

A TIMELINE OF INTERNATIONAL-STUDENT POLICY CHANGES

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camosun's student voice since 1990
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Address: 3100 Foul Bay Rd., Victoria, BC, V8P 5J2
Location: Lansdowne Richmond House 201
Phone: 250-370-3591
Email: editor@nexusnewspaper.com
Website: nexusnewspaper.com
Publisher: Nexus Publishing Society

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SENIOR WRITER

Santiago Vazquez-Fuertes

CONTRIBUTORS

Nelson Bath
Ben Belland
Felix Best
Lane Chevrier
Alex Hanuse
Jay London
Nik Ovstaas
Jaxson Smith Peterson
Declan Reilly
Miles Roever
Jillian Strachan
Acacia Tooth
Emily Welch

COVER ILLUSTRATION

Lydia Zuleta Johnson/Nexus

ADVERTISING SALES

Greg Pratt
250-370-3591

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editor's letter Slivers of silver

The grand act of maturing like wine and doing so gracefully is characterized by subtle hints of wisdom between the eyebrows and white strands only carefully decorated over the head like a biblically inaccurate angel on covers of religious Christmas cards given to elder ones with wisdom between thinned brows. The arduous task requires a large sum of dedication, wealth, and, indeed, time. Most vital, however, it demands the pressure of a mass agreement that a woman's worth narrows into her crevices. I am talking here about the preoccupation with youth and the phobia of aging.

I began the process, however gracefully, with my first silver hair and first crease on my forehead in my late teens, alarming me of my time, how much of it and how little of it I was made up of. I had learned how aging gracefully was a task to begin mastering with lotions and consistency as soon as the first sign of time showed across my face. (There are entire magazines and online spaces dedicated to the unpreventable process, repackaging it as preventable or even reversible.)

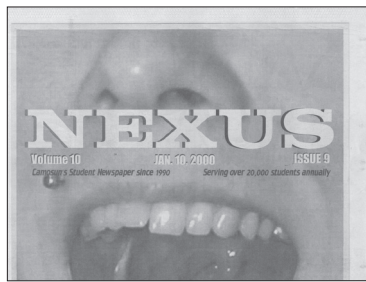
Since my first marks of maturation, most recently this month, I've turned 21—an age like them all I have yet to identify with but one that is a reminder of where my body exists on the social scale of desirability. Thick drugstore balms shield my face and body from time, leaving a white paste in newer creases. I live for the future and what it holds on my neck and beside my nose. Such a boring past it should suggest, a life indoors and expressionless. But one must also avoid the appearance of sloth and she must be tight and toned until her very last breath, says Woman's World, among many.

I recall with clarity the moment it dawned on me this affection had been and would be mindlessly ingrained in my performance as a woman beyond my very might for it to not, that the creams and the injections and the prescriptions would please me just fine if it did a sexually-charged North American population indulged in collective fantasy for young (or, at least young-looking) flesh. In short, it was the day, not far back, that I looked at a cluster of shallow indents on my thighs and thought to myself without missing a single beat that my body had begun to age ungracefully and that to age ungracefully was the most heinous act a body could be burdened with. The next day I browsed WebMD for the fastest way to reduce the appearance of cellulite. Notably, appearance was the issue, not the physical matter of it or the principle of it ever existing.

Those who have fallen into the traps set by an immensely profitable industry are in the billions and include myself. Aging gracefully, like wine and unlike milk, is a seductive offer when the answer is in a \$24.99 caffeine-infused eye cream. I have prayed to a nondescript god that my years ahead change the narrative and see the sensuality in age and the bombshell in the dimples. More likely, however, an industry or two will be billions richer and the consumer will have still aged ungracefully, billions of dollars poorer—a mass agreement still upheld from the top of the chain to the very bottom.

Lydia Zuleta Johnson, student editor
lydia@nexusnewspaper.com

flashback 25 Years Ago in Nexus



LYDIA ZULETA JOHNSON
STUDENT EDITOR

Y2K: The year 2000—the turn of the century known for widespread panic—only led to disappointment, writers of our first issue of the 21st Century discovered. Power lines, transportation systems, personal computers, and banks were AOK in the end (or the beginning) in the most underwhelming conclusion to mass hysteria. Turns out the number isn't so incomprehensible to computers after all. At *Nexus* HQ, only two out of our six Compaq Deskpro 386s were affected by the January 1 danger, but I have my doubts that the frightful year was what spawned their very timely demise. Doomsayers will have to find a new date to plan for, *Nexus* writer Leander Vanderbijl said. I vote at least a few years down the line—we need a wee break from chaos.

New Year, new Mike: Our January 10, 2000 issue also featured an eclectic list of New Year's resolutions for anyone still on the hunt for their brand new self. Written by Mike Makow, the 25-point list begins with his desire to quit exercising, citing it as a “waste of time,” (of which I'm inclined to agree), and continues with his hope to “get into a whole NEW rut,” “start being superstitious,” “create loose ends,” “get more toys,” and “get further in debt.” He concludes his list with a bold statement to the betterers of the world: “Never make New Year's resolutions again.” I personally will be practicing a few of his goals this new year.

Events section: Wonder what college folk were amusing themselves with back then? Look no further than this issue for a sampling of the hottest activities in town. This week, those not hiding away from the digital storm were attending Stamping for Beginners, a guide to scrapbooking; Cafe Philosophy, a club for the curious; floor hockey night league, for the active night owls; and the Carpe Diem club, which I assume is a mix of all the aforementioned clubs. This New Year, it's my resolution to bring them all back.

open space Asking someone's pronouns should be commonplace

RAY NUFER
STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Gendered pronouns exist in about 43 percent of commonly recognized global languages—and English is one of them, utilizing “she/her/hers,” “he/him/his,” “they/them/theirs,” and more. Just like any other facet of language, pronouns change the way we express and understand one another as an extension of our identities.

As the structures we use to describe our thoughts, ourselves, and the world around us, the words we use are important, and are worth paying more attention to—especially when it comes to the way we regard people and how it reflects their humanity and personal autonomy.

At the very least, in English, we don't have gendered nouns like feminine apples and masculine lampposts. Who's idea was that?

But gendered pronouns make it possible to denote gendered roles: by referring to someone in the third person, with immediate mention of their gender, it dictates their role in society and the way they must look and behave. While this institution is much bigger than just pronouns, they are one specific point of language we can change in our everyday lives.

Many cisgender people—those who identify with the gender assigned to them at birth—who fit into these expectations may not think about how others may refer to them with assumed gendered pronouns. However, for trans and non-binary people, that assumed language is at the forefront of their experience. It's a reminder that they do not fit into their assigned gender at birth, and it perpetuates a social system that forces them into an

identity that doesn't acknowledge their humanity.

Byreferring to someone as “she/her” when every inch of their being reflects “he/him” or “they/them,” we are taking away their autonomy and disregarding the most authentic expression of their true self. Therefore, the institution of a gendered binary is solely meant to keep people in specific roles and is oppressive and restricts freedom. As long as there is a gender binary, there is a notion of fitting and not fitting.

I believe one important everyday step to dismantling that institution is to inject autonomy back into the conversation at the soonest possibility. So, let this be our mission: when you meet someone, ask what their pronouns are the same way (and perhaps in the same sentence) that you ask for their name. (I think that's a lot more reasonable than calling a cabinet “she.” Looking at you, again, French.)

Every step toward the reconfiguration of social expectations, and the liberation of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, is bound to have stumbling blocks, as people are human and make mistakes. When you slip up on someone's pronouns, correct yourself, move on, and acknowledge it with them later.

The important thing to understand is that every individual deserves the freedom to choose how they are referred to, to choose how they present themselves in the world—and not every individual will fit into an identifiable category. By asking someone's pronouns, you demonstrate allyship in one small way, in the sense that you hold space for a multitude of identities and are consciously choosing the language you use.

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!

SPEAK UP

What's your New Year's resolution for 2025?
BY LYDIA ZULETA JOHNSON



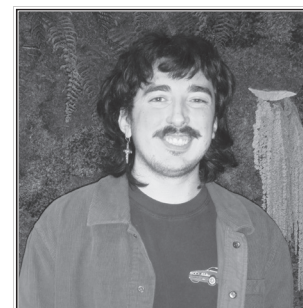
CLOÉ WILKIE

“To do more hikes on Vancouver Island and go to more outside-in-nature places, because we live in such a beautiful place.”



OLIVER PECK

“To be more authentically myself every single day.”



PHOENIX GUZZO

“To be a better version of myself.”



IGO CAMPBELL

“I want to organize more community events.”

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OVERHEARD AT NEXUS: “I'll kill my friend.”

post-secondary

International and domestic students disheartened over federal study-permit changes



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun College Student Society international director Polly Tran.

LYDIA ZULETA JOHNSON
STUDENT EDITOR

The Canadian government's change of tune on immigration has sparked a variety of reactions from both international and domestic students. After long boasting its multicultural population and welcoming borders, the federal government announcement last year limited a number of international students from access to education in Canada, and who and where they're eligible to receive postgraduate permits from (see page 6 for entire timeline). As colleges have been particularly singled out in the federal policy changes, Camosun students are sensing uncertainty about what the upcoming school year may bring, and are left guessing why and how they have been ill-favoured.

With government directions continuously reforming, Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) international director and second-year Business Administration student Polly Tran says international students are stuck in limbo and are unable to produce the future they earned.

"You work so hard, study so hard, and you follow exactly what this country gave to you," she says. "But then at the end, you feel like nothing, like everything that you put forward and work very hard in order to achieve your goals... it seems like they have to end it... They want to stay here because they feel like [Canada can provide] the great future for their life and their kids."

Increased frustration with affordability has led many Canadians under the assumption that immigrants are to blame, second-year Accounting student and CCSS pride director Terence Baluyut says. However, tackling immigration may not result in the outcome some Canadians are hoping for.

"I think we are in difficult times, and when problems arise, people look for someone to blame. Unfortunately, the media has fuelled a narrative that singles out international students as scapegoats. These are rooted more in xenophobia than in facts," says Baluyut. "I saw news once about the stance of Camosun College with the new policy changes of the federal government and

"You work so hard, study so hard, and you follow exactly what this country gave to you. But then at the end, you feel like nothing, like everything that you put forward and work very hard in order to achieve your goals... it seems like they have to end it."

POLLY TRAN
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

"I find it funny how we're being blamed for the housing crisis when I know many international students crammed into single rooms shared by six people or living in houses as many as 16."

TERENCE BALUYUT
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT

I saw a Reddit thread about that in which, unsurprisingly, many of the comments jump on the wagon of blaming international students for Canada's housing crisis. And what many people don't realize is that international students are actually holding things together for many post-secondary institutions."

Baluyut says he has seen the housing crisis first-hand, although he sees it affecting international students significantly rather than what some anti-immigration advocates suggest.

"I find it funny how we're being blamed for the housing crisis when I know many international students crammed into single rooms shared by six people or living in houses as many as 16," he says. "And these aren't exaggerations because these are the lived realities of many international students in our community. And we're being blamed for rising rents when, in truth, housing policy failures are the real issue, and governments at all levels have created the conditions for this crisis... And this unfair judgment really just adds to the struggles we already face."

While international students may feel more personally targeted by the changes, all students, including domestic, will see a difference

at post-secondary institutions. Camosun's newly announced restructuring and talk of layoffs are yet to cause any dips in quality at the college, however, many students are still concerned for what may come.

Second-year Arts and Science student Madison Veiszer has already seen the effects of the college's announcement, she says, brewing anxiety around campus.

"There's just an unnecessary amount of tension on campus right now around the professors and, of course, international students," she says. "I know I've seen a lot of them have more stress than usual from this. Everyone's worried for their jobs, which is, as an empathetic person, that's sad to see."

Second-year Arts and Science student Mark John Lasser says he's concerned about the lack of diverse voices, which he says have improved his classroom culture.

"I think it's going to be unfortunate to lose that diversity in the classroom and differences of opinion," he says. "I don't think you would lose it as much in, like, chemistry as you would for perhaps sociology, where that would be more important to have. I can say that in my sociology class, it is definitely nice to have a lot of people speaking

about their experiences and how they differ."

Although many domestic students recognize a decline in international student enrolment is unfortunate, there are still students who believe the federal changes will serve Canadians positively. Baluyut says this sentiment has made campus an unwelcoming environment.

"Personally, in all of my classes, there has been some discussions about this because of the restructuring that Camosun College is trying to do on its organization because of the lack of revenue from international students. And I just hear a lot of my classmates who are local Canadians who have this sentiment in which they say that, 'Oh, I think it's just fair because we are facing the housing crisis, and these people are driving our housing prices up.' And... It's hard not to feel the weight of those perceptions. Whenever I walk into our campus, sometimes I would think, What do these locals think of me? Do they see me as stealing their jobs? Do they think I am responsible for the housing crisis? Do they resent me for using resources meant to help struggling locals? So these are the thoughts that linger constantly when I'm on campus."

NEWS BRIEFS

Camosun student athlete in female coach apprentice program

Camosun College student and Chargers women's volleyball player Katie Ludvig is taking part in the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) Female Apprentice Coach Program. The program is funded by Sport Canada and aims to support graduating female student athletes who show skills and desire for coaching by giving them opportunities in various CCAA varsity

sports. Read more about the Chargers teams on page 4.

Students showcase tech

On Thursday, December 12, some Camosun College students showed off their capstone projects to the public and their peers, as well as potential employees. Graduating Information and Computer Systems Technology students presented their projects—which included proprietary software for a CNC router, a dance studio management system, and much more—

at Fort Tectoria downtown during the annual event.

Camosun gets \$1-million donation, changes building name

Camosun's Centre for Trades Education and Innovation building has been renamed in recognition of a \$1-million contribution by the Bhalla Family. The building, located at the Interurban campus, now stands as the Bhalla Centre for Trades Education and Innovation. Camosun alumnus and former Camosun College

Foundation chair Jeety Bhalla and siblings Munjeet and Jindy Bhalla made the donation as a continuation of their family's legacy of philanthropy to the Camosun College Foundation in honour of their parents, Sela and Tara Bhalla. The college said in a press release that the donation "will be used to support the college and bolster the college's capital reserves."

Launch of new live music venue

A new live music venue, The Coda, will open at 751 View Street in early 2025. Owners AL

Smith and Christina Morrison say the new venue, opening in the former location of Hermann's Upstairs, comes as a reaction to disappearing music venues, such as the loss of the Victoria Event Centre last October. The Coda is already planned as a venue for the Victoria Jazz Society's 2025 TD Victoria International JazzFest.

—LYDIA ZULETA JOHNSON,
STUDENT EDITOR AND GREG
PRATT, MANAGING EDITOR

LYDIA@NEXUSNEWSPAPER.COM

GOT A NEWS TIP? SEND IT OUR WAY!

sports

Chargers teams mainly successful in first half of seasons



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAMOSUN CHARGERS

The Camosun Chargers have men's and women's basketball and volleyball teams.

SANTIAGO VAZQUEZ-FUERTE
SENIOR WRITER

The Camosun Chargers teams have been—for the most part—successful in their first half of the season. And three of the four teams competing in the Pacific Western Athletic Association (PACWEST) are in the top two seeds. This solid start sets them up to try and win it all in the second half of the season.

The men's basketball team has started the season with a record of 9-3 and are the second seed in their conference, only behind Vancouver Island University (VIU). Guard Eric Lees says the team's success

this year can be attributed to their playing style.

"We're a very strong defensive team," says Lees. "I think that's what we buy into every year through our coach, who tries to instill that into us through really hard practices."

The team has consistently had one of the best defenses in the league ever since coach Geoff Pippus was hired—and they've grad-

ually improved their results each year, this year being no different. The team is looking to win it all in the PACWEST and improve their placing at nationals.

"I think our entire team's goal is to win the PACWEST championship this year, get a solid gold," says Lees. "But not even just that, I think we want to further our success from last year, when [we went to] nationals and got fourth [place], and go for a medal at nationals this year."

On the other hand, the women's basketball team is the only Chargers team with a losing record, 2-10, and is the sixth seed in the PacWest, currently in the last spot for the playoffs.

The team started the season 2-1 as their starting point guard Abby Rauh got injured in the fourth game. Since then, the team has lost nine games in a row. However, coach John Dedrick says the first half of the season has positive takeaways.

"I think it's a building process... some nights we've struggled a lot, but sometimes we've been right with the top teams heading into the fourth quarter and then not having success," says Dedrick. "Looking on the brighter side of things, we've shown that we can play with some of the better teams. We just now have to find a way in the second semester to finish the games strongly."

The team lost some very important players in the off-season with many starting players leaving. There

"I think our entire team's goal is to win the PACWEST championship this year, get a solid gold."

ERIC LEES

CAMOSUN CHARGERS MEN'S BASKETBALL STUDENT ATHLETE

are many new players and some returning players that haven't had a lot of playing time. Dedrick says the future has potential built on strong player relationships.

"I think that the biggest thing when I was hired was to create a little bit of a more positive team culture," says Dedrick. "For the future, we have a few veterans that are going to be staying and finishing their eligibility. And then we have good transfers and some good basketball players who epitomize what it is to be a student athlete. And so once you've got a little bit of a culture established and then you also add these types of... student athletes into the mix, then I think the program's only going to grow and become more competitive."

But the year still held success for Chargers women's teams. The women's volleyball team has had yet another amazing year. Their record in the first half of the season is 7-3 and they are the second seed in the PACWEST, only behind VIU, who is 9-1. Starting setter and captain of the team Avery Hansen says refinements can be made to finish the season even stronger.

"I think our consistency [can be improved], for sure, being able to just keep playing throughout the



game even when things start kind of going sideways," says Hansen. "We've been practicing that a lot now, in our practices now that the first semester has been done."

While the Chargers women's volleyball won third place last year in the PACWEST playoffs, Hansen believes this team has enough to top that.

"I for sure think we're a championship team," says Hansen. "I think we can do it if we learn how to get through the tough games and

push through it when it gets hard. I think we can win the PACWEST and, hopefully, the nationals."

Also in volleyball, after last season's ups and downs, the Chargers men's volleyball team has had a great start to their season this time around.

They have a record of 7-3 and stand only behind the College of the Rockies (COTR), whose record is 10-0. They are looking for revenge this season after losing in the bronze medal game last year against COTR in the PACWEST playoffs.

As the two top teams in the conference, it looks possible that there will be a rematch of last year's bronze medal match, however, this time with a gold medal on the line.



student clubs

Camosun *D&D* club offers fantastical way to blow off steam, make friendsLANE CHEVRIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I'm sure we've all had a moment during a gruelling midterm where we've felt like chucking our 50-pound textbooks out of a third-storey window and slaying a dragon for its gleaming horde of treasure. Fortunately, the Camosun *Dungeons & Dragons* Club is here to help.

Founded by Camosun student and Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) clubs and events assistant Amy Lee-Radigan before the pandemic, the club was intended to create a place for students to blow off steam and make friends.

"I feel like a lot of people want to play *D&D*, and the hardest part is finding enough people to play with, and then finding a place and a time," says Lee-Radigan. "My entire goal with this was to remove as many of the barriers as possible to new students picking up the game."

In the beginning, they facilitated this by simply immersing students in a familiar setting.

"We did a zombie takeover of Camosun College at Lansdowne," they say. "We had them running around Fisher and trying to find what they could use for makeshift zombie weapons, and I think somebody said, 'Can I dismantle some of the racks in the bookstore and turn them into armour?' It was very cool, they were getting very inventive."

Experience is no barrier, be-

"There's so much research starting to be done on the positive benefits of *Dungeons and Dragons* and tabletop role-playing games. In terms of acquiring leadership skills and conflict resolution, beyond just how much fun they are, it also gives you some really good life skills, and even just socialization in general."

AMY LEE-RADIGAN
CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

cause newbies play alongside seasoned professionals in the club.

"We've had a lot of a lot of players that are quite new to the game, and because we have people coming from all different all different levels of ability in *D&D*, we can create groups that are of a good mix," says Lee-Radigan. "If anyone is a DM [dungeon master] and really enjoys that, they should definitely sign up, because the biggest barrier is finding enough dungeon masters."

Occasionally there are other ways to be involved with the group, such as paint-ins, where students can intricately decorate mini-figurines of any fantastical creature imaginable.

"We've done a couple days where everyone hangs out and paints minis together, so if you

want to be around other cool nerds but don't have the capacity in your schedule for weekly games, then there are still opportunities to hang out with the club," says Lee-Radigan.

Third-year Arts and Science student Kit Scholz has been playing for eight years, DMing for seven, and has been with the club almost since its inception.

"I really like the community aspect of it. When I joined I didn't really have many friends, as I was very new to college," says Scholz. "I actually met my current partner in the group, and I met a lot of my close friends through the group as well."

D&D is a great way to get to know other students beyond strict classroom parameters, says Scholz. "It's really fun getting to know



PHOTO PROVIDED

Camosun students gathering at a *Dungeons & Dragons* club meeting.

aspects of people that you wouldn't know otherwise," says Scholz. "Like you wouldn't really know that 'Steve,' the guy who's doing chemistry, also likes to play druids and turn into tigers. Some people can have a funny or devious streak about them that that you wouldn't get from collaborating on a research assignment."

Lee-Radigan believes that tabletop games have more benefits than just stress relief, according to studies they have read.

"There's so much research starting to be done on the positive benefits of *Dungeons and Dragons* and tabletop role-playing games," they say. "In terms of acquiring

leadership skills and conflict resolution, beyond just how much fun they are, it also gives you some really good life skills, and even just socialization in general."

Dungeons & Dragons brings together people who share the same interests, and you can come together to defeat a common enemy, like a horde of drooling orcs lurking in a dank subterranean cave (email camosundnd@gmail.com to sign up).

"It's a fantastic way to unwind from the stress of school," says Lee-Radigan, "so having that weekly game where you can go and hang out with a bunch of friends and fight monsters together is great."

fashion

Tips for Camosun students on staying fashionably warm this winter



JILLIAN STRACHAN/NEXUS

Your closet may already have what you need to stay warm in style this year.

JILLIAN STRACHAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the residents of Victoria prepare for the upcoming months of

wind and rain of autumn to the ice and snow of winter can happen overnight. But no one wants to buy an entirely new wardrobe, so here are some tips and tricks to elevate your wardrobe, express your style, and stay warm with pieces you could already have stashed away in the back of your closet.

Layering is one of the simplest ways to start preparing for the cold weather.

The basics can start with a neutral-coloured long- or short-sleeved top as a base. Next, pair it with a sweater, hoodie, or sweatshirt. This layer adds warmth and can elevate the style of your outfit. Lastly, adding a coat on top is one of the best ways to combat Victoria's unpredictable weather. A good rain jacket, flannel, trench coat, or puffer will go a long way.

A good staple is a long coat—it's one of the best pieces that you can have in your closet. A long coat in a neutral color can be paired with almost anything; styles like trench coats and peacoats will never go out of style and will keep you warm year round. Layering can be done easily with pieces that you already have in your closet. Experimenting with the colour, pattern, and material is what makes it fun. Being able to very quickly modify your outfit due to activity or temperature is important for the colder months.

Accessories are sometimes a

A pop of colour is a great way to have fun with an outfit. If your outfit mainly consists of neutral and basic colors, try adding a matching red scarf and gloves.

forgotten piece of an outfit, but they should be prioritized during the winter. The difference that gloves, scarves, or a hat can make is drastic.

Matching colours of your winter accessories is a great way to express personal style and make your outfit look cohesive. A pop of colour is a great way to have fun with an outfit. If your outfit mainly consists of neutral and basic colors, try adding a matching red scarf and gloves.

Hats are very interchangeable. Experimenting with different kinds and finding what you like best and what suits your features will not only increase confidence but also keep your head warm.

Shoes can be one of the most important parts of an outfit. Having a good pair of shoes with good traction can make or break your day. Between ice and snow, slipping is a high possibility. Boots are a winter fashion staple. They are everywhere starting in early September and

remain in season until mid-May. There are rain boots, motor boots, knee boots, cowboy boots, worker boots... Knowing what kind of boot works best for your lifestyle will be helpful. For example, knee-high boots and thicker-material worker boots add a bonus of warmth for your legs.

Staying warm and feeling your best this winter does not have to come at a cost. Great styles and quality can be found at local thrift stores and upcycling stores. Explore local businesses and have fun experimenting with new fashion styles. Neutral colours, good quality basics, and a pop of colour will never let you down.

Make sure to do some research and discover the fashion you like. Develop your personal style: whether it's going all-in on trends or trying something new, feeling your best in what you're wearing will start your year off right.

A system

A timeline of international

Story by Greg Pratt
Art by Lydia Zuleta Jo



January 22, 2024 – Minister of immigration, refugees, and citizenship Marc Miller announces that the government of Canada is implementing a cap on international student permit applications for two years. According to the federal government, the new measures were put in place to ensure that international students have the proper support when entering Canada and to stop institutions from increasing international student intake to drive revenues. Because of the cap, 2024 will now see a 35-percent decrease in international students from 2023.

March 5, 2024 – Camosun College announces its provincial attestation letter (PAL) allocation as set by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. Between January 22, 2024 and January 21, 2025, the college will be able to issue up to 1,643 PALs to prospective international students. Both the college and the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) are pleased with this allocation amount.

“We still have our complement of returning international students in addition to our permits for new students,” Camosun acting vice president of enrolment and community engagement Richard Stride told *Nexus* at the time. “So, based on the number that the IRCC has stated and the provincial government has given us and the 1,643, we do not see any decline in our international student intake and total number of international students over the coming year.

September 18, 2024 – IRCC also announces that beginning November 1, 2024, the most recent policy changes add an additional 10-percent decrease to all intakes from a previous reduction, capping permits at 437,000 for both 2025 and 2026 enrolments. The cap now includes graduate and doctoral students, who were exempt from the former restrictions.

“We were almost expecting the further decrease in the quota amount, which may have some effect on Camosun, but that is by far not the most serious program change that will impact Camosun,” Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) executive director Michel Turcotte told *Nexus* at the time. “That change is the post-graduate work permit requirements being restricted to particular programs in college environments. And that, I think, will have significant impacts for the most part moving forward.”

October
written by
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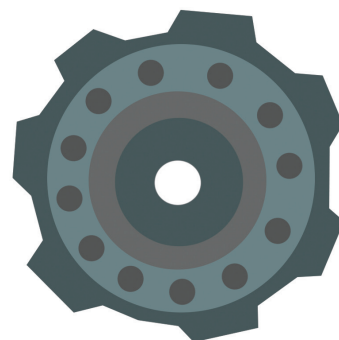
February 21, 2024 – British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) chairperson Melissa Chirino tells *Nexus* that while the cap may be a good first step in protecting international students from exploitation from less credible institutions, the BCFS urges the government to give more funding to post-secondary institutions.

“We acknowledge that a lot of institutions do heavily rely on international [student] fees,” Chirino told us. “One of our advocacy asks that we’ve had for years is there needs to be more funding in the post-secondary sector because we’ve become more reliant on these international fees, and, really, our argument prior was that if anything were to happen, we would really feel the impact of that. I think after that announcement, we were worried about the implication that it has for our institutions, and how are they going to have all the services on campus? How is that going to affect their budget? Are they going to increase the international student fees [for students] who are currently here? There is a lot of concern there.”

September 18, 2024 – Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announces it will be limiting eligibility to Canada’s post-graduation work permit program, allowing only for international students studying within 966 programs in five eligible areas of education: agriculture and agri-food; health care; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; skilled trades; and transportation.

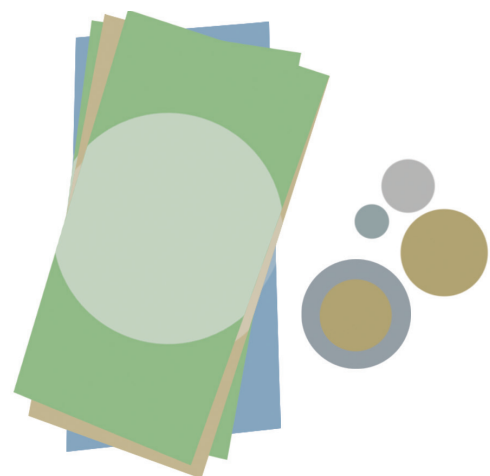


October 1, 2024 – Camosun says in an email to students and faculty that the fall semester international enrolments have already seen a drop of 400 from its target of 2,200.

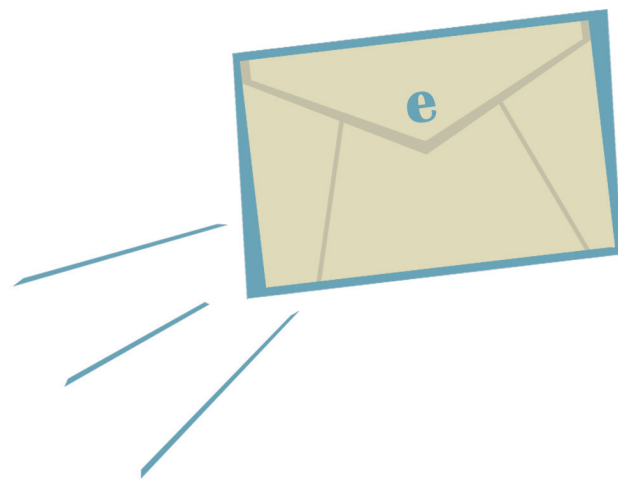


in decline al-student policy changes

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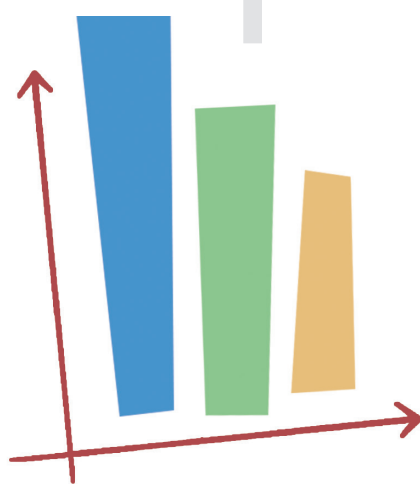
November 12, 2024 – Camosun sends an email to staff and faculty saying that, to offset a projected \$5-million deficit in 2025/26, it needs to make further budget reductions through layoffs and eliminating vacant positions. The email gives emergency crisis line contact info.



November 15, 2024 – The college sends an email to staff and faculty with the subject line “Positioning the college for success.” In it, it discusses how it will be merging and reducing its areas of study into five categories: Arts, Access and Academic Preparation; Business; Health, Human Services and Sport Science; Science and Technology; and Trades, Training and Professional Studies.

November 2, 2024 – The college runs an opinion piece by BC Colleges president Colin Ewart on its speaking out against the changes.

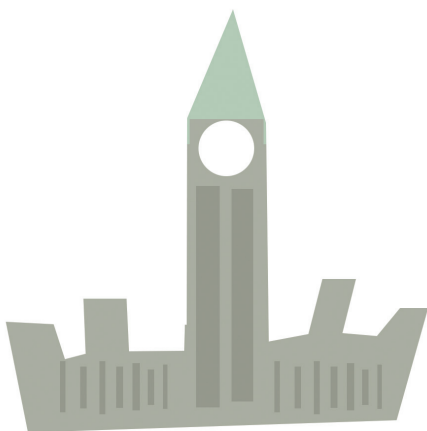
Early November, 2024 – The Camosun College Faculty Association (CCFA) travels to Ottawa with the Vancouver Community College Faculty Association and North Island College Faculty Association to lobby against the federal government decision. The CCFA and CCSS also meet with NDP MP Laurel Collins on campus in November to discuss the situation.



November 20, 2024 – The Camosun College Faculty Association (CCFA) tells *Nexus* that it disagrees with how Camosun is handling the situation, claiming the college is violating a BC Labour Relations Code and their contract with the CCFA. The college declines to comment.

November 13, 2024 – Turcotte tells *Nexus* that “it’s important to recognize that it was inappropriate for governments to use international students as a means of funding post-secondary education in British Columbia and in Canada generally, that acting so dramatically in this way in response to perceived political pressure actually hurts domestic students and the international students already here. This will have huge ramifications for training domestic students in the programs of their choice or the ones that will meet Canada’s various labour market needs. The CCSS calls on governments at all levels to respond appropriately to this crisis and to make the decisions that are actually in British Columbia’s and Canada’s best interests going forward.”

il to staff
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students



art

New art exhibit showcases the beauty of imperfection

SANTIAGO VAZQUEZ-FUERTE
SENIOR WRITER

Artist Naoko Fukumaru knows about the beauty of imperfection. *The Beauty of Mending: Kintsugi and Beyond*, an art exhibit centred around Fukumaru's kintsugi—the traditional Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold, silver or platinum—showcases that.

The exhibit, which is at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV), opened on November 30 and will run until May 25. AGGV curator of Asian art Heng Wu is also the curator of this exhibit; she says that the idea for *The Beauty of Mending* came to her after the hard times of the pandemic.

"The initial idea came during the challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic, because I saw [how it] affected so many people's lives, along with me," says Wu. "I wanted to create something that can encourage people to think about how we handle traumas, damages, or accidents. Then, I met Naoko Fukumaru. She is based in Vancouver. She is a trained conservator and kintsugi artist. She showed me the beautiful work she has done... And I thought, wow, these just match so perfectly, into the idea [of] what I want to create."

Wu was able to form the exhibit after seeing the works of Fukumaru, which she thought were perfect for her storytelling.

"Kintsugi is quite old, a trad-

itional method... The whole philosophy behind it is very much related to today's society," says Wu. "When you see everyone will have their own challenges, but [it is] how we perceive the challenges, and how we view the damages, I think kintsugi teaches us that we don't have to be afraid. We don't have to be ashamed, and I think we need to try to find the beauty that can come from the brokenness and cracks."

Wu describes her collaboration with Fukumaru as enjoyable and inspiring and she says she admires her storytelling, along with her talents.

"It was wonderful. It was a great experience working with Naoko," says Wu. "She is an expert in kintsugi and conservation, and she is also a great storyteller because she shared a lot of her own life and the stories... [of] how she found kintsugi and how kintsugi found her. So I had a very, I should say, inspiring and pleasant experience working with Naoko."

The Beauty of Mending features the works of Fukumaru as well as some pieces from AGGV's collection.

"This is my curatorial effort... I think that these works selected from our own collection, which include some Asian ink paintings that are using these accidental brushstrokes or porcelain vases, featured crack hold patterns and some oracle bones that also have some connections with cracks,"



PHOTO PROVIDED

Naoko Fukumaru's *Bowels of the Earth - Fire and Water*, part of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria's *The Beauty of Mending*.

says Wu. "What I want to say is I think that some of these works echo very well with kintsugi works by Naoko Fukumaru. I hope also then, our visitors would like this curatorial approach."

Wu says that she would also like visitors to take something a bit more personal away from the exhibit.

"I hope our visitors can find part

of their stories in this exhibition because I think they can maybe relate the idea to their own life or how they can apply this philosophy to their life," says Wu. "And I should also point out that because kintsugi is a repairing method, the process of repairing is also a process of healing. So I hope for those people who may think themselves to be broken

or found some damage in their life can find some healing power from seeing these works and seeing this exhibition."

The Beauty of Mending: Kintsugi and Beyond
Until Sunday, May 25
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
aggv.ca

review

The Shop Around the Corner madcap Christmas romp



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Shop Around the Corner was a Christmas hit when Blue Bridge Theatre held it at UVic in December.

NIK OVSTAAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I've read the story that the play *The Shop Around the Corner* is based on, *Parfumerie*, years ago, and recall enjoying it, although I'd be hard-pressed to tell you any of the finer details. As such, I had very little in the way of concrete expectations as I headed down to the Phoenix Theatre on the UVic campus on Saturday night, for which I am glad. Had I expected this Blue Bridge Theatre production to

be read in the style of a radio play, with little set design and nearly no stage action, I may have decided to give it a miss. This would've been unfortunate, as I would have missed out on what turned out to be a delightfully quick-witted Christmas story brought to life by a talented stable of actors (many of whom were portraying multiple characters, using only subtle shifts in their intonation to convey this new personification).

By the time intermission came

about, I was thoroughly enthralled by this rollicking tale, rife with wacky misunderstandings and witty repartee. I found myself wishing the play would be longer.

The production was scored incredibly well in real time by multi-instrumentalist Masae Day, and Foley artist Jack Storwick, both of whom plied their craft adeptly, bringing the hustle and bustle of 1940s Budapest to life through the sounds and music of the day.

Our leading lady Amanda Lis-

By the time intermission came about, I was thoroughly enthralled by this rollicking tale, rife with wacky misunderstandings and witty repartee. I found myself wishing the play would be longer.

man and leading man Jonathan Mason have the surreal ability to speak in that peculiarly singular inflection that seemed to dominate cinema and radio in Hollywood's Golden Era and helped to transport us all to that place and time. Brava and Bravo to these two rising stars. The rest of the cast were no slouches either, and I found myself looking forward to each cast member's next line, whether it be the pompous shop owner, portrayed by veteran actor Brian Linds, or the young errand boy, enthusiastically brought to life by Andrea Lemus. Really, I could rhapsodize about each individual actor, such was their vim and vigor in bringing this production to life.

Perhaps most brilliantly on Andrew Bailey and Brian Richmond's part (playwright and director, respectively) was the fact that, in the true style of a radio play, the entire

production was occasionally interrupted with advertisements. These ads were anachronistic in nature, as they were all for present-day charities here in Victoria that the play was supporting. Having them performed by the cast members helped to subvert the spell being broken, and before you knew it, the announcer (Trevor Hinton) was drawing us back into the past and setting the scene for the story to get back on track.

The show closed with the entire cast singing the classic Christmas carol "Silver Bells," with audience participation.

Every bit of this show was dripping with humour and good cheer, and I left the theatre greatly excited to go back and watch the talented troupe's next endeavour. I would highly encourage anyone interested in the performing arts to do the same.



PIECES OF PERFORMANCE

BY ACACIA TOOTH

An introduction to Wander Lost and the importance of community

As our spaces to perform become smaller, it's a huge deal, more so now than ever, to extend our reach and share our stories.

ACACIA TOOTH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hello, *Nexus* readers and performance lovers. If I'm going to write this column with all of my excitement and adoration for my community, I figured I should introduce myself. You would know me as Camosun student Acacia Tooth, but my stage name is Wander Lost.

I'm a mother of two; a queer, non-binary military veteran; an entertainer; and now, thanks to this platform, a published writer.

It has always been important to me to share and support the unique and beautiful individuals in the performance community. As our spaces to perform become smaller, it's a huge deal, more so now than ever, to extend our reach and share our stories. Each and every one of us who puts in so much love and so many pieces of ourselves into our performance deserves space to thrive and shine.

As a mother I see firsthand how performance and authenticity to oneself can shape the outlook of community for the next generation. My four-year-old son is the first to take interest in my drag performances, make-up, and dancing. The

kindness he shows when I paint my face by telling me I'm beautiful, or the giggle I get when I put on a moustache is all worth the fight to just live how we choose every day as queer individuals. Our acceptance of ourselves should never be shrouded in guilt or shame—it deserves to be celebrated and kept sacred.

Showing gratitude to those who came before us, the rich history behind drag and burlesque performance, is the flame that we keep alive. If you've yet to experience a show on either of these platforms, here are a few of many things to know, because education is the most important way to fully understand and support what you watch.

Keep up to date with political affairs affecting the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, sex workers, Indigenous communities, and youth. Stand with us in solidarity when it comes to protecting our rights as humans. Read the 94 calls to action and hold our government responsible for their actions, as well as your own, in reconciliation.

Know the names of performers who changed the world and fought for our right to exist. The 1969 Stonewall riots are a pinnacle of



KITTY PHOTOGRAPHY

Nexus columnist Acacia Tooth performing at a recent event; Tooth believes it's important to celebrate self-acceptance.

the movement of gay rights, tracing drag back to 1870 theatre performances and pushing women to fight for equality in 1929.

I encourage you to take these dates, look at the technology in your hand that gives you access to millions of documents and current affairs, and do your homework. How we progress forward into the future affects everyone.

While doing our homework, support local businesses. Since the

Victoria Event Centre has closed, we have limited spaces to continue our performance arts in a safe space, The Vicious Poodle and Friends of Dorothy being our bigger spaces for drag, Metro Studio and Intrepid Theatre being larger venues that lovingly allow us the space to create.

There are artists and producers that also deserve our following and support: Shelita Cox (Drag Sunday Productions), Holly Shirt (Shirt Show Productions), Hazel

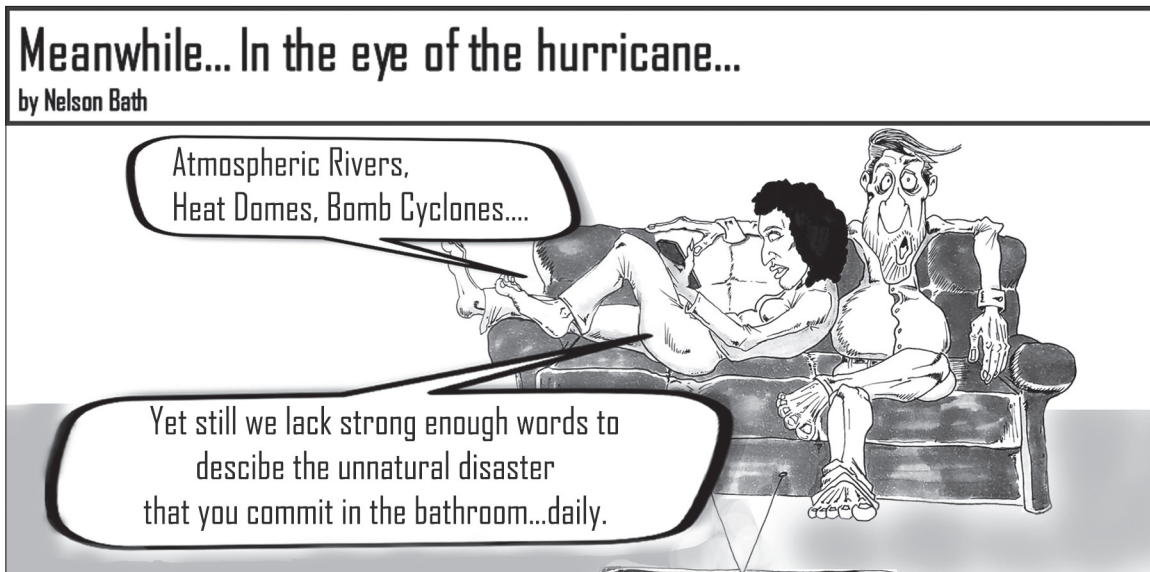
Nunez (Diosa Luna Entertainment), Decathlon (MUG'd Events), Eddi Licious, and so many more. All it takes is a like and share on social media. We do this every day, so why not support local arts.

In a world of bigotry, racism, sexism, and phobias, let's come together and end these stigmas—celebrate love, kindness, acceptance, and our differences that make the world a better place to live and exist.

Dr. Mythic - Miles Roever



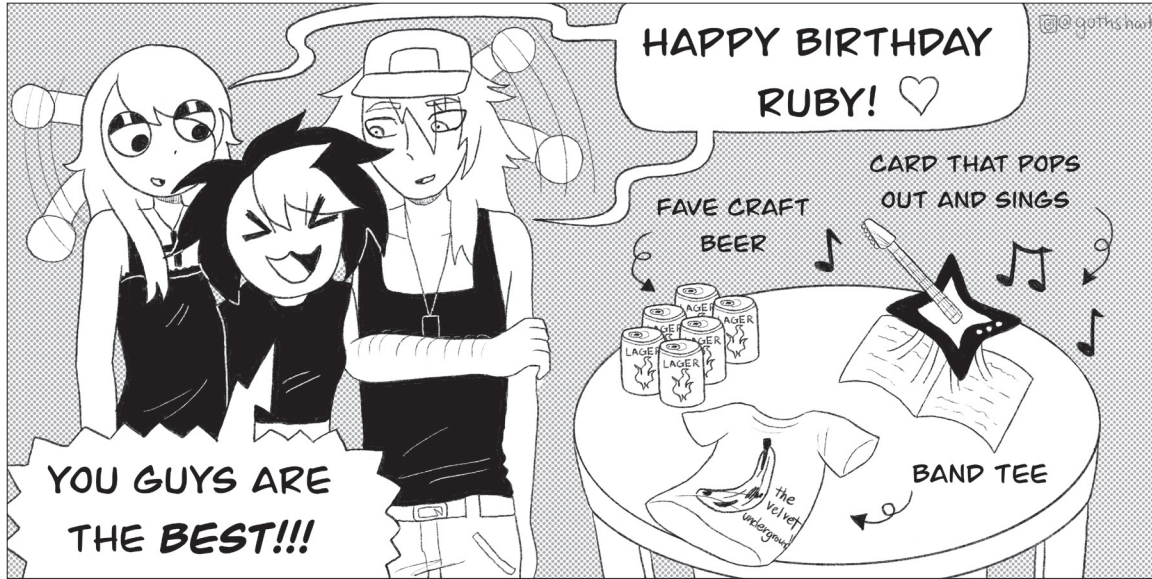
Meanwhile... - Nelson Bath



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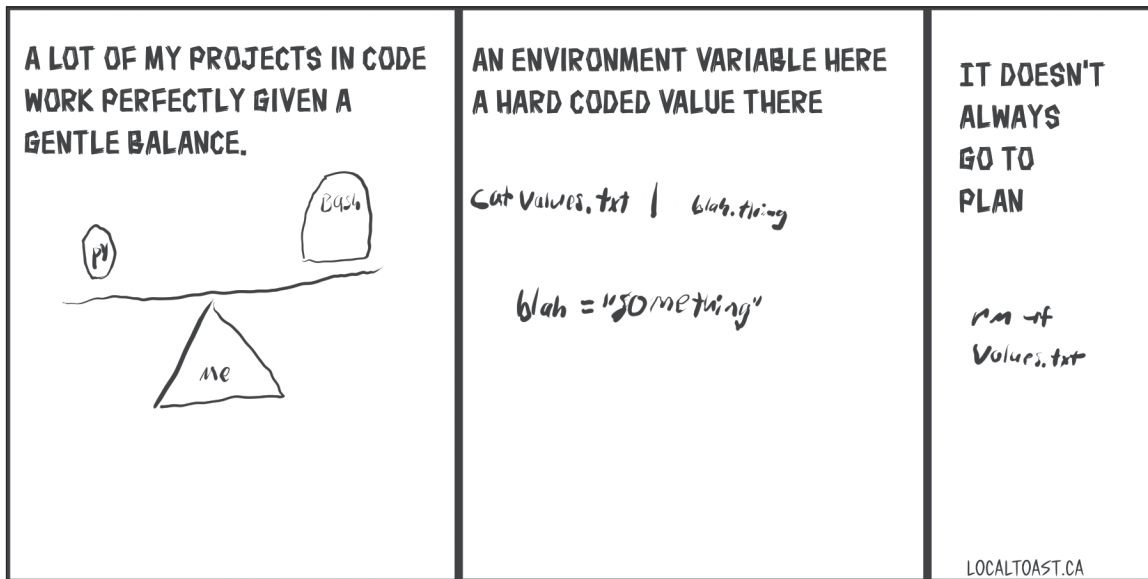
Ruby Rioux and the Bats from Saturn - Ray Nufer



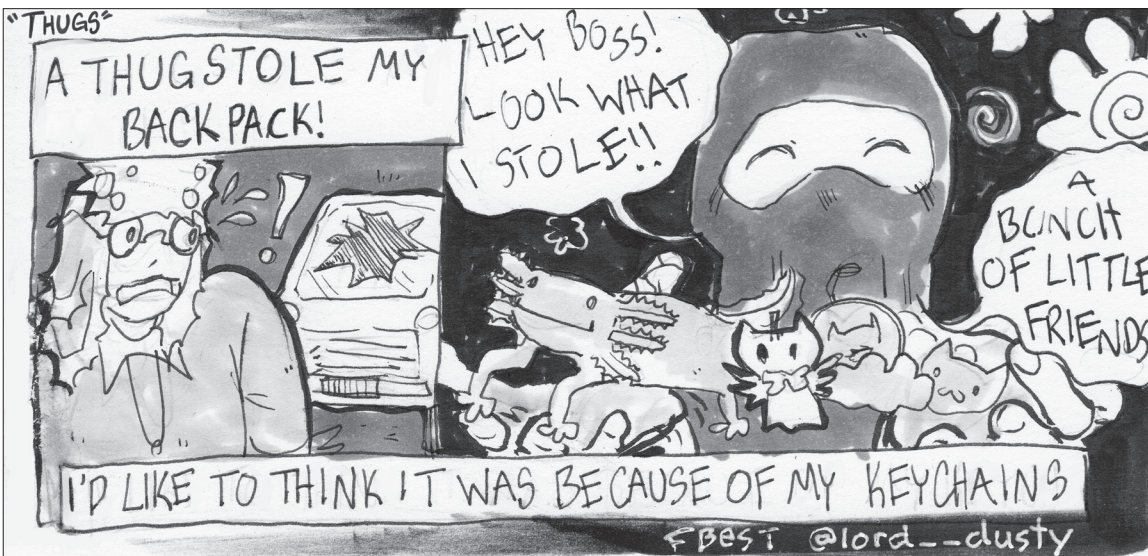
Natural Selection - Emily Welch



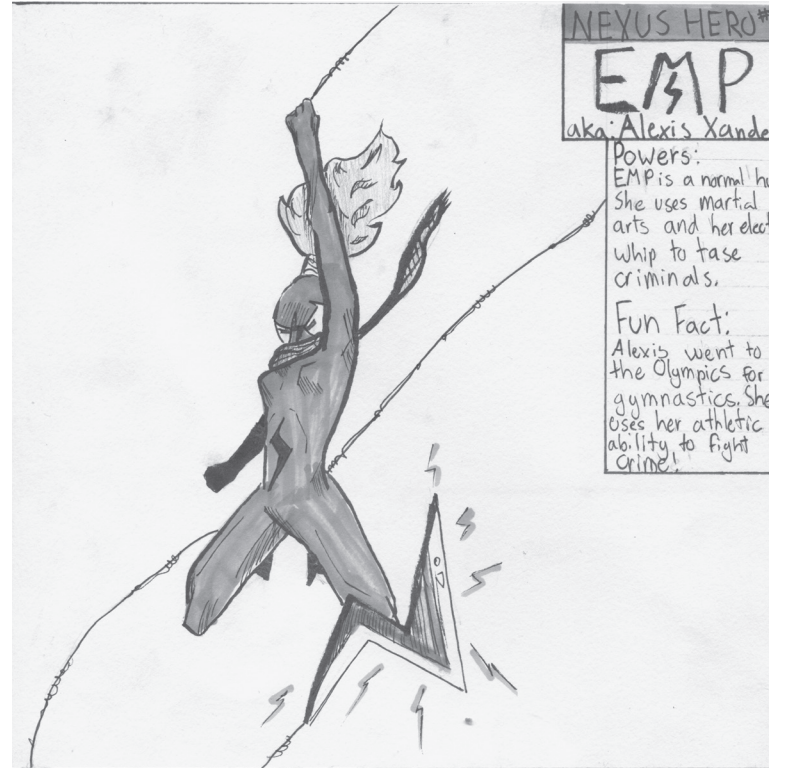
Localtoast: The Daemon That Lives at Localhost - Ben Belland



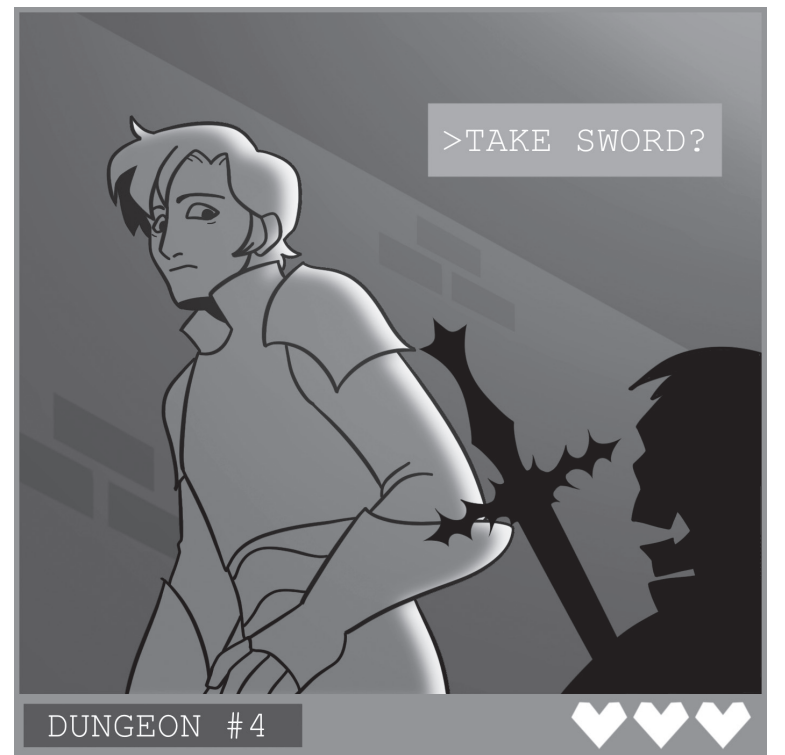
Weird Dog Ink - Felix Best



Nexus Hero - Declan Reilly



Tile Crawler - Jay London



contest
Find the hidden Nexus and win



GREG PRATT/NEXUS
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LYDIA'S FILM CRITIQUE

BY LYDIA ZULETA JOHNSON

They All Laughed

Within the film's fairytale is a melancholic language of heartache and loneliness. There is an inferred nostalgia that comes with its title, as Bogdanovich has suggested, that the past tense fossilizes the film as a time capsule of what once was.

In Manhattan, the air is crowded, the people jaded, and the racket tireless. But in Peter Bogdanovich's Manhattan, crosswalks are merely optional, light jogs are city transit, and an effervescent love has swept up the city and all its citizens.

They All Laughed (1981) calls itself "a New York romance," a nebulous summary telling very little, although still ample, for indeed it is a romance movie based in New York and for New York, and where New York only is ever romantic. Or perhaps too, New York is the tangible nucleus of romance altogether.

In any case, the particulars don't so much matter in *They All Laughed*. The film takes form as one long carousel of fantasy and desire, unknown to when the ride has started or when exactly it will stop. For the first short while, the audience plays catch-up as they settle into a magnetic chemistry permeating the metropolitan cityscape, and yet see a New York small and full of make-believe innocence. They watch and then assimilate. And then suddenly, all at once, they've

got something like a screwball comedy packed with idiosyncratic private investigators and alluring women, observing and yearning for one another. A film where to kiss is to say hello.

Bogdanovich's personalities are always on their way somewhere, anywhere, but never arriving. A perpetual game of voyeuristic tag begins when the Odyssey Detective Agency is hired by two different husbands to follow their wives, and inadvertently are hired, as well, to fall madly in love with them. PIs Charles (John Ritter) and Arthur (Blaine Novak) chase after angelic Dolores (Dorothy Stratten) as she skips around town with a glitzy smile to hotels, shoe stores, and eventually into Charles' embrace. Likewise, effortlessly elegant Audrey Hepburn, playing the role of untruthful wife Angela, finds herself in bed with PI John Russo (Ben Gazzara), whispering gentle passions back and forth.

Within the film's fairytale is a melancholic language of heartache and loneliness. There is an inferred nostalgia that comes with its title,



as Bogdanovich has suggested, that the past tense fossilizes the film as a time capsule of what once was. New York has since said goodbye to many elements of the film, such as the twin towers (featured in the introduction) in 2001 and many cast members, including Stratten in 1980 and Bogdanovich in 2022, slowly aging away from the tender years of *They All Laughed*. The film is dedicated to Stratten, who was murdered at 20 years old, months after principal photography. It is apparent filmmaker Bogdanovich is infused in the film, lovingly admiring Stratten with the camera, as they had been having an affair both as an act in the film and outside of it.

His grief is preserved in his poor efforts to distribute, and their love is preserved in the backdrop of New York.



FELLAS, LET'S FIGURE IT OUT

BY JAXSON SMITH PETERSON

To be vulnerable is to be human

Vulnerability is something that many men, including myself, struggle with. It's hard, and it can be scary, but it's vital in developing

often do more harm than good. You see, walls work two ways—when you build them to protect yourself it keeps out things that can hurt you

Life isn't meant to be done alone. Life is meant to be lived fully, with family who love you, friends you can share your problems with, and, if you're lucky, someone you can be your truest self with.

and maintaining deep and authentic relationships. Here's why.

To be vulnerable is to put yourself in a position, through your words or actions, where others can hurt you and trusting that they won't. It takes vulnerability to foster trust and connection in groups, whether that be in academia or the workplace.

It also takes vulnerability to ask for help when you need it, and at some point we all need help—help with our classes, financial help, mental-health help.

Despite how much we may try, none of us can do it all alone. Life isn't meant to be done alone. Life is meant to be lived fully, with family who love you, friends you can share your problems with, and, if you're lucky, someone you can be your truest self with.

Emotional walls are built up, gradually over time, as a result of our lived experiences. We might think that they protect us, and to an extent they do, but these walls

but it also locks out things that can heal you. If something gets through that hurts you then you have no way to deal with it.

The issues that you're dealing with will stay inside of your head unless you deal with them, and the only way to deal with the things inside of your head is to get them out. Walls prevent that; vulnerability encourages it.

The act of vulnerability is a courageous one. Maybe you've been burned before, or you've never let anyone get too close, but what's the point of living if you're always alone, even when you're with others?

This year, I'm challenging myself—and you—to be vulnerable with someone trustworthy. It can be a friend, family member, or significant other. It might be scary—I was scared to do this in the past—but the rewards and connection you'll receive from true vulnerability far outweigh the things that scare you.

To be vulnerable is to be human. Happy New Year.



REASONS TO LIVE... IN VICTORIA

BY ALEX HANUSE

New Year's decadence

It's been about a week since many of us made a New Year's resolution. I used to set unrealistic health and wellness goals like lose 10 pounds, start exercising and eating healthy, blah blah blah. But I don't actually want to do any of those things. It's not that I don't think exercise and nutrition are important, because I do... sort of. I've just discovered that those types of goals don't serve me. They add to the stress that can cause me to make bad decisions in the first place.

Now I prefer to make resolutions that bring me joy. Resolutions such as do less chores and read more books, or make cocktails at home with no occasion other than that life is short.

So now that we can all forget about cutting out carbs and sugar, I want to tell you about Patisserie Daniel, a French-style bakery with old-world charm.

Wooden rolling pins hang in the front window at 1729 Cook Street in Fernwood. Look beyond the abundant display of baked goods once you're inside, and you'll see that hundreds of bread boards and other vintage bakeware completely cover the walls.

Daniel Vokey owns and operates Patisserie Daniel, which has been in business for 30 years. He can be seen lovingly decorating desserts with his

Now I prefer to make resolutions that bring me joy. Resolutions such as do less chores and read more books, or make cocktails at home with no occasion other than that life is short.

signature marzipan right behind the counter. Vokey specializes in decadent, beautiful cakes and is a favourite for weddings.

When my day has gotten off to a rough start I like to stop by the bakery for their very popular brioche cinnamon bun and eat my feelings. The bun is soft and buttery and smothered in a complex blend of spices. Quite large and generously drizzled with icing, they make a great gift for a loved one or someone you're about to ask a favour from. If you decide to try one of these life-changing (or at least day-changing) cinnamon buns, try to get there before 10 am because they sell out fast.

Another favourite when I need something sweet is their almond croissant. It's covered in marzipan and sprinkled with slivered almonds

and icing sugar. This pastry is more decadent than any other croissant I've had, especially if you opt for the double chocolate version.

As for the bread, Vokey's super seed whole wheat loaf is to die for. It's delicious, dense, and packed with nutritional value. I've never had a seeded loaf I like better.

Some gluten-free options are also available, including a nicely wrapped sliced bread. It makes the perfect GF gift for yourself, or your celiac bestie, in my case. She said it didn't even taste GF, but she can't really be trusted as she has long forgotten the joys of gluten.

Exercising and eating better actually feel totally doable, if you count walking to Patisserie Daniel to pick up a delicious treat that is sure to brighten your day.



DROPPING THE NEEDLE

BY SANTIAGO VAZQUEZ-FUERTE

Taylor Swift's era

Taylor Swift's The Eras Tour has come to an end with her last three shows at BC Place in Vancouver. It's impossible to ignore the tour's unprecedented impact on music and culture. And with this, it's time to talk about where Swift stands as one of the greatest pop artists of all time.

The Eras Tour broke all kinds of records in its historic two-year run. The tour became the highest-grossing tour of all time in December 2023, grossing over US\$1 billion in revenue. Moreover, Swift became the highest-earning female musician of all time, and also set a new single-day ticket-sale record.

Before we get to determine whether or not Swift belongs in the conversation about the best pop stars of all time, we need to discuss how she stacks up with the artists in her generation.

In terms of artistry, it's hard to argue that Swift is above Beyoncé and her 32 Grammys, the most ever received by an artist. However, when it comes to star power, no one even comes close to Swift, which evens things out. It's hard to choose between these two artists for the best pop star in the 21st century, but there's no doubt they are the

top two, with Rihanna and Lady Gaga behind them.

Now it's time to stack these two stars against the so-called King of Pop, the one and only Michael Jackson.

Jackson's *Thriller* remains the best-selling album of all time to this day. There is no question of the overall impact that this man had, not only in music but in culture. It's hard to fathom what his impact would have been like if he could have taken advantage of social media like Swift and Beyoncé have.

However, both Beyoncé and Swift have emerged as the most influential pop stars of the 21st Century. Beyoncé has made history with her Grammy wins. Swift has 14 Grammys and has a commercial success perhaps bigger than anyone in history, only comparable to The Beatles and Jackson.

So, while Jackson's status as the King of Pop is unlikely to be surpassed in terms of his cultural impact, given that Swift is still in her 30s, she has a lot of time to become the biggest pop star ever—especially if she capitalizes on the fame she's gained with her latest tour. For now, Jackson remains king, however, his throne is no longer unchallenged.

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FIESTA POPPERS



**TAHINI RANCH
BLACK BEAN BURGER**



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THE EXCHANGE AT TRADES

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BRAND NEW MENU FEATURES at Chargers Diner!!!

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NEW

PIZZA FORNO NEW LOCATION!!!



Find it at CBA by Social Roast