





**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, Ian Indiano, Aisha Javaid

**COMICS**

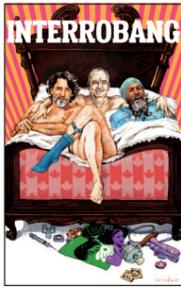
Laura Billson, Alan Dungo, Anthony Labonte, Andres Silva

**COLUMNISTS**

Michael Veenema

**GRAPHIC DESIGNERS**

Gary Hopkins, Jessica Wilson



**COVER:**  
Ian Indiano



**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.

**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 2021 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.



Canadian University Press



[theinterrobang.ca](http://theinterrobang.ca)



fsuinterrobang interrobang\_fsu



fsuinterrobang



**FROM THE EDITOR** Hannah Theodore

Hello readers!

Welcome to the annual Interrobang Sex issue. This issue plays an important role in helping educate you, our readers, on sexual health resources around campus, topics of consent and issues pertaining to the LGBTQ2S+ community. Of course, you can still find all of that here, but one topic in particular has moved to the forefront of this issue, and you can probably guess what it is.

Yes, the announcement of a federal election completely shifted our focus. Yet what we found was that this shift was decidedly, well, easy. Sex and politics will always be intricately connected in a society that views women as secondary citizens, gender as binary, and sex as taboo. Just this week, the leader of the People's Party of Canada (PPC) announced his plans to abolish the "trans agenda," meanwhile lawmakers in Texas quietly passed an abortion bill so restrictive that it all but dismantled Roe v. Wade, and the years of efforts put forth by advocacy groups to grant women autonomy over their own bodies.

But this issue looks beyond politics, discussing media portrayals of love, sex and gender and the, sometimes negative, effects they can have on our own perceptions of intimacy. Were Ross and Rachel ever really couple goals? Why are we still having to explain that no, Bella and Edward were not the perfect couple?

Ultimately what we find is that having conversations, and normalizing the topics of sex and gender in our society is the only way to move forward. By reading this newspaper, you too are helping destigmatize the topic of sex in the media. Thank you.

Enjoy,



**Letters to the Editor:** fsuleters@fanshawec.ca

**LONDONWORKS & AREA**

**VIRTUAL**

**JOB FAIR**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 2 PM TO 6 PM EST**

A great opportunity to connect with employers with open positions in the London region, and employment agencies that can prepare you for the workforce.

**WHY ATTEND?**

- Nothing replaces connecting with companies directly to make a great impression
- Speak directly with company representatives
- Learn more about employers beyond the information on their website

**REGISTER IN ADVANCE AND RECEIVE**

- A list of companies and job titles available
- Details about free preparation workshops leading up to the job fair



**REGISTER NOW!**

[ledc.com/event/london-and-area-works-virtual-job-fair-sept-21](http://ledc.com/event/london-and-area-works-virtual-job-fair-sept-21)

**PARTNERS**



# Sexual health vending machines at your convenience

**Hannah Theodore**  
INTERROBANG

Many of us have been there before: you're ready to get intimate with a partner when one or both of you realize you don't have protection. Cue the exasperated and uncomfortable trip to the pharmacy, where many feel nervous or embarrassed having to cash out with a pack of Trojan brand condoms and some KY jelly. The negative stigma towards sex in our society often makes us feel uneasy at being seen purchasing these kind of products, despite the fact that sex is a natural and normal activity that nearly everyone partakes in. This discomfort can sometimes lead to hasty decisions, leading to unprotected sex, unwanted pregnancies, and STIs.

Fanshawe's Sexual Violence Prevention Advisor, Leah Marshall understands the discomfort that many young people face in this situation. That's why two sexual health vending machines can now be found on Fanshawe's main campus, allowing for easy, discreet access to

countless necessary pharmacy items. "A big part of having the machines on campus is...not only to de-stigmatize, but also normalize sex and sexual health and that sex isn't all about what we've been taught," said Marshall. "A lot of our sexual health teachings have really only focused on specific things like reproduction, where we are focusing on pleasure-based sex and the ability for people to choose what's right for their body and what feels good for them."

Various universities and colleges across Ont. have adopted pharmacy-based vending machines, featuring common items like soap and toothpaste. But Marshall wanted to take Fanshawe's vending machines even further.

"It was the thought of not only having some of those pharmacy items, but really the focus of the machines being condoms, dental dams, pregnancy tests, as well as reusable menstrual products and so on, on campus."

The machines will still feature various pharmacy items like laundry detergent, toothpaste and Tylenol.

All of the items, including products like Diva Cups, are also available to students at cost, adding an extra benefit to students who may be struggling financially.

"A student could go to a drug store and pay typically around \$40 for one of these reusable menstrual cups," said Marshall. "In the machine, they can access it for \$20. So it's basically a better deal than what we were even getting at cost."

The machines can be found in two easily-accessible locations; one can be found on the main floor of the Student Centre Building near the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) office, and the other can be found in Falcon House, just off the lobby.

"My hope is, in the future, to have more of these machines accessible across campus, but this is where we're starting," said Marshall.

The machines have been running on campus since March 2021, but limited student traffic due to the pandemic has made it hard to gauge the popularity of the machines. Marshall has heard some positive feedback from students who have been accessing the products inside, though.



CREDIT: HANNAH THEODORE

Fanshawe's sexual health vending machine, located in the Student Centre Building.

"The students that have used them like the ability to access products without having to do a transaction with someone," she said. "And so there's also some anonymity in that process...like, we're breaking down a lot of the stigma around sex and sexual health. And so, any way we can do that, if someone can go to a

machine and purchase something, sometimes that's more comfortable than going in and having that interaction with a person."

For more information on Fanshawe's sexual health vending machines, or to seek support for gender-based violence, contact Leah Marshall at [lkmarshall@fanshawec.ca](mailto:lkmarshall@fanshawec.ca).

# Fanshawe outlines vaccination policy

**Hannah Theodore**  
INTERROBANG

After two weeks of statements that a vaccination policy was in the works, Fanshawe College announced its official vaccination plan Sept. 7, the same day that the 2021-22 school year kicked off.

The policy states that all students, staff, faculty, contractors and visitors to Fanshawe College will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to access campus by Nov. 5, 2021.

To be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in this case means that individuals will need to have received two doses of a Health Canada or Public Health Ontario approved vaccine by Nov. 5. This includes the 14 day mark since a second dose, meaning individuals must receive their second dose by Friday, Oct. 22 at the latest.

Fully vaccinated individuals will need to register their vaccination status through an electronic registration system, though little information about the system has been released as of yet. The college noted that it will not have access to anyone's personal health information, only confirmation of a person's vaccination or medical accommodation approval.

Exemption will be granted for medical reasons and those with approved medical exemption will be required to show proof of a negative COVID test result within the last 72 hours. There will be no faith-based or Human Rights Code related exemptions allowed, based on directives from the province.

Anyone who is not fully vaccinated or is not granted exemption



CREDIT: HANNAH THEODORE

Everyone on campus will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Nov. 5 2021.

by Nov. 5 will not be permitted on campus.

Students and staff who refuse the vaccine will receive further directives in the future. Students who refuse the vaccine may have their campus studies deferred or transitioned to a fully online delivery, if possible.

Fanshawe is hosting the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) on campus for several COVID-19 immunization clinics during school

start up this fall. At Fanshawe's London campus, vaccinations are available in Room G104 on Monday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Friday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meanwhile, on Fanshawe's South campus, vaccination clinics will be available Wednesday, Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Further dates and times for the clinics can be found on the myFanshawe portal.

# Western and USC issue warning in response to parties



CREDIT: YIFEI ZHANG (GAZETTE)

Students celebrate on the first night of OWeek, September 6, 2021.

**Hope Mahood**  
GAZETTE

Western warned recent OWeek large gatherings and "aggressive behaviour" have put in-person fall classes in jeopardy.

In a joint statement on Sept. 7, Western University and the University Students' Council said the gatherings near campus are a "blatant disregard for the campus community, public health and the law."

"We want to be clear," the university wrote. "If this activity continues, the academic year we have so carefully planned will not happen."

The message comes in response to an Orientation Week that's seen rowdy crowds both on and off campus, particularly near Broughdale Avenue — traditionally a popular party location during the university's Fake Homecoming.

Videos across social media, particularly on Instagram accounts like Western Savages, show students gathering unmasked in large groups

on residential streets. Students are shown climbing on top of vehicles and jumping off of electrical poles into the crowds.

The university and students' council threatened in-person learning, athletics and other extracurriculars could be lost if the gatherings continue.

"We have all worked so hard to get to where we are today. It would be disappointing to lose it before it even starts," read the statement.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit issued similar warnings in an afternoon media briefing, with chief medical officer of health Dr. Chris Mackie saying he was "very concerned" by the activity near Western's campus.

"We know that the majority of students are vaccinated but not all... you've got vaccinated and unvaccinated people mixing," Dr. Mackie said. "If you have those sorts of large gatherings, even outdoors, we will see tremendous spread."

In-person undergraduate classes began Sept. 8.

# Province exempts university classrooms from capacity limits, social distancing measures

**Rebekah Rodrigues**  
GAZETTE

The Ontario government will exempt most post-secondary institutions from capacity limits and distancing measures despite these measures being implemented across the province.

According to a statement by Western University, “The province is allowing flexibility for capacity limits and physical distancing in indoor instructional spaces, including classrooms, labs and libraries.”

This news came days after Western University’s faculty association called upon the school to “strictly adhere to Ontario’s Step 3 regulations for indoor capacity and physical distance limitations.”

The University of Western Ontario Faculty Association has also encouraged the university to delay in-person learning for courses which cannot comply with the regulations, among other things. Kings University College Faculty Association and PSAC Local 610, the graduate teaching assistants and postdoctoral researchers union at Western has since joined the school’s faculty association in encouraging the administration to implement additional safety measures.

In a memo, the Ontario



CREDIT: LIAM MCINNIS (GAZETTE)

The Ontario government will exempt most post-secondary institutions from capacity limits and distancing measures despite these measures being implemented across the province.

Confederation of University Faculty Associations commended the government’s mandating of vaccine policies in post-secondary institutions but encouraged the government not to let universities “recklessly increase capacity limits.”

“A safe return to campus requires a thoughtful and comprehensive provincial strategy that not only includes mandatory vaccination policies, but also proper infrastructure

investments, necessary supports for international students, limits on class sizes, and implementation of health and safety measures—including mandatory masking and physical distancing—informed by the most up-to-date science on COVID-19,” said Sue Wurtele, President of the OCUFA.

Western has confirmed that they are committed to returning to in-person learning this fall, with mask and

vaccination mandates for all those on campus, strong ventilation requirements, daily health screenings, on-campus vaccination and testing centres, enhanced cleaning, new wastewater testing, protective shields in classrooms and safety ambassadors in buildings across campus.

According to University Students’ Council president Zamir Fakirani, the USC has not yet been updated on the university’s plan.

“The USC is looking forward to seeing the updates from Western as new regulations are announced,” said Fakirani. “So far, students have given us feedback that they are happy with the health and safety provisions adopted by Western from mandatory masking indoors, required vaccinations (except in rare circumstances), air ventilation, and providing rapid testing and vaccine clinics on campus.”

**fsu** FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION www.fsu.ca

**FREE**  
Adobe Creative Cloud Download

Fanshawe Students are Eligible for Free Access to the Adobe Creative Cloud ecosystem of tools and applications.

**Go to [www.fsu.ca/adobe](http://www.fsu.ca/adobe)**  
For instructions on how to download your copy today! \*Some restrictions apply.

**Office**

**FREE**  
Microsoft Products

FANSHAWE STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE  
For a **FREE** download of Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office (Window and Mac Products)

**+More**  
Microsoft Products

**Go to [www.fsu.ca/microsoft](http://www.fsu.ca/microsoft)**  
For instructions on how to download your copy today! \*some restrictions apply

# Fanshawe goes green with Depave Paradise project

**Aisha Javid**  
INTERROBANG

Recently, Fanshawe College partnered with the London Environmental Network and a non-profit agency, Depave Paradise to implement the Depave Paradise project on campus. The Depave Paradise project helps prevent pollution, create heat sinks, and more, all from removing unused pavement and replacing it with greenery.

“The idea is that there is a lot of impermeable covering in our society, every street, side-walk, driveway, parking lot, all the places where we have buildings and manufacturing plants, they all stop the water from getting into the ground,” Associate Dean of the Donald J. Smith School of Building Technology at Fanshawe College, Steve Crema said.

The project is volunteer-based and hopes to connect local residents within the community, giving them a sense of ownership, inspiration, and the ability to educate the public. Areas with unused pavement that span around 100 meters squared or more, along with publicly accessible property are a few ideal factors that are suitable for the project.

“So, we have to build and manage the storm water and rainwater, which is damaging to the environment,” added Crema. “A lot of the times we have excess amount of asphalt and paving. For example,

when malls go out of business, the Depave movement is looking for opportunities to remove that unused asphalt or paving or driveways, parking lots, and return it to a more natural environment.”

Aside from the environmental benefits, some of the final projects became rain gardens, edible gardens, sensory gardens, naturalization, planting of trees, and green playgrounds.

“We allow it to produce plants, trees, flowers, and help us manage the water. So, instead of the entire parking lot having to be drained into the sewer, we have areas of green space, grass, trees, flower beds and gardens that will absorb the rain,” said Crema.

The Depave Paradise agency has multiple resources and tools and detailed trainings. It also organizes events to help attain public and media engagement, and a national peer learning network of Depave Paradise coordinators. The agency also expects a site host for each of their projects. A site host is an organization or group which hosts a Depave Paradise event on their property. At Fanshawe College, the site host was the London Environmental Network.

“The national, not for profit agency, Depave Paradise, they work with local environmental groups, including the London Environmental Network here in London, as well as other cities in Ontario and across the country,” said Crema. “The



CREDIT: FANSHAWE MEDIA SERVICES

A group shot of volunteers and another of volunteer Christine Mettler (an employee with Green Communities Canada).

London Environmental Network finds places, institutions, hospitals, manufacturing plants, and whatever they can find, who are willing to, you know, let’s say donate part of the space on their property that is no longer needed to have asphalted. Then, we get funding and do some donations and some volunteers,

and it becomes a multi-pronged partnership.

“So, Depave Paradise is a national group that contact London Environmental Network, who reached out to see if Fanshawe had an opportunity to give up some of our concrete space for this project,” said Crema.

Crema also added that the third

partner, majority of the group of volunteers, were from MTE Consultants, a company which is partnered with Fanshawe, and has completed several renovations on-campus. They are also a part of the permanent advisory committees for several programs in the school of building technology at Fanshawe.



Students, staff and faculty celebrate Fanshawe's Orientation Day at the President's Welcome BBQ, Sept. 7, 2021.

Photos by **Brendan Beamish**



Find us in the Student Centre!  
Fanshawe Student Union, Room SC1000  
519.452.4109 www.fsu.ca

Fanshawe Student Union Services

#FSUservices

## Stay informed

@ fsu.ca/services



Students Serving Students

The Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) is an organization committed to excellence in service and student support within the diverse student community of Fanshawe College.

The FSU is a student representative body designed to meet the various needs and expectations of students attending Fanshawe College.

f i s @fanshawesu • fsu.ca

Visit [www.fsu.ca/services](http://www.fsu.ca/services) for more information!

# London Police launch Project LEARN for another year

**Hannah Theodore**  
INTERROBANG

The London Police Service launched Project LEARN (Liquor Enforcement and Reduction of Noise) on Sept. 5.

The project, which was first launched in 2007, aims to educate students on nuisance parties, open fires, noise, littering, and public urination in the city.

“The London Police Service extends a warm welcome to all students who are settling in for the start of classes. While this is an exciting time for many, we are reminding students to be a good neighbour and to be respectful of all area residents,” said Staff Sergeant Chris Carne in a statement. “Striking a

balance between having a good time and following health guidelines laid out by health officials will be the key to a safe and enjoyable school year as we navigate the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, together.”

Cst. Scott Mandich said students can expect an increased police presence around Fanshawe College, Western University, and downtown London, as police educate students on noise reduction and best safety practices.

“Officers inform students about laws, and crime prevention tips,” said Mandich.

The initiative, which focuses on a balanced approach of education as well as enforcement, involves heavier police presence in areas primarily dominated by students. The

program runs every year around the time the fall semester kicks off.

“We strive to build strong relationships with our community,” said Mandich. “The increased police presence during Project LEARN allows us to build positive relationships with students, helping students know how to have a good time within the confines of public health measures.”

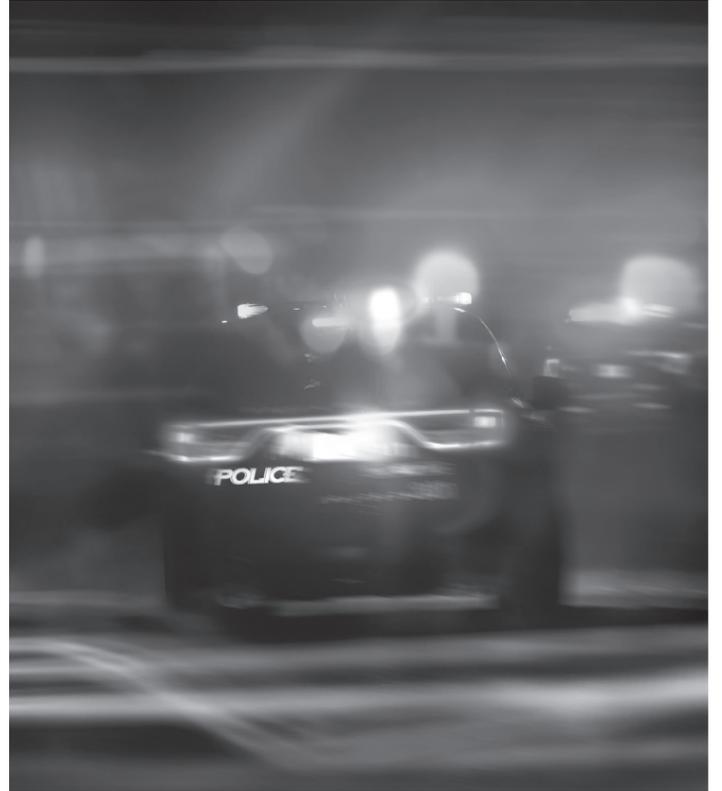
As with the previous year, this school year brings with it many by-laws regarding COVID-19. Mandich said these by-laws will be enforced and Project LEARN auxiliary officers will be taking the time to educate students on them.

“As long as people abide by these measures, then they can have a happy, healthy and safe school year,” said Mandich. “It’s been challenging for everyone and London Police are trying our best to navigate that. We’re just hoping students do their part.”

Under Step 3 of Ontario’s Roadmap to Reopen, indoor gatherings are permitted for up to 25 people, while outdoor gatherings are permitted for up to 100 people.

Project LEARN has been a consistent initiative by London Police for 14 years, something Mandich said is a testament to the effectiveness of the program.

“It’s been well received by students as well as residents here and I think the fact that it’s been ongoing for the past 14 years is a testament to the success of the program,” he said. “It’s what people choose to make



CREDIT: THEADESIGN

Project LEARN kicks off for another year of education and enforcement.

of it. If people are here to have a good time, but are also mindful of restrictions in terms of by-laws and public health measures, then we won’t have any issues.”

The main goal of Project LEARN is education. Along with administrative and student partners at Fanshawe College, students will

always have access to information regarding the law.

“Everyone’s health and safety is the most important thing, so as long as everyone is mindful of that, I think we’ll have a really successful year,” said Mandich.

Project LEARN will run until Sept. 25, 2021.

**FOREST CITY SURPLUS**  
[www.fcsurplus.com](http://www.fcsurplus.com)

**World Famous® NESSMUK PACKS**

- Tough canvas fabric, laptop pocket, ample back padding, & real leather straps!
- Big Box price: \$59.95!**
- Our price **\$39.95**

**Danby® 1.7 Cu Ft FRIDGE**

- Door holds 6 cans and 1 tall bottle
- Two shelves
- Scratch-resistant worktop
- Energy Star® certified
- Factory recertified
- Amazon.ca price: \$269.95!**

Our price **\$79.95**

**Black & Decker® POP-UP TOASTER**

- Two extra-wide slots for bagels & thick-cut bread
- Factory recertified
- Big Box price: \$49.99!**
- Our price **\$19.95**

**46-INCH TOWER FAN**

- Get a cool breeze!
- Space-saving design
- Brand new surplus stock from a Big Box chain
- Big Box store price: \$99!**
- Our price **\$44.95**

**Lenovo® Yoga LAPTOP**

- Intel i3-6100U CPU, 11.6" Touchscreen, 128 GB SSD, 8 GB RAM, and Windows 10 installed
- Bonus Ovleng® Bluetooth Headset (\$44.95 value!)
- The latest version of the Lenovo Yoga laptop with an i5 processor costs \$1,199!**

Our price **\$249**

**Aerobed® QUEEN SIZED AIR MATTRESS**

- Inflates in seconds with built-in electric pump!
- Great for guests
- 9 inches of comfort
- Customizable firmness
- Comes with a storage tote
- Open box product
- Big Box price: \$159!**

Our price **\$89.95**

**ELECTRICAL STUDENTS**

We carry almost everything you need on your tool list!

**1712 Dundas St. at Third, London**  
**Open Mon-Fri 9:30-5:30, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5.**  
**Check our price links at FCSurplus.com!**

# GROCERY SHOPPING MADE EASY.

**NOW HERE**

SHOP ONLINE

OUR EXPERTS DO THE SHOPPING FOR YOU

PICK UP AND GO WITH PC EXPRESS LOCATIONS

We would like to welcome all Fanshawe students back to school and invite you to visit us for all your grocery needs. Have a great academic year!

**Student Discount Tuesdays**  
**Save 10% Off everything!\***

\*Excluding milk, tobacco, bus tickets and gift cards. Just show your Fanshawe ID.

**Get started today** at 234 Oxford Street (Corner of Richmond & Oxford)

**Open every day 8 AM - 9 PM**

**valu-mart.ca**

WE OFFER A FULL SELECTION OF PRESIDENT'S CHOICE PRODUCTS!



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

**Ian Indiano**  
INTERROBANG

One more school year begins, and with it, another year for Interrobang and for this very column. For our first-time readers, Off the Radar is a column dedicated to informing you about what else is happening around the world, apart from the big news that occupies most of the press. Here we focus on what happens in small countries, in other continents, away from the Western world. As a college, Fanshawe is incredibly diverse, attracting people from all over the world. So, there's nothing fairer than dedicating a space in our newspaper to remembering that the rest of the world also exists, and that it deserves our attention.

Here are five off the radar news stories to help you stay well-informed.

#### Four golds for Chinese swimmer at the 2020 Paralympics

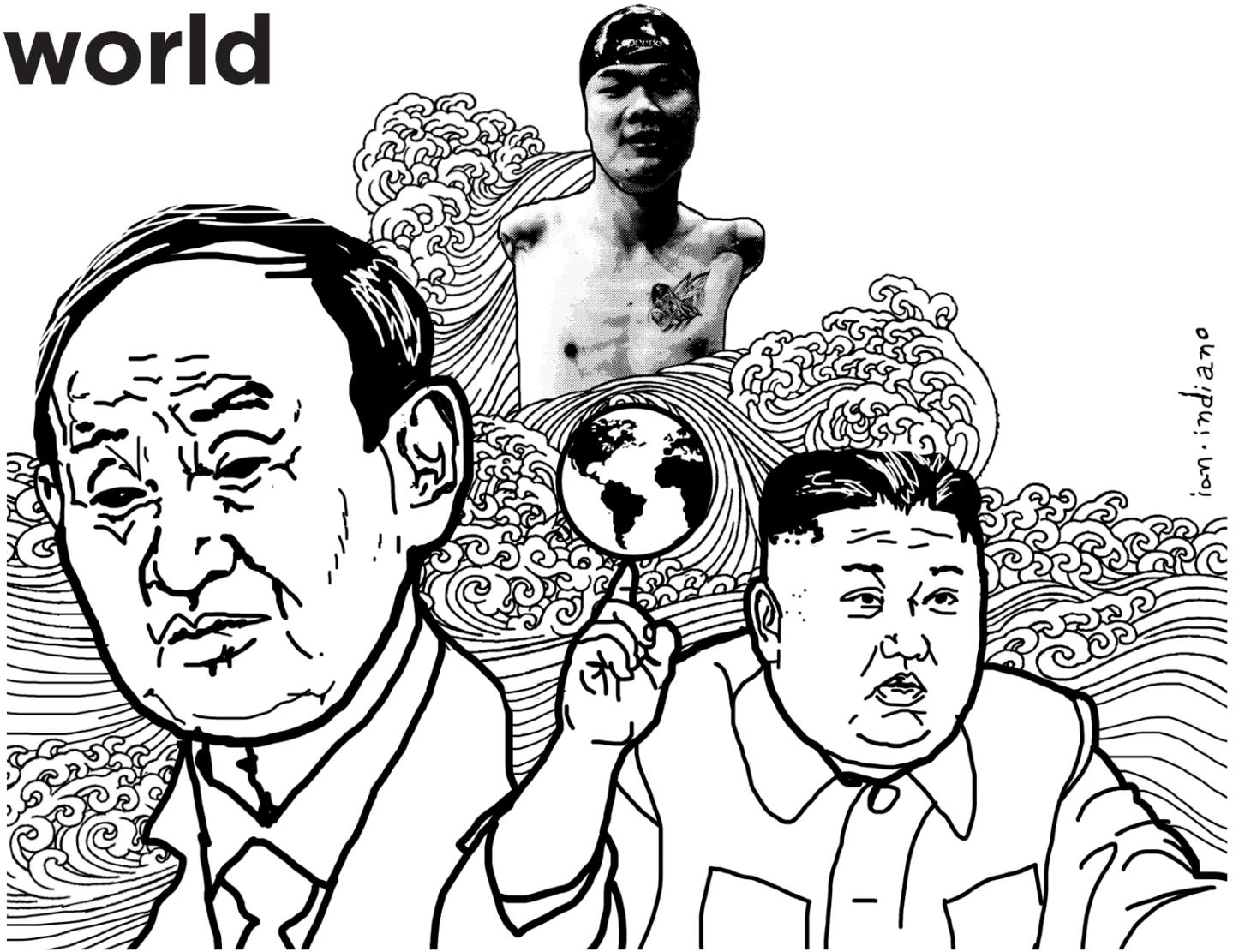
30-year-old para swimmer Zheng Tao won over the public after winning four gold medals at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. Tao lost both of his arms to an electric shock when he was a kid. He started swimming at the age of 13, making his international debut six years later, and winning his first Paralympic gold at London 2012. Since then, his career has been skyrocketing, culminating in his latest wins in backstroke, butterfly, and freestyle. With his latest four golds, he also broke four world records, reaffirming his place as one of the most successful Paralympians in history.

#### North Korea's Kim Jong-un calls for action on climate change

In a recent speech, North Korea's Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un said that new measures to overcome "abnormal climate" are needed. Since last year, the country has suffered a series of natural disasters, such as typhoons and droughts, followed by heavy monsoon rains that also resulted in devastating floods. The leader said that "urgent action" is needed and that the danger of climate change had become higher in recent years. North Korea was also hit hard by the pandemic. Although the country reported zero COVID-19 cases, lockdowns were imposed, and its borders were sealed, which deeply affected the importation of vital goods from China. Kim's declarations came a week after the UN said that the country had rejected three million COVID-19 vaccine doses, claiming that the shots should be relocated to other countries in need.

#### Japan's Prime Minister steps down

Only one year ago, Yoshihide Suga became Japan's Prime Minister after the resignation of his predecessor, Shinzo Abe. However, Suga has said he will not run for re-election as party leader this month, which will result in the end of his tenure. Recently, Suga's approval ratings reached an all-time low. Right now, Japan is under a state of emergency due to the worst COVID-19 wave so far. It was Mr. Suga's decision to host the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games this year, despite the worsening of cases and a slow



CREDIT: IAN INDIANO

Zheng Tao, the Chinese Para-swimmer, Mr. Yoshihide Suga, future ex-Prime Minister of Japan, and Kim Jong-un, Supreme Leader of North Korea.

vaccination rate. His decision was largely unpopular among Japanese people. A spokesman said that Suga will focus on anti-coronavirus measures until the election, which should happen on Sept. 29. The new Liberal Democratic Party's leader, Suga's party, is expected to become the new Prime Minister.

#### A toxic leak from a diamond mine in Angola kills 12 in Congo

A minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo said that the leak, which started in a mine in Angola, not only killed 12 people, but also left 4,500 sick and killed a massive number of fish. So far, the owners of the mine responsible for 75 per cent of the diamonds produced in Angola, have remained silent about the incident. One of the tributaries of the River Congo is now red after a reservoir containing toxic by-products leaked in late July. The contaminated fish were eaten by locals, resulting in many health issues. The extension of the environmental damages remains to be studied, but the Congolese authorities already said that they will seek damages.

#### Ethiopia's Tigray still in crisis

The fight between the Tigray rebels and the military continues despite thousands of deaths. The conflict started 10 months ago when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent troops to the Tigray region to overthrow the regional government after a local election. The war already pushed hundreds of thousands of people towards refugee status and famine condition. Both sides have been accused of committing war crimes, such as rape and mass civilian killings. Data shows that the war might be expanding to the neighbour regions of Amhara and Afar, which could result in an international crisis.



www.fsu.ca

# CLUBS

**Join Clubs.  
Create Your Own.  
Make New Friends.**

[www.fsu.ca/clubs](http://www.fsu.ca/clubs)

Contact Info:  
[fsuclubs@fanshawec.ca](mailto:fsuclubs@fanshawec.ca)

# Fanshawe MIA alums win big with Canada-wide award

**Aisha Javaid**  
INTERROBANG

Fanshawe alumni band, Lost in Japan's single *Lonely* won Corus Entertainment Radio's second annual \$20,000 Summer Song Contest. Group members include Addison Johnson (vocals and guitar), Chris Hoekstra (lead guitar), Karl Von Estorff (bass), and James Wiseman (drums). All members graduated from the Music Industry Arts (MIA) program at Fanshawe in 2017, and during their time at the college, they were able to form their indie-pop band.

Corus Radio stations spanning across the nation asked Canadian musicians to submit their original song to win a prize of \$20,000. The judges selected the top 10 performances prior to enlisting finalists to a public vote.

"I think we applied in July, and we found out that we were in the top 25, and a month later, we weren't allowed to disclose anything, we found out we were in the top 10 about a week later, and I was like, 'oh sweet!'" said Johnson.

Their single, *Lonely* was recorded in 2019, and is about missing loved one's while being on tour. *Lonely* was produced and mixed at Sugar Shack Studios in London by Juno-winning producer, Canadian recording Engineering Professor, and MIA program coordinator, Dan Brodbeck.

"This is such a great opportunity for this talent and up-and-coming group," said Brodbeck. "I always enjoy keeping track of and collaborating with our graduates. I love how bands forming in MIA and moving onto great things is starting to become the norm. It's music to my ears."

The band previously won the Free 98.1FM Made in London contest and the Jim Beam Make History Talent Search. They have also performed at



CREDIT: ALEXANDER LAM

Lost in Japan consists of four Fanshawe MIA grads.

the New Year's Eve Bash at Victoria Park and Rock the Park.

"We're going to try later this year [to perform] but if not, you'll see a lot of us in 2022, performing all over Canada," said Johnson. "We're still extremely excited about it and kind

of on a high right now, we're kind of riding that wave. We're putting out a new single in Oct., so that'll be funded from the money we received [from the contest]."

The band experienced a few drawbacks due to the COVID-19

pandemic, including being unable to perform shows. But the band took advantage of their time throughout the pandemic to continue to record and produce music together.

"We understood at first, but now, we're starting to get back into the

groove of things again, and things are starting to work out again," said Johnson.

Lost in Japan as well as Fanshawe's MIA department acknowledged the significance of the win and the positive impact it has made.

# Western removes testing option for those unvaccinated on campus

**Ashley Goveas**  
GAZETTE

Unvaccinated Western community members will no longer have the option to get tested twice a week in lieu of a coronavirus vaccine if they wish to come on campus this fall.

The change to Western University's vaccine policy came one day after a letter from the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health urged post-secondary institutions to mandate vaccines on campus.

Western announced in early Aug. vaccines would be mandatory for those returning to campus this fall, but said unvaccinated students may return if they underwent COVID-19 PCR testing twice a week. That second option has now been removed.

"Unvaccinated students, faculty and staff at Western will no longer have the option to undergo

twice-a-week testing in lieu of vaccination," Western said in the update. "Only those with a medical or Ontario Human Rights Code exemption will be eligible for the regular, twice-a-week testing in order to be physically on campus this fall."

A Western survey from last month indicated 90 per cent of community members who responded are fully vaccinated. The remaining 10 per cent of respondents indicated they plan to receive their first dose by Sept. 50 per cent of all community members responded to the survey.

The letter from COMOH recommends mandatory full vaccinations against COVID-19 "for all individuals involved in any in-person activities on campus ... with the rare exception of those individuals who cannot be vaccinated," said Dr. Charles Gardner, chair of the COMOH, on behalf of all medical officers and associate medical

officers of health in Ontario's 34 public health units.

Dr. Gardener said the many COVID-19 outbreaks linked to Ontario university students in the fall and winter terms motivated COMOH's "strong support" for a vaccination mandate.

COMOH's letter also highlighted that vaccination rates have plateaued among university-age individuals. As of Aug. 25, 60.49 per cent of Ontario adults aged 18 to 29 are fully vaccinated. The age group, comprising 20-29 year-olds, also contains "the highest cumulative number of cases," the letter said.

The newly updated policy took effect on Sept. 7.

COMOH also recommended campuses enforce additional safety measures for those who have exemptions and those who cannot be fully vaccinated in time for the start of the fall semester.

"All individuals who are



CREDIT: YIFEI ZHANG (GAZETTE)

Unvaccinated Western community members will no longer have the option to get tested twice a week in lieu of a coronavirus vaccine if they wish to come on campus this fall.

unvaccinated due to permitted exemptions or who are awaiting their second dose be required to adhere to additional health and

safety measures, up to and including serial and frequent rapid testing," the recommendation outlined.

# Should voting be mandatory?

Ian Indiano  
INTERROBANG

Countries with a mandatory vote are considerably fewer than the countries without it.

Canada, for example, never experienced a compulsory vote in its history. This discussion is still incredibly relevant, and it always reappears when we are close to an election. In those moments most of us question our social responsibilities and the actual impact we have over a system arguably impenetrable in its roots.

Samoa and Bulgaria introduced compulsory voting quite recently, in 2018 and 2016 respectively. Other countries, however, repealed it in the last few years too, like Chile, Fiji and Paraguay, just to illustrate how this issue is still very much alive in the contemporary world.

Before we get to the numbers, we must pay attention to the two key words on this dilemma: right vs duty. In countries where voting is mandatory, it is viewed as a civic duty to community. A responsibility compared to paying taxes and jury duty.

In countries where voting is not mandatory, it is viewed as a civil right, like freedom of speech. And just like freedom of speech encapsulates the freedom not to speak, non-mandatory voting comprehends the right not to vote as an extension of right itself.

But this is where things get complicated. Because democracy is such a delicate thing that requires constant maintenance, and because voting is possibly the most important action to maintain it, which one is the best option to keep a functional system?

Looking at the numbers, in the last election in Canada, in 2019, 67 per cent of eligible Canadians voted. Therefore, around 33 per cent decided not to vote, i.e., not to take part of the choosing of our representatives. Although these numbers in Canada are more or less consistent, the last time the voter turnout of a federal election was higher than 70 per cent was in 1988.



CREDIT: DORA DALTON

As the federal election approaches, one reporter wonders if voting should be mandatory.

Also in 2019, in Australia, where vote is compulsory, the voter turnout was around 91 per cent. When the Netherlands abolished compulsory vote in 1967, the turnout decreased by 20 per cent. Venezuela did the same in 1993 and saw a decrease of 30 per cent.

It seems inevitable that voluntary-voting countries have to deal with lower turnouts. And maybe that's actually the point. It takes the obligation sense out of the equation without punishment for those who chose to abstain. Brazil is the largest country where voting is mandatory, and despite the penalties against non-voters, at the 2014 presidential election around 30 million people did not vote. Another consequence of compulsory voting are the satirical candidates and parties, like when a black rhinoceros from a zoo received

100,000 protest votes in the 1958 São Paulo city council elections. The truth is that compulsory voting doesn't necessarily equal to actual political engagement.

Of course, the responsibility of showing up to vote shouldn't be viewed as completely individual. We need to examine the social basis of this responsibility. It is the government's responsibility not only to engage the population politically, but also to honour democracy with a system that reaffirms the participation, and the sovereignty of people's needs. It's not going too far to claim that probably most people that don't vote are precisely those ones who need more representation in the government.

Bringing it to our microcosmos, let's think London. In the last 2018 municipal elections

the vote turnout was astonishingly 40 per cent. When less than half of the eligible population vote, how can this be possibly described as a democracy?

Every political and governmental system is an intellectual abstract human creation, and therefore, can always be changed or replaced by a new better one. Maybe the vote system is inherently flawed, which doesn't mean that it can't be improved. As I said before, democracy is delicate and needs constant maintenance.

The voting system is just one aspect, one mere point on this ocean of issues. The key to comprehend not only the flaws but also the possible solutions is to tackle individual and society collectively. And new ideas and analysis are abundant.





SUBSCRIBE TO THE  
**Interrobang Newsletter**  
Get a chance to  
win up to  
**\$200**

[theinterrobang.ca/email](http://theinterrobang.ca/email)



Stay informed. Follow us on social media.  
**theinterrobang.ca**

 fsuinterrobang
  interrobang\_fsu
  fsuinterrobang



Students! Sign up online for your  
**FREE WELCOME BAG**  
from Fanshawe Campus Ministries

**[fanshawecampusministry.com/carebags](http://fanshawecampusministry.com/carebags)**

*The bags include some sweet treats, salty snacks, some school supplies and some other fun things just to help you know that you are being supported by your community.*

**Join Fanshawe Campus Ministries** to navigate healthy spiritual wellness. Details, locations & times available on our website.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**  
Monday: Engaging with Art  
Tuesday: Taco Tuesday Meal  
Tuesday: 12 Neighbours Small Group  
Wednesday: Circle of Hope Small Group  
Thursday: Fitness Fun

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**  
Spiritual Discipline of the Month  
Art Practice of the Month  
Faith & Film  
Make your Meal

**SPONTANEOUS ACTIVITIES**  
Coffee with the Chaplain  
Huddle Groups  
Meals on Us  
Coaching, Conversation and Coffee

tel. 204.799.9342 info@fanshawecampusministry.com  
**[www.fanshawecampusministry.com](http://www.fanshawecampusministry.com)**



# Unbounded sex and an alternative



**Michael Veenema**  
RELIGION

According to the current zeitgeist, the main goal concerning sex is to enjoy as much of it as you can while minimizing the potential for negative consequences. Every opportunity and any option of the “fifty shades” can be considered. Each manifestation of pornographic erotic interest can be given its niche.

Sex can be very meaningful when it is linked with community, family, children, faith, care for the partner, and life-long commitment. But increasingly, it slides into meaninglessness.

No doubt, when it comes to sex, there are many members of the Fanshawe population trying to live according to the standards of Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, Indigenous tradition, Judaism, Hinduism, Catholicism, or one of the many branches of Protestantism. They will not be enthused by the popular treatment of sexuality. Some will be grieved. Many will be conflicted, wanting to uphold what they believe to be a proper approach to sex, but being informed on every level that it is easier and healthier to go with the flow. It is not uncommon for them to experience guilt for failure to live up to traditional ways, ways they may have learned from their own parents.

Are there boundaries when it comes to sex? The main one, perhaps the only one that is heard much is that sex must be consensual. Public outrage, expressed in, for example, the Me Too Movement, over non-consensual sex is an indicator of how strongly this boundary is valued. Recently I was interviewed for a role in a public institution. One of the scripted interview questions was, “Have you ever engaged in non-consensual sex?” It was followed by, “What do you think constitutes consent and what constitutes non-consent?”

I realize that sexuality is a complicated area and that questions of sexual identity and boundaries are not always easy to sort out. But I think it is very useful to ask questions about boundaries



CREDIT: PROSTOCK-STUDIO

“From my perspective, it is very helpful to consider a thoughtful Christian approach to sexuality.”

when it comes to potential sexual encounters.

“Does just anyone get to relate to me sexually?” “Is the person using me?” “Am I using the other person?” “Have I considered the potential for negative consequences?”

Some people might announce the glories of casual sex. But as one (gay) man in a church once said to me, “I doubt that there is such a thing as *casual sex*.”

Recently a young woman who I have known for some time, and who lives on the streets as much as she can, interacted with two (female) volunteers of my church. She shared her extreme worry that she was pregnant. (The three agreed to visit a Pregnancy Care Centre supported

by local church members.) Unintended and unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, family courts, child support payments, painful custody battles, single parenting – these are all things that we, or I at any rate, witness regularly. They are real.

Regarding abortion, according to the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada, there were about 84,000 abortions in Canada in 2019 (down from the peak of 109,000 in 2011). If I understand the coalition’s numbers correctly, about one per cent of women between the ages of 15 and 44 annually have an abortion.

It is very important to think on the negative consequences of sex without boundaries – or

with poor ones. Obviously, these consequences impact women more than men, but men are not exempt from them – from, for example, custody battles, support payments, guilt, and unfulfilled desire for a good relationship with their child.

There is one thing about sex that is today frequently overlooked. And that is that God created sex. Therefore, sex is meant to be beautiful. It should be no wonder that many pursue the beauty of sex, even if in poorly bounded and destructive ways.

From my perspective, it is very helpful to consider a thoughtful Christian approach to sexuality, as an antidote to meaninglessness, and as a window to something that may surprise you.

## OnlyFans’ relationship with sexual content

**Aisha Javaid**  
INTERROBANG

Recently, internet content subscription service OnlyFans received backlash after it announced it would be banning sexually explicit content. The platform was a leading source of income for sex workers, who were also some of the top subscribed users on OnlyFans. Several successful gig workers and avid consumers emerged in anger when the content subscription service announced its ban. Although the platform welcomes all creators in varying industries, pornography remains its leading category.

Their settlement to reverse their planned porn ban occurred when multiple credit card companies withdrew their support from this decision.

I believe OnlyFans’ initial ruling to ban pornographic content was a huge mistake. The accelerated rise in the usage of the platform was apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. An upswing in its users (today there are 50 million active users on the platform) equated to booming profits for the organization.

Although they have reversed the ban, a number of their successful content creators are searching for alternative programs which are less threatening towards sexually explicit content.

Personally, I’ve never used OnlyFans. I’ve never created content on their platform nor have I subscribed to other users. But I have used other digital networking platforms, like TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram, which have allowed me to engage and interact with some of the most talented people known online.

I’ve asked highly accomplished make-up artists questions regarding make-up techniques, and shared different cooking methods with well-known chefs. Being able to personally interact with individuals who you admire or share similar interests as you is probably one of the greatest technological features known today.

Aside from the perks of being a subscriber, the OnlyFans platform also serves as a safe environment for sex workers. Sex workers are financially supported by their subscribers for digitally interacting with them. They are paid by their clients for everything from stripping off clothing or helping their clients attain orgasms. Some even remember their subscribers’ birthdays. The shift from the ‘street’ to digital-based sex work significantly decreased the life-threatening risks faced by sex workers.

As well, influencers on the platform spanned from being members of the LGBTQ2S+ community to celebrity lookalikes and much more. All genres of personality and gimmicks were acceptable. This notion allowed for creativity with an addition of uniqueness and inclusion to any creator.



CREDIT: ONLYFANS

Why OnlyFans initial ban on pornography was a mistake.

Some notable celebrities who have used OnlyFans include Cardi B, Bella Thorne, Aaron Carter, Tyga, and Chris Brown.

Furthermore, I understand that the platform was also battling issues regarding child sexual abuse and having under-aged individuals on their web page. In their defense, I believe their plan to prohibit pornography due to issues arising because of child sexual abuse material is commendable.

Although I have never been employed within an industry which seeks to specialize in content creation, I am unaware of their ability to be able to monitor minors as users and within content. But, as a user on multiple social networking platforms, I noticed that there are options to flag materials that are deemed inappropriate and offensive. Perhaps, OnlyFans will implement similar features to prevent their company from being investigated for a variety of criminal offenses.



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

# TAKING CARE OF YOUR SEXUAL HEALTH

Aisha Javid

From sexually transmitted infections (STIs) to being sexually unsatisfied to unplanned pregnancy, understanding your sexual health is undeniably vital.

Your physical, social, emotional, and psychological well-being is significantly correlated to your sexuality. If you are encountering emotional or physical pain with regards to your sexual lifestyle, it's very important to do research and seek assistance. Fanshawe's Sexual Violence Prevention Advisor, Leah Marshall consistently updates and assesses services she solely provides for the college. Why is she extremely passionate about helping students struggling with their sexual health?

"It's important for students to know their sexual health because it's a part of taking care of our overall health," explained Marshall. "As well as being knowledgeable about what we need to do for our bodies, and what's important to us, and perhaps some of the resources available on-campus and in the community."

Marshall organizes numerous events and activities year-round to help combat the stigmatization of sex amongst young adults, along with myths regarding sexual health, gender-based violence, sexual violence, and sexually transmitted diseases and infections.

During the college shutdown due to COVID-19, Marshall facilitated digital events like free trauma informed yoga classes every month. In addition to these events, Marshall undertakes the responsibility of seeking academic accommodations and works diligently to help empower survivors of sexual violence. Students can reach out any time to speak with Marshall for guidance, support, and to gain access to numerous services within the community.

Aside from the on-campus options, the city also provides a variety of resources. The Middlesex-London Health Unit offers services like free condoms, free testing for sexually transmitted infections, and STI counselling. In addition to their clinical services, they also have information on sexual development.

An additional resource for survivors of sexual violence in London is Anova, a sexual assault centre which is open to any individual, including those in the LGBTQ2S+ community. Anova is also in partnership with Fanshawe, and they provide additional resources like 24-hour crisis and support lines.

The London Cross Cultural Learner Centre also provides services and group gatherings for newcomers to Canada. Another resource

available

for marginalized communities is the London Intercommunity Health Centre.

They specialize in providing care to individuals who experience barriers to care, like members in the LGBTQ2S+ community.

Acknowledging issues pertaining to your sexual health is essential. Remember, there are individuals, like Marshall, that are knowledgeable and available to help. It's important to investigate and book appointments with any resource which best suits your situation and comfort. Also, many organizations and professionals in this field strongly value privacy and confidentiality. Their task is to support, thus, there are numerous centres open to everyone.

## It's not you, it's your antidepressant: SSRIs and sex drive

Savannah Bisailon

Antidepressants, otherwise known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), are used by many adults to treat depression and other mental health conditions. But what many people do not know when starting these medications is that certain SSRI medications can affect their sex life. Some of these side effects include lack of arousal, or even the inability to orgasm. SSRIs and other antidepressants can, in fact, lower your sex drive.

Of course, everybody reacts differently to different medications, but one of the most common side effects of any SSRI is lower libido. The main function of SSRIs is to treat depression and other mental health conditions by increasing levels of serotonin in the brain. Serotonin is one of the chemicals that carries signals between the brain and nerve cells, leading to a feeling of contentment and happiness.

When it comes to sex or even masturbation, SSRIs can make it so you may have a hard time feeling aroused or reaching orgasm. The reason for this is because serotonin helps people feel less depressed and anxious, but too much serotonin could make it harder for people to experience sexual pleasure. Dopamine levels are also decreased on SSRIs, a chemical in the human body that people need to feel stimulated. With less dopamine in

the body, it may leave a person having a hard time feeling aroused.

When it comes to finding solutions for enhancing your sex drive, there are some things you can do that could help. According to Harvard Health, "switching to a different drug" might be the answer. Certain antidepressants, they said, such as bupropion (Wellbutrin), and mirtazapine (Remeron) are "less likely to cause sexual problems. Bupropion, which affects both norepinephrine and dopamine, can sometimes improve sexual response."

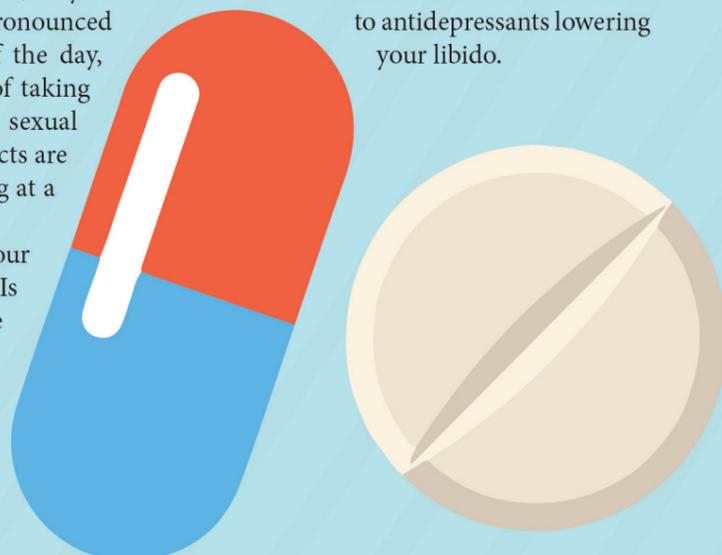
Further, Harvard Health recommended scheduling sex at particular times of the day, as your medication may produce different side effects within a few hours of taking it. According to Harvard Health, "your medication may produce more pronounced side effects at particular times of the day, for example, within a few hours of taking it. If so, you can try scheduling sexual activity for the time when side effects are least bothersome—or take the drug at a different time."

Not all antidepressants lower your libido, but the more common SSRIs have more of the common side effects. Having a low libido can have emotional side effects like poor self-esteem, social isolation and sometimes even stress.

Sometimes people feel as if they are not able to perform up to their partner's expectations, though it is caused by the side effects of antidepressants.

So, although antidepressants do help regulate your mood and emotions, the reality is they may also lower your sex drive. While this may lead to feelings of inadequacy as a sexual partner, know that this feeling is caused by your antidepressants. The overall benefits to treating depression greatly outweigh the side effects for most people.

When it comes to sex and antidepressants lowering your sex drive, chances are that you are not alone. A lot of people are probably feeling the same way. There is nothing to be ashamed about when it comes to antidepressants lowering your libido.



# EAST MEETS WEST: VIEWS ON SEX

Aisha Javaid

“Baggy clothes only, no dating, and your curfew is just before dusk,” are a few rules a Pakistani-Muslim girl is raised with until she is married.

From this, you may think Pakistani households are abusive and controlling. But many Pakistanis take great pride in living with this lifestyle. Pakistani culture is extremely family-oriented and enforces many guidelines based on religious Islamic values.

I am a Pakistani-Muslim and was primarily raised by my mom. Pakistani mothers are usually strict, but mine is very lenient, understanding, and respectful. With her, communication was key when I felt differently about my culture’s opinion on certain matters pertaining to sex.

I consider myself incredibly fortunate that I was raised with the knowledge of both Western and Eastern principles on sex.

To begin with, sexual education is virtually nonexistent in Pakistan. There are no sexual health curriculums in schools. Therefore, many women struggle with their reproductive health as they are uneducated on the many infections and diseases related to their sexual activities. Sex is taboo and any information on it is passed down in a secretive manner from an elder, like a parent. People are normally told the basics of sexual activity days before their marriage.

Meanwhile, in Canada, the average high school graduate is knowledgeable about health-related issues like the reproductive system, sexually transmitted diseases and infections, contraceptives, pregnancy and the different stages of sexual intimacy.

Additionally, due to the forbiddance of sexually related discussions, many individuals in Pakistan are at risk, especially if they are engaging in sexual activities.

You may be wondering why the topic of sex is greatly forbidden in Pakistan, especially since it is important for your overall health. The main reason is due to religion. In Islam, sex is noted as a gift, and is restricted for married couples. Some countries, like Pakistan, have adopted certain ideologies from religion, like protecting their daughters from being ‘used’ for sex to protecting everyone from diseases and public shame.

Public shame and societal consequences for an individual’s sexual activities is highly prevalent in Muslim countries. Many stereotypes follow young individuals who engage in sex before marriage. The reputation of these individuals becomes less, and they are viewed as dishonourable, characterless, and unprincipled. The population undertakes a traditional stance when speaking about these individuals, bringing shame to them and their families. Furthermore, engaging frequently with someone of the opposite gender in public also raises questions that may also cause them to be shamed by the public.

In comparison, dating in Western society is greatly encouraged. By the end of public school, children are taught the principles of healthy sexual relationships and are normally supported by their parents to engage in relations with the opposite gender.

I remember feeling conflicted years into high school about why Muslims take such an outdated approach to dating and relationships. “Being used for sex” was a recurring topic that many parents told their daughters as a means of distancing them from engaging with boys at school.

“But how does that even happen? Isn’t sex healthy for both people? How do you even get used?” I thought.

Many friends of mine frequently questioned my approach to sex and dating at the time. They felt as though I was being controlled and abused for not being able to freely engage in teenage dating culture. Personally, I found most teenagers incredibly annoying and immature. At the time, to think I would ever get intimate with anyone from my high school was unappealing.

I waited, and years later many of the same friends reapproached me. They were heartbroken, cheated on and used for sex.

It took many years and stories from others for me to understand that perhaps the system that Pakistani households present isn’t the worst. Being able to reject myself from certain situations and people due to religion, saved me from many problems.

I believe the sexual pressures in this society, especially for women, are daunting. Being unable to clearly reject sex and not be sexualized at a young age are some of the obstacles women in this culture face. In essence, here, women are encouraged to date but also risk being shamed if they are too sexually active.

I feel as though both cultures have their pros and cons. Moving forward, I hope that many cultures can adapt principles from one another to help benefit people. Again, I’m extremely grateful to have been presented both Eastern and Western viewpoints on sex, because they both helped guide me when I made many of my decisions today.



# THE STIGMA BEHIND FEMALE MASTURBATION

Savannah Bisailon

There are a lot of taboos when it comes to conversations around the topic of solo masturbation. When it comes to the conversations around female masturbation, specifically, there are a lot of questions regarding what counts as masturbation.

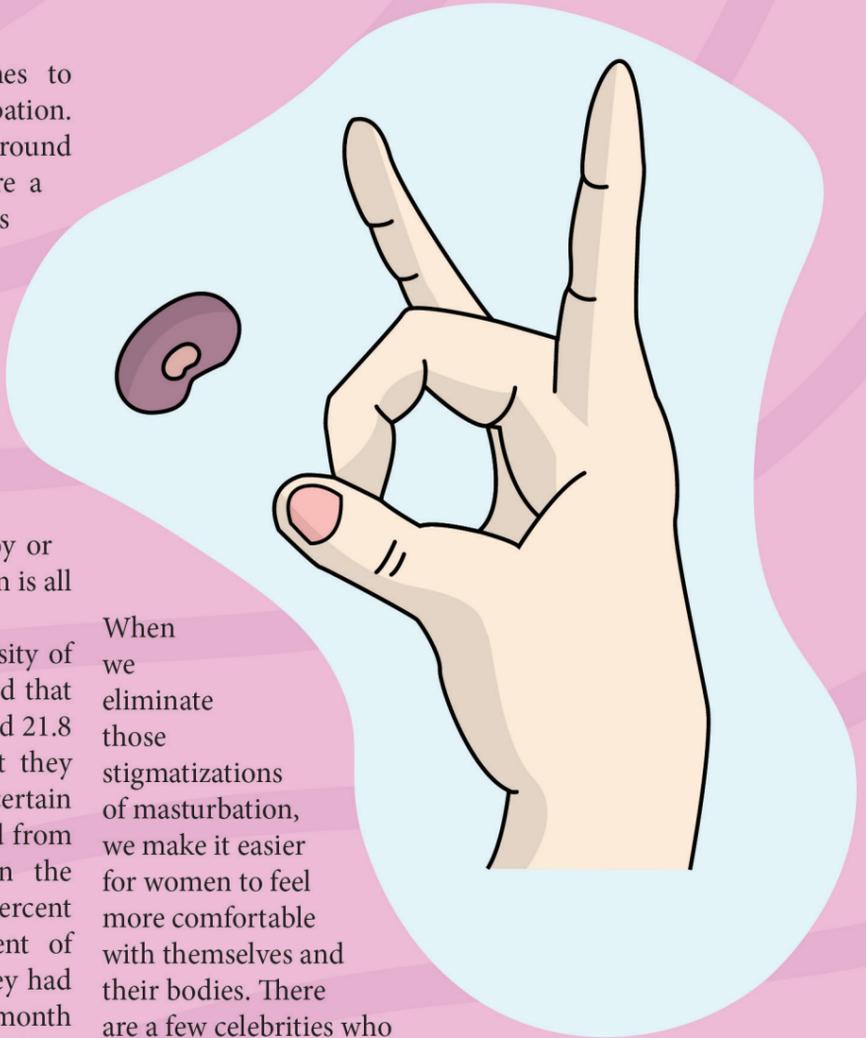
Throughout society, some people have a tough time acknowledging that women do masturbate. Masturbation is defined as stimulation of the genitals for sexual pleasure, but there are many forms of masturbation. Whether it be with one's hand, with a sex toy or even with a partner, masturbation is all a part of life.

In a study done by the University of Indiana, researchers discovered that around 8.2 percent of men and 21.8 percent of women said that they have never partaken in certain sexual activities that ranged from anal sex to spanking. In the same report, about 64 percent of men and 40.8 percent of women reported that they had masturbated in the last month prior to the survey. These findings show that while not everyone explores certain sexual activities, many people are at the very least, masturbating.

Society likes to put ideologies into women's minds starting at an early age that certain activities will make them "slutty," when there is nothing wrong with being sexual. Masturbation is a natural human behaviour that most of us do.

Some women use masturbation as a form of self care, like how some people go to the gym to work out.

There are different beliefs that all women masturbate, which is not the case for some women. Many are raised to believe that masturbation is a sin. There are beliefs that sexual pleasure should only be a shared moment between husband and wife.



When we eliminate those stigmatizations of masturbation, we make it easier for women to feel more comfortable with themselves and their bodies. There are a few celebrities who have opened up about the joys of masturbation to hopefully break the stigma behind it.

For example, Gina Rodriguez (*Jane the Virgin*) once discussed in an interview with *Bust Magazine* that there was a time in her life where she felt guilty about indulging in these types of activities. Meanwhile, singer-songwriter Hailee Steinfeld talks about masturbation through her song *Love Yourself*, a song that is primarily a self-love anthem, with overt masturbatory references.

When celebrities and people we look up to are open about these topics, it makes it easier for people to have these types of conversations. Masturbation is healthy and a part of the human experience, but female masturbation has especially been taught to be viewed as something dirty.

As a society we must stop using words like "slut" when it comes to women being sexual with themselves. The lack of conversations around the benefits of female masturbation means that few people know what kind of relief it can bring. For example, masturbation has proven to be effective in combating menstrual pain (*Womanizer*), and various women recommend masturbation to manage period pain.

There are a lot of benefits that masturbation has for everyone, so just eliminating the stigma around female masturbation could open conversations that are worth talking about.

# STASH & CO.

Recreational Cannabis



19+

Show your student ID every Tuesday!

397 Clarence St, London

thetashandco.com



## GET CONNECTED

Your source for everything related to Fanshawe student life!



@FANSHAWESU

WWW.FSU.CA

Apply approved hours to your Co-Curricular Record!

Minimum 10 approved hours for eligibility.



## BECOME A CLASS REP!

1 Act as a liaison between students & the FSU

2 Participate in monthly meetings

3 Gain new leadership skills

Sign up at [fsu.ca/class-rep](https://fsu.ca/class-rep)

Must be a full-time student.



Licensed by AGCO

# Fast

Beer, Liquor, Convenience Items

## 519.438.4641

[www.goodcheerdeliveries.com](https://www.goodcheerdeliveries.com)



GoodCheerDeliveriesLondon



Monday - Saturday: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Sunday: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Download our app for easier ordering and loyalty discounts.



## FREE INTERROBANG

NEW ISSUE ON STANDS

# Bi-Weekly



FIND US ON



# YouTube

FSU INTERROBANG



# FROM HYSTERIA TO PLEASURE: THE HISTORY OF VIBRATORS

GEORGE MARAGOS | INTERROBANG

The first sex toys were not used for sex, they were phallic ornaments thought to ward off evil spirits and help gardens grow. According to an article titled, "The sex toys dating back 28,000 years: Ancient phalluses made from stone and dried camel dung started trend for sex aids", from [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk), sex toys were first made of bone, stone, mud or dung. Nowadays phallic shaped toys are used for sexual pleasure purposes and are more than penis shaped appendages. There are a variety of different types and designs of sex toys including lubes, oils, edible undies, dolls, bondage costumes, cock rings, anal beads, and whips, just to name a few.

The word dildo came from the Latin word "dilatare", from the Latin meaning to dilate or open up. The classic rubber dildos didn't come around until the mid-1800s.

The first vibrator came to France in the 18th century, called the tremousoir and was a hand-held, wind up vibrator that operated much in the same way a hand crank egg beater does. In 1869, American physician George Taylor, created a steam powered vibrator called the "manipulator".

In 1880, the electromechanical vibrator hit the scene, an invention depicted in the movie titled *Hysteria* (Greek for uterus) named after the condition it claimed to treat.

In the movie, the inventor Dr. Granville begins working under Dr. Dalrymple who explained that warm baths, cold baths, water jets, mesmerisation, hypnosis and horseback riding have all been used in the past as treatment methods for hysteria.

Victorian era doctors questioned the existence of the female libido and would recommend the use of sex toys to alleviate stress

The cause of hysteria was supposedly a woman's uterus wandering around in her body, resulting from a lack of sex.

Hysteria symptoms included anxiety, sleeplessness, irritability and erotic fantasies.

The symptoms were so vague and broad that virtually every woman could be seen to have hysteria.

According to the [lehmillier.com](http://lehmillier.com) article "The History of Motorized Sex Toys", treatment for hysteria was a pelvic massage ending in hysterical paroxysm (orgasm). The alternative at the time was institutionalization or a surgical hysterectomy.

"By fierce external stimulation, we're able to induce the pain-pleasure reaction thereby inducing a hysterical paroxysm coxing the uterus back into its normal position," Dr. Dalrymple said, in the movie *Hysteria*.

The first electronic vibrator was developed to decrease the length of visits to the doctor's office.

In the film, Dr. Granville had an unsuccessful treatment (the patient didn't orgasm) and was subsequently fired. Later that day, while playing with an electric feather duster, he noticed it made his hand feel warm and tingly. He tweaked the machine into the first electromechanical vibrator, was given his job back and went on to treat more patients in an even shorter time.

However, by the end of the film, Dr. Granville reveals that hysteria was a bogus condition.

The personal vibrator gained popularity once electricity became widely available.

Interestingly enough, the vibrator became the fifth device approved for use in the home after the sewing machine, fan, tea kettle and toaster. They were even in the modern home before the vacuum or television.

The vibrator, the more widely recognizable sex toy, began as a therapy device.

In 1968, when the Magic Wand was released, personal sex toys quickly became popular.

Nowadays, sex toys are more accepted and have a more discreet appearance, as well as being able to do a lot more than they could in the past.

Sex toys are now developed to be self-lubricating, gold-plated and remote-controlled, with options to add attachments. They can also be programmed to vibrate to your favourite song, while others can even be used as an alarm clock.

If there's one thing for certain, today's vibrators and sex toys have come a long way since their creation.

# NAVIGATING THE ♥ ONLINE DATING WORLD

AISHA JAVAID | INTERROBANG

"Roses are red, violets are blue, how did I get so lucky to match with you?" That's what they always say before they ghost you, right?

We've all been there, from being catfished to ghosted to in a relationship to seeing your partner on multiple dating platforms, and that's not all. Issues with dating apps are cause for concern for everyone, not just single folks.

A healthy relationship is vital to our psychological and physical well-being. Companionship helps us deal with stress and increases our sense of being. Dating apps were designed to be convenient so that people may easily connect with like-minded individuals. Whether you're new or experienced with dating apps, there's always important information which may get overlooked.

First off, do not take anything personal. Today, we live in a society which embraces 'cancel culture.' A culture in which one is excluded from any social circle both on and offline for various reasons. Political biases and personal development are some of the underlying reasons why people adopt this mentality.

Similarly, the behaviour of ghosting is comparable to cancel culture and is more prevalent in the dating scene. Ghosting occurs when one drops all forms of communication and contact without an explanation. This sudden disbandment may leave you doubting yourself and your worth. But there may be several reasons why the individual left unwarrantedly. It's best to periodically assess our approach with people but also understand that some things aren't meant to be, and it's important to move on. Besides, sometimes people do come around, it just may have been a crazy work schedule that left them feeling overwhelmed and too busy to respond to your messages.

Next, let's talk safety! Recognize that everyone on these apps may not be who they say or look like they are.

Disclosing information such as the location of your workplace is risky. Exchange vague personal information and provide details once you have physically met up with the individual and feel comfortable. This is your journey of finding someone who best suits you and if your gut instinct feels bad, then this person may not be right for you. As well when scheduling dates, consider dates in public areas like restaurants, parks and arenas. If you are strictly following COVID-19 protocols, then virtual meetups or physically distanced activities are great options.

Following matters pertaining to your safety, it's important to also set boundaries. Be clear about your intentions and reasons for being on the app. In addition, be open to expressing your feelings, and if your feelings aren't respected then you are not obligated to continue interacting with the individual.

Lastly, be patient. Don't dwell on minor issues like not receiving immediate replies or as many matches. Perhaps the specific dating app you are using may not be entirely suitable for you. If you identify with a specific religion or nationality, do research and register with an app that will help you explore those with similar interests.

These apps may not be the place where you can showcase your best self, and there is nothing wrong with that. Investigate dating opportunities outside of the digital world as well.

Finding dates and being in a healthy relationship may be difficult, especially amid COVID-19. But it shouldn't hurt you and make you feel small. It's a journey which has ups and downs and rebuilding and starting over are driving forces for a healthy mindset when in the dating scene. Take care of your mental health, stay safe, and remember to be patient.



# STRESS RELEASE:

## How to incorporate masturbation into your self-care routine

Hannah Theodore

Taking time for ourselves has become an essential part of self-preservation amidst a tumultuous and draining year.

I've explored just about every self-care practice that Instagram can throw at me while I try to navigate the seemingly never-ending stresses of life as we know it.

You know the usual advice: take breaks from work, go outside, wash your face, workout often, and light a scented candle. If you get really desperate, douse your skin with lavender essential oil and try to fall asleep for a few blissful hours.

But one piece is missing from the popular rhetoric surrounding self-care. It's something we tend to avoid talking about, especially women. But Billy Idol didn't write *Dancing with Myself* for us all just to ignore the very real and natural process of masturbation.

While some individuals may not react positively to sexual activities, for many, sexual release can be a great tool for de-stressing. One study found that denying ourselves self-pleasure can lead to serious psychopathy over time. Many people avoid masturbation because it is often linked to shame or guilt despite being perfectly natural.

This is especially true for women, for whom sexual pleasure is often disregarded or viewed as taboo.

Conversely, for men, masturbation is labelled as a necessity. But this need for sexual release is felt by both men and women, and for that reason, both men and women should feel free to partake in masturbation.

Including masturbation as part of your self-care routine can have profound benefits on your mental health. It may reduce stress, help with sleep, boost mood, and even help improve your sex life. By exploring your body privately, you may become more attuned to what you want from a sexual partner.

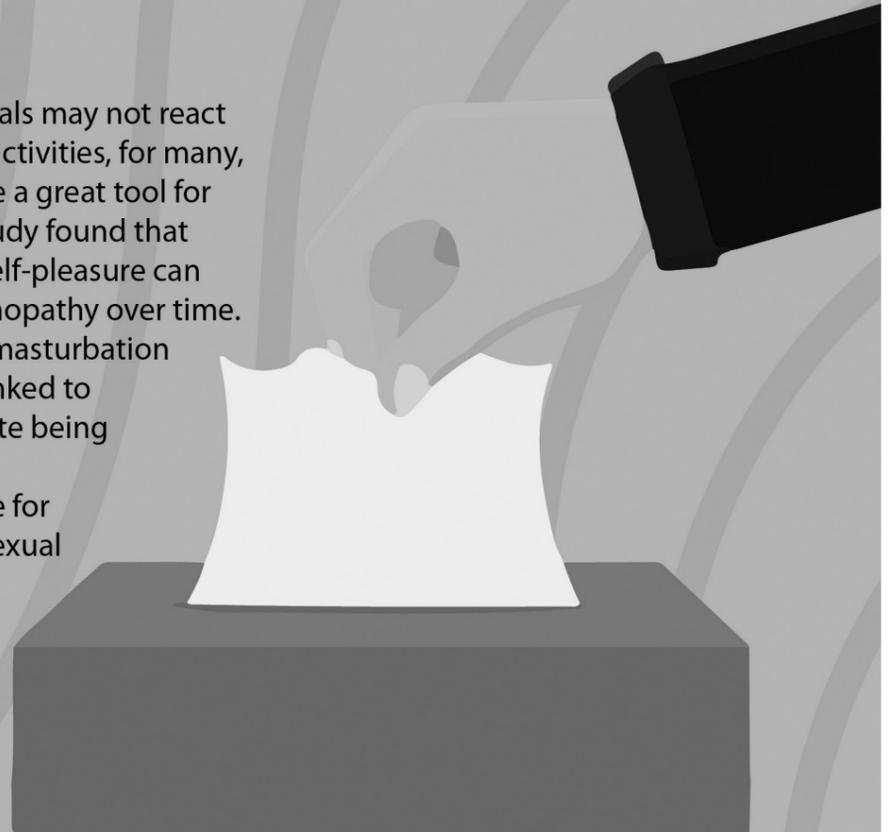
The most common side effect of masturbation is guilt, but that is a culturally learned response that can (and should) be changed. That guilt can be targeted through therapy or simply by exploring the process of masturbation for yourself.

Sometimes the biggest hurdle to addressing the guilt and fear surrounding masturbation is to just do it. Pleasure is a natural process that your body likely craves. If self-care is a priority for you, then masturbation should be, too. It is literal self-love.

Masturbation can also work as a great tool for body positivity, another important step in the self-love process. By exploring your body and providing it with physical release, you are reinforcing the idea that your body is worthy of pleasure. You are giving your body the love and attention it deserves, just like you might do with exercise or skin care.

Finding time to give our bodies attention might feel like an indulgence right now, but indulgence might be just what we need the most. In the midst of a year fraught with stressors, finding new ways to relax is more important than ever. You are worthy of every kind of release, and sometimes self-care takes more than just a bubble bath or a walk in the park.

Studies show that sexual release triggers an unprecedented response in the brain, allowing our bodies to release and achieve powerful pleasure. So get comfortable with what your body needs, and consider adding this completely natural form of self-love to your self-care schedule.



# How each major party would stack up as a sexual partner

**Hannah Theodore**  
INTERROBANG

The federal election is right around the corner. On Sept. 20, Canadians will hit the polls two years early. Based on recent polls, it's looking like a tight race between Justin Trudeau's Liberals, Erin O'Toole's Conservatives and Jagmeet Singh's New Democratic Party (NDP). Trailing, but ever-present, are the Greens, led by Annamie Paul, the Bloc Québécois, led by Yves-François Blanchet and the People's Party of Canada (PPC), led by Maxime Bernier.

Each party has its own set of unique platforms, ranging across the political spectrum. Now, I could break down each party based on policy and promises, but let's be honest, you never really know a person until you get them in bed. So, in honour of our special Sex issue, I'm breaking down how each party would stack up as a sexual partner. Who are you taking home?

## The Liberals

The Liberals are your classic party-next-door type. If you're into the freaky stuff, they might not be for you. Their favourite position is definitely missionary. It might actually be the only position they know. They're not exactly fans of challenging the status quo, but that doesn't mean you won't leave feeling satisfied. The Liberals love pleasing as many people as possible, and you are no exception. They'll even cook you breakfast in the morning, full of government-subsidized meat and dairy products. They'll definitely promise to call you...but they're not exactly the best at following through, so don't hold your breath.

## The Conservatives

If you love instant gratification, this is the party for you. They'll wine and dine you at a steakhouse first, of course; they want to make you feel special (just don't expect them to tip your server). But once

they get you alone, you can expect a quick, somewhat effective climax that might make you feel good at the time, but will probably leave you wondering, "now what?" They'll text you "R U up?" every day for the next four years, though, because as far as they're concerned, they've done their job. If you want someone who's in it for the long haul... this might not be the party for you.

## The NDPs

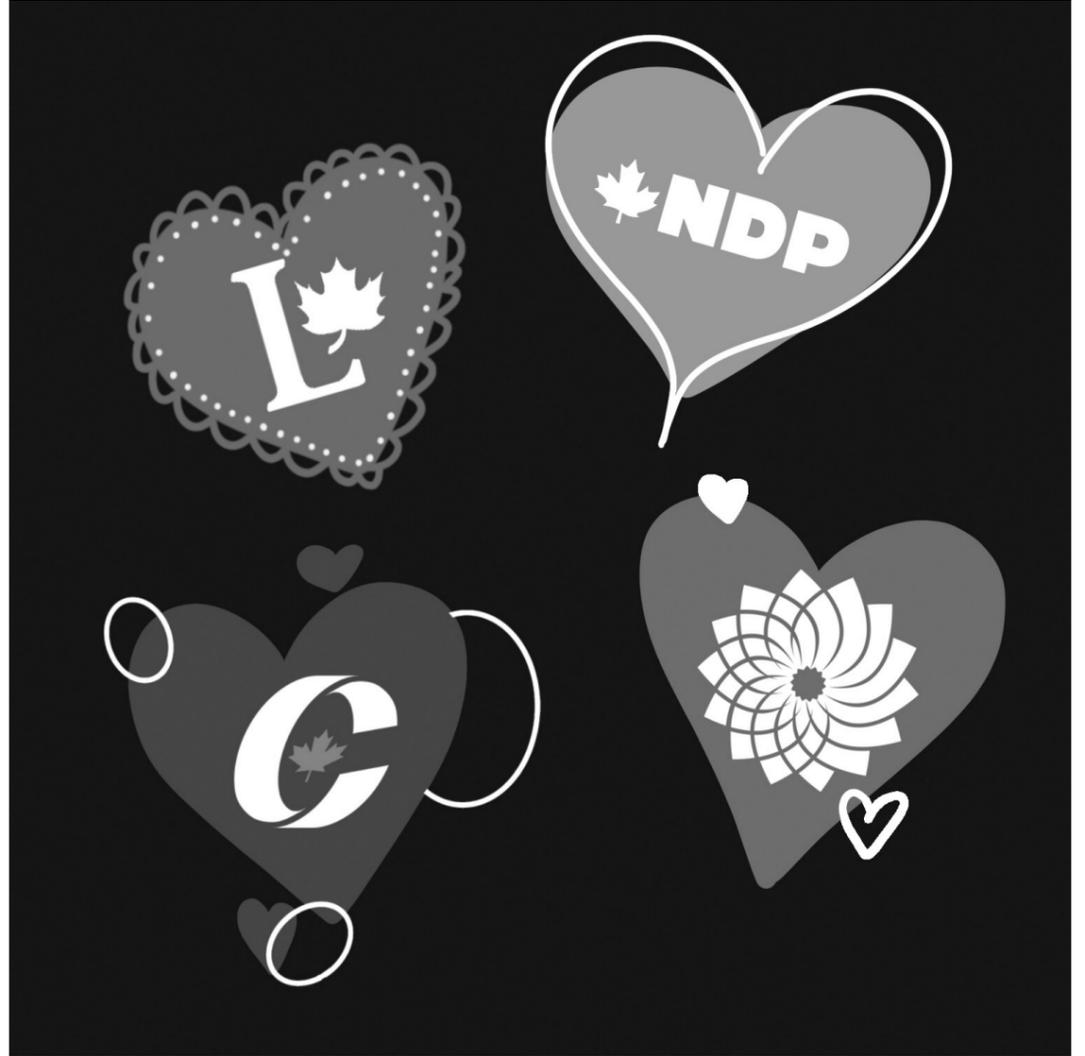
They'll try anything once, even if they're doomed to fail. After going Dutch on a modest meal, the NDPs want to show you a loving, good time. They'll take it slow, to show you how much they appreciate you (and because fresh, new methods sometimes take a while to get just right). They want you to know they're open to anything, and they want you to take the lead. Of course, their daring maneuvers and experimental positions might not always be the most effective, and you might not ever find yourself feeling fully satisfied. But the promise of a good time might just be enough to have you calling them back.

## The Green Party

For the Greens, a good sex life is all about connecting with the world around you. If you're into that transcendental, tantric sex stuff, the Greens are ready to give you what you want. They'll treat you to a vegan picnic before cycling back to your place for a romp in the ethically-sourced hay. They'll light a few candles (conserve that electricity) and will make sure you both enjoy yourselves. Don't expect them to give you too much attention in the morning though, as they're dealing with a lot internally right now. They're going to need a little "me-time" before committing to you fully.

## Bloc Québécois

Ah, the Blocs. Some sexual partners like to play the field and try new things while some sexual partners have a one-track mind. The Blocs represent the latter. A night



CREDIT: JESSICA WILSON

Still undecided on who to vote for in the next election? This probably won't help.

with them is all about convincing you that French culture is number one. They'll treat you to dinner at a French restaurant, and you might even be swayed by their charm and accent. But unless you're from Québec, they won't spend much time catering to you. You might still be able to get them into bed, but they won't stick around for long if they hear you pronounce croissant like "cruss-aunt."

## The People's Party

This party is for those who want nothing more than to be free in their relationships. The PPCs think you should be able to speak your mind, for better or for worse. They've got some stringent standards; don't expect a good time if you weren't born and raised in Canada. While you might start questioning your own morals, once they've taken you on a date to the gun range, the PPCs

will rage-do so hard, you won't even remember there's an impending climate crisis. And that's just what they want.

Voting can be difficult, and just like choosing a sexual partner, making the right decision takes a lot of thought and consideration. For more information about each party's platform visit [macleans.ca/rankings/2021-federal-election-platform-guide](http://macleans.ca/rankings/2021-federal-election-platform-guide).

# Relationships in the media we unknowingly romanticize

**Aisha Javid**  
INTERROBANG

The guy who made the saying "we were on a break" as an excuse for cheating famous and who accidentally said another woman's name during his wedding vows, is the same guy we hoped would end up in a relationship with another main character. Even though he's highly educated and soft-spoken, Ross Geller from the TV show *Friends* exemplifies insecurity and toxic masculinity in relationships, yet we still yearned to see him finally end up with Rachel Greene.

Perhaps our longing for our favourite characters to be together and emulate the perfect couple may stem from our own issues and personal experiences in relationships. Moreover, glamorized on-screen relationships may have taught us, unknowingly, which types of bonds are deemed 'normal.' As the audience, we may disregard toxic traits simply because we admire the character or the relationship

the characters had which appeared attractive and exciting.

Professor in the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at Western University, Dr. Lauren Auger said that the connection a viewer makes with on-screen relationships isn't specific to toxic relationships, but relationships in general.

"I think in general we glamorize relationships in the media," said Auger. "I think culture, especially when thinking about Disney or books that young adults are directed towards like *Twilight*. A number of these forms of media really emphasize relationships in general and even if that relationship is toxic, what they're doing is normalizing being in a relationship, as well as normalizing the attitude that people should be in relationships."

Auger added that viewers who may not be in relationships have their feelings towards narratives drawn from the media.

The evolution of American sitcoms has undergone multiple modifications in order to be deemed

politically correct. Throughout certain eras of television, there has always been a specific understanding of gender roles and masculinity, and how it should be portrayed on-screen.

"With Ross, you look at his character and some elements of his character seem progressive," said Auger. "He's academic, he likes art and drama. But, when it comes to how he treats women and relates to his significant others in relationships, it can be highly problematic."

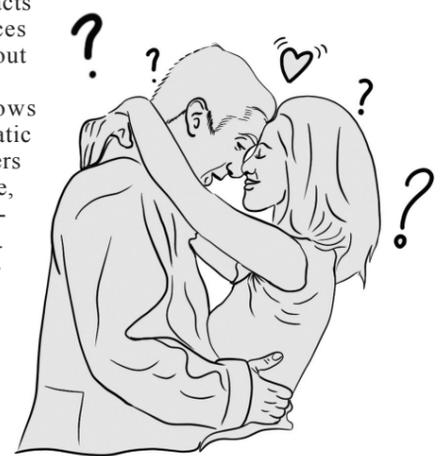
I also think that some things are getting better in the media," she continued. "I think that when you look at how society is rewatching *Friends*, and how it got a lot of buzz while it was on Netflix, and on popular media outlets like Buzzfeed. You can tell people are starting to interrogate and challenge this older show which has become popular again, and now people are critiquing some of the narratives in that show, especially when it comes to gender and how they portray sexuality and inclusivity."

Auger also stated that culture

in the media impacts personal experiences and our views about ourselves.

"Television shows that show problematic portrayals of genders or relationships, we, the people, normalize that," said Auger. "I often talk about *Twilight* in my classes, especially when we start to think about the impact a big series really had on young people and its problematic portrayals of relationships."

Bella and Edward's relationship is highly problematic, and we need to look at elements of control and Edward's control over Bella. When young people read these books or watch these films, they may come to view Edward's problematic behaviour as normal. This could potentially have an impact on what viewers see as acceptable



CREDIT: JESSICA WILSON

Were Ross and Rachel ever really couple goals?

behaviour in relationships and in their own lives."

Auger feels that it is important for there to be a more realistic portrayal of relationships on-screen. She prefers to see more partnership and equality in relationships, as well as connections outside of heteronormative relationships.

# Carrie Bradshaw deserved more than Mr. Big

**Savannah Bisailon**  
INTERROBANG

When it comes to sex and romance on television, one of the most iconic television shows that comes to mind is *Sex and The City*. Over the course of its six season run, Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker) had her fair share of romantic partners. It came down to two guys battling for Carrie's heart in the end: Mr. Big and Aidan Shaw. Personally, I wanted her to end up with Aidan because I felt as if Mr. Big only ever cared for himself.

Throughout the show, we got the chance to see Mr. Big as the money-hungry big shot he really was. He had a lot of commitment issues which were very well noted, like when he stood Carrie up a few times but then expected her to go out and meet his friends. Firstly, if she was someone he truly cared about, he would put the time and effort into making a relationship with her friends as well.

Some might say he was just getting out of a really tough relationship and probably was not ready for that type of commitment, but that did not excuse how much of a crappy man he was for the remainder of the series. Some red flags were definitely there.

Firstly, he would never let her into his heart. For most of the series, Carrie was chasing after him and trying to convince him to love her. She deserved someone who



This iconic TV couple was never meant to be.

CREDIT: HOME BOX OFFICE, INC., WARNERMEDIA, LLC

was willing to open up their heart to her and love her unconditionally.

Next, I would love to point out how it felt as if he was always leading her on and only putting enough into the relationship to keep her wanting more sex. Did it work? Sort of, but he still was always sending mixed signals. Also, in season one, when he did choose to start showing an interest in Carrie, he would never bring her to any of his events or introduce

her to his friends. It felt like he was ashamed of her.

I know for me, when it comes to relationships, I want my partner to feel included in my outside friendships. I would hope that they would get along with my friends and I would get along with theirs. The same goes for family.

At times, it felt as if he was very controlling and controlled the relationship to fit his needs and not hers. In real life, relationships go

two ways and both parties should have an equal say in how the relationship works and what each other's needs are. There was a time where Carrie even called him out on him keeping her a secret.

Ultimately, it was his charm that kept her going back to him. She could never truly be herself around him and always had to impress him. He even married someone else first because he felt like Carrie was not enough for him. Yet as soon as

Carrie was ready to move on, he was ready for her to come back. So, he only wanted her when it was on his time.

Lastly, he never considered her feelings; he made decisions for her and acted on his needs without any interest in Carrie. In a relationship, both parties should feel like their feelings and emotions are being validated.

Carrie, without a doubt, 100 per cent, deserved more than Mr. Big.

**TEXT FSU  
TO 71441  
TO WIN**

FOR UPDATES ON  
CAMPUS ACTIVITIES,  
CONTESTS AND MORE!

**FSU**

**WIN**

**FSU**  
FANSHAWE  
STUDENT  
UNION  
www.fsu.ca

**FSU.CA/TEXT**

**INTERROBANG IS HIRING!**

**Multimedia Reporters,  
Columnists, Illustrators  
& Podcasters**

For job postings visit  
**[theinterrobang.ca/jobs](http://theinterrobang.ca/jobs)**

**f** fsuinterrobang **t** interrobang\_fsu **@** fsuinterrobang

**fsu**  
FANSHAWE  
STUDENT  
UNION  
www.fsu.ca

To contribute contact:  
Hannah Theodore, Interrobang Editor  
519.452.4109 ext. 6323 • [h\\_theodore@fanshawec.ca](mailto:h_theodore@fanshawec.ca)

FANSHAWE'S STUDENT VOICE

# Gender identity ≠ sex

**Candis Bross & Pam-Marie Guzzo**  
INTERROBANG

Gender is a complex and complicated subject. Many people are born one of two biological sexes, either male or female, with the idea being that those people will grow up to be men or women. This concept works for a lot of people, who are referred to as cisgender because they identify with the gender they were assigned at birth based on their sex organs.

This concept of the gender binary, where male and female are the only options, can be extremely limiting to people that find themselves identifying outside these constructs.

Biologically, gender isn't black or white. If you've taken biology, you may have learned that most biological males are born XY and females are born XX. Though, this isn't always the case; about one in 2000 individuals are born with only one sex identifier, or with many. Unless doing a DNA analysis for medical reasons, a person might never know about this difference.

Sometimes, either due to the genetic dice roll or other changes while in the womb, a person may be born intersex, meaning they are born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the typical definitions of female or male. This used to be corrected by doctors and pills, but it's becoming more common for parents of these children to wait until almost puberty before letting the child decide what gender they would like to be – if any.

Gender today is normally talked about in terms of masculine and feminine, but this has meant very different things throughout history and in various cultures.

The differentiation between gender and sex is key to understanding how gender identity affects people. While sex normally refers to the biological sex someone is born with, gender refers to how someone feels about themselves in terms of masculinity or femininity.

A person's gender identity is what gender they feel they are in the core of their being. Gender expression is how they express gender, often with style choices or mannerism. Sexuality is about who they find sexually attractive, which can be anything from just one special person to no one at all. Society sometimes makes assumptions about someone's gender identity based on their gender expression or sexuality, but these three things are not always related. Just because someone presents themselves in a dress and heels does not automatically mean they identify as female. After all, clothes are just objects that we have placed gendered meaning on as a society.

It might surprise some to learn men originally were the only ones to wear high heels in the 1600s; French noblemen would wear heels as a status symbol, showing they didn't need to work.

Workers needed more practical footwear and couldn't afford impractical shoes. Louis XIV had his own signature heels with red soles and heels that only the members of his court were allowed to wear. Status symbols like this still exist today, not unlike the expensive Louboutins that mimic the king's style, according to an article by the BBC.

This started to change in the 1630s, when high-class women began adopting traditionally masculine behaviours like smoking pipes and wearing heels. Slowly the lower classes adopted these style trends and the elites responded by making their shoes with higher, more impractical heels according to an article in The Society Pages.

While I identify with being a cisgender female, meaning I feel aligned with sex I was born with, not everyone has that privilege. There are many gender identities that people can identify with: male, female, agender, gender neutral, non-binary, gender-fluid, transgender, genderqueer, two-spirit and many more.

This is why Facebook now gives people the ability to choose from a pre-populated list of gender identities as well as a custom gender. These changes can reflect how Facebook refers to a person through pronoun use on the site.

Pronoun use – he, she, they, zhe, etc. – is one of the ways you can show respect to someone who identifies outside the gender binary of male or female. Society is used to looking at someone and assuming what their pronouns are, but assuming pronouns can have a negative impact.

Misgendering a person can make someone feel very uncomfortable or in more extreme cases, put someone in a dangerous situation, such as if you accidentally 'out' someone as transgender. Most people will not be offended if you ask what pronoun they use. Many people use the term 'preferred pronoun', but some people's pronouns are not preferred, but mandatory to their identity.

There have been arguments that say using 'they' as a singular pronoun is not grammatically correct, but in the English language we use it that way all the time. For example, if a chef makes something incorrectly at a restaurant, we say, "They forgot I didn't want cheese", where 'they' means the chef, one person.

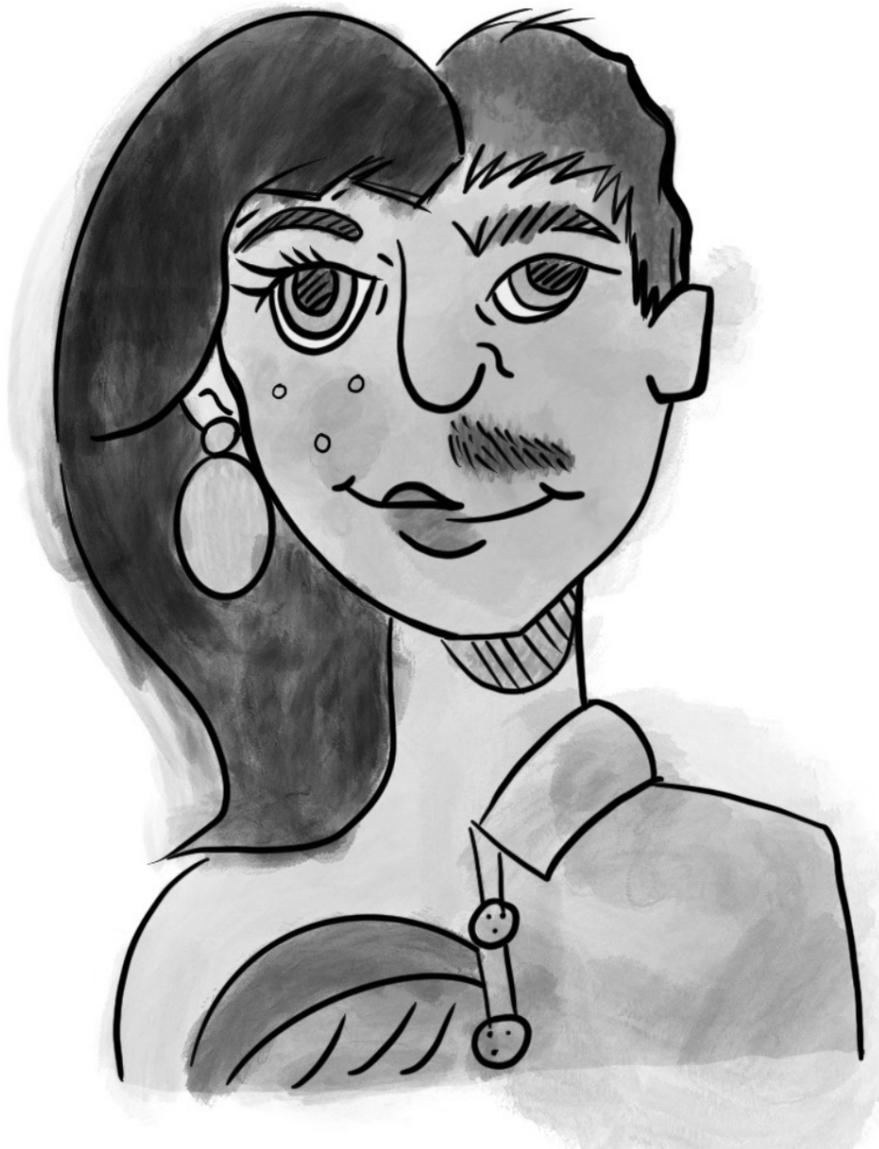
In situations where gender is unknown, society often uses the term 'they' as a blanket pronoun. Using gender-neutral pronouns is considered to be safe if you are unsure of a person's gender identity, but it's always better to ask.

Asking someone about their pronouns can be uncomfortable, but it's even more uncomfortable for that person to hear themselves constantly misgendered in conversation.

Reaffirming someone's gender identity by asking about and using their pronouns is a way to create a safe space for someone. The most important thing to remember is not to question anyone on their pronoun use, because although you might be confused and don't understand why someone might use those pronouns, their gender identity is valid whether or not you understand it.

If someone asks for their pronouns to be changed, respect that request. It can be difficult to change your language and you will make mistakes, but it's important to show respect for people by using pronouns correctly.

While you may have never struggled with gender identity issues, it's very likely that someone you love has. Remember, part of being human is choosing our own definitions and showing compassion is essential for those who are still figuring it out.



CREDIT: JESSICA WILSON

Sex and gender are not the same, yet they are often equated under the gender binary.

## FSU.CA/CONTESTS

WE'RE GIVING AWAY





@FANSHAWESU

\$700 AMAZON GIFT CARD

\$200 GOOGLE PLAY GIFT CARD

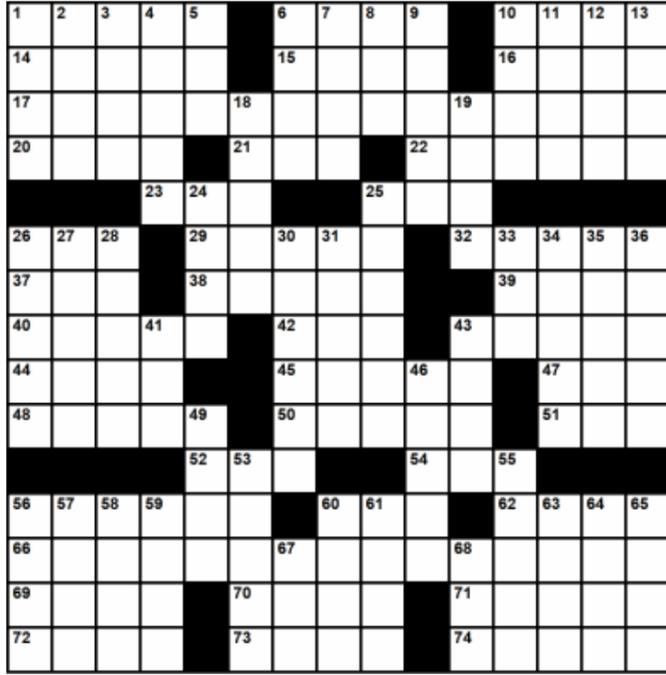
PRESIDENT'S CHOICE \$25 GIFT CARD



**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Fab Four member
- 6. Brewer's equipment
- 10. Dismal
- 14. Throw for \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. David of "Rhoda"
- 16. Suffix for a collection of items
- 17. Balancing point
- 20. She, in Italy
- 21. Mormons, initially
- 22. Spots on peacock feathers
- 23. Word before "kwon do"
- 25. "Self-Reliance" essayist's initials
- 26. In the past
- 29. Red giant with a carbon-rich atmosphere
- 32. Childish retort (2 words)
- 37. "Solaris" author Stanislaw
- 38. Yoga posture
- 39. At no time, poetically
- 40. Cousin of a raccoon
- 42. Emeritus (Abbr.)
- 43. Newspaper section
- 44. Alencon's department
- 45. Snorkeling spots
- 47. Classic Pontiac
- 48. "\_\_\_\_ Like You" (1967 hit)
- 50. Icelandic poems
- 51. Smoking alternative
- 52. Relative of -ish
- 54. Beam
- 56. Flu symptom
- 60. Special attention, for short
- 62. German pronoun
- 66. Not to be shown to anyone else
- 69. Blacken
- 70. Ardor
- 71. "What a shame!"
- 72. Loudness measure
- 73. Congo river
- 74. Russian autocrats



**DOWN**

- 1. Make haste
- 2. Martinique et Guadeloupe
- 3. French denials
- 4. Reached
- 5. Unlock, poetically
- 6. Prayer opening
- 7. Kennel cries
- 8. Lose crispiness
- 9. Chuck
- 10. Chip in
- 11. Commuter line
- 12. Like some flights to LAX
- 13. "Will you allow me to demonstrate?"
- 18. Like months when oysters aren't in season
- 19. Passing grades
- 24. Dark purple fruit
- 25. Gave a score to
- 26. Big name in kitchen foil
- 27. Composer Gershwin
- 28. Certain Arab
- 30. Like many roads
- 31. Have \_\_\_\_ for (require) (2 wds.)
- 33. Having five sharps, perhaps
- 34. Stoop to
- 35. Begin in earnest
- 36. Welles of "War of the Worlds"
- 41. Thrice, in prescriptions
- 43. Bones, anatomically
- 46. Madcap comedy
- 49. People of SW China
- 53. Japanese automaker
- 55. Cries of pain
- 56. Ozone layer destroyers
- 57. Sounds from Santa
- 58. Persia, today
- 59. Harp's cousin
- 60. Blue hue
- 61. Singer Lovett woman
- 64. N.Y. Met or L.A. Dodger, e.g.
- 65. Looks over
- 67. Female sandpiper
- 68. Took a break

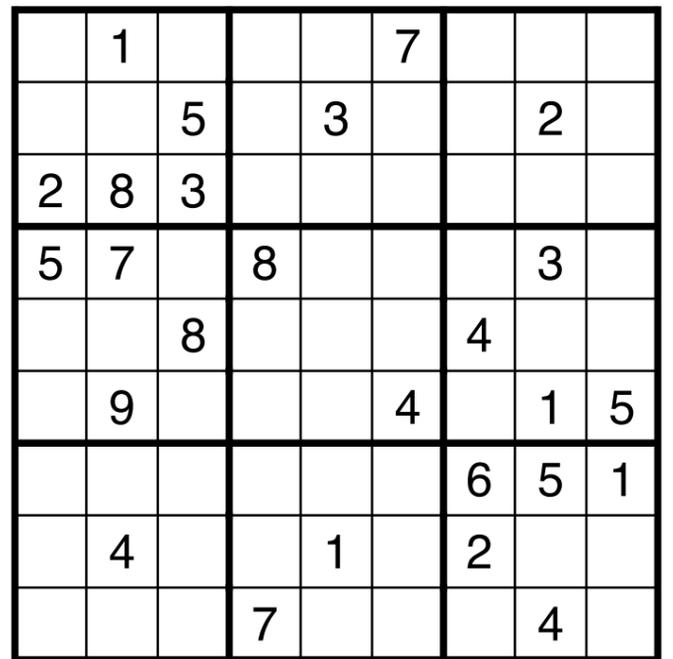
**WORD SEARCH**



**SEXUAL HEALTH & AWARENESS**

- |             |                |           |            |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Chlamydia   | Balanitis      | Foreplay  | Abstinence |
| Androgynous | Ace            | Drag      | Blue Balls |
| Agender     | Cisgender      | Gonads    | Herpes     |
| Queef       | Menage a trois | Climax    | Hymen      |
| Strap-on    | Cybersex       | Butt plug |            |

**SUDOKU**



*Puzzle rating: Hard*

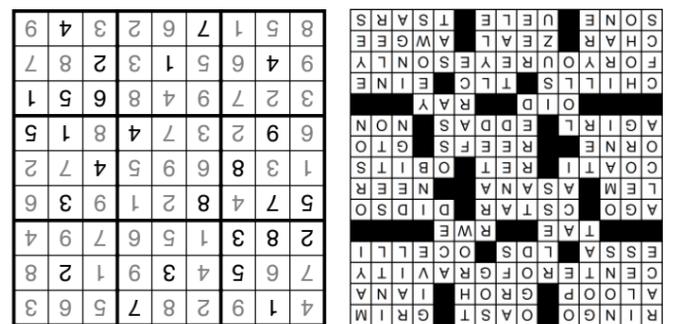
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means no number is repeated in any column, row or box.

**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
				22													8							12	

“  
 10 18    6 22 2    21 20 19 5 15    1 22 7  
 11 26 22 1 2 9 2 7    9 3 20 26 7 10 20 2  
 23 20 19 5 15    3 22    9    8 9 21 26 9 6 22 2 7  
 1 5 20 26 10 9    8 7 22 10 2 22 6  
 ”

**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



— Gloria Steinem  
 "If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament."



Visit our new & improved website!

YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS, OPINIONS, CULTURE AND MORE...

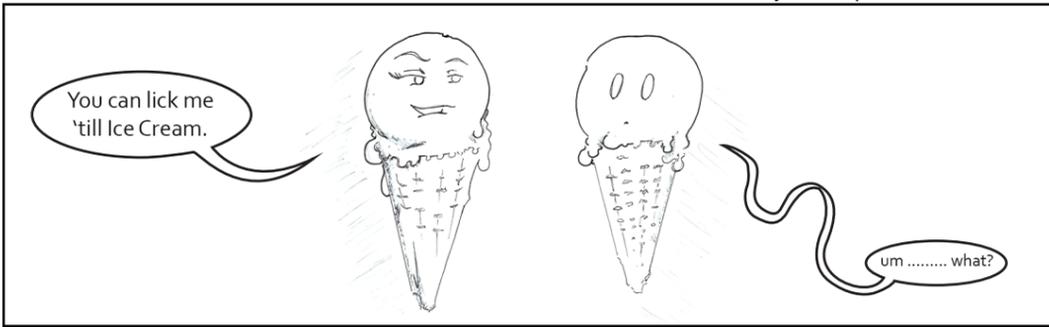


Stay informed. Follow us on social media.

[theinterrobang.ca](http://theinterrobang.ca)

- fsuinterrobang
- interrobang\_fsu
- fsuinterrobang

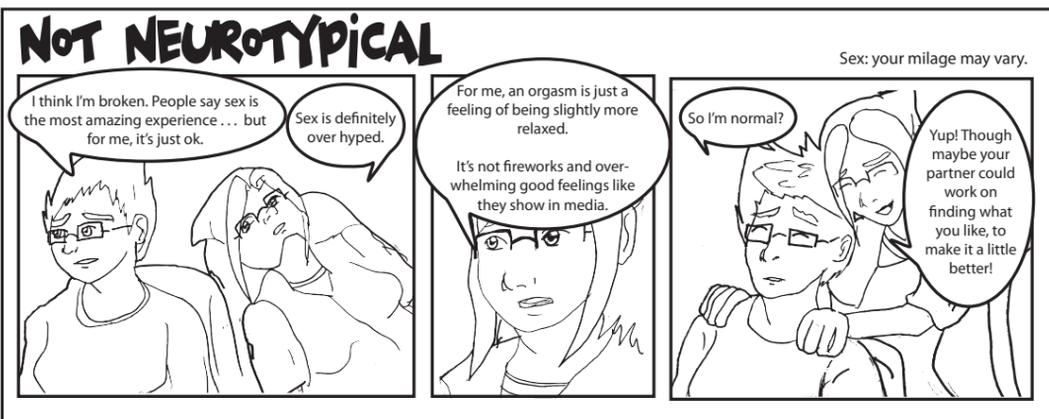
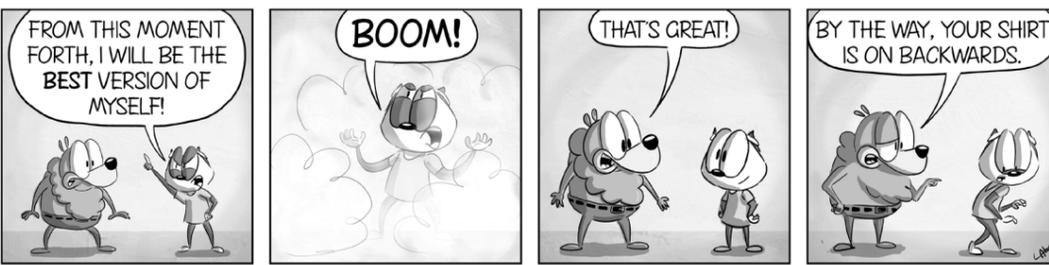
By Christopher Mischczak © 2021



Freshman Fifteen



By Alan Dungo



**Aries**

Do things that make you feel good. Contribute to a cause you believe in, and make a difference. Be realistic about what you can handle. An affectionate gesture will make someone you care about happy. Personal improvements should continue to be worked on. The way you present yourself to the world will determine what you get in return, and someone of influence will notice. Incorporate moderation into whatever you do. You can't buy love, but you can live up to your promises. Choose peace and love over discord and chaos.

**Libra**

Look at what you can do to make a difference and follow through. The impact you have will draw attention, and someone influential will take note of what you have to offer. Leave nothing to chance. Update documents and credits cards close to expiring. Put your heart on the line and share your feelings. Doing so will help put personal situations in perspective and encourage you to bring about changes at home and to the way you live and handle expenses. Don't make emotional decisions that involve health or financial matters.

**Taurus**

Ease up on the changes you want to make and rethink your strategy. Time is on your side, and emotional decisions will disappoint you. You'll be in an excellent position to push through what you want to happen. Put your plans in motion and don't be afraid to do things differently. Listen to what others have to say and it will help you formulate a plan that will be suitable to the individuals you hope to involve. An inspirational presentation will help stabilize your position. Stubbornness will hold you back. Be open to suggestions and willing to work with, not against, the opposition.

**Scorpio**

Dote on what will benefit you emotionally, physically and mentally and you will ease stress and come to terms with people and situations that aren't in your best interest. Draw on the experience you get by helping others or offering unique solutions that make a difference. Keep your plans a secret until you have every detail in place and are ready to put your goals in motion. A change at home will affect your relationship with a friend, relative or lover. Don't overreact. Make your mark by doing something unique and helpful to those less able.

**Gemini**

Learn through observation and the experiences you encounter and you'll discover exciting ways to take advantage of an opportunity that comes your way. Watch your back. Someone will offer insincere gestures to win you over. Question anything that appears to be too easy or good to be true. Focus on growth and doing your own thing. Follow the road to victory. Keep life simple, offer reasonable solutions and look out for your best interests. If you take on too much or don't pace yourself accordingly, you can expect to have a problems.

**Sagittarius**

Experience is the spice of life, and sporting your best attitude will lead to new opportunities. Participation is favoured, and competitive outlets are encouraged. Take a moment to reflect. Listen to what friends, relatives and peers have to say, and mull over and get your facts and details straight before sharing your response. You're in the driver's seat so leave nothing unfinished or to chance. It's your turn to make up for lost time and to confirm what you aim to achieve. Love and romance are featured. You'll be tempted to overspend or donate to something you shouldn't.

**Cancer**

Spend more time dealing with personal matters and less thinking about what's happening in the news. Aim to reduce stress, not work yourself into a frenzy. Put your energy where it helps the most. Learn something that will help you advance, or fix up your space to suit your needs and make life more convenient. Be reasonable to avoid problems with someone who shares your space or expenses. Moderation will help you avoid criticism and complaints. You'll have a better understanding of what others want from you. Charm and affection will help you get your way.

**Capricorn**

Emotional spending will be your downfall. Leave your credit cards at home, and refrain from getting involved in risky buys. You'll have much better control over medical issues. Make a point to put your papers in order and formulate a plan that will help you get what you want. Keep in mind what others expect and it will help you come up with a way to please everyone and still get your way. Choose charm over force. Moderation will help you stay on track. Don't promise anything you cannot deliver. Look for alternative methods that are cost-efficient and trendy.

**Leo**

Take what others do in stride and pursue the path that makes you feel comfortable. Embrace people who share your opinion and interests. Happiness is dependent on doing what's right for you. Consider your options before you make an irreversible decision. It's best not to take a risk that is based on hearsay. Take control of your life and what you want to do. Pay attention to the people you love, and make plans that will enhance your relationship. An improvement to your living arrangements looks promising. You'll face opposition if you overspend, overindulge or overreact.

**Aquarius**

Share your feelings and find out where you stand. The response you receive will ease stress and help you make a personal change that improves your living conditions. Be innovative and you'll figure out how to improve your financial situation. A joint effort will encourage you to spend more time with someone you love. Create opportunities and you'll impress someone who can help you get ahead. A financial gain is within reach. Invest more time and money in adding to your skills and knowledge. Listen carefully; if you make assumptions too quickly, you will overreact and cause emotional upset.

**Virgo**

Pay attention to what's happening around you. Someone is likely to hide information or cover up something that can affect your reputation. Take a new approach to an old idea and it will inspire you to expand your knowledge and skills. Heading in a new or different direction will encourage you to make new acquaintances. Consider the best way to save money. A new job or hobby that can bring in some extra cash will pay off. Make plans with a friend, relative or lover. Spend quality time sharing your likes and dislikes with someone special, and it will bring you closer together.

**Pisces**

Say no to someone suggesting impractical changes or trying to push you into something costly and unnecessary. Look out for your best interests. Pay close attention to detail, and leave nothing to chance. Invite individuals who have something to contribute to get involved with your plans. Do something that will help you relax and you will feel rejuvenated and ready to take on the world. Put together a detailed analysis of what you will do and what you expect in return. Invest time and effort in your skills and knowledge. Avoid emotional spending or paying for someone else's mistakes.

SIGN-UP NOW AT  
**FSU.CA/DISCORD**

**ARE YOU A GAMER?**

**FUEL**  
FANSHAWE ULTIMATE eSPORTS LEAGUE

Sponsored by  
**Freedom mobile**

**fsu**  
FANSHAWE  
STUDENT  
UNION  
[www.fsu.ca](http://www.fsu.ca)

Hub for gaming on campus, online and in-person tournaments, competitive collegiate teams, an all-accepting community of game lovers.  
**Come connect with us!**

**ESU Biz Booth**

**fsu**  
FANSHAWE  
STUDENT  
UNION  
[www.fsu.ca](http://www.fsu.ca)

**Your Place**  
TO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR ALL  
**FSU EVENTS**

**FSU EVENT**

**We provide information on all student events, activities, and services.**

For hours of operation, please visit [www.fsu.ca/biz-booth-gamesroom](http://www.fsu.ca/biz-booth-gamesroom).

**LOCATED NEXT TO THE OUT BACK SHACK**

## How the *Wizard of Oz* became and LGBTQ2S+ classic



CREDIT: WARNER HOME VIDEO

How did this classic film become associated with the LGBTQ2S+ community?

**Hannah Theodore**  
INTERROBANG

There are many reasons why the 1939 film, *The Wizard of Oz* has grown into an LGBTQ2S+ mainstay over the years. It could be the various camp elements in the film, the continued endorsement from gay icons like RuPaul Charles, or just the inclusion of Judy Garland, who in and of herself has become a queer icon due to her performance ability, personal struggles, and camp tendencies.

Regardless of the reason, *The Wizard of Oz* is both a masterpiece of filmmaking and a celebrated LGBTQ2S+ fixture.

The central message of the film is finding your heart's true desire. Dorothy Gale, played by a 17-year-old Judy Garland, yearns for a life beyond her small Kansas town. However, after discovering a mystical world beyond her wildest imagination, she realizes that her home, family and friends are all she really needs.

The classic storytelling tool of needs vs. wants is very much at play here. Dorothy wants adventure, but she needs her family. For many, the film represents a need to love what you have, and find meaning in the things that matter most.

This same core message of self-sufficiency can also be seen through Dorothy's friends in Oz, the Tinman, the Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion. All three seek their inner desires (a heart, a brain and courage, respectively), from external magical forces, only to find that they already possessed these traits without recognizing them. In this way, we see that the moral of the film is to seek happiness from within.

The Wizard himself represents the falsehood in seeking outward meaning. After a hefty build-up for what the audience expects to be an all-powerful, magical hero, we find that the Wizard is just a man, hiding behind a facade. When Dorothy asks the Wizard to help her return home to Kansas, The Wizard and Glinda the Good Witch inform her that she has had the power to leave all along. With the simple reprise of, "there's no place like home," we come to understand that all the magic in the

world is not enough to replace what truly matters in life.

*The Wizard of Oz* received mostly positive reviews upon its initial release, but didn't grow into the cultural sensation we know it as today until it began seeing televised broadcasts in 1956. The question of how the movie came to represent queer identity (so much so, that around the time of the second World War, being a "friend of Dorothy" became code for gay men, at a time when homosexuality was still illegal in the United States), is one that has many answers. It could be because of Dorothy's kind acceptance to those that are different from her in Oz. Additionally, some theorists have suggested that the black-and-white colouring of Kansas represents the conservatism and homophobia that would have been rampant at the time, while the bright, colourful world of Oz signifies being out and proud. Then, there is the well-documented significance of Judy Garland as a gay icon.

Though not herself gay (though there have been speculations about her possible bisexuality), Garland rose to the status of a gay icon in the 1950s. Seen as a camp figure, her struggles with drugs, alcohol and fame were seen by many as reflective of the struggles faced by gay people in society at the time. For many, the song "Over the Rainbow," famously performed by Garland in *The Wizard of Oz*, represents a yearning to be out of the closet, and some historians have suggested the LGBTQ2S+ rainbow flag may have been, in part, inspired by the song.

Apart from its cultural significance, *The Wizard of Oz* is a revelation in set design, costume design and modern filmmaking techniques. While not the first film to be shot in Technicolor, *Oz* was still an immense logistical achievement, with as many as nine cameras needed to shoot some scenes. Its rise to fame nearly 20 years after its initial release is a testament to the power of television and nostalgia, and its lasting impact on culture overall shows that its central message will never go out of fashion: love what you have, respect those that are different from you, and remember that there's truly no place like home.

# Top LGBTQ2S+ shows on Netflix right now

**Savannah Bisailon**  
INTERROBANG

Representation of the LGBTQ2S+ community in TV has never been better than it is in 2021. A recent report from GLAAD discovered that, “in 2020, the amount of queer characters on our screens has increased by over 100.” Here’s a list of some of the most popular LGBTQ2S+ shows to stream on Netflix right now.

*Everything Sucks* is an American comedy/drama that is set in the 90s. The show focuses on the lives of six high school students who proceed to make a movie together, all while growing up, discovering their sexualities and just dealing with life in high school. Overall, it’s a cute coming of age story but sadly it’s only 10 episodes long.

Another popular show with great representation is *Ginny and Georgia*. This show has a great storyline about teenagers coming out. Throughout the series, we meet the character Max Baker who shares her experiences with how she just always knew she was a member of the queer community and never felt the need to come out. This show perfectly sums up what it is like to be a teenager today and how things have changed within society over time.

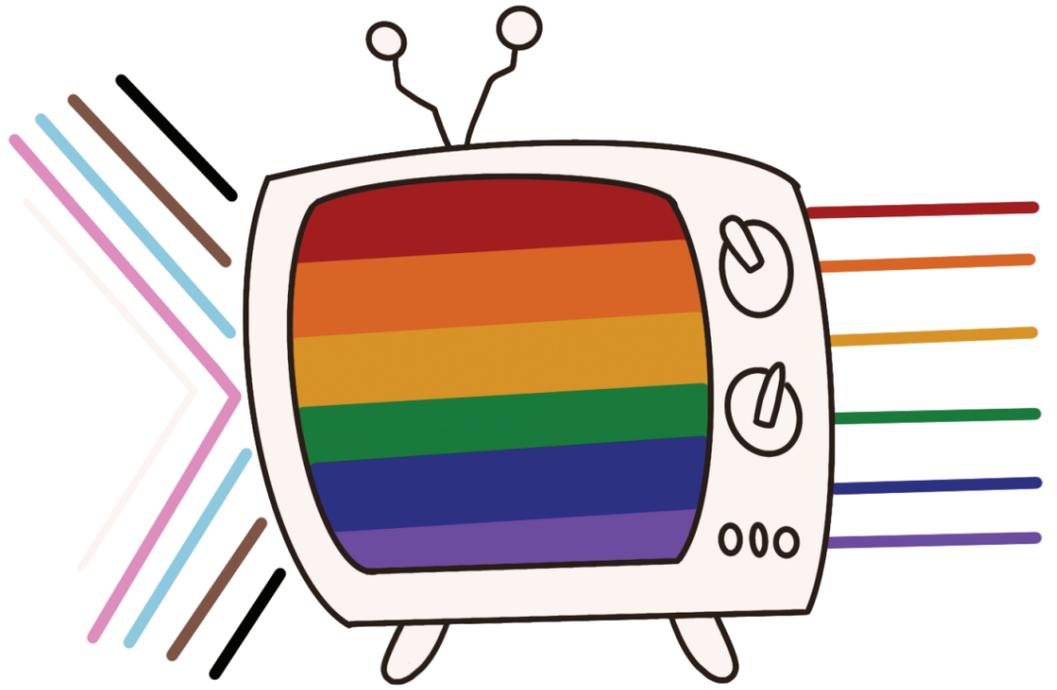
One of the most talked about shows on Netflix right now is *Special*, which tells the story of a young

gay man with cerebral palsy, who branches out from his comfort zone in hopes of finally going after what he wants. There are two seasons and the show is based off of the memoir, *I’m Special: And Other Lies We Tell Ourselves* written by one of the stars of the show, Ryan O’Connell.

Another popular show is *AJ and the Queen*, starring RuPaul Charles. This show tells the story of Ruby Red, a drag queen traveling across the country in an RV who discovers a sidekick in AJ, a 10-year-old stow-away. This show discusses some pretty mature themes and may not be suitable for children under the age of 14.

*Please Like Me* tells the story of 20-something year old Josh, who realizes he is gay after his girlfriend breaks up with him. Over time, he sleeps with an acquaintance and moves back in with his suicidal mother. This show has four seasons to it and tells the story of a young man just trying to figure his life out.

One of the most highly recommended shows right now is *Tales Of The City*, which focuses on the lives of queer people in San Francisco. This is a limited series that is very heartfelt, intimate and emotional. Based off of the *Tales of the City* book series, this is also an adaption of a previously made TV series, starring Elliot Page and Laura Linney. *Tales Of The City* features great representation of what people in the LGBTQ2S+ community face.



CREDIT: JESSICA WILSON

Find great queer content on Netflix.

There are a lot of other series on Netflix that are worth checking out that all have a focus on representation of the LGBTQ2S+ community and telling these stories with true authenticity. When it comes to

representation of the LGBTQ2S+ community in 2021, Netflix has a huge selection of shows to choose from with a variety of genres.

Although earlier shows like *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* and *Dawson’s*

*Creek* were both known for having characters who were a part of the LGBTQ2S+ community, representation has grown more and become more common in television as times move forward.



# HEALTH PLAN



**WE SPEAK .COM**  
YOUR STUDENT HEALTH PLAN PROVIDER

**Balanced\***  
OR  
**Enhanced Dental**  
OR  
**Enhanced Drug/  
EHC**  
\*Default Plan



**Family Opt-In**  
(For Dependents)



**Opt-Out**  
(If you have alternative coverage)  
&  
**Receive refund**





**FALL DEADLINE:**  
**MON. SEPT. 20 2021 @ 4 P.M**

**Choose a plan that fits:**  
[www.fsu.ca/health](http://www.fsu.ca/health) to make your choice.  
Plan must be selected within the first 10 days of the semester.

**FUEL** FANSHAWE ULTIMATE eSPORTS LEAGUE

**SUPER SMASH BROS.™**  
MELEE + ULTIMATE

REGISTER NOW!  
FSU.CA/EVENTS

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH**  
ALUMNI LOUNGE ROOM SC2013

TOP 3 PRIZING!  
7PM FRIENDLIES 8PM TOURNAMENT BEGINS

FSU FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION www.fsu.ca

Freedom mobile

**DEAL OR NO DEAL**

**FOUNDRY FIRST**

**Tuesday, September 14th**  
**FOUNDRY FIRST | 7 PM**

REGISTER NOW AT FSU.CA/EVENTS  
IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

LIVE ON @ FANSHAWESU

FSU FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION www.fsu.ca

FSU Orientation 2021 Sponsored by:



FSU Orientation 2021 Sponsored by:



**FREE**  
Register at fsu.ca/events

**WES BARKER**

Comedian, Magician, Youtuber  
from the Netflix Show  
**Big Trick Energy**  
**OASIS**  
**7PM**

LIVE ON @ FANSHAWESU

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH**

fsu FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION www.fsu.ca

MAGIC

FSU Orientation 2021 Sponsored by:



**Free Sexual Awareness Week**

**DRAG SHOW**

**OASIS 8PM**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**

REGISTER YOUR SEAT AT FSU.CA/EVENTS

fsu FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION www.fsu.ca

Project88

**SEX TOY BINGO**  
with CRYSTAL QUARTZ

**OASIS**  
Doors @ 8PM  
NO COVER!  
SIGN UP @ FSU.ca

6	23	SEX TOY	40	
8		8:00 PM	SEPT. 22nd	52
SEX TOY	24	FREE! (no cover)	40	50
1	21		45	69
SEX TOY	19	30		

**Sexual Awareness Week**

fsu FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION www.fsu.ca

**Sexual Awareness Week**

HOSTED BY  
**SAMANTHA BITTY & FARAH KHAN**

**LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD**  
**7PM** LIVE ON @ FANSHAWESU

REGISTER IN ADVANCE AT FSU.CA/EVENTS

fsu FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION www.fsu.ca