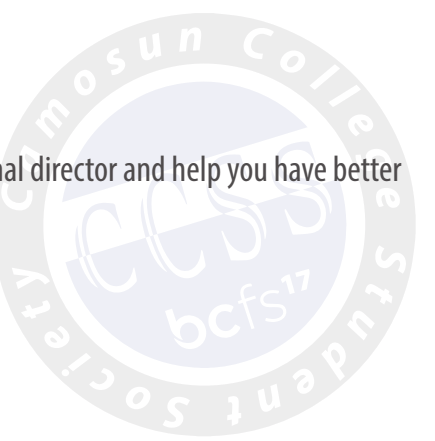


My name is Isaiah A Jurkuch from South Sudan, the newest country in the World. I am currently a third-year student in the Environmental Technology Program. I am an activist. I work closely with others to fix things. When I saw that the new Camosun College students deserved better programs, I ran for a position on the Education Council which I won and I collaborated with learners, Faculty and the Student Society to create better programs. After my term of office was over, I saw a need for someone on the Sustainability Council who would spearhead student-oriented programs and recycling. Again I ran for the position of Sustainability Director which I won. For the last 12 months, I have used my knowledge in environmental science to actively contribute to the College Sustainability department. The issue of unfair treatment of our international students, be it, the unstructured fees timetable or increasing fees has ignited my activist heart to run for the position of International Director to voice the plight of International students as well as all students who are struggling with the increasing cost of living. I am hoping to use my connection with faculties, boards of directors and the Student Society to push for a better Camosun experience for our international students. I hope you will be with me on this difficult Journey. With your Support, we will be victorious.

Amy Yang
International Director



I am Amy, an international student for sports management. I would like to be an international director and help you have better experiences on our campuses.



Katrina McNeely
Lansdowne Director



I want to build a lasting, positive community at Camosun. When I think of community, I think of space: safe space, sustainable space, supportive space. To grow our community, we should advocate for inclusive, accessible spaces, and advance Camosun's Sustainability Plan. I also want to increase awareness about the academic, career services, and health & mental wellness resources that are available on campus. By shining a light on what Camosun can do for students, I believe we can all feel supported and set for success.



Quinn Cunningham
Lansdowne Director



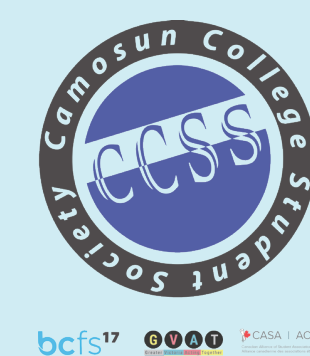
I want to focus on developing a campus culture here at Camosun. I think we should take initiative in creating more social spaces for people to enjoy, indoors particularly. I also believe that we should be stimulating club interest by publicizing it more. The continuation of the current Camosun sustainability plan is crucial, along with furthered research into making our college more sustainable. Most importantly I will be listening to you and representing the collective interest of our student body. Let's create community together, vote for Quinn Cunningham.



The CCSS will be distributing holiday break food hampers starting December 2nd!



Sign up anytime now by coming into our offices at either campus, or email ccsplan@camosun.ca



Continued from page 6

maybe that was just a trick of the eyes. Rattenbury has his own misfortunes, after being stabbed to death by his second wife's lover, but he also had his own affairs, so should you really feel that sorry for him? (Probably—the guy got stabbed, after all.) The Empress obviously gets a higher rating for actually being haunted.

Actually, the Empress has a few other ghosts. For example, there's some lost old woman asking for directions (which isn't that odd), and her story is a bit of a tear-jerker. Initially, she haunted the room she rented out, but since then the room has been demolished. With nowhere to actually stay, she looks around for her old haunting grounds again. She gets a special rating, because I hate the idea of having my private room taken from me. She's also brave enough to ask people for directions, which I can't do. There's also a maid, still doing her duty after a century of being dead, and the shadow of a hanged man on one of the ceilings (in a room since converted to a luxury suite).

Speaking of areas in Victoria sharing ghosts, guess what St. Ann's, Beacon Hill Park, and the Emily Carr House have in common? They're haunted by the same ghost, and using your powers of deduction, I bet you figured it's none other than Victoria's favourite painter, Emily Carr herself. In fact, there are even more areas she visits.

St. Ann's Academy is an already gruesome and uncomfortable building to even look at. It's said to have the ghosts of nuns walk across the campus on early mornings, just before sunrise, and Carr can be seen in the building's windows in the dead of night. This is another one of my favourites because of how out of place it is. Victoria is a real quilt of all things historically Victorian, but St. Ann's really captures that darker side of the city. Its ornate architecture and imposing size make me cringe just thinking of it. As a bonus, if you get there early enough to see the nuns making their rounds, the blood-red sunrise really sets the tone for the building. For an extra, extra bonus, sometimes there's a lone bell toll, when no one should be operating it.

Beacon Hill Park, which is said to have a ghost doppelganger who screams in silence (I swear I heard her, but it could have been a peacock), also has its own visits from Carr and her little pet monkey Woo. There are plenty of stories of a seemingly corporeal woman in Victorian garb with a monkey on a leash, or her shoulder, walking through the park. Perhaps she's looking for some inspiration, or mourning the loss of what used to be a natural burial ground. There was also the case of the aforementioned Beacon Hill Doppelganger, where a woman with dark skin and light hair was seen with arms outstretched to the sky near Southgate and Douglas. A few years later, in the same spot, a body was found, and a woman with light skin and dark hair mimicked the same gesture as the earlier woman.

Of course the most obvious choice for Carr to haunt is her own house. This one requires a tour of the residence, where you might witness visions of a solemn woman walking through

the building. Plus, whenever workers are trying to hang up new pictures, Carr just happens to take them down again... And when I say take them down, it's more like throwing them down. I guess she likes things the way she left them. While Carr's house is more for the enthusiasts, St. Ann's and Beacon Hill have more opportunities for multiple ghost sightings.

Carr also stayed at the James Bay Inn, where she suffered two strokes, the second of which ultimately killed her. Her portrait hangs so all the visitors can pay their respects, and if visitors don't pay their respects—or if they make rude comments about her art—she'll make sure they get an extra spooking. She also watches everyone in the building, which leads to a bit of paranoia from the visitors. This is one of my higher ratings, as I relate to petty ghosts.

This is one of my higher ratings, as I relate to petty ghosts. Craigdarroch Castle is my absolute favourite for a few reasons, one of them being the classic case of a piano playing by itself. But I also like the building because it's full of his-

tory. Being a military hospital, music conservatory, college, and government building at various times, there are plenty of souls that wander through the castle. Joan White, Robert Dunsmuir's wife, often wanders the building, and she brings the smell of burning candles with her, even when there aren't any around. She might play the piano for a little while, or just look out the window. The absolute best part of Craigdarroch is that you can take a virtual tour to look for her. You don't even have to leave the comfort of your home for some ghost hunting!

Probably the biggest shock to me was the Victoria Golf Course. A woman who was killed by her husband hangs around the seventh hole, either dressed in a brown suit or an all-white gown. The superstition with her is that if an unmarried couple sees her, that couple will not marry. "The April Ghost," as she's known, gets a good rating from me—I respect the bitterness she has.

A woman who was killed by her husband hangs around the seventh hole at the Victoria Golf Course, either dressed in a brown suit or an all-white gown. The superstition with her is that if an unmarried couple sees her, that couple will not marry. "The April Ghost," as she's known, gets a good rating from me—I respect the bitterness she has.

What a cast! Like with the Fan Tan Alley ghost, visitors feel like they're getting dizzy and pushed around, usually on the second floor. Big shout-out to this one for its history and ghosts actually doing something a little more than wandering.

For our honourable mentions, the first one goes to Old Morris Tobacconist. The upstairs area has creaking floor-

boards, slamming cupboards, bursting light bulbs, and a mysterious smoke emitting from the window. That's definitely not a cigar, we swear.

The original Murchie's Tea and Coffee has its basement poltergeist, who often throws the stock around and has been seen enjoying an elevator ride. Evidently, technology has come a really long way since his time.

The Tapa Bar in Trounce Alley has its own sightings of a period-dressed prostitute, who can be seen hiding under the tables. That's just weird, but I appreciate that she's trying.

Helmcken House has perhaps the most classic spooky tale, as John Sebastian Helmcken's daughter Dolly can be heard playing piano into the late hours. She is also known for wandering around (like every other ghost), but an unseen figure playing piano is definitely a more memorable story.

The Royal Theatre deserves a special mention, and a good rating, as the ghost of a murdered theatre-goer haunts there. They were stabbed to death (yeah, there's a lot of that), so witnesses today may see a lone man and get a feeling of being stabbed themselves. If you're going to be a ghost, you should at least make it an immersive experience, after all.

The Point Ellice House deserves a mention, as the O'Reilly family who lived there still gives tours to visitors. That's right, ghost tours from an actual ghost. It's fitting, and it's a very polite thing to do when your soul is cursed to the same home for eternity.

Ross Bay Cemetery has many ghosts that still visit their graves. You can get a wide variety of ghosts, which is nice, and the cemetery has its own tours every Sunday, with the topic changing each time. Drop in soon for some Halloween-appropriate themes!

The biggest honourable mention goes to the ghostly deer I met on Mount Tolmie. Far off from downtown, I know, but if you saw a nearly albino deer literally just appear in the middle of the road and begin walking off,

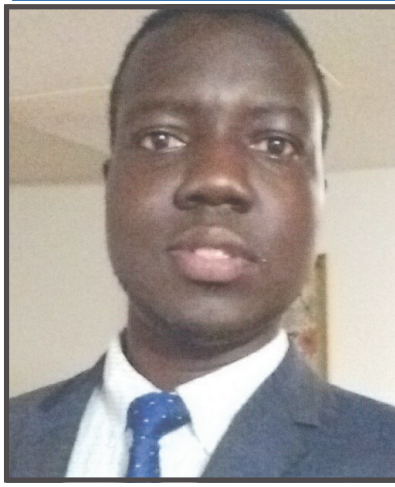
dissolving in the process, you'd want to find him again. This was a sight that I wasn't even looking to witness, but it really goes to show that ghosts often appear when you least expect them to.

Overall, the thing I learned most from these ghost-hunting experiences is that Victoria is a pretty gruesome city, yes, but it's more than that. The most exciting part of exploring Victoria is beyond the ghosts and the history. There's something about seeing your city in a new light; it feels as though you've transported yourself to another world. Going out at night with a bunch of friends (highly recommended, as downtown Victoria is much scarier when you're in reality and alone, not in the supernatural realm with pals), looking for evidence of lost souls trying to communicate with you gives you a new outlook and appreciation for the place you live in.

It makes me ask, why do we want to witness these spirits? Is it to be closer to the history of the land? Is it for a good scare? Is it a sign of our greater human want to speak to what cannot be contacted? Does it make us feel like we're part of a greater, non-physical universe, where we can witness stories centuries older than us and still appreciate them?

Whether you're looking for a good scare for the Halloween spirit, or you really want to know the stories behind each ghost, Victoria has no shortage of ghostly go-tos. It's really marvelous how rich the history behind this city is, and there are so many ghosts here it could make a cynic believe they exist. So this Halloween season, grab a friend and a copy of *Nexus*, get out there, and find some ghosts! They definitely want to share their stories, or at least screw around with your head for a little while.

Isaiah Jurkuch
Education Council Student Representative



Statements are available on-line for student Board of Governors representatives! Check your e-mail and don't forget vote!

Quinn Cunningham
Education Council Student Representative



As a member of the Education Council, I will be committed to making Camosun a learning environment that's tailored to you. Along with ensuring the standard of education at Camosun continues to improve. I am working towards becoming a post-secondary educator in my future, and it is with this mindset that I would be taking on the role of Education Councillor. Vote for Quinn Cunningham, to advocate on your behalf.

Fillette Umulisa
Education Council Student Representative



My name is Fillette Umulisa and I am running for a position of Education Council. I have had the privilege of being the external executive for two consecutive years, and in these two years I have familiarized myself with the operation processes of the college. As a student I believe there is need for change and student representation on Camosun's governing bodies for academic issues. If elected, I will push for relevant curriculums, well written course outlines and fair appeal processes. I will also advocate for the use of open education resources, in order to save student money spent on textbooks, and that courses and programs should not simply be changed to allow for tuition increases. Help me be the change that students need. Please vote for Fillette Umulisa from October 28th to October 30th. Thank you.

Paige Martin
Education Council Student Representative



My name is Paige Martin and I am running for a position on the education council. I have been at Camosun for a few years, taking an array of classes at both Lansdowne and Interurban. I find school vastly rewarding and hope to share my passion by participating in council affairs. From my experiences at Camosun, I believe that I would have the skills required to accurately represent the student body in their academic journey. I hope to bring forth the confidence and leadership the students of Camosun both need and deserve in a student representative.

WALK SAFER

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COME TAKE A RIDE

CAMOSUN'S NIGHT TIME SAFETY PROGRAM



music Vancouver's Tourist Company use Mount St. Helens eruption as inspiration



PHOTO PROVIDED

Vancouver's Tourist Company recently downsized to a duo.

JONAS GERBER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Vancouver-based alt-rockers Tourist Company are gearing up for a new chapter in their career. After years of touring, vocalist/guitarist/

bassist Taylor Swindells and drummer Brenon Parry have been hard at work producing new music, and Swindells is excited about the future of the band, which includes a local connection.

"Since I was a kid [the Mount St. Helens eruption has] always been in my consciousness, and so this record is kind of centred around that."

TAYLOR SWINDELLS
TOURIST COMPANY

"Yeah, things have been going good. It's been a good year," says Swindells. "We signed with a record label in Victoria called Fierce Panda, and it's been really awesome. We're really psyched to be working with them."

The band are wrapping up their studio work and looking to get back to touring, says Swindells.

"We have a new single out called 'Totally Disappear,' and we also have a video in the works for that one as well, and then we're looking to put the album out spring next year and hitting the road with that to do some more shows," he says.

Swindells says that the new album draws inspiration from history and explores complex ideas through a unique perspective.

"It's kind of an expression of modern-day volatility, but through the lens of the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980, so every song is set in that world—being in some kind of radius of that event—and uses that as an image for the uncertainty that we face often nowadays."

Swindells says that visiting Mount St. Helens heavily influenced the new record.

"My wife and I took a road trip to the states to stop by there, and that was a huge inspiration," he says, "like an image to take through for the rest of the record, and it's one that's been in my head for a long time. Since I was a kid it's always been in my consciousness, and so this record is kind of centred around that."

Travelling plays a large part in Swindells' creative process, and he uses his experiences to shape his music.

"I love history, which is part of why I find Europe so interesting, because there's so much of it there, and it's very complex," he says. "The architecture in that, as well, and in the format of cultures... There's something about seeing things in other perspectives and cultures and other ways of doing life and structuring everything that's fascinating."

Travelling can be taxing for the band, though; Swindells has struggled to maintain a balance between his work and personal life.

"I feel like the balance goes out the window as soon as we start touring, but I've definitely learned

to put some guidelines in place," he says. "Both Brenon and myself are married, so we've both developed ways to keep in touch with our partners, and figured out how to communicate in ways that work for them."

Still, Swindells enjoys the experience and accepts the challenges that come with touring.

"I think the thing that makes touring is the people in each city and each place, and the chance to share music in person to people who connect with it—that's what makes it," he says. "It's hard being away from friends and family back home, but we both really enjoy touring. It's one of our favourite parts to do, for sure."

Swindells is excited to be playing on the island again, with upcoming shows in Nanaimo and here in Victoria (where they'll be opening for Rich Aucoin) as well as a hometown show; the dates mark a big turning point for the band.

"These three shows will be the first time that we're trying out some shows as a duo with just Brenon and myself," he says. "So, yeah, we're looking forward to interpreting our songs to the setup. Hoping to see some familiar faces. We really enjoy playing in Victoria. We've never had a bad show there; it's always been good. We love the people out there, and [we're] looking forward to being back."

Tourist Company
Saturday, November 2
\$14.50, Lucky Bar
luckybar.ca

theatre William Head on Stage reimagines *The Wizard of Oz* in new play



SAM REDMOND

An actor from William Head on Stage's *The Emerald City Project*.

EMILY WELCH
STAFF WRITER

Generally speaking, most people would hope to avoid jail at all costs. However, if you love the theatre and love trying new things, then conquering that fear and going to jail for an evening could end up

being a pretty unique experience. It's an experience put on by William Head on Stage (WHOS), which is presenting *The Emerald City Project* at William Head Institution until November 2.

The Emerald City Project co-director and choreographer

"[The prisoners at William Head] wanted to write and create an original play inspired by the characters from *The Wizard of Oz*. They used the book as a jumping-off point and also used the characters as a way to reflect their own lives and experiences."

INGRID HANSEN
WILLIAM HEAD ON STAGE

Ingrid Hansen has been involved in WHOS for almost two decades but is particularly excited about this production.

"The prisoners at William Head have been working with SNAFU dance company artists for the last couple of months," says Hansen. "They wanted to write and create an original play inspired by the characters from *The Wizard of Oz*. They used the book as a jumping-off point and also used the characters as a way to reflect their own lives and experiences. They've written an entirely new story inspired by those characters."

This is WHOS' 59th production in 38 years; the organization has come a long way since it was started in 1981 by a group of prisoners taking drama classes at the University of Victoria.

"It's run and managed by the prisoners, and they make a lot of the management decisions for the company," says Hansen. "So it's a really great challenge for teamwork and autonomy, having power over

their own decisions, because they're also in charge of the company failing or succeeding. Every year, there are people who are getting out and getting released into the community, and they have to pass the baton to the next team of leaders on the inside."

Hansen is continually impressed with the inmates' intense work ethic.

"There is prison theatre all over the world," she says. "The creative impact is huge; you can really sense that creativity means so much to this particular team. They put in so many hours of extra work outside of just rehearsal."

Hansen has noticed that the theatre brings the cast together in a few different ways.

"One of my favourite things to see is the way the guys step up and help each other," she says. "They coach each other through their anxieties, as well as their fears about performing and about being vulnerable, or potentially looking silly," she says. "You see a real

kindness, a real generosity. You also see people from different social circles, different groups around the prison, interacting and helping each other out in a way that you don't often see."

Hansen says that the set of *The Emerald City Project* was built in-house by some very skilled inmates.

"They have a team of incredibly experienced builders," she says, "who said to me, 'What do you want for a set? Whatever you want, we can build it!'"

Hansen is especially enthusiastic about *The Emerald City Project*'s music.

"The music this year is incredible," Hansen says. "There are some hip-hop artists on the team who have written their own songs for the show, and we have some live music put together by The Yellow Brick Blues Band, which have fused together hip hop, Cree, Salish, and Anishinaabe singing and drumming with old time rock and roll."

Hansen wants the public to know that involvement in WHOS is voluntary.

"William Head on Stage is not a mandatory program," she says. "The men freely choose to be involved in the process, which gives them a real sense of ownership of the outcome. They are choosing to be a part of this team."

The Emerald City Project
Various times,
until Saturday, November 2
\$25, William Head Institution
whonstage.weebly.com

what's going on

by emily welch

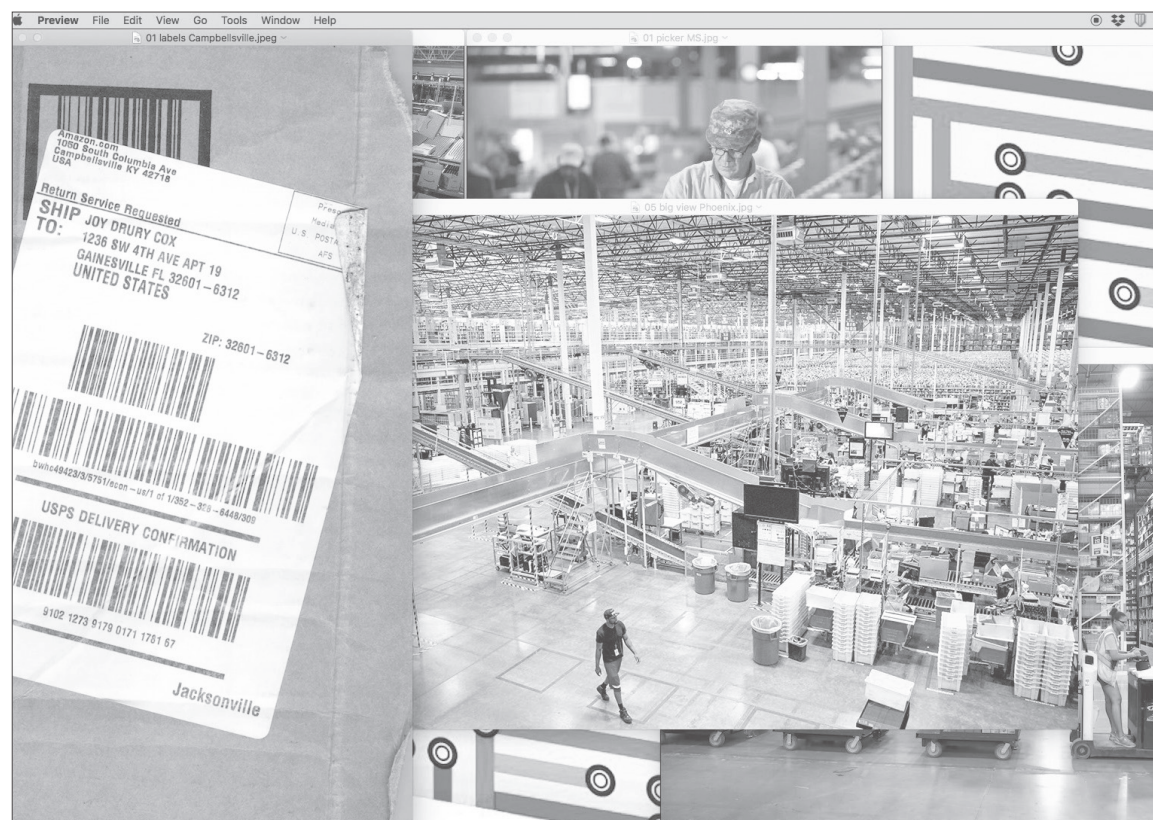


PHOTO PROVIDED

Amazonia is screening at Antimatter 2019; see nexusnewspaper.com for our interview with director Roger Beebe.

UNTIL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

See what really matters

If seeing super-current art and film is something that tickles your fancy, or you feel like you just really need some creative inspiration, Antimatter 2019 is a great way to spend some time this October. Checking out the media art and installations is free, and the films are pay-what-

you-can—you gotta love that. The locations for all these shows vary, but you can find all the info at antimatter.ca.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Tongues on fire in Tongues of Fire

Let go of your social hangups and get real—with a good poetry slam.

Sometimes getting out there to either listen to or partake in some spoken word is just what the doctor ordered. This is one of those "only have to pay for your coffee" events, so perfect for us broke bitches, blokes, and non-binaries. The slam starts at 7 pm at Caffe Fantastico, 965 Kings Road. See caffeantastico.com for more information.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Walking deadheads

It's that time again: time to get out and show your deadliest dead impression! It's the Victoria Zombie Walk 2019, where you get dressed up like the dead, head downtown and meet at Centennial Square at 3 pm, and walk with the rest of the drooling, screaming, howling, and oozing zombies all around downtown Victoria until 5:30, which I guess is when zombies go to bed. No crossbows or weapons of any kind allowed, just pure, walking-dead fun. For more info, search Victoria Zombie Walk 2019 on Facebook.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Feeling grungy

For all of those mature students out there who are missing your decade of debauchery, the Capital Ballroom is throwing a No Doubt '90s throwback tribute night, where you can come and relish in apathy and good ska—yeah, baby. Tickets range from \$22 for the early bird deal to \$27 if you wait until the last possible minute; see thecapitalballroom.com for more info on this and other concerts.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Shake your jiggy bits

If you haven't gone to a burlesque show, then your life is an empty and meaningless void. However, you can remedy this sad situation at The Showdown Halloween Burlesque

Spectacular, where 10 of Victoria's freaky and fabulous dancers will be performing, oozing with their very best gore, sex, and terror moves. This night promises, at the very least, to burn a hole in your sex memories forever; you can decide if that's good or bad. It all goes down at the Victoria Event Centre at 8 pm. Tickets are \$15; find Comedy Showdown on Facebook for more information.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

A wicked day for kids

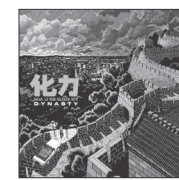
This one is for those Camosun students who have children. The fifth annual Wicked Victoria and Boo Boulevard is a great way to walk around, show off your kid in their cute and spooky costume in a Monster Mash Parade, do some cheap shopping, and listen to some live entertainment. It will be a wicked and magical time for all; there's even a bouncy castle. The fun starts at 12 pm on Government Street between Humboldt and Yates. See gvfs.ca for more details.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Classically scared

If you feel like you haven't seen a really good horror movie in ages, and if you truly appreciate a blood-curdling scream fest, the classic Alfred Hitchcock flick *The Birds* is a great way to get back to your horror roots. Cinecenta is having a special Halloween screening at 7:30 pm; tickets are \$10. See cinecenta.com for more information.

New Music Revue



Hua Li
Dynasty
(Next Door Records)
3.5/5

If there's a clear takeaway from Victoria-born, Montreal-based rapper, vocalist, DJ, and producer Hua Li's debut album, *Dynasty*, it's that it's anything but one-dimensional. *Dynasty* sees Li combine R&B slow jams with triplet flows to tackle numerous subjects, including identity, intergenerational trauma, and romantic anxieties.

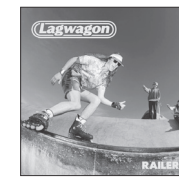
The opening track, "Paper Sons," is a reference to Chinese-born individuals who used illegal documents to immigrate to the United States despite the racist Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The song is an expression of minority empowerment, echoed by Li's shoutouts to Black Panther Party co-founder Huey Newton and the Asian American Political Alliance.

Tracks such as "Sidebitch" and "Mastery" are stylistic odes to early 2000s R&B, channelling the likes of Ashanti and Aaliyah. *Dynasty*'s smoother, more vocal-focused tracks contain the album's best production and allow for Li's sharp writing to stand out.

Dynasty is an incredibly ambi-

itious record containing multiple narratives and stylistic changes. Despite some rapping that feels slightly stilted, Li's unique storytelling and R&B throwbacks make this album an incredibly captivating listen.

-MITCH FISHER



Lagwagon
Railer
(Fat Wreck Chords)
4.5/5

"What's another word for 'fuck'?" So begins *Railer*, California punk lifers Lagwagon's ninth full-length album.

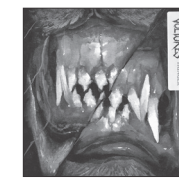
After a career full of hiatuses, rumours of breaking up, and turning down offers from mainstream record labels, this punk powerhouse bounces back with a collection of songs that's a rock-hard kick to the listener's head. These songs will leave your ears ringing and put a metallic taste in your mouth, then pick you up and dust you off, true mosh-pit style.

The album flows fantastically, circulating through upbeat guitar riffs with group chants to punchy choruses followed by slick solos in a way that's never boring.

Lagwagon have a reputation for committing themselves to the

pursuit of their craft rather than the pursuit of fame, and this comes across crystal clear on *Railer*. Track after track, Lagwagon demonstrate experience and finesse while maintaining a raw sound you'd expect from their younger, malcontent punk peers.

-BO ESSERY



Vultures
Hunger
(Independent)
3.5/5

Local hardcore/metal band Vultures just released their second EP, *Hunger*, which is destined to be one of the notable West Coast hardcore records of 2019.

With its six tracks, *Hunger* brings out the excitement and madness of hardcore. While listening to each track, listeners can feel the aggressiveness, energy, and chaos of the tracks. The quality of the music in *Hunger* is also one of the good points of this EP. Due to the influence from the New York hardcore scene combining with a groove-metal sensibility and technical metalcore flourishes, *Hunger* will surely make Vultures become one of the hardcore powerhouses of the West Coast.

Although Vulture's style is not

very unique, this is a great EP that earns the band a top spot in the West Coast hardcore scene.

-MARK NGUYEN



Vinnie Caruana
Aging Frontman
(Know Hope Records)
4/5

Aging Frontman is the third solo release by Brooklyn/Long Island-based singer/songwriter Vinnie Caruana. A music veteran, having played in both The Movielife and I Am the Avalanche, Caruana showcases his vocal versatility on this honest and worthy EP.

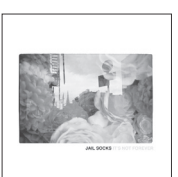
Caruana's wistful lyrics strike early in the album's evocative opener, "Better." Over momentarily dramatic guitar work, Caruana's tone evolves from delicately vulnerable into a raspy roaring chorus that continues to resonate long after the song ends.

Fans of punk-influenced '90s alternative rock will appreciate "Dying in the Living Room," a short but sweet characterization of jubilant, elated suffering. Anchored by tight drumming and accented with a fuzzy, distorted guitar tone, Caruana hits his notes effectively in an anguishing, screaming pitch.

"Tex 'The Rock' Johnson" is a delightful, sentimental lullaby. Here, Caruana projects his capable voice in a melodious pitch with a croon-like delivery.

Aging Frontman is a poignant and varied EP that deserves a listen.

-FRAZER LOVE



Jail Socks
It's Not Forever
(No Sleep Records)
4/5

Jail Socks are a new alternative/indie band from Charlotte, North Carolina. The band's debut full-length, *It's Not Forever*, follows up a split record with Placeholder and the *No Promises EP*. *It's Not Forever* delivers more punk rock to fill your earholes.

They sound very similar to bands like Neck Deep and The Story So Far, but they still deliver head-banging-worthy tunes with thick bass, smooth guitar, and solid vocal work. The lyrics are very personal, covering topics like relationship issues and the use of vices such as alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes to cope.

Jail Socks deliver nothing new to the genre, but they do deliver some great songs on *It's Not Forever*.

-JOEL MITCHELL

REASONS YOU SHOULD VOTE

1. DEMOCRACY
2. BE PROACTIVE
3. CLIMATE ACTION
4. FREE PANCAKES

BY FREYJA ZAZU

Our landlord dropped this off for us

It's a noise complaint from upstairs...

"Whoever's having sex down there, you're doing it too quietly, I can barely hear what you're saying"

But...we're doomed so what's the point?

FREE CHOCOLATE?

BY JAYDEN GRIEVE

CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY CLUB COLUMN

CAMOSUN BUSINESS STUDY GROUP

And, finally, the what by Simon Shepherd

In this club's first two columns, I explained the importance of "why" and the necessity of "how." Finally, it's time to address *what* you do.

A common question I ask people I work with is "Why are you here?" The most common response is "To make money." That is a what; fast-food businesses pay money. So why this interest? With more digging, you can find out the answer: to give back to the community, to be involved in something interesting and challenging, to be part of a family. While the core vision of any business is essential, it will not always align with the vision of those who work for you. Businesses always want employees who are a good fit, but I would challenge that notion. Find out why people are working with you and inspire them to take control of the situation based on that.

The closer to vision you are, the further away from control you should be. In a previous column, I quoted George Patton talking about telling people not how to do things but what to do, and I would say even better advice is to tell people why they're doing it and be astonished at how they do what they do to accomplish it. For those looking for further inspiration, I encourage you to read L. David Marquet's *Turn the Ship Around!* 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.

WEB EXCLUSIVE

NEXUS Week of October 13, 2019, top five most read stories:

1. "Ex-local musician Leeroy Stagger finds life-work-work balance," October 9, 2019
2. "Experimental documentary at Antimatter explores Amazon's business practices," October 9, 2019
3. "New Music Review: Steph Macpherson delivers honesty and empathy on new EP," October 9, 2019
4. "Male burlesque show explores politics, gender identity, and Canadian culture," August 28, 2019
5. "Open Space: Free speech on campus doesn't mean hate speech on campus," September 25, 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!

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essing Hannibal if that happened to specials on Netflix, I

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Bubbles by Lia Glidden

THIS IS SO CRAZY...

I KNOW THAT MUST BE ME, BUT I DON'T RECOGNIZE MYSELF AT ALL.

I CAN'T SEE MYSELF ANYWHERE IN THAT LITTLE BABY FACE.

...THOSE ARE PICTURES OF YOUR SISTER.

SIAM

AH.

Blunt Pencil by Lucas Dahl

In writing, you use the minds eye to describe a scene.

You can write a big sunset to enjoy.

But, how do you stop to smell the roses?

The minds nose.

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NEXUS The content doesn't end in the paper.

Find web-exclusive stories at nexusnewspaper.com.

Freedom from Addiction by Katie Mandey

The journey of recovery

My experiences with addiction have mostly been as a sex and love addict. I've also struggled with food, alcohol and drugs, shopping, pornography, and excessive use of my phone. I believe we are all addicts to a greater or lesser extent. Many of us are compulsively seeking a means to an end, scarcely enjoying a single moment that is here, now. This is addiction.

Over my many years of self-inquiry, trying to understand my inner workings, and, more recently, during my active addiction recovery, something important in my own cycle of addiction has become quite clear to me: feeling alone is a big problem for me—not necessarily being alone, but feeling alone, and the thoughts that accompany this feeling.

The tragedy of addiction is that it thrives in isolation, so a person who feels alienated and disconnected from others may be more likely to seek relief through a favoured addictive behaviour, which in turn leads to more alienation, disconnection, and loneliness. The cycle continues in a spiralling downward fashion.

During a recent lecture in an Anthropology class I'm in, the professor was speaking of the need humans—and all other primates—have for touch. She also commented on the reality that, with the exception of romantic and parent-child relationships, North American culture is among the least openly affectionate cultures. As someone who can experience compelling cravings for the warm body of another human being, this struck me.

We are meant to be social—to be close, loved, supported, accepted, hugged, and held—and to be connected to other people, to nature, and to ourselves. This is part of the key to healing from addiction and of the effectiveness of 12-step programs: it connects us with others in a real way. We will not recover

in isolation. We will not find more joyful, purposeful relationships and life experiences by hiding what we consider to be too shameful or embarrassing to share.

In short, we need each other. We do not need any one person, as a love addict can be convinced of, and we do not even need sex on a regular basis—although it can be a wonderful thing. But we need community, affection, and open, honest relationships.

First and foremost, however, we need to find compassion for ourselves, in whatever condition we may find ourselves in. My journey of recovery began after two years with a violent man who had terminal brain cancer. I was all but broken.

Now, however, I find myself steadily, though imperfectly, in the process of building a community of loving, supportive friends and family. And, hopefully, one day we will be known as a society that hugs more.

Social Survival 101 by Sean Palmer

How to walk away from an ideological mob with grace

In a society where you can often find yourself surrounded by people who seem certain that the fate of the world hinges on their ability to propagate and adhere to trending Web 2.0 gospels, it can sometimes be difficult to affirm the value of your mundane World 1.0 existence.

When catechized by these hashtag-hyped proselytizers, you may find yourself tempted to offer a scandalously honest response like "I'm not sure," "I think it's more complicated than that," or "No, thanks—I'm actually taking care of my own priorities right now. Also, I didn't ask for your advice, nor have you shown a genuine interest in my life or values."

Such frank, heretical statements of uncertainty, mild skepticism, and self-advocacy are likely to be met with wide-eyed expressions of shock or furrowed brows of disgust. "Don't you realize how insignificant

your life and personal responsibilities are in comparison with The Cause?" their pained faces will cry out. "Haven't you read The News?"

Indeed, to those gripped by the jaws of panic, desperation, and blind certainty, your trifling attendance to a different value system and heinous application of critical thinking may come across as an affront to their upvoted-sanctified Supreme Narrative—a cardinal sin.

But being able to weave a delicate path through the roaring orgy of self-righteous solicitors vying for your participation can mean the difference between retaining a modicum of integrity and agency on any given day and of being emotionally hijacked.

For your consideration, here are a few ways to gracefully escape an ideological mob before you're lured in too deep.

1: Try to interject and guide the conversation to a more productive topic. If they keep preaching, tell them that you have to poop and walk away swiftly.

2: Nod like you're watching someone dribble a basketball. This will ward off suspicion that you might be impure or a demon incarnate. When your neck gets tired, tell them that you have to poop and walk away swiftly.

3: Ideological mobs regularly use Newspeak to stupefy listeners' brains. Play a different language game by casually dropping "quantum physics" into the mix and gibbering about it incessantly. When you're ready to leave, tell them that you have to poop and walk away swiftly.

Above all, remember that regular bowel movements are just as important to human well-being as any narrative that domineering ideologues shove down your throat.

Politics and Other Nonsense by Carla Marginean

A voting guide for the frazzled student

I know: voting is a very dry topic that your uncle bugs you about at Thanksgiving dinner once a year. In addition to being incredibly dull, voting can also be very confusing and quite frustrating.

With the federal election just behind us, I'm going to try to simplify the voting process in the hopes that we'll all once and for all know what's going on next time around (and, if nothing else, you can escape your uncle's monologue next time you see him).

Currently, Canada operates on a first-past-the-post system. The issue with this system is that a candidate can win an election even if they don't have a majority of the votes. Therefore, this voting system could elect a party that may not be wanted by the majority of Canadians. People are trying to vote strategically to stop this from happening. This is a voting method where voters look at pre-election polls for their area to determine which parties are most likely to win. Then people will vote for either of the two parties that are projected to have the most votes, depending on which party best reflects their views. As a result, people don't waste votes voting for a party that will not even win. They make it so that the candidate who wins aligns with the most people's views.

By voting, people are making a point of saying what should happen with the future of Canada. Many people around the world don't have this opportunity, or if they do, they vote out of necessity, hoping to improve their lives. People are very privileged in the west to have the right to vote as part of a democracy and to trust that no matter what happens in elections, everything will be all right in the end.

This fall, the Camosun College Student Society has been involved in a campaign called Get out the Vote, highlighting the importance of the youth vote. The 2015 federal election had a voter turnout of about 58 percent among people aged 18 to 24.

This—surprisingly—was better than in previous years, but young people are still not yelling loud enough to have their voices heard. Paradoxically, the age group that traditionally has the highest voter participation are the 65-to-70-year-olds, yet this is the group that will be least affected by the future of the country.

So I urge you to always vote and make your voice heard. With the political climate being what it is these days, it's more important than ever that students and young people get out and vote.

Hold My Beer, I Lost My Keys by Bo Essery

Tushy Tinder tips

When it comes to dating, I've always been given advice such as "Be yourself," "Don't be weird," and "Absolutely do NOT talk about eating someone's ass." Believe it or not, this is actually terrible advice when it comes to Tinder. Changing my bio to "Let me lick your bum" was the greatest revelation in my dating life since I started wearing deodorant!

Unfortunately, I can only speak to the experience of a male on Tinder... Well, also, to the experience of a pink furby and Chicken McNuggets. But neither of those read, so it's not really applicable here. So, let's start with pictures!

First of all, right off the hop, you're going to want to put your best foot forward, just your best vanilla picture that doesn't make you look like a psychopath. In the business, we call this "the hook," something that's going to want to make the recipient probe the right side of their screen to creep the rest of your pictures. Follow that photo of your rock climbing in Washington up with a group photo in a suave bar, then a picture of you in a dirty hotdog costume from that Halloween you'll never remember because

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Queering by Astrid Helmus

A queer sense of place

I was recently introduced to a queer geography project called Queering the Map. It's a simple platform—an interactive online map hued in pleasing pinks, greens, and blues that participants can pop pins down on, locating and describing queer spaces or sites of their own queer experiences.

The map is heavily flecked with pins, and users can scroll across the globe and read snippets of queer moments and see the places in which they happened. This association of place to intimacy feels remarkably romantic.

I am completely charmed by Queering the Map and this sense of place, a personal and emotional association with a location based on experience.

When I think of the places I have lived, the cities, neighbourhoods, and homes I have spent time in, each space resonates with a distinct character, deeply influenced by the experiences, feelings, and affections I've had within them.

This has caused me to further reflect on my own queer space making.

I've spent much of my life trying to find community and create my own spaces, forming a sense of place. What points on the map would I mark? Where have I made my "home"?

The places that have reached that divine level of "home" always remain in my mind. They are easy to define, details of the physical space rooted in my senses. There is comfort in these spaces. I feel as if I know them deeply and, in return, they know me.

Relationships to places are just as defined by experience and emotion as our relationships with each other. The street corner where we first kissed is as much a part of the story as we are.

We develop impressions of places just as we do people, and perhaps places are impressed by us. A city is no less personal to you, knows you no better, than a close friend. The value we hold to a "home" can be as meaningful to us as family. A place is as queer as those who inhabit it.

Place experience ties me to my identity in the same fashion as interpersonal experience. It's a fundamental piece of my sense of self. I have developed attachments to the spaces where I was able to show up, wholeheartedly queer, and feel welcomed.

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contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

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 windowsill on the top floor of the library.

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

Halloween word search

This word search was created before this issue's feature was finished, so we took inspiration for it from last year's spooky feature, written by then-features writer Fred Cameron (find it online at nexusnewspaper.com).

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.

- BODY
- DECEASED
- DREAD
- DUNGEON
- GHOST
- GURNEY
- HAUNTED
- HEARTBEAT
- HELL
- INJURED
- MISERY
- PAIN
- PANIC
- POLTERGIESTS
- PORTAL
- SECURITY
- SKELETON
- SOLDIER
- SURGERY
- WOUNDED

M S B K V G D R B F R V A F A
 F V V Y H H I O D O R T G L B
 S H B T W O U N D E D U I K T
 P I G H B S U R G E R Y U P G
 J N M D R T N E S N T U I C R
 G B X A R T O A E U N N J I R
 I L M E T E E Y R N Z M U N O
 U A F R A C G W P O Y O W A I
 M B F D E Q N L A T R O P P H
 I I D D B I U Y I E E M V Z P
 C M A R T O D R N L S E R Q Z
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Adam Marsh
 Student editor for *Nexus* newspaper. Marsh has covered issues such as students successfully protesting tuition raises and student issues surrounding the federal election.

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