

## THIS TOWN AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US

# Please, hold us accountable

*Panther Post production editor welcomes feedback about our student paper*

By **Sebastian Baglole**  
*Panther Post*

**T**HIS IS AN OPEN letter to the student body about our open book. Tell us if it's wrong. It would be fantastic if we could sway past the dismal failure of last year's output and focus on now.

The Panther Post, as I understand it, is a "new" newspaper. It's brimming with fresh thoughts and ideas, and new events around campus are happening all the time. Do we have regular Wave attendees in the audience? Many student papers have routine run-downs of some bizarre occurrences at the campus bar from nights before. It turns out to be a fun read, and maybe give us more information on the treatment of students at the school after hours, so if there is a throw-down, we would love to hear about it.

One of the problems we've encountered is the possibility that the staff, small as it is, is receiving less funding to publish and pay its reporters. The scanty and very revealing cheques given to the contributing reporters is not much incentive to contribute more than perhaps several articles, and yet as the voice of the students we should have as many voices contributing to that as possible. This is "crunch time", and especially around exam periods it's difficult to encour-

age people to snap newsfeed back and forth when they have haystacks of papers to write and mounds of books to shuffle through to prepare for finals.

This is not a cry for a wage hike, but a plea to the Student Union as well as the students, to feel proud about our publication, because it is impossible to be singularly proud of a community-driven newspaper. We also need some support to the people that put in the time and thought to do their work adequately, just as part-time faculty members may feel as if they're getting the run-around sometimes when it comes to fair and equal wages, and I've seen it happen: everyone needs a sufficient level of funding, to be as colourful, efficient, and passionate about this paper as possible.

Some have inquired about the nature of the alternative campus rag, *The Semantic*. Not quite a rivalry as some might feel -- the contributors of each aren't really butting heads with each other. But, a different voice is encouraged; that was truly the spirit of the *Cadre*, to express ourselves and hopefully yourselves as well, independently from campus sports, as well as the student union: to fuel the notion of objectivity. Another publication serving as the opposition is very healthy for a university to have, to voice separate

views and opinions on different matters, and focus on the standards of the papers if one begins to slip.

A newspaper is founded upon a strong and co-ordinated staff. This year, as you may have noticed filing through this year's copies of *The Cadre* -- or the *Panther Post*, as the case may be -- that more of the articles concern real news stories. Rather than the increasing amount of "fluff" content we've seen fill these pages in recent years, this year's staff is set on delivering to students not only news, including campus-wide, local, national and international news, but articles that focus their perspectives on targeting the student interests as well.

Although, this paper is not only the students' concern; this university is made of many capable professors, and this is their paper too. So if you, the students and professors of this school, have a problem with the issues we put out to you, then, tell us! Silence isn't a keen indicator of the voice of the university body.

I'll concede that we could use maybe a comic, a crossword or Sudoku (come on, who doesn't like the Sudoku?) to pass the time before class with.

Fill the letter to the editor space, because in my opinion we haven't been getting nearly enough.

# Voting is losing its power

By **Peter Gardner**  
*Nexus (Camosun College)*

**VICTORIA (CUP)** -- While walking through my neighborhood recently, a member of the Green Party tried to stop and talk to me about what his plans were in the recent federal election.

I kept walking and said: "Sorry, I don't vote in this riding." He obviously only heard the first half of that sentence, and replied: "Well, if you don't vote, you can't bitch, man!"

Ever since I was young I've been interested in politics. In Grade 3, for a show-and-tell presentation, I took in the previous night's federal election. And when I could vote for the first time in this year's federal election, I was actually excited.

But the more I talked to people about who they were voting for, the more apparent it was that fewer people were actually voting to support someone.

Instead, a lot of people were voting against someone, in this case, the Conservatives. There were even websites set up to inform people how to strategically vote against Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Strategic voting is a scary trend; it's getting to be almost as common as voting for the party you want in power. And look where strategic voting has gotten us.

Harper, a prime minister less than half the country

supports, is in power because people were sick of the Liberals.

And it's even more obvious in B.C., where the Liberals are in power largely because of anti-NDP sentiment. It's nearly impossible to find anyone who likes what B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell and his Liberals have done.

By voting against someone, you just end up with another person who you dislike, perhaps even more.

I'm also finding it increasingly difficult to decide what to do for the provincial election in the New Year. I'm not happy with any of the candidates; the sad reality is they are just too similar.

The Liberals have had an awful track record lately, and if you look back a few years, the NDP does as well.

For the first time in my life, I'm really disappointed with the system. Not voting is becoming rather appealing.

It's not because I don't care, and not because I'm lazy. It's because I'm angry and I'm tired of the same thing all the time. I'd rather vote for no one than vote for someone I don't believe in.

In the recent U.S. election people elected Barack Obama not because they feared the other guy, but because people actually believed in him. I don't see anyone here to believe in.

Peter Gardner writes for the *Nexus* at Camosun College