

## CAMOSUN PRESIDENT SHERRI BELL: THE FIRST YEAR

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# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

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### SEND A LETTER

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

OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "I feel that from the very bottom of my soul."

COVER PHOTO:  
Sherri Bell: Jill Westby/*Nexus*  
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student editor's letter

## Keep on rockin' in academia

The doors of Richmond House 201—the *Nexus* office—are opening and closing on a near-hourly basis as eager volunteers cross the threshold, ready to fight the daily battle that is student journalism. Without volunteers, there is no *Nexus*, and if there is no *Nexus*, there is no source for reliable, honest, on-campus news at Camosun. So, we thank you, Camosun students!

This issue, managing editor Greg Pratt caught up with Camosun president Sherri Bell to check in on how things are going after her first year on the job; head over to page 6 to read the exclusive, in-depth Q&A.

Speaking of us being honest, right here on page 2 we have an opinion piece about Camosun moving the Disability Resource Centre to the library building. It's not necessarily going to be a popular opinion, but it's one I felt strongly about.

One of our newest contributing writers, Josh Christopher, wrote about the college's new gender-neutral bathrooms in the news section, on page 3. In the arts pages, another new contributing writer, Mason Hendrix, chatted with Tokyo Police Club; flip to page 8 to read that story.

Our web editor, He Wei, used her personal experience to come up with some tips for new international students on page 4, while our new staff writer, Adam Boyle, got drunk and wrote about it on page 5. Welcome aboard, Boyle!

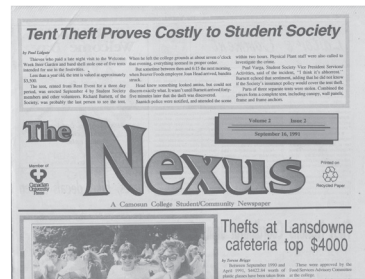
The school year is back in full swing, and I know I'm not the only one who is struggling to balance all of the different aspects of life into one compact, blurry gem of productivity. We have some fun stuff in the paper to help you unwind, too: find the hidden copy of *Nexus* on campus or complete our word search for a prize. See page 10 for both of those fun time wasters... I mean, brain stimulators.

Enjoy reading this issue, and I think I can speak on behalf of all our staff when I say: you rock. Yes, you, with the tepid coffee and overflowing book bag that is bound to give you a chronic back problem later in life. You are our readers, and without you, we cannot serve our purpose. So, yeah: rock on!

Adam Marsh, student editor  
adam@nexusnewspaper.com

## flashback

### 25 years ago in *Nexus*



**Just a story about a big-ass tent theft:** From the "why would anyone bother?" department: our September 16, 1991 issue featured the cover story "Tent theft proves costly to student society," which detailed, well, exactly what it promised: the woes of the Camosun College Student Society as they dealt with the aftermath of one of their tents being stolen from an event. The tent was valued at \$3,500. Who the hell would steal a big tent?

**4,500 stolen cups:** The thefts didn't stop at a big-ass tent: this issue also featured a story talking about how the Camosun cafeteria—at the time run by Beaver Foods—

had almost \$4,500 worth of plastic cups stolen from them in less than eight months. Was it the person who took the tent, preparing for a huge party? No, it was individual students walking away with the reusable cups, not realizing they were to be left behind (or realizing and doing it anyway). The cups were valued at around \$1 each; this added up quickly for the caf, although we do applaud the use of reusable cups instead of adding to the landfill with disposable ones.

**Not about theft:** Just kidding! Totally about theft. Apparently you had to watch your back around Lansdowne in '91: our story "Purses, bikes, decals stolen" detail how all of the above had gone missing during the first week of classes. The breakdown? Five purses, two bikes, and three parking decals. Bummer all around—although, looking at all our stories about students feeling dissatisfied with rising parking prices over the years, the last one comes as no surprise.

open space

## Moving Disability Resource Centre harmful to students

ADAM MARSH  
STUDENT EDITOR

Moving the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) into the Lansdowne library was a move ignorant to the needs of Camosun students.

Many students are self-conscious of their learning disabilities; putting what is quite often their lifeline—for extra help during high-stress times such as exams or just for day-to-day needs like picking up notes—in the academic centre of the college is asking for trouble.

It's unlikely that you'll walk through the busiest intersection of downtown Victoria and see signs that advertise counselling for learning challenges or mental disorders, but they are there. The whole idea with these kinds of resources is that they are not accidentally stumbled

that student will seek the aid available to them.

Some feel strongly that having the DRC in a more public place will decrease stigma around learning challenges. And, sure, if a person really needs help, there are many variables that impact whether or not they will receive it. But let's be realistic: having a more visible placement of the centre will not urge a student who wasn't using it before to use it now. It's more likely, now that it's in the middle of Grand Central Station, to cause a student who desperately needs the services but who wants to keep their personal demons personal to decide against using it. Which is unfortunate, because it could be a cornerstone to their academic success.

Camosun, don't make it any harder than it already is to get through life with a learning challenge.

upon; it's a privacy issue for the sake of those who use them. With the DRC in the library, it's far too easy for a student who uses it but who doesn't want to be associated with the stigma of it to be seen. Now, stigma is a whole different issue, and is arguably the culprit here, but, regardless, it's of the utmost importance to respect the students using the DRC.

Sure, the people who decide where to put the DRC aren't too affected, but for a student with learning challenges, the discreet nature of the centre is often the deciding factor in whether or not

Camosun, don't make it any harder than it already is to get through life with a learning challenge. The DRC location wasn't broken; don't try to fix it. It's not like the staff were in the DRC's previous location in the Dawson building twirling around in office chairs all day with nothing to do because students in need weren't coming through.

Having the DRC in the library only complicates navigating college life further for students with disabilities. And that's a mistake, because that road wasn't exactly smooth to begin with.

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

### Tuition tantrum

In as much as I agree that it would be good to eliminate tuition, the article ("It's time to eliminate tuition in Canada," September 7, 2016 issue) sounds a lot like a call to throw a temper tantrum. The people who need to vote to pay the taxes that will pay for tuition need to see that it is in their best interests. It is an investment in the future. It is the strong jobs and economy that come with education that will make it possible to pay their needs in their old age. The alternative will be stiff competition for the position of Walmart greeter when Canada Pension doesn't pay the bills.

TIM HIEBERT  
CAMOSUN STUDENT

## SPEAK UP

What's your favourite beer and why?

BY ADAM MARSH



TALIA LOPEZ

"My favourite beer is Corona, just because it makes me feel closer to my roots. I'm Cuban."



EFE TÜKER

"Guinness, because it's dark and I really like dark tastes."



CURTIS LEGGETT

"Phillips Chocolate Porter; it goes well with everything. My second favourite is Hoyné Dark Matter."



ALEX PIERCE

"Pabst Blue Ribbon, because it's cheap and I like the taste of it. Mostly because it's cheap; I'm a student."



JESSIE HUTCHISON

"I like Phillips Blue Buck, just because it's not too hard to drink."



MYRRIAH ROOSE

"I like to try a lot of different ones. Something lighter, unless I'm feeling adventurous."

gender issues

## Camosun College launches gender-inclusive washrooms on both campuses



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

The gender-inclusive washroom in the Richmond House on Camosun College's Lansdowne campus.

**JOSH CHRISTOPHER**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Five single-occupancy washrooms at Camosun's Interurban and Lansdowne campuses were recently re-designated as being gender-inclusive. The college added signage to these washroom doors stating that they are "all gender" washrooms and that "anyone can use this restroom, regardless of gender identity or expression."

Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) external executive Rachael Grant says that the CCSS is very much in support of these changes to Camosun washrooms.

"It's a much more inclusive structure to have washrooms on campus that are for folks of any gender," says Grant. "The amount of students that benefit from all-gendered washrooms is quite large: people who are trans, folks who have a support worker who's of a different gender, folks who have a child with them who's of a different gender."

Camosun College vice president of student experience Joan Yates says that the college is at phase one of this initiative, and that now they need to make sure that people know the washrooms are there.

"Phase two will be looking at broader washrooms as we do our regular capital upgrading over time," says Yates, "but it is on our priority list."

Yates advocates further consultation with students before moving ahead with multi-person all-gender washrooms, and she says the college will likely go that route in the future. She admits the current washroom setup does not fully meet the needs of students, but she says that the way this plan rolled out "did not require waiting for renovations and capital money to do that."

CCSS pride director Anthony

"It's a much more inclusive structure to have washrooms on campus that are for folks of any gender."

**RACHAEL GRANT**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

Pica says he's really happy with what Camosun has done, adding that he would love to see all-gender washrooms in every building or on every floor, but he realizes infrastructure doesn't always allow for that.

"I think it's a really great initiative. It's a small start to a really great beginning," he says; in the future, he'd like to see multi-person all-gender washrooms on campus, but "that is a conversation that hasn't started yet."

Grant says that it's difficult for Camosun to enter into conversations like that, as she says the college is "chronically underfunded." (Grant adds that there will likely always be a place for gendered washrooms; for example, if a woman wears a niqab and needs to remove it, she may not be comfortable doing so in front of men.)

"If you look at our Young Building it literally is falling apart," she says. "We had a window fall out of the Fisher building a couple of years ago. Our institutional funding is in-

credibly low from our government, and that inhibits a lot of things that the college could potentially do for students."

University Transfer student Yesong Park supports the idea of the new gender-inclusive washrooms, saying "to make unisex bathrooms is for human rights."

University Transfer student Shaylee McLaren says these bathrooms make it so that people don't have to worry about feeling uncomfortable or feeling dysphoria when they have to go the bathroom.

"If they feel unsafe or uncomfortable in any bathroom, really, the fact that they don't have to worry about that specifically anymore is really great," says McLaren.

The gender-inclusive bathrooms in the Lansdowne campus are located on the first floor of Dawson, the second floor of Paul, and the first floor of Richmond House.

The Interurban gender-inclusive washrooms are in the east hallway of Jack White and the first floor of Campus Centre.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Janice Simcoe moves into new position at college

Janice Simcoe is the new director of Eyē? Sqā'lewen: The Centre for Indigenous Education and Community Connections at Camosun College. Simcoe has been with Camosun for 15 years.

### Brent Wasserman new DRC chair

Brent Wasserman has been appointed the chair of the Disability Resource Centre at Camosun College. Wasserman, who was appointed on September 1, will be in the position for a three-year term.

### Low-cost dental available at Camosun

If you're looking for some cheaper options to keep those teeth pearly

white, Camosun is the place to go. Screenings cost \$60, and parents may book their children (who do not require a screening) for \$20. The first of many screenings throughout the school year is Wednesday, September 22 between 1:30 and 4:30 pm at the Camosun Dental Clinic on the Lansdowne campus. Email [smile@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:smile@camosun.bc.ca) for more information.

### Japanese Club back at Camosun

Camosun prof Masayuki Fukushima and some Camosun students are getting the Japanese Conversation Club back up and running this semester. The club meets in Wilna Thomas 201 on the Lansdowne campus on Fridays at 4 pm. Contact [japaneseclub@camosunstudent.org](mailto:japaneseclub@camosunstudent.org) for more information on how to get involved with the club.

### ABE enrolment plummets in wake of provincial decision

The Christy Clark government axed Adult Basic Education (ABE) funding in December of 2014; the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) is now saying that this will prevent lower-income families from having equal opportunity for education. The decision to cut ABE funding has lowered ABE enrolment by 20 to 60 percent, according to a BCFS press release. For more information, visit [dontclosethedoors.ca](http://dontclosethedoors.ca).

### Tuition increases have Canadian Federation of Students concerned

New tuition statistics from Statistics Canada show that Canadian full-time undergraduate students

will pay, on average, \$6,373 in tuition fees; international students, meanwhile, will pay \$23,589. The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) says the numbers are a result of the federal government stalling investments for the future. The CFS has begun a campaign calling for free tuition in Canada.

### Local choir looking for students

The Gettin' Higher Choir is looking for college students to sing with them this year. There is no audition required; students can come see what it's all about between September 19 and 29. See [gettinhigherchoir.ca](http://gettinhigherchoir.ca) for more information.

### Car Free YYJ wins award

The Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) is being

acknowledged by the International Downtown Association (IDA) for their efforts in Car Free YYJ this year. The Award of Excellence awarded to the DVBA by IDA, is for those who go above and beyond IDA certificate of merit requirements. Car Free YYJ was one of 16 qualifiers for the Events and Programming category of the awards.

-ADAM MARSH

Got a news tip? Email [editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com) to fill us in today!

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

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations last year, we started an Instagram account! Come say hello over there and see what we're up to online.

While you're at it, we're also on Facebook and Twitter, you know...

Find us as nexusnewspaper on all three. See you there!

know your profs

## Camosun's Nancy Yakimoski says education more than just good grades



JILL WESTBY/NEXUS

Camosun College Visual Arts instructor Nancy Yakimoski.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

*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 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 add your instructor to our list of teachers to talk to.

This issue, we talked to Camosun Visual Arts instructor Nancy Yakimoski about the role of networking in procuring employment after post-secondary, the mess in her office, and her second collection of poetry.

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

I teach creative photography, art history, and visual culture courses in the Visual Arts department. I've been teaching at the college for 20 years.

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

Learning new material as I tweak my lectures and assignments—it's my ongoing education as I educate. I also enjoy the challenge of creating new ways to teach material. And it's very satisfying to help students take their ideas and finesse them into an essay or an art piece.

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

I am fully invested in their success before they step into the class-

room—but they need to take an active role in their learning. I would like them to be travellers, and not tourists, in their education.

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

For some reason, I am unable to keep my office space tidy.

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

The best thing is witnessing students' successes—in all its forms. A real thrill, though, is having students tell me a class they took with me made them see the world in a different way, or, better, they chose that field to pursue after leaving Camosun.

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

Budget cuts—and a climate of fear and uncertainty that it creates while it is happening, plus the long-term effects it has on the college community.

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

It troubles me that education is advertised in terms of time, for example, 10 months equals a job. I understand the economic reasons, and how enticing this must be. I am of a different philosophy, one that has guided my own education. As

a student, I realized that to achieve my career aspirations would take more than a piece of paper with good grades. I needed hands-on experience, a large network that included people from a variety of communities, plus the flexibility and creativity to adapt to the job market. This all comes with time, plus an education outside the classroom. What I hope to see in the future of post-secondary education is more formal and informal mentorship opportunities. I was excited when the BC Arts Council included funding for this kind of learning.

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

I hang out with my kids, work on the garden and yard, and write poetry. I'm working on my second poetry collection, investigating aspects of photography from the perspective of an artist and art historian.

**9. What is your favourite meal?**

Not to brag, but I make an outstanding beef wellington—a Rachael Ray recipe. Add to that a side of steamed broccoli and a glass of Shiraz, then finish it up with custard and fresh berries... I think I know what I'm making for supper now.

**10. What's your biggest pet peeve?**

Closed-minded people. Luckily, there are all types of creative people working against that.

advice

## Five tips to help new international students at Camosun College



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Which way to Dawson? Navigating Camosun College can be tough for new international students.

**HE WEI**  
WEB EDITOR

There was once an English tourist who found he only had enough money to buy a ship ticket to go home after he visited Norway. It was only a two-day trip, so he decided to not eat any food on the ship so he could afford the ticket.

The first day, he did not eat breakfast; at lunchtime, he still hid in his room. At dinnertime, he was very hungry, and he could not tolerate any more. He thought, "I want to eat food, even if they throw me to the ocean after I eat dinner."

At dinnertime, he ate all of the

food that the waiter gave him, and he prepared to have a serious quarrel when he told the waiter he had no money to pay.

"Give me the bill," he said.

"I don't have any bill," the waiter answered. "On the ship, three meals a day are included in the ship ticket."

This is only a joke about travel, but it shows how people can encounter troubles if they're not fully aware of the customs of where they are. New international students will encounter problems and troubles because they have to live in a new and different culture and country.

I know because I've been an international student for a couple of years. Here are five tips of mine to help make things easier for international students at Camosun College.

**Money matters**

Some people may dislike talking about money, or think it's nonsense to worry about it. However, I want to say this: taking enough money with you is really very important.

Sometimes, when people do not have money, they can be anxious and worried (like in the joke at the top of this story). In a foreign coun-

try, keeping enough money in the bank is a basic necessity for living and studying. If students do not have enough money, they will not live very well, and this will influence their studies. Easier said than done sometimes, but if possible, save up as much as you can before your big move.

**Making friends**

When people go into a new environment, they can feel nervous and lonely. However, making friends can help people reduce these feelings. Why do people have negative moods when they are in new surroundings? It's self-denying and being disappointed in oneself, and these feelings are released by a negative mood. Sometimes it can actually be a bit tough for new international students to make friends with domestic students because local students already have their friends; see if you can find students from the same country you're from, or other international students.

**Volunteer your time**

Becoming a volunteer can help new international students gain more useful information and learn about Canadian culture. When students want to live better in Canada, they need to learn more local information and culture. Volunteering is an effective way to obtain information. Besides, international

students usually miss their home; volunteering activities are helpful to get your mind off of being homesick.

**What you're reading right now**

Alright, when you read that, maybe you're laughing, or maybe you think this is an advertisement, but I'm serious. New international students usually do not have great language skills, but reading or volunteering at a student newspaper can help improve them. *Nexus* newspaper is written by Camosun students, and it's very easy to get started here. Volunteering at *Nexus* newspaper will help international students improve their reading and writing skills. Also, *Nexus* newspaper includes Camosun-related news and content such as book reviews, arts coverage, comics, and more. This will give new international students, who may feel life here is boring if they don't know what to do, a chance to take in some fun after class.

**Stay happy**

New international students may feel nervous or worried here at Camosun. At the very least, you should always keep a happy heart. My little cousin is also a new international student this year; I always tell her to keep a happy mood every day. Studying abroad is difficult, so keeping a happy heart is important for living and for studying.

review

Great Canadian Beer Festival fantastic thanks to beer, beer, and more beer

**ADAM BOYLE**  
STAFF WRITER

As a 19-year-old student, the prospect of being able to attend a festival focused around beer was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. I had never been to a festival of any kind until now; the Great Canadian Beer Festival could not have been a better entrance into this world.

After I arrived, I fumbled around the outside of Royal Athletic Park, where the festival was taking place. Eventually I ran into an old co-worker who, after some chit-chat, directed me to where I could enter as a reporter. Rushing blood, a pounding heart, and an excited anticipation of what was to come were all very much present in my festival-virgin body.

I joined the ranks of fellow reporters and filled up the provided plastic cup at the first of my stops, Tod Creek Craft Cider's booth. After

chatting to a few others in the group and downing the unusually bitter cider faster than I probably should have, we moved on to Moody Ales' booth. And I must say, the beer we were served was incredibly good. Sweet honey and oak chips were used in the brewing process, and sweet baby Jesus, was it effective. Now, I'm a fairly selective beer being, and after trying their Hardy Brown Ale I will definitely buy more when I get the chance.

After trying a few more brews, the tour ended at Brasserie Dunham's booth. Given the choice of three fruity beers, I chose the Berliner Mango Weisse. Now, I love mangoes with a passion, but mangoes in a beer? That reached a whole new level of mango I didn't think was possible. The mango beer was incredible: overwhelming mango flavour with hints of actual beer thrown in.

With the tour wrapped up and a few pictures taken, the media group disbanded, and I decided to take some more photos before the floodgates were opened and people filled the ball field of booze. Wandering around, I found a few people dressed as various characters: the Mad Hatter, a guy in all pink (even his beard and hair), a German Oktoberfest waitress, and, of course, a girl dressed as a hop, to name a few.

By this time, people started pouring into the field, and, boy, was it fantastic to watch. People rushed to their favourite stands and lined up so fast I didn't even have time to register it all. I was surprised to see how cheerful and lively the grounds had suddenly become. People were incredibly friendly, and when asked for their photos or their opinions on beers, every single person cheerfully replied with a grin and a "this better be front page!" (Sorry, it's not.)

After a few more beers at random stops and a trip back to get some more of that sweet, sweet mango beer (Brasserie Dunham, you win), I ran into more writers and had an intimate discussion about the different textures of the beers we had acquired. Soon, the beers started to set in, and I melted into the crowd and reunited with my old co-worker once again for a quick photo. As time went by I almost forgot that there was work to be done. The sun was out, not a cloud was in the sky, and I, as well as seemingly everyone else, was having a fantastic time.

Eventually, though, I decided



ADAM BOYLE/NEXUS

A small sampling of some of the characters at this year's beer fest.

that it was time to attempt to make my way home, which resulted in me in getting off at the wrong bus stop and having to walk for a solid 20 minutes back to my home (by then, thankfully, the tipsiness had worn off).

So would I say that the Great Canadian Beer Festival was a success? Yes, I would. It was a great experience to spend time with old and new friends, and, come on, mango beer? Things can't get much

better than that. The layout of the festival was well thought out and easy to navigate, the washrooms were plentiful, and the food that was offered was pretty dang good too. The atmosphere alone was enough to make me want to go back next year.

Hopefully, I'll be able to. As I stumbled home after getting off at the wrong bus stop, I realized that I was bested by beer fest this year, but next year, I will survive it.



ADAM BOYLE/NEXUS

Beer, sunshine, and good company: this year's fest was a success.

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camosun's student voice since 1990

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# The annual

## Camosun College president Sherri Bell

**C**amosun College president Sherri Bell started her job here a year ago, following the unexpected and prompt termination of previous president Kathryn Laurin's contract. Bell was stepping into a position filled with questions, and she was about to lead the college through a year of change.

We caught up with Bell recently to talk about her first year on the job at Camosun, some of the challenges she faced, and how the college needs to improve in the future.

*It's been a year since you started here; what was your first year like?*

The first year was probably the most amazing year of my career. There were no huge surprises. Camosun has a great reputation; coming in, I knew the quality of instruction here, I knew the quality of the people that work here, I knew a lot of the students who come here. I knew—I thought I knew—about the place. What got to me the most was the heart of Camosun, and very quickly it became a part of who I am, and that is just incredible. I don't know how many times I was just in awe of what we do, and seeing the difference we make to students. I think in a place like this, you have to have a good fit. Camosun and the values and what it stands for is a great fit for me, and I think I'm a pretty good fit for Camosun.

*How does that heart of Camosun compare to other institutions you've worked at?*

I don't want to compare, but there are shared values that permeate across the institution, that no matter where you teach—and we have two large campuses—it doesn't matter where you go; you could be in the trades building or in arts and science, and that pride of the institution and what we do for students and what is important to us is pretty clear. And I

think that really became clear when we did our strategic plan, because there was a lot of input into the strategic plan and the same things kept coming up over and over again, which is what we value.

*What have some of the challenges been in your first year?*

I guess with any new position, the challenge is just getting up to speed, understanding what happens, learning the names, the acronyms... I'm an educator and always will be—that's who I am at heart—so the education piece wasn't a problem. And Victoria—of course, I live here—so the challenge was just getting to know everything about Camosun. I still feel like I don't know everything, for sure.

**“The first year was probably the most amazing year of my career.”**

*What have some of the victories or successes been in your first year?*

One of the things that I'm proud of is the reorganization of our senior administration. We were able to do that because we had two openings at the vice president level, and that allowed us to look at what was important. When we were trying to figure out what structure would make sense for the college, we were crammed into my office and I had poster paper and I drew a stick figure of a student, and drew a circle around it, and said, “Every decision we make, we have to go back to the centre, which is, ‘How is this going to benefit the students?’” And although it sounds like a bureaucratic exercise, it wasn't. So that's when we came up with the idea of having a student experience portfolio; Joan Yates is the vice president of student experience, and that's never been done before. So how do we take that restructuring and really make something happen that we can all be proud of and that students who come here leave saying that that was an experience second to none? That's my end goal.

Joan's got a big job this year in creating a plan (laughs). She's done a wonderful job so far in talking to people. She'll sit in Student Services and just watch. We can't make good decisions

without information or data. That's what we're doing right now, just talking and listening and looking at what we can do and how we can make it better. So that's something I'm quite proud of; even though it's an administrative change, it will permeate, I'm hoping, throughout the student experience. I think we can look forward at the college to hearing more about that as the year goes on. And I'm happy not just with the strategic plan, but the process that we took was unique, and I like the outcome.

*What were your impressions of Camosun coming into the job? How were you surprised?*

I think the difference was before I came here, I didn't understand the core values or feel that heart, so that's what I learned. This might sound a bit corny, but I go home at the end of the week on a Friday, and my husband would say, “How was your day? How was your week?” and I'd say, “Awesome.” He finally, around November, said, “Okay, I'm really tired of hearing, ‘awesome’.” But it's just how I felt. I was so excited, and I still am. I'd come home after an event and say, “You should see what we do. It's amazing.”

*Last time we talked about the college. How has that changed?*

I'm glad you asked. It's a big priority for me. And what we do, talking to the community on the island... We're doing that for years. I think what's made a difference is what we've done. We have our small committee that has come back to our attention about 86 actions to take. We actually started to take each year, what's been done. Beside every one of us, every member of the executive committee to be held responsible. Work is one thing, but certain actions we've taken. We're excited about rolling out and working with different groups of people to get the actions into place. I can say that that was a pretty big win last year, and I have to say I'm absolutely amazed at what we already do, but I am really proud of it's really important to us about where we're going. That's what we'll see in the fall: what's the plan for the college and as a community.

*You mention the student experience. How do you feel the Camosun experience should be?*

I think it's every student's call to Camosun to do a meeting with advising or degree; it's all part

**“When I read the story [in Nexus about Camosun students using drugs to study], I guess I shouldn't have been shocked, but I was.”**

that over the past couple of years, we've had success and to help students. The plan is going to look at that data-collection and also certain things that we're doing up a bit, which is experiential workplace learning, and what students experience. We've put a director into that role because we're depending on that to add to that student experience. We see students more involved from the community. We focus on problem solving in many areas of technology. It's part of what they do. In another area; again, we're doing it. Our students have that more as we fine-tune it.

*Lots of these ideas are conceptual. We did*



# Annual report

## looks back at her first year on the job

Story by Greg Pratt, managing editor

Photos by Jill Westby/Nexus

ed, you mentioned indigenization at the gone in the past year?

d that question. This year, that has been a gain, it's just getting to know people and people from other colleges and universities e leaders in indigenization and have been ere we have an opportunity to really make ve do in response to the Truth and Recon- r senior leadership council and we have a 's looked at all the recommendations and senior leadership council, and we approved be taken. We're so far along that we've k about what specific things will happen s the budget for it, and who's responsible. of those actions is someone's name that's a ecutive team, because I believe that we have isible. Whether or not we do the hands-on g, but we all need to take responsibility for ve want to see happen. I'm probably most ing that out and getting the college involved

a differ- to put . So I'd riority e been t what lso feel to talk going.

e in the to take us to a place we need to go as a try?

student experience a lot. What exactly do n student experience is and what do you

ning, from the moment you make a phone ask a question to walking in the door to g to starting classes to getting a diploma t of the student experience. So any inter-

Camosun ess I was."

ple of years to improve the student exper- nts that perhaps need more support. What ok like is unknown right now; we're still in nd information-collection stage. There are at I think we do well that we want to beef periential learning or hands-on learning, co-op student employment—that part of ence here, I think we can improve. We've at role, Nancy Sly; she's got a big job, be- g on what she and her team come up with t experience. That's one thing. I'd like to olved in applied research, taking problems y to the college and having our students lving. We do a really great job right now nology; mechanical engineering is a huge We want to spread it. Social innovation is it's real-world issues that come to us that t experience with. It'll all unfold a little bit the focus.

s we're talking about, they tend to be more a couple stories about a year ago about

Camosun students who don't have ADD or ADHD using ADD or ADHD medication to help them study. That's a world away from me and you sitting here talking about these big concepts. There are students over there taking drugs because they feel they need them to get through their studies at Camosun. How do you feel about that?

I saw those stories, yes. When I read the story, I guess I shouldn't have been shocked, but I was. It made me incredibly sad to think that we have students who have to resort to that kind of thing. So, the one part that I haven't talked about that will be a part of that student experience is mental health. We've got a document now, but a document is just a piece of paper. We need to roll that out once we know exactly what it is that we want to be doing. So we've taken the first step, and with the next step hopefully students will see some support. And I think with that focus on student experience, we have to be listening to students. Right now, we're collecting information and data. That's what it is: listening to what the student society says, individual students, groups of students, faculty, staff; it's hearing from people who say, "This is an issue." I think

we know what some of the issues are, but the deeper, personal ones, I think, are a little bit more challenging to get at and will be a part of our strategy as well. But, yeah, students that feel that in order to

finish the work that they're working on have to resort to that, maybe we need to do something different that we haven't thought of around timing and coordination of assignments.

What about how Camosun deals with students with disabilities? We've covered that and heard both criticisms and compliments. How do you feel Camosun does in that regard?

I think there's always going to be stories of excellence and stories of "I wasn't served properly." I think we need to learn from the stories that are "this didn't work for me" and figure out why. I feel very, very strongly about the fact that if someone has a learning disability or a physical disability, the plan has to fit whatever is their disability, and support has to be given in classrooms. It has to happen, not just with one person and not another. I believe that, in education, we've come a long way. I have a daughter that has a learning disability, and she struggled until she figured out what her disability meant for her and the fact that she was really bright. She went on to university and graduated. I don't think that would have happened without some support from people and a plan. So, I've lived it and seen how it can affect people, and, again, I'm never averse to listening to students saying, "This didn't work for me," and learning from the student. We've added some more supports into supporting students in general. There's such a range of disabilities, and everyone with a disability needs for people to understand what their disability is and that it doesn't mean they can't do everything else. They just need some support in place, whether that's with writing or reading, or they're in a wheelchair, or visually impaired... As a society, we have come a long way in understanding it's what we have to do as Canadians. If I ever heard something that was happening here where someone didn't get what they should have got because of their disability, I would take action. It's incredibly important.

What are some areas where Camosun needs improvement?

I think a lot of leadership is about clarity. I'll give you an example. I think we do a really good job with sustainability, and we've done some excellent work around recycling and reusing, and added the Camosun Express [bus shuttle service between the two campuses], and added some incentives so people don't drive. But I think it needs to involve more students than faculty

and staff. It needs clarity. What are we really talking about when we say this? I want people to have a crystal-clear image of what we're working on. That's part of my job this year as the strategic plan unfolds. Yeah, we've got a plan, but what does it actually mean? Being really, really clear, I think that's one thing we can



improve on. And of course student experience we're still working on—sustainability, indigenization, what it means to have an international population, and are we supporting domestic and international students? I think there are lots of places where we could look to improve, places that we're doing a good job, but we continually ask questions. "How could we make this better for students?"

Last time we talked, you mentioned you go to a lot of concerts. Have you been to any good ones in the past year?

Yeah, I have. I went to Adele in July in Vancouver at Rogers Arena. I've been to a lot of concerts there, but the sound of her voice was unbelievable. It ranks right up there. And she's by herself; it's not like watching Eric Clapton with a huge band, or Paul McCartney. She was just incredible; it just sent chills up your spine. That stands out, and the Marimba band on Hornby Island (laughs).

What's in store for the upcoming year?

Rolling out—and, again, I don't want this to be bureaucratic—our strategic plan with real, tangible, clear changes and ideas, and getting feedback. So, more engagement and hopefully information and action. Last year we were collecting a lot of feedback. Now it's responding to that and giving people information to say, "Here's what we're working on. Is this hitting the mark?" This is a plan that will last for five years, and we want to be hitting the mark with it. I'm as excited, maybe even more, about this year. It's great.

## music

## Tokyo Police Club survive a decade in the music industry



NICOLE FARA SILVER

The members of Tokyo Police Club have been friends since childhood; they're now celebrating 10 years as a band.

**MASON HENDRIX**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Tokyo Police Club keyboardist Graham Wright has seen a lot in his band's decade-long career, including Victoria's Rifflandia festival. The band played the fest last year and although they're missing it this time around they're still excited to be coming back to the island.

"Yeah, Rifflandia, we did that last summer and it was amazing," says Wright. "We're big Victoria fans, big island fans; I like the ferry. You gotta wake up real early for it, but otherwise I like it. We do Victoria

every time we're out west, and we always have a blast."

The band is touring in support of their new EP, *Melon Collie and the Infinite Radness: Part 2* (the *Melon Collie and the Infinite Radness: Part 1* EP came out in April). The cover art of both EPs is a photo of a smashed watermelon, which, combined with the EPs' titles, alludes to a certain '90s alternative band.

"We grew up in the '90s, so we're Smashing Pumpkins fans," says Wright. "However, we are also smashing watermelon fans, which is the origin of this whole thing. Dave

[Monks, bassist/vocalist] met with a friend of his who is a photographer, and I guess they got the bright idea that they should smash a watermelon and take a picture of it. That turned out great and it became the cover for the first part of the EP. We were just sitting around brainstorming what to call it, and someone just cracked wise and said 'melon collie' and someone else said 'and the infinite radness,' and we said, 'Yup, let's do that. Done.' And we never talked about it again."

One of the standout songs on the first EP was "Not My Girl," an

upbeat and easy-to-relate-to song about love, dating, and breaking up.

"I think that's why I love songs that are so perennial—because everyone's gone through some version of it," says Wright. "It's your nostalgic rock and roll love song, you know, 'This is how it was and this is how it was when it was good and this is how it is now, and perhaps that's not so good.'"

Growing up together in Newmarket, Ontario, Tokyo Police Club is a quartet of extremely close childhood friends. They've stuck it out together in the music industry while, as they recently learned, many others haven't.

"We've known each other since we were, like, 10," says Wright. "We never learned how to play instruments first, we were just like, 'Let's form a band, that'll be fun.' And we sort of learned how to play instruments in the context of writing songs. We're getting these tour dates ready and getting some hometown stuff ready as a 10th anniversary celebration. Our agent was like, 'What bands were you guys playing with in the beginning? We should call them up and get them to come play with you guys again.'"

"We're big Victoria fans; I like the ferry. You gotta wake up real early for it, but otherwise I like it."

**GRAHAM WRIGHT**  
TOKYO POLICE CLUB

And we went down this long list of all the bands that were playing with us in 2006 and none of them exist anymore; some of them were really good."

Something else that's changed over the past 10 years is the impact of the internet on the music industry. Wright's opinion on whether it's been a good or bad thing has swayed back and forth over time.

"I've held both opinions very strongly at one time or another," he says. "It's just changed the game so completely. I think it's enabled a lot more bands to make a living; there's been a rise of blue-collar rock bands. You can go, you can get in a band, you can put out records and tour, and you can make a living off it. But you're not getting rich, and you can't really stop or retire, and that didn't used to exist—you could make a bunch of money or you could make no money was the dichotomy, originally."

Tokyo Police Club  
(with Born Ruffians)  
Tuesday, October 4  
\$28, Alix Goolden Hall  
[vcm.bc.ca/alix-goolden-hall](http://vcm.bc.ca/alix-goolden-hall)

## theatre

## The Last Wife tackles issues of family and patriarchy



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Last Wife director Esther Jun says the play deals with many subjects.

**ADAM BOYLE**  
STAFF WRITER

It's no secret that Henry VIII liked to chop off heads. It's also no secret that the Tudor period in English history was a time of education and culture, largely due to the influx of plays and playwrights, and the general interest in theater. The Last Wife is a combination of the two: it's a play about Henry VIII's last wife, Katherine Parr.

Parr's life is constantly on the

line due to her devotion to the education of Henry's daughters as well as secret meetings with his ex brother-in-law. The Last Wife director Esther Jun says that the play dives into some deep family themes.

"[Parr] passed her knowledge onto his daughter Mary, but more importantly, onto Elizabeth," says Jun, "and that's sort of what a lot of the play is about—the legacy that we pass along to our children."

Set in modern times, the play

"It's a really powerful look at patriarchy, sexual politics, and women's rights."

**ESTHER JUN**  
THE LAST WIFE

hopes to successfully tackle some current-day issues as well as tell an entertaining story, with some comic relief, but Jun says The Last Wife takes on some serious subjects as well.

"It's a really powerful look at patriarchy, sexual politics, and women's rights," she says. "At the heart of it, it's a woman in a man's world and how she manoeuvred herself to stand up for her own rights and the rights of the other females around her and how her legacy echoed through time. It's really sad that I don't think the play seems archaic in any way. We are still dealing with a patriarchal society."

As one of the first published female authors in England, Parr lived in a dangerous world and produced some incredible work, which influenced more than just her daughters.

"It's a historical play, but it's

contemporary and it's very domestic," says Jun. "It's really about a man and a woman, and marriage, and children."

When we view kings and queens, we see, well, kings and queens: people who are richer, who are more powerful, and who have had a longer and more prominent effect on the world than we realize we have done ourselves. But Jun says that's not always the case, and The Last Wife brings that point home.

"It's really about the everyday lives of these people," she says. "They're just like us. They have just as many fights and squabbles with their partners as anybody else."

The Last Wife  
Until October 16  
\$20 to \$53 (Camosun students  
25 percent off),  
The Belfry Theatre  
[belfry.bc.ca](http://belfry.bc.ca)

## New Music Revue



Kirty  
Kirty  
(Postwar Records)  
4.5/5

Canadian singer Kirty was born into a big musical family in Toronto. When she was very young, she learned country, folk, and rock standards, and that diversity is all over this self-titled album.

There are many different musical styles here; for example, the first song, "All Broke Up," is country, but also includes light rock. Every one of the album's 10 songs has many different styles in it; the album as a whole cannot be defined as pop, rock, or country.

However, it's not a confusing listening experience; Kirty combines all the sounds in a cohesive way. The singer links many musical styles like an engineer, and she assembles different parts so the machine can work very well.

I love that Kirty plays a softer style of music. Singers often use harder tunes to lash audiences, but this album is like a soul date.

The album's sounds bring peace to me, and Kirty's personality shines through the music.



visual arts

## Camosun staff art exhibit showcases diversity in mediums



PHOTOS BY GREG PRATT/NEXUS

The *R+D* art exhibit is up now at three locations at Camosun College's Lansdowne campus.

**ADAM MARSH**  
STUDENT EDITOR

Just because a piece of artwork hasn't reached the traditional stage of completion doesn't mean it's not art that its makers can display with pride. At least that's Camosun Visual Arts prof Mike McLean's opinion; the *R+D* exhibit backs him up, and it's up and running on campus until September 26.

McLean says that it's really important that students see this work, which features the art of the Camosun Visual Arts staff. It's not often that the college highlights the talent of its employees rather than its students, but McLean says the exhibit is essential in creating the creative independence aspiring artists often need.

"It's something that we're always challenged to do in terms of teaching," he says.

McLean says that it's always a challenge to create that delicate balance of having students "know where you are coming from" without having them unintentionally emulate the work they see in the early stages of the learning process.

"We really want our students to come up with their own ideas and have their own voice within the medium that they choose," he says. "It's one of those things where you don't necessarily want to put your work on display too often... We really want our students to develop their own language."

McLean is no stranger to outside-the-box art—he says one faculty member chopped off his own facial hair during a particularly passionate moment of performance art. Other mediums utilized at *R+D* include photography and video; McLean says that, within reason,

there are no limits to what students here can explore.

"Not all of them are completely finalized work that you would normally see in a gallery. Some of the edges are still a little bit loose, but that's intentional," he says. "It's been a lot of years since we put an exhibition [for the staff] together, to show not only the students but the greater college community what it is that we're up to and what some of the things that we're interested in exploring artistically are."

Aside from more typical mediums such as photo documentation and performance art (where the shaving of the moustache took place), *R+D* features the work of one faculty member who, McLean says, "has been researching different types of plants and grinding them up to make pigments out of them." That faculty member is Visual Arts

"Not all of [the pieces in *R+D*] are completely finalized work that you would normally see in a gallery. Some of the edges are still a little bit loose, but that's intentional."

**MIKE MCLEAN**  
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

instructor Brenda Petays, who spent much of her summer searching for indigenous plants to put in her project.

"I kind of see it as a relationship between myself and the land," she says, regarding her pigment project. "I'm becoming much more conscious of our relationship with indigenous people."

There are also sculptures and work shown on video monitors, which will add some "time-based elements" to the show, says Mc-

Lean. One instructor uses poetry to explore a unique medium where photographs intertwine with the written word.

"It's a really wide-ranging cross-section of what we do in the classroom," says McLean. "I think how open the field can be is well represented in the show."

*R+D* is on display now at Lansdowne campus between Young 111 and 117; in the entrance to the library; and in the second-floor library mezzanine.



### what's going on

by adam boyle



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jesse and the Dandelions are bringing their poppy sounds to Victoria on Saturday, September 24.

**UNTIL SEPTEMBER 25**

#### Even better than a book

Authors such as Steven Price, Ronald Wright, and Arleen Pare, along with many others, will be appearing at the Victoria Festival of Authors. Included in the festival will be panels with the authors, readings, workshops, and a gala at City Hall on Saturday night. Tickets are \$15 and students get 20 percent off. Check out [victoriafestivalofauthors.ca](http://victoriafestivalofauthors.ca) for a schedule and more details.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

#### Ending sexual violence

Men End Exploitation: An Event to End Sexual Violence is a call to help end sexual violence against all genders, races, and communities. Included in the event will be Q&As with panelists and producers, as well as keynote presentations. Tickets are free; for more details on this event, which is being held over at the University of Victoria, visit [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca).

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

#### Hang ten

The Wild Water Festival is a film festival dedicated to all films water related. They've got your surfing movies, your adventure films (water related, of course), and your climate-change films. An all-access festival pass goes for \$120, with individual tickets ranging from \$5 to \$20; see [wildwaterfestival.ca](http://wildwaterfestival.ca) for more details.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AND MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

#### A thrilling sequel

Victoria author Grant McKenzie will launch his new book, *The Butcher's Son*, with events on September 23 and 26. On September 23 he will be reading at Chapters at 5 pm; on September 26 he'll be at Bolen Books at 7 pm. For more info on the author, visit [grantmckenzie.net](http://grantmckenzie.net).

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

#### Carving their own path

Edmonton pop band Jesse and the Dandelions are playing the Copper Owl on September 24 in support of their third full-length album, *True Blue*. If you're interested in seeing this show, tickets are at the door only, so be there early. Check out [copperowl.ca](http://copperowl.ca) for more info on this and other shows.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, AND TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

#### A haunting past

The history of Canada's residential schools is, honestly, disgusting; Louise Bernice Halfe attempts to make sense of it all through poetry. Halfe will be reading poems from her new collection, *Burning in This Midnight Dream*, at various venues on these dates. Halfe, a victim of the horrors of residential schools herself, hopes

to provide a voice for the indigenous people who were taken from their families. Admission varies; see [openspace.ca](http://openspace.ca) for more info on this and other exhibits.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

#### A taste of Africa

Have you ever wanted to experience African culture but didn't want to leave Victoria? Well, this is perfect: check out the Culture Days Celebration African dinner and dance at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. A West-African-style buffet will be available for those who want a taste of something other than, you know, poutine and burgers. Come dressed in African attire or colourful clothes that you can show off your dance moves in. Tickets are \$25 and the event runs from 6:30 to 11:30 pm; visit [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca) for more information.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2**

#### He's still got it

Mick Fleetwood—co-founder of '70s rockers Fleetwood Mac—and his blues band are ending their latest tour in Victoria at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium. Consisting of a few other former members of Fleetwood Mac, Mick's blues band will be playing songs with inspiration taken from Fleetwood Mac's formative years. Tickets are between \$77.50 and \$97.50; check out [mickfleetwoodblues.com](http://mickfleetwoodblues.com) for additional details.

local beer word search

Our beer fest story on page 5 got us thinking about all the unique and different local beers there are out there. Coconut porter? Sign us up, please. We used some local brews for inspiration for this word search.

As always, stop by the *Nexus* office (Richmond House 201, Lansdowne campus) if you complete this word search to pick up a prize.

ANALOGUE ARCTIC BUCK COCONUT DORTMUNDER ENTANGLED FARMHAND FARMHOUSE FUNK KEEPERS LONGBOAT MAIBOCK MATTER ODYSSEY POTTS SEAPORT SHIPWRECK SLIPSTREAM TRANQUILITY VOLTAGE	P	D	J	B	B	R	V	T	S	K	Y	S	A	J	B	
	O	W	Y	U	J	O	A	H	C	T	A	N	U	W	M	
	T	C	C	C	L	O	I	O	I	E	J	M	H	Q	Y	
	T	K	U	T	B	P	B	L	E	V	G	N	I	E	S	
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	D	G	N	R	A	U	C	O	C	O	N	U	T	T	X	
	E	O	E	M	Q	S	L	I	P	S	T	R	E	A	M	
	L	C	R	N	A	R	C	T	I	C	B	C	U	N	O	
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contest

Find the hidden *Nexus* and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

Turns out Camosun students love a good scavenger hunt. Trick is to make it hard enough.

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

The first person to find this

copy of the paper and bring it in to our office (201 Richmond House, Lansdowne campus) wins themselves a free prize!

We'll give you one hint: this one is hidden somewhere on the Lansdowne campus.

Happy hunting!

PENGUIN & PEACOCK

By Jayden Grieve

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SMITH VS SMITH

**"CATS"**

BY MATT SMITH!

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 SMITHVSMITH.COM @SMITHVSMITHCOMICS ON INSTAGRAM

**NEXUS HUMOUR**

You draw comics.

And we know it!

(Don't ask how.)

If you think you might be able to make folks laugh with a short comic every other week, then we'd like to see your work in print.

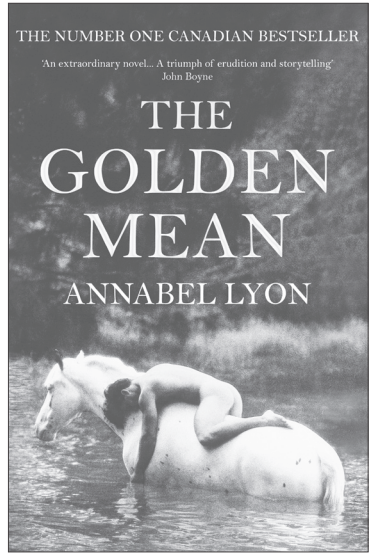
Submit samples to:  
 Nexus, 201 Richmond House, Lansdowne Campus, or email:  
[editor@nexusnewspaper.com](mailto:editor@nexusnewspaper.com)



Lit Matters

by Keagan Hawthorne

# The golden touch of Annabel Lyon



“Treat creative writing as you would any other job or career,” Annabel Lyon once said in an interview. “It’s not some artsy-fartsy thing.”

essional journalist, takes a very no-nonsense approach to writing. “Treat creative writing as you would any other job or career,” she once said in an interview. “It’s not some artsy-fartsy thing.”

To Lyron, the idea of not being precious includes the ability to laugh at herself. It is a middle ground of sorts, a balance between writing as an art and writing as a craft, a balance between inspiration and hard work.

The idea of balance is also important for the main character in Lyon’s award-winning first novel *The Golden Mean*. It’s a historical novel set in ancient Greece, but full of modern-day idioms and obscenities. It follows a philosopher in a warrior’s world; narrated by Aristotle in the first person, it tells the story of the time he spent as the

tutor of Alexander the Great, and his struggles to live out the implications of his philosophy in a culture that prizes action over idea and strength over contemplation.

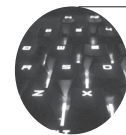
What makes the novel such a great read is more than its contemporary relevance on questions of ethics or philosophy: Lyon deftly creates a world that is at once foreign and familiar, imagining in detail the ins and outs of daily life 2500 years ago, and peopling it with characters we might recognize on the street today.

This is historical fiction that reads like a modern novel. Bad sex and all.

**Annabel Lyon must-read:**  
*The Golden Mean*  
(Lansdowne Library code: PS 8573 Y62 G65)

When she received news that her novel *The Golden Mean* was nominated for the *Literary Review’s* Bad Sex in Fiction award, Annabel Lyon was delighted. The award is given for “redundant or egregious sex scenes in a novel that’s otherwise quite good,” and both Lyon’s reaction and her inclusion on what is actually a prestigious list (she shared the nomination with Jonathan Franzen) seem typical.

Lyon, whose father was a pro-



The Bi-weekly Gamer

by Adam Boyle

# Climbing out of the bloodbath

2016 is a milestone year for professional North American *League of Legends* teams. With the world championships just around the corner, the 16 teams qualified to attend this prestigious tournament have been locked into their groups’ brackets. All three of the North American teams this year show tremendous skill and improvement compared to previous years, with the number one seed, Team Solo Mid (TSM), coming out of the gates as probably the best western team ever seen since the creation of the *League of Legends* Championship Series (LCS).

TSM have three awards to their name, and four of their five players

were considered the best in their roles for the all-star LCS team. TSM was one of the original teams in the world of professional *League of Legends*, dating back to before the first worlds tournament was played (which was in 2011; they placed third). Now, stacked with all-star players and a coaching staff better than some sports teams, TSM looks to aim even higher than last year and show off how much the western regions have improved this year.

Drawn into group D of the 2016 worlds tournament, TSM probably has the toughest competition of any other North American team. They are set to face off in a round robin death match against the Chinese

second seed Royal Never Give Up, the Korean third seed Samsung Galaxy, and Splyce, a team that many analysts consider to be the second-best team in Europe.

With being placed in what is considered this year’s “group of death,” TSM have a chance to show the world just how good they—and the western regions—have become. Led by superstar mid laner Soren “Bjergsen” Bjerg, the team have remained confident in their abilities as a five-man team and have already arrived in Korea for a two-week-long boot camp in hopes of further improving their skills. Will we get a North American upset? I certainly think so.



To See or Not to See

by Finlay Pogue

# Fantastic Mr. Fox fundamental fall film



bodiment of fall, a film that has the warmth of a home and the beauty of the pastel-autumn landscape: *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (2009).

Directed by Wes Anderson, the master of aesthetic, the first thing the viewer notices about the film is its colour pallet: worn reds, baked yellows, and burnt oranges shrouding the story and bringing Roald Dahl’s novel to life. Fall has never looked so good.

Dahl’s importance to the film cannot be overstated, for without it the Wes Anderson-ness may have taken over and suffocated the story in cutesy orchestration. There are times when I would have liked the dialogue to be a tad more biting, or the perils a bit more sinister—instead I was often more concerned with the characters’ existential crises than by the fox-blood-hungry farmers (which isn’t necessarily

a bad thing, just a peculiar one). Dahl’s story keeps the narrative sharp the whole way through, elevating it past a mere children’s movie into something much more profound.

*Fantastic Mr. Fox* really and truly is a Wes Anderson movie, and, like most of his films, it is impeccable. Working with stop-motion, the medium Anderson was made to work with, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is one of the rare films in which nearly every shot is perfect. In terms of framing, colour palette, set design, and attention to detail, each frame is like a painting, and is a work of art.

*Fantastic Mr. Fox* has an aching, tired way about it—like the leaves that fall from trees—that gives the story another layer of emotion. It’s not just a caper movie, or a heist movie, or a family drama, or a coming-of-age tale; it’s all of these

things, and therefore much more varied and interesting.

But it’s not frenzied like other Anderson films, and it never loses sight of where it’s going. George Clooney and Meryl Streep have two of the best voices in the business, and they give beautiful and poignant life to their characters, while also keeping the film grounded, and, in the end, human.

This is such a wonderful film for a time of year that comes in with inevitable melancholy. Plants hibernate, temperatures cool, and rains saturate the land; we humans begin retreating to the warm indoors and start to hunker down for the long haul. *Fantastic Mr. Fox* captures the melancholy of this great autumn slow-down and delivers it to you with a poignancy, humour, and beauty that makes it all worthwhile in the end.

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--- NOMINATIONS ---

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> to Oct 7<sup>th</sup> at 12pm

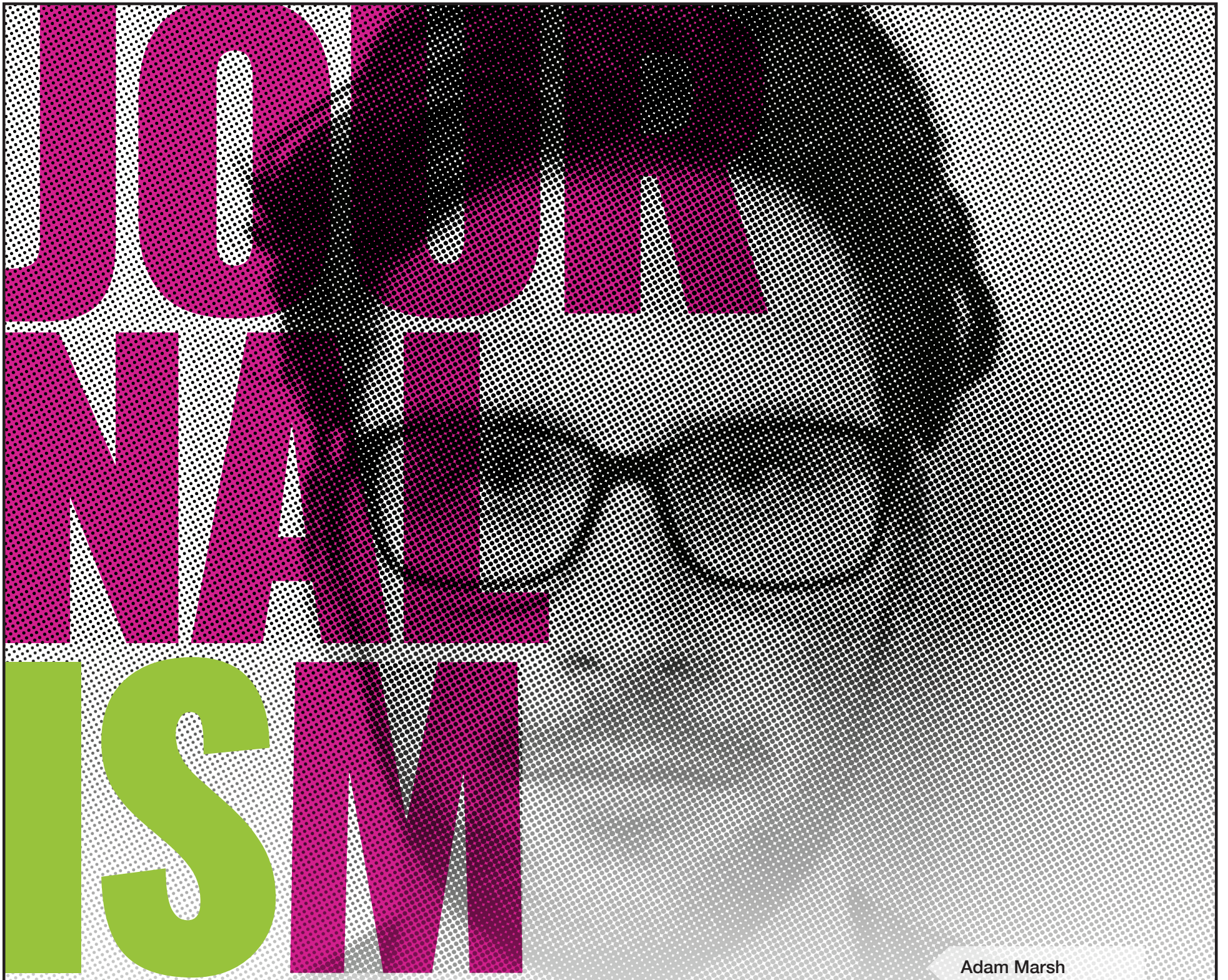
--- VOTING ---

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> and Oct 26<sup>th</sup> - 9am to 7pm

For more information, see the posters around campus, Camosun.ca, or call 250-370-3860.

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