

A look back at the ten most-read  
Nexus stories of 2019  
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# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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student services

## Camosun College students benefit from tuition-waiver program

“After you’ve had a very painful—or in my case, very difficult and unimaginable—youth, with the government being a big part of it, it’s kind of nice for them to gift you back opportunity versus, in some ways, kind of limiting you and taking things away.”

**SAVANNAH BARRATT**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

**EMILY WELCH**  
STAFF WRITER

Camosun students who were formerly youth in care are benefiting from BC’s Provincial Tuition Waiver Program. The program is for those who lived more than two years as youth in care. The government started the program as a way to give these youth a chance at an education where there might not have been a chance before by covering tuition and mandatory student fees for eligible programs or courses.

Camosun vice president of student experience Heather Cummings is proud to be part of the program.

“I think that the former youth in care program is really consistent with Camosun values—we are an access institution,” says Cummings. “We’ve got incredibly flexible programming and many pathways. It’s not just a financial barrier that needs to be addressed; it’s often helping students build up for academic preparation, and we offer programs that can do that.”



ELI DE LA CRUZ/NEXUS

Camosun College student Savannah Barratt says the tuition-waiver program might help close the door on the past.

Savannah Barratt and Tianni Arsenault are first-year University Transfer students in the tuition-waiver program; both have experienced adversity.

“I was in care from when I was 14,” says Barratt. “I had struggled with severe mental-health issues and I couldn’t live at home. I became

a ward of the province while I was institutionalized, and then went into a group home.”

Barratt spent her teen years in the group home, and with the help of various supports she was able to graduate from high school as a young adult. It was in high school that she heard about the program.

“The plan was to start post-secondary in September,” says Barratt. “Camosun felt like a natural choice because of the flexibility and its less big, scary nature. Someone I knew told me about the tuition waiver and that I might qualify.”

Arsenault was seven when she and her two brothers went into care.

“I lived with my birth parents until then,” says Arsenault. “There was a lot of abuse and neglect that happened. My older brother, my younger brother, and I, we almost didn’t make it out of that situation. It was a very rough time.”

Arsenault has since won a scholarship; she plays sports to stay focused.

“Honestly, I am using Camosun to keep up with my schedule and keep me doing something,” says Arsenault. “I get very antsy not doing anything. I ended up going to Camosun right after I graduated.”

Barratt believes that this program might help to close the door on the past.

“After you’ve had a very painful—or in my case, very difficult and unimaginable—youth, with the government being a big part of it,” she says, “it’s kind of nice for them to gift you back opportunity versus, in some ways, kind of limiting you and taking things away.”

Barratt says that once she got out of care, moved out, graduated, and started college, she was then taking on new, more positive, challenges.

“I started all the things that I couldn’t do for so long,” she says, “and they’re all good, and varied, and curious, and new.”

Camosun College Student Society external executive Fillette Umulisa believes that the tuition-waiver program is an important step toward social inclusion.

“We strongly support the tuition-waiver program for former youth in care,” says Umulisa. “We feel like in this day and age, many parents help and encourage their children to get a post-secondary education. But those who do not have parents, who have grown up in the system and have now outgrown the system, well, they should have that same chance. We also know that youth in care face many barriers, and we are so happy that the post-secondary institution is not one of those barriers anymore.”

eyed on campus




EMILY WELCH/NEXUS

Some happy-looking rocks spotted outside the Young Building on a fall day at Camosun’s Lansdowne campus.

# NEXUS

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "Would you rather I didn't wear deodorant?"

## student editor's letter Looking back at 2019

They say you should spend the same amount of time looking back in life as you spend glancing in your rear-view mirror when you're driving. Don't look too long or you'll crash, but you've got to look back once in a while to be sure you haven't got someone on your ass. If that metaphor doesn't hold true, not a single one will.

When it comes to looking back, my motto is this: stick to your guns. If you don't, they'll backfire and hit you. Either way, they'll fire; they'll explode with a big bang.

This issue, *Nexus* is taking a look back at our most-read stories of the year. One of them holds particularly strong memories for me.

Back in February, students took to social media to rip into the college for opening despite the fact that, amazingly, Victoria had the most snow in Canada that day. I was stranded at my parents' house in Cordova Bay. They live on a little cul-de-sac halfway up Claremont Avenue, home of one of the steepest, windiest hills in the whole city. Even driving my dad's four-wheel-drive truck, there was nothing I could do to get it out of six-plus inches of snow. If you've never tried to do that, it feels like driving on top of an ice rink, with bone china plates sliding beneath your wheels. You're slipping everywhere. Buses were out of the question. Hell, I was running out of food; the nearest store was a 20-minute walk in shin-deep snow powder away. Yet here the college was saying I had to show up to class to write a midterm.

Other stories that you gave the most eyeballs to this year include a look at plagiarism on campus, student concerns about the bike lane leading to Interurban, the provincial government eliminating interest on student loans, and a former Camosun instructor getting his nursing license revoked. The lowdown on these stories, and more, is on page 6.

Here's to a great 2019; we look forward to bringing you more of the news that matters most to Camosun students in 2020.

Adam Marsh, student editor  
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

## flashback 25 Years Ago in Nexus



**Bookstore dispute:** We reported here last issue how Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Brad Hett questioned whether instructors were more loyal to their students or to textbook publishers, which prompted Camosun instructor Brian Silvester to write in to us. After stating that the claim was offensive and libellous, and that it was indicative of the views of the CCSS, Silvester said that indeed he tried his hardest to keep the book prices down, even having "fought with a succession of Bookstore managers to obtain the best price for all required print material," adding that "conversations with my colleagues lead me to believe that we are all similarly concerned."

**Relationship dispute:** Our profile of local ska/punk band Pressure Cooker in this issue featured the hard-hitting reveal that when one member of the band found out that another local musician "had a really cute girlfriend, he asked him to join the band."

**Women's Centre dispute:** The story "Male student kicked out of Women's Centre sparks debate" in our November 28, 1994 issue looked at the heated issue of Camosun student Martin Moreau being told to leave the Lansdowne campus Women's Centre. Apparently, Moreau was told "You shouldn't be here" by a woman student and the "Men welcome, please knock" sign was taken off the door of the centre shortly after the altercation. Camosun College Student Society women's executive Jenna Henry came to Moreau's defence, saying he "is more of a feminist than some women I know. He was in there to help, he wanted to help, now we have lost a strong voice."

## open space Callout culture and the problem of emotional entitlement

**LANE CHEVRIER**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We're living in an age of social activism. We value personal expression and social inclusion more than ever before, and this is a good thing. It means that, as a society, we are learning to value greater diversity. Unfortunately, we haven't all learned the importance of discretion. The current callout culture is symptomatic of the social disease of emotional unaccountability. It places responsibility for any person's feelings with the message sender, not the receiver. This is inherently childish.

There's value in being considerate of others, but when consideration is expected rather than freely given, it becomes entitlement. This creates resentment, both in the receiver—who feels it's the world's responsibility to protect them from offensive stimuli—and also in the sender, who's unfairly expected to prevent any possible negative reaction by signposting or censoring.

I recently had an experience of being called out and attacked here on campus. I was accused of being a vile person for sharing controversial writing that was incorrectly assumed to align to my personal beliefs, and then collectively roasted by my entire class for not including a trigger warning, which they believed should be mandatory.

They argued that a trigger warning shows respect and awareness. This may make sense, but it masks a dangerous assumption. The triggered reader feels it's disrespectful for someone to expose them to discomfort. They feel that since the writer is not aware of the inner lives of the reader, they should tread lightly, and completely exclude sensitive material not accompanied by an explicit denouncement.

However, this is an unreasonable expectation. It's impractical

and inconceivable to protect everyone from the possibility of emotional upheaval. Throughout most of life, we cannot control what we're exposed to. We must learn to modulate our emotional responses; it's a fundamental aspect of maturation.

As students in the First World, we're more or less divorced from most visceral suffering. With no objective evil against which to rally, we fight against perceived evils in our own society. Looking for people to crucify, we scrutinize our neighbours for signs of injustice or dissent from the status quo.

This serves to divide people, and also creates internal duplicity—when there is no necessity to examine one's own perceptions and feelings, there are fewer opportunities taken to undergo emotional maturation.

Internal suffering manifests as externalized discontentment. A deeply unhappy person sees the aspects within themselves that cause discomfort, and then projects them on others to absolve themselves of emotional accountability. They blame others for their intangible internal pain, and, therefore, see no reason to resolve the issues causing this suffering in the first place.

Callout culture is the epitome of this. Social vigilantes are running amok, letting their emotions cloud their judgments and destroying lives in the process.

The more emotionally secure people are, the less likelihood they will be outraged at personal injustices.

To foster a better society, we must individually work on emotional accountability, to call ourselves out. Consequently, we will feel less triggered by others' perceived wrongdoings against us. We'll also create less misery through lashing out, because we'll be happier, and this will quickly spread to others.

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!

**corrections**

In *Know Your Profs* in our November 6 issue, we misspelled Anneke van Alderwegen as Anneke van Alderwegan. We apologize for the mistake.

## labour action Saanich school strike impacting Camosun students with children



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Camosun College's child care accommodates children five years of age and younger.

**LANE CHEVRIER**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Public schools in the Saanich School District have been closed since Monday, October 28 as part of a Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 441 wage parity strike. This has resulted in over 7,000 children missing school, and some of those children have parents who go to Camosun.

Second-year Marketing student Serena Cizmecigil has two nine-year-old children and few viable options for child care, since, as an international student, she has no family here.

"[The Camosun College Student Society] were trying to be very helpful to me personally, and they did some research to see what sort of arrangement I can do for my kids... But it was just personal support that they were trying to give," she says. "There was nothing coming from Camosun itself."

After paying around \$200 for two days of child care at a local

recreation centre, Cizmecigil resorted to bringing her kids to school with her, which she says was a significant stressor for both her and her children.

"The instructors are very helpful," she says. "They said [my kids are] more than welcome to come to class, but it's not easy. I want to be on track with their curriculum—that's one thing that gives me stress—and I have assignments, I have things to do, I have group projects."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Camosun to stop accepting cash for tuition

As of January 1, 2020, Camosun College will stop accepting cash payments for tuition. The decision is a result of the provincial government's anti-money-laundering initiative, which was launched in May of this year. The college said in an email that it has no reason to believe any money laundering has taken place as a result of Camosun accepting cash for tuition fees.

### Over 3,000 Camosun students pledge to vote

From September 3 to October 21, the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations—of which all Camosun students are paying members—held the Get

Out The Vote campaign to help engage students in the voting process for the federal election. According to the CCSS, 3,158 Camosun students pledged to vote through the campaign; only two Canadian post-secondary institutions got more students pledging. The CCSS spent approximately \$6,000 for Get Out the Vote campaign resources.

### New Camosun policies approved

On Monday, November 4, the Camosun College board of governors approved the college's new Policy Framework and the new Program Quality Assurance Policy. The Policy Framework revises the policy development, approval, communication and implementation parameters; the Program Assurance Policy outlines Camosun's commitment to quality assurance in its programs, as well as the continuous improvement

of the student learning experience and outcomes.

### MHCC announces post-secondary mental-health policy

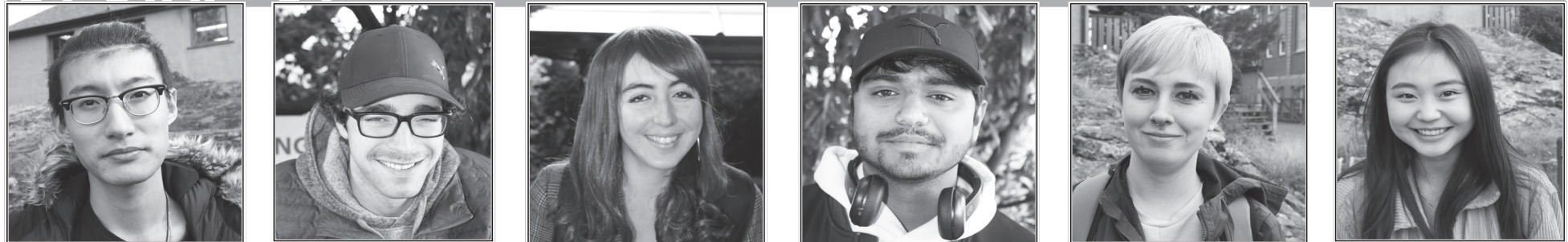
The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) recently announced that it would be developing a policy for the psychological health and safety of post-secondary students. The Post Secondary Students Standard Policy (PSSP) will provide guidelines to help institutions support students' mental health, as well as help them to identify underlying causes while providing resources to address student issues. The current draft of the plan aims to increase the amount of counselling available to students and to educate staff on creating a manageable course load. According to the MHCC's website, each institution is able to adapt and modify the PSSP as needed. The

Thursday, November 21. During Budget Town Hall, the public is encouraged to voice their opinions on the draft of the 2020 budget. Go to [victoria.ca/budget](http://victoria.ca/budget) to register and for more info on the budget. The event—which includes free refreshments and pizza—runs from 6 pm to 8:30 pm at Quadra Village Community Centre, which is located at 901 Kings Road. Then, on Monday, November 25, the City is holding a Youth Economic Roundtable from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at City Hall, where youth can have their say about what Victoria can do better to support them and prepare them for the future economy. For more info or to register, visit [victoria.ca/prosperity](http://victoria.ca/prosperity).

**-ADAM MARSH AND GREG PRATT**

**GOT A NEWS TIP FOR US? EMAIL EDITOR@NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM TODAY TO LET US KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.**

## SPEAK UP How do you feel about the new cigarette-packaging laws coming into effect on November 9?



- CHRIS WANG**  
"I just buy it. It doesn't matter."
- DOUGLAS WASIECZKO**  
"It's a bit of a moot point. I mean, I understand that they're trying to make it look as unattractive and unappealing as they can. Maybe it'll work, maybe it won't. It's not going to be so dissimilar [to] the packaging we have now."
- ANDREA ALVARAZ**  
"Honestly, I am kind of curious as to why they're doing that... [It's] probably a good thing."
- HARRY SERVAL**  
"At the moment I'm just buying smokes from people. It's cheaper and at the same time you can reduce your smoking habit... I don't want to be like [the person on the pack]; I'll quit pretty soon, because I want to live."
- ALI HAY**  
"It'll be a bit challenging to figure out the ones that I want, but other than that it doesn't really matter."
- HARUNA UEGI**  
"I don't really care. Cigarettes [are] cigarettes."
- BY ADAM MARSH

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## event Camosun event calls for action against gender-based violence

JÉSSICA NAVARRO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From Monday, November 25 to Tuesday, December 10, Camosun students, staff, and faculty are invited to participate in a collaborative event being held at both campuses as part of the annual international campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. In Canada, the campaign includes the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women on December 6, which commemorates the 14 women murdered at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989.

The Camosun event is an initiative of the Camosun College Faculty Association (CCFA)'s Status of Women Committee and is funded through the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC. Camosun Criminal Justice instructor and chair of the Status of Women Committee Eva Silden hopes to raise awareness on gender issues and encourages students to join the event.

"It's going to be an interactive art display where students can come and do a little bit of learning and participate by thinking about activism and what little steps that they can take to end violence against women," says Silden, "and they're also encouraged to put it on paper and help to fill out the art display with these little pieces of paper."

Bearing in mind that a lot of students at Camosun today were

"We can't turn a blind eye to the fact that [gender-based violence] is still very much with us, it's still very real, and we do need to keep working to educate and to bring people in to some level of activism and awareness where they can no longer be a bystander."

EVA SILDEN  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

not even born in 1989, Silden emphasizes the importance of making December 6 also a recognition of all the violent events that have taken place since then. She says that student participation is an important part of raising awareness.

"We can't turn a blind eye to the fact that [gender-based violence] is still very much with us, it's still very real, and we do need to keep working to educate and to bring people in to some level of activism and awareness where they can no longer be a bystander," she says.

Silden says that campaigns, especially after MeToo, have been asking people to use their voices and not to allow behaviours like bullying, harassment, or gender-based violence to take place. Still, she thinks it's unfortunate that some people still view gender equality as a threatening idea.

"I do not think you need to dig too deep to find that [gender equality] is viewed as a zero-sum game,"

she says. "So if power is given over here, by, usually, white men to anyone, they're going to lose, right? And that's not okay, that's not accurate; that's a very old idea and I think one that we need to sort of work against."

Silden says that the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report, released last June, contributed to highlighting the extraordinary violence facing Indigenous women in particular.

"Once you know something you can't unknow it," says Silden. "So once we know that aboriginal women and girls are targeted and are abused and experience violence and victimization at the highest rates of anyone else in Canada, of any other group, how can we not actively work to reduce that and address that?"

Recognizing how this can be a stressful time in the academic term, Silden hopes for students



ADAM MARSH/NEXUS

Camosun College Criminal Justice instructor Eva Silden.

to participate to the extent that they can. Mostly, she hopes that the event will spread a message of encouragement.

"I would say to anyone—you are not alone, and if you are experiencing violence in your life or if you know someone, you have a friend, a

family member, you are not alone," she says. "There are supports, there are ways to get help. Nobody should have to suffer that."

See [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for more information on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence events.

## know your profs

### Camosun Physics instructor Julie Alexander breaks it down

EMILY WELCH  
STAFF WRITER

*Know Your Profs* is an ongoing series of profiles on the instructors at Camosun College. Every issue we ask a different instructor at Camosun the same 10 questions in an attempt to get to know them a little better.

Do you have an instructor that you want to see interviewed in the paper? Maybe you want to know more about one of your teachers, but you're too busy, or shy, to ask? Email [editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com) and we'll get on it.

This issue we talked to Physics instructor Julie Alexander about renewable energy, restoring classic cars, and the joy of receiving good news from a former student.



EMILY WELCH/NEXUS

Camosun College Physics instructor Julie Alexander.

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

I've been teaching at Camosun for 33 years. During this time I also taught courses in the Physics department at UVic and took some long-term professional development time away from teaching to complete a PhD in Climate Modelling. I currently teach physics to the Engineering Bridge students, biomechanics to the Athletic Therapy students, and a course on renewable energy to the Mechanical Technology students.

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

It is very satisfying when I take challenging physics problems and break them into manageable steps that the students are able to follow and then apply to other problems. I also like being able to relate abstract physics concepts to concepts that the students already understand.

I never get tired of the amazement students show when I use physics to explain everyday phenomena.

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

I understand what it feels like to be frustrated when learning complex tasks. I am still struggling with learning how to play the violin

and how to not fall in the water when rowing my single racing shell.

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

I don't put a lot of effort into memorizing my students' names.

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

The best thing that comes to mind is when a former Engineering Technology student came to tell me that following the advice I had given her about how to succeed as a student changed her life and enabled her to graduate and find a good job.

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

I've been lucky that nothing terrible has ever happened to me over the 33 years I've been teaching at the college. However, yesterday I discovered that my office has mice running around in it at night. The chocolate I left in my desk drawer was half eaten and there were mouse droppings all over my desk.

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

I think that science students have the best chance of success if they complete their first year of a four-year university degree at

Camosun. I think the university engineering programs that require the students to do co-op work terms are excellent and will continue to train highly employable engineers.

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

I'm not very good at relaxing. I go rowing on Elk Lake early Saturday and Sunday mornings. I also spend time on the weekends practicing my violin and gardening. My husband and I are restoring a 1958 Morris Minor car, so that takes up the rest of my spare time.

9. *What's your favourite meal?*

Every Friday night we go to my 94-year-old mother's house and barbecue steaks.

10. *What is your biggest pet peeve?*

I don't like to hear my Athletic Therapy students say that they are bad at math. I think this is often a result of someone telling them at a very young age that math is hard and that they will never be good at it. I've never had a student who truly couldn't do math. Another pet peeve is that the Engineering Bridge students have to write six final exams in six consecutive days, when students at UVic have two and half weeks to write their exams.

## music Camosun student prepares to drop debut album



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun College student Aidan Vickery is about to release his debut album.

EMILY WELCH  
STAFF WRITER

Second-year Sports Management student Aidan Vickery has always been interested in music, but he had no idea how long it would take to create his first rap album. Vickery's been working on the release, *0101~Cantina*, for about a year and a half, and it's finally going to see the light of day through Spotify, Apple Music, and other digital service providers on November 22.

"I tried to do it in high school, but I didn't have the right equipment and I hated how it sounded," says Vickery. "I finally got started right before I started Camosun. The project kind of went from there." Like a lot of musicians, Vickery says that he has difficulty classifying his music with a specific genre label when people ask him what it sounds like.

"I guess you could call it a rap album," he says. "Alternative hip hop? I guess I really didn't think

about defining it. I can talk about it, but I am not the best person to judge it because I made it. There is a lot of influence from different songs and genres. For the majority of the songs, I have tried to take myself out of it. When you write a song and really put yourself into it, then people might not be able to identify with it as much."

Vickery credits a lot of his musical sound to other artists who have inspired him. He says that it's hard to be original, because he's

"For the majority of the songs, I have tried to take myself out of it. When you write a song and really put yourself into it, then people might not be able to identify with it as much."

AIDAN VICKERY  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

often basing his sound on artists he enjoys.

"You have to remember to give credit, because all the music I enjoy, all the music that I listen to, that is going to show a bit in my own work," he says. "You have to have some level of influence from other people."

Vickery remembers an experience from childhood that almost put his dream on the back burner forever.

"As a kid I wrote some poetry. I mean, I was super young," he says, "I hid my book under my bed, and my mom found it. She was confused about what I was doing—was it a poem? Was it a song? But the fact that she found it and she was confused—I was so embarrassed that I stopped for a long time."

Although that kind of experience can make a mark on someone, Vickery prevailed and produced the album all these years later.

"I am only now just starting to

be able to promote and tell people about it, because it's such a personal thing," he says. "It's so weird to think that anything I make might actually be decent. I think that it might be what they call 'imposter syndrome.' Even when I get a compliment, if someone tells that they like it, I'm always thinking, 'Are you sure?'"

Now that his album is finished and about to be released, Vickery is unsure about the direction it will go, but he's just happy he's had the experience.

"Even if no one listens to it, I just want to be able to say that I've shared it, and it's there, and people know about it," says Vickery. "People joke about getting rich and famous, and that would be great. I would obviously be happy with that. But, honestly, that's not the point. It's more that I enjoy making it, and I so enjoy connecting with people through music. If something happens, though, that's cool."

## event Extreme filmmaker Bryan Smith goes beyond convention



BRYAN SMITH

Athlete Gavin McClurg as shot by Bryan Smith, who is speaking this month in Victoria.

EMERY WHITNEY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The comforts of our daily lives may hinder many of us from seeking anything beyond our conventional ways of living. With a career in capturing thrilling moments, Squamish-based extreme filmmaker Bryan Smith chooses a different path. Searching for the globe's wildest locations, he captures impressive athleticism among the remarkable landscapes of remote locations left untouched by the irreversible grip of modern civilization.

Smith is speaking here in Vic-

toria this month through National Geographic's Nat Geo Live series; he started his relationship with National Geographic by providing them with short snippets of footage, which eventually led to his first big pitch: taking kayaks to Kamchatka, a remote peninsula in far eastern Russia.

"It was a place on the map that represented one of the last truly wild places on earth," says Smith. "And no one had been there with kayaks before."

Although Smith has travelled all over the world, his trip to Kamchatka in 2011 continues to be one

of his most memorable expeditions within the last decade.

"When people ask me, 'What was the best expedition you ever went on?' I'm like, 'Oh, it's definitely Kamchatka,'" he says. "I don't know if I'm jaded, but I still think the landscape itself... I mean, I've never seen fish in rivers like that before. You hear all these stories from hundreds of years ago when people were walking across the rivers on fish. That is what Kamchatka is like."

Smith says that another memorable expedition was one that he had in Papua New Guinea.

"It's really wild in terms of the

jungle and the rainforest but, culturally, it was the wildest place I'd ever been," he says. "I mean, there are still literally thousands of dialects in Papua New Guinea so, tribally, you have people that pretty much live in isolation and speak their own language. Just to experience that in a small area, some place the size of southern Vancouver Island—just the bottom half of it—[and] to have a really proficient translator not even be able to translate or understand what the people were saying was kind of like that experience in Kamchatka—that feeling of stepping back in time."

Although Smith and his team are all trained professionals, it doesn't completely eliminate the risk factor of what he does. A lot of trust goes into knowing whether the adrenaline-pumping stunts are worth capturing.

"We choose to work with people that are the best at what they do and my feeling is that they have the better judgment," says Smith. "They have the years of experience. There's a lot of trust involved and I think that anxiety is dissipated in developing a relationship and trust with those individuals."

During moments of filming, Smith doesn't always fully register the extent of the risk being taken until after the fact.

"You're highly focused on capturing the image or telling the story; you don't have time to be scared, you only have time to be focused," he says. "Sometimes it's afterwards

where you're just like, 'Holy shit; that was crazy,' but in the moment itself, just like the athlete is totally focused on running a big waterfall, you're making sure your exposure is correct and you've got your framing right. Because a lot of the things we're filming, they only happen once."

Smith urges people to take risks—whether they be big or small—in their own lives.

"You know what? If you get outside of your comfort zone and you try something you've never tried before, you learn. And the vast majority of people that surround us in our day-to-day lives do the same things every single day. It's so programmed," he says. "I constantly get bombarded with, 'Oh my god, that's the craziest thing ever, like, total adrenaline junkie, thrill-seeking, crazy—it's crazy!' And it's like, no, it's actually not. It's about experiencing life, period. And yeah, sure, maybe what we do is a little bit more extreme, but I say this to a lot of people; you could literally just drive a different way to work every day and you would see so much more of what happens around you."

Nat Geo Live: Capturing the Impossible (with Bryan Smith)  
7 pm Wednesday, November 20  
\$37.50 and up, Royal Theatre  
\$20 student rush tickets available day of show  
[rmts.bc.ca](http://rmts.bc.ca)

# Angry in the snow, but with slightly less student-loan debt

## Looking back on the top 10 most-read Nexus stories of 2019

Story by Tiegan Suddaby, features writer  
Photo by Greg Pratt, managing editor

I loathe the top-10 lists of anything. At first, it felt like a huge cop-out to make this feature a look at the 10 most-read stories at nexusnewspaper.com in 2019 and say, “This is what everyone liked, see you next year.” But for us at the *Nexus* office, it’s not that at all. The end result of writing is a duck having a nice little swim; we’re not seeing the legs hard at work. Doing this article opened my eyes to how hard we all work for this paper, and how important each story can be to both the writers and the students.

So, this story is a splendid way to look back and learn from the highs and lows of working in the office, and to measure how we’ve evolved here at *Nexus*. Most of all, it’s a chance to see what the students are reading, which is the most important part of the paper, after all.

Looking back on the year, my life in the office changed significantly, mostly because I now actually work in the office. I always feel like I’m walking in all the past features writers’ shoes (especially Fred Cameron’s, now that it’s been a year since his 2018 top-10 feature was published). These are huge shoes to fill, and I already feel like I’m clowning around in them as I write this. It’s an honour, for sure, but it’s a duty that I really take seriously. When the due date for a feature hits and I send the draft off to managing editor Greg Pratt, it’s like I’ve been released from a two-week curse and I can work on the next big thing.

By the time next year comes, I’ll have grown into it, and I’ll be able to comfortably work in non-clown shoes. This clown metaphor got out of hand; I’d better stop now and just dive right into my analysis of the stories that were the most popular this year on nexusnewspaper.com.

### 10. “Layers of academic theft unravelling: Is plagiarism on the rise at Camosun College?” (February 6, 2019, written by Fred Cameron)

I was surprised to see that this was only number 10 on the list. Academic theft is a problem I hear about a lot, and there’s always a warning about it at the bottom of our course outlines. In this piece, Cameron really alters the reader’s perspective on what the definition of plagiarism actually is, and what we consider it to be. How has our technology contributed to the rise of plagiarism... or is it really even on the rise? Seeing people in my own world spew the same ideas from others, I wonder if the matter of originality should be considered plagiarism because, after all, “borrowing” an idea isn’t giving much room for independent thought. But what if the thought is your own, just from last year, or another class?

Features—and I know this by now—are complicated, but this one is particularly complicated. If you haven’t already, read this story for yourself. Then read it a second and third time.

### 9. “Know Your Profs: Irene Wallace on the importance of a Starbucks glass half-full” (May 15, 2019, written by Katy Weicker)

We were surprised to see *Know Your Profs* show up in this list for the second year in a row. But the nice thing about that is that now we know that students here love their instructors and faculty. Case in point: the popularity of this Q&A with Camosun Career Services employment facilitator Irene Wallace.

We caught up with Wallace to tell her the good news. Talking with Wallace shows why she made it on this list; she really makes students believe in their future.

“Each one of us does have a huge opportunity to make a difference, and I guess that’s always what I’m trying to encourage students to do,” says Wallace. “Don’t be thinking ‘I’m just a little old student,’ or ‘I’m not important.’ Well, you are, and if you’re willing to step forward and try to make a difference and have an impact on whatever it is you might be interested in, a whole bunch of ones add up to a great big world-changer sometimes.”

### 8. “Camosun College student raises concerns about Interurban bike lane” (January 7, 2019, written by Adam Marsh)

Back in late 2018, *Nexus* got an email from a concerned student (which is how many of our stories start—keep those emails coming!) who had some concerns about the state of the bike lane leading out to Interurban. Especially during poor weather, the mud would completely cover up the lane, meaning cyclists had to dart out into the road during a curvy, hilly stretch that people routinely speed in (update: almost a year later, the bike lane still looks like garbage).

It’s actually a disservice to say that this article is just about a bike lane. The safety of citizens should always come first, and the constant war between car drivers and cyclists is a bitter fight for safer transportation. After all, roads are what get us to campus. There’s no reason to go to school if just getting there is a danger.

Maybe some of us don’t think much of going on our morning commute. There is always the small chance some idiot driver is speeding because, obviously, their time is more precious than your safety, but what will the school do when those situations result in accidents on that bike lane?

When I first looked at this story, I thought it was just about a bike lane. But it’s about student safety, which is why it resonated so well with our student readers. We wish we could say the story had a better ending, but hopefully those bike lanes get the attention they need sooner rather than later.

### 7. “Camosun eyes potential Interurban film studio” (August 6, 2019, written by Kate Wood)

This story encapsulates everything about 2019: it shows the college moving with the times and exploring ways to teach students new skills. Maybe with a film studio—which would include 3D animation—we could have Camosun students go into specific arts programs as filmmakers and actually direct, shoot, and model a better remake of *Cats* on a lower budget. It’s probably not that hard.

But there are questions and concerns that come up: what’s this going to do in relation to the college’s new master plan? Is it that practical? What about the truly impossible parking situation at Interurban? This won’t help unless the college builds a parking lot that can definitely handle the new number of students the building will bring in (one Saanich resident who lives near the college recently told *Nexus* that they think this building is a bad idea, as it will just mean even more traffic and students parking on their road).

In terms of industry work, especially for the arts, it’s certainly an investment that would pay off for young film students. Offering a hands-on approach for students will bring their skills, and Camosun’s programs, up to date and into the future. Plus, with Camosun serving as an inexpensive and introductory alternative, adding a film studio will bring us up to par with industry-specific programs like the ones at Vancouver Film School and Emily Carr. The problem with these specialized programs is that they’re intense and immersive, which means a lot of hours, a lot of fancy equipment, a lot of exclusivity, and a lot of overworking with no reward. However, Camosun having intimate and introductory classrooms will give passionate students a low-stakes chance to experiment in a professional setting.

### 6. “Directing *The Master Builder* a dream come true for Blue Bridge’s Brian Richmond (May 15, 2019, written by Katy Weicker)

As a lover of literature and a fan of 19th-century Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, I was so happy to hear that the

Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre gave a chance for a healthy debate around their performance of Ibsen’s *The Master Builder*. In this story, our former staff writer Katy Weicker builds a gorgeous narrative around how timeless literature can be, and what the discussion should be surrounding a century-old play. How can a play set in the 19th century, talking about 19th-century values, be applicable to our modern audiences, and should it even be?

The article appeals to the modern artist, also talking about director Brian Richmond’s experimenting with avant-garde approaches and interpreting how the play should be performed. This story exemplifies how artists communicate through other works, how each explanation and understanding of a piece of art differs from artist to artist, and how we need to approach all art pieces, especially ones worlds away from us, with an active eye and open mind. It’s incredibly special to see Weicker’s influence on the paper and her journey in it (although I only arrived near the end of her time here). I really wish all the best for her, and she certainly has inspired a new generation of feminist journalists in the office.

Also, is there a secret Ibsen fan club out there, and if so, can I join?

### 5. “Former Camosun instructor no longer legally permitted to practice nursing in BC, college won’t release details of investigation” (July 8, 2019, written by Adam Marsh)

I’m not surprised by this one placing so high. Because of this situation, the trust of students, if it hasn’t already been

lost, will surely be affected. Now, in the midst of the MeToo movement, voices once silenced are coming forth with no going back. The culture on campus is a juxtaposition of darker secrets hidden behind the ever-constant reminders of consent and sexual harassment.

We don’t know what is truly happening, whether you’re on campus or on a field trip 6,000 miles away from it. When these things happen, it only furthers the fear, especially for female students. But it’s not all black and white: student editor Adam Marsh presents so many varying views in this article, it’s easy to realize that this is never a simple issue with simple solutions. Many of the students point out the potential for rehabilitation for Nursing instructor Stephen Bishop, who is at the centre of the allegations discussed in the story; others discuss their own personal horror at what occurred.

So, yes, of course it isn’t a black-and-white issue, it’s just a varying gradient of deeply dark greys. I myself feel powerless in this case. However, we need to bring issues like these to light, whether our opinions of it differ, and that’s the least we could do. And we will continue to do just that: *Nexus* currently has a Freedom of Information request in with the college to get more information about this situation, and we will continue to report on it.

### 4. “BC government eliminates interest on provincial student loans” (February 26, 2019, written by Kate Wood)

This is a huge story, and it rightfully takes its seat high up here on our list. Post-secondary education is, to be professional, stupidly expensive, which leads us students to curse its very name on a daily basis. But money woes shouldn’t get in the way of enjoying education. Student debt is looming over everyone’s heads—and if it’s not already, it will be once you graduate. To eliminate the interest charge on provincial student loans is big, and the total is huge on a province-wide level. Meanwhile, Alberta is now hiking up loan charges, which, as far as I can tell, just furthers the already established elitism of education, and also makes BC look way nicer.

Additionally, former staff writer Kate Wood’s writing has an approachable voice that makes talking about education and finances a less overwhelming experience than it could be. It serves as a great article to introduce newbies to the financial side of post-secondary education. Taking these steps into understanding where our money goes, and why eliminating interest charges is so newsworthy, helps readers really grab hold of reality and the practical necessities of their financial relationship with education.

### 3. “*La Traviata* delivers conflicting yet stunning portrayal of timeless themes” (February 15, 2019, written by Kate Wood)

Kate Wood’s documentation of, to quote her own article, her “evening at the opera” gives another arts story its place on the top-10 list. This story is Wood’s review of a newer interpretation of *La Traviata*, which transports the story to a couple centuries later, in 1920s Paris.

Wood’s article, along with Weicker’s on *The Master Builder*, really identifies what a lot of 2019 has been about. Feminists have always done the work of pointing out our societal issues within institutions and the arts, so how can we now appreciate earlier works of art without compromising our philosophy? However, we see that we can, through the performances and our own interpretation, enlighten our minds, hold onto our ideals, and still enjoy the experiences.

The opera is an alien form of entertainment for us young folks now, and it doesn’t feel natural to go enjoy them. Thankfully, Wood advises us to educate ourselves before the show and just let the music take us away.

It’s a funny thing that the further we get away from older artforms, the more interested we are in them. Our readers are indeed interested in operas and plays, and maybe it’s because our writers’ younger minds can introduce us to a time that seems so removed from our ideas through a lens that we can relate to.

### 2. “Camosun College board of governors elects new chair” (July 10, 2019, written by Kate Wood)

Post-secondary politics seem to always be progressing, but I think it’s notable that progressive politics get more readership, and this shows it. This story reported on how the Camosun College board of governors had appointed Laylee Rohani as the new chair; appointing a first-generation Iranian-Canadian woman is enough for students to feel that our college is definitely less outdated, but, as the article points out, passing the torch is important in itself.

The funny thing is that when I look at certain boards or, let’s say, Liberal cabinets, I feel deeply conflicted. Of course, we need the voices of all people, but how can we make a statement without it sounding empty? When we look at our local administrations, especially regarding education, I think that’s where the small statements are the loudest. Rohani’s predecessor Ron Rice is a member of the Cowichan Tribes; this shows that Canada is more than white Christian colonizers.

And it would appear that Laylee can really get to work. It’s been months since this article came out, and we’re already covering the plans she mentioned for the college, and the Alex & Jo Campbell Centre for Health and Wellness has officially opened. We’re happy to be covering stories like this, and happy that students are paying attention.

### 1. “Camosun College students upset after college opens despite snow” (February 11, 2019, written by Adam Marsh)

It’s no surprise that this is the number-one most-read article of 2019 on our site. To be honest, I feel a little cheated, but that’s mostly because I don’t even remember being that bothered by the snow. Then again, my Albertan bones keep me warm in BC’s “frigid” winters.

This was a hot story, though. The backlash from students upset that Camosun stayed open in the snow came fast and furious. The problem here was that some students literally couldn’t make it to campus, and it was during midterms. Camosun student Gwendolyn O’Connor—who now writes for *Nexus*—was quoted in the story as saying online, “What about students who have disabilities, eh? Thanks Camosun.” Student Taylor Westendale said “This is such a joke... I’m not going to risk my safety to make it to campus.”

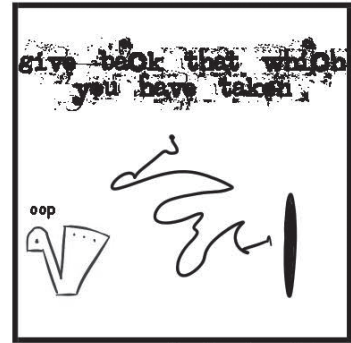
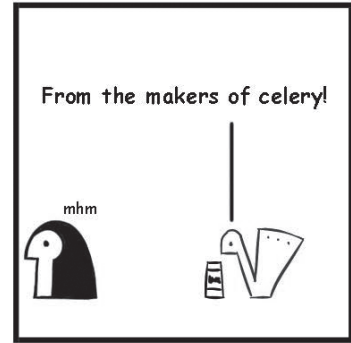
Still, college Facilities staff were up as early as 4 am determining what call to make, and the call was made to open the school, leading to the biggest school/student clash of the year, and our biggest story of the year, one we were working around the clock to update to keep students informed as to what was happening.

Knowing that our work has reached the eyes of our readers—Camosun student and staff, community members, even people all around the world—makes the experience of writing this so much more surreal. We tend to bring up in our meetings how mind-boggling it is to know that there are people out there halfway across the world reading what we wrote. We gravitate to certain topics, and some of these topics just can’t be easily explained, but it really feels like I’m talking with the people reading this. It’s such a gratifying feeling to see what stories are connecting most with people.

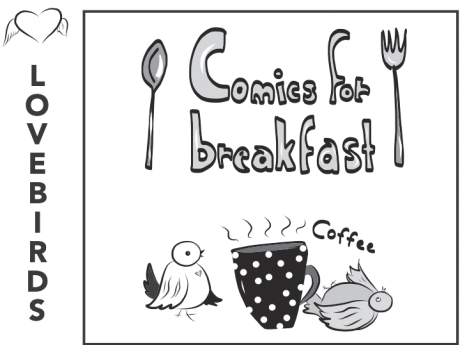
There will be plenty of stories to tell, read, and share in the next year, and I have a load of features coming up that I truly hope all of you will enjoy (maybe you’ll enjoy them enough to get me on this list next year... but that’s not really the point). We’ll see you in 2020, and we’ll have a lot to say then, too. We look forward to seeing what stories resonate most with you this time next year.







By Jayden Grieve



CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY CLUB COLUMN

CAMOSUN BUSINESS STUDY GROUP

by Simon Shepherd

Building a mentor

Why do we need a mentor? In the last issue I raised the concern of faking it until you make it, showing the hazard of confusing false confidence with true skill. A mentor is someone who can help us obtain the right skills and confidence to succeed, and we perceive them as being paramount to our success.

Costco requires all of its employees to start on the warehouse floor. All of them. Have a master's in business from Stanford with 10 years of experience? You start on the floor. Costco's reasoning is simple: its vision is its people.

Costco trusted its people then. Costco knows that its employees, not its board of directors, handle the small details of the big picture every day. Costco knows that while its overall profitability depends on its vision and big picture, its everyday survival depends on the employees that interact with its customers on the daily.

For more information, I suggest reading *Built to Last* by Jim Collins and Jerry I. Porras.

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.

BESIDE The Point

Writers and Artists: We Want Your Work!

Themed Issue: Dreams

Have you ever dreamed of whimsical and magical lands? Are your hopes and dreams within reach, or too ambitious to ever become a reality? Dreams can weave a tangled web of deeper symbolism or be completely nonsensical.

Beside the Point is a creative writing journal produced by students at Camosun College. We're currently seeking unique and creative interpretations of what dreams mean to you.

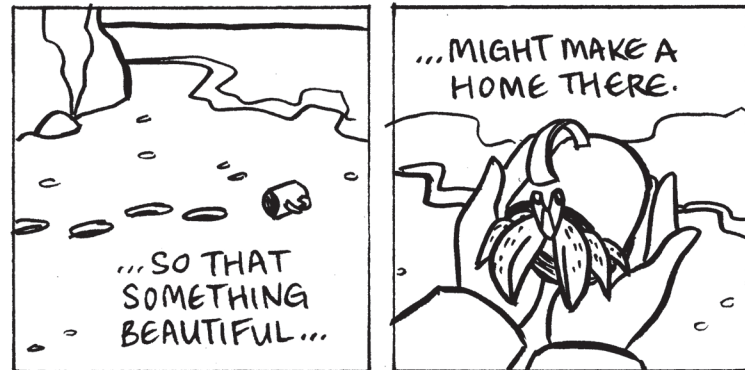
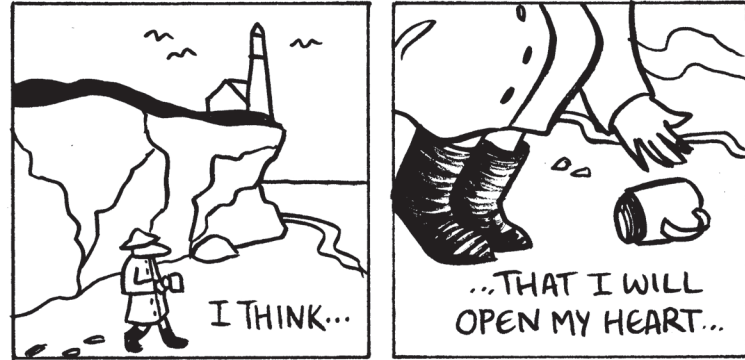
To submit, please register as an author and upload your work here: https://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/btp/index

To read our most recent issue, find us at the above link or on Facebook.

NOW OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: JAN. 15, 2020



Bubbles by Lia Glidden



CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY CLUB COLUMN

MYWELLNESS CAMOSUN

by Jordan Bell

Mental health talent show coming next semester!

Calling all students and faculty! The Camosun MyWellness program is hosting a talent show to raise awareness for mental health early next semester, and we need your creativity!

So what are the criteria? We just ask that you pick content that has some focus around mental health. One of the best ways to deal with pain is through art and, even better, talking about it and sharing stories.

The MyWellness program is an online counselling service for students and faculty, offering free assessments, a 24/7 text hotline, and video counselling.

So go on! Contact Jordan at mywellnesscamosun@gmail.com with a little bio about the act you'd like to share, and help us make the first talent show for mental health a success.

NEXUS 2's The 39 Steps a huge success

Diana Oscroft, contributing writer October 25, 2019

boisterous jaunt from start to finish, Blue Bridge Theatre's The 39 Steps is a theatre Patrick D... ckian thriller in the audience

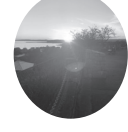
What's happening at nexusnewspaper.com Week of November 11, 2019, top five most read stories:

- 1. "Othello a passionate lesson in how not to love," November 8, 2019
2. "Louise Burns proves she's ready to break through with Victoria performance," November 11, 2019
3. "Students bring Hollywood to Lansdowne Dunlop House Pub," November 6, 2019
4. "Isle of Tease burlesque festival celebrates diversity," November 6, 2019
5. "Toronto's Hawksley Workman continues to evolve," November 6, 2019

Liberal-NDP minority government impact students. Plus, head to our site to check out web-exclusive stories!

Patrick Ferr October 23, 20 Check it all out at nexusnewspaper.com, and find us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook today!

The 2019 Canadian regional...



Freedom from Addiction

by Katie Mandey

Learning to let go

"Let go" might be the mantra of my life. Long before I entered recovery for sex and love addiction I was aware that my mind was like a bear trap: once I decided I wanted something I was absolutely bent on getting it.

This was not ambition. I was not simply going to do what it takes to achieve a goal. I was powerfully fixed on and obsessed with my object of interest, whether it was a pack of cigarettes, a new jacket I wanted, or a man I was interested in.

As a sex and love addict (which includes projecting a fantasy onto someone), I must practice letting go as I navigate the waters of dating and relationships so as not to fall again into an unfulfilling or abusive relationship.

through at virtually any cost—even my own wellbeing, much of the time. I was utterly unable to let go.

At a psychological and physiological level, letting go—or surrender—is the cessation of all internal gripping, clinging, or struggling. It is breathing with awareness, noticing one's physical sensations, and simply observing one's immediate internal and external reality.

Learning to let go internally is necessary to disentangle oneself from the relentless struggle of the pleasure/pain cycle, or addiction.

As a sex and love addict (which includes projecting a fantasy onto someone), I must practice letting go as I navigate the waters of dating and relationships so as not to fall again into an unfulfilling or abusive relationship.

a few years with a man prone to rage, violence, and manipulation, I can no longer afford to abandon reality, nor do I truly want to. I must be willing to let go so that I can see people as they really are.

Letting someone or something I want go has never been easy for me, as it uncovers painful wounds from childhood abuse and trauma.

Thanks to addiction recovery, many supportive friends, and a calling for something greater than living my life as an active addict, I am learning to let go.



Social Survival 101

by Sean Palmer

How to create a safest space

As hate, prejudice, and oppression continue to pervade the world, safe and safer spaces have made valiant strides toward a more accessible, fair, and diverse society.

Whereas safe and safer space proponents have relied upon human-driven frameworks for social justice, safest-space advocates argue that our flawed humanity itself creates a fundamental barrier to real progress.

1. Everyone welcome SafestAI will be free to run on any brain-computer interface, and comes packaged with training programs that will ensure that you and your linked community are updated with the latest safest-space guidelines, rules, and terminology.

2. Hyperinclusive policies Drawing upon a comprehensive database of social exclusion and discrimination while also forecasting impending inequities, SafestAI will generate perpetually updating policies that are inclusive beyond normal human comprehension.

3. Zero tolerance means zero tolerance These are just a fraction of the ways in which SafestAI will change our world for the best. Learn more at safest.ai.overlord.

hazardous content, and nullify offenders. Originally used to developed Facebook's safer alternative, Safebook, SafestAI has grown to become a robust force for positive social change that will soon be released into the public commons.

4. Purify hazardous content Employing the most cutting-edge tools in human-image synthesis, text generation, and voice mimicry, SafestAI can inoculate us from even the most heinous media and pop-culture content by creating safest versions.

These are just a fraction of the ways in which SafestAI will change our world for the best. Learn more at safest.ai.overlord.

With SafestAI, zero tolerance isn't just a term, it's a commitment. Reassure your community that any infraction upon safest-space policies will be met with complete social annihilation.

Employing the most cutting-edge tools in human-image synthesis, text generation, and voice mimicry, SafestAI can inoculate us from even the most heinous media and pop-culture content by creating safest versions.

These are just a fraction of the ways in which SafestAI will change our world for the best. Learn more at safest.ai.overlord.



Hold My Beer, I Lost My Keys

by Bo Essery

How to have dinner with parents

Having dinner with your parents is like sitting across the table from a firing squad armed with questions about your past, present, and future. To survive, you have to be focused and quick on your feet.

Lucky for you, your wise mentor has some sage advice on how to tread the awkward small talk and punishing dad jokes!

First, you're going to want to put on your Sunday best and pick somewhere nice to eat, some place that will demonstrate to your beloved parents that you have impeccable taste.

I recommend ordering modestly, as everybody knows that they're footing the bill. You don't want them to think you're taking advantage of them. Go with the 8oz steak instead

of the 12oz and maybe order something from the drink specials, like the vanilla sunrise martini, which is marked down from \$22 to a more-than-affordable \$18.

This is where they light you up with a hailstorm of questions. What you need to do is blindsides them by openly bragging about your awesome life!

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Queering

by Astrid Helms

Love letter to a term

I love the word "queer." It fits my body naturally and eases my insecurities. It sits alongside my experience comfortably and gives me a way to describe the affections I have known.

The word feels open and welcoming; it sees me and smirks with wholesome intent. I smirk back. It feels soft and kind and confident and all-loving; it reminds me of myself and of my community, wild and joyous.

I have the privilege of "queer" never being directed toward me as hate speech ("lesbo," "dyke," and "faggot," on the other hand...). I cherish this privilege, as I know my love for the word may not be as effortless otherwise.

The word "queer" was once reclaimed as an act of resistance and, at its best, as a way of gathering and forming community.

was essential for LGBTQ+ people's existence during the late '80s and through the '90s.

The term quickly became commonplace, now loved by individuals as a self-description, within academia (queer theory!) and beyond. I have, in the past and currently, identified with several labels that fall under the LGBTQ+ acronym and other queer terms.

When "dyke" has been used against me as an act of violence, it filled me with anger. I am defensive of this term I love and the community behind it, offended that someone may try to use it with aggression.

The word "queer" was once reclaimed as an act of resistance and, at its best, as a way of gathering and forming community.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL PATHWAYS learning experience Find your voice. Speak your mind. First Canadian Toastmasters, Club #38 Camosun College Interurban - Campus Centre Room 321 Tuesdays 5:15pm

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 outside on a table near the Camosun College Student Society kiosk in Fisher.

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!

## top 10 stories of 2019 word search

Our feature story this issue takes a look at the 10 most-read stories of the year over at nexusnewspaper.com. We took words from the headlines of those stories to make this word search. Check out our feature on page 6, and then unwind with this little challenge.

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.

BUILDER  
CAMOSUN  
COLLEGE  
CONCERNS  
CONFLICTING  
ELIMINATES  
FILM  
GLASS  
IMPORTANCE  
INTEREST  
INTERURBAN  
LEGALLY  
MASTER  
PERMITTED  
PLAGIARISM  
SNOW  
STUDIO  
STUNNING  
THEFT  
UPSET

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

## what's going on

by emily welch



DEREK FORD

The play *Secret/e* explores HIV criminalization, consent, and more.

UNTIL SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 14

**Praying to the masses**

Local artist Leah McInnis is presenting her multi-disciplinary exhibition, *Mass*, at Open Space until December 14. *Mass* is a totally new work that is tied around the multiple meanings of the word "mass." On Friday, November 22, McInnis will hold a reception for her work from 7 pm to 9 pm, and on Saturday, November 23, she will present a talk/performance, "Economy of Thought," from 2 pm to 4 pm. The idea for all this came from McInnis wanting to explore how mass is both a thing and an idea—makes one contemplate, doesn't it? Everything happens at Open Space; see [open-space.ca](http://open-space.ca) for more information.

UNTIL THURSDAY,  
MAY 14, 2020

**Blinded by the light**

Have you ever wondered about the shifting roles of lighthouses? No, seriously: it is a thing. The Maritime Museum of BC's exhibit *Protecting our Coast: The Shifting Role of BC Lighthouses* is up until May 2020,

Management-infused schedules to host the Brew's Mystery Tour, a fundraising event raising money for Camosun's Child Care services yard renovation project. It's a four-hour tour with live music, yummy tapas, and a silent auction. Things get started at 6:30 pm, and transportation is provided in the form of a bus which travels to several breweries and drops you back off at Dunlop House begging for mercy, or maybe just a bucket to throw up in. Whoever thought of raising money for children with a beer tour is pretty innovative, as it is probably effective. The drunker you are, the looser the purse strings become! I just hope the kids are left at home. Tickets are \$70 (but, hey, there is no price on fun, and it's for the kids!); search "brew's mystery tour" on [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca) for more info.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

**Where's the party?**

Now, I love the idea of celebrating the harvest, but this is something different: it's LifeCycles' 25th anniversary Harvest Party, and they're throwing it in true earth-loving, tree-hugging style. There'll be yummy food, short stories, music, and a cash cider bar—wholesome homebrew, anyone? This seems like a really good time, and community connection through food is always sincere and filling. It runs from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Philippine Bayanihan Community Centre, located at 1709 Blanshard Street. See [lifecyclesproject.ca](http://lifecyclesproject.ca) for more information.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

**It's all glitter, glitz, and gloom**

If you can imagine a smoke-filled bar with a dusty, classic piano in the corner and a soulful yet deep, throbbing voice rising out of that smoke while cartoon notes of jazz drop down to hit your heart before they hit your ears, then you may have accurately pictured a Tom Waits concert. Well, here's the next best thing: Glitter and Doom—A Tom Waits Burlesque Tribute is on at the Victoria Event Centre, and promises a night of art and dance so strange and sophisticated that Tom Waits himself, the so-called Master of Mood, would undoubtedly

be pleased as punch that he is being honoured so fondly—and appropriately. Doors open at 7 pm, and tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. See [facebook.com/diversionburlesk](http://facebook.com/diversionburlesk) for more details.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

**Stayin' alive... barely**

There is the odd time that disco is a good thing—and when it's mixed with burlesque and costume contests, well, you can't get much better than that. Monday Night fever is being celebrated with disco, games and karaoke, and with performances by The Saltines, Pop Tart, The 4D Experience, Cherry Cheeks, and Eddi Licious, who are there to shake their cheeks and your senses. Bring your screaming voice, your sexitude, and a fan—it'll be hot in there. The fun goes down at the Victoria Event Centre at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 advance or \$20 at the door; see [victoriaeventcentre.ca](http://victoriaeventcentre.ca) for more details.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 TO  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

**Exploring secrets**

*Secret/e* is a new local play that looks at HIV criminalization, consent, and more, and it's making its world premiere on November 27. The play, which runs until December 1—World AIDS Day—is running at Intrepid Theatre Club; tickets are \$10 to \$20. See [intrepidtheatre.com](http://intrepidtheatre.com) for more information.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

**A night at the mosh pit**

If you are a fan of noise, noise, and more noise, We Hunt Buffalo are showing their very bold and brash selves—who, by the way are classified as rock/indie/punk/metal/hardcore...and, get this, pop—at The Copper Owl. It should be hair-raising and intriguing, to say the least. I might go just to see how they can pull off all those genres without sounding like a trapped cat in a shopping bag. Tickets are \$10 at the door; see [copperowl.ca](http://copperowl.ca) for details.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Start the Christmas season off with a tale**

Christmas is all about stories, and

those stories change with new interpretations as different people tell them. In its seventh season, *Christmas Tales*—an event that features live music and storytelling—will feature storyteller Justyn Rees and singer-songwriters Russ Rosen, Shari Ulrich, and Graham Ord delivering laughs and good times. The fun goes down at 7 pm at Victoria Church of the Nazarene, located at 4277 Quadra Street; search "Christmas Tales Victoria BC" on [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca) for more info.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

**Get funky!**

If you love dark, psychedelic, euphoric bass drops, put on your gumboots and pull up your tighty whities: local spinner Dubversified Culture is performing with Portland-based band Barisone at the Victoria Event Centre. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door; see [victoriaeventcentre.ca](http://victoriaeventcentre.ca) for more info on this and other upcoming events happening at the Victoria Event Centre.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

**Ready to shake 'em**

Hosted by local sex activist Rosie Bitts, the latest round of burlesque at Metro Studio Theatre will have you looking for a pen to sign up to be one of Bitts' students, too. Don't go easy; they're burlesque students but that doesn't mean they aren't ready to shake some Brand New Boobies. Tickets start at \$31.50. The first show is at 7 pm on the December 7, but there's also one at 9:30 for the night owls. See [facebook.com/bestbittsproductions](http://facebook.com/bestbittsproductions) for more info on this and other events.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

**Christmas at the beach**

Join local rock band Vinyl Wave at The Beach House restaurant and bring in the holiday season with tunes, snacks, and booze. What could be better? Tickets run from \$38 to \$48, and there will also be a silent auction, a cash bar, and, in case you want to feel prim and proper, a cocktail reception. Early bird tickets are available until Saturday, November 30; for more info, see [beachhousevictoria.com](http://beachhousevictoria.com).