

INTERROBANG





PUBLICATIONS MANAGER

John Said
jsaid@fanshawec.ca
519.452.4109 x. 6320

EDITOR

Hannah Theodore
h_theodore@fanshawec.ca
519.452.4109 x. 6323

ADVERTISING

Deena Griffin
d_griffin5@fanshawec.ca
519.452.4109 x. 6325

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Darby Deline
ddeline@fanshawec.ca
519.452.4109 x. 6321

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Megan Easveld
m_easveld47176@fanshawec.ca
519.452.4109 x. 6332

VIDEOGRAPHER

Brendan Beamish
b_beamish5@Fanshawec.ca
519.452.4109 x. 6326

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Allen Gaynor
agaynor@fanshawec.ca
519.452.4109 x. 6324

CONTRIBUTORS

Savannah Bisailon, Emily Giann, Jessica Gould, Ian Indiano, Aisha Javaid, Bradley Kraemer, Ana Lustosa, Kate Otterbein, Dee-Dee Samuels, Amy Simon, Svitlana Stryhun

COLUMNISTS

Michael Veenema

COMICS

Laura Billson, Dylan Charette, Alan Dungo, Anthony Labonte, Chris Miszczak, Andres Silva

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Tara Armstrong, Daniel Gouveia

ILLUSTRATORS

Dylan Charette, Riley De Matos, Ian Indiano

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Gary Hopkins, Jessica Wilson



Mission Statement: The Interrobang is a student-funded, student-run newspaper at Fanshawe College published by the Fanshawe College Student Union. It serves the student readership by reporting news involving the Fanshawe campus community, surrounding areas and student activities across Canada. The Interrobang strives to be impartial in its reporting and believes in the public's right to know.

Land Acknowledgment: Interrobang acknowledges that our office is situated on the shared traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenapeewak, and Attawandaron peoples. The First Nations communities of our local area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. We affirm the importance of our relationship with Indigenous peoples and students at Fanshawe College.

COVER:
Dylan Charette

Legal: Editorial opinions or comments expressed in this newspaper reflect the views of the writer and are not those of the Interrobang or the Fanshawe Student Union. All photographs are copyright 2019 by Fanshawe Student Union. All rights reserved. The Interrobang is printed by McLaren Press Graphics, 1021 Langford Drive, Gravenhurst ON P1P 1R1 and published weekly by the Fanshawe Student Union at 1001 Fanshawe College Blvd., Room SC2001, London, Ontario, N5Y 5R6 and distributed through the Fanshawe College community.

Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters are subject to editing and should be emailed. All letters must be accompanied by contact information. Letters can also be submitted online at theinterrobang.ca by following the Interrobang links.

Proud Member Of: Canadian University Press (CUP), Ontario Community Newspapers Association (OCNA).

With contributions by: The Western Gazette.



theinterrobang.ca



fsuinterrobang interrobang_fsu



fsuinterrobang



FROM THE EDITOR Hannah Theodore

Dear readers,
Welcome to the final issue of Interrobang for 2021. We're closing out the year with our annual Holiday Issue, in the hope of brightening your spirits after another trepidatious trip around the sun.

Many of us hoped, at the end of 2020, that perhaps 2021 would be the year everything would return to normal. Yet here we stand, still divided, plagued by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the ever-present concern of climate change lingering even heavier over our heads. These mixed emotions of holiday joy and fear for the future are highlighted in reporter Amy Simon's Opinion article on why we love white Christmases, as well as in columnist Ian Indiano's sequel to a feature he wrote last year called "Home Alone for Christmas." This year, he expanded on his ideas of loneliness by touching on how the Metaverse, in an effort to "bring people together," could actually be keeping us further apart.

Our featured articles explore everything from holiday décor trends to which adaptation of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is best. Reporter Ana Lustosa, meanwhile, examines how spending the holidays with friends can be just as meaningful as spending it with family.

Who knows what next year will hold for students? Until we find out, let us celebrate the season with friends, hug the ones we love tight, and tell the ones who matter most that we care for them. And of course, enjoy the various stories of holidays past and present that live within this newspaper.

Happy holidays and a joyous new year,



Letters to the Editor: fsuleters@fanshawec.ca



CampusBus.ca

Pick up service from the FSU Student Centre to:

- Mississauga
- York University
- Union Station
- Royal Ontario Museum
- And more!

BOOK YOUR SEAT!



COVID-19 outbreak declared at Merlin House residence

Hannah Theodore
INTERROBANG

The Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) has declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at Merlin House residence at Fanshawe College, marking the campus' first documented outbreak since the start of the pandemic.

The outbreak was first declared on Nov. 28 after three confirmed cases were reported in the residence.

MLHU Communications Manager, Dan Flaherty said the outbreak is not necessarily an indication of the presence of the virus, but rather of spread in a given location.

The news of the outbreak comes as Western University also grapples with its first outbreak of the school year, after a now-total of eight students in Saugeen-Maitland Hall contracted the virus. According to the health unit, there is no connection between the outbreak at Western and the outbreak at Fanshawe, despite them arising just one day apart.

"The transmission that has been

seen in the Fanshawe and Western outbreaks over the weekend happened largely from social interactions indoors, no masks, social environments," said acting medical officer of health Dr. Alex Summers during a media briefing on Nov. 29.

Elaine Gamble, a spokesperson for the college said in an email that steps are being taken to contain the outbreak at Merlin.

"Those students are in isolation and are following the instructions they received from the MLHU," she said. "As of Nov. 24, guest restrictions for Merlin House and Merlin House residents have been in place in an effort to protect the residence community. These restrictions will remain in place until further notice."

According to Summers, there is no evidence of transmission within any classroom settings, although Western put together a public list of classes that could have potentially been affected.

Fanshawe, meanwhile, has not released any official communication regarding the outbreak at Merlin House. The college has been quietly making plans for a return to in-person

learning in the winter term, as well as modified policies surrounding mandatory vaccinations.

Starting in January, anyone who has yet to submit proof of vaccination will now be required to upload it to the college's new internal verification system. However, those who have already submitted proof through Verified by Synergy will automatically have their information transferred to the new system.

In a recent note to staff, the college said that all employees, regardless of status, who are not fully vaccinated will be placed on full leave without pay starting Jan. 3. Once fully vaccinated, they will be permitted to return to work. Additionally, unvaccinated employees will no longer be eligible for vacation use while on a leave without pay and all employees placed on leave without pay will remain as such until further notice or until they become fully vaccinated. Decisions regarding employment status will be made on a case by case basis.

Also starting in January, residences, which so far this year have been operating at a decreased



CREDIT: HANNAH THEODORE

The outbreak at Merlin House marks the college's first of the academic year.

capacity, will return to full capacity. Access to athletics facilities, fitness centre and dining options will also be increasing. There is little information at this time as to how these services will increase. During the fall term, only Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) funded dining options have been open, including Oasis and Out Back Shack, while Chartwells

eateries like Starbucks, Tim Hortons and Subway have remained closed.

The fall term was generally successful in terms of vaccination compliance. Overall, 94 per cent of blended students and 98 per cent of staff were compliant with the policy. Meanwhile the college granted exemptions to 23 students and five staff members.

Saugeen declares COVID-19 outbreak after several students positive

Hope Mahood
GAZETTE

Western is asking students in seven first-year courses as well as those living in Saugeen-Maitland Hall to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 after the local health unit declared an outbreak in the residence on Nov. 27.

All students who tested positive are quarantined outside of the residence and all close contacts in the building have been notified.

Western University said there is "no evidence of classroom transmission at this time" but out of "an abundance of caution" sent an email asking students in Saugeen and the following classes to monitor for symptoms:

- **Chemistry 1301A**, Natural Science Centre, Nov. 19 or 22, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- **Physics 1201A**, Natural Science Centre, Nov. 19, 22 or 24, 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.
- **Earth Science 1083F**, Social Science Centre, Nov. 22, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- **Economics 1021A**, Social Science Centre, Nov. 22 or 24, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- **Computer Science 1033A**, Middlesex College, Nov. 22, 10:30 to 12:30 p.m.
- **MOS 1021A**, North Campus Building, Nov. 25, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Economics 1021A tutorial**, Social Science Centre, Nov. 26, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



CREDIT: LIAM J. AFONSO (GAZETTE)

Students walk up to Saugeen-Maitland Hall, Jan. 31, 2019.

The affected classes occurred between Nov. 19 and 26. Any individuals who are not fully vaccinated and may have been exposed are asked to quarantine for 10 days and seek immediate PCR testing.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit has deemed classrooms "low-risk" settings for communal spread.

Saugeen's outbreak marks Western's first of the academic year and its first since introducing the vaccine mandate, which required all staff and students to be fully vaccinated or submit exemption by Oct. 12. Over 99 per cent of Western's students and staff are fully vaccinated. The university saw at least 14 outbreaks last year before the vaccine mandate was in effect.

"Even with a vaccination requirement to live in residence, and a campus student vaccination rate of 99 per cent, breakthrough cases can still occur," read the email Western sent to students in Saugeen. "Students have made sacrifices and have been careful this year to protect each other. This outbreak reminds us of how unrelenting this virus can be."

Any students who are fully vaccinated and not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 can continue to attend class in-person on campus unless they've received instructions from the MLHU to do otherwise.

Students experiencing symptoms are asked to seek testing at Western's on-campus vaccination centre.

MIA alumni band, New Friends, win nation-wide contest

Kate Otterbein
INTERROBANG

A band that got their start in the halls of Fanshawe College, New Friends, came out on top in a nation-wide contest. New Friends won Slight Music's It's Your Shot contest worth \$100,000.

"We entered the contest in, I think, January," said keyboard player, Ayden Miller. "We were sent a link from one of the professors and put in a submission, not really thinking anything of it. As the months went on, we found out we got into the top 25. Then it was the top 10, top five."

New Friends met in the music industry arts (MIA) program. The band consists of Stefan Boulineau (lead singer), Conrad Galecki (bass, drums, backup singer), Cole Wilson (guitar), and Miller. When they got the call, they said they were stoked.

"It's been a kind of overwhelming experience," said Miller. "We've been working so hard with the band for the last two years. Throughout the pandemic, it feels like we've been working every day towards our goals and to find out that someone is interested in investing on your dreams is really cool."

The prize package includes recording six original songs, worldwide distribution of a multiplatform digital EP release, promotion and marketing help (including the development of an official website), as well as live performance opportunities in 2021 and beyond.

"I think we're pretty self-sustainable almost in a way, but to have people to work with and build a team around, it's going to be huge," said Miller. "I think it can definitely help us market our music better and hopefully get us out to a larger audience."



CREDIT: KATE OTTERBEIN

New Friends performing at London Music Hall's Rum Runners venue on Nov. 19, 2021.

MIA program coordinator, Dan Brodbeck, is an avid supporter of the band. Every song they have released has been mixed by him.

"When I heard their first song, 'Purple Candy,' I loved it so much I offered to mix it for free," said Brodbeck. "This award is the result of the band's talent, hard work, and support from our MIA crew. I'm beaming with pride for what they've accomplished and the opportunities in front of them."

"Purple Candy" has garnered almost 3.5 million streams on Spotify and was featured on CTV's *Private Eyes*. With all of the exciting things happening for New Friends, the boys said that MIA played a key role.

"It was such an amazing program," said Miller. "They prepared us for everything. I think if we hadn't gone through the program and learned what we did, we definitely wouldn't be as prepared as we are now for things coming up in our careers. And obviously, we wouldn't have met. It was a very special two years."

The members all graduated in the spring of 2020 and recently released a new EP. *Lovestruck* can be listened to on streaming services now.

Meet Fanshawe's first Esports coordinator



CREDIT: BRENDAN BEAMISH

The newly created role for Tyler Hetherington is a title shared by only three others across the country.

Jessica Gould
INTERROBANG

The Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) is creating a milestone by investing in the future of competitive gaming.

Tyler Hetherington is Fanshawe's first Esports coordinator. As it stands, the U.S. has over 450 varsity Esports programs while Canada is slowly catching up. The newly created role for Hetherington is a title shared by only three others across the country. After working for the FSU as an events and activities coordinator, Hetherington pitched the idea to invest more into the world of Esports.

"The FSU is kind of being leaders in the field in this," he said. "Really investing and going forward in the future with this Esports program. It's amazing to see the FSU really believe in it and make it such a big pillar of our programming moving forward."

"I took the job as the events and activities coordinator about five years ago," he added. "And the Esports program that it has now morphed into was something I pitched pretty early. It started off as weekly in-person tournaments, and it adapted to what it is today. Over 14 competitive teams competing collegiately, a lot of in-person events, a great community of over 1,200 Fanshawe students who are all super supportive of each other, and we just have events all the time."

Fanshawe's Ultimate Esports League, more commonly known as FUEL is a gaming hub for students to take part in discussing games, get involved with teams, and participate in tournaments. With the investment, Hetherington is looking forward to FUEL growing to become "bigger and better."

"We even have tier two (T2) teams, which is students coming together to get better at the game. So, they could potentially play for one of our top-level teams. It's a cool thing that's been built, and it's great that it's gotten to where it is today."

Esports team captain Adam Boyce said he was excited about the new role for Hetherington and what it could mean for the future of FUEL with upcoming projects.

"Canada is really behind on a lot of the teams in the U.S., they actually will have full arenas or centres that their teams play together on campus with," said Boyce. "And I know that's one of the projects [Hetherington's] working on that everybody's excited for because it's just so much more fun to be able to play with your friends in the same room as them rather than having to play from your own home and talk to them over the phone or something like that. I know he has a lot of projects coming, and it's really exciting to see him get this recognition that he needs because he's put a lot of work into this program. I know it means a lot to him, and it means a lot to us."

In celebrating the community Hetherington built, Constantin, like many members, of FUEL recognize the hard work Hetherington has put forward."

Ralph Constantin, a second-year computer programming and analysis student found his passion for gaming at a young age.

"I started gaming when I was five years old," said Constantin. "I got a [PlayStation 3] and found out about online gaming. That's when my strong interest, or should I call it addiction, in gaming started, especially competitive gaming. My first competitive game was *Call of Duty: Black Ops 1*. That's where I grew a strong interest in first-person-shooter (FPS) games. That led me into winning a national *Call of Duty: Black Ops 2* tournament in Lebanon when I was 14 years old and being deaf and young, was impressive at that time."

It was inevitable for Constantin to continue his passion and talents of online gaming with FUEL.

"My teammates have been super supportive and open to playing with a deaf player and believe me, in the gaming community this isn't always the case. FUEL really changed my perspective on gaming, and I can

honestly say it has made me a much better player."

In celebrating the community Hetherington built, Constantin, like many members, of FUEL recognize the hard work Hetherington has put forward.

"Esports has really exploded over the last few years and it's because of hardworking people like [Hetherington]," said Constantin. "It is so incredible to see that Fanshawe recognized that too and gave him that position. I didn't know that this title is so new and rare, but after seeing all the work he put into developing FUEL and always coming out and supporting our games, I can say he really deserves it. He's putting Fanshawe on the map in the Esports community and I'm really so grateful to be a part of it."

As the Esports community evolves, there are numerous ways it can now help more students with their time at Fanshawe, including the ability to gather co-op hours. Esports at Fanshawe can now expand, according to Hetherington, by "a million times."

"With the FSU making this investment in me as a solo full-time person, just for Esports, we have a chance where I can spend 100 per cent of my time dedicating myself to building this program and improving it every day," said Hetherington. "That's what we're going to do and there's going to be some big changes coming in January, and next September. It'll look like a whole new program, which is fantastic. I can be a little bit more focused on Esports and developing the rim and building the community even more and more."

Even if you're not a full-time gaming addict, Hetherington said all are welcome to get involved.

"You don't have to be a hardcore gamer to join the community and enjoy the community," he said. "There's a lot of people involved in FUEL that are casters, they're producers, they're content makers. They're not playing the games, there are people just around in the community. Some people are just there to hang out in a safe space with similar-minded people." Students interested in joining the growing community of gaming can find more information on fsu.ca/fuel.

FSU teams up with The Sharing Shop to help Adopt-A-Student Family



CREDIT: DEENA GRIFFIN

FSU President Ricardo Souza poses with donated gifts, 2020.

Aisha Javid
INTERROBANG

Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) has partnered with the Sharing Shop to help host their annual Adopt-A-Student Family holiday campaign. This charitable holiday campaign, which ran from Nov. 19 to Dec. 3 has been an annual tradition for the FSU. The program was originally organized to provide for families in the city however, starting last year, it became focused on helping families of Fanshawe students.

FSU's Advertising Coordinator, Deena Griffin said the campaign has reached countless families over the years.

"We've been doing this Adopt-A-Family program for about 20 years, and we've reached out to families within the community and now, we're reaching student families," said Griffin. "And we're using the Fanshawe Funder portal to help us crowdfund a little better and raise more funds to help these student families."

One hundred per cent of all funds raised by Dec. 3 will be used to purchase necessities like food, warm clothes, and children's toys for student families.

"So, on Dec. 3, we will choose the families that we are going to be able to support and we choose the families from the Sharing Shop," said Griffin.

The Sharing Shop, operated through the FSU, is a service run by student volunteers, which provides full-time Fanshawe College students, in short-term need of assistance with grocery items and toiletries. They receive donations from students, staff and outside sources, enabling them to provide those items to students in need.

Last year, the FSU donated toys, clothes, books, groceries, hot meals, and many different necessities by raising a total of \$2,200 for four families.

The FSU will determine the number of families that it can cater towards on the last day of the campaign.

"We choose the number of families to help depending on how much we raise," said Griffin. "When we reach our end date, we can decide how many families we can help out."

The FSU used to solicit donations from its business partners and suppliers, but the Fanshawe Funder program has been able to expedite that process since last year.

"We are very blessed to be able to have the Fanshawe Funder platform to help reach out to the community, alumni, businesses, staff and faculties," said Griffin. "The pandemic has changed the way we used to fundraise but we're very grateful to be able to find a way to donate and make this time of year a little more special for our families."

Woodstock Says NO to violence against women and gender inequality



CREDIT: AMY SIMON

Violence against women continues to persist as one of the most systematic and prevalent human rights abuses in the world.

Amy Simon
INTERROBANG

“Violence against women continues to persist as one of the most dreadful, systematic and prevalent human rights abuses in the world.”

That was the opening statement at the flag raising ceremony at the Woodstock Museum Square for the Zonta Says NO campaign on Nov. 25.

Founded over 100 years ago, Zonta International is a global organization working to achieve a world free of violence against women and girls through services and programs.

“Zonta is located in 63 countries with 6,000 members, and is linked together by our determination to move the status of women,” said Zonta Club of Woodstock President Dr. Maria Odumodu. “Even though we think globally, we act locally.”

For nearly 10 years, Zonta International’s Zonta Says NO campaign has been followed by almost 26,000 members worldwide. Launched in 2012, the campaign brings awareness to women’s rights violations and has united Zonta clubs worldwide in conducting impactful advocacy actions to fight violence against women and gender inequality.

Such advocacy actions include Zonta’s 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. Running from Nov. 25 to Dec. 10, below is a list of significant dates being honoured over the two-and-a-half week period:

- **Nov. 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- **Nov. 29** International Women’s Human Rights Defenders Day
- **Dec. 1** World AIDS Day
- **Dec. 3** International Disabled Persons Day
- **Dec. 6** Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre
- **Dec. 10** International Human Rights Day

The Zonta Club of Woodstock and Oxford Domestic Assault Resource Team (DART) have been working in partnership for the past eight years to bring the 16 Days of Activism to fruition.

On Nov. 25, members within the community gathered at the Woodstock Museum Square to honour not only the start of the 16 Days of Activism, but to proclaim that day as the first International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

“We are bringing awareness and promoting gender equality in the city of Woodstock,” said the Mayor of Woodstock Trevor Birtch. “I ask that you continue to spread the word and share this with others in the community.”

According to Statistics Canada, 67 per cent of people in Canada have known at least one woman who has experienced physical or sexual abuse.

“Efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls have mainly focused on responding to and providing services for survivors,” said Zonta Advocacy Chair Rubelyn Smith. “However, prevention, addressing the structural causes, as well as the risk and protective factors associated with violence is pivotal to eliminating violence against women and girls completely.”

Fanshawe College’s Sexual Violence Prevention Advisor Leah Marshall was also in attendance and highlighted the support the Zonta Club of Woodstock has provided for the Fanshawe Woodstock regional campus.

“Hopefully students know that these services are available to them not only on campus, but in their Woodstock community as well,” said Marshall. “This is a great opportunity for Fanshawe and the community to come together.”

Smith added that “the community has supported our [Zonta] events and they continue to provide guidance and support wherever we may need it.”

The orange flag reading ‘Zonta Says NO’ now blows in the heart of the Woodstock community. President Odumodu concluded the ceremony

by saying “men, we are not against you. Nearly all of our members are married to you. But for us to succeed, we need your support.”

“Now, more than ever let’s come together as a community to unite and raise our voices to bring awareness of this issue.”

YOU Day

at 106.9 The X

Starting December 6th,
The X is raising donations
from YOU’s Wishlist for
YOU’s Clarke Road Shelter.



Find more info at
1069thex.com



Off the Radar: What's going on in the world

Ian Indiano
INTERROBANG

In 46 BCE, Julius Caesar proposed the Julian calendar, which established the beginning of the year on Jan. 1, among other changes. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII introduced an updated version of the Julian calendar, and that's the version we use in most of the world to this day. But there are other popular calendars that work differently, like the lunisolar Chinese calendar, or the Hijri calendar, used to identify Islamic holidays.

In other words, the world never stops rotating around the sun, and the beginning and the end of this cycle is nothing but a human attempt to organize time based on abstract concepts. The world never stops, it doesn't matter what holidays you chose to celebrate.

To help you stay informed during the holidays, here are five news stories you should be paying attention to:

Worst Amazon deforestation numbers in 15 years

According to a report by Brazil's space research agency (INPE), deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest increased by 22 per cent this year, the highest level in over 15 years. The Amazon, besides being home to about three million species of animals and plants, and one million Indigenous people, is a fundamental carbon store that slows down the pace of global warming. According to the report, some 13,235 sq km were lost last year. The deforestation numbers have increased considerably under President Jair Bolsonaro, who claims the reports are "unfair," even

though he has systematically encouraged mining and agriculture activities in the Amazon.

Huge loss for the opposition in Venezuelan election

After several electoral boycotts, Venezuela's opposition chose to participate in state and regional elections in November. The result was an overwhelming victory by the ruling Socialist Party. Although the results were received with skepticism by the opposition, European Union electoral observers didn't report any major disruptions. The low voter turnout did not help the opposition either. Only 42 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots. After the disappointing results, opposition leader Juan Guaidó said that it's time for the opposition to "rebuild itself."

India to ban cryptocurrencies

Contrary to expectations, India is set to proceed with its plan to ban most cryptocurrencies in the country. The decision falls under the long-awaited Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, that aims "to create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)." Although the bill will affect all private cryptocurrencies, it also leaves room for exceptions to allow the promotion of the underlying technology. After the decision on the bill's future was announced, cryptocurrency prices dropped considerably on Indian exchanges.

New Interpol president accused of torture

Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi, a general from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been elected as president



CREDIT: IAN INDIANO

To help you stay informed during the holidays, these are five news stories you should be paying attention to.

of the global police agency Interpol. His election wasn't well received by human rights groups, that accuse him of not investigating credible complaints of torture against UAE security forces. In other words; complicity in torture. Formal complaints against General Raisi were recently lodged in France and Turkey by the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR). General Raisi, who will serve a four-year term, rejects the allegations. In a tweet, Gen Raisi promised to "build

a more transparent, diverse, and decisive organization that works to ensure safety for all."

Bright future for Zimbabwe's economy

The post-pandemic economic crisis is affecting every country in the world. However, some countries are already expecting a very satisfactory rebound from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Zimbabwe is definitely one of them, with an expected growth of seven

per cent next year, as announced by Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube. While announcing the African country's new annual budget (\$9 billion, twice as much as last year), Minister Ncube also announced a reduction in taxes and an increase of spending on social services. Fourteen per cent of the government expenditure will be destined to health services. One of the reasons for the budget growth was the recent tax hike on cigarettes and alcohol.

Fanshawe warms more than hearts

Dee-Dee Samuels
INTERROBANG

Thanks to the Fanshawe community, the college was able to donate 45 winter care kits to the Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre (CNRC) located at 550 Hamilton Rd. Items included hats, gloves, socks, hand warmers, hygiene and health supplies such as bandages, tooth care, soap and lotions, tissues, and sanitizer as well as cookies, nuts, granola bars, crackers, and chocolates. This year's campaign chairs were Jennifer McLean (Associate Dean of Fanshawe's Woodstock/Oxford Regional Campus) and Peter Gilbert, Chief Infrastructure Officer overseeing Facilities and IT Services. Both oversee Fanshawe's United Way Campaign and all related activities including the CNRC "warmth kits" initiative. Fanshawe is a strong supporter of United Way each year, providing more than \$120,000 annually to those in need in the community.

Both McLean and Gilbert said they were proud of their work with Crouch and its support for locals in need.

"We were made aware that the CNRC is unique in how they meet the needs of the community," said Gilbert.

"Crouch, is not just for a focused group of people, they are open to anybody in the community—they can

come by and pick up food or diapers or the warmth kits," added McLean. "The resource centre is a tiny room in a building with a couple of desks, it's got big refrigerators full of food and cupboards of stuff that is there to hand out to people as they need it."

The resource centre came across as a much-needed space for the local area.

"It's very much a grassroots, front line support for the local community," said Gilbert.

"The really special thing about the Crouch Centre is the immediacy of it," said McLean. "You are not handed a voucher, it's 'here, go put the mittens on your hands right now.'"

McLean added that The United Way has indicated that one of the most needed items in the warmth kits is socks.

"Your feet get cold and wet and you have no way of drying them, so you need more than one pair of socks," she said. "Socks are a big thing if you are out on the streets and you are homeless."

Get involved

Although the warmth kits campaign has ended, Gilbert said that the most effective way for students to get involved is to donate to the United Way whenever you are shopping at any Fanshawe retail outlet. A little from a lot of people is what makes a



CREDIT: FANSHAWE COLLEGE

Peter Gilbert and Jennifer McLean were the chairs of this year's "warmth kits" campaign.

huge impact on the community. The United Way is a wraparound charity that is directly involved with all

local supports. They provide those in need with diapers, feminine hygiene, healthcare or whatever else they need.

Fanshawe works directly with the United Way to support initiatives like the CNRC.

Christmas. Why?



Michael Veenema
RELIGION

What do Kanye West, Eminem, Tupac Shakur, DMX, Tenille Townes, U2, and High Valley have in common? They all sing about Jesus.

Every university philosophy department deals with philosophers, dead and living, who work out their ethics and politics in relation to the faith, Christianity, that places Jesus Christ at the foundation and centre of all things, visible and invisible. Mohammed found himself unable to create a new faith without dealing with Jesus and what he heard many people say about him.

Indigenous people here in Canada, but also in what evolved into Europe, and other regions on our modern maps, embraced Christianity over time after the missionaries arrived. For example, around the year 900, the Viking leader, Rollo, was permitted to rule what is now France (more or less). His people became what we call the Normans. The Normans, in 1066, subjugated the Anglo-Saxons in England. This came with the blood and terror we might expect from the offspring of Vikings.

For Rollo to rule, however, he had to promise to convert to faith in Jesus Christ. He kept his promise. This meant that the Viking-Norman thirst for blood was eventually tamed. This should not be surprising since there is no way to take Jesus' own teachings and life seriously without them having a strong impact on our desire for revenge and superiority.

Here in Canada, there is a pervasive tendency to replace "Christmas" with "Holiday." We recognize not only that people can celebrate the miraculous birth of Christ during Christmas. We also recognize other "religious" celebrations or "secular" celebrations that are available during this time of the year. There

is a commitment to make people of all faiths and cultures welcome in our borders. And, it can be argued, this is the best way forward politically in our multi-cultural, diverse world and society.

I don't wish to argue against that tendency. However, I do want to ask why it is that the figure of Jesus Christ has had such a widespread and profound influence all over our world.

There are many ways to address that question. For instance, it can be addressed in terms of the success of Christian missionary movements and the responses of Rollo and other indigenous leaders on every continent.

But I think that one of the most important reasons is the fortitude of the early Christians. Most of them were Jewish. This changed very rapidly. If you read the New Testament (the biblical accounts of Jesus, the early church, and many supporting documents) you will soon discover why.

There are two ways in which the fortitude of the early Christians is apparent. First, there was no movement among those first believers to abandon what they had started. This is notable because they had one very strong reason to walk away from their new-found understanding of Jesus. What was that reason? Severe risk of persecution, refugee status, forced migration, torture and death. These are what the early Christians knowingly faced. The Roman Emperor, Nero, turned hungry lions loose on captured Christians in the Roman Colosseum. This was not even the worst that Nero forced upon the early believers. Accepting that Jesus was the Son of God who died and was raised from the dead was not considered a good career move by anyone. On the contrary, you could lose your (earthly) life.

The second way that the fortitude of the early Christians is revealed is the adamant influence of the eyewitnesses of Jesus. In order to become one of the original missionaries, for example, one was required to have accompanied Jesus through his public activities – three



CREDIT: SJARRELL

This holiday, consider the story of the birth of Jesus Christ to a Jewish couple who were not looking for any great part to play in God's work in our world.

years in duration – and to have seen him alive after his execution (This requirement is documented in the Bible, Acts chapter 1). A quick read through what I called the "supporting documents" above, as well as the accounts of Jesus' work, will quickly establish how much the authority of the eyewitnesses controlled the narrative and teachings in those perilous early days (N. T. Wright and Richard Bauckham are two biblical scholars who have done much in recent years to clarify the historical reliability, and eyewitness shaping, of the message of the early church).

So, I would say, this holiday, consider the story of the birth of Jesus Christ to a Jewish

couple who were not looking for any great part to play in God's work in our world. There are two accounts: one at the beginning of Matthew and the other at the beginning of Luke, both in the Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Bibles. And try to find your way to a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service in a Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Reformed, Anglican, or community church. There will be lots of time for presents, dinners, and helping out at the local homeless shelter. But it can do a world of good to examine the Christmas story and reflect on why it continues to be celebrated from London to Mumbai, and from the local native reserve to Wall Street.

Why we *still* dream of a white Christmas

Amy Simon
INTERROBANG

It's a good thing that we're only a few days into December and the Christmas music has only been playing for a couple weeks now! If you couldn't tell, that was sarcasm. But whether you're listening to the radio or putting on a pre-made holiday playlist, chances are you'll eventually hear Bing Crosby sing about his dream of a "White Christmas." But why is it that everyone is so infatuated with seeing that bright, white blanket cover their frostbitten lawns on Christmas morning?

Well, just look back on some of your favourite holiday movies. From *Home Alone* to *Frosty the Snowman*, it's almost impossible to find a Christmas movie without the sparkle of a little snow. Even in some movies where it seems impossible for snow to fall at all, somehow that "Christmas miracle" always happens.

Many people associate Christmas and the holiday season with snow, even those who hardly get any snow where they live. One of the reasons for this, I believe, is because of these holiday specials we were anxious to watch again and again every year, accompanied with a nice, warm cup of hot chocolate, of course (at least, that was the case for myself).

Part of the anticipation of waking up on Christmas morning, especially as a child, is looking out the window and seeing snow paint

the streets. But as we once again reference Bing Crosby, the dream of a white Christmas doesn't seem to stop after childhood.

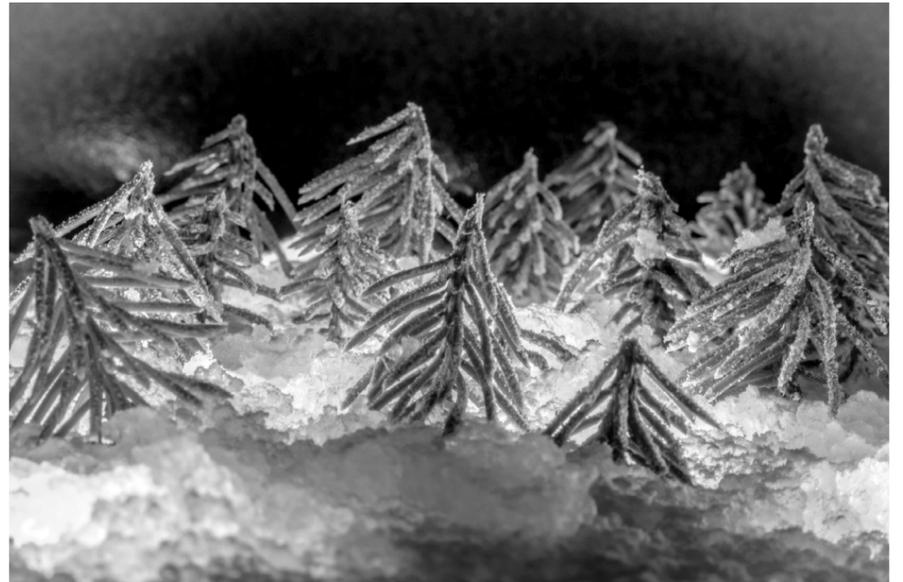
While everyone tends to enjoy the classic holiday movies, the influence of music and songwriting tends to spread a little cheer every now and again. So whether you're "Dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh," "Walking in a Winter Wonderland," or even pleading with Mother Nature to literally "Let it Snow," the white Christmas ideal seems to be present in many aspects of holiday life, no matter how old we get.

But looking back on previous years, even though we live in Canada, it's becoming harder and harder to remember how many white Christmases we've seen consecutively. So this begs a new question; what are the odds we'll see another one?

Climate change is becoming more and more of a familiar term, seemingly every year. And while some cities and provinces will still see large amounts of snow fall, especially over the colder weeks to come, those chances may not be as strong for other locations.

Locally, London holds a 50 per cent chance of seeing a definite white Christmas this year. While that is still a fair chance, that's nothing compared to 30 years ago when our chances stood higher at 80 per cent.

So, if every couple of years, the chance of seeing that snow on Christmas morning depletes, why does our Christmas spirit



CREDIT: WILL SIMON

Many people associate Christmas and the holiday season with snow, even those who hardly get any snow where they live.

remain almost unchanged? Why is it that we still get just as excited for a white Christmas every year?

To put it simply; it's traditions. That's what Christmas is all about. Most of the movies and songs mentioned earlier were written and produced in a time when white Christmases was

as common as spruce trees in December.

So if this year, you find yourself dreaming in vain of a white Christmas, just try to think of "the ones you used to know." And while I hope all of your days will be merry and bright, let's just hope that "all of our Christmases will be white."



HAVE AN OPINION? SUBMIT YOUR STORY!
Letters to the Editor: fsuleters@fanshawec.ca

Décor Trends

FOR THE UPCOMING Holiday Season

Aisha Javaid | **Interrobang**

Only during this time of year can the air smell like cinnamon, open fire, vanilla, roasted chestnuts, pine, peppermint, oranges, and cloves! The holidays are just around the corner and it's almost time to spruce things up.

This festive season is celebrated with religious services, friendly greetings, gift-giving, family gatherings, shopping, and many other holiday-specific traditions.

But aside from all the customs and rituals, the designs we see during this season essentially create the winter scenery.

Geometric shapes, plaid, red, green, glitter, stripes, bright lights, and many more are all elements of design that we use to create a winter festival. There have been numerous transitions in the past decade from changes in the hues of colours to having more two-dimensional designs as opposed to three-dimensional shapes.

Alysha Wisniewski is a second year student in the interior decorating program at Fanshawe. She explained what's trending in holiday décor this year.

"There's a lot of sparsely decorated things," she said. "For example, there isn't dense groupings of greenery, it's very much dispersed greenery, greenery that's not grouped with other décor items.

"There's not a lot of the traditional green and red that you typically see, there is a lot more jewel tones. As well, there aren't as many fairy lights as there have been in the past few years, so it's not going to be as sparkly and glittery, like you'd kind of expect. It's not at all my idea of Christmas," added Wisniewski.

The significance of holiday colours like red, green, gold, and purple symbolize significance in Christianity, related to Christ. Throughout time, we've seen hues of colours like red, shift from dark to bright. This year, according to Wisniewski, we can expect a strong red colour that scales from blood-red to purple and even brown-red.

"This year, there'll be a lot more blues and purples, and ruby tones."

Moreover, Wisniewski commented on the material of fabrics surpassing patterns in cloths.

"There's going to be a lot more solid prints than there are patterns. So, plaids will definitely not be the holiday thing right now, like it was a few years ago. There's going to be a lot more furs or synthetic furs. And, not a whole lot of geometric shapes, so it's more textural pattern than it is colour or patterns created by colour."

Wisniewski researches trends in interior decorating in her spare time. She is extremely passionate about decorating and greatly enjoys her program.

Sources that have also researched décor trends for this year's holiday season, like Wisniewski forecast a more traditional appearance. The holiday image this year is predicted to represent warmth, earth, and homeliness. The use of recycled materials, inexpensive décor, DIY, and earthy neutrals are expected to be used expansively in homes.



'TIS THE SEASON TO DRINK LATTES:

A guide to Starbucks' holiday drink line-up

Savannah Bisailon |
Interrobang

One of my favourite things to do during the holiday season is curl up by the fire with a nice book and a festive drink, and nothing screams festive drinks like Starbucks. If you are anything like me and love the classic "red cup" season at Starbucks, this is the guide for you. As any Starbucks lover knows, Starbucks truly goes hard during the holiday season.

Starbucks holiday drinks usually drop in early November. With the return of the classic holiday favourites like the iconic Peppermint Mocha and Caramel Brulé Latte, we can expect nothing but comfort to the taste buds. The Chestnut Praline Latte is also making a return, alongside the Irish Cream Cold Brew.

This year, Starbucks has introduced an all-new Iced Sugar Cookie Almondmilk Latte, which unfortunately meant two drinks got the chop including the classic Eggnog and Gingerbread Lattes.



With great drinks also comes a great line-up of sweet treats. This year brings the return of the Cranberry Bliss Bar (my personal favourite, especially warmed up), the iconic Snowman Sugar Cookie and the introduction of a brand new Reindeer Cake Pop.

Now if anyone is truly obsessed with Starbucks and loves exploring the secret menu or if you just want to try something new to satisfy your taste buds, there are a few drinks that I recommend trying. If you like sweet drinks, I recommend ordering a Vanilla Bean Frappuccino with added

peppermint syrup (shots vary on sizing, a size tall would get one pump, a size grande would get one and a half pumps and a size venti would get two pumps). This drink tastes just like a candy cane.

If you are looking for something less sweet and are feeling upset over the loss of the Eggnog Latte, here's how you can enjoy one all year round. Order a Chai Latte and add caramel syrup (two pumps for a tall, three pumps for a grande and four pumps for a venti) and if you want it iced, just order an Iced Chai Latte and add the same amount of caramel syrup as you would to a hot version.

These holiday treats will bring your taste buds some festive cheer and get you in the holiday mood. It's always nice to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with a trip to Starbucks to explore their menu. For more hidden secrets you can go to starbuckssecretmenu.net and find more options to explore this holiday season.



Make friends and celebrate your holiday

Ana Lustosa | **Interrobang**

Who are you going to spend your next holiday with? For some international students, they'll probably spend theirs away from family. Is that sad? It can be, or not. When you decide to move to another country, you leave a piece of yourself in your country of origin. However, you can, in a new country, fill this space.

Studying online can be a weakness due to a lack of opportunities to make friends in person. Besides, we are still living in a pandemic. But with the necessary measures, we can adapt to this scenario. Recently, the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) encouraged students to participate in events organized by them and strengthen new relationships among students.

"Friends are the family you choose," has never made more sense than it does for me right now. I arrived in Canada recently, and Thanksgiving was my first holiday here. I have been lucky to have a couple of friends living close to me and in the same situation (new city, new routine, new calendar). We stayed together for Thanksgiving and appreciated this current phase in our lives. We didn't have a turkey, but we bought a pumpkin pie (classic!).

The next holiday is Christmas. In Brazil, for instance, there is a social rule around this time: you must spend the date together with your family. Why? It is one of the most respected holidays in the country, especially because half of Brazilians are Catholics, according to research last year by Datafolha. Also, it is a date that Brazilian people can get together with their whole families, from grandmother to distant aunts.

However, this "perfect" moment with family sometimes does not exist for reasons such as distance or personal problems, and that is OK. We need to stop condemning people who decide to pass these dates alone or with friends instead of family. The important thing is to stay well and to be with people who want to be together.

Alone or accompanied, holidays are moments to reflect on our lives. Making (new) friends can be a challenging objective. Culturally, people share different manners when it comes to making first contact and starting a conversation. We need to respect these differences, but not be afraid. With care, you can do it.

To begin, why not invite a classmate you know who is staying alone in Canada to celebrate a holiday with you? Firstly, you can learn more about another culture. Fanshawe receives more than 6,500 international students from more than 100 countries.

Secondly, this can be the opening of a new friendship. You can share your celebrations, tastes, and thoughts. It's the first step to presenting yourself better and probably making your classmate feel more comfortable.

Making friends can be a personal challenge for the majority of students. Nonetheless, when you make a friend, you will gain a treasure. Friends are people who choose to stay with us in different situations. You can share your concerns and achievements. With family close or not, holidays are an amazing opportunity to celebrate with people you love.





The Christmas kindness challenge

Dee-Dee Samuels | **Interrobang**

Whether you buy into all the jingles and bells, the Christmas season is a stuffed stocking full of activity, a sensory explosion from beginning to end. We all have traditions that have formed like habits, aromas that transport us back to our childhood homes, festive songs and sounds; you can almost hear the laughter and Christmas music spilling in from the other room.

Perhaps all your efforts go into avoiding the whole Christmas performance and pageantry. Nevertheless, something is in the air and it's thick with emotion and expectation. There is this invisible magic that brings feelings and memories flooding in at every turn. The good and the not-so-good, emotions unite us as humans. I don't mean that in a Hallmark movie kind of way, but I want to focus on the magic.

When we were younger, the magic maybe involved what lay under the tree, a brown paper packet tied up with string with our name on it. But as we got older, there was a shift. Instead of the magic being about what you got at Christmas, it became about what you gave. What we are able to offer others almost consumes us now at Christmas. That's the magic.

Over the last couple of years, because of COVID, we have all shared a common experience. COVID-19 has, and still is not just affecting us, but connecting us. 'Tis become the season, within an era of reevaluating, reminding, reigniting and regenerating ourselves.

So, here is the Christmas kindness challenge. This Christmas it's go time! Just one small gesture at minimum is required. London, Ont. and Fanshawe College have many opportunities for us to achieve this goal. One small step can have the most profound impact, not just on someone else's life, but yours at the same time. What you create, change and commit to in life is your offering to it. We are all wealthy with Christmas spirit and here are a few ways to spend it!

Places to give back this season

Donating to the London Food Bank

Food poverty should never be anyone's experience in this day and age. This could be your time to shine. Food has historically been a tool to connect individuals. The Food Bank accepts perishable and non-perishable items. You can even get together with friends to create a bundle and they will pick up. Now that's a Christmas party.

Centre of Hope

Donate food, toiletries, toys, or just volunteer. Everyday things we take for granted are our opportunity to create a real impact.

Toys for Tots London

Toys for Tots. Who doesn't want to give a tot a toy?

Inspiration from Fanshawe College

In this blog, there are ideas of how to fulfil the Christmas kindness challenge and change the world. There are Random Acts of Kindness ideas, local events, and many more ideas.

The Sharing Shop

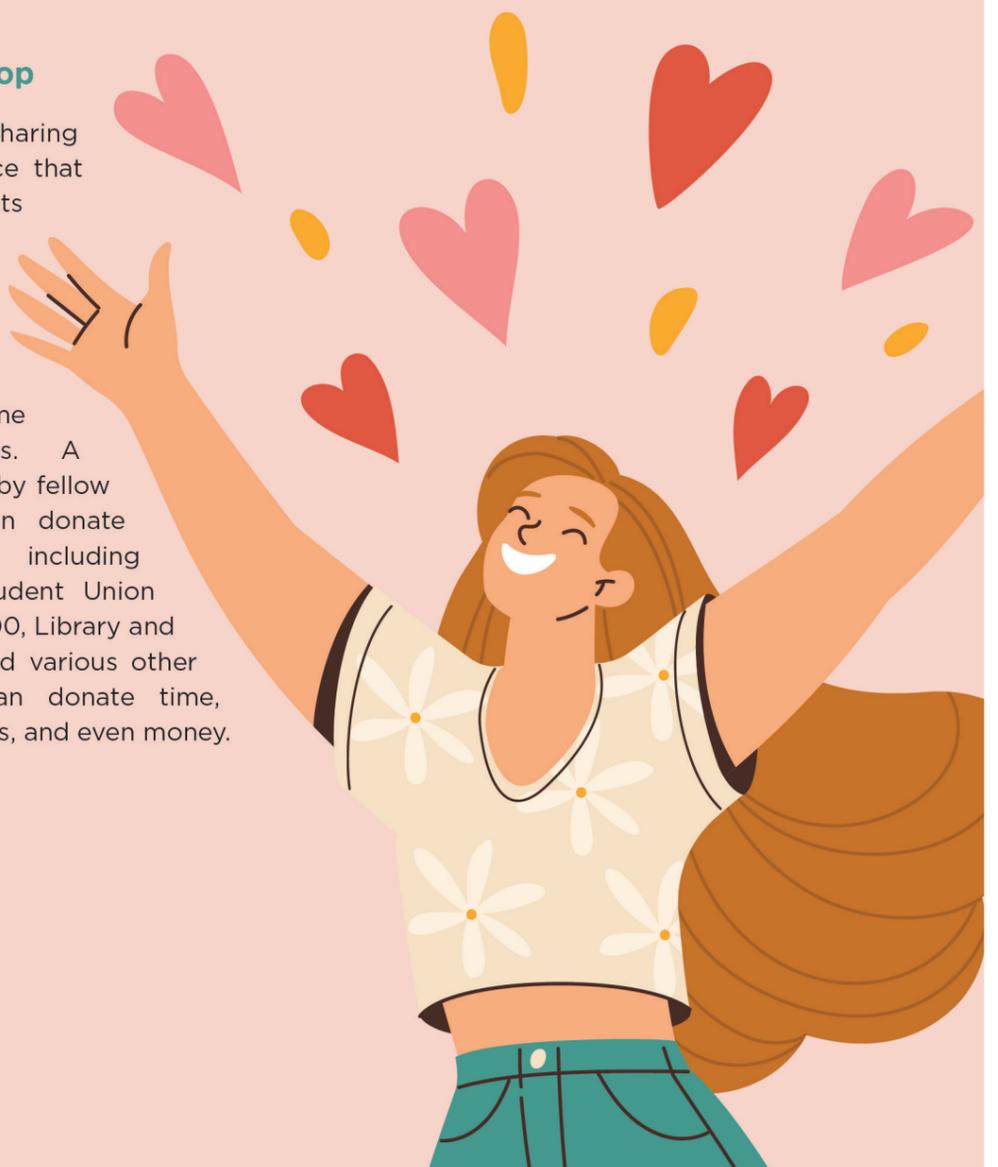
What is The Sharing Shop? It is a place that provides students in need with the necessities of life. A place where you can donate a few hours of your time during Christmas. A place for and run by fellow students. You can donate at various sites, including the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) office SC1000, Library and Media Services and various other locations. You can donate time, clothes, perishables, and even money.

Grow your own

Be an innovator. Perhaps gathering friends to donate some winter clothes and drop them off at a local park. If you live in residence, there is an opportunity to go door-to-door and collect cans of food that can be left with the FSU. It's as easy as taking candy from a baby (but don't do that!).

Some of the most popular toys, games and movies at Christmas involve superheroes. Young or old we all have thought about what kind of superpower would be ours. This Christmas let's focus on drawing out a superpower that can really move mountains, one we all have access to every day of our lives. I mean, how cool is that? The one gift we can give that won't cost you anything but is still priceless... is you. Be the good thing that happens to everyone you meet.

Why dream of superhuman powers when you have the greatest superpower on earth – the power of being superhuman(e)!



How Jim Carrey Stole Christmas:



THE GRINCH MOVIES RANKED

Kate Otterbein | **Interrobang**

How the Grinch Stole Christmas is one of the most popular Christmas movies of all time. And it is the best Christmas movie of all time. With three versions, the original TV special (1966), Jim Carrey as the Grinch (2000), and the most recent animation, *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch* (2018), there will obviously be varying opinions on the official "ranking" of the films. My personal ranking from best to worst is the 1966 TV special, then *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch*, and finally Carrey's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The last one is definitely a controversial opinion.

Growing up, I have so many memories watching the *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* TV special with my dad in

December and they are some of my favourite.

Not to mention, the original TV special is a hard-to-top classic!

There has always been something so interesting about the Grinch.

I remember wishing the Grinch would come and steal my Christmas tree because what an honour that would be if the Grinch chose my Christmas tree to steal! Plus Max is just so cute (in all of the Grinch movies) and he's hard not to love.

It's such a great, feel-good story. It shows how everybody, no matter how rotten to the core they are, can change with a little bit of love and sense of community. Sometimes people just need some love and support.

Dr. Seuss' The Grinch is number two on my ranking because of how family friendly it is and the cute animations. It was modernized, which is expected, but the animation and the story still gives homage to the original TV special and adds a little bit of humour to the story. I saw this one in theatres with my dad and I was pleasantly surprised. I had expected to not like it, after only having Jim Carrey's version and the original to compare. The family friendly aspect is really important for a holiday movie because for a lot of people, that's what the holidays are about. Curling up by

the fire and Christmas tree watching a holiday movie with family is the perfect December night for many.

Carrey's version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, directed by Ron Howard, made a heartwarming story about the Grinch who opens his heart to the community a little scarier than it needed to be, which is why it's put last. It isn't a bad movie by any means. In terms of families though, some kids are afraid of it. The Grinch is not supposed to be terrifying to the audience, especially when it is viewed as family friendly. Sure, he's maybe a little creepy, but not terrifying. Some people may like a scary Christmas movie, and all power to you! If spooky vibes are your thing, go for it. I just view Christmas as a happy, heartwarming time of year where you can spend time with your family. It brings me so much joy, so I like to watch happy Christmas movies to match that feeling—although it's not the same for everybody.

No matter how you feel about the Grinch movies and what order you would rank them, the Grinch provides a tale of what Christmas truly is about. The power of community can be so strong and is so important over the holidays. Nobody wants to spend Christmas alone. No matter who you're with, whether it be family, friends, neighbours, that sense of community and belonging really opens up your heart. That's the true meaning of Christmas and that's why the Grinch is the best Christmas movie of all time.

Home Alone for Christmas 2: Lost in the Metaverse



ian.indiano

CREDIT: IAN INDIANO

As we slowly watch our society becoming a dystopia we thought was only possible in science fiction, we wonder how this will affect our personal lives.

Ian Indiano
INTERROBANG

After more than one year where our traditional social rituals, such as Christmas and New Year's Eve, were so deeply affected by this unprecedented pandemic, we all felt the vacuum that those social experiences leave when we're not allowed to celebrate them. Arguably, the traditional side of those rituals only exist to justify some inherent necessity for social interaction. Christmas, for example, is an abstract construction; a celebration whose meaning has changed considerably over the years. But even in a post-pandemic world, those social interactions are still in danger.

As most of us know, Mark Zuckerberg (everyone's favourite reptilian) has announced that his company, previously known as Facebook, is not only changing its name to Meta, but also openly focusing on bringing the "Metaverse" to life. The Metaverse is a virtual social environment like Second Life, only significantly more immersive. His announcement was received by the world with the kind of concern that already predicts his imminent success. The dangers of such technology are not difficult to imagine, but we also know we'll be hooked in no time. As we slowly watch our society becoming a dystopia we thought was only possible in science fiction, we wonder how this will affect our personal lives.

The problem here is how we perceive what's real and what's virtual. The obvious issue with Metaverse is that

this separation becomes increasingly blurred. However, we must understand that the way our society organizes itself is already based on a collection of virtual notions. The way we talk, the way we dress, our views on what is right or wrong, our traditions, what is sacred and what is profane — these are all abstract concepts. And those concepts, precisely because they are abstract, are extremely flexible, even though they might seem immutable.

“The way we talk, the way we dress, our views on what is right or wrong, our traditions, what is sacred and what is profane — these are all abstract concepts.”

We fear that virtual reality will be able to reproduce our world so well that we'd rather live a virtual life instead of facing the material world, but this rabbit hole can go much deeper.

With virtual reality, we are not only reproducing a real experience in a virtual environment; instead of replicating the experience of the material world, virtual reality rewrites those experiences, not only presenting an alternative version, but also restructuring our perception of our material experiences.

But this is not a warning of something that might happen if we don't do something about it. It is merely a description of a very plausible future. In his Metaverse presentation, Zuckerberg said that their plan is to evolve devices for accessing the Metaverse to a point where they are easily affordable. The same thing happened with smartphones. For example, mental health problems related to social media were not a thing before smartphones, but now that we have access to social media 24/7, we are able to fill any idle moment with a few hours of social media use.

Virtual reality presents us with a perfect version of the world, where we don't need to deal with the bad side of things. Suddenly you don't need to face the opinions of a distant uncle. You don't need to eat the terrible meatloaf your mom bakes every year, which you eat only to bring a smile to her face. Even if the ritual only exists to perpetuate false notions of the world, the obligatoriness to show up forces you to deal with the reality of things. It forces you to face opinions you don't agree with. It forces you to have an actual material experience.

We live in a world where technology cannot be stopped anymore, and things are changing faster and faster. I can't help but feel a bit nostalgic for something that we haven't lost yet. Andy Bernard from *The Office* once said, "I wish there was a way to know you were in the good old days before you actually left them." I think he was right, and right now we are at the same time in the good old days and in the scary new days. So let's enjoy it as we can.



CREDIT: KATE OTTERBEIN

Are you worried about holiday stress? Be wary of how you are feeling and prioritize yourself.

Five tips to surviving the holiday season

Kate Otterbein
INTERROBANG

The holidays are a magical time of year, but sometimes, you can face challenges. Whether it be financial struggles, the fear of over-indulging, or forgetting to have fun, here are five tips to surviving the holiday season.

1. Make a gift from the heart
If money is tight, don't over-draft your account to buy someone a gift. Sometimes, a homemade gift is an even better option. Make something you know that person will love. It can be a happy jar, where you write notes to brighten up a difficult day, a coupon book with favours to do throughout the year for that person, or even singing them a song. The holidays are tough for everybody, but it's the thought behind the gift that truly counts.

2. Eat however you want
Don't stress too much about what you are eating over the holidays. This time of year only comes around once, so enjoy it! Part of the season is indulging in delicious food with the people you love. It's okay to break your diet for a day or two and not feel guilty.

3. Take time for yourself

If you get overwhelmed when you're in a social setting for an extended period of time, take a breather. Step outside or away from the crowd and have a few moments to yourself. Everyone needs a break from time to time.

4. Laugh lots and smile often

The holidays are a time for love and laughter. Try not to let the holiday stress take away from that. Be with the people (and animals!) you love and hug them tight.

5. Enjoy the magic of the season

The holidays are colourful and bright, with all of the lights and joy spreading through the community. Go out and be immersed in that. This is a time for happiness and you can feel the joy in the air. In London, there's the Magic of the Lights at the Longwoods Conservation Area to drive through for anyone looking for something pretty and fun.

The main takeaway from this holiday season is to do what makes you happy and comfortable. Save those extra few dollars and make something from the heart, step away from the crowd when you need to, and make sure to indulge on all the holiday foods you only get to experience once a year.



Have any questions or comments about Fanshawe's Mission, Vision, Values or board policies?

Tel: 519.452.4458
Fax: 519.451.8831
BOG.student@Fanshawec.ca

Tom Hutchison-Hounsell

Student Representative to
The Board of Governors

Expert tips to engineer the perfect gingerbread house

Jessica Gould
INTERROBANG

In cementing, or rather icing, a delicious gingerbread house this holiday season, these tips are sure to help take down the tradition of crumbling homes. Fanshawe College civil engineering professor Matthew Carson laid down the groundwork for creating a sturdy gingerbread house.

"We want to have the different steps outlined," he said. "Starting with the foundation, constructing the walls, and then the roof and further fixtures upon that. Through the process, you're going to want to consider how you're going to connect everything and with a real home, you're going to be

nailing things together. With a gingerbread house, you're going to want to use some sort of icing to get things to stick."

While making plans to decorate the gingerbread house, it is crucial to be aware of the foundation. Nobody wants their progress collapsing due to the weight of an extra peppermint or gumdrop loaded onto the rooftop.

"The foundation is definitely important," stressed Carson. "That's the first thing that we want to make sure is stable so that our house can sit up straight on its own."

A common problem many gingerbread constructors find themselves in is using too much or too little icing. To help keep things in check, Carson advised you be mindful of your sugar intake during production. Additionally, over-icing falling pieces may add more to the stress of piecing together the

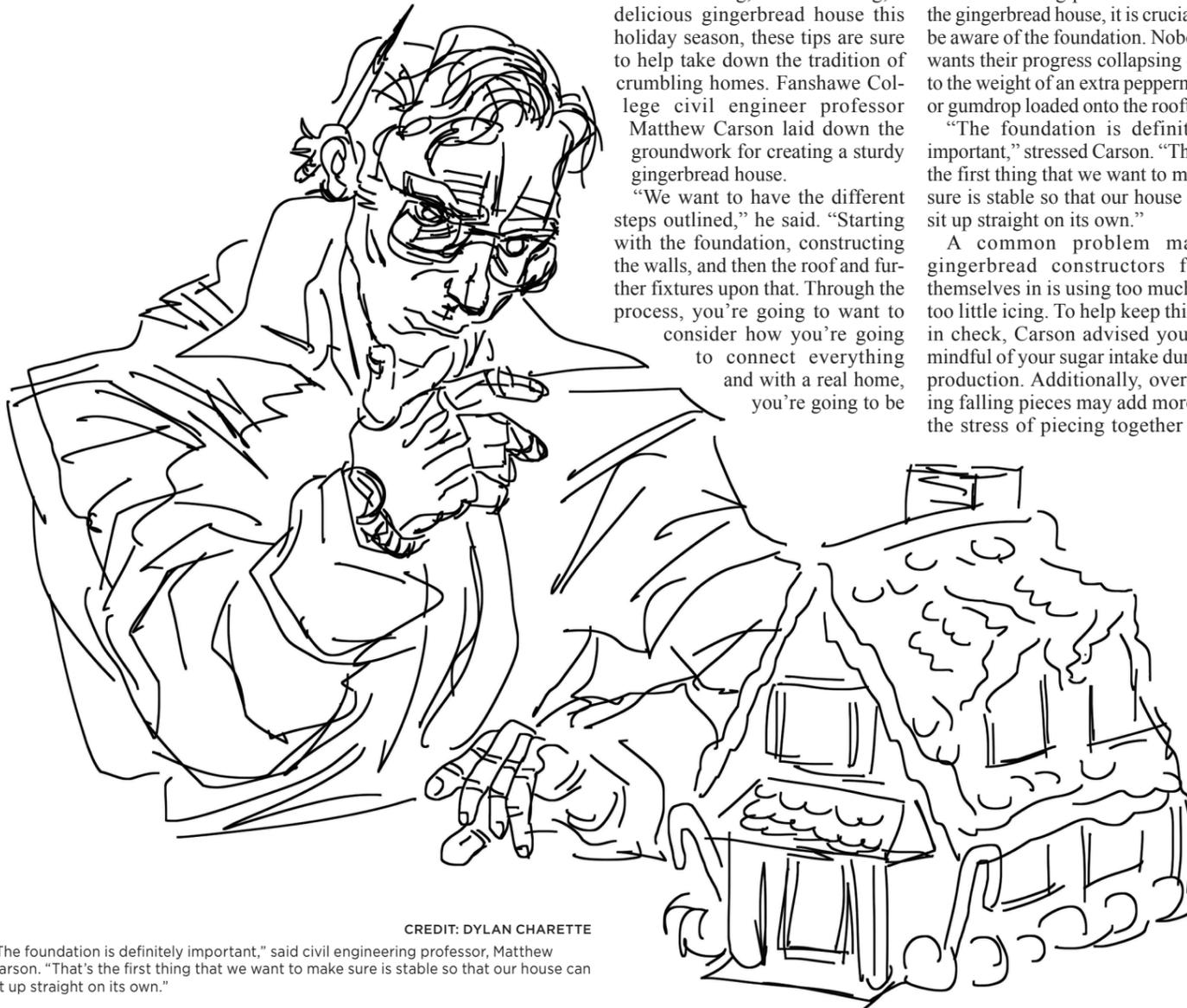
perfect holiday home.

Carson highlighted the key idea to a structured house is a structured plan.

"If you can envision what you're going to do in your mind first, it'll alleviate that stress because you've sort of already done it. Maybe not physically, but you've already constructed it in your mind. So, having that foresight will definitely alleviate some of the stress," said Carson.

"Building an actual house, there might be some thought about the strength of the roof and the applied loads to it," he added. "For a gingerbread house, make sure that the walls are thick enough to withstand anything that we're going to be putting on top of it, like the supplied icing loads, so if we can know beforehand that those things are going to be strong enough, you don't have to worry about them falling through construction after it's been built."

Equipped with this advice for having fun, the tradition of watching your gingerbread house collapse in on itself amid icing chaos can finally end.



CREDIT: DYLAN CHARETTE

"The foundation is definitely important," said civil engineering professor, Matthew Carson. "That's the first thing that we want to make sure is stable so that our house can sit up straight on its own."

Christmas Eve: Memories from my childhood

Savannah Bisailon
INTERROBANG

Growing up with one older sister and one younger sister, Christmas was always one of my favourite times as a kid. I would spend the days leading up to Christmas with my family, watching Christmas movies on YTV with my sisters all sprawled out on blankets, laying on the living room floor.

My absolute favourite Christmas movie to this day is *To Grandmother's House We Go* starring Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. This movie was a staple of my childhood along with *Animaniacs: Wakko's Wish*. Every Christmas Eve, my sisters and I would watch both these movies.

The former would be the movie we'd watch earlier in the day. We would eat eggs and bacon with hash browns for breakfast that my dad would make and then we would throw our blankets and pillows down on the floor and lay by the Christmas tree and watch *To Grandmother's House We Go*. I remember for the longest time wishing my sisters and I would randomly get into a mail truck and mail ourselves to our grandparent's

“After church, we would go home and put on our pajamas, and hang our stockings. Then, my sisters and I would head upstairs and all pile in my older sister's bed to watch some more movies until we fell asleep.”

house for Christmas, just like the Olsen twins.

After we finished that movie, we would watch *Barbie in the Nutcracker*. I remember always having to rewind it before watching it because we would watch it year-round, but more frequently during Christmas time. The best part of it all was being able to hang out with my sisters and not have to be interrupted by friends because Christmas Eve and Christmas were the only days of the year that were dedicated to strictly family.

After a day full of movies, we

would go over to my nanny's house for sandwiches and stocking hanging (we still do this even in our 20s). After dinner and stocking hanging, the five of us (my sisters, parents, and me) would all go to church for Christmas Eve service. We don't do that much anymore, but that is because now that we're older, we all work and go to school so when we are home, we want to soak in all the time we have with each other.

After church, we would go home and put on our pajamas, and hang our stockings. Then, my sisters and I would head upstairs and all pile in my older sister's bed to watch some more movies until we fell asleep. Usually, the night would end with my dad moving me and my little sister to our beds and us wondering how we got there when we woke up a few hours later.

More recently, in the last five years, we've started new traditions like wearing matching pajamas and playing boardgames until my dad decides that it's time for bed. My mom will watch an old Christmas movie and my sisters and I will sit in the basement just playing video games and talking.

Now last Christmas was a weird one as my little sister didn't get to



CREDIT: COURTESY OF SAVANNAH BISAILLON

Now that I am older, I cherish every little chance I get with my family.

come home because of the pandemic. She did get to spend it with my grandparents, which is cool as we had always wanted to do that as children but never got to. It was hard not having her with us to watch the movies, but she did wear the matching pajamas my mother mailed out for her to have. I am looking forward to keeping the traditions going this year.

We still try to all squeeze onto one bed and watch a Christmas movie until one of us complains about our back hurting and decides it's time for bed. Now that I am older, I cherish every little chance I get with my family. As my sisters and I are all in different places and doing different things with our lives, it feels great just following through with tiny traditions.

Fanshawe students share their various holiday traditions

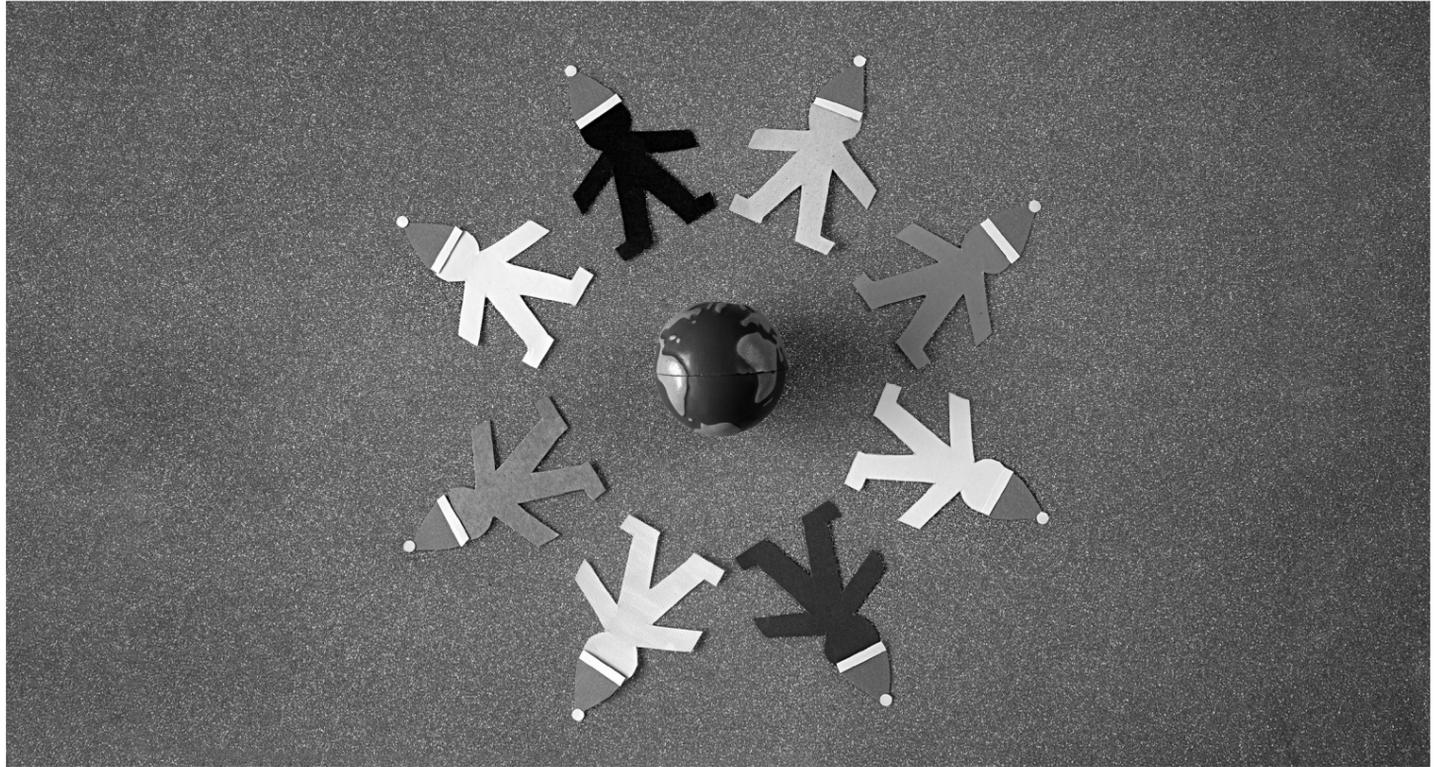
Daniela Medina
INTERROBANG

Every year, families and businesses prepare for Christmas, one of the most anticipated times of the year. Houses are lit up with Christmas lights, department stores show off their best window display ideas, children write letters to Santa Claus, and parents begin preparing their holiday traditions. Christmas is a cheerful time for people to get together and participate in traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. On Dec. 25, many Canadians traditionally begin their day by unwrapping gifts in the morning before sitting down to dinner with their families to eat roast turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, and vegetables with an English-inspired dessert such as pie. However, not everyone celebrates Christmas in this manner, and holiday traditions vary across Canada's diverse cultures.

These many traditions are what distinguishes Canada from other nations; being able to learn about other cultures and traditions just by talking with the people around us is a privilege not many countries have. Many nations celebrate Christmas in a variety of ways, including diverse foods, activities, and days. While speaking with multiple students at Fanshawe, it was interesting to see how everyone gets excited for this time of the year, yet many people have a completely different experience than others. Golf and club management student Youjin Seo, a Korean international student said that during the holidays, her and her family "celebrate Christmas with [their] ancestors to wish for good luck for the next year. [Their] mothers make [them] rice cake soup and [they] offer them to [their] ancestors first and once [they're] done with the ceremony, [they] eat it as a celebration for the past year. Bowls of rice-cake soup are offered to the family's ancestors in exchange for their guidance and protection in the year ahead. After the ancestors are given their share, the family members eat the tteokguk themselves, transitioning from the old year to the new."

Food differs greatly between cultures, but it is often more than a difference in the meals they grew up eating; it has a deeper meaning important to their culture that many people are unaware of.

Even though many families eat certain foods during Christmas because of the meaning it has in their culture, some traditions for other



CREDIT: MIREIA B L

Christmas is a cheerful time for people to get together and participate in traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation.

people simply started many decades ago because it was convenient. Fashion marketing and management student Emily Giann shared that "as a Jewish girl, I don't celebrate Christmas. Although around the same time of year, Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah, an eight-night holiday commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem, yet there is no comparison between the two. On Christmas Eve, the city shuts down, leaving us Jews wondering what to do and what to eat. Fortunately for us, Chinese food restaurants remain open so every year on the 24th of December we feast on Chinese take-out, a tradition that dates back to the 20th century."

Despite the fact that this tradition started a long time ago because it was convenient for Jewish people, after many generations of doing it, ordering Chinese food on Christmas Eve has become a significant aspect of the holiday season for those who take part in it.

Evidently, food is an important aspect of Christmas that changes across certain cultures, but some do not differ significantly from Canadians in terms of food. When it comes to Western countries, many of them share the same traditional foods as Canadians. They do, however, differ in terms of the day they celebrate and the order in which they carry out their festivities. Ana Mercader, an international student from Mexico

at Fanshawe explained that for them "family dinners and parties take place on Dec. 24. The dinner menu varies from family to family; still, the most traditional dishes include turkey, codfish, mashed potatoes and refried beans. After having dinner, the whole family gathers, and breaks a piñata, starting from the family's youngest members to grandma. At precisely 12 a.m., everyone gathers

in the living room to open their presents and the rest of Dec. 25 is a stay-in-pajamas day for [their] family."

Although many Latin countries have some specific traditions that vary from others, most of their festivities are carried out in the same order and that is how they differ from the way Canadians traditionally celebrate Christmas.

These traditions shared by some students at Fanshawe are only a few of the many traditions other people celebrate across Canada at this time of the year. And even though Christmas might not look the same for everyone, at the end of the day, everyone uses this joyful season to spend time with their family and friends, and take part in the traditions they have been following for years.

fsu
FANSHAWE
STUDENT
UNION
www.fsu.ca

Adopt-A-Student Family

Thank you!

For your support in making the holiday season magical for a Fanshawe student family!

A pharmacy for the community of Fanshawe located in the Wellness Centre.

For hours of operation, please visit www.fsu.ca/pharmacy

(519) 451-0025

J1000

university PHARMACY
your on-campus pharmacies

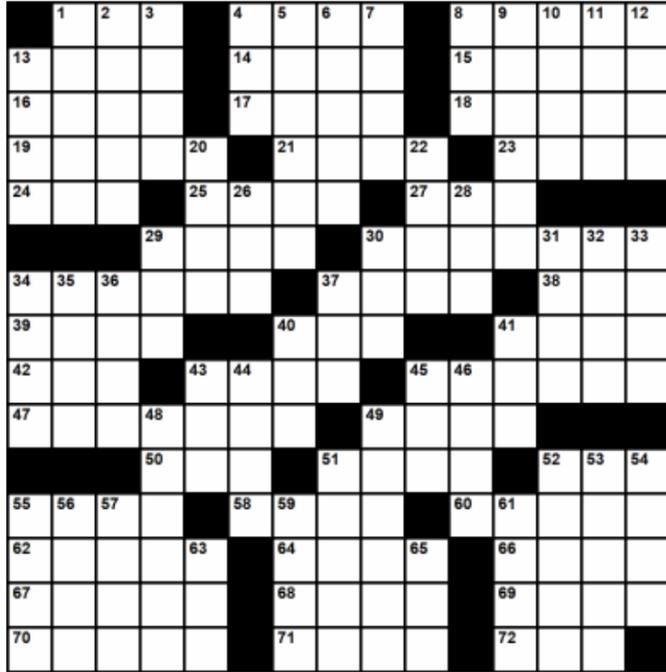
Refill, fill, and find your closest University Pharmacy. DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!

ALL DRUG PLANS ARE ACCEPTED, INCLUDING THE STUDENT HEALTH PLAN.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Mauna ____ (1984 erupter)
- 4. Groaners
- 8. Zeroes
- 13. German one
- 14. Dueler's sword
- 15. Tip over
- 16. From the start
- 17. Coup d' ____
- 18. Bull or Celtic
- 19. Nonconformist
- 21. Approximately
- 23. Some itinerary data, briefly
- 24. Director Jean- ____ Godard
- 25. Camera diaphragm
- 27. ____ Maria liqueur
- 29. a small projection or a nib (as on a mechanical part)
- 30. "Hey, why is everybody looking so glum?"
- 34. Do some research
- 37. Opposite of underneath
- 38. Bobby of hockey
- 39. "Do ____ others as..."
- 40. Hockey's Tikkanen
- 41. Catholic calendar
- 42. Parisian pronoun
- 43. Horse with a foal
- 45. Admitted defeat
- 47. Northern New York
- 49. As many as
- 50. An end to alcohol?
- 51. Detect
- 52. NFL scores
- 55. Wrenched apart
- 58. " ____ Rather Be With Me" (1967 hit)
- 60. Leave nothing behind
- 62. "Holy cow!"
- 64. Russian sea
- 66. Ancient theaters
- 67. Evaporate
- 68. Some N.C.O.'s
- 69. Strong craving
- 70. "Tired" in baby talk
- 71. Pay attention
- 72. They result in two outs (Abbrev.)



DOWN

- 1. Arrange in a row
- 2. Last non-A.D. year
- 3. Life ____ know it
- 4. It makes ink pink
- 5. Ready for a tough task
- 6. Closes in on
- 7. Hardens
- 8. Mother Teresa, for one
- 9. Cheerful, as a tune
- 10. Future attorney's exam (Abbrev.)
- 11. Certification for eco-friendly buildings, for short
- 12. Part of an orchestra (Abbrev.)
- 13. Benjamin Disraeli, e.g.
- 20. Place (archaic)
- 22. Roman emperor who overthrew Galba
- 26. Music genre
- 28. Actor Charleson of "Chariots of Fire"
- 29. Fight-ending letters
- 30. FDR's job-creating agency (Abbrev.)
- 31. Feeling achy
- 32. Pakistani tongue
- 33. Support, with "up"
- 34. Blockbuster
- 35. Curtis Mayfield's "Move ____"
- 36. Elevator innovator
- 37. "What's the ____?"
- 40. Formerly
- 41. Egg head?
- 43. May honorees
- 44. 24-hr. conveniences
- 45. U.S. mail center (Abbrev.)
- 46. Aleutian island
- 48. Completely occupied
- 49. Revise
- 51. Conductor Koussevitzky
- 52. Out of patience
- 53. "You'll never ____!"
- 54. Quarrel
- 55. Spreads for drying
- 56. Mythical monster
- 57. Comedienne Martha
- 59. Chop finely
- 61. Auction cry
- 63. Good looker?
- 65. Psychedelic drug, for short...

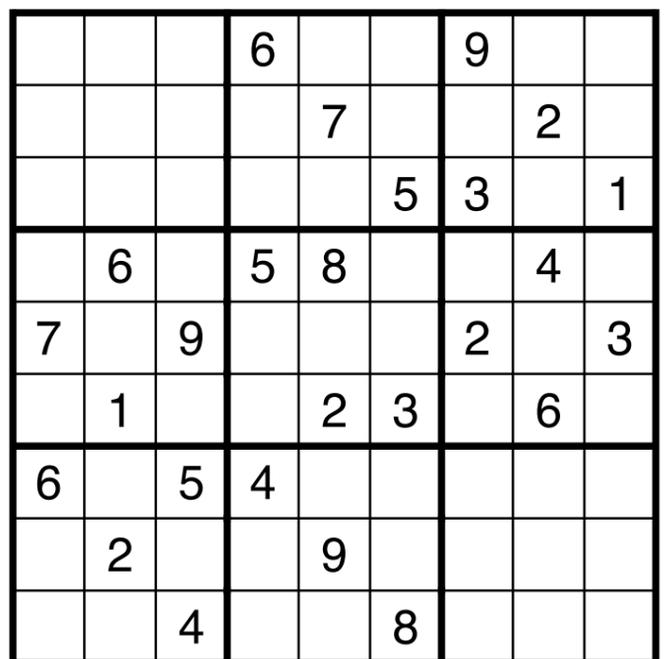
WORD SEARCH



SANTA CLAUS

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| Elves | Prancer | Blitzen | Donner |
| Sleigh | Dancer | Santa | Vixen |
| Belly | Dasher | Cookies | Claus |
| Reindeer | Rudolph | Chimney | North Pole |
| Cupid | Sack | Milk | |

SUDOKU



Puzzle rating: Hard

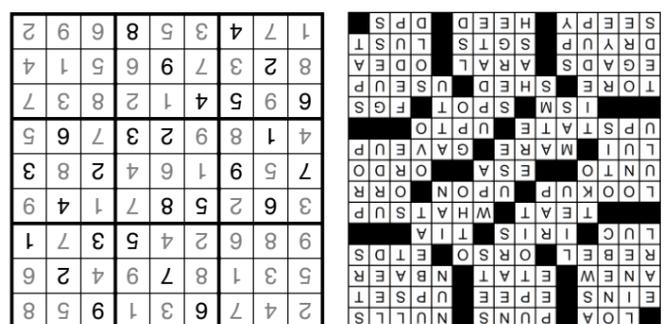
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means no number is repeated in any column, row or box.

CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
16												2						6						8	

“
 15 11 21 21 12 6 18 7 16 25 21 23 10 21 16 12
 16 25 14 16 25 7 18 11 21 12 15 11 16 25 15 21
 13 7 12 5 6 18 7 20 21 18 26 18 12 26 20 11 8
 —
 7 9 12 16 11 23 26 25 13 12 21 10
 ”

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



— Oprah Winfrey
 "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right!"

FREE INTERROBANG

NEW ISSUE ON STANDS

Bi-Weekly



FIND US ON



FSU INTERROBANG



www.fsu.ca



@FilbertCartoons



By Christopher Mischczak © 2021

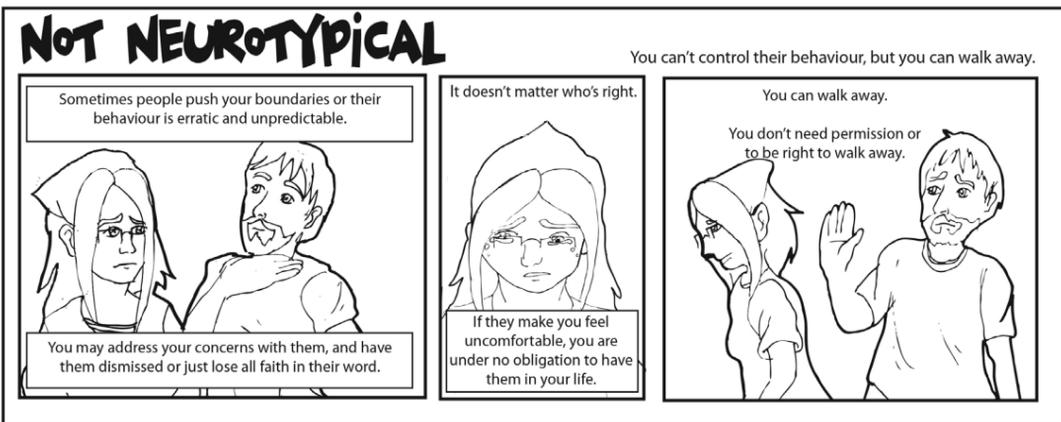
Freshman Fifteen



By Alan Dungo



Butt sweat n Tears by Andres Silva



NOT NEUROTYPICAL

You can't control their behaviour, but you can walk away.

Sometimes people push your boundaries or their behaviour is erratic and unpredictable. You may address your concerns with them, and have them dismissed or just lose all faith in their word.

It doesn't matter who's right. If they make you feel uncomfortable, you are under no obligation to have them in your life.

You can walk away. You don't need permission or to be right to walk away.



Horoscopes



Aries

Look at your financial situation and get your account in order. Knowing where you stand will make it easier to budget for the festive season. Someone's change of attitude will puzzle you. Don't take what others do or say personally. Dig in and do your part. Lending a helping hand will give you an inside view of potential opportunities. Slow down and think before you decide to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Focus on what you can do to improve your physical well-being and financial situation. Pay close attention to detail.

Libra

Don't lollygag when it comes to domestic responsibilities. Do your part and move on to activities you find more entertaining. Discipline is required when dealing with someone you love. Be a good listener and offer viable choices. How you handle others will determine how others treat you in return. Don't rock the boat. You'll begin to look at yourself differently. Picture what you want to do and how you want to present yourself. Look for a feasible way to make the necessary adjustments to improve your life. Talks will help resolve issues. Don't hold back.

Taurus

Put your plans in motion. Reach out to people who enjoy the same things you do. Make romance and physical activity your goal. Live, love and laugh. Pay attention to what everyone around you is doing and you'll figure out what to do next. Don't limit your chance to get ahead because you are out of touch. Anger and resentment will stand between you and what you want. Put differences aside and pitch in and help. Working toward a more significant cause will lead to a resolution. Be careful how you handle money. Get your facts straight before you dole out cash.

Scorpio

Volunteer for something that concerns you and you'll make an impact. Take physical action, it will invigorate you and encourage you to take on greater responsibilities. Refuse to let someone dictate what you can and cannot do. Set your sights on what makes you happy and walk away from what's holding you back. Stretch your mind, work your body and use your power to gain ground. Step outside your comfort zone and bring about the changes that will help you achieve your goal. Recognize when someone is taking advantage of you. Decline a lousy offer and move forward on your own.

Gemini

An emotional incident will trigger a reaction that results in relationship problems. Don't act on an assumption. Take the time to get the lowdown. Go directly to the source. A positive outlook will draw others to your side. You can resolve issues that bother you and make a move that will help you get ahead professionally. An unusual offer will tempt you, but before you get involved, question motives and ethics attached to the proposal. Ask questions. Take a leadership position, and you'll refrain from being emotionally manipulated into something that's not in your best interest.

Sagittarius

Learn as you go. A gathering will give insight into how others handle stress and encourage you to exude more discipline regarding health, diet and fitness. Your ego will get a boost but don't let the compliments go to your head. You still have work to do if you intend to reach the goals you set. Look for alternative ways to handle your cash flow. If you let someone interfere with the way you live you'll have regrets. Distance yourself from frivolous people and you'll save money, time and trouble. Be smart and stick to what you know and do best.

Cancer

Look around you and make adjustments that will add to your comfort and convenience. Physical exertion will improve your health, emotional and physical well-being, and confidence. Think before sharing personal information or indulging in something you shouldn't. Don't make promises you won't or cannot keep. Put your energy into something creative and you will develop a new source of relaxation. Someone will let you down on if you put too much trust in others. Take care of your responsibilities, be independent and be the one to set a good example. Rewards will come your way.

Capricorn

Be secretive regarding your finances and health. Don't feel obligated to share until you know what you are dealing with and have set the groundwork to handle the fallout that may occur. Someone will tinker with your emotions if given a chance. Put roadblocks in place to deter anyone from standing in your way. It's time to promote what you have to offer. Dress for the occasion and prepare to wow everyone with your savvy way. It's your turn to shine. Someone taken with you will propose something interesting this holiday season. Listen and mull over the possibilities.

Leo

Pay close attention, jot things down and leave nothing to chance. An unexpected development will require attention. Scour the pros and cons before you decide to get involved. Stick close to home and by the ones you love. Refuse to get into an argument over something inconsequential. Be amicable and honour your part in shared responsibilities. Take a break from situations and people who make you nervous or cause stress. Do things that take your mind off the things that get you down. Explore your options and you'll discover something that excites you and puts a smile on your face.

Aquarius

Take time to get things straight before you make a blunder. Verify information, consider ramifications and look for a way to maintain a realistic approach to whatever you want to pursue. You are so close and yet so far from reaching your objective. Take the time to go over the small but essential details before saying yes to anything that involves your health and money. Relax and give yourself a chance to do something that you enjoy. Lowering your stress will help you gain perspective regarding what you can and should do next. Set high standards and you'll gain respect.

Virgo

Socialize and participate in an activity or event that interests you. You'll connect with someone intriguing. Romance is in the stars. Don't be afraid to promote what you have to offer. Explore the possibilities and turn a dream into a reality. A friendship will allow you to do something that excites you. Jump in with two feet, and put your energy where it will bring the highest rewards. Say less and do more. You'll face a dilemma at home. Don't ignore what's wrong; address the issue swiftly and put it behind you.

Pisces

Honesty must prevail if you want to avoid trouble. Consider how others treat you and whether they are to your benefit or detriment. Be true to yourself, your beliefs and your loved ones. When in doubt, ask questions, decipher who's hiding information and make decisions based on what's factual. Put your energy into something creative, spiritual or inspirational. Check out how others live and you'll gain insight into personal money management. Budgeting for something that can help you enrich your life will give you hope for a better future. Don't give in to emotional blackmail.

New Year's Eve hockey: Canada's top tradition

Brad Kraemer
INTERROBANG

It's the holiday season, the most wonderful time of the year, especially for sports fans. The National Football League's (NFL) Thanksgiving Day game took place a few weeks ago, there are the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Christmas games coming up and the best of them all: the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Junior Championship kicks off on Boxing Day.

The World Junior tournament has existed since 1974 and any Canadian hockey player or fan grew up watching it. The most popular games are of course when the gold medal is on the line, battles against the Americans and above all else, the New Year's Eve (NYE) game. Canada playing their last round-robin game on NYE has been a tradition for 22 years, and this year's schedule has Canada slated

to play Finland again, after the red and white beat the Fins last year in front of an empty arena in Edmonton. Canada has played Finland the second-most times out of any nation, behind the United States. The games against the U.S. are typically the most watched hockey games all year long in Canada and when they fall on NYE, they can be record-breaking. 2009's Canada-U.S. preliminary match holds the record as the broadcast with the most viewers in the World Junior tournament with 3.7 million. To fully understand the significance of when these two nations square off on the ice, the 2010 Winter Olympics gold medal game had the largest viewership in Canadian broadcast history. Canadians really care when these countries meet. Canada's World Junior record against the U.S. on NYE is 6-1-1 (tied in 2000, no longer a possibility).

There are many reasons to watch the best men's hockey players

under 20 years of age in the world. If you're a hockey nut, then you're likely closely watching the prospects. The selection camp roster was announced Dec. 1, and likely to play for Canada is Buffalo Sabres' first overall pick Owen Power, and projected first overall picks in 2022 and 2023, Shane Wright and Connor Bedard. There's also a good chance a player from London or one that plays for the London Knights is representing Canada as well. No London-born players were named to the camp roster; however, Knights' forward Luke Evangelista and goaltender Brett Brochu are a part of that exclusive group and are looking good to make the team. Londoners will have an extra reason to support the young men.

What truly makes the World Juniors and its New Year's game Canada's best tradition is the same reason people love Christmas and other holidays. It's

the best gift of all: it brings people together. That's what the holiday season is all about, right? The way our country rallies around its sports teams is always a sight to behold. Whether it's the Raptors playing for the NBA championship, Bianca Andreescu battling Serena Williams in the U.S. Open or a group

of young hockey players in the IIHF World Junior tournament, Canada always shows its pride by coming together. We might not all agree on who the Prime Minister should be or if you should pronounce the second "T" in "Toronto," but when our sports teams are playing, we are all on the same page.



ian.indiano

CREDIT: IAN INDIANO

The World Junior tournament has existed since 1974 and any Canadian hockey player or fan grew up watching it.



Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

From all of us at
INTERROBANG

theinterrobang.ca

[fsuinterrobang](#)
 [interrobang_fsu](#)
 [fsuinterrobang](#)



Omar Shiddo: Western basketball's new all-time leading scorer

Ryan Goodison
GAZETTE

Western Mustangs guard Omar Shiddo has broken the men's basketball team's all-time point record.

Shiddo pushed his regular season point total to 1,600 during the third quarter against the Algoma University Thunderbirds on Nov. 5, leapfrogging over Western University's previous record holder, Greg Morrow.

When asked if he was aware of the record, a grin grew across the fifth-year guard's face.

"Yeah, I knew. I knew for a long time," said Shiddo. "In my third year, I broke 1000 points. Ever since then, in the back of your mind, you're familiar with the all-time number. I knew [it was] 18 points to break it and 17 points to tie it."

Shiddo said that, although people around him exchanged words about the record before the game, the team focused on having a good start of the season.

"My friends, my family ... they all knew about it," Shiddo noted. "Coach [Brad Campbell] talked about it in passing. Everyone was familiar with it and knew what was happening, so there was a bit of pressure. Honestly, I just thought it was cool and wanted to go out there and see what happened."

Shiddo dropped 15 points to bring him within one basket of the record in the first quarter.

And in the third frame, after driving through Algoma, Shiddo completed a lay-in, and in the same

moment, became Western's all-time leading scorer. His family roared from the stands.

"Everything in my life has led me to this point, to be this leader," Shiddo said. "Sports, to me, is life in a nutshell. You need teammates to get things done. It's not just you out there. There's going to be stuff thrown at you, and you need your teammates, your family, to grow around you."

Shiddo's journey started back in the eighth grade in Brampton, where he began playing.

After going to prep schools in Nevada and North Carolina during his final high school years, the senior student committed to Western University.

"Coach Brad [Campbell] recruited me pretty early on... Western was somewhere where I could see myself," explained Shiddo.

Shiddo models himself after Damian Lillard and Fred VanVleet because of their height — Shiddo is 6-1 — and leadership attitude.

Leadership has been an essential factor for the senior in his final year of eligibility — it's one of the things that keeps him motivated night in and night out.

"Being the lone veteran on the team, not only do I have to perform statistically, but I also have to lead in all facets," he said. "[I have to be] working the hardest, be at practice, be level-headed and stay engaged."

The Mustangs are currently undefeated in both preseason and regular play, winning both of their games



Mustangs guard Omar Shiddo goes up in traffic against Brock University, Feb. 14, 2018.

CREDIT: MICHAEL CONLEY (GAZETTE)

against Algoma University — Shiddo averaging 26 points per game.

Shiddo and the Mustangs have their eye on a championship this year. After a bronze medal loss to the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds back in March 2020, Shiddo stresses the importance of fundamentals.

"[We] keep getting better," said Shiddo. "The teams that get better by the end of February go further. As long as we know we've given it our all, we can live with the results."

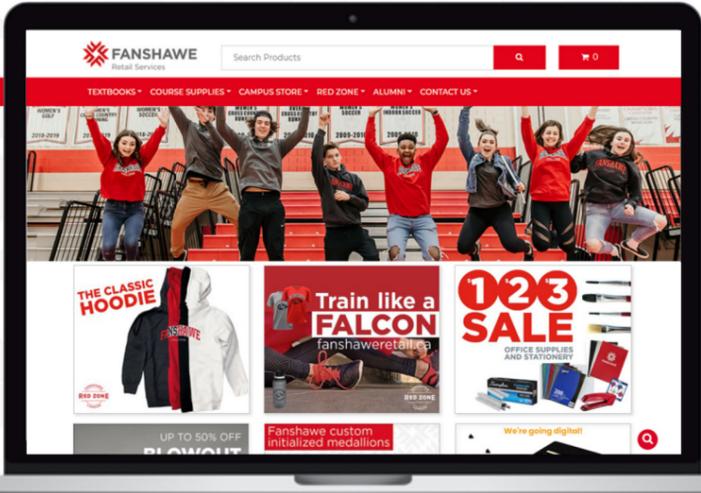
Shiddo is looking to improve his play further with hopes of playing professional basketball after

Western. But for him, basketball is much more than just a profession.

"Basketball is everything. It's made me the person I am today," said Shiddo. "It's given me a place to express myself. A place where I can get away from the stresses of life. Basketball has made me a better and smarter person."



FANSHAWE
Retail Services



**SHOP
ONLINE**

fanshaweretail.ca

CAMPUS STORE
supplies | uniforms
textbooks | tech zone

RED ZONE
apparel and gifts

**+ PRINT SHOP
VARIETY STORE**



INTERROBANG
FANSHAWE'S STUDENT VOICE

**Subscribe to
our podcast**





theinterrobang.ca/podcast

ENTER TO *Win* A
**Reading Week
Road Trip for Two
to Ottawa**

4 Days / 3 Nights, Feb. 21-24, 2022

Contest runs November 23, 2021 to January 4, 2022

VALUED AT
\$1,200
(based on twin
accommodation)



Scan Me

Visit navigatorlondon.ca/contest to enter



**HAVE AN OPINION?
SUBMIT YOUR STORY!**

WHERE?

fsuletter@fanshawec.ca
or
theinterrobang.ca/submit-letter

Do you have an opinion that
Fanshawe should hear?

Interrobang wants your voice.

Submit to our opinion section today!

theinterrobang.ca

[f](#) fsuinterrobang [t](#) Interrobang_fsu [i](#) fsuinterrobang



HAPPY
Holidays
FROM THE FSU

