

COLLEGE DEMOCRACY

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NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990

Next publication: October 30, 2024

Address: 3100 Foul Bay Rd., Victoria, BC, V8P 5J2

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editor's letter Bride-to-be

As of publication time, I will have been lawfully declared a wed woman, a wife, a Mrs.

As I write this, however, I have yet to strut down the aisle; it is still three days until the occasion, the ceremony to be held in a church before the eyes of a God I believe little in. In a town I care little for. In a dress I paid under \$5 for. On a day said to be overcast.

Yet, as it so happens, my feet are warm, pleased to step into the eternal. That is to say formally, as it has been long established that the eternal has belonged to us since the day we first met. My belief in the documents is a traditionalism I have yet to work out but remains true to the essence of family.

My feet are warm, pleased to step into the eternal.

I come from the small. An extended family of the few, far separated by opinion, values, and ideologies, although it has been often told to me they are the blood thicker than water. "Family" is a term I have defined and redefined as I grow older, weaving in and out of my affections for relatives, and finding community thicker than blood. Family is something you elect (see more on elections on page 3), is my claim. It is something I elect with my groom-to-be.

For the bulk of our time shared, we are on opposite sides of our ratty couch, slumped over computers working away at writings (see more on writing on page 8)—him a script or two, and I, newspaper articles and often incomplete personal reflections. It is that moment I find we are most intimate, is my claim. The loud clatter of keyboards sing a romantic serenade of togetherness in solitude, drawing inspiration from our assembly, shared matter (see more on matter on page 9). Legs side by side, heads bowed to one another, asking for synonyms and grammatical reassurance is lovemaking, is my claim.

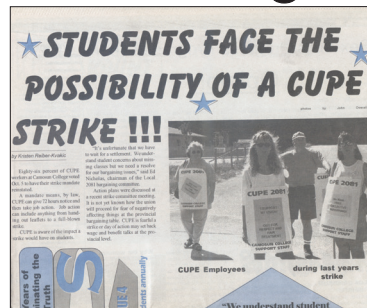
On the discussion of love and marriage, Frances Johnson, the matriarch of my mother's side of the family, told me of her parents' companionship, "When I watched my mum and dad, when I really watched them, when they were really happy together, it was when they were on their sailboat"—a sailboat they built together over the course of several summers. As I've been told on several occasions previously, the sailboat is the family.

Love is something you build and rebuild, is my claim, as summers pass and time works away at a sailboat complete with "happy together."

It is not a saturated sunset that the sail blows into, is my claim, but an overcast Saturday afternoon, in a church before the eyes of a God I believe little in. In a town I care little for. In a dress I paid under \$5 for.

Lydia Zuleta Johnson, student editor
lydia@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback 25 Years Ago in Nexus



LYDIA ZULETA JOHNSON
STUDENT EDITOR

Election '99: As the scripture published in *Nexus* tells us, Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) elections have been a lasting democratic affair for several millennia (well, since 1990). In our October 18, 1999 issue, we highlighted the six candidates hoping to win power over the Camosun campus, a tradition the CCSS sustains today (see pages 3 and 5-8 of this issue), although without the tacky, indecipherable fonts and inexplicable formatting methods of 1999. Unfortunately, only one of the candidates had a platform statement that year, and two other candidates displayed no photo. Sounds like partisanship to me; I demand a revote.

S(tudent)&M: Another story this issue, which included several photos of elaborately lewd poses, featured a variety of ways that BDSM enthusiasts explore their wildest fantasies. In the eye- (and

leg-)opening article, which was hoping to end stigma around fetish, *Nexus* writer Lisa Worth detailed extensively what it means to sexually liberate the tabooest of desires and explore the depths of pleasure in the underground dungeons of Victoria. Bondage, discipline, sadism, and masochism are just the beginning, as it turns out: Worth goes on to reveal that bureaucracy is the key element to experimentation in a safe and secure environment. *Ooh la la*, paperwork has never been so sexy.

Deep Thought supercomputer: In the newborn baby technoscape of the digital age, the federal government poured \$60 million into SMART cities, a technological revolution of Canadian communities. The acronym stands for Services through Multiple, Accessible, Responsible, and Transformative technology, which I can only imagine took some workshopping to fit into a clever title. In this issue, we covered how Camosun took to this idea, shaping a super electro-pedagogy with the ability to email instructors with assignments and post homework via the web. Who could have imagined? Former Camosun president Liz Ashton even hoped to "make Web registration kiosks available throughout the city." The paperless days of virtual modernity are alive and well today, thank you, SMART city.

open space

Online courses offer freedom

AJ AIKEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Online courses have gotten a bad rep due to COVID. That's fair: they aren't for everyone. Being forced into a learning environment that doesn't work for you is awful. However, there are benefits that shouldn't be overlooked.

I've taken online courses from three different institutions over three decades. Delivery of distance education has significantly improved.

In the mid-2000s, I completed my entire paralegal certificate without any lectures; that's how it was done. Technology has improved the delivery of education; a lack of lectures is no longer acceptable.

At Camosun, I've taken both asynchronous (pre-recorded lectures) and synchronous (Zoom lectures) online courses. I prefer

That's one less day I had to bus to campus, a savings of two hours each week. And that's two hours I could spend on homework at home or have to myself.

However, life doesn't always go as planned. This semester was completely derailed by illness, and I was faced with the option of taking fewer courses or taking my whole semester online. I'm grateful the option existed for me because I'll still graduate when I planned to.

Attendance is always part of our grades. It's the easiest mark we can earn—simply show up for class. Some days I'm too sick to get out of bed, but I can do a lot of schoolwork on my iPad. Not having to get ready for class and take the bus saves me energy that I can invest into my homework.

Now think about all the time commitments outside of school.

Life doesn't always go as planned. This semester was completely derailed by illness, and I was faced with the option of taking fewer courses or taking my whole semester online. I'm grateful the option existed for me because I'll still graduate when I planned to.

asynchronous for the flexibility of doing schoolwork whenever I want to during the week. The time-saving factor of Zoom lectures makes them more attractive than in-person classes.

I'll let you in on a secret: I wear pajama pants to Zoom lectures. It's what I wear at home; why change if classmates can't see my legs? I've also attended lectures from bed on my iPad (I loathe all 8:30 am classes).

Taking an asynchronous online course can be a time-gap filler. This semester I wanted two courses that were on Wednesdays and Fridays but left a three-hour gap in my schedule. I couldn't fill it with another in-person course, so I went with an online course.

Yes, I could have just done my homework for my two courses during the gap; it's what most would do. However, by taking an online course, I was able to reduce the number of days I was on campus.

Can an online course allow for more shifts at work? Can't make the time of that in-person class? Maybe it's offered online.

I'll admit, online courses aren't for everyone. I'm an introvert; being around people drains my energy and I find being on campus exhausting. I don't need the socialization.

The lack of engagement is a big deterrent to online courses—that's reasonable. It takes a lot of effort from instructors to get student engagement in Zoom lectures. However, if students aren't answering questions or turning on their cameras, who's fault is that lack of engagement? Why aren't we using discussion boards more? We need to take some responsibility. If you have Zoom lectures now, please take part in discussions during class and turn on your camera; black boxes are annoying.

Consider the benefits of online courses when planning your schedule next semester.

Something on your mind? If you're a Camosun student, get in touch with us with your *Open Space* idea! Email editor@nexusnewspaper.com. Include your student number. Thanks!

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: "What is TikTok? TikTok is fun, right?"



student politics

Camosun College Student Society elections a chance for students to get more involved

“We are letting all the students know how important it is to have a representative in the college.”

PRINCE SOLANKI
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY



IMAGE PROVIDED

MACKENZIE GIBSON
SENIOR WRITER
WITH FILES FROM LYDIA
ZULETA JOHNSON
STUDENT EDITOR

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) elections are almost here. With online voting open from 9:00 am on October 21 until 11:30 am on October 23, the CCSS is encouraging Camosun students to exercise their right to choose their student representatives.

The CCSS is a collection of students who function similarly to a worker’s union. By coming together and choosing representatives, students are able to campaign and raise awareness to attempt to further our education and improve the quality of our lives during that education.

CCSS external executive Prince Solanki is working hard to get the word out.

“With the help of CCSS and doing all the events at the campus,

I can see every day, we are meeting new students and letting them know, hey, this is the work we do for you guys, and if you need any help from us we are always there for you,” says Solanki.

The CCSS has pushed hard in the past year as far as getting their word out about who they are, and increasing student engagement. Solanki points to the increase in student votes—from 784 last year to 1,136 in this year’s spring elections—as proof of the CCSS gaining more visibility on campus.

“We are letting all the students know how important it is to have a representative in the college,” says Solanki.

Solanki hopes to see participation throughout the year, whenever Camosun students think of anything that would improve the college experience.

“Just more action work for students, helping students, and

students come to us,” he says. “I want to see where I don’t have to go to students, I want to see students coming right to us... We’ll be able to help more students that way.”

The CCSS provides students with dental and health care and bus passes, but Solanki is very passionate about the fun side of the student society as well. The CCSS regularly puts on events and hosts parties that help students connect with each other—and one part of that process is highlighting the diverse celebration of cultures on campus.

“The [CCSS events] calendar is everywhere in the campus now, and they can see all the special events we have planned to do this year,” he says. “Diwali is one of the major parts, which we are doing on November 1. We’re also doing Halloween parties... We’re also doing some movies in Lansdowne campus. So we are trying our best to let students know, because some students, they

aren’t aware of when and where these events are happening.”

And the social scene isn’t just for unwinding. Building friendships is an important part of post-secondary—especially for people who didn’t attend high school here in Victoria. Solanki’s involvement with the CCSS is partially motivated by how the society itself helped him connect with more people as an ESL student.

“As for me, it is somehow improving me as a person, who I was,” he says. “And it is also helping me to improve my English. When I just moved to this country I wasn’t so confident about myself... I didn’t have the courage to talk to anyone before. Now I can talk.”

The election will also have a referendum question asking if students support raising the Nexus levy by 30 cents per student per month.

Keep an eye on your email for a link to be sent out for voting.

NEWS BRIEFS

Library catalogue closure

Camosun’s online library catalogue will be unavailable from Saturday, October 19 at 9:00 pm to Monday, October 21 at 9:00 pm while it undergoes maintenance. During this time, users will be unable to renew items, place holds, or view account information. However, Single Search, other library databases, and in-person services will continue to be accessible.

—LYDIA ZULETA JOHNSON,
STUDENT EDITOR

LYDIA@NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

GOT A NEWS TIP? SEND IT OUR WAY!

eyed on campus



CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Camosun College held its annual Orange Shirt Day ceremonies at the Lansdowne campus on Thursday, September 26. This year, the event was hosted by Camosun’s English department.



GREG PRATT/NEXUS

The Camosun College Student Society hosted a Political Dialogue Fair at the Lansdowne campus on Wednesday, October 9, with candidates from the Greater Victoria area chatting with students.

sports

Camosun's new soccer club blends competition with inclusivity



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Camosun Student Soccer Club is open to any Camosun student, regardless of gender or experience.

SANTIAGO VAZQUEZ-FUERTE
SENIOR WRITER

Soccer lovers at Camosun College can now play at school, thanks to the Camosun Student Soccer Club.

The club was created to allow students of all skill levels to play the world's most popular sport right on campus. So, whether you're a seasoned player or are just looking for a fun way to stay active, the new club is open to everyone.

The club was founded by three Sport Management students: Sean Leyland, Franco Ramos, and Hiro Kanai. Their vision was to create

a soccer community at Camosun that feels hospitable to all students.

"[Some] of the guys from the Sport Management program, we wanted to make a team... a community. There is such a beautiful field but nobody is using it," says club co-founder Kanai. "International students are so lonely here, they do not have families here like me, so we wanted to make this community like a home where they can make friends and connections, and a lot of people have told us that they have made a lot of friends through this club."

The club's drop-in sessions are

inclusive, looking to provide a welcoming environment for students interested in soccer.

"Last September is when it kicked off... we started from scratch," says club head coach Aidan Walt. "We have a competitive team that plays in the men's league in the Vancouver Island Soccer League [VISL], and we have our recreational program, which currently is just drop-in sessions once a week. [These] sessions are open to anyone of any skill level, just come out, have some fun, enjoy your time, and enjoy playing soccer."

While the club is thriving, with

"[These] sessions are open to anyone of any skill level, just come out, have some fun, enjoy your time, and enjoy playing soccer."

AIDAN WALT
CAMOSUN STUDENT SOCCER CLUB

many people dropping in to sessions, they're also looking to create a women's team.

"Our main goal for this year, number one, when it comes to the recreational side of our program, is [to build] a women's team," says Walt. "We need a new women's director, so we need the interest to be driven... and then we can throw in a team into Gorge [United Soccer Club]. We are affiliated on the competitive side with Gorge United Soccer Club here in Victoria and a part of our negotiation with them was that we would be able to also put a women's team and they said yes."

Although the club is working toward establishing a women's team, that doesn't mean women cannot play currently. In fact, the Camosun Student Soccer Club is committed to welcoming players of all genders.

"Currently, we actually have a woman on our team, her name is Emma [Lamberton]. We insist on inclusiveness; we do not care about gender or anything," says Walt. "She is only the third woman ever to play in the VISL. We have had a lot of support and the community

has come together over the inclusiveness of our program."

Furthermore, the Camosun Soccer Club has big plans for the near future, particularly when it comes to recreational opportunities like tournaments between students to grow the soccer community at the college.

"We have so many things planned that we want to do," says Walt. "We want to add a second day to our drop-in [sessions] at Lansdowne campus, and once that gets going, we're going to start talking about an intramural league come January. UVic has one of the biggest intramural leagues I've heard of; they are huge, there are like 14 teams in the league, of just students who come out to play, and we figured, why not Camosun students?"

The club's competitive team's home field is Hampton Park and their schedule is available on the club's Instagram page or the VISL website. The drop-in sessions are on Fridays from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Pacific Institute for Sport Education at Interurban; the club has a \$20 fee for practices per semester.

CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY SPONSORED CONTENT

CCSS switches myvirtualdoctor platforms, service remains

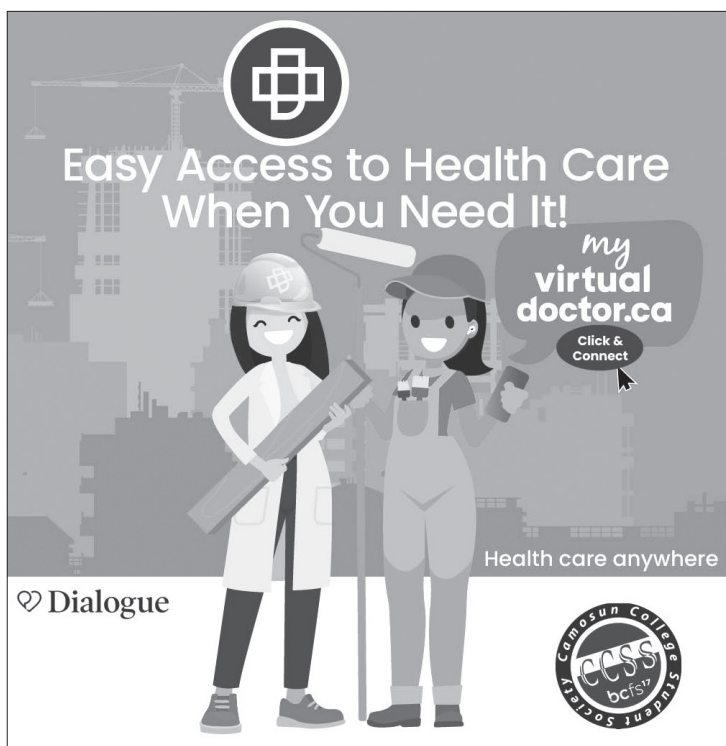


IMAGE PROVIDED

seven days a week to licenced health experts such as doctors and nurse practitioners. The service is provided by the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS).

You can access myvirtualdoctor through the Dialogue Health app—available for Android and iOS devices—or any browser. Eligible students will get an email with an activation link from Dialogue in the email you provided to the college (check your spam folder!); if you don't get one, you can register using the email you use for myCamosun at mystudentplan.ca/camosun/en/myvirtualdoctor.

It's not just you who can access myvirtualdoctor: if you have eligible dependents, they can also access the services. Eligible dependents include a spouse and children.

"This virtual health service remains a great alternative for those students without family doctors," says CCSS executive director Michel Turcotte. "CCSS members used the previous Telus service so much that it contributed to wait times and delays, fortunately Dia-

logue has greater experience in the student environment and should have greater capacity to meet the needs of our plan members."

The service include access to health care professionals in 30 different languages through chat, video call, or a phone call. Some of what is provided through myvirtualdoctor includes diagnosis, labs, imaging, and referrals; prescription delivery; specialist appointments; and safe and secure transfer of medical records to primary care physicians.

"myvirtualdoctor is invaluable for students without a family doctor," says CCSS health & wellness officer Kyle Jones. "Even for students who already have a family doctor, this service has tremendous value. With myvirtualdoctor, students have access to medical care without making an appointment, day and night."

As long as you're a fee-paying member of the CCSS, you'll be automatically enrolled in myvirtualdoctor and assessed the applicable fee—\$35 a year, including eligible dependents—to your student account. Note

that students in partnership programs, including Canadian Forces and high-school contracts, are not eligible.

If you have a family doctor, you can still use the app! However, if you want to opt out, you need to submit an online application, available through camosunstudent.org. The deadline to apply is 30 days from the official date of starting your program, and no exceptions are made if this deadline is missed. It's the student's responsibility to pay the plan fees if they miss the opt-out deadline.

If you opt-out you aren't able to re-enroll in myvirtualdoctor until your enrolment anniversary. To keep the waiver active, you need to submit an opt-out application each year or when you see the fee included in your tuition.

For any questions about opting out, drop by the CCSS Benefits Plan offices in Fisher and Campus Centre or email ccssplan@camosun.ca.

See camosunstudent.org and navigate to "health" or go to mystudentplan.ca/camosun/en/myvirtualdoctor to learn more about myvirtualdoctor.

Last month, the myvirtualdoctor service available to Camosun College students moved telemedicine platforms from Telus Health to Dialogue. But students can still access the service, and it's even got some upgrades.

Now featuring next-day follow-up, international student health care navigation

support, and access to wellness resources, myvirtualdoctor is an extremely useful tool at a time when more and more BC residents don't have a family doctor. Or maybe you have a family doctor but the wait is too long? Wait no more.

myvirtualdoctor is a virtual health care service that provides unlimited access 24 hours a day,

Student Society Board Elections

Voting opens Oct 21st @ 9am closes on the 23rd @ 11:30pm



LANSDOWNE EXECUTIVE



Jaspreet Kaur

As a candidate for Lansdowne Campus Executive, I am committed to driving positive change and fostering a thriving student community at Camosun College. I will ensure that student concerns and ideas are heard and acted upon by establishing regular forums and feedback channels. By working closely with the Camosun College Student Society, I will advocate for policies and initiatives that directly address student needs and aspirations.

I am dedicated to creating a dynamic campus environment through diverse events, workshops, and activities that promote engagement and inclusivity. By supporting clubs and student-led initiatives, we can cultivate a vibrant community where every student feels connected and valued. I will lead efforts to implement sustainable practices across campus, from reducing waste to promoting green energy solutions. Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive, and sustainable future for Lansdowne campus.

LANSDOWNE DIRECTOR



Arshdeep Singh

As a candidate for Lansdowne Director, I am committed to enhancing the student experience, supporting faculty and staff, and building a stronger, more inclusive community at Camosun College. My vision is to prioritize student-centered learning by expanding mental health services, flexible learning options, and academic support to ensure every student thrives.

Indigenous reconciliation is also a key focus. I will advocate for more Indigenous representation and culturally safe spaces, ensuring Camosun continues to be a leader in inclusion and respect for Indigenous knowledge.

I will champion sustainability by promoting green campus initiatives and reducing our environmental footprint. Expanding partnerships with local industries will provide students with hands-on learning opportunities, internships, and co-op placements, better preparing them for the workforce.

Faculty and staff are vital to our success, and I will support their professional development and well-being, ensuring they have the resources to excel in their roles.

Thank you for considering me as your candidate for Director of the Lansdowne Campus.

The College will send an e-mail!
Check your inbox and your junk folder



OFF CAMPUS DIRECTOR



Angela Chou

Hi, I'd love to continue doing my best to serve and advocate for you as your off campus director! I would also help facilitate meetings to help keep things running smoothly with my years of experience on the board helping me to do so. Thank you so much, and I hope you vote for me!



David Vazquez Covarrubias

Dear Camosun College Student Community As someone involved with the community locally and internationally, I have been honoured to participate in the Victoria-Saanich Citizen Assembly, represent Mexico as a goodwill ambassador in Brazil, and understand the importance of meaningful actions over good intentions.

During the winter of this year, I participated in the student society elections, learning how it operates and the importance of it.

My message is simple: vote for the ones who are contributing to society, not just those with "good intentions."

If I get elected, I will attend the council and general meetings of the society and act honestly with a view to the best interests of the society. With your vote, we can build a student society with real changes.



Vikash Rana

As a candidate for the Off-Campus Director position in the 2024 CCSS Fall Elections, I am committed to serving the interests of students who live off-campus, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met. I believe that the student experience extends beyond campus life, and it's essential to create a supportive and inclusive environment for those commuting or residing off-campus. If elected, I will focus on improving accessibility to resources, advocating for affordable housing solutions, and enhancing communication channels between off-campus students and the CCSS. I will also work to organize events and initiatives that build a stronger sense of community, even for those who are not always physically present on campus. My aim is to ensure that every student feels connected, supported, and represented, regardless of where they live. Together, we can create a vibrant and inclusive Camosun community that truly reflects the diversity and needs of all its members. I appreciate your vote and look forward to the opportunity to represent you.



NEXUS PUBLISHING SOCIETY LEVY FEE INCREASE

Whereas the Nexus Publishing Society, Camosun College's student newspaper and voice of students since 1990, has experienced significant cost increases that have put it into an unsustainable deficit position.

Commencing in Fall 2025, are you in favour of increasing the Nexus Publishing Society levy by 30 cents per month* to cover the increasing costs of producing the Nexus newspaper and its website?

*Currently 51 cents a month

Nexus Publishing Society fee statement

Nexus is the long-time independent student newspaper at Camosun College. Nexus provides news coverage tailored to Camosun students, as well as arts and entertainment reporting, in-depth feature stories, opinion columns, comics, and much more, all written by Camosun students, and available as a free newspaper once every two weeks, and online every day.

Nexus has not asked for an increase in the amount of student fees it receives since 2003, 21 years ago! Nexus operates on a tiny budget but now, like all media, is under financial threat due to the increasing costs of printing, lack of paid advertising, equipment, and staffing costs (which is almost all Camosun students). Nexus is hoping for this small fee increase to get us back to operating outside of a deficit and to be able to provide quality news while paying for the part-time student employees who write for the paper, the necessary equipment upgrades and rising costs of printing, and collaboration with other journalists and student newspapers across Canada.

Please support this small fee increase to help ensure a strong and healthy student newspaper.



INTERURBAN DIRECTOR



Pedro Jose Gudiel Pineda

As a dedicated advocate for students, I believe in fostering a campus environment that is inclusive, supportive, and conducive to learning. My platform is rooted in the principles of equality, solidarity, and a commitment to addressing the unique needs of our diverse student body.

I envision a Camosun College where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential. To achieve this, I will prioritize initiatives that promote:

- * Equity and Inclusion
- * Student Well-being
- * Academic Success
- * Community Engagement



Hector Campoy Peralta

During my two years as a student at Camosun College, I have come to deeply appreciate the cultural diversity and the wealth of perspectives that make this institution a unique place. Thanks to Camosun, I have met unique people and made lifelong friends, while also being presented with opportunities that have helped shape my future. I am motivated to contribute to the values I admire by strengthening the student community

I greatly value interaction with others and believe open dialogue is essential for building an inclusive environment. In this role, I would love to foster spaces where students feel heard, supported, and encouraged to engage in the various activities and opportunities Camosun offers.

My enthusiasm for connecting with people and my desire to actively contribute to campus life drive me to apply for this position, trusting that I can be a bridge between students and all the people working to make Camosun a better place.

If you ever see me around campus, feel free to say hello. I would be more than happy to chat !



Gurleen Kour Nagra

As a dedicated student at Camosun College, I am running for Interurban Director to be the voice that brings positive change to our campus. I believe that all students deserve a supportive and vibrant environment where their needs are heard and addressed. If elected, I will focus on fostering a stronger sense of community by organizing more engaging campus events, increasing opportunities for students to connect and collaborate, and ensuring that every student feels they belong at Camosun.

I aim to improve student services, especially in mental health support and financial resources, advocating for greater access and awareness of these critical services. I will also work towards enhancing campus facilities, such as creating more quiet study areas and wellness zones, making the campus a more student-friendly space. Transparency and open communication will be my priorities—student feedback will be regularly gathered and acted upon, ensuring that decisions reflect your needs.



Manvi Chona

Hello everyone,

My name is Manvi Chona and I am currently pursuing my bachelors degree in Marketing at Camosun. I am very happy to share that I serve as a student ambassador where I try to help and connect with student community. Previously, I had an opportunity to be Interurban campus director when I was doing my diploma. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I was not able to fully engage in this position. Now, I am fully ready and excited to bring my experience and passion to be part of CCSS. I believe that I do have strong voice to speak on behalf of student community. I will be super grateful to receive your support in form for voting.

Thank you for taking some time to read about me!



Camosun Student Society





Camosun College
Student Society's

Diwali

A Camosun Student Event

November 1, 2024
7:00pm-Late

Live Djs, live performers and snacks

Wicket Hall at The Strathcona
Tickets available through Eventbrite



literature

Victoria Festival of Authors celebrates Canadian writers

LANE CHEVRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The ninth annual Victoria Festival of Authors is approaching, bringing together authors from all over Canada for panels, readings, and nature walks.

Yeji Y. Ham is a Korean-Canadian author participating in the festival panel Let's Do the Time Warp (or, Time After Time After Time) about speculative fiction. Ham has been writing seriously for around 15 years, but her love for language began as a young immigrant. Learning a new language immersed her in literature, which became a huge part of her identity.

"Growing up, when I was a little kid, I loved writing poems, I loved the language, and I think that set me onto this path of longer form, of using imagination. I was born in Korea, but then my family moved to Canada when I was really young," she says. "When you have to learn the language, you read a lot of books, and I fell in love with literature, and just indulging myself in genres, imaginative spaces, and then I was like, I want to create something like this."

Knowing multiple languages allows Ham to have a wider perspective on her experiences, because each language, she says, is like a separate world of culture and meaning to connect with.

"[Being bilingual] gives me I think more fluidity, I think, because I come from both worlds, and I call that a floating space. It is a

groundless place, and that kind of mirrors into my writing because I want to find a space where it resists categorization," says Ham. "Fantastic and supernatural are my language. Usually, I like to write in the language where it's something that's not explainable, and I'm confident looking for meaning in that space where it doesn't make sense, but there is meaning in it, so that's why I write in speculative fiction."

Ham's new book, *Invisible Hotel*, is a personal look into her own experience as a Canadian exploring her Korean history, and its impact on past and present generations.

"Having been born in Korea, I do carry that weight of history, and the weight of intergenerational trauma," she says. "My inspiration for this novel was my grandfather. My father told me that he was a North Korean, he had endured torture in the North and he had no choice but to escape during the war, leaving behind his mother, wife, and four children who he never saw again. So I grew up with these invisible yet very gripping ties that bind generations through shared heritage... I felt like always I had my grandfather with me, his history, his pain."

Coming from such a traumatic history creates difficulties in connection and communication between past and present generations, says Ham, and this is difficult to reconcile.

"There's a huge gap between what our past generation went



KIM JI-HYE

Author Yeji. Y. Ham will be participating in a panel at the Victoria Festival of Authors.

through and what our generation went through. Our world has become completely different," she says. "My Korean generation, we don't remember the war, but my parents and my grandparents do, and it reminded me, like, we don't really talk about this with our past generations, do we? It pains them to talk, but also our generation, I think it's kind of really hard to approach that topic, so it's that constant tension between the younger generation and the older generation as well."

This is an aspect she leans into in *Invisible Hotel*. Our current generation has much different fears and challenges than our grandparents had to deal with, and it can be difficult to feel like our struggles are legitimized in comparison. Yet every generation endures struggles

specific to that time in history and culture, and it's always very real.

"In the book I explore that generational divide because in our generation, our fears are like, can I actually afford a house of my own, can I actually get married, have family, have a stable job," says Ham. "These are actually our real fears and desires. It's not something light, either—we're very serious about this, it's a very great problem for us, but again, it's that generational difference, I think."

Victoria Festival of Authors
Various times, Wednesday,
October 16 to Sunday, October
20
Various prices and venues
victoriafestivalofauthors.ca

New Music Revue



Leeroy Stagger
3 AM Revelations
(Tonic Records)
3/5

Victoria's own Leeroy Stagger is taking on the music scene with a touch of a classic Americana sound on his 13th album, *3 AM Revelations*, which comes as a result of over 20 years of experience.

I find that the first songs at the start of the 10-track album are weaker, but as the release goes on, it gets better, with a strong ending. "Watermelon Pink," "68 Dodge Dart," and "It's Gonna Be Alright (Someday)" are the strongest songs on the album. Weaker tracks, like "Count to Ten," sound like they were constructed to be played on the radio.

I find that some of the songs are reminiscent of Noah Kahan's first album. Some of the lyrics are good but they're mostly forgettable and the vocals stay in a very small range, making it sound flat at times.

I give *3 AM Revelations* a 3/5, as while the album is fine, there isn't much that especially stood out.

—Haylie Ewing

movies

Filmmaker Kara Hansen heads back west for Antimatter

MACKENZIE GIBSON
SENIOR WRITER

Experimental filmmaker Kara Hansen currently works as a film instructor in the US, but she'll be travelling back home to the west coast for a screening of her work at Victoria's Antimatter Film Festival this month. The festival features all kinds of work that challenge the conventions of what sharing art can look like.

"It's not just filmmakers, but it brings media arts in general into conversation," says Hansen, who is originally from Vancouver. "So there's going to be installations and screenings... It's also really non-industry, and it feels like the kind of film festival that's really about forming relationships between artists and other makers and audience members."

Hansen creates a specific kind of film called film portraits or video portraits. While paintings or photography capture a subject in a frozen moment, film portraits seek to capture the way a subject moves through time and space more literally.

"I guess portraiture is also tracking various states," says Hansen, "like, what are the states that that person experiences, whether that's like joy or periods of contemplation? How do we show transformation in terms of cinematic time?"

Hansen's *Semi-Precious*, screen-

ing at Antimatter, is especially close to Hansen's heart, with her having an intimate relationship with the film's subject at a point of transition.

"It's about my mother... We didn't know what it was for a long time, but she has dementia," says Hansen. "And so it's sort of about the disintegration of language, and how we put language into practice."

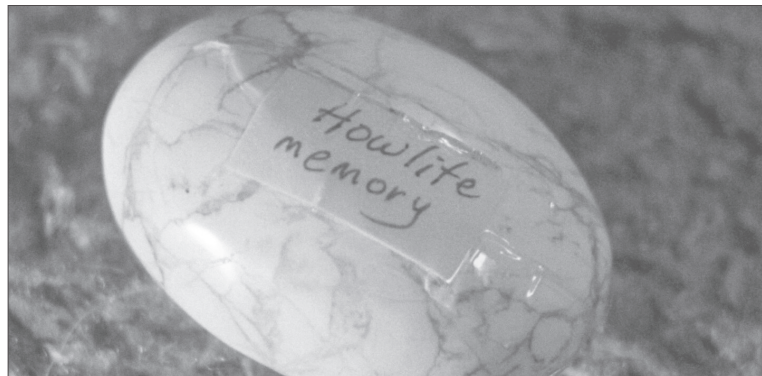
Hansen says that she works through collage as a medium.

"I know that these are the items that I have, or the locations that I have at my disposal," she says, "and they inform traces of this person and their passage through that space, or their imprint."

Hansen's mother worked most of her professional life as a holistic practitioner, so to capture her habits and mannerisms Hansen used the environment she was most herself in.

"Throughout the film [we use] different crystals and supplements and objects around the house that are labelled with either the way that the object can help restore a sense of balance, like emotional or physical, or some of the labels are more abstract, and I don't know what they mean," she says. "I think they're kind of her mnemonic system, really, to recall what they do."

The crystals themselves tie into another theme of the film. As Hansen worries how much time she has left with her mother, she begins to



KARA HANSEN

A scene from Kara Hansen's *Semi-Precious*, which is screening at Antimatter.

think about time as a more relational element.

"I think it's about rocks too, or the parallel between an aging person [and] the possibility, outside of human time, of geologic time, what it means to be human on this earth," she says. "You look at the moon, [which is] like the oldest rock form, every day, and it has these symbols, or meta historic value in relation to motherhood as the child of the Earth."

As the portrait was captured, much of the filming itself was playfully making space to remind her mother who she is and what she enjoys doing.

"The process of making it was reminding her of what she does and what, you know, is important to her and what, not that it defines her, but it definitely has shaped her perception of the world," says Hansen. "I think trying to find entry

points to her perception that is quite unique and spiritual was important to try to do."

Diving into her mother's world and perspectives was important for the portrait, but more than that it was about capturing the things about her mother that she'll cherish forever. The portrait taker is necessarily always in the portrait by virtue of the image itself being their point of view. In this portrait, the depth of the relationship, its history, and the tenderness shared in the process of change is felt strongly.

"Throughout the film there's an established trust," says Hansen.

Antimatter
Various times,
Thursday, October 17 to
Sunday, October 27
Various prices and venues
antimatter.squarespace.com

New Music Revue



Fixation
Speak in Tongues
(Indie Recordings)
4.5/5

Riding high on the praise of fans and great potential in their break into the scene, Norwegian metalcore band Fixation believes this release is their best yet, and, frankly, I agree.

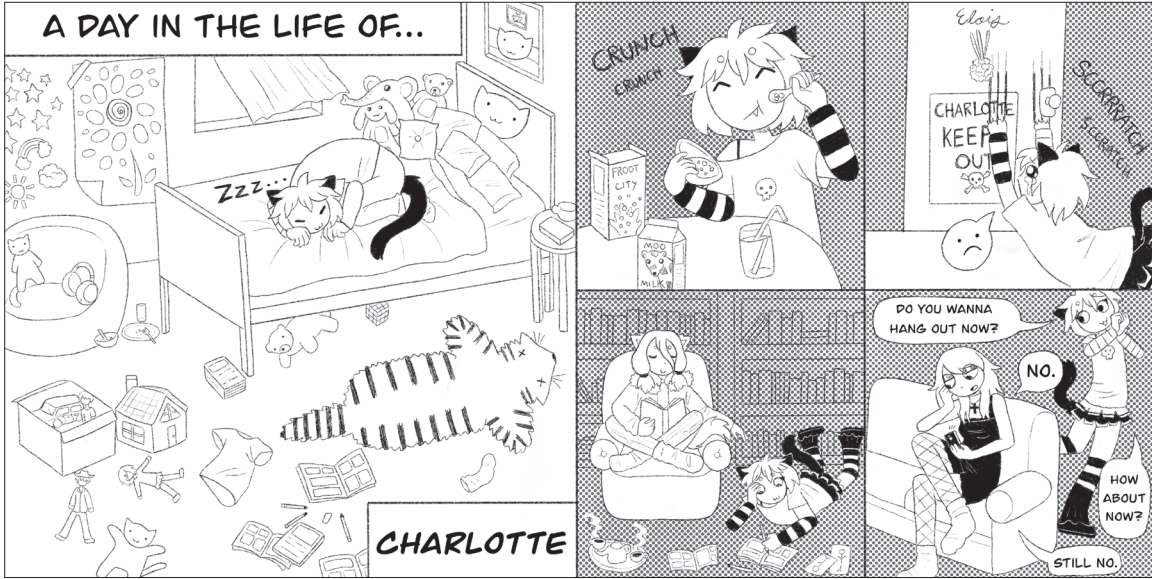
Speak in Tongues is a powerful mini-album, following the journey of spiritual questioning, particularly in critique of the Christian evangelist church.

The invocation of Revelations, a highly focused-upon part of the Bible by the sect, adds to the violent, dream-like feel of the lyrics and vocals, as well as the sidechaining echoes heard throughout the album, further enhancing the classic metal riffs.

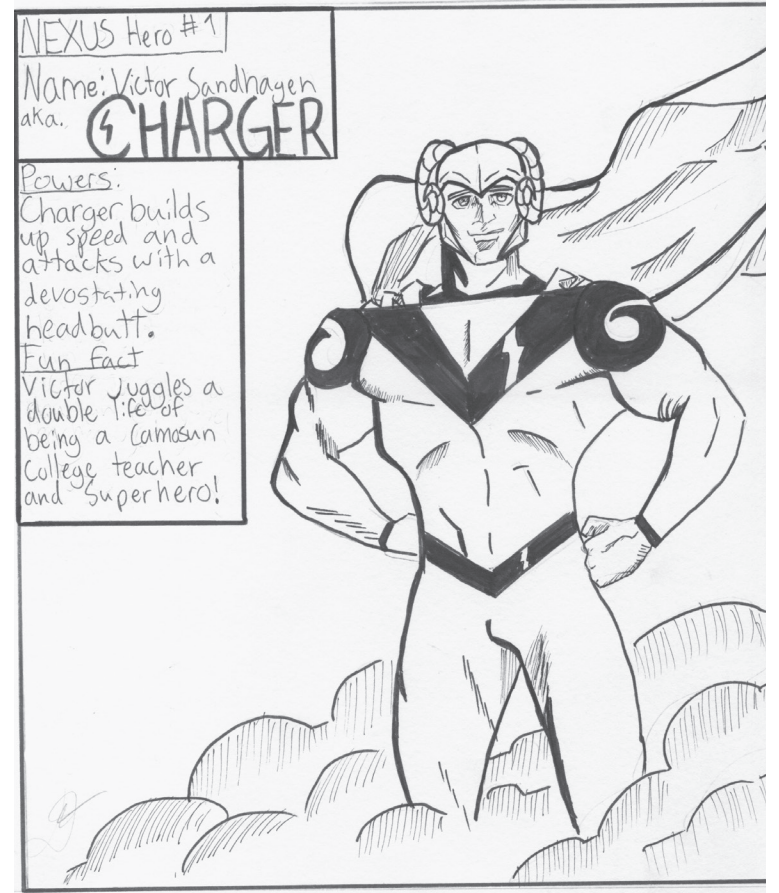
Special shoutout to drummer Ola Dønnem and bassist Øyvind Lunde, working wonderfully together in the backing of the songs, bringing a truly epic quality to the message of the journey *Speak in Tongues* carries the listener on. The spillover songs between each full track are also wonderful, bringing together its metaphor beautifully through a short poem.

—Ash Barnard

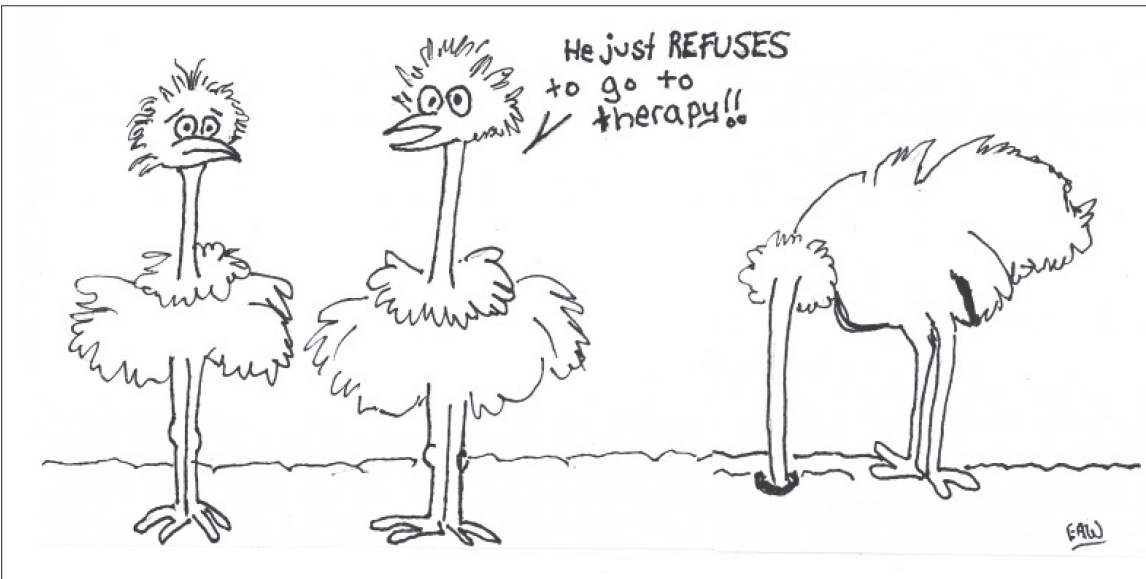
Ruby Rioux and the Bats from Saturn - Ray Nufer



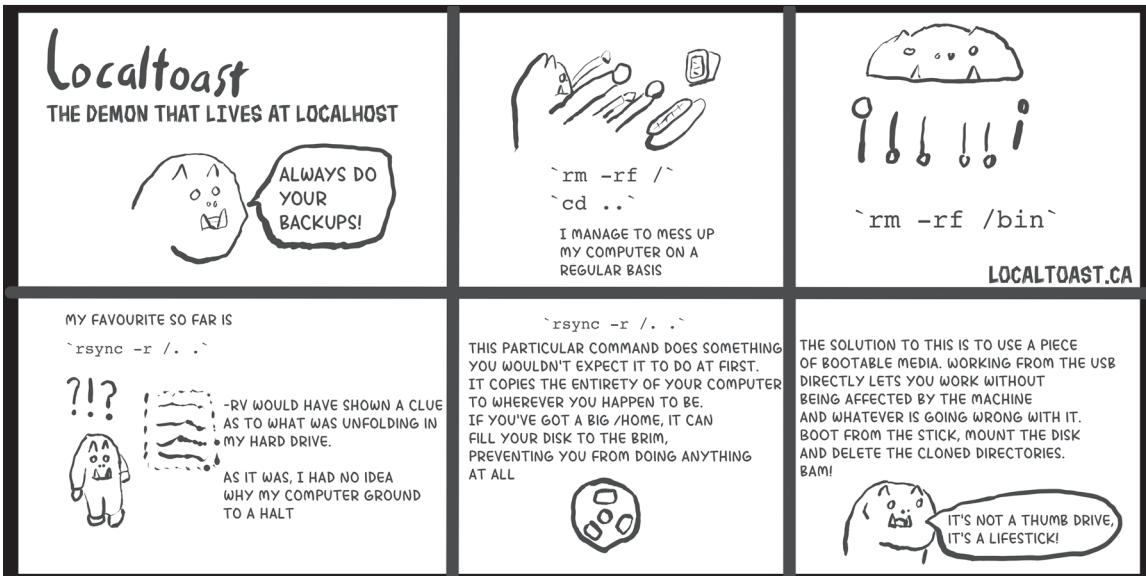
Nexus Hero - Declan Reilly



Natural Selection - Emily Welch



Localtoast: The Demon That Lives at Localhost - Ben Belland



Weird Dog Ink - Felix Best



GREG PRATT/NEXUS
 We've hidden this copy of our last issue somewhere at the Lansdowne campus. Can you find it? Bring it in to our office to claim a prize from contest sponsor Arsenal Pulp Press, who have donated an assortment of books for you to choose from. Nexus HQ is located at Richmond House 201 at Lansdowne. Good luck!

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Lydia's Film Critique

by Lydia Zuleta Johnson

But I'm a Cheerleader

Directed by Jamie Babbit, *But I'm a Cheerleader* parades Dr. Seuss-like camp around in both production design and in script. Saturated pinks and blues that engulf the screen satirize the binary, ridiculing an obsession with conformity and mocking the very notion of traditionalism.



If the allegations are true and Megan is a lesbian, it would explain her vegetarianism, Melissa Etheridge poster, and, most of all, her deep admiration for the female form.

Even her friends and family have recognized the signs, and her totally hunky boyfriend has detected some glaring distaste for their make-out sessions. Evidence of Megan's orientation is even revealed in the furnishings of her high-school locker, with cut-outs of partially-nude women in seductive poses. Of course, this is no right behaviour for a respectable cheerleader.

The critical measure now is to convert Megan (Natasha Lyonne) into the man-loving young lady she was always meant to be, with the help of heterosexual professionals.

Sent away to True Directions, a camp dedicated to imposing gaudy straightness, Megan is thrown into a mix of various gays striving for a new life full of heteronormativity. In a funhouse of ultraconservatism, the group adheres to a set of five steps, starting with "step 1: admitting you're a homosexual,"

forcing a naive Megan in the hot seat to the grand realization of her lesbianism. Gasp!

The following steps involve further hands-on methods—performing rigorous traditional-role rehearsal including, but not limited to, washing the dishes, changing a diaper, chopping wood, and repairing a car, under the supervision of specialists Mike (RuPaul Charles out of drag) and Mary Brown (Cathy Moriarty). Ditzzy, happy-go-lucky music serenades their ritualistic routines as their chores play on.

In pairs, Megan and fellow lesbian Graham (Clea DuVall) complete their duties in close proximity, rubbing shoulders and exchanging suggestive glances. Their flirtatious giggles rebel against steps two through five. Unlike some of the other inmates, Graham has no intention to live under a falsehood. Instead, she contributes sarcastic remarks to every occasion, cigarette in hand, eyes in a perpetual angsty squint. Love, however, always finds

a way to break through a cold and unforgiving heart. Love wins.

Directed by Jamie Babbit, *But I'm a Cheerleader* (2000) parades Dr. Seuss-like camp around in both production design and in script. Saturated pinks and blues that engulf the screen satirize the binary, ridiculing an obsession with conformity and mocking the very notion of traditionalism.

While the film utilizes a cutesy and fictional visual language to portray disturbing topics of conversion therapy, *But I'm a Cheerleader* does not reduce itself to a cutesy and fictional level. It allows humour to flow and intertwine with cruelty, nurturing a space for pain and laughter to coexist in concert with one another.

Beyond all else, the film is deeply funny, compelling even the nastiest homophobe to crack a smile. We can thank Douglas Splain as Andre for that.

1, 2, 3, 4, being straight is such a bore!



Fellas, Let's Figure It Out by Jaxson Smith Peterson

Nailing work/life balance

Work/life balance is more than just a buzz phrase. Work/life balance is how you keep up with your studies while not letting your social life slip away, or vice versa.

This is definitely a challenge in the world of college students. Throw in the fact that many of us are working as well, and it's easy to understand how you can go weeks without seeing your friends.

standing day and time each week keeps you connected. For example, on Friday nights, I go for dinner with my girlfriend, and on Sundays, I go to church with my buddies from high school.

Another way to creep closer to a balanced lifestyle is by studying together. This works best with friends in your program and has the dual benefit of studying and

The first key to obtaining some semblance of work/life balance is to get a grasp on your schedule.

Keep reading for actionable suggestions on improving the balance between your studies, social life, and all the other obligations you're bound to have as a college student.

The first key to obtaining some semblance of work/life balance is to get a grasp on your schedule. Take a glance at your week, and note which days you need to prioritize school and which days you can spend time doing other things.

The next tip may not be the most sexy suggestion, but it's helpful in achieving the work/life balance we're all after. Compare and share calendars with your friends or significant other; this way you can find mutual off days to spend time together (bonus points if you do this during course registration).

Once you establish the times you have with friends, having a

socialization. Just make sure you have a plan, and make sure you stay on track.

During my first year of college in the US, I was a poor time manager. I always knew that I should be studying, but I only ever wanted to partake in the life part of work/life balance.

That same year, an older teammate gave me advice that helped me go from a C student to an A student.

That advice is to treat school like a full-time job. Eight hours a day, five days a week. Sure, you may have to work overtime during exam season or do some readings on the weekend, but this is a fantastic general rule that promotes balance, even in the stressful seasons of life.

I hope this column helps you achieve a more balanced lifestyle this semester. Good luck.



Gay as in Happy

by Mackenzie Gibson

A queer wonderland

Welcome to my column, my queer wonderland, my fruit basket, my fairy world, or (borrowing from Tony Kushner) my gay fantasia on national themes. Here we will be exploring not only what it means to be an LGBTQ student at Camosun,

I can think of 100 more questions I'm curious about. I can't stop thinking about them, and I'm always talking about them. This is why I decided to do a column on the topic: because there's just so much to explore here.

We will be exploring not only what it means to be an LGBTQ student at Camosun, but also what it means to be queer in the world at the moment.

but also what it means to be queer in the world at the moment. I will be your host—a queer and gender-fluid student who's undergone gender-affirming surgery—and I can't wait to explore this topic together.

I've definitely had a lot on my mind lately, and I'm not alone. Victoria is a great place to be queer (to use an umbrella term), but locally, nationally, and globally there are a lot of high-stakes questions left to answer. While a lot of this is scary, I'm not interested in just focusing on the things we have to be afraid of. I also want to spend time on what is working, and what it is we're fighting for. What does queer happiness look like? What exactly is it that we want to have understood? How do we handle the labels we've made to navigate these spaces, and when are those labels no longer helpful? What does it mean to be a queer community?

Something else I would like to include regularly is suggestions on where else to hear queer voices. "Queer" is a massive label; I can't possibly represent every perspective and I don't want to try. I regularly go out of my way to find books and movies and music and comics written by people with a different history from me, and I find my world is always richer for it.

Here in my first column, I'd like to share a particular favourite of mine: *A History of My Brief Body* by Billy-Ray Belcourt.

This memoir shares Belcourt's experiences at the intersection of being gay and Indigenous. Written in often funny and often heart-breaking poetic prose, the book is a powerful collection of vignettes from Belcourt's life. If you read with a highlighter, keep it at the ready for this one.

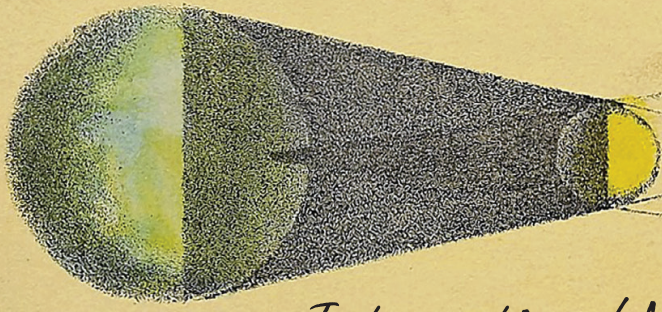
I'm so excited to explore these topics together.

Dr. Mythic - Miles Roever



Screenings • Installations • Online Programs

27th Annual
Antimatter [media art]

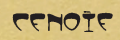
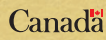


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