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FROM THE EDITOR

Hannah Theodore (she/her)

Dear students,
The votes are in and the numbers have been counted! Your new Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) president is Siddharth Singh.

This campaign season was more heated than in previous years, with a heavy focus on religious equality and important debates about what the FSU should be for students. This combined with the looming fears brought on by the impending international student cap, saw high levels of student interest and engagement with year’s candidates and their platforms.

In spite of this high level of interest, low voter turnout overall has led to another failed referendum by the FSU, this time seeking student support for a $2/semester ancillary fee increase to promote food security on campus. The referendum required at least 20 per cent of students to vote in order to pass, a threshold which was not met.

While voting numbers remain fairly low at Fanshawe, I sense a change in the tides. This year, Interrobang moderated a debate with the presidential candidates, moving away from the standard presidential speeches format from previous years. This allowed for more open conversations, both between candidates and student voters. The issues currently facing students are complex and many, and this year’s campaign did not shy away from any of them.

I think this is a huge step in the right direction, and a sign that students at Fanshawe want to be more engaged with student politics. And I hope they do, because as we look ahead to the future, the need for student political engagement will no doubt be more important than ever.

Congratulations to the new FSU team and thank you to all of you out there who made your voices heard this election.

Sincerely,

Hannah Theodore (she/her)
Ontario announces new post-secondary funding, extension on tuition freeze

The Ontario government has announced that colleges and universities across the province will receive additional funding of $1.3 billion, while continuing its freeze on in-province tuition until at least 2026.

This comes after the federal government recently introduced an admissions cap for international students, now limiting the number of international students that colleges and universities may admit for the next two years.

“I didn’t believe they were going to take such drastic steps,” said President of Fanshawe College, Peter Devlin. “It’s a form of punishment that will cause more damage to the province.”

Devlin went on to say that the $1.3 billion in funding will be used to provide a letter of attestation for international students who want to come to Canada for education.

“The province has yet to disclose how the $1.3 billion in funding will be divided amongst universities, but according to their own breakdown of funds, $200 million will be allocated to the ‘institutions most in need.’”

Siddharth Singh is your new Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) president.

Singh prevails, referendum fails

The votes are in, and your new Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) president is Siddhath (Sid) Singh. Singh was elected with 1,532 votes, a comfortable 556 votes ahead of runner-up Taimoor Mujhid. In third place with 508 votes was Priyesh Kumar Mishra.

Singh campaigned on a platform of teamwork, emphasizing working with students to meet their needs. His manifesto called for giving students the option to opt out of certain ancillary fees, lowering food costs at Oasis, offering $1 coffee at South Campus, and organizing more events at area campuses.

Upon learning of his win, Singh said he was feeling a “mix of emotions,” including disbelief, gratitude, and excitement.

“I feel a sense of humility,” he added. “Recognizing the weight of the expectations placed upon me by those who voted for me.”

Singh also expressed his apprecia
tion for everyone who voted for him, as well as all students who exercised their right to vote.

“I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who partici
pated in this election,” Singh said. “While some may expect me to change after winning, I assure you that my principles remain steadfast. I am here as your president and I will always act in your best interests.”

This victory is a moment for us all to celebrate, but it also signals the start of my preparations to tackle the challenges ahead.

Singh will lead a team of FSU Directors, all of whom were acclaimed to their positions rather than elected. The 2024-2025 FSU Directors are Ananya Soni, Drashti Patel, Kara D’Arcangelo, Viraj Bongane, Vraj Modi, Sarawathy Sakthivel, Farhan Malik, and Sanjay Mehta. Students also elected Shad Diw to the FSU Board of Governors.

Results of the referendum

Also on this year’s ballot was the referendum, asking students to vote either “yes” or “no” to implementing a new food security fee of $2 per semester. In spite of a lengthy campaign, spearheaded by FSU President Stephan Satthya, the referendum failed to receive enough votes to pass. For the referendum to pass, 20 per cent of students would have needed to have voted, and with only 2,785 total votes cast, the threshold was not met, meaning the referendum will not move forward.

The breakdown of votes for the refe
rendum was 1,912 in favour, 710 against, and 163 spoiled.

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This comes after the federal government recently introduced an admissions cap for international students, now limiting the number of international students that colleges and universities may admit for the next two years.

“I didn’t believe they were going to take such drastic steps,” said President of Fanshawe College, Peter Devlin. “There’s still a large bias in support of university education.”

Doug Ford and the provincial govern
ment are pushing budget increase as a way for colleges and universities to recuperate some of the anticipated losses. Minister of Colleges and Uni
versities Steve Orsini said the decision to provide additional funding will stabilize the post-secondary system without needing to increase tuition for in-province students.

“I’ve never been more important
to keep costs down for students and parents,” Dunlop said. “Instead of burdening hard-working families with higher tuition, we’re making historic investments to stabilize colleges and universities. We’re taking action to make fees more transparent.

At a press conference following the announcement, Dunlop was heavily questioned by reporters with various questions, largely focused around how the $1.3 billion in ongoing base funding into the province’s educational institutions, nearly double what the Ontario government decided to give out.

“Today’s announcement, while providing short-term relief, falls far short of what the government’s own expert panel found was urgently required,” said President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities, Steve Orsini. “Ontario’s universities now face an eight-year long tuition freeze without adequate multi-year base funding, which continues to undermine the financial sustainability of the sector.”

Ontario’s universities receive the lowest per-student funding in Canada and are only funded at $7 per cent of the national and vote,” said Orsini. “The 10 per cent tuition cut in 2019 and ongoing freeze, declining real per-student operating funding and the more than $345-million impact this year in repealing Bill 124, are further plac
ing the education, programs and services students rely on at risk.”

According to reporting by CBC, Fanshawe currently sits as one of the top three colleges and universi
ities in Canada in terms of the number of international students admitted per year, and college officials have stated they expect the cut will impact the college’s finances.

Conestoga has the largest number, admitting over 30,000 international students in 2023. Despite this, Devlin said that much of the problem stems from a lack of support from the Ontario government.

“I’m disappointed that the min
ister chose a sledgehammer instead of a scalpel to deal with the prob
lem of bad actors and housing,” Devlin said. “Tools were available, including the allocation of study visas to quality schools like Fanshawe, and having institutions provide a letter of attestation for individual international students.”

The province has yet to disclose how the $1.3 billion in funding will be divided amongst univer
sities, but according to their own breakdown of funds, $200 million will be allocated to the “institutions most in need.”
Fanshawe ranks third in Canada for highest number of international students

Following the announcement of the international student cap, government officials have insisted that private universities are responsible for the rapid growth of international students in Canada. Canada’s Immigration Minister Marc Miller went as far as to call institutions in the private sector “puppy mills,” collecting tuition high fees and churning out diplomas.

But according to a recent CBC News Investigation, among the top 10 Canadian colleges and universities granted the most international study permits last year, all but one were public institutions. Fanshawe College ranked as the third highest on the list, reportedly welcoming 11,706 international students in 2023. The exponential growth in international student enrollment at public institutions has raised eyebrows and fueled speculation regarding the driving forces behind this rapid expansion. Immigration Consultant and founder of Study2Stay, Earl Blaney attributed much of this growth to aggressive overseas marketing and recruitment tactics driven by financial incentives for education agents.

“The impression that ‘all is great in Canada’ is pervasive in overseas messaging, often painting a misleading picture of the immigration and employment landscape,” Blaney said. According to Fanshawe College, 86.7 per cent of students find work after graduation. But for Blaney, that number does not reveal the full truth. “My question for Fanshawe would be: What percentage of graduates answered this survey, and what percentage of graduates are finding jobs related to their field of employment?”

Fanshawe College has also not clarified employment rates specifically for international student post-grad. The data from CBC News also shines a light on what drove Canada’s dramatic rise in foreign student enrollment. The investigation suggests that international student tuition provided hefty revenue into colleges and universities, with each international student paying at least $15,000 per year for college programs. Meanwhile, Doug Ford’s government introduced a freeze on tuition for in-province students in 2019, while continuing to increase international student tuition and increasing international recruitment efforts. In response to the anticipated losses caused by cap, the Ontario government has announced $1.3 billion in new funding for post-secondary institutions in the province. That funding falls far short of the $2.5 billion recommended by a panel of experts in Nov. 2023, before the imposition of the cap on international study permits. President of the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU), Stephin Sathya, underscored the importance of government funding to alleviate financial burdens on international students. “Pushing for more funding from the government is essential to ensure educational sustainability without burdening international students with increased tuition fees,” Sathya asserted.

Considering budget cuts and uncertainties surrounding the cap on international students, Sathya urged Fanshawe to prioritize program quality and relevance. ‘Reducing programs that do not contribute to the economy or provide job opportunities is imperative,” Sathya stated. “We must focus on programs that lead to quality jobs and align with the economy’s needs.”

It is predicted that Ontario itself may face a potential loss of more than $1.5 billion in revenue due to a possible 50 per cent cap on study permits for international students in the province. This cap could result in approximately 100,000 fewer international students being admitted to study in Ontario this year compared to 2023. As a result, Fanshawe College is expected to be one of the most significantly affected by this restriction on international students.

BACKGROUND

On Jan. 22, the government announced a new policy regarding international student permits. The policy includes a temporary two-year cap on international study permits, imposing 35 per cent decrease from the previous year. The cap allocation will be determined based on the population of each province. Some provinces may experience more significant reductions than others. The provinces and territories will collaborate to decide how the cap will be distributed among the designated learning institutions under their jurisdiction.
Fanshawe horticulture student donations surpass 1,000 lbs of microgreens

In February of 2023, Fanshawe’s Horticulture Technician students began donating microgreens to the London Food Bank and have now surpassed 1,000 lbs donated.

The idea to donate microgreens came from student Brynna Kirkwood, who was looking into building a business surrounding it and saw the aid that it could provide to the Food Bank, which was then supported by the program’s technicians.

“Microgreens are like a super-food,” Food Bank Greenhouse Coordinator, Luis Reyes said. “They grow very quickly and are incredibly nutrient rich. Most people find it really simple to add microgreens to a dish, even if they have picky children.”

Over 95 per cent of clients at the Food Bank happily accept microgreens such as basil, cilantro, and parsley when picking up their food. The incorporation of microgreens can brighten meals, while also offering densely packed nutrients.

The Horticulture Technician students have been donating a large variety of fresh produce grown on campus for years, ranging from cherry tomatoes to leafy greens like lettuce and kale, but the inclusion of microgreens has been a welcome addition.

“We can’t offer microgreens everyday, but we would if we could,” Reyes said. “Many people think that all of the food we offer is processed or canned goods, but over half of it is actually fresh items. Lots of items will be selected by some people, but ignored by others, but almost everyone takes microgreens if they are available.”

Fanshawe College and the Food Bank plan to continue their partnership indefinitely, with new plans on the horizon on ways that the college can further contribute.

As food prices continue to rise, many Londoners, including an increasing number of students, rely on the Food Bank to meet their nutritional needs. It provides a vital service to the city and Fanshawe College students have, and continue to be, important contributors.

“We have an incredible relationship with Fanshawe,” said Reyes. “Not only does the horticulture team provide us with donations, but the fashion team also offers recycled textiles for fertilizer, and we have hundreds of monthly volunteers for all kinds of positions. Students who want to join in can go to our website.”

With such a major contribution, the Horticulture Technician students, and Fanshawe students as a whole, have continued to play an important role in feeding the community.

Fanshawe alumni recognized in Mayor’s New Year’s Honour List

Fanshawe College alumni have made a mark on this year’s Mayor’s New Year’s Honour List. The Mayor’s New Year’s Honour List is an esteemed recognition of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community of London across various domains.

Among the honourees was Jennifer Williams, an alumnus of Fanshawe College’s Emergency Management program, who was acknowledged for her efforts in enhancing accessibility within the city, specifically with Airshow London, a non-profit that aims to raise funds and awareness for the Children’s Health Foundation, veterans’ support charities, and student aviation scholarships.

Williams, the Director of Volunteers for Airshow London, was recognized for her dedication to ensuring inclusivity and support for individuals of all backgrounds, languages, and abilities for the annual aviation event. Reflecting on her unexpected nomination, Williams shared her surprise upon receiving the call.

“I was on holiday, at home, and one of my coworkers called me and said that the Mayor’s office is calling for you, and that’s strange because I don’t have anything to do with the Mayor’s office on a day to day basis,” Williams said. “And so, I called them. And it turns out that one of the volunteers from the Airshow nominated me. Didn’t even mention it to me, just put my name forward.”

As thrilled as she was, Williams kept the news to herself at first.

“If I wasn’t allowed to tell anyone except for my family,” she said. “And so as soon as the announcement went live, they messaged all their friends, posted about it on social media, and told the whole family.”

Williams said her commitment to accessibility stems from her personal experiences.

“My nana had MS [Multiple Sclerosis], and she was in a wheelchair, and I believe that influenced how I interacted with people with special needs,” she explained. “Looking back as an adult, I think she had a huge part in shaping how I viewed the world that way. She passed away when I was in grade six, but I believe that it has stuck with me all these years.”

Williams’ grandfather, meanwhile, was in the Air Force, and there are pictures of him taking Williams to the Airshow when she was just baby. Today, Williams has been with the Airshow since 2022.

“When I did my placement with Airshow, I just got hooked,” she said. “It was something I was passionate about, and I loved it. And I just wanted to ensure everyone else could love it as much as I could.”

Williams was subsequently offered a position as a Director of Volunteers, which she embraced wholeheartedly.

“It was something I was passionate about, and I loved it. And I just wanted to ensure everyone else could love it as much as I could. And, when I was allowed to work with Airshow and have this be part of my job, I jumped on it.”

Williams has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues for promoting inclusivity and supporting volunteering for the Airshow London, and her inclusion on the Mayor’s Honour List is the culmination of that.
Fanshawe students propose innovative design plans for St. Thomas Railway Lands

The East London Link will revitalize the intersection of Highbury Ave N. and Oxford St. E. This project has multi-dimensional aspects to it, including economic development, planning and land use, streetscape design, traffic and transportation, and environmental considerations.

The project is divided into four phases, with each phase focusing on different aspects of the project. The first phase, called “Urban Ecotourism,” will focus on creating a visitor space that showcases the history and culture of St. Thomas railway lands. The second phase, called “EcoStation,” will focus on creating a sustainable and accessible transportation hub for the area. The third phase, called “Urban Ecosystem,” will focus on creating a green and sustainable environment for the area. The fourth phase, called “Urban Economy,” will focus on creating a vibrant and profitable economy for the area.

The project is expected to start in 2024 and will be completed in 2026. The project is expected to create over 200 jobs and generate over $100 million in economic benefits for the area.

The project is expected to be funded by a combination of government grants, private investment, and public-private partnerships. The project is expected to have a positive impact on the local economy and community, and will help to transform the area into a vibrant and sustainable community for generations to come.
The votes are in!

2024/25 FSU President

1. Siddharth Singh ...............1532
2. Taimoor Mujahid ...............556
3. Priteshkumar Mishra ...........508
   Spoiled ..................189

2024/25 Board of Governors

1. Shadé Dias ......................1608
2. Harsh Bhavikbhai Patel .......915
   Spoiled ..................303

2024/25 FSU Directors

Vraj Bongane
Kara D’Arcangelo
Farhan Malek
Sanket Meht
Vraj Modi
Drahsi Patel
Saraswathy Sakthivel
Ananya Soni

2024 FSU Referendum

No....710
Yes...1912 *below 20 per cent threshold to pass

Spoiled ..............163
The international student cap will have painful impacts on everyone.

Adam D. Kearney (he/him)

Grief & Eugenics: An Ableist Horror Story, Part 13

This is the article’s final part in a series of excerpts from Fanshawe grad Adam D. Kearney’s essay, Grief & Eugenics: An Ableist Horror Story. Disability doula is a term I recently learned from Dr. Lakshmi Prpaaz-Samarasinha’s book The Future Is Disabled, and it is exactly as it sounds. It is someone who assists in the transition when someone accepts disability. Something else that I have learned from her writing, as well as many others, is just how rich and diverse the disability community is. Folks with disability are a creative group of individuals who have had to learn to not rely on systems that have continually failed us. We have been forced to find our own way. We have been forced to become problem solvers. We have been forced to create. A place for people with disabilities to live and to live a life free from the shame of being different is not the problem, but rather, the world around us. The Government of Canada has made the decision to limit the number of international students allowed into the country by half for the next two years. They have cited the strain that such a large number of temporary residents has had on the housing system as the primary cause. Housing is a major concern for nearly everyone in London and certainly most students, but when I think of reasons that housing is unaffordable, I can’t say that 10 students living in a house is really the issue that comes to mind. But let’s say they are right. For just a moment, let’s pretend that this change would make a staggering impact on our housing market and make living affordable for all. Would that make this right? No, it would not. I turn to our system, or even a cap of some kind, would not have necessarily been wrong. The main issue that I see is that this was put into action with far too little warning for both students and schools. Does the government have a fraction of an idea how much planning goes into this process for so many of these students? For many, studying in Canada is a process that takes years of preparation. First off, Canada requires $20,000 in the bank just to apply and even after that, the work is far from over. Have you ever tried to learn a language past the jumbled mess of gibberish that was the result of your French classes? International students saved and planned for years about their respect for all post-secondary education. They have funded campaigns supporting respect for the trades and begged every high school to send kids into them. Surely, international students looking to fill the needs of our country would be the first chosen right? Guess again, because unless you are pursuing education at the level of a master’s degree or higher, you are not even allowed to bring your family. That includes students studying to be nurses, many of which already are certified in their countries. They have made it clear who they view as worthy of investing in, and it is just as patently ignorable as you would expect. Right now, we need nurses, construction workers, and electricians far more than we need philosophy majors.

As the people of Akwesasne know, the real measure of a community is determined not so much by the independence of its members as the extent to which INTERDEPENDENCE has meaning for each individual living there.” From the book TE-WA-KWE-KON: Together As One. The cover photo was taken on the one year anniversary of losing Jonas. I am not exactly sure why I took, or even kept the selfie until this was my rock bottom, but as you have just read, it wasn’t. The Adam on the cover is not the same Adam that wrote this essay. I have my family and friends to thank for that. Thank you. Each and every single one of you. Peace, Love & Understanding, Adam & Pogue the dog. This memoir essay was published as a zine in Jan. 2023. If you enjoy it and feel you would like to support the author: you can find a pay what you can PDF or purchase a physical copy at fanshawecompany.com.
Fanshawe Rotaract Club illuminates service, leadership

The Rotaract Club of Fanshawe has a goal to foster a spirit of community service, leadership, and personal development among its members. The group embodies the spirit of service above self, drawing together students from various disciplines with a shared vision of contributing to a better world.

“What we do is very simple. We provide a platform for students to promote a sense of social responsibility and personal development. At a certain level of consciousness, relatively speaking, there is nothing greater than the feeling of the heart of generosity,” said Rotaract Club president Abass Ayoni Bakare. “We foster the experience of community service among members by engaging in volunteer and charitable initiatives.”

The Rotaract Club offers Fanshawe students a unique platform to engage in community service, professional development and international service projects. It operates under the guiding principles of Leadership Service, aiming to equip members with the skills and experiences needed to foster positive change. Under the guidance of dedicated faculty, advisors and the mentorship from members of the local Rotary Club, Fanshawe’s Rotaract members embark on a journey that transcends the conventional college experience. From organizing different types of events to humanitarian projects, the club’s activities are designed to address the pressing challenges of our time while promoting peace, conflict and resolution.

Around the holiday season for example, members of the club recognized an opportunity to make a significant impact on the local community outside the confines of the college. They decided to reach out to a retirement home in London, planning a Christmas concert that would bring the festive spirit to its residents.

“It was such a beautiful day. We performed Christmas songs Mariah Carey’s ‘All I Want for Christmas Is You,’ Michael Bublé’s ‘It’s Beginning to Look Like Christmas’ and then we infused some pop songs to elevate the mood,” said Bakare. “We spent time with them, they didn’t want us to leave. It’s so heartwarming what warm, meaningful impacts can do and mean more than just a visit.”

Armed with enthusiasm and a repertoire of holiday classics, the Rotaract Club members embarked on this festive mission. This visit to the retirement home is something Bakare hopes the residents are going to remember forever.

In other ways of giving to the community, the club keeps the students of Fanshawe in the back of their mind during the colder season. “In the winter, we go around handing hundreds of students balaclavas, and gloves. These gloves you don’t need to take off and you can still use your phone with them on,” said Bakare. “We also visit people’s homes with disabilities. We will be helping them with their laundry, dishes, cleaning, and even shovelling the snow in their driveways when it snows.”

The impact of this group is evident in the stories of the communities and individuals it has touched. Whether it’s through the smiles of students or the cheering and happiness of the elderly, the club’s contributions are a testament to the power of collective action.

The Fanshawe College Rotaract Club stands as a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration for students seeking to make a difference. It challenges the conventional notion of a college club proving that when young people come together under the banner of service, the impact can be profound and far reaching.

As the club looks to the future, it invites all Fanshawe students to join its ranks.

“I am going to say to the students of Fanshawe, join our club to make an impact,” Bakare said.

Whether one’s passion lies in tackling environmental issues, promoting health and wellness, or advocating for peace and justice, the Rotaract Club offers the pathway to meaningful engagement and personal growth.
For just $20,000 and a $5 shipping fee, you can unfold your dream home. A recent trend on TikTok shows many young adults purchasing mobile, foldable homes off Amazon and turning them into livable spaces as a cheaper alternative to buying a home or renting an apartment. But is this really a viable option?

The concept of shippable homes has been around since the start of the 20th century, starting as pre-cut homes made from wood, typically sold at lumber mills. These homes were shown in catalogues where people could pick out the model, have them shipped to them in a week, and then assembled like a giant Lego set.

In the modern era, the concept is somewhat similar, except instead of assembling it piece by piece, your home is unfolded from a rectangle and set into place just after a few hours. The average size of these homes is around 400 sq ft to 600 sq ft, which is roughly the size of a studio apartment. Most come with a fully equipped bathroom and half-kitchen, alongside electric and water.

If that all sounds too good to be true, that’s because it might be.

Of course, it’s an amazing opportunity to be able to own your own space, but finding a plot of land to place it makes it questionable.

Ken Judge, an economics professor from Fanshawe, said there are many pros and cons to living out of these mobile structures but that buying one must be thought out with logic.

“It all depends on what your situation is,” Judge said. “If you have a small home and you’re going to invest, I would think more long-term and decide whether or not something on that side is going to be attainable or comfortable for you to live in because as a first-time home buyer, you don’t know how long you’re going to stay there.”

People need to consider what their future entails and where path in life they’re seeking. Homes are investments and so are families when it comes to aspects of personal growth.

These foldable dwellings make a great living quarter out of a condensed small space for a fraction of the price of a larger-sized home. But how much does someone need to make to maintain and upkeep these structures as time passes? Judge said it’s necessary to consider the maintenance costs of these homes if saving for the future is important to you.

“If you’re looking just to be cost-effective then yes, it would probably work and fit within your budget and from another standpoint, it could allow you to start saving towards your dream house,” Judge said.

Once your foldable home has fulfilled its purpose in your life, how do you move on and make a financial return on an investment? If a trend like this grows exponentially, then that may lead to a surplus of container homes that no one will know how to get rid of.

“If there is a market for it? For sure,” Judge said. “However, you have to do your homework. What’s the duration? Is it going to take off and be a part of the market? I don’t see those things doing that, so the recyclability of something like that might be very difficult and you might take a big loss on it.”

These mobile homes can be seen as both a blessing and a curse depending on the situation at hand. They can be beneficial, both financially and in terms of livability, but it all depends on what your plans pan out to be.
London has welcomed a vibrant new cultural hub, Casa Latina, where the Latinx community can socialize, celebrate, and connect. Founded by Daniella Quinones from Colombia and David Ayala from El Salvador, Casa Latina is more than just a meeting place; it’s a dynamic space designed to foster community, celebrate Latinx culture, and provide a welcoming environment for all.

Nestled on 150 Dundas St. near Fanshawe’s downtown campus, Casa Latina opened its doors on Feb. 17 with a lively celebration featuring live music and dance as a festive tribute to Latinx music.

“We had a little bit of everything, which was our goal to have a variety of folks from different Latin countries,” Quinones said. “And it was great. The people enjoyed themselves with the dancing and having a new space to discover. That was good fun, and it was packed.”

The hub offers a range of weekly programming and events that Londoners can check on the Casa Latina website, including the Spanish-Speaking Circle on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. and Mercadito Latino, a vibrant Latin Market held every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., offering an array of Latin American delights and wares.

“The idea is to keep this space as busy as possible with the community. So, it’s meant to be a gathering space,” Quinones said.

Ayala explained that Casa Latina was a project by their organization, CulturX (pronounced Cultura), which was born to celebrate Latinx culture in London. According to the website, CulturX launched in 2020 and is dedicated to uplifting local Latin American businesses and providing invaluable resources and information to the community.

“We realized that Latinos need a space to celebrate their culture and authentically speak for them in London, which we did not have,” Ayala said.

Quinones emphasized the expansion of activities, mentioning cultural workshops, exhibitions, and even night dance parties planned for weekends. “We’re trying to attract people, not just with the food, but the ambiance and idea of gathering and community and being together.”

At the same time, Ayala highlighted Casa Latina’s accessibility, welcoming private events and community gatherings.

“So if you want to have your birthday party here and or come up with your friends and have a private event, you can do it,” Ayala said. “And we try to do it in the most affordable way possible. We are also open for the community to have their events here.”

Casa Latina is quickly becoming a cornerstone of downtown. Whether you want to immerse yourself in Latin dance rhythms, practice Spanish conversation, or savour traditional dishes, Casa Latina offers a welcoming space.

“Even if you grew up here or were a recently migrating immigrant, you notice that there must be a place to get together, hang out, or speak Spanish freely,” Ayala said.

As Casa Latina continues to grow and expand its offerings, it is a testament to London’s Latinx community’s rich diversity and vibrant spirit.
On the opening night of In Seven Days at the Grand Theatre, I had the privilege of sitting within three rows of the playwright for this very touching production. Jordi Mand, whose words were beautifully brought to life at the theatre, left the entire audience deeply moved as the actors portrayed a Jewish family navigating challenging times.

The 90-minute show, affectionately branded, “a comedy about death,” made me think about saying goodbye to loved ones, MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying), and how religion might affect the MAID process. Although In Seven Days has now concluded its run in London, this article paints a picture of what I personally took away from this production.

To set the scene, the backdrop of each act was a London family home with an open concept living room and kitchen. This was a very warm-coloured floral wallpaper traditionally styled home with its doors and an art gallery for guests to explore what people have been doing in the local community.

To kick off the spring season, Fanshawe’s Innovation Village is set to host the Blossom Spring Market. The market will be held from March 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This season’s market was organized by students who are a part of the Special Events Planning program.

“Many of the vendors are students from the college who will be marketing their business at the event. We are thrilled to support our student entrepreneurs!”

Another business partaking in the market is Fanshawe alumni who have started their businesses since graduating.

The market will have plenty of vendors for students to enjoy and take part in. Two of the market’s organizers, Jacob Neil and Megh Zacharia, gave a rundown on what fun awaits.

A lot of it is based on the vendors we have,” said Zacharia.

“Blossom team has been making bracelets, a selfie station at the market, the FSU popcorn stand, and a whole lot of vendors for people to come around and explore what people have been doing in the local community.”

The options of vendors are endless, from custom jewelry to homemade goods.

“We have a preserves company, Minerva Resin, where they’ll be doing custom resin work, a handful of candle and crystal vendors that have some cool stuff and the other ones that are closely tied to our event theme of mental health, like Stevie’s Safe Space, which has clothing and stickers that are for [2SLGBTQIA+] rights and activities in the mental health area surrounding that,” Neil said.

Aside from shopping, students can also take a peek at artworks created by students in Fanshawe’s Fine Art program.

“We have around 18 pieces of art that students can pay $15 for and it’s a really beautiful art piece,” said Zacharia.

All the proceeds being gathered from the Blossom Spring Market are being donated to the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) to provide students with free transportation to their 24/7 crisis centre.
I know that I am an atom. I wish people would stop saying I make everything up, I am not a liar.

I would recommend losing the extra negativity, and focus on being positive.

Horoscopes

Aries
Relying on others is okay. You may be independent, but sometimes it’s better to have a friend or family member you can count on, rather than trying to do it all alone. Sharing your experiences and emotions with someone you trust can help you feel more connected and understood.

Libra
Address issues concerning friends, relatives, and colleagues. It’s time to redefine who you are and what you want others to think of you in your relationships. Building strong bonds with others requires dedication and focus. Communicate your thoughts and feelings clearly, and be open to understanding others’ perspectives.

Taurus
You may desire change, but if you take time to initiate something new and exciting, it will be easier to accept. Change can be unsettling, but it also requires you to be open to new possibilities. Be patient and give yourself time to adjust.

Scorpio
Set a budget for entertainment; a lack of organization can lead to costly mistakes. Focus on reducing costs and increasing income. Look for ways to cut expenses and increase your savings. Be mindful of your spending habits.

Cancer
Let’s get physical and work through any anxiety. Exercising is a great way to release tension and focus your mind. Consider trying a new workout routine or exploring a new sport or exercise that challenges you.

Sagittarius
You’ll feel more in control if you believe everything you hear. Expect someone to use emotional manipulation to influence your perspective, and be aware of the potential risks. Stay grounded and maintain a clear perspective regarding an important matter.

Leo
Don’t try to change the present. Use your experiences as a measuring point to ensure you are making the right decisions. Take a moment to reflect on the past before making major changes.

Capricorn
The interrobang.ca

Editorial Cartoon by Mauricio Francé

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theinterrobang.ca

2024 Elections
Created by Briana Brissett © 2024

I THINK WE SHOULD TALK CAN WE TALK?

FRONTLINE
Students attend a Smash Wrestling event in the Student Centre on Jan. 11.

The Fanshawe Falcons men’s volleyball team is officially headed to nationals following their matchup against the Humber Hawks at the OCAA championships.

The Falcons, who were the second ranked team in the West, battled against the Hawks, coming in as the number five team in the West and the three-time defending champions.

The game took place at Fanshawe’s Glenn Johnston Athletic Centre, where the Falcons looked to get out to an early lead in the first set. Jack Vogt opened things up with an ace, helping the team to a 6-3 lead early on.

The Hawks were able to keep up the pace though, with Fanshawe holding a slight 17-15 advantage before Humber was able to get ahead to take the first set 25-20.

Similar to the first set, the Falcons got to an early lead in the second set, with Jayden Crowther making some key blocks for the team to bring them to a 7-4 lead. Zack Admans contributed with some key kills in the tight set, helping to take the lead 25-22.

In the third set things were close between the two teams, with points being exchanged leading to a tie at 9-9. The tide turned in the Hawks’ favour though, thanks to the efforts of Alain Pineault and Josh Nicholson, as well as Jaskarn Kalsi, who was able to record three kills during a run that would see the Hawks taking the set 25-19.

The Falcons were able to rally though, with kills from Daniel Ridings as well as an ace from Vogt helping to get Fanshawe back in the lead. The men built on their lead, gaining momentum thanks to three consecutive kills from Admans and ultimately taking the set 25-20.

This forced a fifth and final set between the two teams. Humber took the lead first, going on a 6-3 run thanks to consistent kills from three of the Hawks’ primary players. The Falcons would mount a comeback though, scoring four straight to take the lead. The lead would then change hands between the two teams, similar to how the rest of the day had gone so far.

Fanshawe would end up falling behind though, with the Hawks going on a run to take a 15-12 win and successfully taking the match, becoming four-time champions in the process.

Through the game, Humber finished with a .265 hitting percentage versus Fanshawe’s .178, but the Falcons finished with more digs at 56 as well as more than double the amount of aces at 9 versus Humber’s 4.

For the Falcons, Admans was named as the player of the match after scoring 21 points and a .432 kill percentage. As well, Admans and Ridings were both named as Fanshawe’s OCAA Tournament All-Stars, with Humber’s Marcus Morgan being named player of the match as well as being named the OCAA Tournament MVP.

Even with the loss, Fanshawe along with Humber will both be heading to the CCAA men’s volleyball Championships. The tournament will be held at Camosun College in Victoria, British Columbia from March 7-10.
**GAME NIGHT**
Monday, March 11th
Alumni Lounge
6pm Friendlies | 7pm Tournament Start
FREE EVENT
Connect with us @ fsu.ca/discord

**Tax Clinics**
Tuesday, March 12
Tuesday, March 26
Tuesday, April 2
10am - 1pm
Student Centre | Alumni Lounge
For more information and a list of criteria and documents to bring, please go to: fsu.ca/events
First come, first served.
Close will close at 1pm.

**PI DAY**
MARCH 14 | 11AM
LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS (F1066)
GAMES, PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS! FREE TART WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

**FANSHAWE Accounting Association**
*Must be a Fanshawe student with a modest income and simple tax situation.*

**ACADEMIC INTEGRI-TEA**
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13
11AM-1PM
Student Centre
www.fsu.ca/events

**FINANCIAL BINGO**
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
1pm - 3pm | Alumni Lounge
FREE EVENT
First come, first served.
Close will close at 3pm.

**GAME NIGHT**
Monday, March 18th
Alumni Lounge
6pm Friendlies | 7pm Tournament Start
FREE EVENT
Connect with us @ fsu.ca/discord

**March Birthday Month!**
Thursday, March 21
Forwell Hall
12pm-3pm
Is your birthday in March?
Come get treats and all the warmest wishes from us!

**St. Patrick’s Day Pub**
Thursday, March 14
The Out Back Shack
8PM | FREE
DJ Deon Carter
Drink Specials
Giveaways

**FANSHAWE at the KNIGHTS**
**FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND**
7:00 PM BUDWEISER GARDENS, DOWNTOWN LONDON
Tickets available at the Biz Booth

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Close will close at 3pm.

To contribute contact:
Hannah Theodore, Editor
519.452.4109 x16323
h.theodore@fanshawec.ca
FANSHAWE’S STUDENT VOICE