

INTERROBANG

ONTARIO'S VOTER TURNOUT PROBLEM

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hannah Theodore (she/her)

Dear readers,
I get it. Politics can be toxic, confusing, and at times, outright alienating. Finding the will to care about who is in power in a world where systemic issues frequently go unresolved can feel both exhausting and infuriating.

But I have good news, readers. Being engaged with politics doesn't mean you have to understand all the ins and outs of the system, it doesn't mean you have to understand what a parliamentarian does or how bills pass in the House of Commons. All you have to do to be engaged in politics is be passionate about issues in your community, and know that the people you elect have the power to address them.

You will soon have that all-important opportunity to elect the people you want to see in power. On Oct. 24, students are eligible to vote in the London municipal election. This is your chance to vote for London's mayor, city

councillors, and school board trustees. So much happens at the municipal level, including transit, rent control, recycling collection, and the protection of local environmentally significant areas.

So if you're looking for inspiration, this issue has you covered. From green bins to voting patterns, single use plastics to bungee jumping, we're digging deep into the topic of politics. Now is the time to find what you're passionate about, and use your voice to do something about it. Even if you feel disillusioned by it all, I promise, your vote means more than you think.

Sincerely,

Letters to the Editor: fsuleters@fanshawec.ca

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Fanshawe faculty union files group grievance over lack of mask mandate



Ben Harrietha (they/them)
INTERROBANG

Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Local 110, Fanshawe's faculty union, has submitted a group grievance against Fanshawe College. The grievance calls on the college to require masking in indoor spaces at the college, citing the lack of COVID-19 health measures as creating an unsafe work environment.

In the statement, Local 110 President Mark Feltham said, "Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, employers must take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to ensure a healthy and safe workplace. We are asking Fanshawe to follow its obligations under the law."

The grievance was filed by a group of 14 members, Feltham included, who felt that the college is not providing a safe working environment for staff and students. While it's not a grievance filed by all union members, Local 110 is obligated if any member files a grievance to pursue said grievance.

Feltham added that multiple members, including those who weren't signatories on the grievance, have come forward expressing concern about safety. Other members have said the opposite, but that's not the point of the grievance, Feltham said.

"At the end of the day, this isn't a referendum on how people feel. What it is, is the college meeting its obligations under the law or not?"

Regarding why the group chose to file now, as opposed to at an earlier time, Feltham said that many were still trying to figure out their concerns regarding the lack of



CREDIT: BEN HARRIETHA

Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Local 110 filed the grievance on Sept. 23 over a lack of masking at Fanshawe.

mandate. The grievance was filed in late September in order to allow people who did have concerns about the lack of health measures to be sure about them.

"People came back, they saw the college, they saw how many people weren't masking because for all we knew, people would have continued to mask in large numbers anyway, even if it's not required," Feltham added. "That's not what people have been seeing."

A statement from the college regarding the grievance read as follows:

"Fanshawe has received a group grievance from OPSEU Local 110 on the topic of masking at the College. The College will schedule a hearing with the union shortly to hear this grievance and will then issue a response. Fanshawe is following all provincial guidelines related to health and safety on campus. Based on ongoing and regular discussions with local public health authorities, Fanshawe has not reintroduced mandatory masking or vaccine requirements at this time. Students and employees are encouraged to mask indoors and

stay up to date on recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccine."

At the time of writing, a meeting between Local 110 and Fanshawe to discuss the grievance has been held, but the matter was not resolved. An official response from the college has also not been received by the union.

"When we get the official response, we'll assess it. And if it resolves our concerns, great, if it doesn't, we'll have to think about whether or not we want to refer it to binding arbitration."

Regarding the outcome the union

is looking for, Feltham brought up that the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU) still recommends masking in indoor settings. He also mentions that COVID-19 cases are slowly but surely climbing, as announced by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore.

Feltham added that "lots of people may feel perfectly safe. And I'm glad people feel safe. I don't want people to feel unsafe. But I would caution people from thinking that other people feel safe just because they feel safe."

International students allowed more work hours



Kate Otterbein (she/her)
INTERROBANG

Canada is temporarily allowing international students to work more than 20 hours a week. Immigration Minister Sean Fraser made the announcement, as the country tries to relieve ongoing labour shortages.

The new change will begin as of Nov. 15 and will take place until Dec. 31, 2023.

"With the economy growing at a faster rate than employers can hire new workers, Canada needs to look at every option so that we have the skills and workforce needed to fuel our growth," said Fraser. "By allowing international students to work more while they study, we can help ease pressing needs in many sectors across the country, while providing more opportunities for international students to gain valuable Canadian work experience and continue contributing to our short-term recovery and long-term prosperity."

This news is big for students who are struggling to make a living off of 20 hours or less currently.

"This will impact my living style positively," said Dorfy Campusano, a student at Fanshawe College. "Now I will be able to have more income and at the same time, I will be able to get a better position in my field that demands full-time workers."

Campusano has had trouble making ends meet whilst in school. It is hard to survive on such little hours a week, especially with the heightened tuition international students face.

"It's a little bit complicated because without the support of my parents, I would not be able to cover my expenses. Even though I'm working, I still need support from my home country because the hours aren't enough."

Campusano said she is fortunate that her parents back home are able to help her pay for school, rent, and other living necessities while she's in London. This is a benefit not everybody has, which adds another challenge to the situation.

"I'm happy about this, but at the same time I'm a little bit anxious. I know it's going to be stressful working more hours while I am a full-time student."

While this is great news for students, the federal government

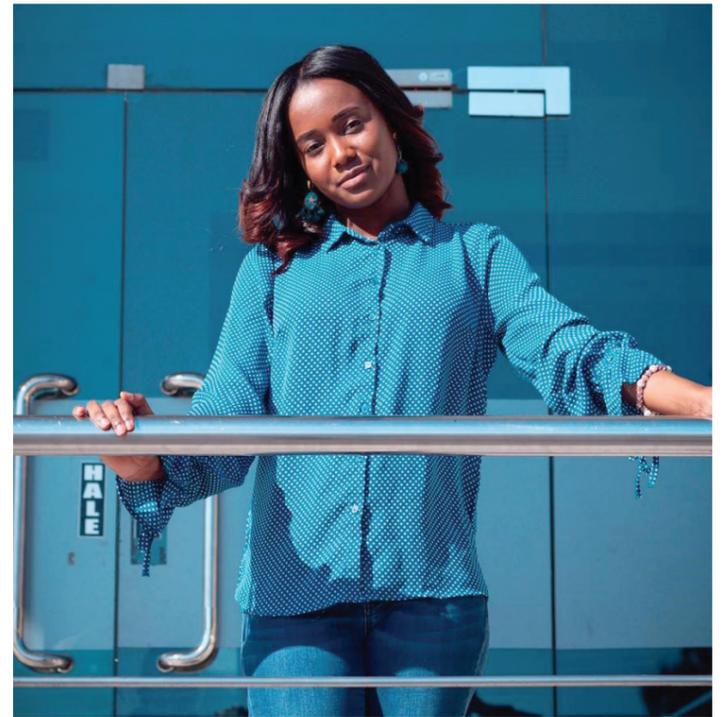
reminded students that study permit holders are still expected to balance their study and work commitments. Anyone who stops studying or reduces course loads to study part-time is no longer eligible to work off-campus.

This announcement is part of a series of initiatives that aim to benefit international students, while also supporting Canada's efforts to improve client service and application processing times.

Other benefits students will see are:

- A transition period for those studying online from abroad
- An opportunity for those with expired or expiring post-graduation work permits to get an additional 18-month open work permit

"With unprecedented interest in Canada from applicants around the world, IRCC (Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada) continues to set the bar higher for immigration processing," said the official Canada website. "Ongoing efforts and client service improvements by the department aim to strengthen Canada's immigration system, shorten wait times, reduce application backlogs, and improve



CREDIT: COURTESY OF DORFY CAMPUSANO

Fanshawe student, Dorfy Campusano, said she is excited to have the opportunity to earn more money, but anxious to balance additional hours at work and school.

the experience of clients overall." Students who are or have worked on-campus in the past is unaffected

by this news. There was no cap for hours set by the government previously.

Sustainability and inclusion key parts of 2022 Ignite Conference



Gerard Creces
(he/him)
INTERROBANG

How do you integrate global sustainability goals into your everyday actions?

Fanshawe College is hosting its annual Ignite Conference Nov. 5, with a series of workshops and employer panels focusing on how students can incorporate global citizenship into their school and career life.

The theme for this year's conference is A United Future – a nod to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) – and will provide students an opportunity to think about the bigger picture in their everyday lives, and explore the role of global citizenship plays as they set out on their careers.

The United Future theme is doubly apt because the conference is back to in-person.

Director of Employment and Student Entrepreneurial Services, Darlene O'Neill, said it feels fantastic to be back on campus and put the "C-word" (COVID) behind them. Sustainability is increasingly important to students, she noted, adding that Fanshawe's multicultural makeup provides the perfect setting for the conference.

"We have such a diverse population here at Fanshawe," said O'Neill. "Let's take a look and see what really matters to young people these days and how does it relate to career development."

The United Nations adopted their 17 sustainability goals in 2015, with the idea that health, education,



CREDIT: GERARD CRECES

Director of Employment and Student Entrepreneurial Services, Darlene O'Neill, is excited to be bringing Fanshawe's annual Ignite conference back to in-person at the school.

and equality can go hand-in-hand with poverty reduction, economic growth, and environmental action.

"[Students] might not know the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) but they will know climate action," O'Neill said. "They will know peace, justice, and strong institutions are important in their future. They will know the importance of a quality education."

"That matters to students. It matters to humans."

This year's keynote speaker is chocolatier Tareq Hadhad, whose

family fled war-torn Syria to start anew in Nova Scotia. Now a Canadian citizen, Hadhad and his father, Isam's Peace By Chocolate business is as much a business success story as it is a reaffirmation of resilience in the face of adversity.

"He speaks from a really beautiful place," O'Neill said. "He's got the most humanistic soul and approach to business that I've ever seen."

Leading off the workshops is Dr. Candy Ho, who will be looking at how students can apply global

SDGs down to a personal level in their careers.

She will be joined by Fanshawe professor Ela Smith, whose "You don't know what you don't know" workshop will leave participants with a broader understanding of equity, inclusion, and respect in an increasingly diverse Canada.

Jennifer Pate, whose work to preserve the Great Lakes through her venture, Love Your Greats, will help students explore their career goals off the beaten path, while Fanshawe Sustainability Coordinator, Amanda

Whittingham, will be looking at SDGs in the workplace, using Fanshawe College as an example for students to expand on.

The day will conclude with a panel of area employers, who will be sharing their perspectives and expertise on sustainability and global citizenship.

Registration for the conference is free, and can be done at myfanshawe.ca/ignite. The conference runs from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Breakfast, lunch and swag bags are provided at no cost.

Fanshawe College president gets new role



Kate Otterbein
(she/her)
INTERROBANG

Fanshawe College's president, Peter Devlin is taking on a new role. Devlin has been named the new Board Chair for Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan). Devlin, who has been Fanshawe's president since 2013, has been on the board of directors for CICan since 2019.

"I feel immense privilege to be taking on the role of Chair of the CICan board," said Devlin in a

statement. "I believe in CICan's vision and am proud to work with colleagues from across the country to advance our sector's important work and reach."

Devlin replaces Paula Burns, who is the president and CEO of Langara College in British Columbia. While Burns was serving on the CICan board, she was president and CEO of Lethbridge College in Alberta. She completed her second mandate on the board in June 2022.

"Peter has been involved in many CICan initiatives over the years, including as Chair of CICan's International Advisory Committee," said the college in a news release.

CICan is the voice of Canada's post-secondary education network. According to their website, their job is to advocate, build capacity, and drive knowledge to strengthen Canada's publicly supported colleges, institutes, CEGEPs, and polytechnics. They work to "future-proof" communities in Canada and abroad. This means they anticipate the future and create ways to minimize the effects of shocks and stresses of potential future events.

"We are so pleased to have Peter Devlin as the new Board Chair," said CICan President and CEO, Denise Amyot. "I look forward, not only to continuing to work alongside Peter and Fanshawe College, but to see what rich legacy he will bring to our board and organization."

He joins Nathalie Vallée, who was elected to serve another term as Vice-Chair of the board. She is the director general of Collège Ahuntsic in Montréal and has served as vice-chair since 2020.

Before Devlin came on board at Fanshawe, he served 35 years in the Canadian Armed Forces and retired commanding the Canadian Army at the rank of Lieutenant General. He has several UN, NATO, and Coalition tours. His awards include Orders of Military Merit from the United States, Brazil and Columbia, as well as



CREDIT: PETER DEVLIN VIA TWITTER

Fanshawe College President, Peter Devlin, and CICan President, Denise Amyot, following the CICan Awards of Excellence ceremony.

the Canadian Meritorious Service Cross, France's National Order of the Legion of Honour and Commander of the Canadian Order of Military Merit.

Fanshawe hosted Amyot as she presented CICan Awards of Excellence and was given the official tour of campus. She visited Innovation Village, and Fanshawe Centre for Research & Innovation.

"Cool to see how Applied Research equipment, thanks to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, helps Fanshawe College to serve the businesses of their region," said Amyot. "Amazing stories for economic development."

Amyot also gave the virtual welding labs a try. The labs are part of the \$5 million unveiling the college did earlier this year.



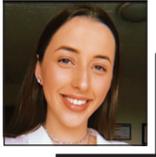
Have any questions or comments about Fanshawe's Mission, Vision, Values or board policies?

Tel: 519.452.4458
BOG.student@Fanshawec.ca

Samrat Raj

Student Representative to
The Board of Governors

Fanshawe and the FSU partner to create new tutoring platform



Emma Butler (she/her)
INTERROBANG

Fanshawe college and the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) have partnered together to create a platform that allows students to easily access tutoring. Homeroom, which is powered by TutorOcean, is an online platform that lets students connect with their tutors and help them with their studies.

The FSU and the college had many discussions about how students need help and how to make it simple and easy to access for anyone in need. The platform also provides a fun visual for students to look at profiles of tutors and find the best match to help them with their academic work outside of the classroom. Peer tutoring students can also login to Homeroom using their username and password and immediately start signing up for a tutor. Tutors are available for many subjects, and are available a number of hours and days of the week. Tutors also have their availability published on Homeroom's main page. If anyone is having trouble signing

up for a tutor, they can go to F1006 in the main building or they can email peertutoring@fanshawec.ca or use their live chat service at chatllc.fanshawec.ca.

Jessica Bugorski, the Director of the Library Learning Commons, shared how this will benefit students in helping them find the right tutor for their needs.

"This will make it easier for students to look for a peer tutor when they need help. They do not have to contact anyone, and they can simply login and sign up to receive help, even the same day!" Bugorski said.

The college has not used a platform like this before, but other colleges have used this platform calling it by a different name and have received great feedback from students. The pandemic, with the many issues it brought, helped encourage this platform to go virtual. It allows students from anywhere to access tutors and to be able to utilize resources created by the college and the FSU. Homeroom is for all students part-time and full-time regardless of location and is completely free to use.

Students are tutored by their peers but Bugorski stated that they are looking to add full-time staff to the services. Sessions can range from 15 minutes to an hour, and all students



CREDIT: EMMA BUTLER

Marilyn Henry, the Peer Tutor Coordinator, is the one students need to talk to in the Library Learning Commons about Homeroom.

are eligible for two hours of tutoring per week with peer tutors.

"We let students need to drive the tutors we hire and the subjects for the term. For example, we have a number of math, accounting,

science, and writing tutors available right now. Subjects will cover anything that we offer across the college, if students need it and we can find available and interested tutors," Bugorski said.

Each semester, new tutors are hired to the platform and every day they add more tutors to fill the needs of students in need of help.

Students can go to fanshawelibrary.com for more information.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



Researchers at Robarts Research Institute need **volunteers** for a *research study* that only involves **two visits**, and **two blood draws** with three tubes of blood for each draw.



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This study will provide data to **determine the normal result range for a blood test** called plasma renin activity which is an **important guide in treating high blood pressure**.



Thank you for your participation!



Participants may be reimbursed for time and inconvenience.

For more details please contact

Tisha

519-661-2111 x24442

tisha@robarts.ca

I wish Fanshawe actually had a fall reading week

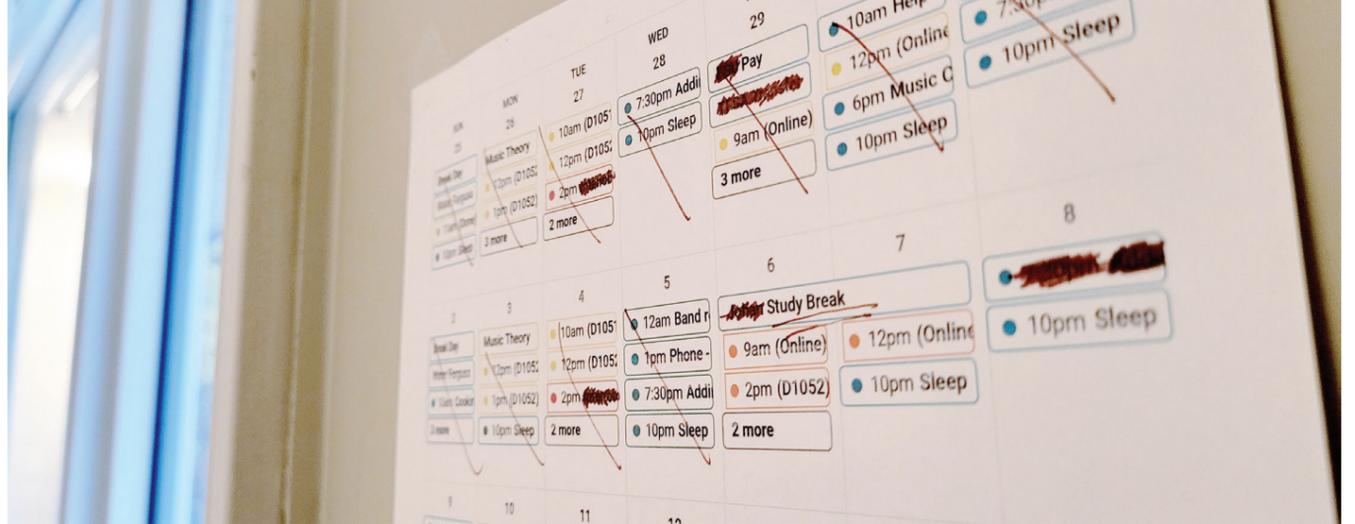


Johan George
(he/him)
INTERROBANG

While most universities and colleges in Ontario have a dedicated week in first term for students to take a break or catch up on classes, Fanshawe College opts for a two-day study break right before Thanksgiving weekend. The format means students have to go to classes for three out of five days that week, right before they receive their two-day study break. College instructors who have classes on Thursdays and Fridays have to accommodate for being a lesson behind other classes in their program when the study break comes around.

Fanshawe College's Senior Vice-President of Academic Services Gary Lima previously stated that the college does this to keep a "clean calendar," meaning that the college gets to maintain a three-week Christmas break for students who travel during December and to start the school year after Labour Day so students don't have to pay an extra month of rent.

Other institutions however, don't follow the same format; Conestoga College sets a "Student Success Week" from Oct. 24 - 28 and Western University does a study break from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4. In fact, most post-secondary institutions in Ontario, with very few exceptions, feature some form of week-long study break in the Fall and Winter semesters and still start and end at the same time as Fanshawe. In the 2010s, many post-secondary institutions found student mental health deteriorating and higher incident rates of student



CREDIT: JOHAN GEORGE

As mental health awareness has been increasing for the past several years and amplified in importance over the pandemic, it's surprising that Fanshawe hasn't implemented a week-long study break.

suicide, causing many of them to implement 14-week terms and most to start utilizing a week-long study break in the fall.

"Fanshawe only has a two-day 'study break' the same weekend as Thanksgiving when everywhere else has a full week that's actually around midterm and not at week five!" said Charlotte Hartman, a frustrated Music Industry Arts (MIA) student at Fanshawe.

As mental health awareness has been increasing for the past several years and amplified in importance over the pandemic, it's surprising that Fanshawe hasn't implemented a week-long study break, considering it's a common source of complaints amongst

students at the college.

"I think the two day long 'study break' is ridiculous, I don't understand why it's different to universities at all. It makes students feel like colleges shouldn't be taken as seriously as universities or that we don't work as hard," said Meaghan Bender, another MIA student at Fanshawe.

It's hard to understand the rationale behind the claim that their study break format allows for a "clean calendar" since several other institutions seem to maintain similar schedules and still manage to make their reading weeks actually a week long. Additionally, since the fall break comes too early into the

semester at week five, it's not very useful to students for the purpose of studying, since midterms usually occur around week six to seven. That means many students have to balance their time during Thanksgiving to revise whatever notes they have, leaving little time to take a break.

It shouldn't take a tragedy like many other post-secondary institutions have faced for Fanshawe to implement a week-long study break at an appropriate time in the fall. It's time for Fanshawe to implement a week-long study break to help students get the support they need in order to accomplish their academic and personal goals.

Interrobang Rewind: *American Idiot* — Green Day



Ben Harrietha
(they/them)
INTERROBANG

If you asked someone to name one Green Day song, overwhelmingly, the answer is going to be "American Idiot." The song is their biggest single and the album of the same name, while arguably not their best work, is definitely one of their most popular.

This Rewind is going to be a little different in comparison to the other reviews. I want to go a little more in depth into the background of this album and why it's still relevant today. The time when the album was released is so much more interesting to me than just the music. Plus, everyone and their mother has talked about the songs on this album, and frankly there's only so many ways I can say, "I like this one."

American Idiot, released on Sept. 21, 2004, is the band's seventh studio album. It's a concept album that follows the story of the "Jesus of Suburbia," a lower-middle-class American teen, disillusioned with the state of America that was introduced in the previous song, "American Idiot." The America painted in the song is a country wracked by paranoia and "us-vs-them" mentality. News has become less about journalism and more akin to reality television, a nation of hysteria. And it's not far off from the reality of the time.

The entire album was written during the War on Terror, specifically during the beginning of the Iraq War, and was released during then President George W. Bush's re-election campaign. I was born into a post 9/11 world, so I don't know much about the time before 9/11, but from speaking with people who were teens or adults at the time, there was a

nearly overnight change. Paranoia and anxiety regarding any future attacks was rampant, leading to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the passing of the PATRIOT Act, two very controversial decisions with ramifications that are still being felt today.

American Idiot came at a time where young people were looking for any way to lash out against the disillusionment and paranoia that engulfed their lives. Its approachable sound allowed people to latch onto the message that songs like the title track and "Holiday" tried to get across.

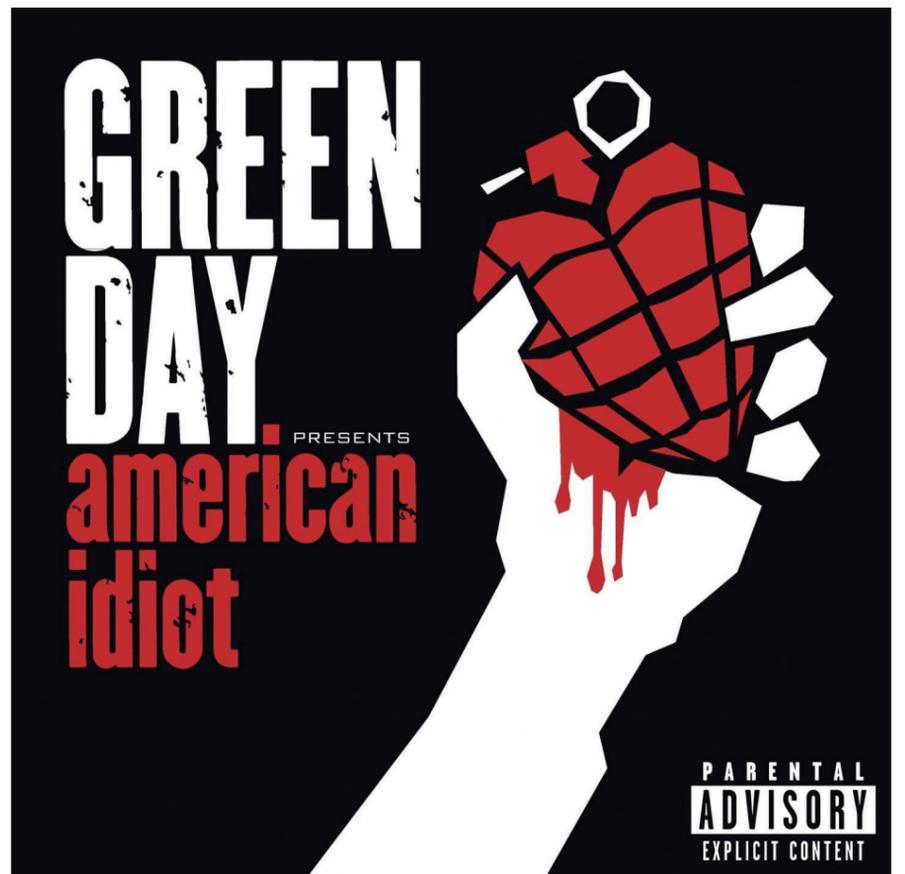
Releasing an album that not only calls out the war in Iraq as what it was (bullshit), but also directly calls the people behind the war idiots during a time when Bush had a 90 per cent approval rating, the army had the most support it had since WW2, and American nationalism was soaring. Well, it was definitely a risky move.

The Chicks made one comment about the war in 2003 and were blacklisted by many radio stations. They've never really recovered from the backlash.

But where was the outcry when Green Day did the same? No one was blacklisting *American Idiot* from radio, nor were any band members sent death threats. Why is that?

American Idiot is no doubt a political album, but it's a political album for two, maybe three songs. It's also a coming-of-age album, a rock opera, and a romance album all at the same time. The album ends up getting bogged down in its attempt to be all these things, and as a consequence, the messages come out a little fuzzy.

If I had to guess, the message of *American Idiot* isn't political enough to stand out against Green Day's music. No one remembers the anti-war verses of "Holiday," they remember the chorus, because it's easy to sing along to. After two political songs, the



CREDIT: REPRISE/WARNER MUSIC GROUP

After two political songs, the album leaves politics behind to focus on the story of Jesus of Suburbia, deciding apathy is the best way to cope with disillusionment.

album leaves politics behind to focus on the story of Jesus of Suburbia, deciding apathy is the best way to cope with disillusionment.

American Idiot doesn't try to fix things, it simply says, "the ship is sinking, and we're all going down with it."

But that's looking at it from the lens of a

young adult in 2022. The state of politics now is the same as it was in 2004, just amplified. Young people are the most disillusioned with their future they've ever been, most western countries are divided, and we're still fighting across the ocean. I'm tired of apathy. I just want things to be better.

The pain of campaigning



Gerard Creces
(he/him)
INTERROBANG

There is a large car magnet on my refrigerator bearing a life-sized mugshot of myself looking all polished and innocent. It's a relic of the time I ran for office in the 2015 federal election.

At the time, I was a lowly newspaper reporter and political junkie, and felt like I had chirped from the sidelines long enough. A close contact of mine who was higher up in the local riding association let me know they were still looking for a candidate, which was all I needed to hear. One leave of absence later and I was ready to hit the campaign trail.

Here are some of the strange and surprising things I learned along the way.

1. You run an election before running in an election

I was green as green could be when I sought the party nomination. Luckily, I had time on my hands because I couldn't (ethically, anyway) work in journalism *and* run for office at the same time. So, every day I shot a new video to post and every night I was cold-calling people on the membership list.

2. People are sneaky

The thing about political allegiance is, you never know how someone votes until they tell you. Sometimes when you'd go to a person's door and they were a die-hard (insert other party here) fan, they would talk and talk and ask a bunch of questions for no other reason than to keep you from reaching too many doors that day. Folks also sabotage debates with loaded questions, but more on that later.

3. Party baggage is your baggage

Did the party you're running for screw up anything at any time in the last 30 years? Don't worry — you'll hear about it. Did the leader make a blunder that made the evening news? You'll have to answer for it. As a candidate for a major political party, you have to defend stuff you maybe wouldn't normally, and you have to be convincing when you're doing it.

4. People really do judge you by your handshake

Whether at the doorstep or at events, I was constantly meeting people and shaking hands. Some folks try to crush you just to see if you wince. There is nothing worse



CREDIT: GERARD CRECES

Running for office was the experience of a lifetime, but be prepared for some hardships along the way.

than giving a greasy, sweaty handshake to someone who is trying to size you up. The ick factor alone could sway someone's vote. Seriously.

5. Debates are shams

There is so little debating at all in candidate debates that they are largely just called meetings now. They are extremely important, and one of my favourite parts of campaigning, but they are also fairly redundant — at least where an actual exchange of ideas is concerned. When it's time for the audience questions, there are always plants for each party that will do one of two things:

1. Ask a question for their candidate

knowing it will make them look good

2. Attempt a gotcha moment and snipe an opposition candidate
6. **It's really weird seeing your name and face everywhere**

Maybe I'm just modest, but it was always strange for me to see my name on giant lawn signs driving to-and-fro throughout a riding that was larger than Prince Edward Island.

7. Haters gon' hate

The sooner you accept the fact that some people just won't vote for you no matter what, the sooner you'll be at peace with the unhinged diatribes awaiting you every time you go knocking on doors.

8. Show up, shake hands

Attending events as a candidate doesn't mean enjoying them. It means the second you step out of the car you're introducing yourself to as many people as possible and handing out business cards until it's time to go.

Running for office was an experience of a lifetime for me. I have a much greater appreciation for the process, the people running, and especially the volunteers who keep everything running smoothly.

I'd encourage anyone interested in politics to consider running — just be prepared for a long slog and get yourself a pair of comfortable shoes!

Who you vote for is more than “just politics”



Ben Harrietha
(they/them)
INTERROBANG

During the holidays, politics are a topic that often comes up in discussions around the dinner table. Depending on how you feel about discussing politics with extended family, this can be a good, or bad thing. I fall into the latter camp.

My immediate family is left leaning, but when it comes to extended family, we get a mix of politics. On one side, most are true blue conservatives. On the other, it's the whole spectrum from incredibly right-wing, to socialists. I tend to lean heavily left, as I subscribe to the (apparently) radical idea that people deserve food, shelter, and happy lives no matter what. According to some less savoury people I've discussed politics with, this makes me a “commie bastard,” so do with that information as you will.

Recently, I've noticed a steady trend of people wondering why politics ends so many friendships and even relationships. They wonder, “It's just politics, why can't people agree to disagree?” But it's more than “just politics.”

With the way most countries are set up, there needs to be some form of government in charge. That government obviously makes

decisions for the rest of the country based on what it believes is the best course of action. Now, hopefully this is done with some sort of input from the country's people. However, these decisions can unfairly target select groups of people.

For example, Quebec's ban on face coverings when receiving government services specifically targets Muslim women who choose to wear the traditional garment. The reasoning behind the ban is that “the wearing of these three items of clothing by women is the instrumentalization of religion with the end goal of oppression and submission.” The ban unfairly targets Muslim women, and Muslim women alone. There's a whole other discussion to be had around this ban but the point is, certain groups can be unfairly targeted by those in power.

Politics impact the lives of not just yourself, but others. When you vote for someone, it's more than just checking a box on a ballot. It's saying you agree with whatever that candidate also agrees with. It's saying you want that person in power. When I hear that someone I know voted to put someone in power who wants to take away the already tenuous rights from members of the LGBTQ2S+ community, I don't exactly want to be friends with them.

It's an unfortunate side effect of the culture of individualism that western countries have fostered. The idea that the individual



CREDIT: BEN HARRIETHA

When you drop the ballot in the box, make sure you know who you're putting your vote behind.

comes first, and that the only people you should look out for are you and yours, no one else. This type of thinking, while it has its benefits, can put you in a mindset that ignores the plights of others around you, as long as you're doing alright. This mindset is a harmful one to be in, especially when it comes to politics.

The idea that “it's just politics” doesn't apply to our day and age. A difference in values is bigger than some tend to think and can cause relationships to end between friends or even families. And while some may be able to “agree to disagree,” I don't think I can ever foster a relationship with someone who values the economy over people.

Buyer beware: The intricacies of supporting local during a pandemic

Paranoid Android
INTERROBANG

We need to talk about the growing support of political extremism in London's small business community. A community riddled with anti-mask and anti-vax ideology along with support for white nationalists and fascist political parties.

In January of this year, temporary vaccination exemptions for both Canadian and American cross-border truckers ended, and the notorious "Freedom Convoy" ensued; or as I like to call it, the Clownvoy.

The Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) released a statement shortly after the movement began that stated the vast majority of the Canadian trucking industry was vaccinated and most of Canada's truck drivers were continuing to move cross-border. About 85 per cent of the 120,000 licensed Canadian truckers who regularly crossed the Canadian/US border were already vaccinated at this time and the individuals who participated in the Clownvoy were by far a minority of the Canadian trucking community.

A lot of local small businesses were quick to flock to their social media accounts and express support for this protest over COVID mandates, many of whom stated they were proud to see brave individuals fighting for our freedoms. One such businessman reportedly donated \$25,000 USD to the cause. This seemingly harmless protest, however, was quickly exposed for the white supremacist rally that it was, which ended in an illegal occupation of the nation's capital.

I acknowledge that COVID mandates have disproportionately affected small businesses that were not deemed essential during the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, and I completely understand the frustration that this undoubtedly brought out in London's small business community, but that is no excuse to support bigotry, hatred, and fascist ideology.

Let me simplify it for you. If you support a movement that uses swastikas, confederate flags, and other racist symbols to promote their cause, you are in fact supporting those ideations too. And you should be ashamed.

These local businesses that were so quick to show their support to this seemingly well-intentioned cause didn't back down when the



CREDIT: @MARKGERRETSEN VIA TWITTER (LEFT), DAVE CHAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES (RIGHT)

Many local businesses jumped on the bandwagon and openly supported the so-called "Freedom Convoy" earlier this year. As a community, we need to do better.

movement's true motives came to light. Instead, some of them simply deleted their posts and acted naïve, hoping to shrink out of the spotlight, but others, oh, they doubled down.

In a London Free Press news article from February, several of these business owners whined about being harassed and bullied for showing support for the movement led by Pat King, a white nationalist conspiracy theorist. Some of these business owners centered the false narrative of supporting small businesses, playing dumb to the racist ideologies clearly present, while others flat out lied about their involvement in sending care packages to the Clownvoy. For them, I have zero sympathy, because this isn't the first time these business owners have shown support for disreputable political agendas.

The People's Party of Canada (PPC), a right-wing federal political party, took full advantage of the very vocal minority's dislike of COVID mandates back in the 2021 federal election. The PPC peddled an anti-lockdown platform which positioned mask and vaccination mandates as authoritarian and unconstitutional, but the more problematic aspects of their platform

were seemingly overlooked by the aforementioned business owners who were more than happy to show support for the PPC. Luckily the far-right fascist party did not manage to gain any seats in the 2021 election, but their rise in popularity is fucking concerning.

One of their more prominent problematic platform points is anti-immigration, in which they seek to "end multiculturalism" and "preserve Canadian culture." I'm sorry, what culture? The culture of making and breaking treaties with First Nations, Inuit and Métis and subsequently attempting genocide on those Indigenous peoples? That culture? Or the culture of stealing Black people from Africa, bringing them to Canada against their will in inhumane conditions where countless died, and those who did make it to the "new world" were treated in unimaginably horrible ways? That culture? Or how about the over 22,000 Japanese Canadians that were forcibly relocated and incarcerated in the 1940s? That culture? No wait, it must be the international student trafficking that Canadian post-secondary institutions are currently, at this moment, participating in. That culture.

In addition to this sickening rhetoric, the PPC's platform also includes:

- Growing the oil and gas industry, paired with climate-change denial of course, while antithetically claiming that they care about Indigenous issues;
- Loosening of gun-control legislation to somehow improve public safety and fight crime;
- Privatization of healthcare;
- And restricting the definition of hate speech?

I've said it before and I'll say it again, if you align yourself with someone or something that is steeped in white nationalism or fascism, racism or bigotry, you are aligning yourself with those beliefs. And that makes you a shitty person. Period.

For a community that preaches love and condemns hate, they sure do have some questionable bedfellows. And for a community that is all for supporting and caring for small businesses, they didn't seem to give a flying fuck about the small business owners of Ottawa, or anyone else for that matter, affected by the Clownvoy.



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IS MINIMUM WAGE ENOUGH FOR STUDENTS?

ZOË ALEXANDRA KING (SHE/HER) | INTERROBANG

Minimum wage is a topic that is constantly brought up in conversations. Some believe that the minimum wage isn't enough, some think it is too much, whilst others believe that the current rate is enough for livable expenses. However, with the cost of living increasing in recent years, the discussion prevails.

For Advocacy and Communications Coordinator of the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU), Tanya Daulat, speaking up for a fair wage as a student can be a challenge.

"I don't believe that \$15 is OK for the students, especially when they work part-time," Daulat said. She expressed that although she believes the minimum wage isn't enough for the students to make a substantial living, some students are still accepting this salary from employers. With that said, Daulat acknowledged that it can be more challenging for students to advocate for themselves and ask for a higher pay rate.

"Don't settle for a job where you think you don't have to use your skills and get minimum pay," she said. "Try something new, get out of your comfort zone, because once you do, that is when you can negotiate your salary or the wage."

Daulat also recognized that she sees students become comfortable with a minimum wage job, and as a result, they fail in applying for a position that is more aligned within their skill set or studies.

"I would suggest them to be a bit more out there in finding jobs that can provide them with experience as well as recognize their skills in terms of wages," Daulat said.

She also noted that if a student is restricted to only working 20 hours a week, that the minimum wage would not be enough to sustain themselves living in Ontario.

"They will be paying taxes, rent, other expenses, and possibly a huge educational loan to consider," Daulat said. She recognized that to have a healthy balance in terms of lifestyle, students should be able to earn a little more. Daulat also indicated the importance of education and responsibilities.

"As a student, concentrate on your studies first and your earnings second. But I do believe that both international students and domestic students have a lot of responsibilities in terms of adulthood."

Roman Olshanskyi works in the restaurant industry in Ontario and has expressed his views on this subject as well as his advice for students who are earning a minimum wage. Olshanskyi shared that without making tips and only making minimum wage, that it would not be enough for a student to meet the basic living needs.

"If you're a student, especially an international, you should find a job where you can get tips beside the salary, otherwise it won't be enough," Olshanskyi said. He also said that budgeting is extremely important for a student who is earning minimum wage. Olshanskyi noted that basic living expenses include rent, food, lifestyle, and appropriate seasonal apparel. He reminded students that although having a healthy and balanced lifestyle is important, students need to remember to prioritize their education.

"My advice on minimum wage would be to improve yourself in order to leave this range of jobs that pay you the minimum and try your best to go to university or college in order to get the job that is going to pay you at least a minimum of \$25 to \$35 an hour in order to make a good living," Olshanskyi said. He reminded students that the minimum wage is a set amount for people to start their career and then improve their skills to earn more.

Both Olshanskyi and Daulat said that they believe the minimum wage isn't enough to make a substantial living, especially for students. Both of them have shared that for international students it can be difficult to meet basic needs especially during the school semesters as students are limited to the number of hours they can legally work. Hopefully, with their tips in mind, students can obtain a more balanced financial lifestyle whilst studying.



LONDON'S GREEN BIN PROGRAM HAS CITIZENS EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF GARBAGE

Dee-Dee Samuels (she/her) | Interrobang



On April 23, 2019, a climate emergency was declared by the City of London as a result of its commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems, and our community from climate change. The entire city was asked to get involved with the design and rollout of London's green bin program. Jamie Dardarian, residential sustainable program specialist from the London Environmental Network shared what a functioning green bin program can bring to the city.



"You are getting so much out of the green bin program. The waste can be turned back into valuable soil rather than just sitting in a landfill wasting away taking up space," Dardarian said. "It creates problems for people downstream. A lot of Indigenous and Native reservations are seeing liquid garbage running into waterways and into groundwater soils."

There will be somewhat of a learning curve for residents of London to get used to the program but Dardarian is confident that once the crooks of the initiative are addressed it will become second nature.

"You'll get a green bin and then you just put any of your food scraps and organic waste into the bin, and then it goes out just like a regular garbage collection. You place it on the curb and a green bin truck will come and take it to a composting facility."

London's original plan was to divert 60 per cent of the waste that ends up in the landfill by 2022. Unfortunately, supply chain issues in the automotive and truck sector exacerbated by recent geopolitical situations and high inflation resulted in a shortage of collection vehicles to start the green

bin program as planned. The City of London is now predicting the roll to happen mid-2023.

The delays of the program were caused by unavoidable global issues but Dardarian felt there could have been more done in the way of education.

"I mean, we would have like them to put a bit more effort and incentive, even if it were just around education in getting ready for the program, because there hasn't been a green bin program, there's going to be a learning curve."

Although some of the wrinkles of the program are still being ironed out, some of the waste included in the green bin program could include:

- **Food waste**
- **Spoiled paper**
- **Cooking oils and grease**
- **Household plants**
- **Pet waste**
- **Diapers, sanitary products**
- **Yard waste**

Food waste represents 60 per cent of green bin materials. Two thirds of that is avoidable food waste. "Avoidable" means food that could have been eaten. It's estimated that almost 50 per cent of London's homes have food waste. Nearly 10 percent of London's homes have diapers/incontinence products to be disposed of. Even though the processing costs of green bin materials will increase by including these hard-to-process items, the benefits include:

- **Making it easier for the public to accept bi-weekly garbage collection**
- **Providing minor landfill cost savings**
- **Further reducing greenhouse gas emissions**

Dardarian said that Fanshawe College is a great place to get students involved, inspired, and interested in both what happens to their waste, what they can do with their waste, and how exciting the garbage and waste management industry is actually becoming.

"There are just so many opportunities within waste management as soon as people start to see that, I think garbage gets a lot more exciting."

The take-home message comes across loud and clear: We need to get serious and excited about what is happening with our garbage and household waste materials. Dardarian continually drove home the point that our waste is not evaporating. The green bin program that London is rolling out is a bandwagon we should all be jumping on and rolling with.

"There are so many opportunities to get involved in garbage: material reuse, recycling or even with green bin, your waste gets turned into nutrient rich and valuable soil," Dardarian said. "We as a society have to have a little more caution toward where we are putting these waste materials, and what we can do to make them more useful in the future."

Here within the college demographic of international students, mature students and young people that are leaving their parents' house for the first time, it's about getting everybody on the same page education-wise. That's when great and green miracles can happen.





WHAT IS FANSHAWE DOING TO REDUCE THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS?

Kate Otterbein (she/her) | Interrobang

On June 22, Canada published the “Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations” in the Canada Gazette, the official newspaper of the Government of Canada. By now, it’s a fairly big topic. Some people love the eventual ban of single-use plastics, some hate it, and others wonder...is it enough?

The items outlined that will be banned by 2024 include:

- **Plastic shopping bags**
- **Cutlery**
- **Take-out containers made out of “problematic plastics”**
- **Ring carriers, typically found on six packs of canned drinks**
- **Stir sticks**
- **Straws**

There are some technicalities when it comes to flexible straws, though. Packages of 20 or more can be found in grocery and other retail stores, but must require employee assistance, and juice box straws can be sold until June 20, 2024. These restrictions were made to keep flexible straws available for people with physical disabilities or for those in long-term care homes or medical facilities.

With all of this becoming more and more relevant in our everyday lives, what is Fanshawe doing to help prevent the use of single-use plastics?

According to a spokesperson for Fanshawe Student Union (FSU)

Hospitality Services, who can’t speak on behalf of the entire college, the FSU began making changes a long time ago.

“Years ago, we removed any traces of foam coffee cups and began to use compostable paper cups,” the spokesperson said. “In 2018, we banned all plastic straws and cutlery and went to paper straws and compostable cutlery.”

Currently, straws are kept behind the counter at all FSU services, except when they’re absolutely necessary to be used, like at Booster Juice. At the Oasis and the Out Back Shack, customers must ask for a straw. When they are unwrapped, they appear to be plastic. But the paper wrapping around the straws say they are made completely out of composted materials.

In 2020, the FSU switched to Kraft paper take-out containers, as well as charging 50 cents for those containers. For those who aren’t interested in paying the convenience fee, they have the standard china plate and silverware available for free, which are then washed and reused. They also added water-refill stations for reusable water bottles and they sell reusable coffee mugs in the Oasis.

Not much was provided as to what the future of this ban will be. The long-term goal for the FSU is to phase single-use plastics out, while providing alternatives so students and faculty aren’t inconvenienced by the change.

“I do see a future where all single-use plastics will be banned from our campus, and much sooner than some may think. The FSU will continue to advocate for the use of environmentally sustainable products and approaches to our undertakings.”

The spokesperson also said that students play a role in cutting back on single-use plastics.

“Students can easily contribute to this initiative by doing small things like carrying a reusable water bottle, storing lunches into bento boxes instead of Ziploc bags, and most importantly, educating themselves on the negative effects that single-use plastics have on our ecosystem.”

While being environmentally conscious might take a little more advanced planning, there are still many benefits from cutting or reducing the use of these products. Depending on what’s available and convenient, it allows for a bit more healthy eating, rather than eating out while on campus. This also saves some money for other things, whether that be books for school, or something fun to do with your friends.

In the not-so-near future, these items will start to disappear from our everyday lives outside of Fanshawe. As for the school itself, it’s not completely plastic free yet, but they are slowly working towards reducing consumption.



Addressing Ontario's Voter Turnout Problem

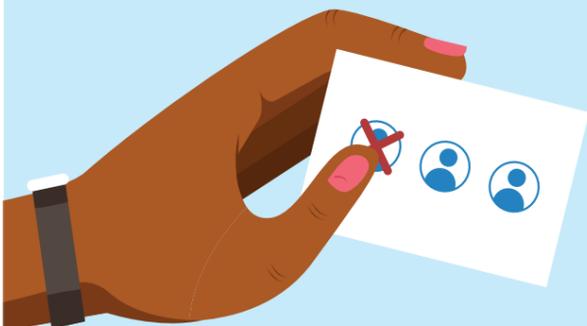


Adam Mantha (he/him) | Interrobang

On June 2, 43 per cent of eligible Ontario voters cast a ballot in the Ontario provincial election—the worst voter turnout in Ontario's 155-year history.

The record setting election took place less than one month prior to Canada's 155th year as a confederation in 1867— a year in which 73.86 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots for Ontario's first provincial election.

Voting cuts to the heart of the idea of representative government, said Matt Farrell, elections analyst and educator at Fanshawe College.



"If [voting] is incomplete or absent then there's questions about how representative the Parliament actually is. If we're not going to have people vote in sufficient numbers then almost by definition that Parliament isn't going to be representative," Farrell said.

The degree to which eligible voters (the electorate) feel and are represented is an integral part of the political fabric. The goal of voting is to elect officials that will act to represent the interests of their constituents when making policy decisions that affect people's lives.

The effect of low voter turnout produces a negative feedback loop. When eligible voters do not feel represented, they have less incentive to vote. The resulting decrease of voter turnout leads to a government more disconnected from the interests of the electorate. This disconnection can lead to people feeling like they are not represented by their government.

Farrell believes it is likely the nature of the political system that is to blame for low voter turnout rather than potential voters.

Some issues with the political system that might lead to low voter turnout include administrative burden and voter disenfranchisement.

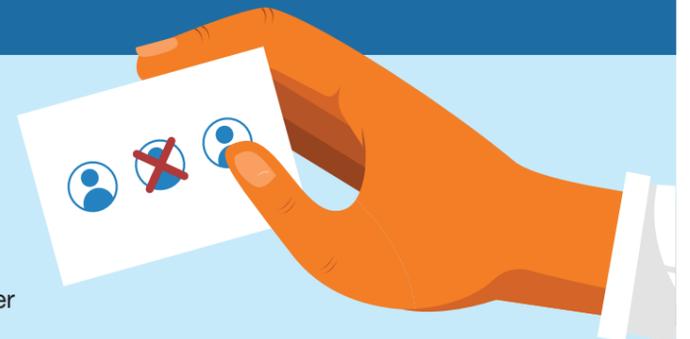
Administrative burden refers to barriers that include registering to vote, locating polling stations, having to take time off work, or travelling to cast a vote.

In Ontario and Canada in general, voters do not bear a large administrative burden given it is relatively easy to register and actually vote if eligible, Farrell said.

Voter disenfranchisement can occur over time due to low voter turnout, as mentioned above, but there are other factors that lead to voters feeling alienated from the political system. In Canada, this could be the way we determine our representatives.

Canadian elections operate on the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system. In this system, the candidate with the most votes is elected and tasked with representing their entire riding.

One criticism of a FPTP electoral system is that it fails to produce adequate voter representation in Parliament. In this system, a candidate can be elected to represent a



riding even if the majority of the total votes do not go to that candidate.

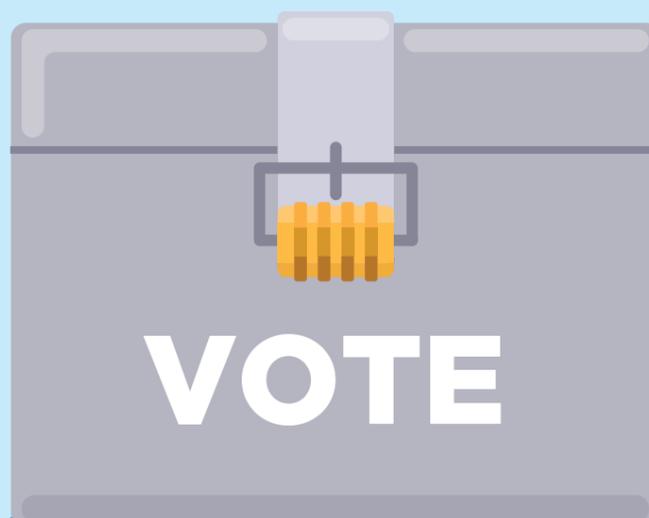
For example, assume the most votes for a single candidate is 40 per cent of all votes cast, and the remaining 60 per cent of the votes are distributed among three other candidates who each achieve a 20 per cent share of the remaining votes. In a FPTP election, the candidate with 40 per cent of the vote total is elected.

The result is 60 per cent of the people who cast their vote for a different candidate are not directly represented in their riding. FPTP doesn't seem to be a good way to determine representatives in a system that is meant to represent voters fairly.

FPTP systems can lead to voters feeling disenfranchised because they feel their vote is practically insignificant — their vote effectively amounts only to their participation in the election. A change in the electoral system that makes a larger number of voter's opinions matter could result in more incentive to vote, a higher voter turnout, and a stronger parliament.

"There are other places that have higher turnout and it's probably because of different electoral systems or different party systems that are perhaps more representative of the electorate, so people feel more like they have a stake in the outcome, a bit more skin in the game," Farrell explained. "If they vote in, let's say, a system of proportional representation, even if their party is not one of the top performers and they don't form the government, they could still get seats in the legislature."

For some, voting is its own reward. They recognize the privilege to vote or even feel a civic duty to participate; however, changes need to be made to encourage voters to participate. Perhaps changes to the way representatives are elected in this country would address declining voter turnout.



POLITICIANS

& the power of social media



Savannah Bisailon (she/her) | Interrobang

When it comes to politics, especially in Canada, there are many politicians currently using social media, particularly apps like TikTok and Instagram. But why? When it comes to the younger audience, does using social media really work? TikTok could actually be helping shape a new generation's political identity.

Federal New Democratic Party (NDP) leader, Jagmeet Singh has been using TikTok as a platform to share his voice and reach the younger generation of voters. Back in July of 2021, Singh performed a TikTok dance that has since gone viral and he clearly connected with the younger audience that primarily uses the app. Most days, everyone has access to social media in one way or another, so it is a lot easier for people to stay connected with one another.

Social media has an effect on everybody these days and makes for a simple and effective way of reaching young voters. Singh in particular has shown that he knows how to attract his audience. Since a lot of the people using TikTok are closer to the age of first-time voters, it is easier for Singh to connect with them and express the importance of voting through apps like TikTok.

NDP MPP for London North Centre, Terence Kernaghan discussed the power of social media and how politicians are using it to connect with their audience on the importance of voting.

With Singh using TikTok as a way to reach his voters, it could be considered a campaign in and of itself. It also makes us connect the relationship between politicians and social media.

"In politics [you] need to really...be talking to young people, meeting them where they're at, and talking to them about issues that are important to them," said Kernaghan. "Because young people are the future. So it's really, highly important that politicians also look at the ways in which they communicate."

"I think he's very much communicating his ideas and communicating his personality through TikTok, I think it's phenomenal," said Kernaghan. "He's really shown the

power of that medium as means to communicate with folks. I think it's really amazing what he has done. He's really a force to be reckoned with."

Using TikTok as a platform has many great benefits, especially when it comes to swaying your audience and getting your voice heard. But, there is also a chance that your original message can get re-worded and not have as much meaning as you had originally intended.

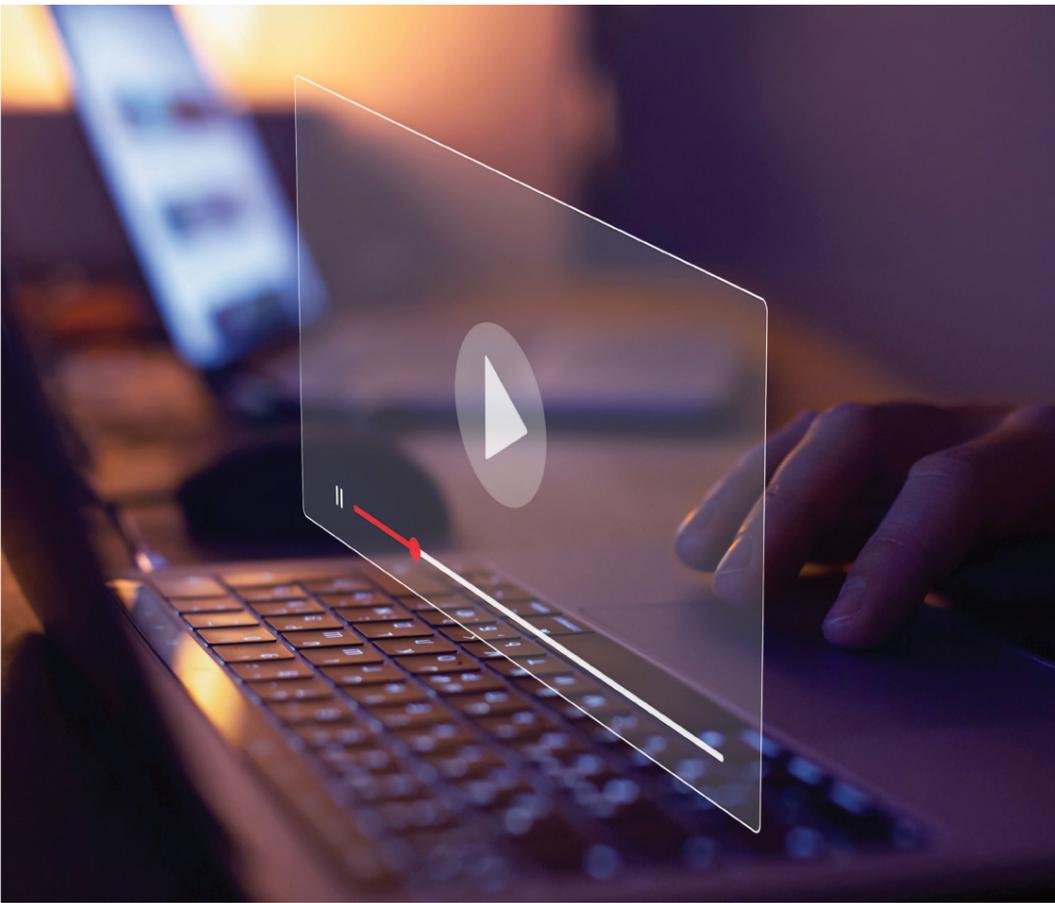
"It [TikTok] allows you to really pinpoint information for viewpoints that you ought to consider," said Kernaghan. "We're sort of bombarded with a great deal of information, a great deal of media, you know, especially with the COVID pandemic. And I think it's really important that we also have social media to use as a tool. Unfortunately...we need to look at some news articles or ones that masquerade as new news articles, which require a little bit of critical thinking. Unfortunately, a lot of people will not do their secondary background search or fact checking...and then that can lead to some misinformation."

When it comes to voting, it is important for people to do research especially knowing that a politician's term is usually four years. With Singh using his platforms to reach his audience, he is giving people a view into what we should know.

"Voting is incredibly important, it is a right that people fought for, people have died for," said Kernaghan. "Myself, as an openly LGBTQ person, I realized that my safety, my existence depends upon good policy and upon good governments. A lot of our rights that we kind of take for granted are not ones that are inalienable. Those are rights that, through a bad government, could be taken away. So I think it's important... to be politically engaged, and make sure that the people you elect will represent your values and speak to what you need and the hope you have for future."

Overall, social media can be extremely effective when it comes to politics because it keeps us all in the loop and keeps us all connected.





CREDIT: ANYABERKUT

Unlike earlier generations, Gen Z eschews traditional institutions and media outlets, preferring instead the relatability of influencers and their YouTube channels.

The future of federal politics in Canada



Dee-Dee Samuels
(she/her)

INTERROBANG

Trends in politics tend to shift like fashion (and I'm not just talking about Kamala Harris' Converse and pant suit combo).

Trends impacting voting patterns are not just about fashion though, but, rather, the pervasiveness of technology and social media that spread its messages to highly impressionable voters. Social media platforms will account for significant changes in voting patterns in current and future Canadian elections.

Matt Farrell, Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Fanshawe College, uses Trudeau's visual appeal as an example of this in his "The YouTube Electorate" article, stating that on social media platforms, people show a shiny, perfect image of themselves.

"The same is true of our prime minister. He is always picture perfect. Always. He recognizes the power of the visual and is always poised for the perfect shot."

According to Farrell, Trudeau's polished persona is what endeared him to the younger voters who grew up on a diet of Instagram's perfect poses. Trudeau's polished look increased the voting turnout amongst young millennials of the time by a whopping 18 per cent. But as Farrell pointed out: Instagram is far from real life.

Farrell believes that the next election will prove to be different than the one we saw in 2021 and will be completely different than the one in 2015 that saw Trudeau's Liberals win a majority.

"Generations Y and Z are emerging as dominant blocs in the economy, the labour market, and the electorate," Farrell said. "Typically, younger voters align with the NDP/Greens, but Pierre Poilievre has done very well in connecting with young voters (especially young men)."

The appeal of Poilievre's Conservative Party could be explained by his approach to connecting with a demographic "neglected by our political system," as stated in Farrell's article.

"Unlike earlier generations, Gen Z eschews traditional institutions and media outlets, preferring instead the relatability of influencers and their YouTube channels."

It seems that the trend in current politics is appealing to the younger, often neglected, generation of voters, unlike what Trudeau accomplished in 2015. Learning to speak their language is key and that language is social media. Poilievre and his far-right views seem to have done this very effectively, while other politicians favour a more conventional approach as mentioned in Farrell's article.

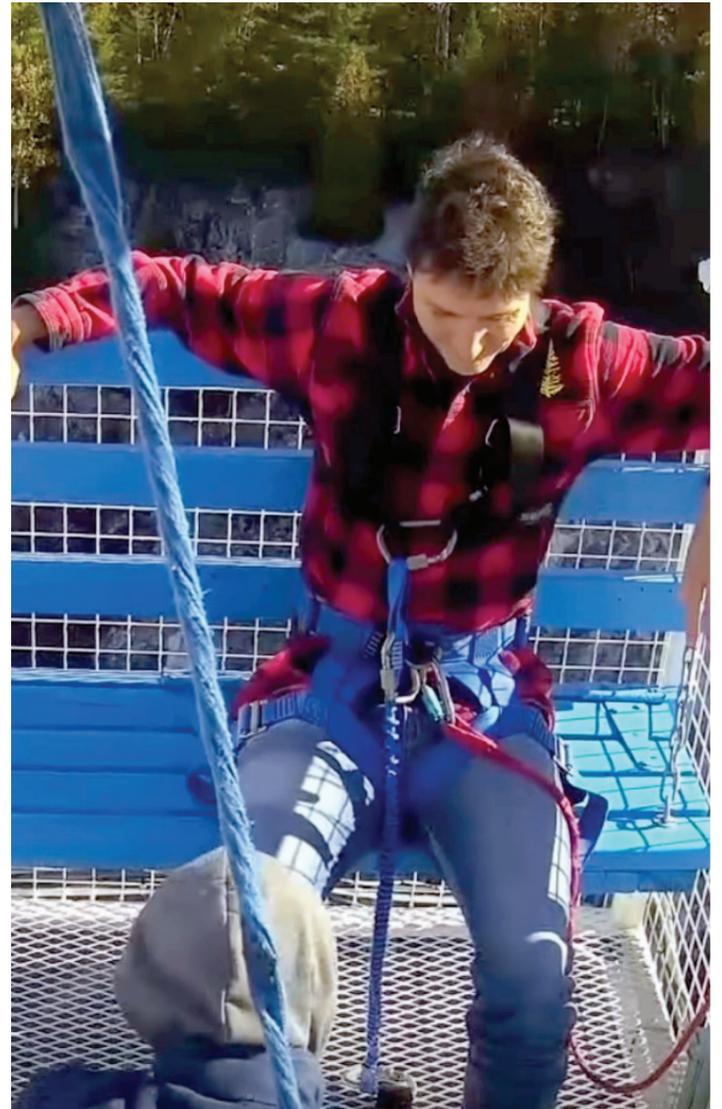
Geography also has to be considered when looking at voting trends.

"Parties are very sorted geographically with Conservatives doing well in rural areas (and the West, generally) and Liberals winning dense urban centres. Research from Zac Taylor at Western finds that this 'density gap' reached its highest level in 2021."

In elections, trends come and go to an extent. In today's world, it seems we are attempting to appeal to generations with considerable gaps between them. With technology advancing exponentially, how politicians and their brands reach their voters will have to advance just as fast.

"Elections in Canada tend to follow a crude historical pattern. André Turcotte and Lawrence Leduc call this pattern 'Dynasties and Interludes.' Accordingly, a party will win a few elections (the dynasty) before being supplanted by another (the interlude or beginning of next dynasty). In this light, it would not be surprising to see the Conservatives enjoy significant electoral success in the next election."

Should politicians have a life outside of their jobs?



CREDIT: GREAT CANADIAN BUNGEE VIA INSTAGRAM

Justin Trudeau celebrated his son's birthday with a bungee jump, which led to much ire from his online detractors.



Zoë Alexandra King
(she/her)

INTERROBANG

In light of recent events, the subject of whether or not politicians should have a life outside of their work has been a topic of discussion amongst Canadians. On Oct. 3, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau went bungee jumping for his son Xavier's birthday. This event resulted in different opinions from the public on whether or not this activity was deemed appropriate for a prime minister.

Whilst some members of the public weren't fazed by the personal activities of Trudeau, there were still some who voiced their opinions that he shouldn't have been taking part in such an event. Twitter user @GrizzMedia said, "So wrong on so many levels. This should have been done when he is no longer in power."

Meanwhile, others expressed their very negative views towards Trudeau. Hateful and negative words were used to describe him when it came to this scenario.

On the other hand, there were some who had entirely different views. Twitter user @TimMcKee_CD said, "Say what you want, I'm here to say #IAmCanadian and this is pretty cool way for a #G7 leader to spend his weekend..."

This recent scenario is very similar to when Trudeau sang 'Bohemian Rhapsody' ahead of the Queen's funeral and just like this time, the public shared their views on whether it was appropriate or not.

Matt Farrell, Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and political commentator explained the importance of balance for politicians.

"They are people like you and I, and if we want more people to run for office and we want people who are engaged in that community, we want those people to come forward and run for office, they need a balance. You can't give up your life to come into the public sphere and be a political candidate or somebody that holds office," Farrell said.

Farrell said that if a person doesn't like a political candidate that it's almost a "reflexive dislike" towards the activities they may be doing.

"Any excuse to make the opposition look bad," said Farrell. "Something that in political science they call negative partisanship." The public will always have something to say about politicians because there are always going to be people who are not in favour of them. "Where it gets tricky to justify is when you have a political figure that spends an unordinary amount of time golfing or on vacation and then people start to wonder about accountability," said Farrell.

Surely if these activities with Trudeau were taking priority over his role as prime minister, then there would be a much larger discussion about it than there is currently.

There are many opinions on this topic and whether or not politicians should have some form of freedom recognized by the public. Do you think Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was in the wrong for taking part in a personal activity with his kids?





INTERROBANG

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Students share their thoughts on London's homelessness crisis



Justin Koehler (he/him)
INTERROBANG

The municipal elections have been a popular topic lately and have brought forward a hope to address some of the growing issues and problems in London. With local police recently dismantling one of the larger homeless camps in the city just off of downtown London, it's easy to see why the homelessness crisis in the city is at the forefront of voters' thoughts.

With close to 2,000 identifying as homeless in the city so far this year, increasing from last year's total of nearly 1,400, many of this year's mayoral candidates had the topic of homelessness within their platforms. The main cause for concern, however, is that the City of London has had plans for improving homeless numbers for years and the numbers are continuing to increase. This continued issue has now made its way further into the eyes of Londoners.

According to a study conducted by CBC London, over 50 per cent of respondents stated that homelessness and affordable housing mattered most to them when it comes to their vote. When issues such as climate change, crime, public transit, and taxes all combine for less than 30 per cent in the same study, it clearly shows how much Londoners care about the homeless population in the city. Among those who care are some of the students at Fanshawe College, having their own thoughts on what should be done to better the lives



Homeless tents located in downtown London, some of many that can be found scattered in the city.

CREDIT: JUSTIN KOEHLER

of those who live on the streets. Affordable housing, reopening or relocating soup kitchens, and additional food banks were all recurring options coming from the students of the college who were asked about recommendations they'd give to the next mayor of London on improving the lives of the homeless population. "To best aid the homeless population in the city we need to look at more affordable housing," said one student currently enrolled in the

paramedic program at Fanshawe. "We also need to look at allowing people who have addiction issues to be able to live inside of group homes, so that they can have somewhere safe to hopefully get better with their addictions instead of just throwing them out on the street." Alanna, another student enrolled in the paramedic program, recommended more allowances for homeless camps in the city. "In Kitchener, we kind of set up a

large tent area where all the homeless people can stay and have a place to sleep." Another student, Selena, echoed that sentiment. "Just increasing the availability of shelters," she said. "I know every time I pass Mission Services downtown, there's lineups around the block for it. I'd recommend just giving them shelters that are more readily available, so they aren't sleeping on the streets at night."

Homelessness is very present in London, being an issue that's been growing year to year with no path set to reduce these numbers. It's clear to see that the City of London and the students at Fanshawe have this homeless crisis at the forefront of their minds when it comes to what the city needs to be improving. With the municipal election upon us and the position of mayor in transition, hopes are high that something can be done to remedy this problem soon.

SUSTAINABILITY TODAY

Mohamed Ahmed Shariff (he/him)

The cost of inequality: Lives

The last century has defined the world's geography. The Great Wars and other significant events resulted in boundary lines being erased and redrawn, reshaping geo-politics. What remains unchanged is inequality, whose existence is a threat to a sustainable future.

Inequality has many facets; issues such as Iranian women protesting public dress code to migrants fleeing their war-torn countries, stem from experiencing inequality. To combat this, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have rightly included Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

According to the SDGs Report (2022), by June 2021, the number of people fleeing their "countries due to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order" reached 24.5 million — the highest on record. The year saw over 5,000 such people dying; at least 700 along the USA-Mexico border.

It's not just war and economic inequality; natural disasters and lack of support also affects people. For example, the drought in Somalia, which started in 2020, has displaced about 0.6 million people.

Losing your home is devastating, but the following socio-economic problems are equally harmful: According to the SDGs Report, over 80 per cent of refugee families live in "communities that are either food insecure or at the risk of becoming one," and they turn to "restricting adult consumption to feed children more, early marriage, or taking illegal jobs to survive." The cycle of tragedy starts to unfold.

Inequality also exists in the form of discrimination. The SDGs Report states that about one in five people have "experienced discrimination on at least one of the grounds prohibited under international human rights law."

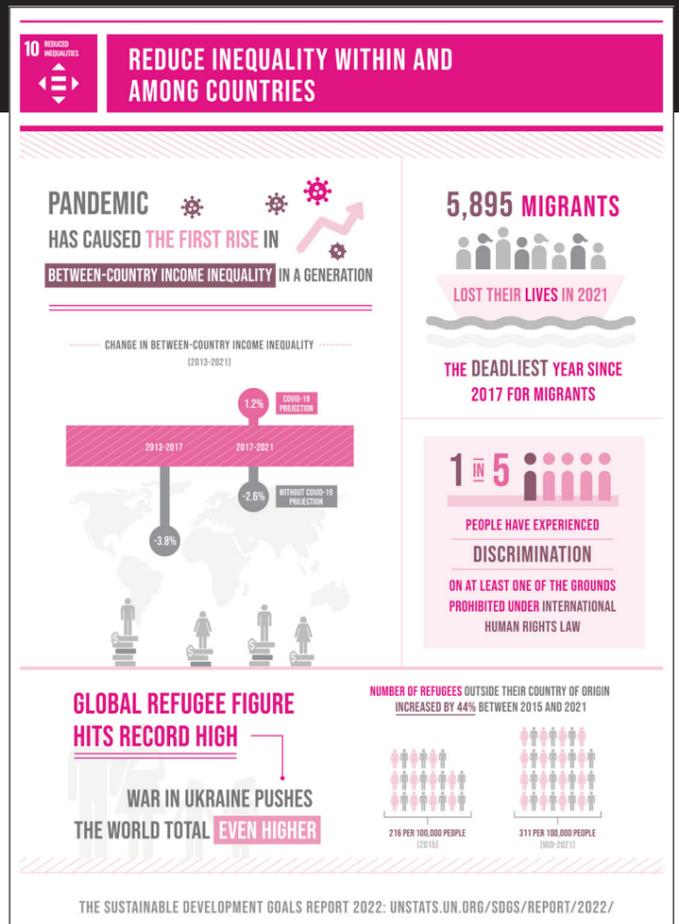
At the time of writing this article, Russian aggression continues in Ukraine and the Taliban once

again controls Afghanistan. The 21st century has been the one of peace and sustainable development. War is not a solution, co-operation is, as summed up by Jawaharlal Nehru, the man who spearheaded the nonalignment movement during the Cold War era, "Without peace, all other dreams vanish and are reduced to ashes."

The root of this inequality lies in people's mindset and biases, which needs to change. It may be done with political will manifesting as protection laws, but we can contribute too by building empathy, raising our voices against discrimination and treating everybody as equals, else we will continue to witness more George Floyds and Mahsa Aminis.

Days to look forward to:

- **Oct. 21:** SDG LABs
- **Oct. 24:** Freshwater Dolphin Day
- **Oct. 24:** International Day of Climate Action
- **Nov. 1:** World Vegan Day



CREDIT: FANSHAWE SUSTAINABILITY

The SDGs Report states that about one in five people have "experienced discrimination on at least one of the grounds prohibited under international human rights law."



CREDIT: ARNOLDO MILLA RAFFOUL AND IVAN CLINT ENRIQUEZ

Monsters of Schlock perform their extreme circus act for students in the Student Centre Building and two students win tickets to Halloween Haunt at Canada's Wonderland on Oct. 13, 2022.

Do students care enough about local elections?



Emma Butler
(she/her)
INTERROBANG

There are several elections that can happen in our country, be they federal, provincial or municipal. On Oct. 24, London will hold its municipal election. Interrobang spoke to 15 students about their interest in the

election, with only six expressing any interest in politics at all, with the other nine stating they had little to say on the topic or that they had never voted before.

President of the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU), Ismail Aravai, said that it is very important for students to participate in local elections.

"Students are a big voting population pool," Aravai said. "The economic policies will affect our

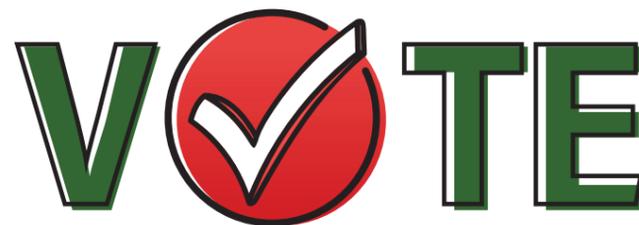
future, as we need to understand the candidate's stand on these policies. Our vote will decide how much education will cost, whether we will find a job, and how much we will earn after graduating. It's important for the younger generation to vote because in the future they will be our leaders and shaping our public policies."

Aravai has been the president of the FSU since May. Having been an international student, he was unable to vote in last year's federal election, but highly encouraged other students to vote.

"Back home I have never missed one single vote," he said. "But I did take an initiative to go to both provincial and municipal candidates, and asked questions to the candidates on behalf of students."

Fanshawe student Ben Cowan, said that while he knows students can make an impact, politics overall can be a nasty game.

"I have voted before, once or twice," Cowan said. "I guess students should vote, since most younger students tend to be more progressive so they could help make a change. But, I find politics to seem kind of toxic, especially on social media where I see it the most."



CREDIT: HANNA HRUTS

Students don't seem too bothered with local elections, but they should be, according to FSU president, Ismail Aravai.

Fanshawe has opportunities for students to get more involved with what is happening politically, even offering on-campus advanced polling before elections, giving students the chance to vote at school.

"As a student union, we have to provide an equal platform to all candidates," Aravai said. "So we have to be non-partisan. But we do encourage students to go and cast their votes and be educated on the candidates and the issues. It is important that all eligible student voters cast their ballots to have their voices heard. It is at the root of all our democratic institutions."

The age group of 18 to 25 is an important group of voters. If this group does not vote in elections

they will be the ones to suffer the consequences of political issues in the future. Aravai mentioned that the younger group who can vote should be voting and making their voices be heard. It is important to understand candidates and what they have to offer for each person and how they are going to impact people's lives.

"I consider myself to be a student in this city," Aravai said. "The pandemic and rising inflation have hit the students the most. There are a lot of pressing issues that students are facing like student debt, housing, OSAP, Indigenous and international student concerns, mental health, etc. Students need to be part of all elections and learn more about each candidate platform."

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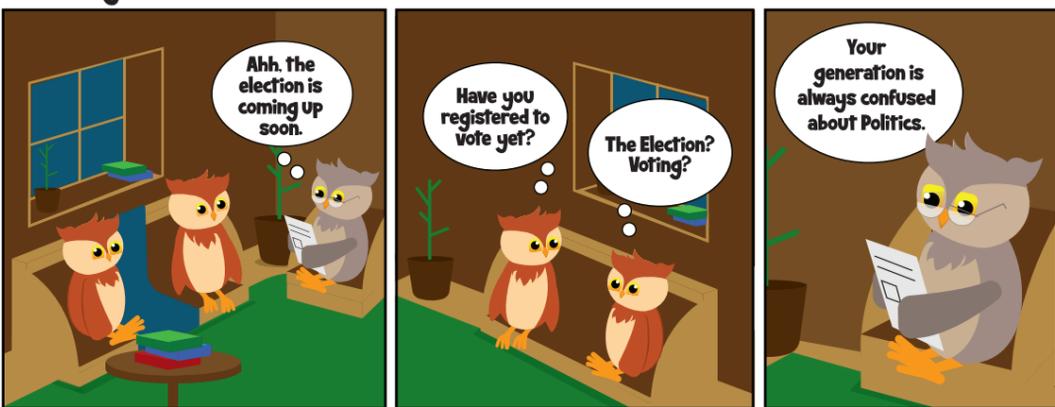
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Freshman Fifteen



Who has your vote.



NOT NEUROTYPICAL



Aries

Work on made at home solutions that will help you make a daily difference. Work with someone who shares your values and concerns, and something good will transpire. Love is in the air, but emotions will fluctuate. Plan a get together and you'll make progress. Asking for assistance will help you avoid setbacks. A positive attitude and enthusiasm are hard to resist. Turn on the charm. Go over details and you'll notice something left unfinished. Don't let anger or disappointment set in; if you want a job done correctly, doing the work yourself is encouraged.

Taurus

Unexpected changes may cause stress, but the results will be positive in the end. Use your intelligence to guide you; everything will fall into place. Make your surroundings inviting and it will prompt you to entertain those you wish to play alongside. Don't judge others based on what you hear. See for yourself and make decisions based on intuition, not words. Put a healthy routine in place to avoid illness and injury. You may feel others are asking for too much. Take a closer look at the possibilities and what you stand to gain or lose before committing. Be upfront about the way you feel.

Gemini

What you do to help others will make a difference. Stick to the facts, keep your story straight and ask questions if you feel someone is leaving out important details. A secretive approach will save you some grief. Don't let the last-minute changes someone makes disrupt your plans. Stay focused on what you are doing until you feel confident you can move on without concern. Stick to the process to avoid a delay. Put everything you've got into taking care of responsibilities. The rewards for a job well done will be greater than anticipated. Self-improvement is encouraged.

Cancer

Take care of responsibilities without fuss. If you overreact, you'll face opposition. Pay attention to due dates and your health. You'll come up with sound ideas that will help run your home efficiently, leaving you more time and money to spend with and on loved ones. Stop pondering over what to do next and get the ball rolling. You'll receive the wrong information. Do your due diligence and research before you decide how to proceed. Saying something you'll regret is likely if you let your emotions take over. Sit back and observe before making your next move.

Leo

Check out the possibilities and learn all you can from those close to you. Exploring and expressing how you feel and what you enjoy doing will encourage you to follow your heart and leave the past behind you. Tone things down and be a good listener. Being self-critical rather than picking out things you don't like about someone else will ensure that you don't damage your relationships with others while you fix any shortcomings you possess. Personal growth is encouraged. Your input will be appreciated. Self-improvement will fetch compliments. Romance is in the stars.

Virgo

Scrutinize what's possible and implement a plan that will encourage positive changes. Upgrading your qualifications will help you gain access to a future dream job. Knowledge will help build confidence. A shift in how you think and do things will play in your favour. Being transparent is your ticket to success, so don't hold back when you have valid information. Attend events and meetings that help you keep your finger on the pulse of whatever you are trying to achieve. Events that include people you don't get along with will promote tension and put you in an awkward position.

Libra

Participating in something that concerns you will pay off. Give your opinion a voice, and your actions will not go unnoticed. Being responsible for your efforts will help you maintain a role of leadership. Do what you do best. The time spent working alongside others will be a learning experience that changes how you do things moving forward. Acceptance of situations will offer insight into positive solutions. Do your part at home and avoid upsetting someone you love. Who you connect with will impact your life. Make physical improvements and spiritual growth priorities. Romance will bring you closer to someone special.

Scorpio

Pay attention to the visual aspects of any situation you encounter. Being prepared will make a difference between success and failure. Execute whatever you want to proclaim with passion and visual aids. Put your energy to good use and you will achieve your objective. Look for unique solutions and offer an in-depth prognosis regarding the outcome, and your pursuits will be victorious. Don't jeopardize your health, physical well-being or emotional state. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something that won't benefit you. Keep your mind alert and your focus on what's important to you.

Sagittarius

Double-check your resources before you make a purchase or promise to do something. Your insight will be lacking when it comes to deciding what others want. A tight fist will discourage others from asking for a handout. You'll feel anxious if faced with a challenge you aren't qualified to complete. Call on a friend for help. Personal gain is within reach, and an opportunity to improve your surroundings will encourage you to entertain. A recent connection you made will make you aware of your feelings and what you want to do with the rest of your life.

Capricorn

Keep the peace. An opinionated point of view will lead to an argument you don't want to start. Your efforts will produce more success and personal happiness if you focus on friends, relatives and domestic issues. You'll be sitting in a good position if you have invested time in something that you love. Doing things in your unique way is OK if it helps you come out ahead. Put your thoughts on paper and pursue your dreams. You won't be thinking clearly regarding expenses and loved ones. Take a step back and rethink how best to proceed.

Aquarius

Social opportunities look promising these next few weeks. Signing up for an event will give you the confidence to engage in challenging but constructive activities. Speak from the heart if someone questions what you are doing. Don't put up with anyone trying to dismantle your plans or discredit you. When under siege, protect your reputation and position. Stick close to home and address issues that will make your surroundings more inviting. Play to win. Refuse to let what others say throw you off guard. Success is the sweetest revenge.

Pisces

Take time to go over details and put a plan in place that will help end the negativity others bring. Leave nothing to chance and take control of whatever situation you face; you'll get the results you want. Spend your money wisely. Research purchases you wish to make and empathize with people's problems, but don't offer to pay for their mistakes. Keep your expenses down, refuse to give in to temptation and don't take health risks. A makeover, time spent with someone you love or a journey that opens your mind and body to personal growth and enlightenment will improve your attitude.

The Hockey Canada scandal shows why hockey culture needs to change



Ben Harrietha (they/them)
INTERROBANG

On Oct. 11, Hockey Canada announced that CEO Scott Smith was departing company leadership and the Board of Directors was stepping down, both effective immediately. This came after months of investigation into multiple allegations of sexual assault, along with the claims that Hockey Canada had used player membership fees for a fund to deal with said allegations and refused to investigate any allegations.

A London woman, identified in court records as “E.M.” alleged that after a Hockey Canada gala and golf event in June 2018, she was brought to a nearby hotel and assaulted multiple times while intoxicated. Eight unnamed members of the National Junior Hockey Team were claimed to have been the perpetrators of the assault. In May of this year, the matter was settled outside of court.

The fund used to settle the case, called the “National Equity Fund,” is one of two funds the organization created for the express purpose of matters related to sexual abuse by its members. Both funds were built through portions of player registration fees, as reported by the Globe and Mail.

On multiple occasions, Hockey Canada rejected any notion of needing to replace its board of directors, with interim board chair Andrea Skinner claiming the media and MPs were trying to make toxic behaviour and sexual assault a “specific hockey problem,” and that using the sport as a scapegoat would be counterproductive.

Soon after, multiple sponsors and leagues pulled away from Hockey Canada, with both Hockey Quebec and Hockey Nova Scotia withholding player fees, and Canadian Tire



CREDIT: GOODALL MEDIA

Hockey has unfortunately been a “boys’ club” for years.

cutting ties permanently with the company. Tim Hortons, Scotiabank, and Chevrolet also pulled their support, citing Hockey Canada’s refusal to change.

In a statement released on Oct. 11, the organization said interim management will be in place until a new board is chosen.

“Recognizing the urgent need for new leadership and perspectives, the entire Board of Directors announced it will step aside and pursuant to Hockey Canada’s By-Laws, the Board will ask its Members to select a new slate of directors.”

Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Sport, released a statement the same day, welcoming the decision as a step in the right direction, while also acknowledging that there needs

to be more work done in order to restore any lost confidence in the organization.

“We expect Hockey Canada to actively work towards a team whose expertise will contribute to better support and training for players, and an environment exempt from sexual violence and discrimination.”

At the time of writing, multiple bylaws have been changed to try and address the culture and systemic issues. These changes are following interim recommendations from former Supreme Court Justice Thomas Cromwell.

This does beg the question; how could it get this bad in the first place? Hockey has unfortunately been a “boys’ club” for years. It’s a sport with a high cost of entry, meaning

most people who end up playing are usually from white, middle-upper class families. Hockey being such a white, rich sport, means that those entering from any other background tend to be shunned.

The toxicity in the sport is no secret either. Through all levels of the sport, from house leagues to the NHL, there are stories of racism, homophobia, and sexism. And too often, players get away with it.

Luckily, with this situation, people are unanimously in agreement that Hockey Canada is in the wrong. Some are saying that the players should be punished, with one tweet saying, “Any player who has done anything like what Ian Cole or any of the other Hockey Canada players have allegedly done,

throw them out of the game.” Others agreed with the sentiment, but said a fair trial for any alleged perpetrator should be held.

However, a small, but vocal minority reiterate the two most classic phrases when it comes to the discussion: “boys will be boys” and “it’s just locker talk.” One commenter on Facebook made the claim that there were no assaults, and that the girls had “thrown themselves at the boys believing they’ll be rich millionaires.”

We hold hockey and its players on a pedestal in Canada. Time and time again, it’s been demonstrated why we need to look at the people involved with the sport with more scrutiny. Idolizing these young players only ends in disappointment.

Falcons men’s golf team takes OCAA Championship



Justin Koehler (he/him)
INTERROBANG

The Fanshawe Falcons men’s golf team took the gold at the 2022 OCAA Provincial Golf Championship. The Falcons attended the event on Oct. 5 at the Legends on the Niagara Golf Course in Niagara Falls. The team won the provincial championships for the first time in 30 years, with their previous win coming in 1992. The team is led by head coach Colin Robertson, who has been with the team since 2015. With the wins at the event, Robertson has now led the team to medals at the OCAA Championships three years in a row.

“They were the ones to win that gold medal, they did it and they earned it. I’m just lucky enough to be along for the ride,” said Robertson. “It feels great to have the training you’ve done with the team pay off, especially when the guys are really buying into the program and believing in themselves.”

On top of the team’s overall

success, the Falcons took home individual medals as well with Mitchel Hampson (Mitchell, Ont.) and Ben Landers (Delaware, Ont.) bringing home gold and silver respectively.

The Falcons finished off the event with a three-day team total of 873 (+9), five shots ahead of Humber College, who finished second. Hampson was the front-runner and led the team with a three-day score of 210, posting consistent rounds of 70-70-70 to finish six under par. Landers, in his first year with the team, had a spectacular final round (66) to lock in second place with a score of three under (213). With their successes, Hampson and Landers were both named to the OCAA All-Ontario Team.

“All the guys have really developed a recipe, as we like to call it, a recipe on how to hit a shot. Playing percentages and focusing, that’s something they’ve done extremely well at,” Robertson said on how his team kept calm heading into the provincial championships.

The OCAA champions team was rounded out by Colin Warren (London, Ont.) who finished in seventh with a three day total of 224, as



CREDIT: FANSHAWE ATHLETICS

The men’s golf team took home gold at the OCAA Provincial Golf Championship for the first time in 30 years.

well as Luke Evans (Georgetown, Ont.) and Brent Schidowka (Komoka, Ont.) who both tied for 12th, finishing with 232.

The Fanshawe women’s golf team attended the event as well, finishing in fourth place in their tournament. Jinnie Seo (Seoul) led the way

individually for the women with a three-day total of 318, finishing in 10th place overall.

Robertson said that training and control made all the difference in helping the team stand out.

“When I was a player, we almost had to go out blind and battle to find

ways to get more control of the outcome,” Robertson said. “The biggest difference between then and now is the players have more control over their own game. Back in the day, we never really had that training whereas this is a bit of a different mentality, we have that weapon in our arsenal.”



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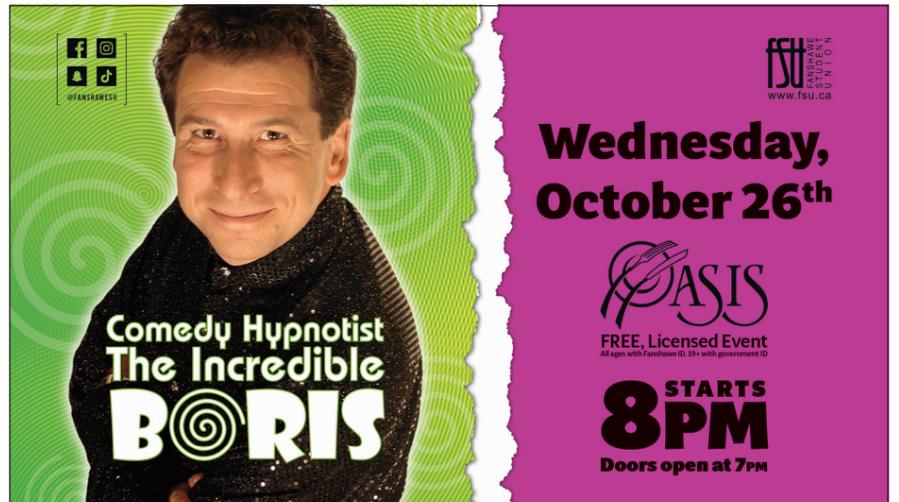
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