

THE MIKE

The official student newspaper of the University of St. Michael's College since 1947

BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS

Volume LXXIII, Issue 5
November 30, 2020
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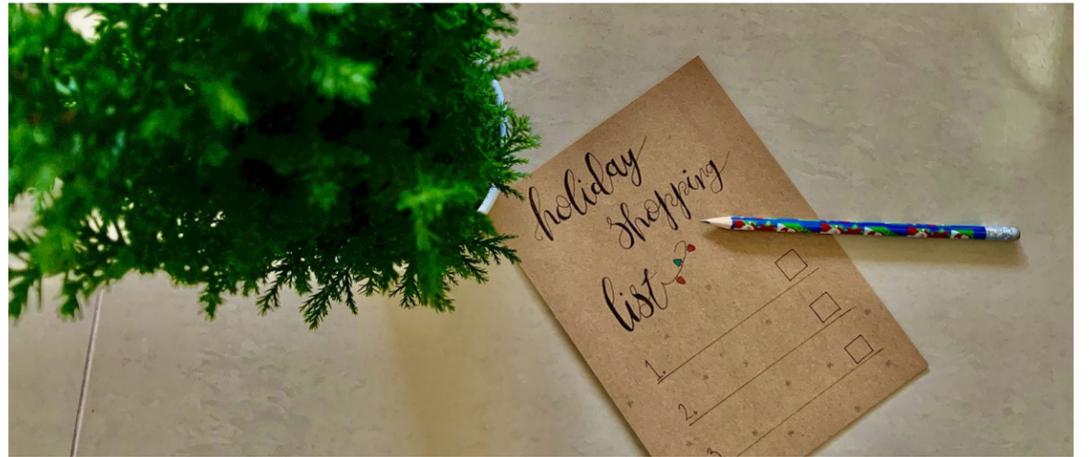
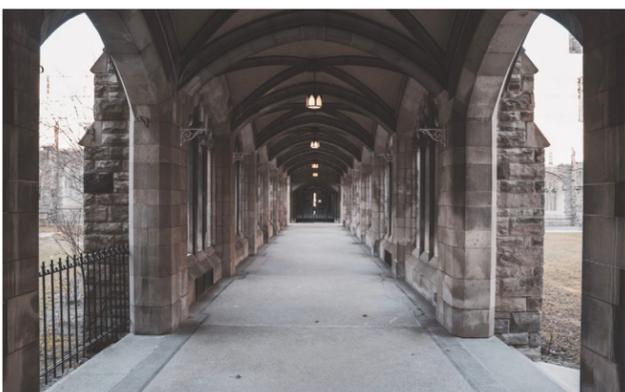


U of T's Winter Break Extension

Chiara Greco, Editor-in-Chief

On November 20, the University of Toronto (U of T) made the decision to extend winter break until January 11, 2021. This decision comes as a result of the growing anxieties and stress associated with COVID-19 and the needed break many students have been petitioning for. In an email to U of T students, President Meric Gertler states that this extension is “prompted by the fact that we’ve all been under an extraordinary amount of stress for months now, because of the burdens imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.” . . .

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The Lifestyle Section's Holiday Gift Guide of 2020

Alessia Tenaglia, The Mike Staff Writer

There is only a month left until the holidays! Come the end of November, holiday lights and decorations are being put up already, and don't forget the snowfall, of course. If this has reminded you or has made you inclined to start your holiday shopping, you are not alone. Sometimes, gift shopping can be hard, so I have come up with some gift suggestions for anyone in your life that you may want to surprise! . . .

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The Queen's Gambit Review

Andrew Roberts, The Mike Copy Editor

This reading week I watched a Netflix original series that I was highly anticipating. The Queen's Gambit was adapted from a book of the same name and is directed by Scott Frank who wrote screenplays for various blockbusters such as Logan and Minority Report. The series stars Anya-Taylor Joy whom you may know from Split, Emma, and The Witch. I can say however, that her performance as chess prodigy Beth Harmon is her best performance yet! The Queen's Gambit follows Beth from her childhood as an orphan to adulthood traveling the world in chess competitions. . .

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Moving Forward With Mental Health Action

Aloysius Wong, Associate Opinions Editor

Content warning: this article contains mentions of suicide.

Last year, I wrote an article in the immediate aftermath of a student death on campus. It was admittedly a raw, unpolished piece wrought with emotion, but one that I hoped might better

express how deeply even one loss in our community can affect us all. I sincerely did hope and pray that our efforts would bring about sufficient change . . .

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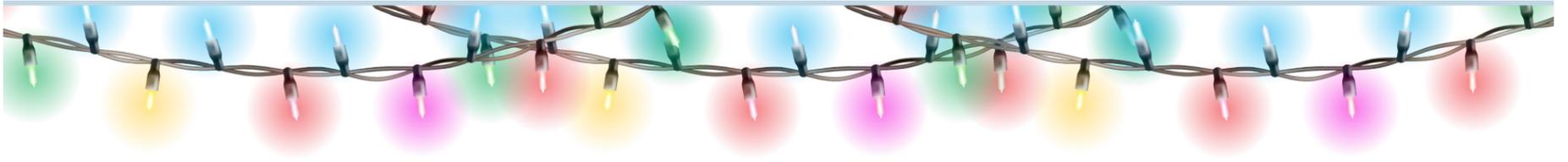
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CHECK OUT THIS ISSUE'S FEATURES



A City on Lockdown

Staying entertained during this lockdown period

Evangeline Cowie, The Mike Contributor

Since the first COVID-19 related lockdown back in March, life has lacked normalcy. Schools, stores, and restaurants have been closing; social bubbles have radically reduced, and the feeling that this could last forever has become the new normal — one that has made everyone adapt to a new lifestyle.

Toronto has been particularly hard-hit by the increase in cases, which has sent the city into a second lockdown. The many new restrictions have, yet again, affected many people, including students.

Being a university student in the middle of a global pandemic is certainly challenging. Online schooling presents many obstacles while opportunities to relax and destress have become scarce. However,

it is still important to make an effort to adjust to life in the pandemic and find ways to keep a handle on some forms of normalcy.

Despite the lockdown, Toronto remains alive and there are still a wide variety of activities that are available, easily accessible, and very affordable (if not free!). Furthermore, the lockdown could provide an opportunity to enrich your personal life without leaving the comfort of your home. Below I've included some things I have done to enrich my life during the lockdown, which you should definitely consider trying as well!

Places To Go

The following places are in or around downtown Toronto, and all of them are accessible and respect-

ful of social distancing requirements.

St Lawrence Market

The Saint Lawrence Market has been a part of the culinary scene of Toronto since 1803. It is a wonderful place to explore different kinds of food and support local businesses. The ability to support local has become especially important during the pandemic as smaller businesses have been particularly affected. The Saint Lawrence Market remains open during COVID-19, despite the most recent lockdown, with restrictions and adjustments in place to assure the safety of the vendors and customers. The market is currently working take-out only, but there are still some wonderful vendors and restaurants to benefit from and try out! Furthermore, the building itself is

quite beautiful and rich in history. The Saint Lawrence Market is located at 93 Front St E, Toronto, ON M5E 1C3.

Distillery District

The distillery district is a wonderful area to explore. It has great little shops, cafes, and restaurants, many of which are open for take-out following the new lockdown. It is also a beautiful place to explore the new locations for wonderful pictures! Whether you want to grab a coffee or shop around, the Distillery District is a great place to unwind! . . .

Find more places to visit during lockdown in our features section at readthemike.com

25 Gifts for \$25 or Less

Some affordable items for holiday shopping this year

Athena Bucci, The Mike Staff Writer

Now when Toronto is once again in lockdown, many of us will be out of jobs for a while, which will be hard when the Holiday season is already upon us. While we are not able to continue shopping in stores, many places are still offering online shopping. I have scoured the internet to come up with a list of affordable gifts for \$25 or less. This list compiles perfect gifts for everyone in your life from your grandparents to your best friends.

1. What Do You Meme? Fresh Expansion Pack (Amazon, \$15.99)
Give the gift of laughter with this version of What Do You Meme. This adult game will brighten up their holiday with relatable and funny memes, all of which can be found on the internet.

2. Monogram Journal (Indigo, \$15.00)

We all know that one person who loves journaling or just hoarding notebooks in their house altogether. Get them this monogram journal with the first letter of their name on it to make your gift extra special.

3. Fringe Scarf (Suzy Shier, \$9.99)
Nothing associates with winter more than being bundled up! Why not get your friend this cute fringed scarf — you are bound to find the perfect one for each friend as it comes in six colours and designs.

4. Sephora Collection Masks (Sephora, \$4.00 – \$11.00)
We all know how stressful finals are,

especially right before the Holidays. Get your friend one of the many face, eye, or lip masks from the Sephora Collection to help them destress before the next semester starts up.

5. Varsity TLeaf Mittens (UofT Bookstore, \$18.74)

These Varsity TLeaf mittens will be great for that school-spirited friend who is probably spending the first Canadian winter here in Toronto!

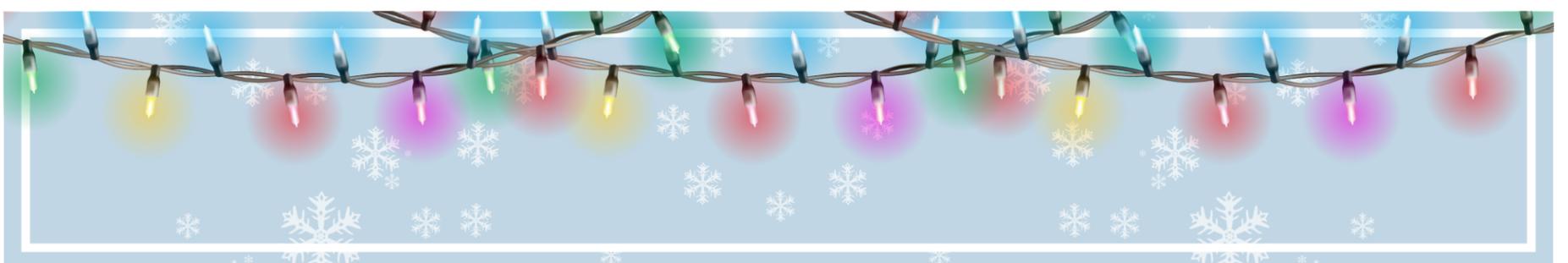
6. Modern Gourmet Ignite and Burn Hot Sauce (Shoppers Drug Mart, \$16.99)

We all know one person who loves all kinds of foods, including the spicy ones. Get them this hot sauce set to set their taste buds on fire . . .

7. One of these Custom Tote Bags (Off Menu, \$25.00)

These bags are a perfect gift for your friends obsessed with their favourite artisanal coffee shop or local pub, or for those people who started their own business during quarantine. Off Menu is known for supporting small, independent businesses and will print the logo of your favourite local eatery on this lovely cotton tote bag. They do the same with T-shirts and hoodies and showcase places from other cities as well . . .

See the rest of the list in our features section at readthemike.com





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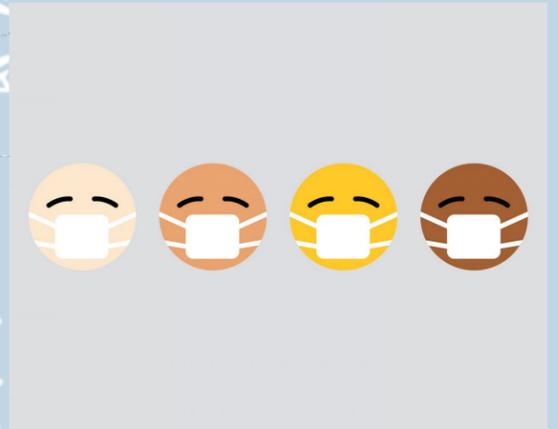
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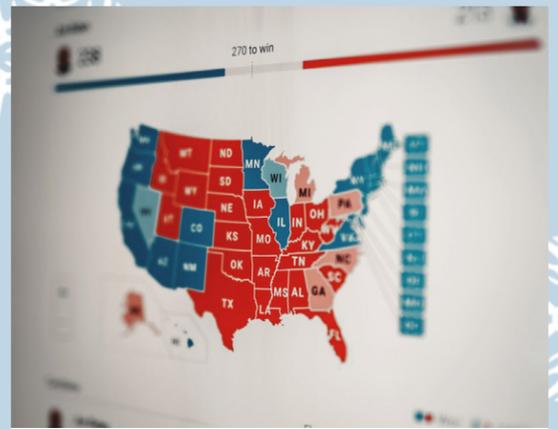
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