

INTERROBANG



"In diversity,
there is beauty
and there is strength"
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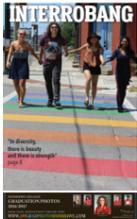
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London Police Service restructuring investigations into sexual violence cases



CREDIT: MOODBOARD ON THINKSTOCK
London Police Service worked quickly to restructure the way it deals with cases of sexual violence, after a recent Globe and Mail article revealed London has roughly a 30 per cent rate of unfounded cases.

MELISSA NOVACASKA
INTERROBANG

The London Police Service (LPS) is restructuring the way in which officers deal with cases of sexual violence, after a recent Globe and Mail article discovered London has one of the highest number of unfounded case rates of the 25 largest police communities in the country.

The article published Feb. 3, titled *Unfounded: Why Police Dismiss 1 in 5 Sexual Assault Claims as Baseless*, was a 20 month investigation piece that looked into the concept of unfounded case rates, which are cases that have been dismissed due to either mistaken reports or baseless information for example.

The article, which looked statistics and cases from 2010 to 2014 suggests that unfounded cases give off the idea that police typically do

not believe the victims of sexual assault.

According to the article, in London's case, there were roughly 30 per cent of unfounded cases from the five-year time frame, which means that roughly 690 out of 2,278 cases were dismissed. This equates to roughly one third of the city's population.

Now that the news and numbers are out, the LPS is making an effort to re-evaluate the way in which it deals with sexual violence cases.

According to a Feb. 4 press release from the LPS, Chief John Pare announced there would be consultations to discuss a new partnership between the LPS and community partners, which came out a few days later.

The release stated that the partnership would help review and look at the way in which the LPS deals with cases of sexual violence including the way in which they care

categorized and cleared, along with the examination of training techniques that investigators received, how this can be improved and finding ways which police can better respond to the needs of victims.

"The London Police Service is committed to providing the best service possible in response to victims of crime and this review will assist us in maintaining the confidence and trust of the community. Through this review we want to look at our current practices and develop better practices," Chief Pare said.

In a Feb. 6 LPS press release, Pare said after reading and hearing the criticisms of the LPS' work on sexual violence cases, he felt for the victims.

"My thoughts turned to the victims of sexual violence that our officers come into contact with each and every year and how their lives have been impacted not only by the

crimes committed against them but by their experiences with police and the larger criminal justice system. It was with those victims in mind that I implemented the full review of the London Police Service practices regarding sexual violence investigations. And it is with those victims in mind that I would like to apologize to any victims whose experiences left them feeling that they were not supported or that may have eroded their trust in this police service in any way. Because, we are human beings, because we are not perfect, there is always room for improvement," Pare said.

After moving quickly, the LPS was able to release a Feb. 7 statement of some implemented changes to the handling of such cases.

The Victims Services of Middlesex-London (VSML) is in a new partnership with the LPS, to "strengthen supports for victims and survivors of crime and tragic circumstance in the city of London," the release said.

Effective immediately, the partnership will allow VSML to reach out to the city of London, with a new central office that will be located right in the LPS headquarters on Dundas, the release said.

According to the release, the new program will work with different units of LPS, but it is expected that over 7,000 victims will be served annually.

"The London Police Service looks forward to working collaboratively with Victim Services Middlesex-London to strengthen supports and services to victims of crime and tragedy in our communities. We would like to thank the government of Ontario for their support of this partnership," Pare said.

According to the press release, the partnership will be an enhancement to the services that are currently being presented by the London Police Service's Crisis Intervention Support Unit (CIVSU).

Victim Services funding is primarily provided by the Ontario government, Ministry of the Attorney General and Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO).

"We would like to thank the government of Ontario and London Police Services for supporting our work on this project," board chair Kim Gibson said. "This partnership will create a responsive Victim Support Team and extend support

to victims throughout our community"

Fanshawe's sexual violence prevention advisor Leah Marshall said though this is a heavy topic, she is excited that it is "really great" attention.

"I think the main thing we want to touch on is that we've heard from students obviously that they've had similar experiences and it's really important that their voices and experiences help inform future practices," Marshall said.

Marshall mentioned she realizes that we live in a society where messages of consent and rape culture are perpetuated and there are myths that negatively impact survivors.

"It's really important for us to challenge those stereotypes and myths that still permeate conversations around sexual violence and support students in knowing that they have options available to them but also that those options are going to be trauma informed," Marshall said.

In terms of Fanshawe's cases of sexual violence, a November 2016 article pointed out that in 2015 and 2016 year, 10 sexual violence cases were reported to security and then police, however that number is much higher. Marshall was quoted as saying that at least 45 cases have come her way, which doesn't include those dealt with in the counselling services department. The number has now grown since that stat was taken.

Marshall said the fact that the LPS will be restructuring their practice of handling cases of sexual violence is a step in changing the cultural shift in society.

Marshall said that with this being an issue brought forward with statistics and such, it's something that really can't be ignored.

"I would say we are in the very early stages of this being released, but we look forward to kind of a closer examination of practices and the changes and training that will hopefully take place, or continue with the greater focus because these issues now have been brought forward on a national level."

Marshall said Fanshawe is already implementing trauma training with several service areas to better support survivors, as well as continue to initiate the college's prevention and response initiatives and education projects.

Uber caught in the camera eye again

CHRISTOPHER WALKER
INTERROBANG

Uber, the popular ride-sharing application, has been in a long-term battle with city council to be accepted as a legal business in London.

Eighteen months ago, Uber moved its services into London with little care for the taxi by-laws that the city has in place. They have been in a battle with city council for the duration of their stay in London as they try to convince city council that their service should be allowed to operate legally as is.

City council has a different stance on the subject; won by a narrow vote of 7-6, city council has approved to create a by-law that requires all Uber drivers to install cameras in

their vehicles in order to be able to legally operate in London. The by-law will be reviewed later this week. If the by-law is approved, London will be the first city in the world to require the ride sharing app to install cameras in their vehicles. Uber has no intention to pay for the installation of cameras for every one of its London drivers. As a response to the decision, Uber has issued a statement to the London city council threatening to leave the London market if the by-laws are put into motion.

Also, as an effort to gain public support, Uber is asking London citizens to sign a petition to help deter the decision the city council has made.

Uber has historically kept their word when threatening to leave cer-

tain markets. In December 2015, Uber suspended its services in Calgary when a judge ruled that they were not allowed to operate legally until they meet safety, insurance and regulatory requirements imposed by the city council.

An Uber driver, who prefers to remain anonymous, is worried about the future of the popular application.

"I think that for a lot of casual drivers like me, who only drive about one day a week, [installing cameras] might be enough for us to not drive anymore if the cost ends up on us," they said. "I'm all about safety, and I've actually been looking for a dash cam for myself, but if it's a specialized piece of equipment I have to pay for, then suddenly a weekend hobby turns into a big expense."

Uber has also expressed their feel-

ings about having to pay for the costs of the cameras for the more than 1,000 drivers in the Forest City. In a quote taken from CBC News, Susie Heath, the spokesperson for Uber Canada, shed some insight on why Uber doesn't want to pay the costs of cameras for its drivers.

"Drivers typically [drive for us] on a short-term basis," Heath said, adding that drivers typically drive a few days a week or month. "As a result of this flexibility, it wouldn't be practical for us to provide them with physical assets that would have to be delivered or returned when drivers... came off the platform."

Uber has long been questioned about the safety of its service, which sparked the debate of installing the cameras in Uber vehicles. Last year in late December, a 41-year-old Uber

driver named Islam Soliman had been charged with sexual assault on a 21-year-old woman, while she was using the popular ride sharing app. This is just one of the cases of sexual assault that occurred in an Uber.

Jeremy Kelso, a business student at Fanshawe College, shared his opinion on the subject.

"I would have to say I think [the cameras are] in the best interest of both the driver and the passengers, it offers a little bit more security for those in the car, and in the worst case scenario it offers proof of what happened rather than just a he said she said type of problem."

With all the new decisions being made about the ride-sharing tech giant, there is one thing for certain: Uber is caught in the camera eye once again.

Fanshawe succeeds in creating 600 faceless dolls



CREDIT: JESSICA THOMPSON

The 600 faceless dolls will be on display in the Siskinds Gallery from Feb. 13 to Feb. 17.



JESSICA THOMPSON INTERROBANG

Over the past six months, Leah Marshall, the sexual violence prevention advisor, and Chris Hannah, the student success advisor in the First Nations Centre, have been bringing the Faceless Dolls Project to each Fanshawe campus in hopes of making 600 dolls.

They succeeded and the final product is breathtaking, 600 faceless dolls each with their own unique design created by Fanshawe students.

"Through students and staff being able to sit and not only create the doll, but while creating the doll [they were able to] have conversations about how this is such an epidemic in Canada and [understand] how this is something that needs to be recognized," Marshall said.

According to Marshall, there were many things they would try to

instill in the minds of the staff and students while they were creating the dolls.

"It's bringing that awareness to the issue, but also having some critical conversations around the intersection of violence against women, racism, colonialism, all of the things that contribute to why this is such an epidemic."

Fanshawe got permission from the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) as they started this initiative to create awareness of the 1,200 missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in Canada.

"[With] the Faceless Dolls Project [we took] pre cut felt, outfits, dresses and hair and did workshops talking about the over 1,200 missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada and how these women have somehow become faceless victims of crime, yet they aren't faceless victims," Marshall said. "They are individuals that have been lost in our communities, this isn't just a

northern issue, this is something that happens locally as well."

And bringing this initiative to the student body to help spread awareness of the issue was exactly the reason why Marshall and Hannah did it.

According to Marshall, amongst the countless informative conversations she had with the students and staff, there was one in particular that stood out to her.

"The instance of speaking to a student that actually had a family member that has been murdered and that student took the time to create this doll specifically for this person." According to Marshall, this is a moment that will stick with her long after the project is complete.

Other students gained further information about the issue and enjoyed being able to contribute to such an important initiative.

Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) president Carlie Forsythe, also contributed to the initiative and made

between four to six dolls of her own.

"I think it is a fantastic initiative... I think it is important because any student who actually participated now kind of has a tie to the project, some kind of emotion tied to the project," said Forsythe, who also plans on going to the gallery. "That in and of itself was very smart rather than just getting them shipped in."

Even though 600 dolls have been successfully created, the project is not done yet as Marshall and Hannah will be hanging panels containing the 600 dolls in the Siskinds Gallery in H1015.

The dolls will be hanging on the walls from Feb. 13 to Feb. 17, but there will be a special event on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

From 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. students and staff will be able to hear from Elder and Healer Liz Akiwenzie.

"She will do a traditional opening, then she will talk about em-

powerment because while this is an ongoing problem in Canadian society, it is hard to dwell on the negatives all the time... so she wants to talk about empowerment and how to make a positive change and how to rise up from these sorts of challenges," Hannah said.

According to Hannah, there will also be jingle dress dancers, which is a traditional dance for healing specifically done by women in communities.

Both Marshall and Hannah agree that the event went extremely well, though they are hoping that the message fully came through to both staff and students.

"These dolls only represent half [of the 1,200], sometimes when we hear a statistic, it's hard to conceptualize what that means," Marshall said. "They are not just a statistic, they are individual women that have had their lives taken from them."

Does Fanshawe's international student enrollment increase coincide with Trump's presidency?

EMILY STEWART INTERROBANG

Full-time international student enrollment at Fanshawe nearly doubled from 2,007 in 2015 to 3,446 in 2016. Although international students enjoy studying at Fanshawe, they say that U.S. President Donald Trump's 2016 election is unrelated to the increase.

Mukesh Singh is in his first semester of the professional financial services program at Fanshawe, and he came to Canada from India in December 2016. He praised Fanshawe for their "strong academics" and high employment rate.

"Canada is far too different from [the] United States," Singh said. "They accept immigrants from all over the world."

Kiran Jhitkur, an office administration executive student from India, arrived in Canada in January 2017. "The atmosphere here, the surround-

ings are really good and all of the facilities here, which helps the students very much," she said when asked why she thinks more students from around the world are choosing Fanshawe.

Pavel Bondarenko, a computer programmer analyst student from Russia, said that he knows there are students from India, China and Ukraine who come to Fanshawe to study. "Maybe [it's] because Fanshawe [is] one of the colleges [that] offers real skills," he said.

Bondarenko, who has been in Canada for about six months, adding that he decided to attend Fanshawe after he attended an international studies fair in Russia and heard about the program he's enrolled in. "I think it's the best set of classes that I need for my future."

Xinyue "Joy" Lu is in her final semester of the law clerk program at Fanshawe, and has been in Canada for three years. She is from China, and loves living in Canada.

"First, Canada is a safe place. It's a great country [with] nice people," Lu said.

Wendy Curtis, the executive director for the International Centre at the college, said that there are many reasons why Fanshawe's international student enrollment has increased. She said according to results from i-graduate, a market research company surveying student feedback from around the world, "93 per cent of international students are satisfied or very satisfied with expert faculty, quality of lectures, learning support [and] teaching ability of faculty."

Curtis said other reasons for the increase include an on-campus representation of 77 countries. She also said it could be due to that new post-graduate programs at the college, such as construction project management, health systems management, electronics and enabled systems and practical elements of mechanical engineering.

"The primary reason was exceptional visa approval rates which fueled growth from all countries, and most especially India," Curtis explained. "A favourable increase in the number of visas generated significant growth from all markets where Fanshawe is represented."

Curtis said some programs are seeing a jump in visa approval rates from 60 per cent to 80 per cent in the past year.

She added that more international students find Canada an appealing place to study. Curtis said that the Canadian Bureau for International Education's (CBIE) "World of Learning" said there was a 92 per cent growth rate in international students studying in Canada from 2008 to 2015, where there were 353,000 students in Canada by 2015. She added that 95 per cent of international students, according to the document, would recommend studying in Canada for the educational quality.

"Canada is a country that needs immigrants and international student graduates have the language, the education and the skills to become successful permanent residents," Curtis said. "Canada is incredibly well regarded in the world and is comparatively stable and perceived to be more predictable in a world full of uncertainties."

Curtis added the CBIE's International Student Survey said 51 per cent of international students intend to apply for permanent residence, and that 51 per cent of Fanshawe's international students also plan to apply to be permanent residents.

"This bodes well with our community because, like the majority of Fanshawe College alumni, they are determined to stay in the city with a career and a lifestyle that is envied by much of the world, and Canada needs the relative youth and expertise to support our competitiveness as a nation."

Second annual drag show back at Fanshawe



CREDIT: PROJECTBE EVENTS PRODUCTIONS

After the second of its first drag show, Fanshawe will host its second one titled What a Drag, A Night of Illusions, on Feb. 14.

MELISSA NOVACASKA
INTERROBANG

Due to popular demand, and a successful first show last semester Fanshawe will host its second ever drag show on Feb. 14.

What a Drag, A Night of Illusions, is a collaboration project between the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) and ProjectBE Event Productions, a London based LGBTQ+ community. DJMLive/ Studio 32 production company will also be back to provide music for the event.

Though the possibility of a second show was already in place even before the first one happened, FSU VP of Internal Affairs, Kevin Kaiser, who is behind the event, said the idea of it was based on the "contingent" of the success of the first show last semester, based on if people showed up and if they enjoyed it.

Kaiser said the first show in itself was a risk.

"Before the first show actually happened, we talked about maybe converting this into something a little more regular and if people like it and seem to be more interested in coming to drag shows, then we could maybe look at doing one, once a semester," Kaiser said.

According to Kaiser, the planning around the second show is a bit different than the first, mainly due to

the fact that the performers and company changed from last semester.

ProjectBE Events Productions, who were chosen to work on the second show, produce shows once a month at Lavish Night Club in London as well and will be putting on one of those shows for students at Fanshawe, specifically Kaiser said.

The fact that the show will be on Valentine's Day, was a "cool" idea for Kaiser.

"The original idea was to do something that was more a Valentine's Day theme drag show," Kaiser said. "It just felt like a good fit."

Kaiser said it was easier to get the event put together, since the main production company and queens are London based, which was a reason Kaiser chose the company, rather than FSU trying to put the event on themselves.

"We're also trying to support the local talent and business as well," Kaiser said.

Queens who will be performing for including Lita Von Sleaze, Miss Afra-Tighty, Miss Taken, Bettie Rebel and Nico Lavender.

According to Kaiser, the audience can expect to have an "absolutely amazing time", while at the event.

"Drag shows are always a blast. Expect a lot of audience interaction," Kaiser said. "You will see people going up on stage to dance or do a bit with the queens."

Kaiser said the audience can also expect to see a lot of splits and death drops throughout the show and a lot of comedy, dancing and perhaps lip-syncing and aesthetic pageant queens as well.

"With every drag show, there usually is a diverse line up with someone who does pretty much everything, so you can expect [a] really fantastic night out, no matter what you're interested in," Kaiser said. "Each queen is so completely different because someone's drag persona is a representation of themselves, it's a character that each person has created so every drag queen has a completely different performance style so it will be very different."

Sierra Lampman, a third year Fanshawe student attended last semester's drag show, and said she will probably attend this one as well.

"It was a big hit last semester, and tons of fun. I like the change in environment and the inclusiveness. It was a great time and I got to see something I otherwise would have never seen before. I'd love it to be a constant event," Lampman said.

Tickets for What a Drag, A Night of Illusions, are \$5 in advance at the Biz Booth, or \$10 at the door on the night of the event. The event will take place at the Out Back Shack. All ages with valid Fanshawe student card and 19+ without.

Size doesn't matter Trudeau breaks promise of electoral reform



CREDIT: MICHAEL KWAN ON FLICKR (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Sometimes, even small cups can be big winners in Roll Up the Rim.

THOMAS SAYERS
INTERROBANG

For third year marketing student Rachel Thorburn, Roll Up the Rim season has always been a favourite. "It makes what would be a miserable time much more pleasant."

This year sees the return of Canada's biggest coffee contest, with over \$75 million in prizes available.

For Thorburn, the contest is a great way to spend less money on coffee and other treats. "The chances [of winning] seem fairly likely, it feels like at least one in three that you're going to win something. It's probably just a coffee or a doughnut but you're basically buying two things in one."

A Tim Hortons press release confirmed Canada's excitement about the event. "This year's RRRoll Up the Rim to Win will be bigger than ever with millions more prizes to be won," said Sami Siddiqui, president of Tim Hortons Canada. "The return of Canada's favourite contest is our way of kicking off the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, and be sure to stay tuned because it's just the beginning."

The contest enters its 31st year, making it popular with both customers and profit margins.

"I like taking advantage of it, but you could also argue that they're taking advantage of you because I buy a lot more Tim Hortons than I

would otherwise. It's a great marketing tactic," Thorburn said.

But is there a smarter way to play the game and win? Theories surround the relation between cup size and chance of winning.

"I do think that it's probably more likely if you buy a medium or a large cup because that gives them more money. But then it could also be a trick because they're going to think that they're more likely so then they'll spend more money."

Tim Hortons disproved the theory, saying the odds were one in six for winning a food prize no matter the size. For once, size doesn't matter.

But there might be other ways to make your chances of winning more likely.

"In first year, they opened a new Tim Hortons and we were pretty sure it was stacked. All my roommates won so much; it was all coffee and doughnuts though. One of them won three times in a row, she had a streak going," Thorburn said.

In fact, your area does control the number of prize-winning cups, though it officially goes a bit broader than individual locations. Based on 2011 census by StatsCan, Ontario has the highest number of prizes available at just over 150 million, though you're competing with about 13 million other Ontarians, averaging to about 12 winning cups per person.

While that number may seem high, Eastern Canada has it the best. According to the same census, they have about 30 million winning cups, though because of the lower number of residents, it averages out to 14 cups per person.

If you want to play it smart and win as much as possible, Thorburn recommended scoping out certain locations. "I think you should keep an eye out and if people seem to be winning more at one spot, it's possible. I don't think they would evenly count them out before they distribute them, so some have to be stacked."



CREDIT: MELISSA NOVACASKA

Politicians are known to break promises and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is no exception. Trudeau recently pulled the plug on the possibility of electoral reform, a key campaign and platform point he used during the October 2015 federal election.

MELISSA NOVACASKA
INTERROBANG

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau cancelled his plans of introducing an electoral reform system to the Canadian political landscape, something that was a main campaign promise from the liberals in the October 2015 federal election.

The current voting system, the first-past-the-post system allows for a party to potentially win a majority of the seats in parliament, without winning a majority government.

Trudeau promised to fix the current system, which would make it fairer and more realistic, proportional voter representation.

However that was not the case, as he announced on Feb. 1, through the newly appointed Minister of Democratic Institutions, Karina Gould.

Fanshawe political science professor, Matt Farrell, pointed out that

this specific promise was made by a candidate who wasn't necessarily expected to win and was therefore possibly envisioning a "best-case" of becoming the leader of the opposition party.

"This is the type of issue opposition parties love," Farrell said. "They can rail against the system being unfair."

According to Farrell, once Trudeau did win the election, he perhaps saw the system and figured it wasn't so bad, since it gave him his new position and didn't need to immediately put a change to it.

With no change as of yet, Canadians will have to continue dealing with the first-past-the-post system a little bit longer, though Farrell does not see this as a major concern for most Canadians.

"I don't think there's a huge appetite for change, at least until it catches on in some of the provinces. The provinces tend to be incubators for big changes, if something works

for the provinces, then there's a better chance of it catching on at the national level," Farrell said.

According to Farrell, electoral reform is an "obscure policy issue" that the average Canadian doesn't resonate with, but rather only the super engaged or highly educated people understand the mechanics of elections.

However, Farrell said it's not out of character for Trudeau to break such a promise, since politicians do so all the time and it's easier to say something rather than following through with it.

"It just boils down to the differences between campaigning and governing. Governing is hard," Farrell said. "Once Trudeau realized that the committee was going in a different direction, by recommending a different system, then it became politically expedient to pull the plug."

According to Farrell, the timing of thinking of an electoral reform was a challenge as well, and if electoral reform was something to include in parliament, it could have been done before the election by simply introducing and passing a bill. However, with the liberals winning, Farrell said the party perhaps didn't see a need to change it after all, especially considering it would benefit other parties.

"I suspect the lengthy process of consultations and committee work was a deliberate ploy to run out the clock," Farrell said.

Though this was a major promise in Trudeau's campaign, Farrell stated there would have to be a significant reason for the prime minister to feel pressured to respond on his decision and possibly "reverse course" and right now there are other aspects to focus on such as trade.

"Especially given President Trump's pledge to renegotiate North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). That will be much higher on the agenda, although the opposition will try their best to keep the attention on electoral reform."

Diversity makes us stronger, not weaker



KERRA SEAY
WHAT DOES KERRA SAY?

North American society as we know it is founded on the concept of immigrants and immigration. If you don't know this already, read a goddamn book.

So why is anti-immigration rhetoric so popular right now? When President Donald Trump signed the executive order temporarily halting the admittance of citizens from seven countries (all seven of them are Muslim majority, though not all Muslim majority countries were included, causing some to be hesitant about calling it a Muslim Ban) as well as permanently halting the acceptance of Syrian refugees indefinitely, most people around the world reacted with outrage.

But while I may be living in my own news bubble by only following news sources that align with my own political beliefs (something I think more people need to accept about themselves), we all have to remember that there are a lot of people who are genuinely happy with Trump's presidential decisions, and that there are Canadians who would support the same policies if they were enacted here. Maybe you are even one of them.

To those people I have to ask, why? Why would you deny others the right to come to a new country with the hopes of building a better life for themselves and their families, a right that was granted to your ancestors? Because unless you are Native American, you are the descendants of immigrants as well.

It doesn't matter at what time you become a Canadian citizen, or whether your ances-



CREDIT: FRANCESCOCH ON THINKSTOCK

Diversity doesn't make us weaker – it makes us stronger.

tors helped build the foundations of our oldest cities or only immigrated here recently, or if you were born here or in another country. Once you take the oath of citizenship, you are one of us. And it disappoints me that not all Canadians fully embrace and accept this fact.

Diversity does not threaten the Canadian way of life, as some anti-immigration advocates may think. Incorporating new cultures, new ideas, new voices and new people into our country helps us grow, helps us find our flaws and helps us become a better nation

as a whole.

Diversity isn't something to be feared. A big part of the development of Canadian culture came about by experiencing other cultures and adopting what we like best from them. Where would we be without international food markets, or pockets of our larger cities dedicated to bringing the culture of another country to our own? Step into a Chinatown anywhere in Canada or a Little Italy and tell me they don't add vibrancy and excitement to our cities.

Accepting new people into our country

doesn't take anything away from us; we don't lose the resources, jobs or freedoms we are accustomed to as Canadians. But we gain so much more.

I personally know many people who were not born in this country, my own maternal grandparents included. Some of my friends were not born in Canada either; some of them even came to this country as refugees and asylum seekers. I do not see these people as the threats they are made out to be by some. I see them as what they are. Canadians.

Weddings and marriage, are they overrated?



CREDIT: MARIA TEJEIRO ON THINKSTOCK

Weddings are a way to show true love and promise yourself to one another for the rest of your lives, but are they really worth it?



MICHAEL VEENEMA
RUMOURS OF GRACE

A couple of weeks ago I listened to a middle-aged woman tell the story of the breakup with her husband. He came home one evening and they began talking about going out for supper. Suddenly, he turned to her and said, "I don't want to go out. I do not want to

go out with you tonight. I do not want to go out with you any other night. I am leaving." Then he said, "Would you like me to leave right now or in a week?"

Because I have worked in and around churches for some years, I have officiated at the weddings of a number of people. They have taken place, often in churches, but sometimes in barns, hotels, museums or backyards. Though most of those couples are still married, some are not. At least one of those marriages ended because of mental health issues that surfaced after the wedding. Another ended when the woman discovered

that her husband was pursuing a young girl.

You may have gone through the breakdown of a marriage or a common law relationship. We all know people who have. We all know students who have seen the breakup of their parents. Maybe you are one of those.

We also know the stats. They are not super encouraging for those who are married or who are considering marriage. And sometimes we attend a wedding and wonder if it isn't all just a little overrated. A wedding can certainly seem stressful, expensive and complicated. Why bother?

One reason some don't bother has less to do with marriage itself and more to do with the weddings. A wedding can set you back and it can seem like a way of fulfilling a lot of expectations that many don't want to bother with: the rings, the dresses and tuxes, the venue, the deejay, the photographer, the food, the bar and the bill. It's not everyone's cup of tea.

As for a marriage, well, can't you have all the benefits without the title? Shared finances, living arrangements and a bed, shared transportation and children; you can have all that without a marriage can't you? Then, if it doesn't work out, well at least our expectations were lower so the crash won't be as painful as it could have been. And if there are children involved they can "grow through the divorce experience".

Finally, in an age of self-expression, marriage can seem constricting. In order to say "yes" to one relationship you end up saying "no" to others. Why not stay open to the possibilities?

For many centuries Jews and Christians have held that marriage is between a man and woman. This is how marriage is pictured in the Jewish Bible.

According to this line of thinking, a marriage is not so much about the two getting

married. It is more about accessing two of God's blessings that are available to the human family: children and the growth of cultured societies. The goal here is relationships that can endure the difficulties in life, that can provide a terrific start for children, and that can be a context for the discovery of many of God's blessings such as prosperity, health, family and friends; and the discovery of blessings such as fidelity, honesty, patience, trustworthiness, love and hope.

Christianity, which is completely rooted in Judaism (the Jewish faith), inherits this understanding of marriage, family and society from the Jewish Bible. This doesn't, as far as I am able to understand, mean that Christians should give no consideration to same-sex relationships. Many Christians and I do support them. However, in the Jewish and Christian Bibles this view of marriage is the starting point for the understanding of relationships between the sexes and what those relationships can engender.

If a traditional wedding ceremony is not your thing, that is not important, but if God has given you a strong hope of finding a lifelong partner and to raise children of your own, why not follow that path? And if you are able to find a priest, minister or pastor to help you with a wedding, you might end up really appreciating it.

The ceremony does not have to be overly traditional or complicated. A simple one seems to work well for many people. Even that simple ceremony can be an occasion for people to mark that something amazing is happening as you promise to stay with one person. It can give opportunity for prayers. It can give friends and family a chance to celebrate the new stage of your relationship. And it can give you a great start in asking God for the patience, grace, courage and love you will need in the decades to come.

We watched the worst movies of 2016 so you don't have to



CREDIT: PARAMOUNT PICTURES

According to movie reviewers Nick Reyno and Kerra Seay, *Zoolander 2* is a pathetic attempt to revive a series that never needed a sequel. Find out what movies made the cut for the worst movies made during the worst year ever.

NICK REYNO AND KERRA SEAY INTERROBANG

Every year, the Razzie Awards recognize the worst Hollywood had to offer us, from worst movie to worst ensemble. For some reason, Interrobang columnists Nick and Kerra thought it would be a good idea to voluntarily watch all six films nominated for Worst Movie of 2016. Thankfully, they established a rating system of how many beers it would take to get through each one. You're welcome.

Batman v Superman

How to Survive: 3 beers and a nap

This movie was a two-and-a-half-hour trailer for a fight scene that became boring within three minutes. Considering the budget and effort that went into the latest installment of the umpteenth reboot of Superman, this movie was a surprising letdown. Not even an older more battle-hardened portrayal of Batman could save this flop from putting an entire theatre to sleep. We had hopes that the final epic battle would save this movie from the brink of Razzie acclaim but in a way, the battle nudged it closer than the rest of the movie. This was the first time in our lives that we have looked forward to a fight scene ending. There are no redeemable qualities that squeeze even a drip of excitement from movie. The film could have easily been chopped in half and perhaps it would have become palatable. We were so bored and ready for the movie to end that by the time the heroes really started scrapping, no one cared who won. *Batman v Superman* is possibly one of the worst paced movies of the last five years. Wake me up for the next Marvel movie because these DC flicks are just getting worse and worse.

Dirty Grandpa

How to Survive: 3 beers and a juice cleanse

You would think that Oscar winner Robert De Niro would know better than to sign on to shoot *Dirty Grandpa*; unfortunately, you would be wrong. By far not the worst movie on this list, *Dirty Grandpa* is just under two hours of film time filled with everything you would never want to even think about your own grandpa doing, never mind actually seeing it. Grandpa De Niro spends the entire movie trying to sleep with a college girl in Daytona. Seriously. And his poor grandson, played by Zac Efron, is a stereotypical tight ass stuck in a vanilla, suburban re-

lationship with his boring but beautiful fiancé. He even wears a goddamn sweater vest. The stereotypes of "Bad INSERT NOUN" movies (*Bad Teacher*, *Bad Moms*, you see where we're going here) are predictably raunchy, and if that's your thing then you'll love this movie. But if not, stay clear of this one because not even Zac Efron's delicious abs can make us forget about some of the things we saw in *Dirty Grandpa*.

Independence Day: Resurgence

How to survive: 4 beers

If you want to see a movie about humanity battling aliens hellbent on planetary destruction, watch *Independence Day*. If you want to see a movie about idiotic blunders, plot holes and amateur mistakes that jeopardize the lives of billions of people, watch *Independence Day: Resurgence*. The sequel that nobody asked for is the kind of movie that makes you scratch your head for two hours wondering "Why the f*** would they do that?"

Seriously, this movie is full of idiots. Idiots who declare war on an unknown alien race that has displayed no aggression towards Earth. Idiots whose first response to alien contact is deploying every plane in the military arsenal without any plan whatsoever, no reconnaissance, no communication, nothing. Idiots who contain a nuclear blast within a forcefield yet drop the barrier when enemy aliens appear within the flaming wreckage.

The most intellectual thing about *Independence Day: Resurgence* was Will Smith's agent, who warned him to stay the hell away from it.

Gods of Egypt

How to Survive: 4 beers and 2 shots of tequila

Right from the start you can tell that *Gods of Egypt* is going to be terrible, with awful CGI and a British narrator even though the movie is set in Egypt which, if you were unaware, is in Africa. Jaime Lannister, I mean, Horus, rules a peaceful Egypt and is loved by his followers. Everyone is happy and perfect and will live happily ever after.

At least, they do for a whole 10 minutes into the movie until Set, played by Irish actor Gerard Butler (???) walks in, steals some eyes and takes over Egypt, spilling a ton of gold god-blood in the process.

There were barely any redeeming qualities to this movie. Some top of the line CGI effects include a toilet-flush style descent into hell, 10 foot tall gods (that made the human characters look like Oompa Loompas) and a ridiculous amount of really fake looking gold.

And the crème de le crème of

this crap movie? A stupid romantic subplot between characters who literally don't matter at all and we zero per cent care about. We were secretly hoping for an arrow through our own hearts, just so we didn't have to keep watching this suckfest of a movie. Oh yeah, and apparently the Earth is flat.

Zoolander 2

How to Survive: chug enough vodka to blackout and forget about this ever happening

For a movie that boasts a whopping 39 celebrity cameos, including two appearances from Neil deGrasse Tyson, *Zoolander 2* is really really ridiculously bad. The jokes in this movie couldn't hit the broadside of a barn with a shotgun and most often they come across as offensively distasteful. *Zoolander 2* makes gross jokes about everything under the sun and is sure to enrage anyone who considers themselves a feminist, or even a decent person. The movie makes jokes about foreigners, bestiality, unplanned pregnancy, pedophilia, being fat, polyamory, non-binary and trans individuals, Malala, crashes caused by texting, child abandonment and that's not even the half of it. This movie was made explicitly for people with white male privilege oozing out of their salmon coloured shorts purchased with Mommy and Daddy's hedge fund money. *Zoolander 2* is a pathetic attempt to revive a series that never needed a sequel. The original film was perfect and we should all move forward with our lives pretending that no further installments were ever filmed.

Hillary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party

How to Survive: You don't.

We honestly couldn't finish this movie, and we don't even recommend you watch it just so you can see how bad it is.

While acknowledging that we are both liberal-leaning voters, we think even Republicans could watch this movie and realize its 90 per cent BS. There's literally a website dedicated to fact checking this "documentary".

Filled with blatant untruths presented as cold hard facts, bad acting and overdramatizations, we don't even want to consider this a movie because it is so inherently flawed.

Is the Democratic Party flawed? Of course it is. But it's hard to take a documentary seriously when it starts off with a dramatic court scene that didn't actually happen.

Honestly, we weren't even drinking during this one. We were just watching in stunned silence while furiously fact checking.

Fanshawe alumnus performing at Rosewood Room



CREDIT: PAT MALONEY

Fanshawe alumnus, Pat Maloney, will be performing at the Rosewood Room Feb. 25 alongside Taylor Holden and Cat Clyde.

JAYMIN PROULX INTERROBANG

Music industry arts (MIA) graduate Patrick Maloney is performing Feb. 25 at the Rosewood Room, along with Taylor Holden and Cat Clyde.

Originally from Greely, Ont., a small town outside of Ottawa, Maloney's music journey began while listening to his dad's vinyl records, playing some formal and classical music, then venturing to a drum kit when he was 12.

Fast-forward to his Fanshawe days, Maloney worked on the tech crew in 2005; served as VP Entertainment for the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) in 2006; and was an entertainment programmer in 2007 to 2013.

Maloney thoroughly enjoyed booking live music at the Out Back Shack and Forwell hall, bumping shoulders with serious talent.

"I run into people I met during my time there pretty often. It was great to have a platform to treat musicians right, and contribute to the Canadian cultural landscape," Maloney said.

Maloney currently lives in Hamilton, as of six months ago.

Being constantly touring and on the go, he says Spotify is his resource when he's driving from one city to the next.

When asked what bands or genres pique his interest, he admits it's a tough question. For him, there's about 100 years of popular music to choose from, and admits

he's a committed genre hopper.

In terms of the show Feb. 25, Maloney is hosting a songwriter's circle, a common format in Nashville where all the songwriter's will be on stage at the same time, playing one song after another and telling stories in between.

The Rosewood Room has an archaic collection of London music history. It sits next to the Jack Richardson Hall of Fame.

Maloney's appreciation of Jack Richardson was a personal one.

"I knew Jack himself," Maloney said. "I took music industry arts at Fanshawe and I was the last class to study with the Godfather of Canadian Rock Music. He's a legend, and it's very cool that the city has created a space to appreciate his work, and showcase some musical artifacts."

His album *RIGHTHERE* is his first live off the floor recording.

"It's an intimate album, both lyrically and technically. There are flubs, errors, etc. The songs are about my near-constant touring all over Canada and the United Kingdom."

RIGHTHERE is an ironic title, he added, "I'm away from home all the time."

In summary, when asked what he would advise students currently in MIA or graduates in general, Maloney honestly admits, "practice".

"Be prepared for a long road and don't expect anyone to help you."

Pat Maloney's website is www.patmaloney.ca and his facebook page is [facebook.com/patmaloney-music/](https://www.facebook.com/patmaloney-music/).

Crime prevention tip of the week

STEVE HARTWICK CAMPUS SECURITY

February is a romantic month, a time where people make plans and strive to impress that special someone. But remember: no means no. It can be said at any time by anyone and means exactly that. It means stop. Do not proceed. Consent has been removed.

Long gone are the days of "they're just testing my persistence. If I keep trying they'll give in and we can do this." People advance in relationships at their own pace and it may be faster or slower than yours. When it comes to advancing to the physical side of the relationship, be sure that your partner is on the same page. You both need to be sober, aware and most importantly conscious. There needs to be informed consent.

If you proceed without that consent, it is sexual assault. More com-

monly referred to as rape. Sexual assault can be anything from touching to full on intercourse. It is all punishable by time in prison, fines, probation and addition to the sexual offenders' registry.

Having a physical relationship with a person who is in the same place in your relationship as you are and is consenting can be a wonderful and beautiful thing. Do everything you can to protect that.

If something does happen report it; if not for yourself, to prevent someone else from becoming a victim. Remember that you are not alone. There is help available at many places both within and outside the college. You will be believed.

If you have questions about this or any other crime prevention concerns please feel free to contact Steve Hartwick with Campus Security Services either by phone at 519-452-4430 ext. 4929 or e-mail at shartwick@fanshawec.ca.



What does LGBTQ+ stand for?

The LGBTQ+ term is constantly used and spoken of, but not many know that there is more to the rainbow community than simply lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender individuals. There is a much broader range to look at to fully understand the full spectrum. Further self-research is always encouraged, as this article is only meant to give short definitions as an overview. Here is a brief written piece to help spread awareness and love of the diversity that exists.

Lesbian: A female-identified person who is attracted romantically, physically or emotionally to another female-identified person.

Gay: Typically a male-identified person, who is attracted romantically,

physically or emotionally to another a male-identified person.

Bisexual: A person who is attracted romantically, physically or emotionally to both men and women.

Transgender: A person who is a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex.

Queer: A term to identify one who embraces a variety of sexual preferences, orientations and habits, different from the majority of people. The term queer includes lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender individuals and intersex persons. This is a broad term for those who may not identify with a specific identity.

Questioning: A period of self-exploration for individuals unsure of personal sexual orientation and identity. Individuals who are not ready to identify themselves with a social label fall under this category.

Intersex: Someone whose physical sex characteristics are not categorized as exclusively male or exclusively female.

Asexual: A person who does not have a sexual orientation, nor experiences sexual attraction to others, but can experience a romantic, emotional or aesthetic attraction to another person.

Pansexual: A person who experiences sexual, romantic

and/or physical attraction for people of all identities, regardless of the gender expression the partner has chosen to identify with.

Two-Spirited: A term traditionally used by native Americans to recognize individuals who fulfil roles of both male and female genders.

Another "A" word belongs to

"Ally": a person who does not identify as LGBTQ+, but supports the rights and safety of those who do. In reading this short informative piece, we hope we were capable in educating readers who were not previously clear on the definitions, as well as encouraging an accepting and loving environment for all to live in. Let us all be allies.



Brittany Du Ly | Interrobang

"That person looks like a girl, dresses like a girl and acts like a girl, so they must be a 'she'."

Everyday individuals make subconscious assumptions about others based off the appearances that society has been brought up to perceive in a specific manner. But times are changing, and there is a growing number of people who understand that the world has not been constructed in binaries: to be one way or another, but rather that there are in-betweens that yearn to be accepted as independents. Fanshawe counsellor, Candice Lawrence, thinks it's a process of development.

"People who create their own term to identify with who they are, to have the right to do that, to not have derogatory terms thrown at them and to just create a language that is inclusive because the world isn't just made up of a binary." Steps are being taken one at a time in achieving equality, but some barriers come first.

It is hardly an easy procedure in the process of coming out when individuals have been born into societal gender expectations. Existing ideas on the painted pictures that individuals are expected to fit into based on gender roles complicate understanding. The most common pressure comes within households, and the parental expectations of children to trav-

el down the predetermined routes deemed fit for their gender, such as marriage and the passing down of family genetics. Daughters are expected to marry a man, have his children and vice-versa.

Others grow up realizing that it just doesn't feel right doing certain things, or acting a certain way simply because those are the actions affiliated with their gender. Taking that feeling of discomfort and uneasiness, these individuals identify themselves outside the binaries, but for others, it isn't always easy to understand quite what that means.

Anybody can get on a computer and do a little research for themselves. Questions such as defining a term can easily be answered in one quick explanation, others, not as much. The grey area between which terms could be derogatory and which are not can be complicated. The preferences differ from every individual, and often simply asking the individual can solve the problem.

Lawrence explained how to avoid offensive language, as it can be easy to step on the toes of loved ones despite meaning well.

"I think the family and friends should consider talking to the LGBTQ+ person and saying, 'How do you prefer to be referred to?' If it's a trans person, it's always a polite and respectful thing to ask, 'What is your preferred pronoun?'"

The rainbow community is more than a title, it is a network of people to connect with, a movement that empowers one another. The way people view and respond to the LGBTQ+ community has changed drastically from the days

of the past. Individuals used to be extremely reluctant in publicizing their sexuality at all, and if shared out loud, it was often said quietly and secretly.

Discrimination is now highly frowned upon, as more and more people are taught to accept the diversity in the world.

Lawrence explained the fight for equality, and how supporters have worked towards change in society.

"A lot of LGBT history involves reclaiming words that used to be thrown around."

A derogatory term such as "queer" is a word that people can now proudly use in self-identity. The message is that individuals should never feel ashamed or guilty for who they are.

The key to a world of love and equality is broad-mindedness. Lawrence disagreed with the consistent need for individuals to categorize everybody under general identities.

"It doesn't matter who it is, whether it is a straight woman, straight man, gay man, gay woman, it really comes down to respect and just trying to be open-minded; being open-minded to how an individual likes to be referred to."

She said it is as simple as just asking that person. The rainbow community and its allies will continue to fight for fairness and their rights in the world, and all that is asked is for respect in progression. For now, we can applaud the battles that have been fought in seeing how far the LGBTQ+ community has grown, as it is only uphill from this point on.

LGBTQ+ community helps debunk myths

Stereotypes and myths are never something you should ever immerse yourself into because they not only make yourself look uneducated about a given topic, but they can be damaging to those that are targeted. Boxing people into one category or another is not the right thing to do, and can leave someone feeling alone, left out, different or unaccepted by others. It can be difficult not to put people into specific categories, mainly because it happens every day to many different people; however, for the LGBTQ+ community, it happens far too often than it should. One might not mean to put anyone, including the LGBTQ+ community within a specific myth and stereotype, but it does occur and can be quite damaging to them. While society as a whole seems to have a grasp in understanding the LGBTQ+ community, there needs to be better understanding that one's gender and sexuality are two separate concepts. Therefore with more education and learning, hopefully people can understand that they need to get past the suggested stereotypes and myths and start listening and learning

There is a 'gay/lesbian' look

Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) president Carlie Forsythe, who also identifies as a lesbian, said that there is no specific look for those who identify as gay or lesbian. "Your sexual orientation is not visual. It can be, it can be a style, but it doesn't have to be," Forsythe said. Forsythe said if a person is going to box lesbians for example, there are many different types including butch, soft butch and the lipstick lesbian for example. The latter being an interesting one because this falls under women who are lesbians, but do not "look" it. "There's no specific look, you don't have to look a specific way to be gay, it comes from far more, it comes from inside," Forsythe said.

Who's the man/woman in the relationship?

According to Forsythe, that simply comes from existing cis-gendered, straight stereotypes and is not necessary to be in a successful relationship. As an example, both Forsythe and her girlfriend play many different roles in their relationship, such as rotating who is essentially the bread winner in the relationship, along with cooking and cleaning. "There are no specific set up rules, there does not have to

be," Forsythe said. Forsythe mentioned when she was growing up, there were no specific roles in her house catered to each gender.

Top vs. bottom?

Forsythe found this question to be hilarious, but said it's not really a myth because people do tend to have a preference.

"That means on top you'd rather give and maybe receive later, if you're a bottom you'd rather receive then maybe give later. If you're switch, it doesn't really matter," Forsythe said.

Bisexuality is an experimental phase

A bisexual woman, who wishes to be left anonymous, said that even though she likes both men and women, it does not define her as a person. "Just because I am interested in both men and women does not mean that my morals are compromised. I'm still very much engaged with the person I'm with," she said.

She also hates that bisexuals "don't exist" and are just confused individuals who are not sure what they want. She does not like how others in general think that this is just a phase and would get over it. "I've been bisexual since I was 14-years-old, I came out to my best friend in grade nine. It just never changed," she said. "I'm physically attracted to either sex, but when I am in a relationship with a person, I am in love with that person, I am focused on that person, that is my relationship. I'm not going to be looking around because I have twice as many people to look at. It's a double standard, people don't believe that kind of thing."

Promiscuity

Forsythe also mentioned how the stereotype of the LGBTQ+ community involves a lot of partying, and drugs but that also is false. It is also false that those in the LGBTQ+ community are more promiscuous than those from any other community.

FSU VP of Internal Affairs, Kevin Kaiser, who identifies as gay, shared Forsythe's concern, stating that gay men are seen as overly hypersexualized.

"That has a lot to do with the way gay men get portrayed in the media. When you see them in TV shows, their relationship status is always linked to their identity and who they are, but I don't think

that's the case. It's a part of who you are but not your defining characteristic.

Discrimination within the community

"The one thing that I think really annoys me about the gay community is that people are always trying to categorize you into a certain kind of gay, like tribes, such as the bear or the jock and people are always trying to pigeon hole you into that. I don't like that because it makes you feel like you have to conform to those stereotypes in order to fit in within the gay community which is really weird because you'd think as a group that has been so discriminated against and marginalized, you'd think we'd stick together, but there's still is so much discrimination within the actual community," Kaiser said. Kaiser said one does not have to fit into any of those categories to be gay.

Girl's night

What really annoys Kaiser is when gay men get invited to girl's night all the time and get pigeon holed into thinking they only like feminine drinks and girl's night, but that is not the case. Gay men can like sports, play sports and enjoy having a beer. "Yes it's fun and I may enjoy having wine with my female friends every once in a while, but it's not something I want to do all the time," Kaiser said.

Additional information

Forsythe did have some additional remarks to make in terms of the LGBTQ+ community and any myths or stereotypes that arise around them.

"It's not a lifestyle, it's a sexual preference. Being in a gay or lesbian relationship or whatever you want to call it is literally the same as being in a straight relationship, just different parts," Forsythe said.

In terms of HIV and AIDS, it's not something only the LGBTQ+ community may contract.

With any bullying that may occur, Forsythe said it's more so of ignorance and it's best to simply ignore it. Kaiser said that for anyone struggling with their sexuality, especially youth, that it does get better.

MELISSA NOVACASKA | INTERROBANG

"It's not a lifestyle, it's a sexual preference. Being in a gay or lesbian relationship or whatever you want to call it is literally the same as being in a straight relationship, just different parts" - FSU president Carlie Forsythe



“Anything positive is accepted”

FANSHAWE'S RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS



Brittany Du Ly | Interrobang

Days of discrimination and discomfort are now times of the past, as open-mindedness and acceptance are the key players in the new age. With social movements and battles creating norms of those less-favoured ideals of the past, establishments of all sorts are working in supporting the diverse range of religious beliefs of people by making accommodations and facilities increasingly common and easily accessible.

Fanshawe is no exception; it ensures that students have a safe place to exercise ones' religious beliefs. By promoting unique religious and cultural practices throughout the campus, students are encouraged to engage and explore new cultures. After all, that's what being Canadian is all about: diversity and multiculturalism.

Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) Entertainment VP Morganna Sampson, thinks Fanshawe is doing a great job at creating a positive and encouraging environment.

"Fanshawe and the FSU really do their best to create a space for everyone that is very inclusive. We create a loving culture and we also offer tons of resources. It really is just an open-door policy, and anyone is welcomed to come with new ideas with events. We for sure want to promote anything positive for students."

The FSU hopes to see more willing students to approach the team with suggestions and ideas in supporting different religious practices, so that the appropriate steps can be taken to make things happen. It really just comes down to what the students want.

Contrary to popular belief, academic accommodation is requested less than designated areas for students to exercise religious practices are, such as social and prayer rooms. In the past, students were more likely to take time off from school for religious beliefs, but it is increasingly becoming a popular option for students to feel more comfortable in bringing their religion to school with them. The South Asian celebration, Holi, is one example of the type of cultural celebrations that usual participates

have grown to love sharing with others. It's all about the self-comfort within oneself when it comes down to sharing cultural beliefs and practices, and providing positive, safe spots in which students are not only able to participate in their religion, but also feel encouraged; this enables openness.

When Sampson was asked if she could expand on the type of requests that would be unlikely to be approved, there was a brief pause in the interview.

She sat in a momentary silence, taking a few moments to pass the wall her thought-process had hit. But that isn't necessarily a bad thing; her inability to respond to that question brings forth a heartening emotion as it demonstrates the failure to recollect a time in which a student has felt unaccommodated. The lack of response is evidence of the great job that the college and student union has done to meet the needs of students.

According to Sampson, so long as the request is inclusive, and steers clear of any form of discrimination towards other religions, Fanshawe is more than happy to accommodate.

Currently Fanshawe offers a number of available student-run clubs, such as the Muslim Student Association, the Caribbean Association, and the African Association.

One of the most effective ways to promote this sort of diversity is by putting these options out there and keeping students informed. When these clubs go out and put on events, it is the sort of attraction that grabs the attention of students and makes involvement alluring.

Sampson said it is even more helpful when there are students demonstrating a strong interest in sharing their cultural and religious background.

"The FSU really does promote that student leadership aspect, and we really like to see students that like to stand up and show what they believe in because we love to see passionate students on campus."

Guess the message is: if you want it, come and get it. Pat on the back, Fanshawe... Religion done well.

Religion: Different to the same destination

Hency Thacker | Interrobang

There are many theories regarding the origin of religion in psychology, sociology, anthropology and every other field of human research.

It was a theory proposed by sociologists that religion is basically a culture or a way of life, which includes the ethical rules, language and behavioural etiquettes. Sigmund Freud had a psychoanalytic theory, which suggested that everyone wishes for that almighty parent that can do anything which a parent can't and so one projects a father figure in the sky.

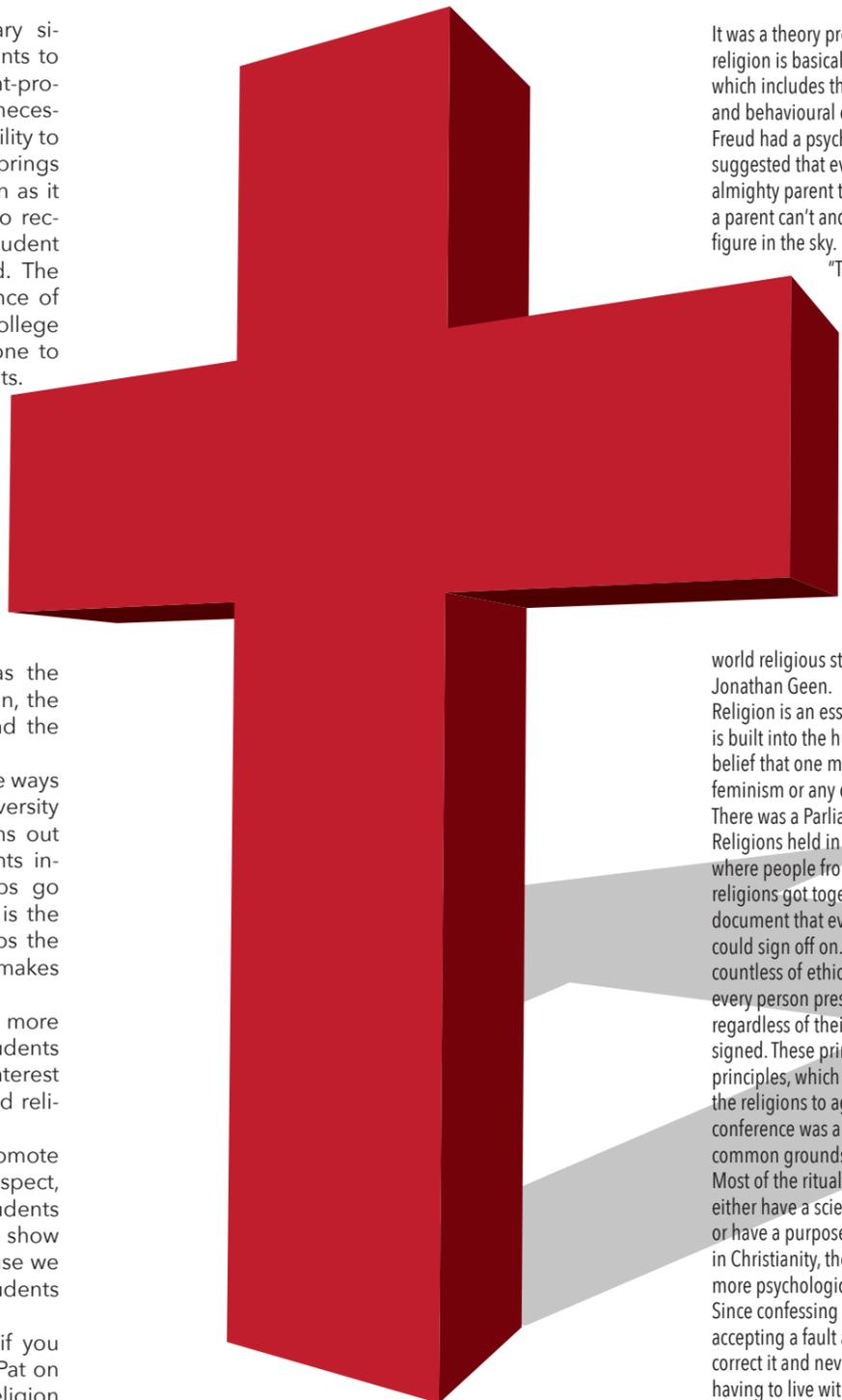
"There has been no society at any time in the planet that does not have some sort of religion within them, which in some ways leads me to believe that, in the very fabric of human beings there is a quest for knowledge and to know answers which different religions looks at differently and come up with different explanations," said professor of

world religious studies at Kings University, Jonathan Geen.

Religion is an essential part of humanity as it is built into the humans. Religion can be any belief that one may possess, be it secularism, feminism or any other way of life.

There was a Parliament of the World's Religions held in Chicago in 1893 and 1993 where people from different cultures and religions got together to sign an ethical document that every religion in the world could sign off on. The document stated a countless of ethical and moral rules that every person present in the conference, regardless of their culture or religion, signed. These principles consisted of many principles, which were harder for many of the religions to agree upon; however, the conference was a success as everyone met on common grounds.

Most of the rituals in any religion generally either have a scientific reason behind them or have a purpose of humanity. For example, in Christianity, the ritual of confession has more psychological purpose than religious. Since confessing to one's crimes is like accepting a fault and then moving on to correct it and never repeat it is better than having to live with guilt forever. There is a



What's gender got to do with it?



paths nation

Similar ritual in Jainism where the followers are supposed to confess if they harmed any living being and seek forgiveness for that. Even Buddhism has a similar ritual where the monks were supposed to gather at a place and rules of conduct were read aloud and they were supposed to confess on any of the rules that they might have broken.

Hinduism has many rituals that have a lot of scientific explanations behind them. For example, joining two palms facing one another triggers sensory nerves of eyes, brain and ears, which allows individuals to become alert and stay focused on the thing in front of them. This is why praying while joining hands is encouraged since it allows a person to stay focused.

In Islam, the fasts are done during Ramadan because fasting not only improves body functioning but also helps an individual understand the plight of people that cannot afford food. This is why a similar kind of fasting is also encouraged in Jainism. Jainism also suggests not eating certain food as it kills a lot more microorganisms. However, they insist on avoiding onions and garlic since it causes crankiness and anger in an individual, which can cause problems for them in their personal lives. Similar messages are prevalent in Hinduism for the same reason.

The way government asks us to follow rules in order to avoid consequences, is comparable to religions, as they ask us to live in a certain way to avoid consequences in the afterlife.

In 2006, a well-known book called *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne came out, which suggested that if you want something, believe that you will get it, then believe that you have it and start living as if you got what you wanted, and the energy in the universe will bring it to you somehow. Praying is similar to that: when one prays and has strong faith in God, they believe God will help them. They start living with the confidence that their prayers will be answered. And when they receive an answer, they believe they have experienced a miracle from God.

Every religion in the world in a way talks about humanity, belief and respect; therefore, in a way, they are all similar. They are just different directions to the same destination.

Gender expression, identity and biological sex

Our genitals do not determine your gender. Biological sex and gender identity exist on two separate spectrums and they don't always correlate. Biological sex pertains only to chromosomes, hormones and genitalia, but that doesn't define a person's inherent identity. It becomes clear just how separate these two topics are when looking at cases of identical twins where one experiences gender dysphoria and the other does not.

For those who don't know, gender dysphoria is a state of dissatisfaction or distress with a person's physical attributes that often leads to anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts. Gender dysphoria can start at an extremely young age said Claire Salisbury, a registered psychotherapist and Canadian certified counsellor in London with an MSc in clinical psychology.

but they are extremely important for many individuals, specifically those with disorders of sex development (DSD).

People with DSD have genitals that don't represent conventional male or female anatomy and are often given reconstructive surgery as newborns to 'correct' it. It's up to the surgeons performing the operation to make an assumption of what sex the child should be, but this can lead to complications if these individuals identify as another gender than the one assigned to them based on this surgery.

To make matters worse, it's a common occurrence for people born with DSD to never know about it, which highlights the questionable ethics behind this involuntary, invasive and often unnecessary procedure.

Salisbury had some choice words to say about the risks of these procedures. "There might be the need for invasive surgery later on in life due to the presence of constructed genitalia which does not match with the individual's sense of self, their true sense of their gender identity down the road."

When asked about her own opinion, Salisbury said, "I would argue that reconstructive surgery on genitalia in babies should not be done. I believe it should be the individual's right to choose what their genitalia ultimately is and looks like on their own and not have it be the decision of their parents or their doctors ... I think it's important for the baby to be able to grow up and to see which gender identity arises within themselves given the difference [in] biological categories of sex that might be

"I'VE WORKED WITH CLINICIANS WHO HAVE SEEN CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS TWO YEARS OLD WHO [IDENTIFY] WITH A DIFFERENT GENDER IDENTITY FROM THEIR SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH,"

Claire Salisbury, registered psychotherapist and Canadian certified counsellor, London.

"There are thoughts within the literature that gender identity may be more malleable in childhood and that it starts to become more solidified in teenage years."

Salisbury made a point of stating that this is only one stream of thought and that gender fluidity with regards to age is still a highly controversial topic within the scientific community.

While research has yet to find a definitive and universal answer as to what exactly determines gender identity, it's important to note that gender identity isn't some fashionable new trend like veganism or being gluten free. It's a fundamental part of human existence and people need to be able to express themselves whether they're cisgender, transgender, non-binary, gender neutral or gender fluid.

You may not have heard of the latter three of those terms,

within their bodies."

Salisbury concluded by saying reconstructive surgery should be an elective procedure undergone later in life when individuals have a true sense of their identity.

The binary categories of sex and gender are clearly outdated constructs that are harmful to many people who don't fall into these categories. While they may be important labels for some people, the world shouldn't rely on them as fundamentals in order for many others to be able to live authentically and embrace who they are. With over seven billion people in this world it's hard to believe that every unique being will fit into a neat little box of male or female.

Nick Reyno | Interrobang

degrassi

Seeing the way one show culturally shifted sexuality displayed on TV

Melissa Novacaska | Interrobang

In today's day and age, the way sex and sexuality is portrayed has drastically shifted in many different aspects. One of the main ways in which this can be seen is through television and the development and openness of the ways it is being seen more freely and acceptingly for all to see. In fact, it is fair to say that the way sex and sexuality is shown on TV has been an educating force to help the general public understand different elements of sex and sexuality and has opened the doors for more understanding and discussion among peers. One can say that a main driving factor in the TV landscape that has shaped the cultural and sexual shift for today's society includes *Degrassi*. From the beginning when the show debuted in the '80s and over the years and seasons, and up to today's batch of episodes, *Degrassi* has been the show to discuss tough subjects, including that of sex and sexuality. The Interrobang spoke with *Degrassi*'s co-creator Linda Schuyler and actress Ana Golja, who plays Zoë Rivas in the show's latest production, *Degrassi: Next Class*, about their thoughts and ideas of the show's influence of this cultural shift of sex and sexuality being portrayed on TV.

"One of our core messages is to reassure young people that they are not alone," Schuyler said. "That means when you're going through your adolescence years, this is where your sexuality really starts to form (but for many people it's formed earlier) but it's during those adolescent years that they can start questioning their sexuality, wondering about it and so right from the early days of the *Degrassi Classic*, we wanted to reassure young people that they weren't alone, that everybody is going through this and that it's normal, it's nothing to be ashamed of and if you feel that your sexuality is not in line with what your parents' sexuality is, that's okay."

Schuyler said that although the show has represented a different number of topics including a transgender storyline, the show these days is focused on a number of topics including gender fluidity.

According to Schuyler, although the show has been speaking out and portraying different topics over the years, she doesn't think the show is necessarily "ahead of the curve".

"We try to stay very current with the shift in society and the acceptances and as the LGBTQ+ movement is moving and changing, we're trying to keep pace with that in our show," Schuyler said.

Schuyler also said that the team is focused on keeping up with the news and trying to make sure what it portrayed in the show is current and up to date.

Degrassi also partners with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) in the U.S. to help review the material that the show wants to include within in their episodes. This helps make sure they have the guidelines and correct information when trying to include any subject related to the LGBTQ+ community. Schuyler said the crew also works with local councillors and school guidance when dealing with such topics.

"We do our best and we talk to young people themselves who are transitioning or dealing with whatever where they are on the sexual spectrum," Schuyler said.

Education is key for both creating the program, as well as hopefully allowing the audience to learn as well.

"Our goal is not in any way to be judgmental, our goal is to be accepting and to show as many facets of the dialogue as we can, and hopefully this is really helpful to young people who find themselves going through similar situations that the dialogues and discussions they see on *Degrassi*, can feel

authentic to them and maybe help them in their life," Schuyler said.

According to Schuyler, though the show has been successful due to its content, and making sure it's all about reassuring young people that they are not alone, the show is also about showing fun, day-to-day real life.

"That means we can't shy away from the big issues and sexuality being one of the biggest, but also, it's very important to us that we have lots of fun with our show too," Schuyler said. "The important subject matters are of course the driving force of *Degrassi*, but we're also trying to give a bit of slice of life at the adolescent experience as well, so all can relate to it."

Schuyler said that as long as the research for the show is done correctly, then there is no fear presenting it on screen.

"I feel as long as we do our job as producers by being as even handed as we can in disseminating our information, then I'm not afraid of any of the topics that we take on, but we have to do our homework first and we have to make sure that we are presenting a balanced story line," Schuyler said.

Schuyler said the material not only needs to flow, but it needs to be created and shown to the public in the right time frame.

"Fortunately the world is not static and it's always changing, so we might revisit some of the same topics, but each story is unique because it comes from a particular time and a particular place and from a particular character," Schuyler said.

Ana Golja, who plays Zoë Rivas, a character who at one point comes out as a lesbian, has similar thoughts to Schuyler.

"You've definitely seen a huge progression, we've come a long way of the LGBTQ+ community, in terms of its representation on television has really come a long way and I do think that *Degrassi* was a trailblazer for that," Golja said.

"Zoë was originally straight and then found herself not really connecting with people anymore and connecting with people in a different way than expecting to and then she comes out as lesbian."

Golja said that although she does not identify as a lesbian herself, she doesn't have any fear in playing Zoë.

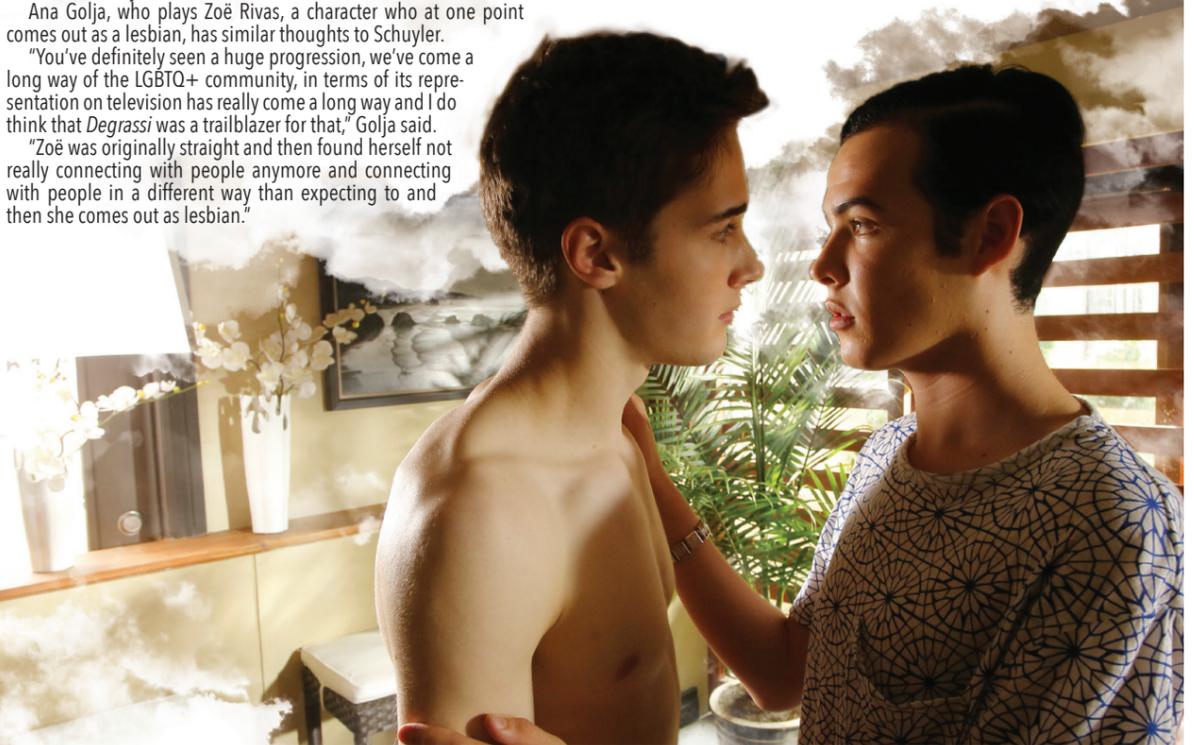
"[I] did have to see things from a different perspective, there was no fear but I just wanted to make sure that there are people, girls, guys, out there who connect to this characters in one way or another," Golja said.

According to Golja, just like her character, she didn't see the lesbian storyline coming, so it was a journey of both actress and character to take in figuring things out and growing.

Golja used experiences from her personal life with friends and brought as much as she could to bring this new side of her character to life.

According to Golja, the feedback has been really positive and she's happy that people are connecting with Zoë during this huge chapter in her life. Some fans have even told Golja that Zoë's coming out storyline is even helping them with their own life.

"One thing that I wanted to make sure was I didn't treat the character any differently than I would any character because at the end of the day they're all people and I think that's what in our society, people are starting to realize that. But definitely with Zoë, I didn't really approach her in a different way when she came out as a lesbian and I will continue to do that. She's just a girl who was lost for a little bit and now finally found her voice and is owning it."



Classic Classified Classrooms

Gender bias and dominance in the classroom is a familiar notion; however, it is not addressed as often as it should be. Diversity is important, and aside from race, sexual orientation or gender, everyone is different as a person. It is important to gather as many diverse and unique personalities as we can to create a variety of perspectives. Males and females are already diverse from each other physically and mentally and it is vital to have a workplace and classroom with variety.

Many classes have a dominating gender, for example the fashion industry arts typically carries more females than males or an engineering class usually has a dominating male population. When people think of a fashion designer, automatically, (most) people think of a woman. Why?

Louise Marchand, a graduate from the fashion design program at Fanshawe, who is currently a student researcher at the college spoke about why she believes the program is predominantly female.

"I think there is a gender dominance in some programs in post secondary that correlate with stereotypes in society. Although this is slowly changing, many students still gravitate towards these categories. Often students can also be talked out of their area of interest because of the views and opinions of those around them."

She mentioned how when growing up, naturally students are led into interests reflecting their gender stereotype. This is because of societal norms, poor judgment and in some cases bullying. Similar to how coming out of the closet was made a difficult process, enjoying a field, which diverted from your gender, was uncommon.

Marchand used the example of how many boys may not enter the fashion industry because it would be identified as "less manly" to their male friends. She believes peer pressure can be a deciding factor in what to pursue in post secondary.

Marchand said according to her experience in the fashion design program, she believed the entire fashion industry aside from classrooms, is female dominated. Although, she went on to say, "However many of the higher positions in the industry are held by men."

Marchand said this has a foundation in gender roles in society and families.

"Fewer young boys are encouraged to care about their appearance and taste in clothes; however, young girls are always encouraged to care." The media impacts males as well as females; there is constant societal pressure on girls starting at a young age to

look and act a certain way. For a long time specific job titles have been assigned to a specific gender.

"Female equality is arguably still not a reality, and women in industries that are male dominated have worked hard to gain their place and be accepted as equals in their field," Merchand added. Some of the bias in gender roles is normal and natural according to Marchand, while most women have a "biological predisposition to be more caring and therefore go into health fields".

To help make this change and slowly evolve our community into unclassified classrooms, without a dominating gender, schools should encourage the minorities in each program. There are currently more programs coming into effect that promote certain fields for all genders. For example, engineering summer camps for girls. Marchand believes that integrating more gender-neutral components are the elementary stages that would help combat this problem. Many people are too afraid of exploring their talents and skills because society has created an unspoken barrier within genders. Subconsciously limiting our abilities, despite gender, is not encouraging and it is restraining people from doing things they love and living out dreams.

Slowly, accepting beliefs that were never practiced before is getting easier. Change is evolving with time. For every class and job to become equal among all genders will take time but we are on a safe road, regardless of its pace, we are still moving.

Ajiitha Anand | Interrobang



Fanshawe introduces Women in Carpentry pilot project



CREDIT: MELISSA NOVACASKA

Jessica Bell (left), Chrissy Dube (middle) and Emily Chartrand (right) are three students who are taking part in Fanshawe's Women in Carpentry initiative, that includes female focused courses for women interested in the construction and renovation industry.

MELISSA NOVACASKA
INTERROBANG

In an effort to gain more females interest in the world of carpentry, Fanshawe introduced a pilot project of a women-oriented learning experience.

According to the program's description, Women in Carpentry, is designed to provide a hands on learning experience for women interested in construction, while in a female friendly and supportive environment. It allows females to not only learn and excel in the world of trades, but to let them feel comfortable and supported while in Fanshawe's residential construction and renovations programs.

The initiative, which began last September, will continue on next year due to the positive feedback from stakeholders, Steve Gedies, professor of construction carpentry techniques said.

The program is offered either as a one or two year program.

According to Gedies, the initiative was a response to the low number of women who were applying to the department.

"Our goal was to have women feel invited, feel comfortable in learning this type of field, in the construction sector. So our idea is to create a window of opportunity, three courses out of the potential 24 courses, (if they are doing the two year program), where it would be in an area that would be female friendly, it would be a curriculum designed and administered towards women because we believe that they learn differently from past experience and research," Gedies said.

Gedies said that the project is to also help relieve real and perceived barriers that exist in the field, as well as build the skills and confi-

dence needed for the industry.

Gedies hopes that this will help so when everyone is working together, the respect and integrity is earned since the skills set is already present and strong.

According to Gedies, bursaries and mentoring opportunities for those taking part in the initiative from the stakeholders as well.

Jessica Bell, a first year student who is part of the project said she thinks the initiative is a good way to encourage the number of women enrolling in the program, since roughly 10 women initially signed up for the program, but only four showed up.

"I think whatever it takes to get numbers up and have people going after what they want to do, it helps," Bell said.

Emily Chartrand, another student in the program enjoys her time at Fanshawe and is enthusiastic about the project.

"When I was in high school, I was surrounded by all guys and they would always make me feel like I couldn't do anything the way they were, like I couldn't hold a two by four because I wasn't strong enough, but here I have so much more confidence and so much more fun," Chartrand said.

Chartrand is confident in the skills she has gained so far in her courses, which she's looking forward to putting to good use this summer.

Chrissy Dube, a third student of the quartet said she also enjoys the program since the group is able to attend workshops and events where they can meet with others in their field, and those who are already in the workforce.

"I think it's cool," Dube said. "There's a lot more room for trial and error."

The three women all agree that the initiative allows for a less pres-

sured learning experience, with Chartrand stating it's a warm environment where they can feel free to ask any questions they need.

According to Dube, it's a much more open environment, since men typically don't ask as many questions. "I think if the guys were here, I would start second guessing more though because it's another set of eyes watching you," Dube said. "We do our stuff differently."

"Whenever we start something that is group oriented, we always sit down and plan everything out instead of kind of just jumping at it, so we'll plan ahead and make sure we kind of have all the information we need before we go ahead and start swinging hammers," Bell said.

All three women are happy they chose to take the program, and are learning so much in such a short period of time. They've worked on a number of projects already, and showed the Interrobang a shed they were working on.

One main focus both Gedies and the three women pointed out is that it's not necessarily a "girl power" or a "girls are better than guys" initiative, but rather one that encourages women to go after their construction passions and to feel their best while working in the industry.

"It's just we're doing what we want to do," Dube said.

Bell thinks that perhaps people shouldn't focus so much on the gender aspect of the project since it raises flags for some people.

"It's about being comfortable and coming to Fanshawe to learn, which is what's important about it," Bell said.

"The goal is that it's seamless," Gedies said. "It's a simple concept. Let's make this an inviting place for everybody and that's what we're doing. It's a conscientious effort to do that, but it seems to be working well."

International students coming to Canada: Why more students are experiencing culture shock

SUBATHRA VARADHARAJ
INTERROBANG

More international students who are coming to Canada for the first time are facing the culture shock. Living in a place with a vastly different culture can lead to disorientation, causing many to feel lost.

Tizy Varghese, an international student at Fanshawe shared her experience about moving to Canada.

"I come from Mumbai, which is a busy city in India. When I came to Canada it was really hard for me to adapt to the climate and living here, but as an international student I am surviving," Varghese said. "I was really excited about being in a new country and was dreaming of snow but after a point of time I was [suffering from] depression and loneliness but the studies and everything keeps you going and busy."

According to the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE), culture shock refers to the feeling when one experiences a cultural environment that is different than what they are used to.

"To manage the Canadian culture wasn't difficult for me, I am just going with the flow, but some slangs are different here from India," Varghese said. "It's an ongoing experience, I am not sure if I have learned everything about Canada because it will take time for anyone to learn the new culture and their practices."

Language is certainly one barrier to communication across cultures, but not the only one. Arriving in Canada for the first time can also lead to stress for students in regards to non-verbal communication ac-

ording to the CBIE.

"As an international student, honestly, I felt London was a bit racist, I have experienced a little bit but not like in a harsh manner which is the only problem I faced here," Varghese said. "Also, the transport here is very different compared to the place where I come from, it took me some time to learn the transport system here."

According to CBIE, experiencing culture shock is completely normal, when you have traveled a long way to arrive in Canada, leaving behind not only family and friends, but also the culture you have grown up with. Culture shock is particularly common in the early part of your Canadian journey, and overtime you will come to be more comfortable with your life in Canada.

"Being organized, responsible and adapting everything from the rules and regulations to the lifestyle in this country is key to success, you should always be ready for any kind of change," Varghese said. "I haven't decided my future goals yet, I am just going with my studies, probably I will try settling down here but am not sure about my future as of now I'm concerned about completing my course with good academic standing."

International students always are encouraged to take advantage of the regular orientation sessions and ongoing counselling services offered by the college, where you can obtain valuable information about Canada and ask questions about living here. Then you will be prepared to cope with the differences you encounter.

The beauty of correcting



JOSHUA R. WALLER
BEAUTY BOY

will create an airbrush finish) and then set with a loose powder.

Once it is set, you will notice the darkness will have diminished substantially. Finish everything off by applying your favourite concealer and your dark circles will have disappeared.

For any sort of redness, you would follow pretty much the same steps except you would use the green or yellow corrector. If you have a fairer skin tone, a green corrector may be too intense and could leave a hue of green, even after you blend on a foundation. If this is the case, substitute the green corrector with a yellow corrector as it will have the same effect but will be easier to camouflage.

Sallowness in the skin doesn't have an exact method to how you apply the corrector, as everyone's skin will vary with this pigmentation issue. Anywhere on your face where you feel your skin looks dull or lacks luster, apply a small amount of lavender coloured corrector and blend with a fluffy brush. When using this corrector, you must apply some sort of foundation, powder or tinted moisturizer on top to blend out the purple hue.

If you have any issues with pigmentation in your complexion, don't try to conceal it with extremely heavy foundations as they can be uncomfortable and not look the most natural. Try neutralizing these concerns with lightweight colour correctors. By doing so, you can achieve a flawless, clean complexion.

At every point in one's life, people face some sort of struggle with pigmentation in their complexion. Whether it be dark circles under the eyes, redness on the cheeks or an overall sallowness to the skin, people try to over compensate by using an extremely heavy foundation. While full coverage foundations can look beautiful, they are not necessary to fix pigmentation concerns. There are now tons of lightweight makeup correctors that can be worn alone or underneath foundations.

Makeup correctors go right back to colour theory, where certain colours cancel out others. Green cancels redness, lavender cancels out yellow (sallow) and orange cancels out purple (dark circles). These correctors come in many textures like creams, liquids and even powders, all of which have different levels of intensity, creams being the most pigmented.

Brands like Lise Watier, Smashbox and NYX all make excellent colour correcting "sticks" that have beautiful pigments and are super easy to blend.

For those with dark circles, start by applying a hydrating eye cream and then apply an orange cream corrector directly under the eye. Taking a fluffy brush, start to blend out the corrector in a circular motion (this



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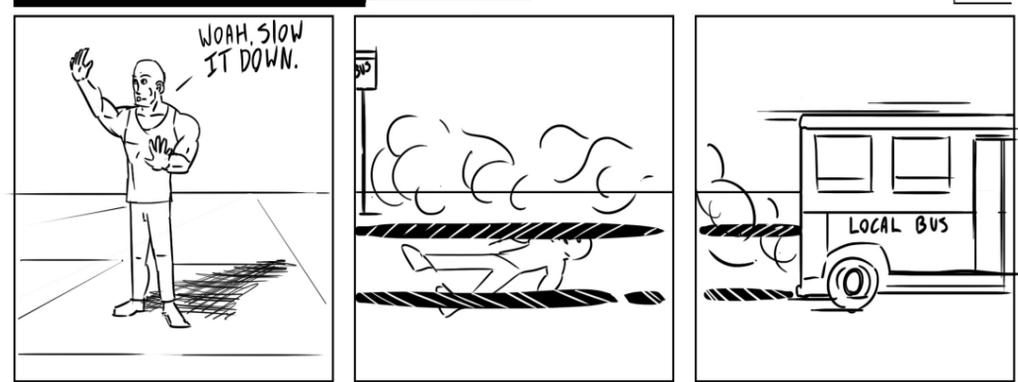
Freshman Fifteen



By Alan Dungo

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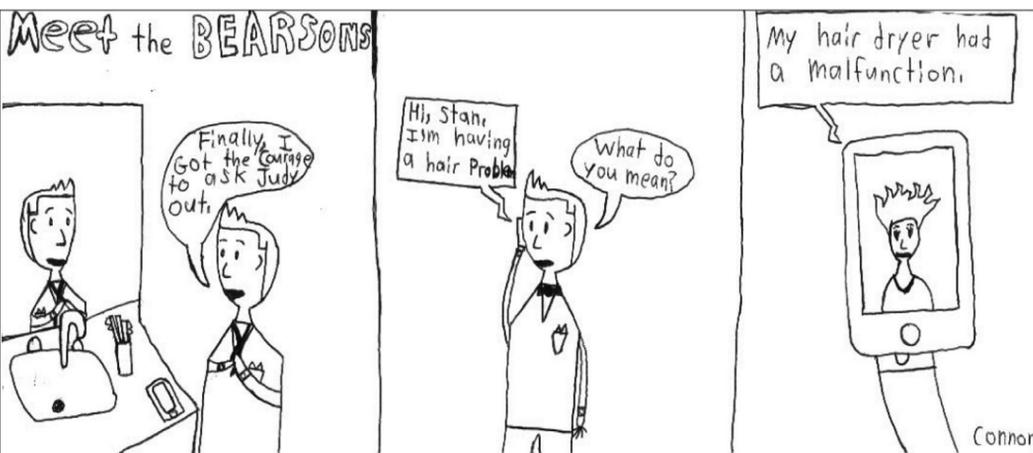


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VALENTINE'S DAY (Words in parentheses not in puzzle)

- | | | |
|---------|---------|------------|
| Admirer | Cupid | Passion |
| Amorous | Flowers | Rose |
| Be Mine | Heart | Smitten |
| Candy | Kiss | Sweetheart |
| Card | Love | Wooer |

Aries (March 21 - April 19)
 Dig in and get things done. Whether you are learning, taking on a physical challenge or making important changes to your lifestyle or your beliefs, don't stop until you feel satisfied and fulfilled. Don't fold under pressure. If someone puts demands on you, offer what you can, but don't make promises or commitments.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
 Having a realistic approach regarding your goals will help you avoid frustration and becoming discouraged. Presenting what you have to offer prematurely will be your downfall. Conversations with people who have more experience will prove interesting as well as valuable; however, they may be outdated or exaggerated.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
 Take charge and show everyone what you have to offer. Your input and enthusiasm will result in greater popularity. Take advantage of your good fortune, and bring about the changes you feel are needed. You'll have to come up with some unique ideas if you don't want someone to step in and take over.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)
 Look for the good in everyone. Be patient, but don't feel the need to take part in something that you know isn't right for you. Moderation will be in your best interest. Emotions will take over on the 14th

if you don't separate truth from fantasy. Making assumptions will turn into a costly exercise that will set you back.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)
 Take ownership of whatever you do. Follow through with your plans, and be proud of your accomplishments. Forge ahead and make the changes that will contribute to your personal happiness. Love is encouraged. Secrets will lead to trouble.

Virgo (August 23 - Sept. 22)
 Don't tempt fate. Do what you say you are going to do. Honesty and integrity will keep you out of trouble and help you avoid a loss. You cannot buy love, but you can earn it. Don't make promises or take on responsibilities that are likely to leave you in a vulnerable position.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
 Your charm and novel way of persuading others to do and see things your way will give you the edge. Social events will lead to interesting encounters that can prove beneficial. An emotional situation at home will leave you in an awkward position.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
 Keep an open mind, but be careful not to give in to someone just to keep the peace. Difficulties with someone you love will test your patience. Don't get angry; offer enticements. Communication problems can be expected. Listen carefully, take notes and get any promises offered in writing.

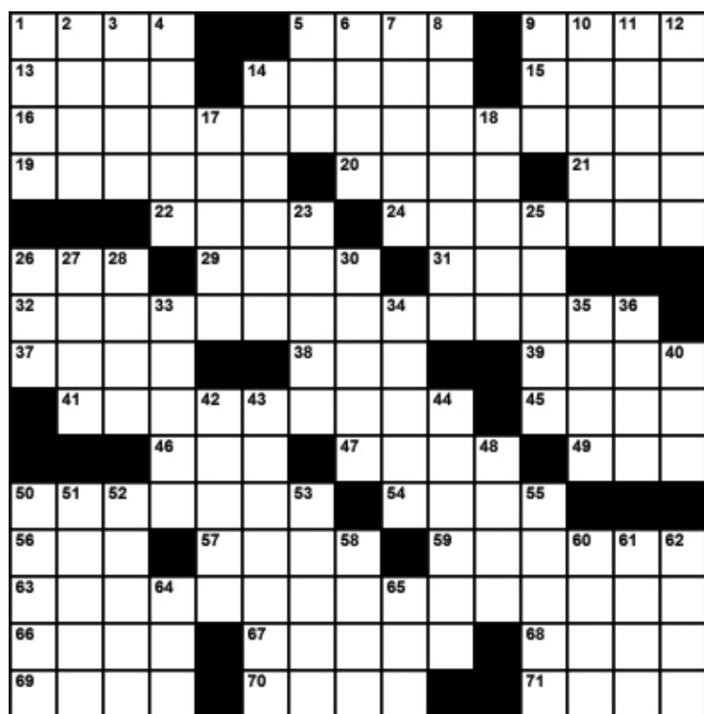
Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
 A desire to incorporate a serious approach to the way you handle important relationships will surface. Listen to your heart, and follow through with honesty and a firm commitment. You can wheel and deal and cut corners if you make adjustment to the way or where you live — and with whom.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan.19)
 Don't feel pressured into doing things you don't care to do. Stick close to home, and avoid dealing with institutions. Expect someone to make a last-minute change on the 14th that will catch you off guard. Don't flinch; just continue along the path you have chosen until you complete your journey.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
 Make personal changes to the way you live, how you look or the way you plan to move forward. The decisions you make will lead to a more productive and progressive lifestyle. Be careful when dealing with peers or people from your past.

Pisces (Feb. 18 - March 20)
 If you want to make changes you are best to sit down and go over the blueprint you have come up with carefully. You'll have a tendency to be unrealistic, and leaving no room for error will be necessary if you are going to be successful. Get involved in activities that will open a window of opportunity into something unusual.

Crossword Puzzle

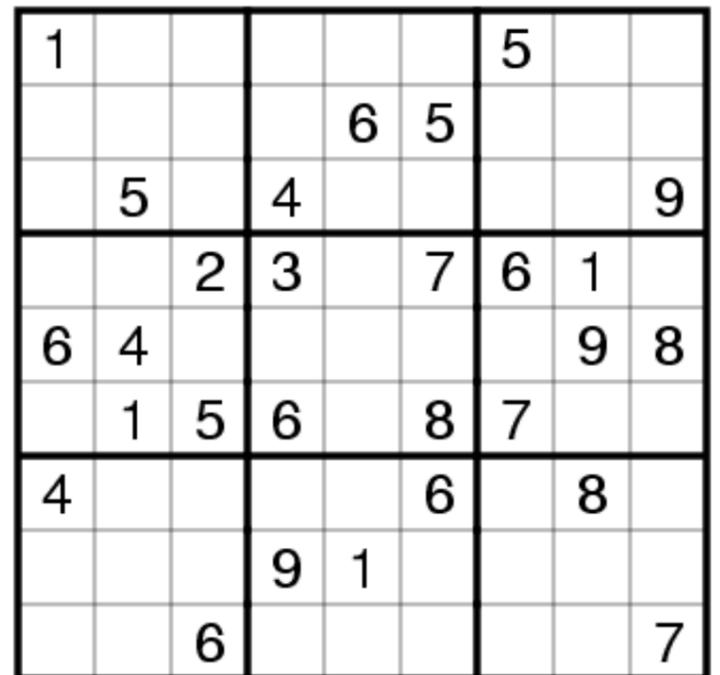


- Across**
- Master of fugues
 - Snake sound
 - Forest growth
 - Empty hall phenomenon
 - Flat fish
 - Complain loudly
 - "The Old Roman" in American League Baseball
 - Corny bit?
 - Cowpoke's charge
 - Poetic time of day
 - Bleach target
 - Pale lager
 - Frequently, in verse
 - Greek vowels
 - Prized mushroom
 - Writer of the first set of official baseball rules
 - Reddish-brown
 - Most important
 - Plumbing problem
 - Bases-loaded home run
 - After the bell
 - Bird sound
 - Mob member
 - One with a signature role?
 - Type of pen
 - Deer hunter's prize
 - Versatile truck, informally
 - Fingerprint, perhaps
 - Pressed
 - Twice named Major League Baseball an All-star player in 2002 and 2005
 - Mysterious
 - Endeavor
 - Home of about 60% of the world's population
 - Gaelic tongue
 - Dealer in futures?
 - Certain noble

- Down**
- Rock guitarist Jeff of The Yardbirds
 - Feel the pain
 - Give a grilling?
 - Orchestra section
 - Sounds of laughter
 - Part of a foot
 - African veranda
 - Electd to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1963
 - New title after a union
 - Like some brewing containers
 - Kitchen strainer
 - More subtle
 - First National Baseball League player to surpass 500 career home runs
 - Biblical outcast
 - Twiddled one's thumbs
 - To-do list items
 - Exxon Valdez mishap
 - Blade in a lock
 - Scourge
 - Elevator used by skiers
 - Wheat variety
 - Pass
 - Indian nursemaids
 - Certain tide
 - Airport assignment
 - Author Kesey
 - V-shaped cut
 - Lace mats
 - It's revolting
 - Attire
 - Railroad flare
 - It's a knockout
 - Longing looks
 - Living proof?
 - Rocky Mountain goat's cousin
 - Alternatively
 - Rocket launcher
 - "National Velvet" author Bagnold
 - 6/6/1944
 - Roll-call response
 - Bud holder?

Solution on page 17

Sudoku Puzzle



Puzzle rating: Very Hard

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means no number is repeated in any column, row or box. **Solution on page 17**

Cryptogram

 XSMWRL PMVV RKX IKXXKQ

 JKLHMXX CYQ KOOCQXL XC

----- . -- -----
 MTHQCEK XSKT. -- PMVV QCRKQL

Notes:

Solution on page 17

The ease of creating music in 2017



CREDIT: MITCH VOLLMER

Professional sounding music can now be at the fingertips of anyone with the readily available softwares now available.

MITCH VOLLMER INTERROBANG

We are now over a month into 2017, and the art of creating, recording and publishing music is constantly improving, and has never been easier. The music industry has certainly taken a few golden steps away from the years of demo recordings onto old audiocassette tapes, constantly rewinding and overdubbing when tape grew short. Now, some ways to record music can be as easy as plugging a guitar into a computer.

"I find it easier now because we all have access to new recording gear that just lets you pop whatever you're playing into a session on ProTools to write with, and that's a tool that a lot of people didn't have years ago so it definitely would have been easier to write in a large group or band but now anyone can just do it alone because we have so much access," said Brock Phelan, current student of music industry arts (MIA) at Fanshawe.

Creating music directly from your computer is now an option for those who don't have access to real instruments. They help to give more electronic and pre-recorded instruments than most musicians know how to play.

Nicholas Green, an independent musician, recently released his first solo EP, created entirely from the free Apple program, Garage Band.

"When I started recording I had a keyboard that had a plug-in microphone into my computer to literally record my piano playing. But when I bought my Mac, using Garage Band I realized I could create every sound I want right from the program itself, and I've never really needed to use anything else," Green said.

Programs, equipment and instruments have also become materials, which no longer require thousands of dollars to obtain, as specialty stores, and unique publishers have made them readily and affordably available.

"I definitely rely on technology heavily when I'm writing and recording. I have a Scarlett interface with a NT1 RODE microphone that probably cost \$600 maximum, and drum samples nowadays can even sound so realistic, that you can make a drum sample sound like a real one to the every day consumers ear," Phelan said.

Publishing and finding a source to get people listening to your music has also become easier, with free hosting websites and apps, such as Bandcamp or Soundcloud.

"Bandcamp makes it as easy as possible to really do everything yourself, although you won't have the major advertising or marketing behind it you can be in complete control if you want to," Green said.

Bandcamp is a website with the purpose of giving direct support to artists directly from fans. It is free to make

an account, and also free to upload music for the sake of others downloading for free. When tacked on with a price, Bandcamp will charge a 15 per cent difference, allowing artists to take 85 per cent profit on their music supplied to millions of people.

"I find that often a local artist can get very caught up in the rush of online marketing, and will often just get turned into another Facebook post that people scroll past. I think for a local artist, it can actually be just as beneficial to go out and market yourself in person, and just play shows as much as possible," Phelan said. Many other sites also help pay artists in turn for publishing their music on them. Apple Music pays its artists around 70 per cent depending on ownership and revenue, while Spotify pays its artists per stream play at an average payout of \$0.004891 according to the website. Sights such as these are often only beneficial to artists with an already large social following.

"People buying your music is another story because more people are making music now more than ever thanks to technology, so supply can be much greater than demand," Green said.

Bands and artists have now been using social media to locate other local artists to play and create music with.

"Even if you're outside of MIA building that network of very hard-working people is beneficial because their attitude rubs off and affects you too and makes you want to try harder."

Creating secondary media such as videos to go along with music have also become easy and popular thanks to free hosting websites such as YouTube.

"If you're a musician, it is 100 per cent important to have a network of other people who make and create music that push you everyday to create more and try new things that they're trying," Phelan said.

You can find Phelan's band Faux Claire on Facebook at [facebook.com/FauxClaire](https://www.facebook.com/FauxClaire). Green's EP can be found at his Bandcamp at [thegreenroom2.bandcamp.com/album/wave-after-wave](https://www.bandcamp.com/album/wave-after-wave).

The Love Witch casts a spell of dark feminism



CREDIT: OSCILLOSCOPE LABORATORIES, 2016

The Love Witch addresses very modern issues in a very retro way.

ANGELA MCINNES FEAR FOR THOUGHT

She may not ride on a broomstick, but Elaine, the eponymous main character of director Anna Biller's *The Love Witch*, epitomizes everything it means to be a witch. She is entirely self-serving, independent and most dangerously of all, shamelessly dripping with sexual liberty.

At two solid hours, *The Love Witch's* plot tends to run a bit thin. However, the crux of the story remains clear as Elaine flaunts her firm body while casting out love spells like parade confetti to droves of flustered men: in the battle of the sexes, who holds the winning hand?

Gloriously filmed with a now rare 35-millimetre camera, every cinematographic detail of *The Love Witch* has been painstakingly designed by Biller to emulate visual cues such as trance-like editing and eye-popping technicolours from the exploitation genre of yore. Spanning from the '60s to late '80s, these B-class movies depended on promises of deviant sexuality to get audiences' attention. The degree to which they delivered varies, but *The Love Witch* pays homage to those few films, which actually managed to sneak in a frank examination of cultural attitudes towards gender and sexuality.

Played by Samantha Robinson in her debut performance, Elaine is determined to start a new Californian life after the abrupt death of her husband. Her modus operandi: to find

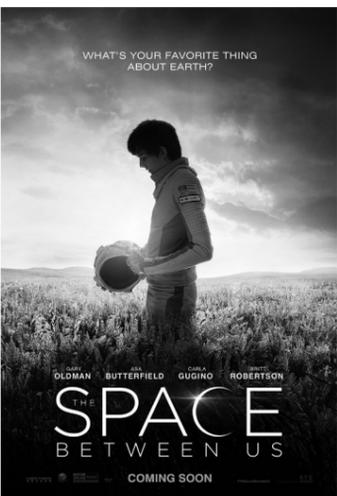
"true love".

According to her coven, the key to a man's heart is through hot, steamy sex. Elaine, wanting the instant gratification of a man's emotional devotion instead, takes to speeding up the process by casting love spells, but then finds that her own brand of magic is fatally potent.

Elaine's turmoil stems from her inability to accept that a man would ever see the person she is beyond her Elvira-style wig and makeup, and suddenly after an hour of meandering, *The Love Witch* demands that we mull over why so many women are taught to use their sexuality as a means to gain power. Moreover, from where does this lesson originate? Even the clueless Elaine unconsciously rolls her eyes when the male leader of her coven preaches it.

Driven to near madness by her inane fantasies of a prince on a white horse, Elaine's viewpoint directly subverts the male gaze historically embodied by sexploitation titles. As a female looking out into the patriarchy, she faintly senses she deserves better than objectification, but is unequipped to articulate her suspicion. She continues on, confined to parameters that inform her she has a choice between being a witch and being nothing at all, leaving us to hold our heads in our hands and wonder if there is any truth at all to the rumours we hear today of sexual female empowerment. *The Love Witch* is a visual pleasure to watch, but it is certainly one of bleakest, most innovative horror movies to come out in quite some time.

The Space Between Us is an astounding, accidental parody of itself



CREDIT: STX ENTERTAINMENT

The Space Between Us is a truly unique and fascinating failure that delivers a gorgeous visual experience and plenty of cringe.

CHRIS RUSSELL INTERROBANG

The Space Between Us is a romantic science fiction film set in the future about the relationship between two teenagers: Gardner Elliot, a boy who grows up in iso-

lation on Mars and a girl named Tulsa from Colorado raised in the foster care system.

The film opens with a press event directly preceding the deployment of six astronauts who are to live on Mars.

Following the deployment it is discovered that Sarah Elliot is pregnant. Nathaniel Shepherd and other NASA employees deliberate over the inevitable biological complications and potential public relations strategies, ultimately deciding to keep it a secret.

Sixteen years after he's born, Gardner, having been raised by scientists, is a brilliant teenager who starts to engage in rebellious behavior, seeking information about his parents and using the Internet to form a relationship with Tulsa, telling her they can't meet because he has a disease that confines him to his home.

Eventually it is decided that Gardner should go to Earth and he undergoes an operation allowing his body to withstand the new conditions. Upon arriving he is quarantined for further observation to ensure the operation's success. He escapes the hospital and meets Tulsa at her high school. The two

go on the run together in search of Gardner's father while being pursued by Shepherd and NASA.

The cinematography in *The Space Between Us* is calming and beautiful with interesting angles, clean pans and plenty of stunning aerial views that facilitate a thought provoking "big picture" perspective. There are incredible outer space sequences and great science fiction settings, space ships and technologies. The movie contains a remarkable variety of settings as Gardner and Tulsa travel the U.S., traversing gorgeous rural landscapes, luxurious beaches and making stops at locations as varied as Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon.

The fact that two teenagers manage to evade NASA and visit what seems like every conceivable landmark in the U.S., traveling great distances in an impossible amount of time with little money, is just one of many ways that the film trades logic and realism for dramatic convenience.

The first half of this film when Gardner is confined to Mars feels like a cool, well done science fiction movie innocently targeting a young adult audience. By the sec-

ond half when Gardner arrives on Earth, the movie begins to devolve into emotionally manipulative pandering so transparent that it becomes a laughable parody of itself, becoming progressively sappier at a steady pace that quickly turns into a steep decline.

The funniest/most cringe-worthy parts of the movie are its absurd attempts to depict high school. Tulsa, alone in a classroom, notices a piano, plays a few notes and then sits down to start playing a song. Suddenly a group of boys outside the window start laughing at her antagonistically. So she gets up and runs out the door, gets on her motorcycle and rides off while the boys chase after her laughing. I don't think I need to convince anyone that this is not the way adolescent boys treat pretty girls in high school.

The cast of *The Space Between Us* is great, though severely limited by corny, unbelievable dialogue. Asa Butterfield is perfect for his role, nailing the balance between relatable, awkward quirkiness and boyish charm.

Tulsa, played by Britt Robertson, is younger than 18, but she looks like she is in her 30s. You adjust pretty quickly though, and it is for-

givable because she is convincing as a smart, troubled, cynical teenage girl.

Gary Oldman delivers an impeccable performance as Nathaniel Shepherd, bringing plenty of depth to his character. He has a remarkable way of communicating volumes beyond his (unfortunately cheesy) dialogue.

While some actors (like Janet Montgomery as Sarah Elliot) have great technique yet still somehow deliver a flat performance, Oldman has clearly mastered both acting technique and character development and is a pleasure to watch.

The soundtrack of *The Space Between Us* facilitates a reflective mood and ties the film together aesthetically. The score, made up of calming string compositions with underlying ambient synths that compliment them in a way that lends to the modern, sci-fi aesthetic, comes off as original and intentional. During emotionally charged sequences, there are pop songs that feel thoughtfully selected as they are not overly recognizable and play an integral role in producing the sappy emotions that the film forces on you.



CREDIT: JUSTIN FOX

Men's volleyball player, James Jackson, has worked his way to the top of the team in stats with insurmountable skill.

James Jackson tops the men's volleyball team in stats for month of January

JESSICA EDEN
INTERROBANG

On Feb. 1st, James Jackson, member of the Fanshawe volleyball team, was named the lululemon Fanshawe male student-athlete for the month of January.

The award is given to one male and one female Fanshawe athlete per month based on their accomplishments. These students receive an exclusive shopping experience at lululemon Masonville.

"It feels amazing... there are so many insanely talented athletes that play varsity sports at Fanshawe and to be recognized among all of them is an honour," Jackson said.

The head coach of the male volleyball team at Fanshawe, Patrick Johnston, expressed that he was not surprised to have one of his team members be recognized for

such an award.

"James has been a dominant force in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) for the past couple of years and is now second in the OCAA in points per game," Johnston said.

The Fanshawe men's volleyball team went undefeated in the month of January, with Jackson having 52 kills, eight aces and five blocks for that month.

"When James is at his best, it forces our opponents to focus on him and allows others to have a greater impact. When James is on, he's an absolute match-changer," Johnston said.

The Falcons are now first place in the OCAA West Division and ranked first in the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) National Rankings at the time of print.

Jackson is currently enrolled in his first year of the general arts and

sciences program at Fanshawe, however this is his second year playing for the Fanshawe volleyball team.

He started playing volleyball when he was 14; while attending H.B. Beal Secondary School, he played every year on the team including his victory lap year. Meanwhile he began playing club volleyball in his grade 11 year.

Not only did he play volleyball, but he also played basketball for the majority of his life before giving it up in grade 11 to play volleyball exclusively.

Jackson explained that what he enjoys the most about the game is the involvement of everyone as a team, from a rally to even just contact during a play.

"It is so fun to be a part of such a talented team where you can trust one another to make the best contact possible," Jackson said.

Jackson explained that he attri-

butes his success to his team, and that without them playing to the best of their abilities, he wouldn't be able to succeed in the offensive position.

"Our team truly is a unit and everyone's effort contributes to reaching our goals... We outwork our opponents in every aspect and we stick to our game plan, and bring all the positive vibes we can. That's what brings us success,"

Jackson said.

Fanshawe College will be hosting the 2017 CCAA Men's Volleyball National Championship from March 8 to 11 that will hold eight men's teams from across Canada.

"I really do believe we have a special team this year, it is rare to find this much talent on the same squad at the post secondary level," Jackson said.

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