

Canada imposes cap on international study permits

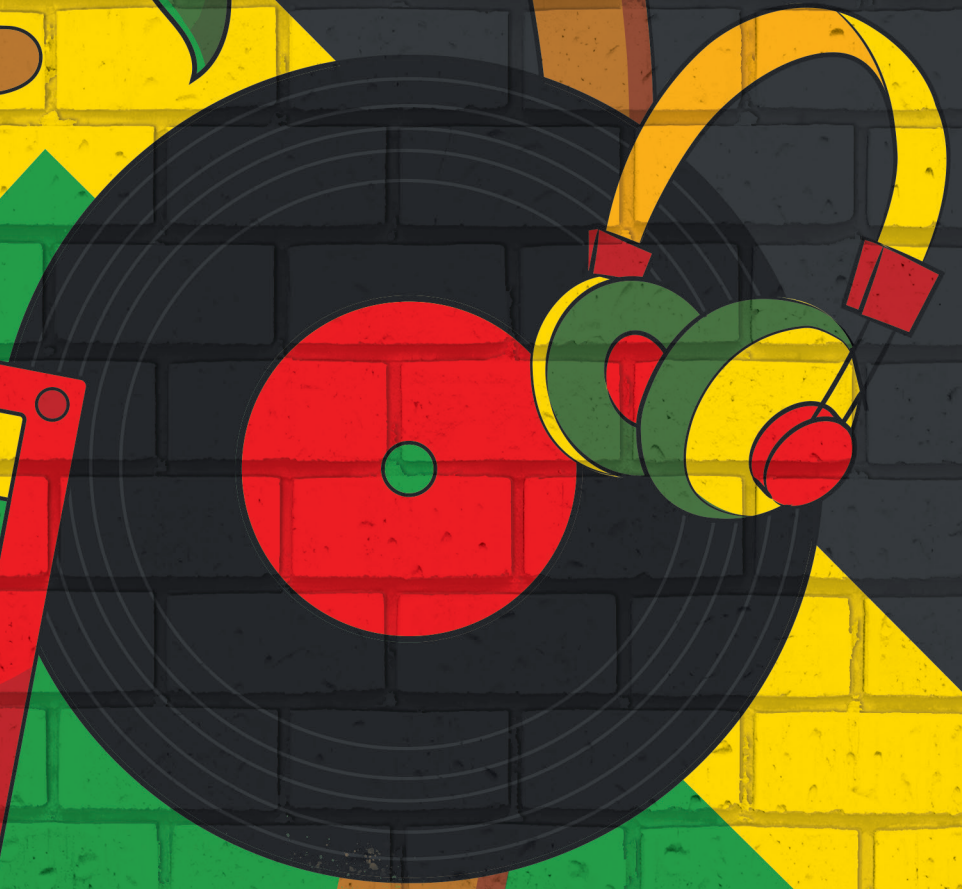
Barbie and awards season: Did you even watch the movie?

Roots and seeds: London's connection to Black history

Falcons Fest win keeps men's volleyball in pursuit

INTERROBANG

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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FROM THE EDITOR

Hannah Theodore (she/her)

Dear readers,
Welcome to Interrobang's annual Black History Month issue. This issue is unique for us, as it features content submitted by the broader Fanshawe community, from poetry, to essays, to artwork.

This year, we were overwhelmed with the number of submissions we received, and we did our very best to include as many of them in this issue as possible. Students shared personal stories, fascinating essays documenting Black history, and more. Special thanks goes to Fanshawe's Anti-Racism and Inclusion Specialist, Troy Townsend, who provided us with a thoughtful and educational foreword for the second year in a row.

Fanshawe student Briana Brissett conceptualized and designed our cover, drawing on her Jamaican heritage as inspiration. The colours Briana chose to highlight run throughout the issue, and connect our entire newspaper to her creative vision.

My hope is that this issue will encourage you to educate yourself and the people around you about Black history, not just this month, but all year long. As you'll learn from our amazing contributors, there is a plethora of history right here in London and the surrounding area, so you don't have to look far to learn more.

Thank you once again to all those who contributed, and thanks to you for reading!

Sincerely,



COVER:
Briana Brissett



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Innovation Village hosts grand opening in the newly renovated Forwell Hall



Mauricio Prado (he/him)
INTERROBANG

Innovation Village officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and speeches from donors and local politicians on Jan. 26. The facility is a 95,000-square-foot building in the centre of Fanshawe's Oxford St. campus. Its primary goals emphasize practical learning, innovative problem-solving, and industry, staff, and student cooperation.

"It is where students, faculty staff and industry partners collide. Is where they meet and think of great ideas on how to solve challenges most innovatively," said Fanshawe College president Peter Devlin.

He added Innovation Village will strongly impact the economy of London as Fanshawe aspires to be at the forefront of innovation in the college sector.

"It truly puts us on the map in terms of our dedication to our teachers, students and the community of southwest Ontario, which we fervently support," Devlin said.

London Mayor Josh Morgan was in attendance at the grand opening and said that since the college pitched the idea years ago, he was invested in getting "more and more involved."

"It is always hard to see what the vision will be when you are at the right front end of it," Morgan said. "It was pitched well. The college has always delivered on its commitments."



Fanshawe College's Innovation Village facility has officially opened.

CREDIT: ANGELA VARGHESE

He added that he can see the capacity and potential to give students a fantastic experience. He also said partnering with employers looking for talented workforce development would be easier.

"This will help London become a regional economic powerhouse," Morgan said. "It allows us to compete nationally and globally."

Morgan said the workforce is not just looking to bring a manufacturing line to London. They are looking to bring research and innovation as well.

Federal Liberal MP Peter Fragiskatos said that the project exceeded his expectations.

"I know how much Fanshawe planned for this and what it means to the college. It will have an enormous impact on students and their families," Fragiskatos said. "Parents want to see their kids succeed. Success can happen in many ways, but education is at the core of that."

Fragiskatos added that Innovation Village and the model of education it embraces will help bring students to the front lines of understanding how they can solve everyday problems in the private sector and existing and emerging companies.

"That kind of education model will prove enormously fruitful for

the wider Canadian economy and not only the London economy," Fragiskatos said.

He also mentioned that even though social and economic systems are having challenges integrating international students into colleges, it does not mean that they do not want to continue to work with Fanshawe College.

"We are going to have students here. We are going to have them thriving," Fragiskatos said. "We will see them succeeding, graduating from here and continuing to contribute to the wider Canadian economy. So I'm very confident in our future regardless."

According to Devlin, the facility emphasizes the ability to adjust to changes in technology and society.

"With applications in fields including mechanical and medical, virtual training is thought to be a more cost-effective and efficient teaching method for our students. They have all those cutting-edge technologies here and now," Devlin said.

Morgan said that the research collaborations and highly qualified labour pool that Fanshawe can offer now, with all its technological developments, could attract more businesses to the area.

College, local reps respond to international study permit cap



Gracia Espinosa (she/her)
INTERROBANG

Immigration Minister Marc Miller has announced that the federal government will introduce a temporary, two-year cap on new international student permits. A cap of 364,000 approved study permits will be introduced, representing a 35 per cent reduction from 2023. The cap will be allocated by province based on population, meaning some provinces may see more significant decreases than others. The provinces and territories will work together to determine how the cap is distributed among the designated learning institutions under their jurisdiction.

Miller has suggested in recent months that the influx of international students in Canada is contributing to the country's housing shortage. More than 800,000 international students were issued temporary study visas in 2022, and Miller said last fall the numbers were tracking to hit 900,000 in 2023.

Miller also announced two additional measures in an effort to ensure what he called, "quality education for future students" coming to Canada.

Starting Sept. 1, Miller said that the government will stop issuing postgraduate work permits to international students who graduate from "public-private institution models." Additionally, in the coming weeks,

Miller said the government will be announcing that open work permits will only be available to spouses of international students enrolled in master's and doctoral programs, as well as professional programs such as medicine and law.

"Spouses of international students enrolled in other levels of study, including undergraduate and college programs, will no longer be eligible," Miller said.

It's important to note that the cap will not apply to applicants within Canada who are looking to extend their studies, as, according to Miller, "it wouldn't be fair to prevent someone from finishing the program." Furthermore, the cap will not affect study permit holders currently in Canada.

These temporary measures will be in place for two years, and the number of new study permit applications accepted in 2025 will be reassessed at the end of this year. Before ending the press conference, Miller emphasized that these measures are not meant to hurt international students.

At the grand opening of Innovation Village on Jan. 26, the question of the cap loomed over the events of the day, as federal representatives visited the college and Fanshawe president Peter Devlin acknowledge the various unknowns regarding the cap.

"We just sent out a message to students because this announcement was a surprise and a tremendous disappointment," Devlin said. "We



Several local politicians including London Mayor Josh Morgan (pictured) and Fanshawe executives spoke on the cap on international students at the opening of Innovation Village.

CREDIT: ANGELA VARGHESE

will ensure that students, prospective students, the Fanshawe College faculty and staff, and our community are aware."

The message to students was sent via email on Jan. 22 by Fanshawe College on behalf of the Vice President of Student Services, Michele Beaudoin.

"We are still reviewing the announcement and its impact on Fanshawe. Our focus remains on providing an exceptional educational experience for all our students," Beaudoin said in the email.

Beaudoin ended the message by saying, "We recognize a lot of uncertainty surrounding what these changes mean, but we know that your learning experience, safety and

well-being are paramount. We will continue to provide further information as we learn more."

Devlin stressed peace of mind for students who have already received work permits and study visas, stating they should not worry.

Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) president Stephin Sathya also emphasized that "current study permit holders will not be affected. So they will still be able to get their PWP [Post-Graduation Work Permit]. [This announcement] is for people studying starting Sept. 1 this year."

Even though there will be a substantial decrease in the number of students in Canada, Sathya clarified that "the extent of the impact on individual universities and

programs remains uncertain until the provincial government finalizes implementation of the cap."

Member of Parliament for North Central London, Peter Fragiskatos also attended the opening of Innovation Village. Fragiskatos said the government's decision was made in an effort to cope with the social and economic challenges of integrating international students, which he said the colleges are particularly responsible for.

"This does not mean that we don't want to continue to work with Fanshawe and appreciate the work that Fanshawe does. It's up to the provincial government to look at that gap and how visas will be allocated within it," Fragiskatos said.

Health Unit urges precautionary measures against chickenpox



Gracia Espinosa (she/her)
INTERROBANG

Fanshawe College is currently on alert due to a significant rise in chickenpox cases among post-secondary students, according to the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU).

“Since mid-December 2023, we have identified over 15 cases in Middlesex-London. However, we are still trying to determine how many of these cases are linked to the Fanshawe community,” stated Dr. Joanne Kearon, Associate Medical Officer at the MLHU.

The Health Unit’s investigation found that some cases could be linked to recent travel, while others seemed to have originated locally.

“This number of cases is higher than average, so we are investigating this increase in chickenpox cases. However, no specific exposures have been identified, such as places or specific times campuses or classes,” Kearon said.

Chickenpox, a viral infection commonly associated with childhood but capable of affecting individuals of all ages, presents substantial risks within the college community. The virus spreads through airborne particles or direct contact with an infected person, manifesting symptoms such as fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, and a distinct itchy rash accompanied by blisters.

“Symptoms become more severe as people get older. And so, in the post-secondary age, symptoms can sometimes be more severe than if someone were to be infected as a child,” Kearon explained.

Though complications are relatively rare, they can be severe, especially among individuals with compromised immune systems, encompassing skin infections, brain inflammation, and pneumonia.

“If people develop severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, confusion, or their blisters become infected, a healthcare professional should see them.”

Of particular concern is the contagious period, during which individuals infected with chickenpox



CREDIT: BUREAU DE SANTÉ DE MIDDLESEX-LONDON HEALTH UNIT

Chickenpox causes fever, fatigue and itching accompanied by the blisters characteristic of the disease.

can transmit the disease several days before the rash emerges and up to five days after its onset.

Given the heightened risks associated with chickenpox during pregnancy, pregnant individuals within the college community, as well as those planning to conceive, are strongly advised to exercise additional caution.

Individuals who lack prior exposure to chickenpox and have not completed the full vaccination regimen, as well as those with weakened immune systems, face elevated susceptibility to contracting the disease.

“A person fully vaccinated with two doses of the chickenpox vaccine, or who has had chickenpox in the past, is unlikely to be re-infected,” Kearon explained.

Those requiring clarification regarding their vaccination status should consult a healthcare provider or contact the Health Unit. Efforts to contain the spread of chickenpox among the college community encompass encouraging susceptible individuals to consider vaccination.

Vaccination services are readily available for employees at the MLHU’s Immunization Clinic, healthcare providers’ offices, or through Fanshawe’s Occupational Health Nurse. Students of Fanshawe can also access vaccines through Fanshawe’s Student Health Services at Fowler Kennedy.

It is essential to remain vigilant as symptoms of chickenpox may appear up to three weeks after exposure to the virus. If you notice any symptoms, seek medical attention promptly. It is also advisable to avoid settings where high-risk individuals may be exposed, especially healthcare facilities until all chickenpox lesions have crusted over.

The Health Unit’s web page at healthunit.com/chickenpox is another resource for information on chickenpox.

The Infectious Disease Team at the Middlesex London Health Unit underscores the significance of awareness and proactive measures within the Fanshawe College community to combat the spread of chickenpox.



CREDIT: JOHN SING

The Rapid Design Studio, created in part by Kevin Deveau (left) and Matt Farrell (right), will focus on building dynamic online learning experiences.

Rapid Design Studio elevating virtual learning at Fanshawe



Gracia Espinosa (she/her)
INTERROBANG

On Feb. 12, online and Blended Learning will launch a new resource to help faculty enhance their online, blended and web-enhanced courses and improve student outcomes: Rapid Design Studio (RDS).

Kevin Deveau, Director of Blended and Online Learning at Fanshawe College, shed light on the genesis of the RDS, tracing its roots back to 2013 when a reference was made to the “need for a service like Rapid Design to help professors.”

With a focus on designing dynamic online learning experiences, the RDS specializes in crafting interactive learning tools, such as HTML5 Package content (H5P) and ensures that all materials meet the standards outlined in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

“It was more of an idea that, if you put it around 2020, just before the pandemic, became one of the commitments of the president of Fanshawe, Peter Devlin.”

The RDS team will work closely with faculty members to develop interactive resources that enhance student engagement and exploration of critical concepts through virtual consultations.

“RDS is there to capture the ideas of the faculty and develop a learning object based on those ideas. So over time, we’ll see several learning objects that we can share with other college programs,” Deveau explained.

Flight Services program

coordinator Haley Whitelaw participated in an RDS pilot project and explained this service by drawing parallels to popular educational games such as Teach Your Monster and language learning apps such as Duolingo.

“It’s like turning a learning experience into a little game,” Whitelaw said. “Those H5P content are great tools because they help the students learn something differently than just reading or being told about it in a lesson.”

eLearning Curriculum Consultant Matt Farrell helped Whitelaw create interactive content for her students. According to Farrell, adding more interactive elements, such as drag and drop, fill-in-the-blank, flip cards can be helpful to asynchronous course time. It allows students to test their knowledge in real time and keeps them engaged.

“We want to help them make their online courses a little more feature-rich, maybe adding some more elements of interactivity or giving them some advice on making more engaging content,” Farrell explained.

Reflecting on the pilot phase of the RDS, Farrell expressed satisfaction with the feedback from faculty members.

“So far, it’s been pretty good,” he said. “I’ve worked with about seven faculty members, which is a pretty good amount for a pilot project. And everybody has been pleased. Everybody’s been pleased.”

As Fanshawe College forges ahead with its approach to online learning, the introduction of the Rapid Design Studio marks a significant step towards fostering interactive and engaging educational experiences for students and faculty alike.

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Green bin program faces growing pains



Mauricio Prado (he/him)
INTERROBANG

London's recently launched green bin program has caused frustration and dissatisfaction among some neighbourhoods. Some have not even received their green bins yet. London resident and Fanshawe College student Heli Khetani said she felt the program was "rushed."

"It is not well thought out. It is a good program, but I do not think the program they created is right for us," said Khetani. "I think it is a big slap in the face for us."

She said that as she took the garbage out on a recent Wednesday morning, she noticed that the green bin and the trash went into the same truck.

"Londoners have been waiting a long time for this program," said Khetani. "We all eagerly wanted to participate, which is disappointing,"

Khetani said that London needs all the trucks on the road. She also said that the new schedule for the garbage pickup is not "well thought out."

"It is awful that the garbage will stay there for two weeks," Khetani said. "Especially in the summer when it is so hot outside, they can spread bacteria."

According to The City of London, green bins and blue box recycling will be collected weekly. Homeowners can dispose of up to three rubbish containers every two weeks.

"I understand they are having difficulty procuring the trucks and



CREDIT: MAURICIO PRADO

The green bin program has caused frustration and dissatisfaction among some neighbourhoods.

having them specked out properly from their provider," Khetani said.

She added that more due diligence should have been done at the beginning of the program.

"They did not have one of the new trucks with the two-sided disposal. Seeing that frustrated me," said Khetani.

The City of London's director of climate change, environment and waste management, Jay Stanford, said that is not how the system is meant to work.

"We generally have the two green packers. If we do not have two-stream packers, the materials must be kept separate using two vehicles," Stanford said.

Stanford said a couple of issues have arisen since the program's launch.

"Due to the severe weather, some green beans have matured and frozen at the bottom because hot liquids have frozen in cold temperatures," Stanford said.

He added that they have also

received reports and complaints of squirrels and animals chewing up the bins.

"People need to place their containers where it might be more likely that animals will not get and hide them, but these are things that people must learn as they begin to adopt the green bin program," Stanford said.

He added that the garbage has always been in a location, and animals could be getting into it already.

"Just with the green bin in place,

additional care will be required," Stanford said.

Stanford said they know that although 127,000 homes have received their kitchen containers and green bins thus far, some have not yet received them. He said the City is working on that.

"A unique system will be implemented to assist the residents of the approximately 3,900 townhome complex units that we still need to attend. Change comes with a lot of effort on all sides," Stanford said.

Thrifting paradise: Annual pop-up "The Story" returns



Zoë Alexandra King (she/her)
INTERROBANG

On Feb. 15, the fashion marketing and management program will be hosting their annual pop-up event, "The Story." In collaboration with Goodwill Industries, fashion students have been able to get their hands on a variety of thrifted pieces ranging from different categories of style. From 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., visitors will have the opportunity to go through the racks at The Canadian Village Square, and dive into a world of curated second-hand treasures.

This event is a great opportunity for fashion students to gain real-world experience in the industry but also for all Fanshawe students to restructure their perception of thrifting. While thrifting has become increasingly popular throughout the years, there is still a negative view on this type of shopping.

Jessica Manola is one of the fashion students who helped organize this event. She explained her role of social media for "The Story," and how in preparation for the event, she has really enjoyed creating

content such as Reels to captivate potential event-goers.

Although the lead-up to the event has been great experience, Manola explained that because of her passion and drive for the industry, she is enthusiastic about contributing to the encouragement of thrifting with the community of Fanshawe College.

"I want to see people fall in love with second-hand because the fashion industry is one of the positives in the world," Manola said. "Buying second-hand doesn't have to be degrading to yourself, you can feel good in second-hand because fashion is evolving."

Chieh-Lin (Jolin) Huang, who is also in the two-year fashion marketing and management program, has gained experience in the merchandising division for this event. Huang has been a part of choosing some of the pieces that will be at the event itself. This process of selection began last October, giving the opportunity to collect a variety of clothing items from Goodwill. According to Huang, there will be approximately 500 items that will cater for a variety of different categories of style.

Similarly, to Manola, Huang shared excitement for showcasing



CREDIT: FSU PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

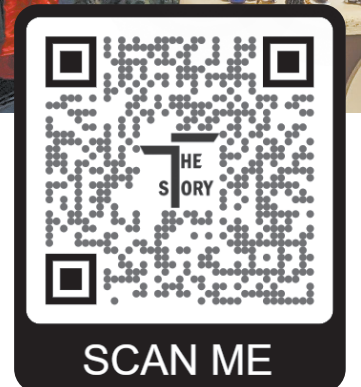
The annual partnership between Fanshawe's fashion department and Goodwill Industries is back.

to the students of Fanshawe that "second-hand is cool," and highlighting the importance of sustainability.

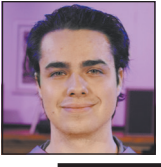
If you're an avid thrifter, this event was practically created for

you! If you've always been on the fence about thrifting, this is a perfect opportunity to introduce yourself to the thrifting world.

Check out the QR Code featured with this article to learn more.



Did they even watch the movie?



Finch Neves
(he/him)
INTERROBANG

The 2024 Oscar nominations have been released and with them, the reminder that the Academy's voting pool is older and whiter than the crowd at your local shuffleboard court. Despite their desperate attempts to cloud the flow of information surrounding their little club of wealthy withered fossils, the *Los Angeles Times* found that only two per cent of voters were under 40 with more than half being over 60 and that more than 90 per cent of them were white.

The idea of potentially career defining awards being decided upon by a group of people so out of touch with modern ideals is infuriating. But them all falling under one demographic doesn't mean that they let it influence their decisions, right?

As recently as 2016, every single acting nominee was white, and every year women in powerful leading roles get thrown to the wayside. This year was no exception as the message of the film *Barbie* fell on deaf ears.

Barbie, which made over \$1 billion, was nominated for Best Picture, surprising no one. The film was a triumph for feminists everywhere, as

it highlighted a story where a woman played far more than an accessory to her partner. But past that, it was just a great movie.

With phenomenal musical numbers, delightfully witty banter, and a scene where Michael Cera takes on several dozen men in hand-to-hand combat, the movie was a smashing success and standing in the spotlight was Margot Robbie, who played the titular role.

Despite the success of the movie, and the quality of the performance, Robbie didn't get nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role and Director Greta Gerwig didn't get nominated for Best Director. If the movie is one of the top films, how can neither the star of the show nor the director that breathed life into the whole piece get a nomination?

To add insult to injury, Ryan Gosling got nominated for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, for playing Ken in the movie. The whole point of his character was that he wasn't as important as Barbie, but I guess he was not important in a very impressive way?

To any about to chime in that America Ferrara was nominated for Best Supporting Actress, that is part of the issue too. It almost screams, "Women being powerful and independent is only acceptable if they do it in a supporting role." The sheer irony of Ken getting the recognition in a film about female empowerment is laughable and deeply depressing.



CREDIT: WARNER BROS. PICTURES

The star of *Barbie* and its director were snubbed by Oscar nominations.

In a world where the Academy was made up of a group as diverse as the audience of the movies released every year, I have no doubt that Robbie and Gerwig would be nominated, at the very least.

Honestly, this is the kind of thing that stops me from getting invested in award

season. You don't need to like *Barbie*, but no one can deny the impact it had and how deserving the team is of recognition.

It is time for a permanent change, so we can finally see powerful women, and a certain Barbie Girl, take the stage they have earned.

Grief & Eugenics: An Ableist Horror Story, Part 11



Adam D. Kearney
(he/they)
CONTRIBUTION

This article is Part Eleven in a series of excerpts from Fanshawe grad Adam D. Kearney's essay, *Grief & Eugenics: An Ableist Horror Story*.

Around the time of this realization I got an email from the same bereavement organization who put on the sessions I had attended with Jolene. Due to the pandemic, they were now offering online sessions and the Men's Grief Support Group was calling my name. At the end of a few months of meeting I was asked to provide some feedback. I ended up writing a mini essay which they later published on their website. I figured I would just use a quotation from that to summarize my experience of the group.

"I had experienced first hand the lack of support and stereotypes most men are forced into in our society. "Man up, sit down. Chin up, pipe down. Socks up, don't cry. Drink up, just lie." It is largely still a taboo for us to talk about or question gender roles when it comes to grief. It is a burden which is assumed we must carry alone.

Finding myself in a place where I was trying to be proactive in bettering my mental health, I knew I needed to speak with other men about their own journey's of grief. Even though I didn't find that I was currently in a bad place or in crisis, I also wanted to help foster and support a much needed community.

Our co-facilitators were great at guiding us through introductions and sharing the stories which brought us together. Offering support and guidance along the way. I have found that being able to give my grief space outside of my own mind very helpful.

Hearing how other people have and continue to navigate their individual grief allows me to add context to my own story.

I can better understand my thoughts and emotions as they present themselves.

Whoa, heavy, right?

Simply put, family and friends mean a lot to me. However, there are some things I have been through in this life that they do not fully understand. Which is no fault of their own, it is because they haven't had to deal with it in their lives.

I knew going into this support group that it would be a safe and open space for people to share and understand each other.

I was not disappointed. Hearing our stories of sadness, frustration, anger and how life goes on if we are ready or not, gave me the continuing encouragement I need to be a better and stronger me.

I want to thank everyone involved in making it happen, as I feel we are all better for it."

The last missing piece of the puzzle, and the biggest piece, was disability. Though the rooms of AA have been helpful, they could also be horribly ableist spaces as well. Rarely was I ever in a meeting with someone who identified as a person with disability. I knew of meetings that were 2SLGBTQIA+ friendly, meetings that were for women, there were even meetings for bikers, but I couldn't find a single disability centered meeting. What I did find eventually was a facebook group called "Disabled & sober/sober curious people" (that is what it is still called today if you are wanting to find it), and it opened my world up in countless ways. I found out firsthand just how bad meetings can be for disabled and neurodiverse folks. I heard other people share about the connections between their substance use and life with disability. Most of all I heard a little part of myself in everyone else's story. This was really the last piece of the puzzle that let me see the bigger picture, not just understanding what I had gone through, but how I might also move forward.

Enough with the fucking rockets already

In my drinking days I would occasionally get into big blow out arguments with people, but none of them were as big or as bad as the ones I would get into with my father. During a particularly brutal one just months before I got sober, I remember challenging him on

some of his ableist views. Talk about the pot calling the kettle black. He threw it back in my face with the obvious reply "well if you actually feel so strongly about it why don't you *actually* do something about it." The sad drunken reality of it was that I realized I was a hypocrite. I had started to stumble down a disability advocacy path but knew I was the worst example of what an advocate should be. You know, an advocate should actually see the value and potential in life with a disability. I have spent the last number of pages rambling on about just where I was at with that, I thought it was impossible to figure it all out. But that was drunk me with a ton of other baggage hanging on.

The more I connected with folks in the Facebook group, the more I connected with the broader disability community that existed on social media. Much like my old camp days, folks started introducing me to articles, podcasts, books and movies. I consumed them ravenously. I wanted to figure out how other people could have dreams of bright Disability Justice Futures, and like what the fuck did that even mean anyway. I have always been a slow reader, I have long assumed I may have undiagnosed dyslexia. But over these last two years of sobriety I have read more disability literature than I have read any books during the decade before. I have even taken to reading some particular books to process my new disability perspective. I was shocked when I got around to reading the *Origins of Satan* and then a book written by an Italian exorcist how much I could relate to through disability and recovery (again once you look past the religious judgment).

Looking back now I can see where I went wrong—I lost touch with Josh. Not just Josh, but everything that I loved about our relationship. I regret not being able to apologize to him for becoming the person I did, and worse, for not being able to find the simple words that captured how much he meant to me before he passed. Regrettably, I can not change that, or any of the choices I have made in my past. What I can do is try my best to learn from those experiences. There is a gentleman in the meeting that I chair who will often say "no person is ever truly useless, they



CREDIT: ADAM D. KEARNEY

This installment chronicles a shift towards advocacy and connecting with the community.

can always serve as a bad example." So here is my story laid bare, so that we might be able to make some changes in this mixed up backwards world.

Disability isn't inherently bad, it is society's view of it that is. We have come a long way from the stone age. The leaps and bounds we have made in the medical world are astonishing. If you make enough money you can literally build your own dick shaped rocket and fly it into outer space (you would think Jeff Bezos could probably afford to pay his workers a little better). In a world so abundant in resources, why do we continue to devalue and oppress people for something they can't change?

To be continued...

This memoir essay was published as a zine in Jan. 2023. If you enjoy it and feel you would like to support the author, you can find a pay what you can PDF or purchase a physical copy at handcutcompany.com.



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FANSHAWE'S STUDENT VOICE

SAY IT WITH A
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A NOTE FROM FANSHAWE COLLEGE'S ANTI-RACISM AND INCLUSION SPECIALIST

TROY TOWNSEND

Black History Month is a celebration of Black history, Black culture, and accomplishments of Canada's multi-faceted Black population representing Black Canadian citizens, Afro-Indigenous peoples, international students, Caribbean and African refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and new Canadians who live and work and contribute to the many platforms of Canadian life: its economy, education, arts, politics, sports, food, music and social structure.

In mid-January, the government of Canada announced the official theme for Black History Month 2024 is Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; Future to Build. It has been almost 400 years since the first Black resident arrived in Canada, leaving lots of Black Canadian heritage to acknowledge and celebrate. Historically though, most Black History Month events tend to focus on the post-Colonial Black experience only; recognizing the significance of a period of time that is steeped in struggle, oppression, and power dynamics that continue to present barriers to this day. I feel that while addressing history is an important step to acknowledging the past, it is also important to learn from it, to take the knowledge we have now, and use it to build a better future and move forward together as a society. To this effect, the EDI office has invited Shelland House of Films to start the month's events with a *FREE* screening of their documentary, *What We Deserve* on **Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.** Award-winning filmmaker Shelley Jarrett's new documentary, *What We Deserve – Restorative Justice and Reparation*, examines over 400 years of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the major roles played by European powers, including the British, Portuguese, French, and Dutch. Please join us in the Alumni Lounge, (SC 2013) for this very important and informative viewing, to be followed by an open mic Question and Answer panel with the filmmakers.

On **Feb. 6**, the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) is pleased to offer a *free* viewing of *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* in lecture theatre D 1060 at 8 p.m. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this moving tribute to another chapter in the MCU. Snacks and refreshments will be provided courtesy of the FSU while supplies last.

This year, the EDI office is excited to be collaborating once again with the FSU to present a Black History Month showcase event, where Fanshawe will acknowledge and celebrate contributions from some of our own. We invite you to join us in the new Forewell Hall space inside Innovation Village on **Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** when our Black History Month showcase event will feature contributions from the London and Fanshawe community through music, art, literature and food. We are very excited to announce our keynote guest will be celebrity Chef, Suzanne Barr who will be speaking on the intersection of food, race and culture, and introducing her new book, *My Ackee Tree*. To accompany this theme, the Fanshawe Culinary Management program will be preparing some Afro-centric delicacies for tasting. MIA alumni and Texas King frontman, Jordan MacDonald will get the crowd going with music and song.

There may be a couple of surprise speakers and contributions, so be sure to attend the whole event! Everyone is welcome as we celebrate and support Black Canadian culture. Later that night, the FSU will be hosting an Underground Comedy night in the Out Back Shack at 8 p.m. Don't forget to watch Fanshawe's four main social media platforms for our **BHM Four Calls to Action** – with a different action posted each week during the month of February.

In addition to on-campus events, students and staff are encouraged to learn about local Black history, not just in February, but every month.

You can visit the Meeting Tree, a 700-year old White Oak tree in London's Westminster Ponds, which became a beacon of hope and a stop on the Underground Railroad. You can visit towns like Lucan, Ont., the once former colony of Wilberforce, a community of freed slaves migrating north from the northern USA, named for abolitionist, William Wilberforce. Or you can visit Dresden, Ont., one of the final stops on the Underground Railroad and the home of Josiah Henson, who harboured many fugitive slaves and was affectionately known as Uncle Tom. Celebrate the restoration of the Fugitive Slave chapel in its new, permanent home at Fanshawe Pioneer village where it has been fully restored and granted designation as an historic site. You can also check out the London Black History Coordinating Committee website to learn more about the many BHM events taking place at venues around London during the month of February.

In closing, I would like to say what a humbling experience it is for me to work every day towards developing anti-racism programming, training and awareness pieces to offer our Fanshawe community; engage with students on various outreach projects and events; and get to know so many of you on a personal level. Being anti-racist means more than just not being racist. Being anti-racist in itself is a call to action. To educate, to inform, to share posts, to call people out, to speak up and engage in difficult conversations. Our country, our city, and our community has sat too long in a comfortable space with racist ideals and attitudes, and now it's time to step out of that comfort zone and actively engage in anti-racism allyship in our collective journey towards a better future to build. As always, any students experiencing racism or discrimination in any form is encouraged to reach out to me at EDI@fanshawec.ca.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

DR. MATILDA ARABELLA EVANS

CHRISTOPHER MISZCZAK

Inspiring people are all around us, from our collective past to the everchanging, encouraging, and hopeful present. It isn't hard to find people to aspire to be like or at least find qualities we can implement into our lives meaningfully. Dr. Matilda Arabella Evans, born May 13, 1872, to both Anderson and Harriet Evans in Aiken, South Carolina, the eldest of three, was the first African-American Woman in the state of South Carolina to not only become a doctor but also found two hospitals, publish a newspaper, find a research journal, and serve her country in a time of need.

She raised over five children from relatives and friends who either died or could not care for them and fostered over 11 different children who were left at her practice. Her legacy and mission were a career in charity, compassion, and the love of children. For the entirety of her life, she was not only an advocate for African American healthcare. Still, she spoke for universal healthcare – as a personal right to have, just as much as education.

After graduating from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Georgia, she accepted a teaching position at Haines Institute in Augusta, Georgia. After a year of teaching, Matilda entered the Pennsylvania women's doctoral college with the support of her mentor, Martha Schofield. In 1897, Evans received her medical degree and was one of the very first African American women to be able to do so.

She specialized in surgery, gynaecology, obstetrics, pediatrics, and hygienics in her practice. She was an advocate for education, humanitarianism, and public health. Her mentor, Martha Schofield, even encouraged her to write her own biography.

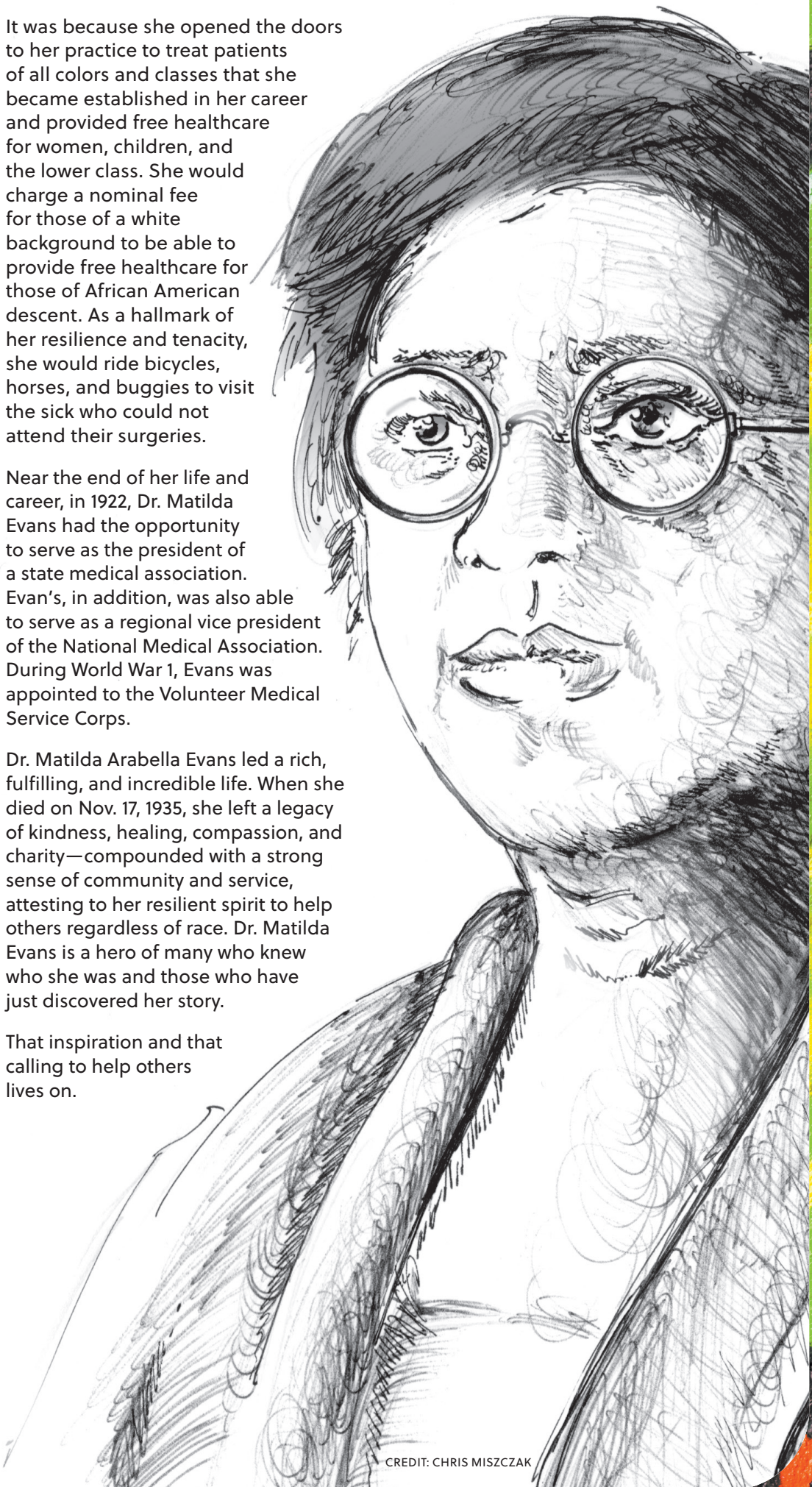
Dr. Matilda Evans founded the Taylor Lane Hospital in Columbia in 1901. The hospital was founded because no other medical facility would accept patients of African American descent. Evans established another hospital, the St. Luke's Hospital, for training school for nurses.

It was because she opened the doors to her practice to treat patients of all colors and classes that she became established in her career and provided free healthcare for women, children, and the lower class. She would charge a nominal fee for those of a white background to be able to provide free healthcare for those of African American descent. As a hallmark of her resilience and tenacity, she would ride bicycles, horses, and buggies to visit the sick who could not attend their surgeries.

Near the end of her life and career, in 1922, Dr. Matilda Evans had the opportunity to serve as the president of a state medical association. Evan's, in addition, was also able to serve as a regional vice president of the National Medical Association. During World War 1, Evans was appointed to the Volunteer Medical Service Corps.

Dr. Matilda Arabella Evans led a rich, fulfilling, and incredible life. When she died on Nov. 17, 1935, she left a legacy of kindness, healing, compassion, and charity—compounded with a strong sense of community and service, attesting to her resilient spirit to help others regardless of race. Dr. Matilda Evans is a hero of many who knew who she was and those who have just discovered her story.

That inspiration and that calling to help others lives on.



CREDIT: CHRIS MISZCZAK



ELIJAH MCCOY: REVOLUTIONIZING TOMORROW, CRAFTING A LEGACY OF INNOVATION AND HISTORICAL IMPACT

ESEOGHENE MARY AKPOJIVI

In the heart of Black History Month, it is very imperative to reflect on the remarkable contributions of African Americans whose contributions transcend their time and left an indelible mark on history. One of such pioneers is Elijah McCoy, an African-Black Canadian whose innovations not only revolutionized the industrial landscape but also paved the way for future generations.

Elijah McCoy's journey began in the late 19th century in Colchester, Ont. Born on May 2, 1844, to George and Mildred McCoy, fugitive slaves who had escaped to freedom through the Underground Railroad. According to archives of the Colchester Historical Society, McCoy's early years were marked by a burgeoning curiosity for mechanics, fostered amidst the challenges of post-slavery life.

Growing up with a thirst for knowledge, McCoy displayed a keen interest in mechanics from a young age which led him to pursue studies in engineering in Scotland, where he developed skills and laid the foundation for a future that would change the face of innovation. Despite facing racial barriers that limited educational opportunities, McCoy's parents were determined to provide him with the best education possible. After completing his education, he faced the harsh reality of racial discrimination, hindering his opportunities in the engineering field.

However, McCoy's determination and ingenuity prevailed, as he found employment with the Michigan Central Railroad. It was during this period that he began developing his most significant invention, "the lubricating

cup" or "drip cup." The device aimed to solve a critical problem in steam engines: the need for frequent stops to lubricate machinery.

McCoy's invention revolutionized the industry by allowing trains to operate for longer periods without the need for constant maintenance. The automatic lubrication system which consistently applied oil to engine parts while in motion, not only increased efficiency but also significantly reduced oil to engine parts while in motion, downtime, and wear on the machinery. At the time, steam engines and machinery required frequent stops for manual lubrication, causing downtime and inefficiency.

The success of the lubrication cup led to its widespread adoption across various industries, earning McCoy the nickname, "The Real McCoy," a phrase that later became synonymous with quality and authenticity. His automatic lubrication system proved to be a game changer in the industrial era. In collaboration with historical records from the Smithsonian Institution, historians were able to uncover the brilliance of McCoy's inventions, particularly the automatic lubricator.

Despite the challenges McCoy encountered throughout his life, he was still able to break through, amassing over 50 patents for various inventions. His innovation extended beyond the realm of railroads, impacting industries such as shipping, oil drilling, and manufacturing. McCoy's work not only improved the efficiency of machinery but also opened doors for future generations of African-Black Canadian inventors, challenging stereotypes and breaking down barriers.

The Library of Congress and the National Inventors Hall of Fame documents the extensive impact of McCoy's inventions on industrial progress. His automatic lubrication system became an indispensable component, enhancing the functionality of machinery new standards for efficiency.

The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation's initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion in engineering drew inspiration from pioneers like Elijah McCoy. His legacy extends far beyond his inventions. His success as an African Canadian inventor during a time of intense racial segregation paved the way for future generations of Black innovators.

McCoy's impact is still felt today as industries around the world continue to benefit from automatic lubrication systems and other inventions inspired by McCoy's pioneering spirit.

As we celebrate Black History Month, it is crucial to recognize Elijah McCoy's contributions, which not only shaped the technological landscape of his time but also paved the way for greater inclusivity and diversity in the fields of science and engineering. McCoy's legacy challenges us to aspire to greatness; we honour not just a historical figure but a beacon of inspiration, reminding us that the pursuit of excellence knows no boundaries.

**YOU TOO COULD BE
THE NEXT, JUST LIKE
"THE REAL MCCOY"**



ABOLITION AND EMANCIPATION: CRITICAL MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

MADUBUIKE ROSELYN

INTRODUCTION

Abolition and emancipation represent cornerstone chapters in the intricate tapestry of Black history, signifying crucial moments that moulded the trajectory of freedom and equality. Rooted in the fight against slavery, these movements reflect the resilience, courage, and determination of African Americans in their pursuit of freedom.

THE ABOLITION MOVEMENT

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Abolition Movement emerged, representing a united endeavour to put an end to the practice of slavery. Activists like Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth became influential advocates, pushing for the immediate end of slavery. Their passionate speeches and writings sparked a fervent movement that resonated nationwide, questioning the ethical underpinnings of a society funded on the exploitation of individuals. The Abolitionist Movement marked significant moments such as the founding of the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833 and the release of Harriet Becher Stowe's pivotal novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in 1852. These occurrences heightened the opposition to slavery, cultivating an increasing recognition of the inherent humanity within the institution.

EMANCIPATION DECLARATION

President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, marked a crucial

moment in the battle against slavery amid the American Civil War. While the proclamation didn't grant immediate freedom to all enslaved individuals, it proclaimed perpetual freedom of all slaves in confederate-held territories. The executive order fundamentally changed the war's nature, aligning it within the noble cause of abolishing slavery. Emancipation didn't immediately ensure freedom; pursuit of equality persisted after the Civil War. Despite this, the Emancipation Proclamation set the stage for redefining the status of African Americans in the United States through subsequent legal and societal changes.

RECONSTRUCTION ERA AND THE 13TH AMENDMENT

The Reconstruction era post-Civil War was a pivotal phase in the quest for Black freedom. In 1865, the 13th Amendment decisively abolished slavery, laying the constitutional groundwork for emancipation. However, the Southern states' Jim Crow Laws hindered the pursuit of equality, perpetuating racial segregation and disenfranchisement.

LEGAL AND CONTINUED STRUGGLE

Abolition and emancipation efforts paved the way for the ongoing pursuit of civil rights in the United States. The courage and resilience of anti-slavery activists inspire continued activism. The enduring quest for justice and equality is highlighted by the lasting impact of abolition and emancipation, requiring constant vigilance, empathy, and a steadfast commitment to dismantling systematic oppression.

CONCLUSION

Abolition and emancipation mark key moments in Black history, embodying individuals' tireless efforts to break the chains of slavery and oppression. These movements set the stage for subsequent struggles for civil rights, serving as a testament to the unbeatable spirit of those who championed freedom. As we reflect on these historical milestones, it is important to recognize the progress made and acknowledge the ongoing work required to judge a society that truly embraces equality and justice.

I HAVE A DREAM
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM
AUGUST 28 1963



EIGHT MOVIES TO WATCH DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ZOË ALEXANDRA KING

There are many ways in which students can honour Black History Month (BHM). This could include supporting Black owned businesses, attending BHM events, visiting museums or exhibits, cooking meals related to Black culture, and much more. One way that students can celebrate without leaving their home is by watching a film to increase the awareness of Black history.

1. BLACK PANTHER (2018)

This fictional Marvel movie that brought immense awareness to the world in 2018 has a background of being one of the first Black comic books in the US. *Black Panther* tells the story of T'Challa, who becomes the newly crowned king to his hometown, Wakanda. Navigating this role after his father dies has its challenges for T'Challa when it came to becoming the Black Panther. The mission of this movie as well as the comics associated with it, was to introduce Black characters into the world with its 1960s Civil Rights Movement setting. The focal point of the film includes the dangerous threat towards Wakanda and the rest of the world. Watch to find out what forces the Black Panther puts into place to protect his people.

2. THE ROSA PARKS STORY (2002)

This early-2000s film features the famous Rosa Parks, who made history in America during segregation in 1955. Rosa Parks, who is played by actress Angela Bassett, refused to give up her seat in the bus for a white passenger during a pivotal time in the world when there was a Bus Boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. Prior to this moment, Parks faced a series of racism and was also a secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP). The US has honoured Rosa Parks as "the First Lady of Civil Rights" and "the mother of freedom movement," since she broke history and became an American Activist during the Civil Rights Movement.

3. 12 YEARS A SLAVE (2013)

Based on a true story comes this movie directed by Steve McQueen, who puts the spotlight on a free African American man named Solomon Northup. He lived in New York with his family and was an excellent violin player. At least that was the way it was

until he was "deceived, kidnapped, and sold into slavery." After 12 years of enduring the hardships that came from slavery, moving through the plantations of the South, Solomon encounters a Canadian abolitionist who plays a fundamental role in Solomon's life.

4. THE COLOUR PURPLE (1985 & 2023)

The Colour Purple, which was recently remade, features an African American Woman named Celie who faced struggles being torn apart from her sister and her children. Celie, who also experienced an abusive husband, embarks on a transformative journey towards self-discovery and empowerment. This movie, set in the South during the 20th century includes acts of racism, sexism, and the profound love of sisterhood.

5. DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (2005)

This Tyler Perry movie is based on the lead character Helen, whose husband kicks her out of their family home. Through the challenges that Helen faces, one of her family members, Madea, brings her comical humour to life in this film. Helen was used to living the life of luxury that her husband provided for her. Imagine her surprise when she begins to fall in love with someone who can't offer her that. The plot twist of the story unveils when her ex-husband winds up in a wheelchair and needs Helen's help.

6. IMITATION OF LIFE (1959)

This film, directed by Douglas Sirk, features two women who share a complex friendship coming from two different races. Annie, who is an African American housekeeper for Lora, an aspiring actress, finds it difficult to navigate their friendship and in addition the challenges that come with motherhood. Struggles to

come to terms with identity due to race are found throughout this film as well as themes of sacrifice. Actresses Lana Turner (Lora) and Juanita Moore (Annie) took this two-hour movie to the screens in 1959.

7. MANDINGO (1975)

A film that was based off the novel, *Mandingo* by Kyle Onstott, took screen watchers to a historical time in the Antebellum South. This story is about a slave owner who forces his son to marry a white woman who was a part of their family. The issue wasn't so much that he was marrying inside of his family as this was a normal practice in the South. The issue was that the son was well-known for sleeping with the female slaves that belonged to the plantation his father owned. According to research, the name Mandingo described people from Mandinka, and were "good slaves for fighting matches."

8. DO THE RIGHT THING (1989)

Directed by Spike Lee, this film is well-known as a comedy-drama that focuses on an Italian pizzeria located in Brooklyn. This late 1900s film showcases a mix of races inclusive of African American individuals. The plot of the film revolves around the pizzeria being in a Black neighbourhood but doesn't have any representation of Black people. This is mostly highlighted on a wall in the restaurant that only has Italian actors on it. The wall is seen to many as a form of racism to many people in the neighborhood, and especially to a character named Buggin Out.

These eight films all demonstrate a form of history that African American people endured. Diving into a time where the world looked very different, films are a way to educate yourself about the history of Black people. Watch any one of these eight films to honour and celebrate Black History Month this year.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THE INFLUENCE OF BLACK CULTURE ON POP CULTURE

ESEOGHENE MARY AKPOJIVI

The influence of Black culture on popular culture, particularly in the realms of music, fashion, and language, has been profound and enduring. Black culture has played a pivotal role in shaping and defining various aspects of mainstream culture, contributing to trends, styles, and expressions that have resonated globally. However, this influence has often been accompanied by issues of appropriation and the importance of acknowledging and crediting the origins of these cultural contributions.

MUSIC

Black culture has been a driving force in the evolution of various music genres, such as jazz, blues, rock, and roll, hip-hop, R&B, and more. From the roots of African music to the blues in the early-20th century and the emergence of hip-hop in the late-20th century, Black musicians have consistently pushed the boundaries of creativity. Icons like Louis Armstrong, Chuck Berry, Aretha Franklin, and Tupac Shakur have not only shaped their respective genres but have also left an indelible mark on the broader musical landscape.

FASHION

Black culture has significantly impacted the fashion industry, influencing trends, aesthetics, and the way people express themselves through clothing. Styles originating from African and African American traditions have been adopted and adapted into mainstream fashion. From the Afro-centric fashion of the 1960s and 1970s to the streetwear and urban fashion of today, Black culture has played a key role in setting trends and challenging conventional norms.

LANGUAGE

Language is another domain where black culture has had a lasting impact. African American Vernacular English (AAVE) has contributed to the linguistic landscape of popular culture. Phrases, slang, and expressions rooted in Black culture often find their way into mainstream language, further highlighting the influence of Black communities on how people communicate.

APPROPRIATION

While the contributions of Black culture to popular culture are undeniable, issues of cultural appropriation have also been prevalent. Cultural appropriation occurs when elements of a minority culture are borrowed or taken by members of a dominant culture without proper acknowledgment or understanding. This can lead to the erasure of the cultural context and significance behind certain practices, styles, or expressions. It is crucial to recognize and respect the origins of cultural elements to avoid perpetuating stereotypes or contributing to cultural commodification.

IMPORTANCE OF GIVING CREDIT

Giving credit where it is due is essential in acknowledging the source of inspiration and maintaining a respectful dialogue between cultures. Recognizing the contributions of Black culture not only honours the creativity and resilience of Black communities but also fosters a more inclusive and equitable cultural landscape. It's vital for individuals and industries to actively educate themselves about the cultural origins of various trends and practices, and to ensure that credit is attributed appropriately.

The influence of Black culture on popular culture is undeniable and multifaceted, spanning music, fashion, language, and beyond. While this influence has enriched and diversified mainstream culture, it's essential to approach it with sensitivity, acknowledging the origins of cultural elements and ensuring that credit is given where it's due. Cultural appreciation, rather than appropriation, is crucial for fostering a more inclusive and respectful global cultural landscape.



FROM COTTON FIELDS TO C-SUITES: CELEBRATING BLACK EXCELLENCE IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

SIMEON OSAZUWA

Embarking on the trajectory from historical adversity to contemporary triumph, Black individuals have shattered stereotypes and claimed their well-deserved positions in C-Suites across esteemed industries in America and Canada. This journey is illuminated by the inspiring narratives of notable figures who have ascended to leadership roles, reshaping the narrative of success.

In the corporate arena, Ursula Burns stands as a trailblazer, having become the first Black woman to head a Fortune 500 company. Her remarkable tenure as the CEO of Xerox not only redefined the company but also set a precedent for diversity in executive leadership.

Tech titan and entrepreneur, Rodney Adkins, served as Senior Vice President of IBM, leaving an indelible mark on the technology landscape. His contributions to innovation and strategic leadership have become emblematic of Black excellence in the tech industry.

In the entertainment sphere, the name of Shonda Rhimes resonates powerfully. As the creative force behind hit TV shows like *Grey's Anatomy* and *Scandal*, Rhimes has not only transformed the television landscape but has become a symbol of empowerment for Black creators in the industry.

Venturing into finance, Ken Chenault's legacy is noteworthy. Serving as the CEO of American Express for 17 years, he demonstrated unparalleled leadership, navigating the company through economic challenges and fostering a culture of inclusivity.

Turning to academia, Dr. Mae Jemison, a former NASA astronaut and physician, exemplifies excellence. Breaking barriers in both science and space exploration, she has become an inspiration for aspiring scientists and a symbol of the heights Black professionals can achieve.

These individuals, among many others, have not only earned their seats at the C-Suite table but have also opened doors for future generations. Their stories illuminate the vast spectrum of Black excellence in unexpected places, proving that merit knows no racial bounds. As we celebrate Black History Month, let us honour these trailblazers for their enduring impact on corporate, technological, and cultural landscapes.



CREDIT: NASA



BLACK HISTORY THE JOURNEY

GIDEON MARIOCHUKWU

In the tapestry of time, a history profound,
Of resilience and strength, on hallowed ground.

Blacky's journey, a tale untold,
A symphony of triumph, stories unfold.

From the roots of Africa, a rich heritage,
Bound by chains, yet an indomitable courage.
Through the Middle Passage, a sea of despair,
Emerging as warriors, a spirit rare.

In the cotton fields, under the scorching sun,
A melody of sorrow, yet the spirit won.
Harriet's whispers, the Underground's call,
Guiding souls to freedom, breaking the thrall.

Amidst the struggle, a vision so bright,
Dreams of equality, justice in sight.
From Selma's bridge to Montgomery's march,
A crescendo of voices, igniting the spark.

In the Harlem Renaissance, culture blooms,
Poetry, jazz, and art that consumes.
Langston's verses, Baldwin's prose,
A symphony of voices, breaking throes.

Through segregated buses, boycotts took flight,
Rosa's quiet strength, a beacon in the night.
In the face of hate, love took a stand,
King's dream echoed across the land.

Blacky's history, a journey so vast,
Through shackles and scars, resilience cast.
In the tapestry of time, a story to be told,
Of strength, love, and a legacy bold.



THE EVOLUTION OF BLACK LITERATURE: A JOURNEY FROM EARLY WORKS TO CONTEMPORARY MASTERPIECES

ESEOGHENE MARY AKPOJIVI

This journey through Black literature spans centuries, reflecting the diverse experiences, struggles, and triumphs of the Black community. The evolution of Black literature is not only a testament to the resilience and creativity of Black authors but also a mirror reflecting the societal changes and progress in the broader context.

The roots of Black literature trace back to the powerful narratives of enslaved individuals. Works such as *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* and *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* provided a voice to the voiceless, articulating the struggles for freedom, identity, and the quest for human dignity.

The early 20th century witnessed the flourishing of Black literature during the Harlem Renaissance. Writers like Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Claude McKay, through their poetry and prose, celebrated Black culture, grappled with racial identity, and laid the groundwork for a distinctive African American literary tradition.

As the Civil Rights Movement gained momentum, Black authors such as James Baldwin, Maya Angelou, and Amiri Baraka wielded their pens as powerful tools for social change. Their works delved into the complexities of racial injustice, personal struggles, and the collective fight for equality.

The Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s marked the Black Arts Movement, a period of cultural and artistic renaissance. Writers like Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, and Ishmael Reed embraced a new consciousness, infusing their literature with political activism, cultural pride, and a commitment to redefining the narrative of Black identity.

The post-Civil Rights era brought forth a tapestry of diverse voices in Black literature. The works of Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, and August Wilson explored themes of intersectionality, cultural heritage, and the intricate nuances of the Black experience, fostering a more inclusive literary landscape.

In the contemporary literary scene, authors like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Jesmyn Ward transcend national

borders to address global issues. Their narratives navigate the complexities of identity, immigration, and the ongoing struggle for racial equality in an increasingly interconnected world.

Throughout its evolution, Black literature has consistently grappled with recurring themes such as identity, the impact of history on the present, and the incorporation of vernacular and oral traditions. The evolving styles within Black literature reflect not only the changes in artistic expression but also the adaptability of Black writers in responding to the ever-shifting socio-political landscape.

Black literature has played a pivotal role in shaping societal discourse, challenging stereotypes, and contributing to a more inclusive education. By offering diverse perspectives, it continues to foster understanding and dismantle prejudices, paving the way for a more comprehensive and equitable curriculum.

Black literature serves as a testament to the enduring power of storytelling in challenging societal norms, fostering empathy, and inspiring change. Black authors have used their craft to illuminate, challenge, and inspire. As we traverse this literary odyssey, it becomes clear that Black literature is not just a reflection of history, it is a dynamic force shaping the cultural narratives of the past, present, and the boundless possibilities of the future.



Roots and seeds: London's connection to Black history



Konstantinos Drossos
(he/him)
INTERROBANG

London and the surrounding area have a strong connection with African-Canadian history, spanning as far back as the early-19th century. During the time of the Underground Railroad, escaped slaves established communities in the city and a few settlements in the surrounding townships outside the city's limits.

The Northern U.S. states first abolished slavery before the Southern ones in 1804. Many families of freed slaves were left astray, after anti-Black laws that required payment for their freedom forced them to search for a new place to call home.

The Wilberforce Colony

Located outside of London, on the current site of the town of Lucan, was a settlement that was established by free men who sought refuge from Cincinnati. More harm amassed to the point where mobs of white men, rampaged through local neighbourhoods, where many Black families lived, burning down homes and causing outright chaos.

In 1829, a team of two men were sent from Cincinnati on behalf of a group of African-Americans to meet with Lieutenant Governor John Colborne, with plans to establish a settlement. Colborne welcomed the men wholeheartedly, reassuring them that they were to be treated as equals, and not have to fear any threats in their new home.

That's when six families picked up and moved from the state of Ohio to Upper Canada, where they got to work to set the foundations of their new home. The settlement began to flourish and prosper. By 1832, a visiting abolitionist from the U.S. said the population of the settlement had grown to 32 families.

They had cleared brush and turned it to farmable land, where they grew a variety of crops and raised livestock. Many skilled workers arrived and established businesses that prospered. They had a blacksmith and a shoemaker, just to name a few. The community had a Methodist and a Baptist church with two successful schools as well. The schools were so well-renowned locally, that white settlers ended up enrolling their children to be taught there.

As time progressed, many of

the families left to seek opportunities elsewhere, but some of the original founding families stayed. Some became well-known and respected members of the community, like Peter Butler, who was the first Black OPP officer in 1913. Butler was most well-known for treating prisoners with respect, which was not common during this time.

The Fugitive Slave Chapel

During the time of the Underground Railroad, many escaped slaves had established themselves in London, creating the foundation of the city's Black community. Most of the families had chosen the Fork of the Thames as their home and at the heart of the community was a Methodist church.

The church was built in 1847 for the Methodist-dominant community, where it stood for many years servicing the community. The church served as a place for freed slaves to stop on their journey up from the Southern states of the U.S. and was visited by many prominent figures of the anti-slavery movement of the time.

In 2022, the city of London had planned to demolish the original structure of the church but was halted due to the public's support. The church has since relocated



CREDIT: CALEIGH REID

You don't have to go far to find Black history in the London region.

from its original location of Thames St. to its new home in the Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

Its new purpose is to teach

visitors about Black Canadian history, the depth of its roots, and the importance of why we remember it today.

Fanshawe students empower Village Creative



Gracia Espinosa
(she/her)
INTERROBANG

Village Creative is a marketing agency run exclusively by Fanshawe students from various programs, such as marketing, photography, graphic design, public relations, and web development. It was created when the Lawrence Kinlin School of Business (LKSB) proposed a partnership with Innovation Village, birthing the visionary concept of a collaborative digital advertising agency.

Village Creative caters to small businesses and NGOs through partnerships with Pillar Non-Profit, the Small Business Centre, Tech Alliance, Leap Junction and London's Cross-Cultural Learner Centre (CCLC). Village Creative also enjoys exclusive partnerships with industry leaders such as Google, the Search Engine Marketing Professional Organization, and WordTracker.

"It is a way to integrate experiential learning with the community, and students in their postgraduate year of the marketing program can apply to be a part of it instead of taking three of their classes," a Fanshawe faculty member Liz Gray said. Gray is renowned for creating and teaching Search Engine Marketing (SEM), Search Engine Optimization (SEO), and Web Analytics courses at Fanshawe.

Gray collaborates with Lina Manuel, a Marketing Professor at Fanshawe, as a faculty supervisor for the marketing agency.

"We recruit clients and oversee all project work to ensure high quality



CREDIT: ASIAH PRESTANSKI

Lina Manuel (left) and Liz Gray (right) work with the students at the new Village Creative in Innovation Village.

and maximize student learning," Gray explained.

The agency's service portfolio encompasses various digital marketing strategies, including user testing, social media strategy development, customer relationship management (CRM) system implementation, SEO optimization, website design, and paid media campaigns. Gray underscored that Village Creative's mission is for students to apply

classroom theories in the real world. In this way, students gain insights and skills to equip them for success in the business landscape.

Asiah Prestanski, a marketing management student, attested to the transformative experience of working with Village Creative.

"We meet with customers, discuss their needs, and agree on actionable strategies," Prestanski said. "It's a hands-on learning experience that

broadens our skill set and expands our horizons."

Prestanski further elaborated on the agency's operational dynamics, revealing that work teams consist of 10 members, with four collaborating online and six meeting in person. Each team is tasked with managing two distinct clients: a for-profit and a not-for-profit organization, fostering a well-rounded learning experience.

While Village Creative facilitates client interactions primarily through its website, Gray acknowledged the agency's longstanding reputation and extensive networking within the community.

"Much of our clientele comes through word of mouth, bolstered by our strong connections with the Community Tech Alliance and small business centre advertising agencies," Gray said.

Three amazing Black-owned restaurants that are a must-try



CREDIT: YAYASKITCHEN.CA

Visit Asmara Coffee House, Yaya's Kitchen, and Casa Manioca for a taste of something new and something special.



Finch Neves (he/him)
INTERROBANG

London, Ont. is home to a wealth of varied cultures and with different cultures comes different incredible, authentic food. As we enter Black History Month, let's look at a few Black-owned restaurants that should be on your radar.

February is a cold, bleak month. The bitter winds and grey skies chip away at the final vestiges of your strength, but there is a reprieve.

Asmara Coffee House

The intoxicating smells of fresh roasted coffee with hints of mild citrus waft down York St.

Here, coffee isn't just a pick-me-up, it is an art and a memory of home. Asmara Coffee House uses traditional roasting and brewing techniques from the African Country, Eritrea, which they do in house. Try any of their three fantastic blends, some light sandwiches, or my favourite: The Asmarino, a heavily caffeinated blend of coffee and espresso, resulting in utter perfection. Just don't forget to ask for a sprinkle of ginger.

Yaya's Kitchen

Need something more substantial? Tucked away just east of downtown on Dundas St. is a strange, tall building made of pale-yellow brick. Inside that building is a mishmash of odd shops from one that sells metal trinkets, to a great café, and rotating co-op bakery, but hidden in the very back lies something special.

Yaya's Kitchen is a glimpse of the refined taste of the many flavours of the Sahel region in Africa. At Yaya's elegant flavours and beautiful presentation meet in each and every dish. Rich, savoury cuts of meat are covered in an intricate blend of delicate spices and complimented by crisp fresh produce to create dishes so perfectly balanced that you will find yourself savouring the last bite.

Be sure to try their famous beef suya, a skewer of seasoned aged beef accompanied by a fresh vegetable medley slaw, and zobo, a refreshing spiced hibiscus drink. Don't forget to complete your visit with a taste of their mandazi, African beignets dusted with zobo and baobab icing sugar.

Casa Manioca

Sometimes, you don't have time for a full meal, but need more than

a coffee to tide you over until lunch. Meet Casa Manioca, a Brazilian restaurant that specializes in snacks with so much flavour that you may find yourself abandoning traditional North American treats for good.

Casa Manioca has perfected the art of wrapping mouth-watering fillings in crispy dough and they do it in a few different ways. Firstly, the humble empanada. Spiced meats fill a delightfully crispy shell the shape of a crescent moon. It is similar to a savoury meat pie, but don't be confused, there is a difference because they have those too.

If you want something more indulgent, they have fluffy cheese bread and cheese waffles, which would surely make the best chicken and waffles imaginable, but neither is their signature dish.

Casa Manioca specializes in coxinha, also known as Brazilian Croquettes. They are shaped like little crispy, golden pyramids, with their own intoxicating treasure of shredded meat, veggies and spices waiting inside. Cut them in half or embrace your true desires and take a bite but be warned that coxinha filling is somehow hotter than magma. Regardless, the burns on your tongue are a small sacrifice in the face of true culinary bliss.



CREDIT: EMILY MCDONALD

Growing Chefs, an Ontario-registered charity based in London, is hosting the Londonlicious Festival.

Londonlicious Festival returns to showcase the region's culinary delights



Mauricio Prado (he/him)
INTERROBANG

From Jan. 19 to Feb. 11, Growing Chefs, an Ontario-registered charity based in London, is hosting the Londonlicious Festival. The Londonlicious Festival is a local food celebration highlighting the greatest locally grown goods and restaurants. "Londonlicious' relaunch aims to provide complete support to the local hospitality sector," said Growing Chefs executive director Jennifer Wyant. "The local hospitality sector is still financially recovering and navigating an unprecedented rise in food and operational costs from a global pandemic."

According to Wyant, Londonlicious allows new and returning guests to savour expertly selected prix-fixe menus while showcasing the city's establishments.

"We do this considering a range of menu choices and price points that will satisfy patrons and participating establishments alike," Wyant said.

Wyant said that they took ownership of the festival in late 2022.

"It used to be run as a for-profit festival. We have made some changes to it and run it as a not-for-profit. We lowered the fees considerably," Wyant said. "We lowered approximately 50 per cent of the total cost for the restaurants to participate."

According to Wyant, lowering the fees benefits both the customer and the restaurant.

"We are not looking to make money off of it. We are looking for marketing dollars and opportunities," Wyant said.

Wyant said that when the restaurants sign up, they pay a fee. That fee goes entirely into their marketing budget.

She added that they want to highlight their relationships with local agriculture, suppliers and farmers.

"We have given the venues much more freedom about creating their menus," Wyant said. "They used to be within a pretty tight budget, like \$25 or \$30."

She said they have now asked the restaurants to make it more cost-effective for themselves. Wyant added that they want to support the whole Southwest Ontario corridor.

"We have a partnership with Bell Media," Wyant said. "We have a local print sponsor. We did print material in the local Eatdrink Magazine."

Wyant added that the restaurants offer a specific Londonlicious menu for a "curated three-course price."

"We do have some exceptions to that rule where we have some takeout menu items in three for three-course format for whether it is a discount like a discounted price or something different, fresh and new specifically for the festival."

Wyant said the objective is to grow the audience every year. She added that they have new vendors and restaurants joining every year.

"This event is to draw business to London," Wyant said. "Eventually, we hope to get hotels on board. So, it is something that we are partnering with tours of London."

Wyant said getting hotels to participate would help build local tourism, get more people, and "show how great of a city London is."

"We have over 40 businesses participating this year," Wyant said. "We generally want to get new people in the door to new venues to try new things to boost the economy of the hospitality sector."

Wyant said they are expecting over 5,000 people.

"I believe we had over 4,000 last time," Wyant said. "To have a more accurate number this year, we have asked restaurants to track how many people attend their establishments."

Wyant reiterated that the festival is designed to support all unique in London, Ont. For a full list of the restaurants participating, visit londonlicious.ca.

Invisible no more: All-female cast shines in wartime musical



Zoë Alexandra King (she/her)
INTERROBANG

The Grand Theatre presented the opening night of a suspenseful musical called *The Invisible—Agents of Ungentlemanly Warfare* on Jan. 19. The all-female cast that carried the weight of such a strong story were able to paint a picture of one of their most dangerous missions. This musical from the creators of *Vigilante*, is a two-hour and 30-minute production that takes place on the Spriet Stage until Feb. 3.

Featuring seven women who play an important role in fighting for their country, this musical is a story of how they became *The Invisible*. It chronicles their journey in preparations of leaving England to France, and most importantly, what really happened on their mission. The beginning of the musical showcases Melissa MacPherson in all her glory acting as Evelyn Ash (Assistant to the head of Special Operations), who reports to her male superior the brilliant idea of having an all-female agent team. The thought behind this proposal was that no one would suspect a group of women to be on a mission to fight for their country. At that point, any agents that were sent from England to France only lasted for a six-week mission and were greatly endangered during World War II. After long consideration

and battles between Evelyn and her superior, she finally gets the green light.

Shortly after that, the search begins for Evelyn to find the right group of women that had what it took to fight for England.

It should be noted that the only prop that was used throughout this entire production was a wooden chair that each of the drafted agents had and the backdrops were kept in a very minimalistic manner. The backdrop that really caught my eye was when the map of England became covered with red bombs. All that said, the story that was produced simply by these women's voices and didn't need any props or extravagant set pieces, primarily due to their compelling and captivating performances.

Although the peak of the production was their actual mission in France, I really enjoyed the introduction of the six women drafted by Evelyn. In cast member Sarah Nairne's (Madeline Barré) words, the beginning was indeed very "episodic." The introduction of the women all had a back story of where they were from and why they were interested in completing such a dangerous mission. When the introductions took place, I admired the instrumental music in the background that gave a very investigative-television-show vibe to the theatre. If I were to close my eyes, the suspenseful music would've tricked me into believing that I was in an *NCIS* episode.



CREDIT: EMILY COOPER

The all-female cast of *The Invisible — Agents of Ungentlemanly Warfare* carried the weight of a strong story.

After all the preparations, Evelyn believes that her team is ready to depart for France. Spoiler alert, they are! All six women, Dorothy, Jacqueline, Madeline, Betty, Szarlotta, and Anna, were able to stay safe and undercover for months which was much longer than any other agent team.

If you're itching to know if they made it back to England or not, unfortunately the answer is no. One of the heart-wrenching parts

throughout the production was that they don't make it home, not because they aren't ready or prepared enough or that they did anything wrong. They do everything right, even Anna, who is known as the weaker agent, still followed protocol.

The remainder of the production includes Evelyn going to France herself to find out what exactly happened to her six girls.

This production is not one to miss if you're interested in

suspenseful, war-related content. As a female, the feeling that came from watching an all-female group take on the dangerous forces presented in the setting of WWII, was empowering. Sixteen musical acts that each told a story I can still hear in my head. I can specifically hear Nairne's voice in her character's first musical number "Maybe, Just Maybe."

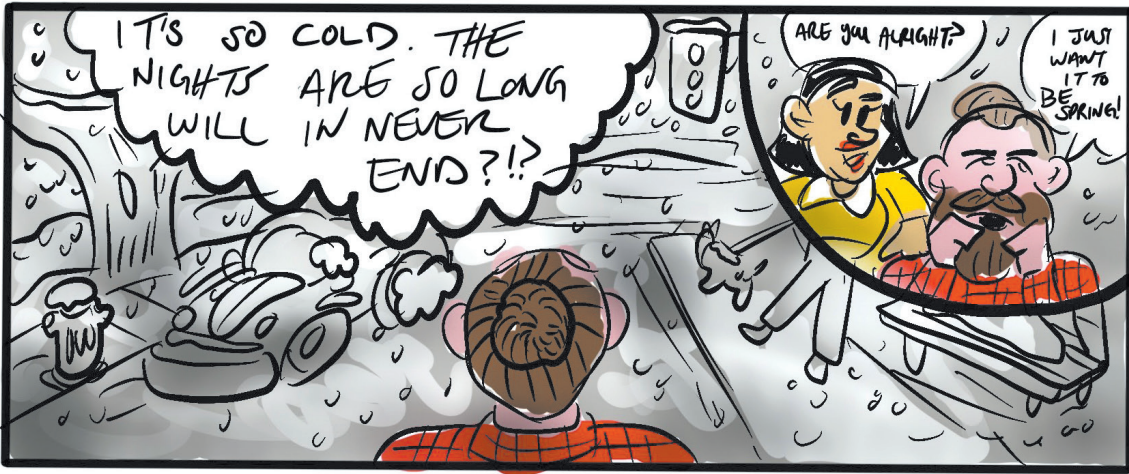
Tickets are available now at grandtheatre.com.



CREDIT: ANGELA VARGHESE

Students and Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) staff celebrate the grand opening of Innovation Village and the new Forwell Hall on Jan. 26.

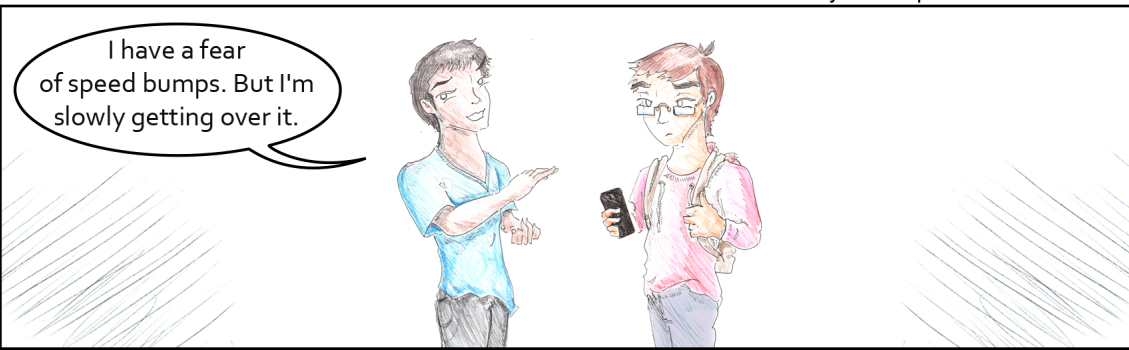
Freshman Fifteen



By Alan Dungo



By Christopher Miszczak © 2024



Editorial Cartoon by Mauricio Franco

Horoscopes

Aries

Take care of unfinished business this week. Starting the month without trepidation will help you get you on the right foot. Do fear change and adjust to ensure that you benefit from whatever comes your way. When emotions peak call on someone you trust to point you in the right direction. Take the information you gather and personalize your plan of attack to fit your budget and timeline. Keep your life simple, your goal doable, and your focus on what's important. A willingness to compromise will help you gain ground if you don't overspend. Make moderation your motto.

Taurus

Be open to suggestions but fine-tune them to suit your needs. Take an interest in what others are working on, and you'll gain insight into a process you can apply to an upcoming job. Don't reveal why you are asking questions or the changes you are contemplating. Talk less and accomplish more. The physical accomplishments will impact the results, not spreading the word about what you want to achieve. Balance, integrity, and keeping your word will achieve your desired success. Opportunity knocks but before you jump into action, map out a failproof plan. A steady pace down a well-lit path won't let you down.

Gemini

Keeping busy will help ward off emotional situations. Be reluctant to act when hearsay is the motivator. Work toward goals that are physical, time-consuming, and can offer you rewards when completed. Learn from your mistakes and coast until you can move in a suitable direction. Actions speak louder than words, and living up to your promises will set the standard as you move forward. Emotional rhetoric will not help, but truth and honesty will gain respect. You'll excel and avoid criticism if you are meticulous and put your energy into taking care of your responsibilities.

Cancer

An innovative approach to whatever you do will attract attention and approval. Speak up, and the feedback you receive will spark your imagination, help you build solid alliances, and encourage an opportunity to explore new relationships and possibilities. Emotions will flare up over domestic issues. Listen attentively, but don't let anger or jealousy take over. You'll gain more if you concentrate health issues rather than going into battle over something you cannot change. Make personal growth your priority. Try something new and exciting, it will take your mind off your worries. A heart-to-heart discussion will help you make sense of situations you cannot control.

Leo

Follow the money trail. Excess will be your downfall if you are too quick to spend. A change in direction will disappoint you. Get the lowdown on what's expected of you before you agree to make a change. Stick close to home this weekend. Sparring with a friend will not bend in your favour. Getting along with others will be your safest route forward. Stay home if possible and rethink how best to use your skills, knowledge, and experience to get ahead. A situation will explode if you let your emotions interfere with reason. Take your time, listen attentively, and don't promise more than necessary.

Virgo

Shoot for the stars and you'll get the desired results. A change of plans will play in your favour and lead to an opportunity too good to turn down. Network, mingle, and the insight you gain will confirm you are on the right track. Give serious consideration to a new direction. Keep your money in your wallet this week. Don't feel you have to pay to play. Use your intelligence to outmaneuver anyone you encounter. Take control, and you will free yourself from being put in an awkward position. Be bold, make a move, and embrace the future with optimism. Network, share your plans, and build the future that suits your needs.

Libra

Focus on what you can achieve and don't labour over what's impossible to change. Put your energy where it counts and adapt your space to suit your needs. Don't buy into something you can't afford and can do without. Listen carefully. The information you receive from someone with an emotional interest in your decision will mislead you. Don't let anger set in when a keen mind and direct action will be the best way to implement damage control. Protect your reputation and position. Look at your situation carefully and scrutinize any medical concerns. Use your imagination, be innovative, and discover a unique way forward.

Scorpio

Your actions and words will impact how things unfold. Embrace change, and you'll discover someone or something that will point you in a positive direction. Take hold of an opportunity and go the distance. You stand to gain more than you anticipate. Don't ignore something that needs your attention. Take care of paperwork, address issues concerning friends, relatives, and friends, and do your best to stabilize what matters to you most. Actions will lead to victory; talks will lead to a stalemate. An emotional shift will encourage a positive choice that offers clarity and purpose for moving forward. Trust your instincts and turn your dream into a reality.

Sagittarius

An honest appraisal of a situation is your best route forward. Refuse to let emotions intervene and send you in a direction that leads to limitations. Put your energy into how you are earning cash and start a savings plan that protects you from running out of cash. Emotional spending won't solve problems. Reach out to someone who can offer insight into future trends and how to use or improve your skills to ensure you don't hinder your income. Being proactive will build confidence and help you gain respect. A change of plans will require a response. Before you promise or commit to something, be sure you can accommodate the demands.

Capricorn

Take a shot at something you want and don't look back. You have the means to lock in something meaningful that offers stability and prospects. Take the initiative and invest more time in yourself and your relationships. Emotions will surface if you lose control causing you to act prematurely. Rethink your situation, motives, and the outcome and implement a better solution and outcome. Refuse to let anyone interfere in your life. The less interaction, the better. Concentrate on personal and home improvements. Rely on yourself to bring about positive change. Consider what makes you feel good and head in that direction. Love and romance are in the stars.

Aquarius

Money and health will require your undivided attention this week. Look at every angle, verify information, and implement the changes that will help you avoid being taken advantage of by a friend or relative. Pay attention to detail and you'll deter an emotional problem. Don't trust someone to give you valid information. Get a second opinion and verification before you make a move. Trust yourself even when dealing with institutions and authority figures; question anything that sounds farfetched. Listen carefully, what someone says and does will not match. Make choices that suit your needs; following someone else will lead to regret.

Pisces

Being thorough will save you a bundle financially and emotionally. An unusual partnership will have more to offer than you anticipate. Open a discussion, and you'll better understand the possibilities. Dig deep this week and you'll gain access to secrets. A dry run to prove you can deliver will put you in a good position and help you determine if an offer is worthwhile. Maintaining balance and integrity is necessary if you want to achieve your objective. You can clear up unfinished business. Present the changes you want to make and attach what it will cost to receive what you have to offer. Make self-improvement a priority.

Falcons Fest win keeps men's volleyball in pursuit



Justin Koehler (he/him)
INTERROBANG

With their recent victory at Falcons Fest, the Fanshawe men's volleyball team are back in the win column, avoiding a three-game losing streak.

This comes after two recent losses including a 3-2 loss against Conestoga on Jan. 21 as well as a 3-2 loss against St. Clair on Jan. 24.

In their first loss against the Condors, the Falcons got off to an early lead. Zack Admans, Matt Stechnicki, and Jayden Crowther led the team early, each with great performances and flashy plays.

This would give the team a 25-22 victory in the first set before Conestoga would push back to even the game in the second set, with their own 25-20 win.

For the third set, Daniel Ridings and Tanner Paterson would shine, getting the team off to another early lead, before later falling behind. The team would keep things interesting with Admans recording a kill and scoring off a block in back-to-back plays, then Ridings doing the same off a set from Stechnicki, but ultimately the team would lose the third set 25-23.

The Falcons would bring it to a fifth set after coming from behind with an early deficit in the fourth set, with Stechnicki helping to bring the team ahead to a 25-20 win.

In the final set of the match, the Falcons once again got off to an early 3-1 lead before falling behind. Crowther worked to slow the deficit, with multiple key kills in the match, but the Falcons were unable to bridge the gap from



CREDIT: FANSHAWE ATHLETICS

The Falcons avoided a three-game losing streak with their win against Niagara.

a 12-9 deficit, losing the set as well as the match.

Through this, Fanshawe led in the stats categories with a higher hitting percentage as well as more than double the amount of Conestoga blocks.

Another close loss against the St. Clair Saints later in the week would bring the team into Falcons Fest.

This is an event that sees four consecutive matches, where the men's and women's basketball teams as well as the men's and women's volleyball teams all

battle on the same day, giving free food and free Falcon apparel to those in attendance.

The men's volleyball team were the ones to end the event.

Niagara and their Knights would hope to send the Falcons into a three-game losing streak, but the Falcons would get the match going with a win. Ridings would start the game on the right note, scoring the first point of the match.

Various kills by Patterson would keep the momentum in Fanshawe's favour, with Jack Vought helping

to keep the team ahead, ultimately bringing them to a 25-21 victory.

The Knights would look to stay in the game though, getting the lead in the second set, but the Falcons evening it up after a 19-13 deficit. Niagara would take the set though, winning 27-25.

With an even match, Stechnicki and Crowther would look to control the game for the Falcons, leading to a 17-11 run and holding the Knights to just six more points, giving the Falcons their second set and a 25-17 win.

The fourth set was even between the two teams, with Niagara keeping up with the Falcons' pressure. The set would ultimately be pushed forward by Paterson and Admans who created separation for the team, ultimately giving the Falcons a 25-18 win, as well as winning the match.

With just two games left in the season, the Falcons now look to create some momentum heading towards the provincial championships, with their sights set on nationals.

Athletes express concern on wastewater project impact



Mia Rosa-Wayne (she/her)
INTERROBANG

The City of London is bracing for a significant construction project later this year, aimed at safeguarding the areas surrounding the Adelaide and Greenway Wastewater Treatment Plants.

While the initiative is crucial for the city's infrastructure, it comes with the unfortunate consequence of impacting and shutting down some populated areas, including those regularly used by Fanshawe athletes.

The Division Plant Manager, Kirby Oudekerk, outlined the construction timeline for the city's wastewater treatment plants.

"Greenway will be the first to undergo renovation in June," Oudekerk said. "Adelaide is expected to follow suit in late summer, early fall."

The planned closures are a result of the essential work needed to protect the wastewater treatment facilities.

Both areas have popular usage of their land. At Greenway, they plan to close their off-leash dog park for at least two years.

The Thames Valley and Terry Fox Parkways at Greenway Park will be impacted, closing for a duration of about six months.

Fanshawe athletes, particularly soccer players, are expressing concerns regarding the potential impacts to the North London Athletic Fields, as it is closely linked to the Adelaide Wastewater Treatment Plant.

With London being home to three major soccer teams, the potential distribution to the city's largest and most-used fields raise valid worries among athletes.

"I think it's great what they're doing, and it can really help the city," said soccer player Annika Thompson. "I just hope it doesn't affect our fields, since these ones are the largest most used fields in the city. My time playing soccer here, I've never not seen a runner or a cyclist, so I hope a well-set detour is put in place for users."

While recognizing the importance of the construction projects, athletes and community members are voicing their concerns about potential impacts it will have on recreational spaces and sports facilities.

A public meeting was held Jan. 12 at City Hall to discuss the start, impacts, and outcome of the project.

"We had a good turnout," said Oudekerk. "It was mainly for people



CREDIT: MIA ROSA-WAYNE

Fanshawe athletes, who regularly use the North London Athletic Fields, are hoping renovations to the Adelaide Wastewater Treatment Plant will not disrupt their facilities.

to come and hear what is going to be impacted, especially for those who use the Thames Valley and Terry Fox Parkways to commute to downtown by bicycle. We just wanted to get the word out so people can plan and set up a functional detour for everyone."

During the meeting, it was stated that 148 trees will be cut down with

new trees being added in other parts of the city.

They added that they are hoping for no potential impacts for the North London Athletics facility that's used by thousands of sports users.

As London prepares for this project protecting the wastewater

facilities, the community, including athletes, faces the prospect of temporary closures and disruption. The hope is that the construction will ultimately contribute to a more resilient and sustainable city, without compromising the vital spaces that make London a vibrant and active community.

Fuel Call of Duty team making a comeback for the winter semester



CREDIT: ALEX ALLAN

Bostfrost (left), Leopard (middle) and Slipri (right) bring up first-game match results and rotation of players to squads that could help lead to victory.



Alex Allan (he/him)
INTERROBANG

A few changes have been made to the *Call of Duty* (CoD) Varsity team for the winter semester. Mat-taas “Bosfrost” Bos mentioned that try-outs went well but CoD Captain Jake “Bonk” Deneau wanted to change some things up with the roster. The starting four will be Bonk, Sus, Fein and Alshenanigan with Bos being the substitute player for that roster.

This roster may change after the first couple of matches get underway. The first match for Fuel CoD was played on Jan. 31 against George Mason University. Bos will be playing on the Academy team this season and said they have recruited two new players, Diti and Accrete.

“The Academy roster is looking good and should be able to hold their ground within matches,” Bos said.

“I’m hoping both teams can do well this season and bounce back from the College *Call of Duty* (CCL) tournament which did not show what we are capable of,” he said.

This season the *Call of Duty* squad will be competing in the new game *Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3*. The new game was released back in Nov. 2023 and players are still learning to adjust their game style to the new maps and other game mechanics. The Fuel team had a successful run in the fall 2023 semester and is hoping to keep that success in the winter semester.

The Fuel *Valorant* squad has already been active this season. In their first match on Jan. 22, the team faced the University of Toledo in the Collegiate *Valorant* League (CVAL). Fuel won 2-0 in a best-out-of-three matchup but Nicholas “Slipri” Florczyk said that he feels they played strong but there is room for improvement.

In the second game on Jan. 27, Fuel lost 2-0 in the best-out-of-three match against the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign (UIUC).

The Fuel team kept it close in the first round but lost 13 to 11.

“Unfortunately, we choked on the attacking side in game one and heading into game two we were bummed out and couldn’t regather,” Florczyk said. “No one is mad about the losses as UIUC is the top-seeded team in the CVAL league,” he said.

More matches are soon to come through February in other categories of games. The Fuel *Rocket League* squad had their first few matches on Jan. 26 in back-to-back games. Fuel won the first match against the University of Kokomo and lost their second match against Eastern University.

Both of these games will decide what group they will be placed in for the National Esports Collegiate Conference (NECC) League. Team manager Ralph “Leopard” Constantin mentioned that the Fuel team’s placement is decided according to their performance.

Make sure to keep up with the latest announcements and events with Fanshawe Fuel’s socials and Discord server.

BI-WEEKLY STANDINGS



Women’s Volleyball

OCAA West Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
HUMBER	16	16	0	32
ST. CLAIR	16	14	2	28
NIAGARA	16	10	6	20
CONESTOGA	16	9	7	18
MOHAWK	16	9	7	18
REDEEMER	16	8	8	16
CAMBRIAN	16	6	10	12
SHERIDAN	16	4	12	8
FANSHAWE	16	3	13	6
BOREAL	16	1	15	2

Men’s Volleyball

OCAA West Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
CONESTOGA	15	12	3	24
ST. CLAIR	16	12	4	24
CAMBRIAN	16	11	5	22
FANSHAWE	16	11	5	22
HUMBER	16	10	6	20
NIAGARA	16	9	7	18
MOHAWK	16	7	9	14
REDEEMER	16	4	12	8
SHERIDAN	15	2	13	4
BOREAL	16	1	15	2

Women’s Basketball

OCAA West Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
LAMBTON	13	11	2	22
ST. CLAIR	13	11	2	22
NIAGARA	13	10	3	20
MOHAWK	13	9	4	18
HUMBER	13	7	6	14
FANSHAWE	13	5	8	10
REDEEMER	12	3	9	6
CONESTOGA	13	2	11	4
SHERIDAN	13	0	13	0

Men’s Basketball

OCAA West Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
ST. CLAIR	14	11	3	22
MOHAWK	15	10	5	20
NIAGARA	15	10	5	20
HUMBER	15	10	5	20
FANSHAWE	15	9	6	18
SHERIDAN	14	7	7	14
LAMBTON	14	6	8	12
CONESTOGA	15	4	11	8
REDEEMER	14	3	11	6
CANADORE	15	3	12	6

Printed standings are reflective of January 31, 2024.

Visit www.ocaa.com to keep up-to-date on all OCAA stats.

INTERROBANG
FANSHAWE'S STUDENT VOICE

Subscribe to our podcast

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Chess Tournament
GAME NIGHT
 Monday, February 5th
 Alumni Lounge
 6pm Friendlies | 7pm Tournament Start
FREE EVENT
 Connect with us @fsu.ca/discord

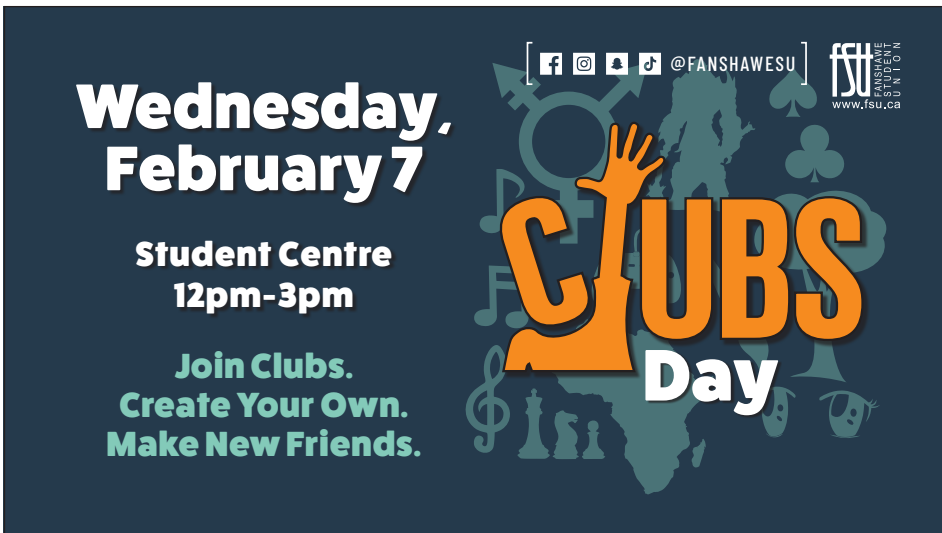
TOP 3 PRIZING

FSU FANSHAWE ALUMNI



MOVIES
BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER
 DATE: **TUES, FEB 6TH**
 TIME: **8PM**
FREE PIZZA & POPCORN
 (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
ROOM D1060

FSU FANSHAWE ALUMNI



Wednesday, February 7
 Student Centre
 12pm-3pm
 Join Clubs.
 Create Your Own.
 Make New Friends.

CLUBS Day

@FANSHAWESU

FSU FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION



Fanshawe's got Talent
Wednesday, February 7th
 The Out Back Shack | 8 pm (Doors 7pm)
FREE EVENT!

@FANSHAWESU

FSU FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION



IS YOUR BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY?
 Come get treats and all the warmest wishes from us!
February Birthday Month!
Thursday, February 8th
 Student Centre
 12pm-3pm
 Proof of birth month required.

@FANSHAWESU

FSU FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION



2024 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
 OASIS | 6:30PM (6PM DOORS)
\$5 ADMISSION
 Register in advance at fsu.ca/lunar

새해 복 많이 받으세요
 新年快乐
 Chúc Mừng Năm Mới

@FANSHAWESU

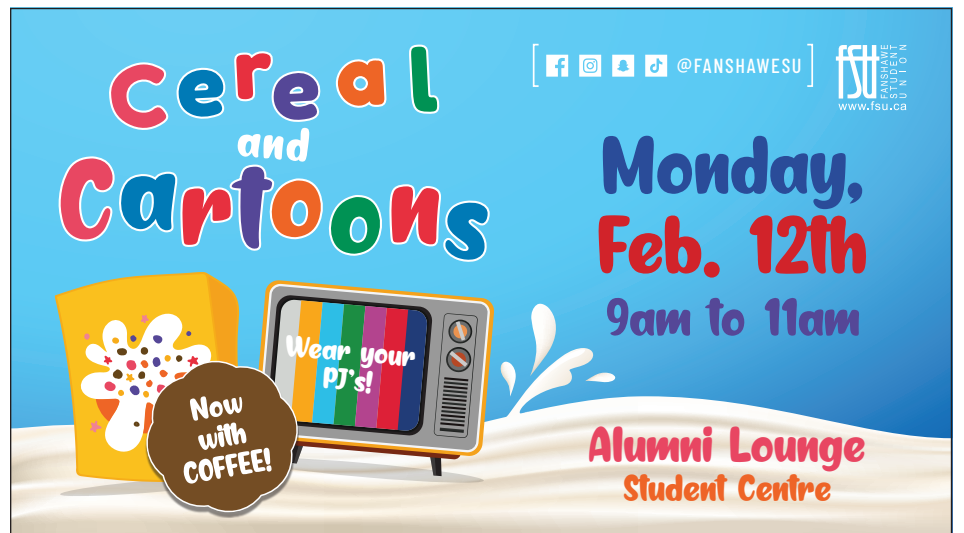
FSU FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION



Super Smash Bros™
GAME NIGHT
 Monday, February 12th
 Alumni Lounge
 6pm Friendlies | 7pm Tournament Start
FREE EVENT
 Connect with us @fsu.ca/discord

TOP 3 PRIZING

FSU FANSHAWE ALUMNI



Cereal and Cartoons
Monday, Feb. 12th
 9am to 11am
 Alumni Lounge
 Student Centre
 Now with COFFEE!
 Wear your PJ's!

@FANSHAWESU

FSU FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION



To contribute contact:
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 h_theodore@fanshawec.ca

FANSHAWE'S STUDENT VOICE



SAY IT WITH A BANG!
HAVE AN OPINION? SUBMIT YOUR STORY!
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FSU FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION
 www.fsu.ca



HERE FOR YOU

We believe we can break down barriers and build a College where we all belong.

We're all on this journey together to create the equitable and inclusive community we know we can be.

For more information on current EDI efforts visit go.myfanshawe.ca/EDI

