

THE MIKE

Volume LXXV:
The Orientation Issue
August 22nd, 2022
readthemike.com



THE OFFICIAL BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SINCE 1947.



3 NEWS

An inside look at the Orientation schedule for 2022

5 LOGOS

The meaning behind The Mike's faith section

9 LIFESTYLE

Head to page 9 to read about transitioning from high school to university

4 OPINION

What is the best Orientation Cheer?

ARTS

A ranking of movies filmed at U of T from best to worst.

8

SPORTS

What the heck is a bed race? Flip to pg. 10 to find out!

10

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The Mike has been the official bi-weekly student newspaper at The University of St. Michael's College (USMC) since 1947. It is published bi-weekly, 12 issues per year, with a circulation of 1200 copies delivered across U of T's St. George Campus.

The Mike is a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) and is published by The Mike Publications Inc., printed by Web News Printing on recycled paper.

The Mike has complete editorial autonomy from USMC. All editorial inquiries should be directed to editorinchief@readthemike.com.

The Mike welcomes and encourages submissions. All submissions may be edited for taste, brevity, and legality.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to SMC: Treasure Island A Note from the OC's Alessia Baptista and Sophia Poulimenakos, Orientation Coordinators

Hey SMC! We are so excited to be your Orientation Coordinators for 2022! This year's theme is SMC: Treasure Island, and we have four days of adventure-filled activities to get you excited for your first year at the University of Toronto (U of T). We chose this theme because your adventure at U of T is just beginning. Some of you may be starting this adventure alone, and we know how scary that can feel. But the goal of our treasure hunt adventure is to show you all that the real treasure in the end is the people you meet along the way.

As much as Orientation is an opportunity for you to make friends, participate in fun events, and learn about campus resources, it's an opportunity for us to welcome you into our community here at St. Mike's. We hope that you leave Orientation prepared for the school year and equipped with all the right tools for success, knowing that your SMC family is behind you supporting you through it all.

Enjoy this week, because time goes by fast! It feels like our Orientations happened just yesterday, and we can't believe this will be both of our final Orientations. We can't wait to meet all of you, watch you embark on your own adventures, and kick off the best O-Week ever! HOIKETY CHOIK!

- Alessia and Sophia
(aka Baps and Soph)
Orientation Coordinators, 2022



“

Orientation is the best time of the year because it brings us all together.



UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

Getting involved at SMC Clubs, committees, and fun things to do in university

Shmily Lin, NEWS EDITOR

The University of St. Michael's College (USMC) is home to numerous clubs, organizations, and activities that students can get involved in. These groups are a great opportunity to meet new friends and partake in student life. They give students an opportunity to pursue their interests while gaining leadership experience. Listed below are just a few of the diverse experiences offered at St. Mike's.

Clubs

Pair-A-Dice: Pair-A-Dice Gaming is a board games club at St. Mike's offering more than 50 different board games for students to play together once a week. Traditionally, the club meets every Friday in the Coop for a few hours, food and drinks provided. In the age of the pandemic, the club has shifted towards offering online games and gaming sessions, but there should be plenty of in-person sessions this year.

SMC Inclusive: SMC Inclusive is a club at USMC focusing on diversity, inclusion, and representation on campus. The club is allied with LGBTQ+ students and encourages the free expression of sexuality and gender through workshops, panels, and socials. Additionally, the club offers many opportunities for advocacy and community service.

Troubadours: SMC Troubadours is the theatre group at St. Mike's. They perform a range of productions throughout the school year, allowing students to get involved through both performing and writing. You do not have to be in the club to attend their plays or audition for a part, making it a great way for theatre junkies to express their inner artist.

St. Mike's Wellness Council: SMC Wellness focuses on improving the mental well-being and physical health of students. They sponsor activities such as stress dogs, Talking Circles, and weekly meets at Basil's Cafe, all of which give students a chance to destress and decompress during the hustle and bustle of school life.

SMCSU

The St. Michael's College Student Union, or SMCSU, is the student-led union that makes many of the executive decisions relating to USMC students. They help plan events, distribute funding for clubs, and negotiate on behalf of students at St. Mike's to improve the general quality of student life. Elections for Vice President (VP) positions on SMCSU happen in the winter semester every year, and each VP position is responsible for a different facet of responsibilities. Each VP also heads a number of committees where students can get involved by helping with tasks, coming up with ideas, or aiding in the execution of events. Committee applications are generally open during the first month of classes and they are a great opportunity for new students to get involved in campus life.

SMRC

The St. Mike's Residence Council, or SMRC, is also comprised of student executives. Similarly to SMCSU, students are elected around the end of the winter semester. However, SMRC is in charge of running events related to residence life. During the year, students living in residence have the opportunity to get involved in SMRC by being a part of their house council. Each house elects a council that will make decisions on house activities,

spending, and participation in residence events. Anyone living in residence can run for their house's council, and it is a great opportunity to gain experience in both campus and residence life.

Orientation

As you are likely aware by now, Orientation is the program designed to allow first year students to get integrated in university life. Orientation at St. Mike's is made possible by the efforts of a lot of people, including the Orientation Coordinators, Marshals, and Leaders. Applications for these positions usually open around the end of the school year and are a nice way to give back to the USMC community.

Mentorship

The mentorship program at USMC pairs first year students with upper year mentors to allow first years access to more personalized help. Like Orientation, students can apply to become mentors or senior mentors around the end of the school year. First year students can also apply to become mentees, though the bulk of applications were processed earlier in the summer.

Listed here are just a few opportunities open to students at St. Mike's. Often, students find that getting involved in just one or two of these opportunities opens the door to many more. Although many of us may only spend a few years in university, the memories made at USMC and beyond will easily last a lifetime.

The Ultimate Orientation Breakdown A schedule that will hoikety choik your socks off

Alessia Baptista, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With this being the first fully in-person Orientation at University of St. Michael's College (USMC) since 2019, the Orientation Team has curated a schedule that is sure to have you hyped for the first week of school, and more importantly, oriented to the resources that U of T and USMC have to offer.

On day one, the Team has planned a day full of traditional St. Mike's events. Students will begin the day with Registration, followed by Opening Ceremonies, and a lunch break with empanadas catered by Gaucho Pie Co. After lunch, comes Invocation: a traditional ceremony held in Convocation Hall to welcome students to the University so that they begin and end their journey at the University of Toronto in the same place. Speakers include St. Michael's College President, David Sylvester, and Orientation Coordinators, Alessia Baptista and Sophia Poulimenakos.

The Orientation team will then head back to USMC for Wellness Rotations. Traditionally, St. Mike's holds a mass during Orientation. This year, the Orientation team has decided to offer mass during a rotation, providing students with the option of mass, yoga, meditation, or zumba, so that students can participate in various spiritual practices regardless of their religion. Later that evening, SMC will head to Varsity Stadium to watch a Varsity Blues Football Game and support our Varsity Blues!

Day two is a little more action packed, with activities such as the Campus Tour Scavenger Hunt which gives students the opportunity to become acquainted with U of T's large campus, while staying true to the Orientation theme of "Treasure Island". Students are in for another treat in the afternoon, as the ever-so-chaotic Games Rotation is back! Orientees will move from station to station with their teams to compete in fast paced, minute-to-win-it style games to rack up O-Cup points for their team.

After an action-packed day, the evening brings a chill movie night for students, with 6 movies to choose from! Snacks provided will be sponsored by Kernels popcorn so students can have a savoury treat while watching a movie with their new friends.

Day three begins with Academic Orientation: a time where U of T professors from various faculties are invited to speak to students about their respective programs. Students will also have the opportunity to ask questions to professors during the Networking Social that follows Academic Orientation. In the afternoon, the Orientation Team has planned a carnival on campus with an inflatable obstacle course that will fill the quad, as well as other games like spike ball and bubble soccer on back campus fields.

Of course, the Team never fails to deliver,



UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

as there will be an ice cream truck to complete the carnival atmosphere. The star of the evening brings us to the Orientation Formal, held at the Hockey Hall of Fame this year. Students will dance the night away and have the chance to take photos with the Stanley Cup!

The final day of Orientation always brings the most energy and chaos. Orientees will begin the day by painting themselves blue before heading to Varsity Stadium for a cheer-off with the other colleges! Naturally, the way our college yells the Hoikety Choik will guarantee us the win. Following the cheer-off, all the colleges will participate in the best event of Orientation: The Parade!

After losing their voices at the Parade, students will have the chance to explore various clubs at U of T during the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) clubs fair. The night will end at USMC with closing ceremonies, and of course, the traditional event that is Kelly's Korner (aka, St. Mike's open-mic night!)

This year's Orientation is sure to bring nothing but fun times and long-lasting friendships. By attending every event, you'll be sure to start off your first year at U of T with confidence and a new family here at St. Mike's.

Comparison is the Thief of Joy Advice on enjoying university life

Daisy Thomas, CONTRIBUTOR

The word “comparison,” according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is defined as the process of comparing two or more people or things. The process of comparison is known to be valuable in self-improvement, and often, it is a way for us to reduce uncertainty about how we are doing by assessing how others perform. Despite this, comparison can quickly escalate into self-destructive tendencies if done on a regular basis as feelings of resentment, envy, and hopelessness begin to pile. From grades to social experiences, university is a common setting where comparison can easily become an issue and this is where my piece of advice comes in.

Starting university brought about many unknowns as I stepped into a brand-new environment. A few concerns that swirled through my mind were: Will I be able to find friends? Is my course load too heavy? HOW DO I EVEN STUDY?!? Moreover, I remember feeling so overwhelmed by the simple thought of going to university and being an ‘adult’. To battle many of the unknowns, I did what a majority of us would do...turn to social media! From the academia TikToks to the videos on aesthetic note-taking and daily routines of a university student, I found myself scrolling through endless social media platforms trying to get an idea of what university was like.

Unknowingly, I was building my expectations of what my university experience should be like. When school started, I slowly began to question why I couldn't be just like those who I saw online. From the neat notes, the straight 4.0s, and the idealistic balanced lifestyle, the feelings of inadequacy and disappointment slowly began to creep in. Moreover, it was easy to get wrapped up in comparing my experience of university to peers, or to pick apart my grades as I looked at course averages. So, what can we do in these types of situations, when our university experience doesn't compare to our expectations or peers?

It's easy for one to say “don't compare,” but to address the deep-rooted issue is to understand that everyone in university is on a different path. We all face different circumstances or factors that influence our experience at university. Thus, it wouldn't be right for you to compare your own journey to someone else's who may be at a totally different place than you.

Don't get me wrong, it's good to take inspiration from those around you, especially when looking for feedback on ways that you can improve yourself. But the issue comes when you constantly downplay your own achievements or steps, in light of feeling unaccomplished when comparing yourself to others.

My high school teacher once told me that in any ‘pond’ there will always be a ‘bigger fish.’ This means that in life there will always be someone who is better at certain tasks or has a higher skillset. So, instead of spending your time comparing yourself with others, focus on your own journey and things that inspire and challenge you! When we stay in the headspace of comparison, we forget the positive aspects of the situation that may give us the opportunity to grow. For example, a majority of university students have experienced the gut-wrenching situation where they performed lower on an assessment than expected.

Looking at the course average or comparing your grade to peers' may bring about mixed emotions of embarrassment or guilt, but if you ever find yourself in this scenario, take the time to look at what went wrong, what information you do or don't know, and how you can improve for next time. When you take the path of self-growth opposed to comparison, you actively find ways to change certain aspects and attain personal success.

A quote that sums up my piece of advice is from Theodore Roosevelt, who stated, “comparison is the thief of joy.” As you step into this new chapter in your life, give yourself time to adjust and focus on your own efforts. Appreciate the steps that you have taken and allow yourself to grow through the mistakes. University is an adjustment, and it will take time to get into a routine that works for you. Inevitably, university is what you make of it, and it is far better to spend your time developing your passions and skills rather than comparing your experience to others. I wish you all the best for your first year and I hope you have a wonderful time at U of T!

OPINION

What is the Best Orientation Cheer? The “Hoikety Choik” might mean nothing, but it's the best

Victor Buklis, EDITOR-AT-LARGE

In the world of Orientation cheers, University of St. Michael's College (USMC) has five: “Bubbaloo,” “Hoikety Choik,” “Oh When St. Mike's,” “Deep in the Heart,” and “Everywhere We Go.” Even though each of them has their own merits and is a good way to demonstrate school spirit this Orientation Week, there is a nagging question at hand. Which one is the best?

Fortunately, unlike many nagging questions, this one has a simple answer. The best USMC cheer is the Hoikety Choik.

Every incoming USMC student will likely hear the following many times: “SMC, can I get a Hoikety Choik on C?” This is for good reason. Number one: the cheer is bombastic. It's loud and fast—so it energizes people. Number two: it is original. The Hoikety Choik does not follow another tune; it is a thing unto itself. Number three: it is short. It doesn't drag on. Number four: it is easy. Thus, it requires little time to memorize. Number five: it is recognizable. Those cheering the Hoikety Choik immediately associate themselves with USMC.

And it's utter nonsense—at least on paper. Read the text: it's gibberish, complete mumbo jumbo. Those not from USMC might wonder how any of us could belt out the Hoikety Choik so confidently without breaking into hysterical laughter at the ridiculousness of our words. Those same people would also ask how this cheer could possibly be our best. If that one is their best, how weird are the other cheers?



UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

In a strange way, though, the Hoikety Choik's ostensibly meaningless lyrics are what make it special. Where there is no literal meaning, USMC students past and present have bestowed upon the lyrics a well-nigh unbreakable connection to their experiences at the College. Put another way, when USMC students hear the Hoikety Choik, they don't pay attention to the words. They pay attention to everything those words call to mind: the friends they made here, their own Orientation experiences, their dorm rooms, the food in the Canada Room, the advice they received from a professor on the USMC grounds, and so on.

For instance, USMC alumna Ann Keating, in a late 2021 article for USMC's InsightOut community blog, recounts a story about how her mother—herself a 1949 graduate of USMC—still remembers the Hoikety Choik. Ms. Keating recalls being especially surprised at this, however, because her mother lives with dementia and has difficulty putting thoughts together.

Ms. Keating recalls being especially surprised at this, however, because her mother lives with dementia and has difficulty putting thoughts together. If USMC students needed any evidence that the cheer is something special, there it is. Our fascination with the Hoikety Choik is a case of a tradition passed down through the ages, somehow preserved even though we have trouble saying exactly why. How long ago did we start singing the cheer? Who wrote it? Was it originally supposed to mean anything?

I admit that I do not know the answers to any of these questions. Ms. Keating's InsightOut article suggests, at the very least, that some form of the Hoikety Choik has been around since the late 1940s. Otherwise, a quick Google search reveals little in the way of clues.

In any case, there are many questions about our famous cheer's origin, and these warrant further research. But one thing is clear: no matter how little we know about it, the Hoikety Choik is undoubtedly USMC's best Orientation cheer.

What is the St. Mike's Statue *Actually*? A tribute to St. Michael the Archangel

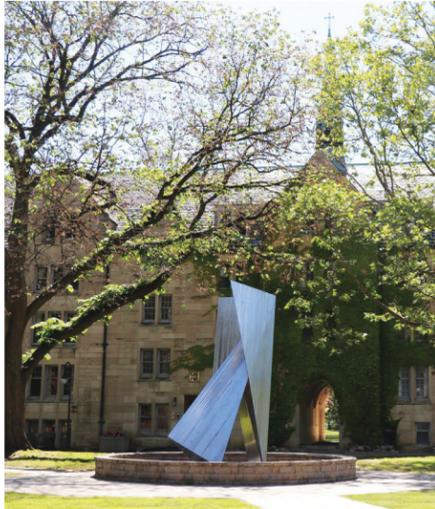
Lucas Saito, CONTRIBUTOR

In the middle of the courtyard at USMC, flanked by residence halls and historic houses, lies a metallic statue. Its ultramodern design is bewildering to many, who could easily mistake it for an airplane or a tent. Contrary to popular opinion, the statue in the St. Mike's quad holds significant meaning; at around 5 meters tall and 2 meters wide, it stands as a monument to Saint Michael – the namesake of our college.

Admittedly, it may be slightly difficult to make out Saint Michael from such an abstract form. At best, with the help of your imagination, you can see hints of wings and clothing in the triangular metal sheets. At the very least the statue is imposing and evokes a sense of grandeur. Truthfully, art is subjective, and I can't even attest to which direction is "forward" for the monument. Yet these observations are supported by the common depictions of the saint in ancient art.

In Catholicism, Saint Michael, an archangel, is believed to be God's chief angel. He is known primarily as an advocate of souls, an accompanier of the dead, a guardian of the Church, and the commander of God's army of angels against Satan. Saint Michael is believed to be the saint present at a person's passing, being a judge of their actions and weighing their fate. Thus, in most traditional depictions, Michael is drawn either holding scales or wielding weapons against demonic figures.

However, none of these attributes are displayed in the statue. Apart from the sign, there isn't much indication as to what the subject matter really is. Even then, the sign doesn't say much, other than the original artist (Anne Allardyce), its composition of stainless steel and granite, and how it was commissioned "in commemoration of the one hundred and twenty fifth Anniversary of the Foundation of St. Mi-



UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

-chael's College." Come to think of it, perhaps the deliberately indistinct format is to serve as a symbol of the College's newer, more secular nature, while still serving as a reminder of the original Catholic foundations of USMC. Maybe that's a stretch, but still.

USMC's roots date back all the way to 1852, when the bishop of Toronto, Armand Comte de Charbonnel, invited the Congregation of St. Basil (sound familiar?) to open a Catholic school in the growing city. Charbonnel noticed a lack of university-level theological education for

the Catholic population and invited his former teachers to fulfill that need. Establishing themselves in the basement of the bishop's palace, it offered high school- and university-level education for its students.

In 1856, after a generous donation of land from John Elmsley's estate, the Basilian Fathers moved their school to Clover Hill, where USMC still resides after nearly 170 years. Interestingly, due to the expansion of the student body, the high school portion of USMC had to separate from the main entourage. This founded the St. Michael's College School, located at the intersection of Bathurst Street and St. Clair Avenue to this day.

In 1910, USMC became an official federated college of U of T. An agreement was reached where, due to recent limitations in government funding, St. Mike's could still operate on a relatively autonomous basis. In turn, U of T was responsible for offerings in all other departments, as well as organizing exams. A similar process occurred for Victoria University and Trinity College, which had Methodist and Anglican backgrounds, respectively. If you were ever confused as to why there are multiple universities situated inside the greater university, look no further.

Nowadays we have only remnants from USMC's devout past. Were it not for the name and the campus parish, some would probably be unaware of the significant religious and historical impacts USMC and its Basilian Fathers had in both the university and in the city itself. Still, as theology gave way to secularism, the statue of Saint Michael stands as a monument to the college's previous accomplishments, and at the forefront of its future, even if it remains ill-defined and obscure.

LOGOS

What is Logos? The meaning behind *The Mike's* faith section

Zenon Mackinnon, LOGOS EDITOR

"In the beginning was the Logos, and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was God." So begins the Gospel of John, the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

The Logos, for John, is Jesus Christ. This isn't some nickname they had back in ancient Palestine. The word has an untranslatable quality to it. Writers over the ages have argued and mulled over what an acceptable equivalent might be. In Goethe's *Faust*, the titular character opens a Bible and begins translating out loud, hesitating at Logos.

Tradition translated it as something like "the Word," but that doesn't feel quite right to him. He wonders whether maybe the more mystical "Force" might do, but rejects it – too violent. He settles on saying that in the beginning was "the Deed." Other more philosophical types have opted for names like "the Reason," or "the Thought," while monks and mystics through the ages have suggested things like "the Way," and "the Tao."

My own favourite translation of Logos points to its etymology: the Proto-Indo-European root word *leg*. This is the farthest back we can trace the word to, in the language spoken by prehistoric horse herding peoples on the Central Asian steppes. To them it meant "to gather together."

This sense of untranslatability is appropriate for the Logos section. It is meant to be the section that touches on questions of religion and philosophy, and there is a venerable tradition at *The Mike* of very erudite meditations on Catholic spirituality in these pages. But as the name suggests, our mission is broader and harder to pin down than that. This section is where we gather all our thoughts about how we think, move, and have our being. What is the Way we follow, and what does it mean to follow it?



ALESSIA BAPTISTA / THE MIKE

Painting a Picture of First Year Life A letter to incoming students from someone in their final year

Julliana “Yanni” Santos, MANAGING EDITOR

I remember a morning in early September 2019, when St. George Street was coated in the barest fog and the world felt just wide enough that I could disappear. In a letter to a friend, I remember writing, “it’s just this mass of people and students and there’s a pulse in every street sign, in every building. It’s so easy to be lost.” I remember feeling excited about all that. It was a marvellous idea, to be invisible — in the sense that I could be anyone and no one would know any different. “I can just stand in the middle of everything and see and hear and learn so much. It’s hard when you care too much about what you’ll look like or who you’ll be — but then right now in my life, no one minds and it’s all up to me and sometimes I just smile because isn’t that amazing?”

Some of my favourite memories from first year are the ones that I felt lost in. They felt large and overwhelming, but welcome nonetheless. Now, in my final year at U of T, they’re more like impressions. They’re these glimpses of light in the ways I’ve painted them in my mind. As I write this, it’s easier to look back and reflect on what I’ve learned and how I’ve grown. At the start, I found myself in a state of overwhelmed uncertainty. I imagine a lot of incoming students might feel the same way. In light of that, I’d like to share a few of my memories with you (foregrounded by some discoveries I’ve made while navigating student life), in the hope that I can reach out through here and let you know that while I’ve not been in your exact position, I’ve been there too.

There’s a Shoppers at Bloor & Bedford

Before my first term at U of T even started, I was already very nervous about keeping up with everything and everyone. My commute was one and a half hours long; I was unused to this new independence; and I was still afraid of walking anywhere at night. Orientation Week was the first time I’d be sleeping away from home in a long time. We were set up in Charbonnel Lounge, with these sleeping bags and a projector for movie night during downtime.

In the middle of the week, I was walking with my Orientation group on our campus tour (a scavenger hunt!) when I felt a sharp pain in my jaw. It lasted for long enough that I needed to sit down and lag behind the group. I was scared because I did not know what street we were on, I had no access to my phone, and I felt bad for even feeling bad about such a normal moment. Already, it felt like I was falling behind everyone else, and that this was some symbol of how I’d continue for the rest of my undergraduate degree. As you can see, it was a very packed few days and I do tend to overworry.

I made the decision then to call out to one of my Orientation Leaders. She took the time to break from the group and sit with me. After the scavenger hunt/tour, she walked me to Charbonnel Lounge and kept me company. At night, when I realized I would need some painkillers (turns out that the pain was due to a toothache that had viciously manifested at the time), my Orientation Leader stayed late to walk with me to the nearest Shoppers Drug Mart and walked me back as well. That act of kindness and compassion inspired me in a way that still lasts to this day. I wanted to be that person for other people, but I also realized how important it was to let other people be that person for myself.

I know that at times, things can feel so much — like you don’t know how you’ll get *there* and you don’t know where *there* might even be. Maybe you’re already quite alright with all the walking and keeping up — or maybe you’re a bit like me, a bit scared and a bit new. In any way you are, always remember that there are people around you who care and who can support you, myself included (I know the campus map a lot better nowadays).

“Some of my favourite memories are ones I’ve felt lost in. They felt large and overwhelming, but welcome nonetheless. Now, in my final year at U of T, they’re more like impressions.”

Taking a “hike” through Zoo Woods

In the fall term, before classes moved online, my courses were spread out in a bit of an awkward geography. I was constantly running back and forth and across campus to make the next lecture. Good exercise, but the fast pace of it all, from my commute to my between-class-travails, had me feeling drained at the end of the day.

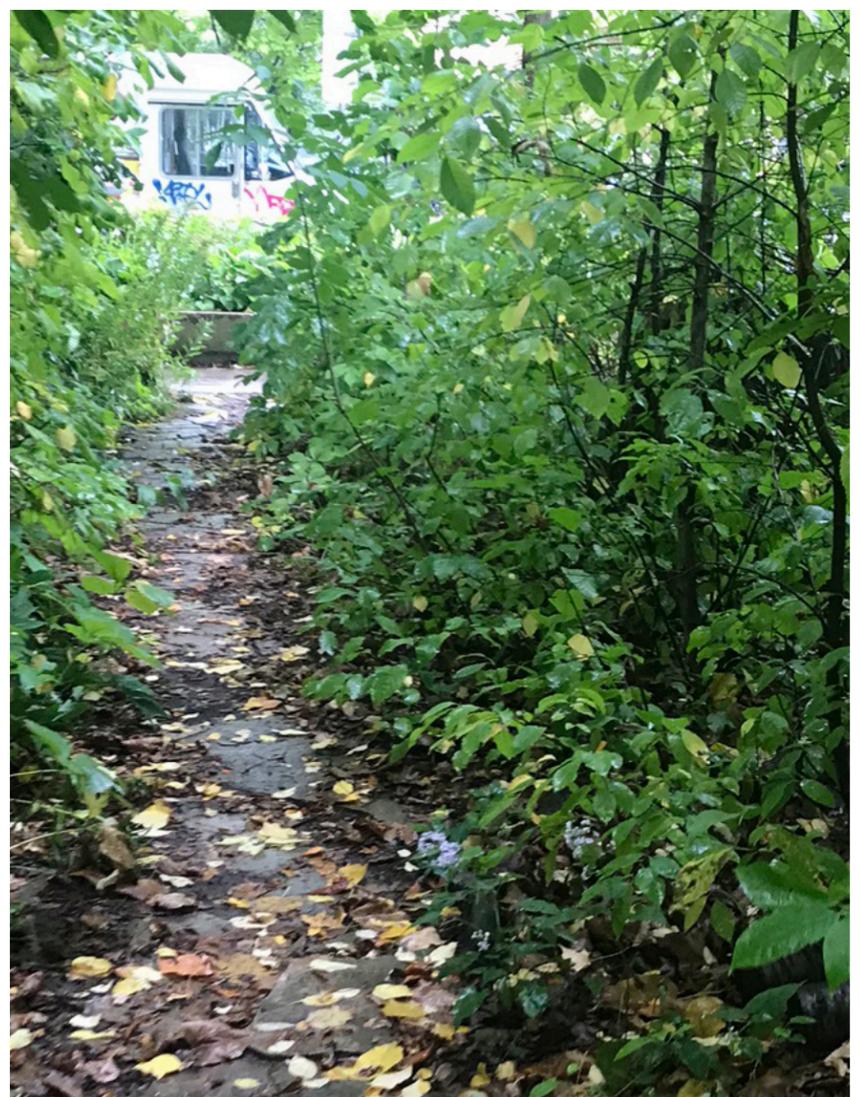
One afternoon, I decided to slow down. Literally. I decided to take my time, instead of sprinting to the St. George subway station to make it there before the 5pm rush. Walking back, past the Ramsay Wright building, I found a little pathway leading into some foliage. I decided to follow it and it led me a few paces through some trees, across a little bridge, and then back out to the same sidewalk I entered from.

It felt like some fairytale discovery — something whimsical and mysterious. There was a plaque on a stone, calling it “Zoo Woods,” a long-term project by the U of T Zoology Department proposed in 1994 “to create a naturalistic, almost self-sustaining landscape on the University of Toronto campus.” While it’s a small little patch of trees and leaves, I would always go out of my way to take that short detour.

Of course, Zoo Woods isn’t the only place on campus I remember exploring. I remember how the Greenhouses at the Earth Science building smell like jasmine, and how the turtles in that one open tank would plop into the water while the fountain bubbled away.

I remember realizing how chestnuts are actually spiky when they first fall off the trees, while walking through Philosopher’s Walk and searching for a glimpse of a “golden squirrel” (has anyone spotted that yet?). I remember the way the sun would set over the umbrellas beside Sidney Smith, like the day saying “time to rest, please get some rest.”

I look back at my memories of each little detour, throughout the seasons, as the trees turned gold, then brown, then the world started to glaze over with snow, and I compile them now into this: that we are not as divided from the world as we think, and sometimes, we need to make sure we let time breathe (as we let ourselves do the same).



JULLIANA “YANNI” SANTOS / THE MIKE



JULLIANA "YANNI" SANTOS / THE MIKE

Kahoot counts and skeletons

On the first day of my PSY100 class with Professor Ashley Waggoner-Denton, we all sat in a large crowd at Convocation Hall, typing our individual usernames into this Kahoot that was projected on the front screen. I watched in awe as the participant number climbed from 100 to 500, all the way up to 1000. There were more than a thousand of us in that class, and yet, I never felt too much like a number or a point on a larger scale. I remember making friends with my seatmates, attending Dr. Denton’s office hours for the first time, and enjoying the experience of being someone in a room so full, and learning all I could in the midst of it.

One of my favourite memories to recount from that course (aside from the time a dog trainer came in with her dog named Percy) was on Halloween, when some students were a little more dressed up, and I saw someone in fairy wings in the back row of the hall. During the break, Dr. Denton played the “Spooky Scary Skeletons” video on the projector screen and started to toss out little candy bars at the class. It was very fun, and a true highlight of that term. Being one in one thousand was sweet — especially since I caught one of the smarties boxes thrown my way.

The AGO offers free admission for anyone 25 and under

In the winter term, I remember really missing my high school friends. It was tough not seeing the same people I had spent almost every day with for the last four years. When I learned that the AGO offered free admission to anyone under the age of 25, I reached out to my friends from high school to schedule a day to visit. It was a beautiful experience, walking through the exhibits with them. I remember being starstruck by this one painting in the modern art wing — it was one of Monet’s “Charing Cross Bridge” variations. I stood in front of that painting for what felt like an hour. It felt like the culmination of something. I thought, “here’s a painting I never thought I’d see outside of a screen, and here’s a day I’m spending with people whose relationship to me has shifted and will continue shifting. Things will change, and they’re already changing.” In that moment, it didn’t all feel so lost. Everything was new, bright, and not-quite-defined, like the yellow-blues of the painting itself. It was then that I realized that I didn’t need to know exactly what would happen, and exactly who would be where. I could reach out to people, keep in touch, and allow for each moment to be just as striking and brilliant as that one.

Writing a letter to the world

I met one of my dearest friends on a day before Orientation Week started. It was during a student life workshop, and she and I bonded over some crossword banter. To keep in touch with each other in our first year, my friend and I would write letters to each other. Later on, we started a letter-writing club called Mis-sives: Adventures in Letter-Writing (MAIL). Through the club, I met some people who I also call dear to me.

While my Orientation Leaders have already graduated, I ended up keeping in touch with a lot of the people I met at Orientation. I got involved with Orientation and the St. Mike’s community, first as a Leader and currently as a Marshal. I also started to write for *The Mike* and kept on writing and working with the paper as the years continued. Even though my courses are smaller nowadays, I still get excited to meet new people and collaborate with my classmates.

Even though I’ve passed through Zoo Woods enough times to notice that the little bridge has sunk a little bit into the earth, I still go by there and look for other places on campus to walk through and explore. Even now, as there are new things to feel nervous and excited about, I know that I can take all those memories, those impressions that made their impression on me, and move forward with a different sort of certainty.

I’ve written so many letters in the last few years — to friends, loved ones, even strangers in different countries. I’ve written for *The Mike*, addressing our readership in a letter-like way a few times in the past as well. For this Orientation issue, I would like to leave you with the picture painted by all the memories I’ve been reflecting on thus far: Dear reader, in the end, I know that I’ll get where I need to be. In the same way, I know that you will too.

ARTS

Autumn in Academia Three atmospheric campus novels to read this fall term

Agata Mociani, ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

When I was in my first year, I discovered Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* and was instantly smitten with the novel's dark, atmospheric depiction of college life. Although I couldn't relate to (or empathize with) the entitled, careless characters, I did cling to the romantic descriptions of their intimate study sessions and their campus which are clad in red and orange foliage in autumn and laden with snow in the winter.

Reading about people studying in beautiful spaces made me want to study, and *The Secret History* definitely helped me adjust to the intense workload at U of T. Thus began my infatuation with campus novels. Since then, every early September, I motivate myself to settle into the university mindset by reading books set in academic environments. I find that doing this right before the semester begins renders the transitional period between summer and autumn much more bearable. The 'dark academia' trend that's been popular online for the past few years confirms this widespread sentiment.

Something I've picked up on through my interaction with this sub-genre is that most books belonging to it engage with the institution of academia un-critically. Therefore, I find it important to read texts that satirize these environments and/or highlight the perspectives of marginalized students, who often face exclusion and erasure in university. So, without further ado, let me introduce you to three campus novels that will get you in the mood for the fall semester while also prompting you to re-evaluate the idealistic depiction of universities that pervades most media set in these spaces.

Babel by RF Kuang is an upcoming work of historical fantasy fiction set in England during the 19th century. Written in languidly flowing prose, this novel acknowledges the intricate, layered nature of oppression in higher learning. The plot follows Robin, a boy from Canton who loses his family to cholera. When he is claimed as a ward by a white Oxford professor, Robin must adjust to strict rules that are imposed on him with the purpose of assimilation.

As he comes of age in England and

begins attending Oxford himself, the protagonist struggles to reconcile his Chinese identity with his status as a scholar in the British empire. The novel examines the role that translation plays in upholding colonial structures while shedding light on the way marginalized students and scholars have historically been used as a tool to aid in imperialist endeavours.

The author, an Oxford graduate, draws from her lived experiences in her depiction of racism in academia. This lends the novel a level of nuance that is rare in academic fiction since the sub-genre tends to revolve around the lives of white, upper-class students. Overall, Kuang does an excellent job highlighting the way Western universities are inextricable from their racist and colonial roots. I recommend starting this book on a crisp autumn afternoon in the Victoria College Quad.

Mona Awad's *Bunny* is another example of a book that challenges the traditional depiction of post-secondary institutions as romantic spaces of higher learning. *Bunny* is a mix of campy horror and surrealist fiction. Its protagonist is a

master's creative writing student at a small, elite liberal arts university. She feels like an outsider in her cohort, which is made up of upper-class, out-of-touch women whose work often feels performative. Despite initially rejecting the clique-y behaviour of her classmates and criticizing the insular echo chamber they've constructed, it doesn't take much for the narrator to be swept up in their chaotic, morally reprehensible activities. *Bunny* makes the reader question their own sanity while also posing the question: How much can a person sacrifice for academic and creative success? I think reading *Bunny* on Philosopher's Walk would really amplify the reading experience.

The Secret History, by Donna Tartt, is thematically similar to the previous recommendation. This cult classic campus novel also explores what happens when the pursuit of knowledge becomes an unhealthy obsession. I first read the novel sitting in a corner of U of T's beautiful Knox College Library. This made it easier for me to imagine entering the story, and it's an experience I highly recommend.

My Favourite Films Shot on U of T Campus Spots to visit on campus this year

Andrew Roberts, COPY EDITOR

Experiencing the University of Toronto (U of T) campus for the first time may be overwhelming. There are so many buildings with a rich history and excellent architecture. While students tend to find all this fascinating every year come orientation time, it seems like Hollywood location scouts feel the same way. U of T has been used as a location for many films, below is not an exhaustive list by any means, but they are some cool flicks to give a try and show your school spirit!

Good Will Hunting (1997)

UofT Location: McLennan Physics Labs

The iconic film from Gus Van Sant is the popular pick when talking about U of T shot films. It also features the legendary Robin Williams's best performance, in my opinion. You will probably hear its praises throughout orientation week.

Good Will Hunting uses this building along Huron street as a stand-in for MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), which is sort of ironic as U of T is often nicknamed "Harvard of the North." Harvard being the other university in Boston which also plays a role in the film.

Resident Evil: Afterlife (2010)

UofT Location: Robarts Library

Probably one of the only films that predominantly features an important U of T building for its entire runtime. In the fifth instalment of the Resident Evil series, heroes Claire Redfield and Alice crash land on the top of a prison (Robarts) and find a group of survivors that are also trying to find a way out before zombies break into the building. This is probably one of the more entertaining films in the series, and it adds an additional candidate to the question of what

Robarts Library resembles.

Black Christmas (1974)

UofT Location: Soldier's Tower / Trinity College

Did you know that the very first horror film to be accredited to the 'slasher' sub-genre was Canadian and exclusively shot near the U of T campus? This Christmas classic predates the horror classic Halloween (1978) and heavily inspired its creation. The most noteworthy building that can be spotted is Soldier's Tower, also one of the most impressive buildings on campus in general, when Mr. Harrison waits to pick up her daughter for Christmas vacation. U of T holds another part of horror history as director David Cronenberg is a part of our notable alumni. Soldier's Tower was built in 1924 as a memorial to the 628 members of the University of Toronto who died in the First World War.

A Playlist for your Campus Commute Tracks specifically "Taylor"-ed to your university experience

Arib Hassam, CONTRIBUTOR

It's officially that time of year again! As we return to school for in-person classes, many of us will curate a playlist of our favourite songs to listen to. Whether you listen to music on a daily TTC ride to campus or while walking from class to class, having quality music to listen to is crucial. If you need some suggestions, consider adding these tracks to your rotation!

For new students who may not be aware, U of T classes generally start 10 minutes past the hour. What better way to spend those 10 minutes than listening to "All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version)" by Taylor Swift? While UofT does have relatively flat terrain, in the event that you are late to class and find yourself running up a hill (or running up a road), "Running Up That Hill" by Kate Bush seems like a fitting choice.

In order to fulfill your breadth requirements, you may find yourself taking some

rather "interesting" classes. Perhaps you might consider listening to "Astronomy" by Conan Gray or "Starlight (Taylor's Version)" by Taylor Swift while doing assignments for AST101. For all you kinesiology students, I'd definitely suggest "Physical" by Dua Lipa. If you're planning to take any classes in the department of Christianity and Culture which is conveniently located at St Mike's, "Judas" by Lady Gaga definitely deserves a spot in your rotation.

Being situated in the heart of downtown, the St. George campus is surrounded by a plethora of restaurants to grab delicious food for a snack or meal. Make sure to try one of the many sushi restaurants around campus and don't forget to listen to "Music For a Sushi Restaurant" by Harry Styles while you're at it. If you're looking for a late-night snack at one of the many nearby grocery stores (which are open 24/7), Harry Styles also has several produce-themed songs including "Kiwi" and "Cherry" which would be quite fitting for your shopping trip.

(continued from page 8) At the end of the day, taste in music is extremely subjective and personal so it's totally understandable if none of these recommendations are songs that you vibe with. Music is meant to be enjoyed, so whether it's pop, rap, R&B or folk-punk, be sure to have a playlist (or multiple playlists) of all the songs that you love to help you get through a long day of classes, assignments or commuting!

LIFESTYLE

Breaking Down the TTC: Tips From a Commuter Student

A survival guide to navigating the city

Anjali Mookerjee, CONTRIBUTOR

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) can be confusing. Toronto has recently been named one of the hardest cities to navigate in the world, and whether or not you agree with this ranking, it can be intimidating to hear when you're a new commuter student yourself. Unless you're lucky enough to have access to a car on a regular basis, the TTC is probably going to be your main source of transportation. Here is everything you need to know about Toronto transport, plus a few tips to make commuting easier.

Navigating Subway Lines

The TTC is made up of four subway lines and a number of streetcars and buses. Line One, also known as the Yonge-University line, runs from Finch to Vaughan in a U-like shape and consists of two "lines": the Yonge line and the University line. They connect at their southernmost point at Union Station, downtown Toronto's main train station. This means that if you are going south on the University line, you can get to the Yonge line by riding the subway past Union Station. You will then be going north on the Yonge line.

Line Two, also known as the Bloor-Danforth line, runs east-west from Kipling (west) to Kennedy Station (east).

Line Three branches off from the easternmost point of Line Two and extends further east to McCowan Station.

Line Four, again, goes east, although further north than its Line Three sibling. It branches off from Sheppard Station (along the Yonge line) and runs to Don Mills Station.

Lines One and Two intersect at three points where you can transfer from one line to the other. These include Spadina, St. George, and Bloor-Yonge Stations.

Tips for trips

Now that we've covered the basics of the subway, which will probably make up the bulk of your travel, here are a few tips from a practiced commuter to make your time travelling a little easier.



DEBORA FONTANA / UNSPLASH

It will be in your best interest to get a Presto card if you plan to use the TTC regularly. Presto cards can be bought and loaded in stations at the fare and ticket vending machines.

As a U of T student, you can set up your card to pay with a student fare instead of an adult fare to help save a few dollars per trip.

Streetcars can be tricky! You can pay on board with your Presto card or at the fare machines with change. As for boarding/exiting, as long as you're confident and look both ways before stepping into the street, you'll be fine.

Apps such as Rocketman and MyTTC allow you to view bus, streetcar, and subway schedules. They also highlight potential closures, delays, or other impediments that could prevent you from making it to class on time.

Being a commuter student comes with many unique experiences and challenges; however, your commute shouldn't be one of them. Hopefully, some of these tips will make your trips to and from campus easier.

For more information about commuting, follow our commuter dons on Instagram @commuterdonsusmc

Transitioning From High School to University

A reflection on change and growth

Lana Kamal, LIFESTYLE EDITOR

For many first years, university is unknown territory. Moving from high school to university comes with challenges that some might find easy while others may struggle with immensely. Given that every person is different, there is no right or wrong way to transition into this new stage of life; nonetheless, here are some things to look out for.

Time management

Unlike high school, where teachers track you down for assignments and penalize you for tardiness, university means figuring your time management out yourself. You have to find what times of day you are most productive, which study methods work best for you, and how to keep track of assignments. University means having the responsibility of being accountable for your own choices like attending lectures, being on time, submitting assignments, and studying. Additionally, because you have the freedom of customizing your own schedule, you have complete control over your work and personal life.

Campus life

University differs from high school in terms of campus life and the environment. U of T's campus is smack in the middle of downtown Toronto and is very large in comparison to a typical high school. With that in mind, this is a great time to take advantage of such a large campus and explore. To fully get that campus life, it's fun to check out the different study and hangout spots and take advantage of the opportunities U of T offers its students. For instance, the athletic center offers drop-in Yoga classes for students which can be an excellent outlet for self-care.

Seek out help when needed

What makes universities so great is the plethora of helping hands that the university offers. Going into university is quite a change, and planning your future can be overwhelming. The University of Toronto has multiple advisors you can reach out to for academic and financial help. Take advantage of office hours, writing centers, workshops, and even learning strategists when you need it! It's important to know you are not alone and there is always someone there to help you.

Make the most of your college experience

Yes, university is where you study and pave the path for endless career opportunities. However, that does not mean your life has to only consist of learning. University is about making friends and creating memories. It's important to balance your life so you are not consumed by one thing alone, which can make things stressful. I advise you to take time for yourself, socialize, explore new interests, or even join clubs. This is a time to find yourself and spend time doing what you enjoy. Balance is key.

The last thing I will say is not to stress too much. Take this first year one step at a time.

The Best Places to Visit in Toronto Hidden gems in the city

Darian Trabold, ASSOCIATE LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Exploring Toronto is one of the best parts of living in the city. With over five million people in the Greater Toronto Area, there is much to explore. Being located in the heart of downtown, the University of St. Michael's College offers a great starting point to explore the city. Here are some of my top spots.

Toronto Islands

One of the most beautiful and scenic places in Toronto, the islands provide an excellent escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. Located right next to the Harbourfront, the ferry ride to the islands only costs \$8.70 for a round trip. The ride offers spectacular views of Lake Ontario and the CN Tower. I love to sit at the beach or in one of the Muskoka chairs they have around the island to read and relax. The walk around the island is easy and a great way to enjoy nature while living in a big city.

Queen Street West

With a plethora of shops and restaurants, walking along Queen Street West (a 10-minute walk from St. Mike's) is always fun for me. I love discovering new shops and thrifting hidden gems. There are also great restaurants and local coffee shops, like Jimmy's Coffee, that offer a nice break from exploring. One of my favourite spots is The Rex, a jazz club where U of T Jazz students perform every Monday during the school year.

Harbourfront

On days when I don't feel like taking the ferry, I always take a walk along the Harbourfront. I enjoy sitting on one of the benches to read, listen to music, and look out on Lake Ontario. Walking along the Harbourfront is peaceful, and the path ends right across the street from the CN Tower. Along the way, there is a place to get Beaver Tails, a must-try for anyone new to Canada.



SAJAL MOHSIN / PHOTO EDITOR



SANDRO SCHUH / UNSPLASH

St. Lawrence Market

Almost every Saturday morning in the fall, I would walk to St. Lawrence Market. The market offers different shops that sell a variety of items, including fresh produce and quirky Canadian-themed knick-knacks. As a plant lover, I always buy some flowers to liven up my room. The market is a quick walk from Union Station. When you're there, don't forget to bring cash, as most places don't take cards!

The Distillery District

Located at a short walk from St. Lawrence Market, the Distillery District is full of unique shops and cafes. The Distillery District shines during the winter when they host their annual Christmas Market. From around the end of November to the weekend before Christmas, there are small tents selling a variety of handmade goods. It is a great time to shop for the holiday season. I recommend going at night when they light up the district with Christmas decorations. It is also a great time to take festive photos.

SPORTS

2022 Bed Race Predictions Why St. Mike's is guaranteed to win again

Alessia Baptista, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Bed Races are an annual event hosted by U of T's Faculty of Engineering's Blue and Gold Society, in which teams from various colleges race carts down a cobblestone road.

Bed Races at U of T are pure chaos, which makes the event the perfect way to end Orientation Week. How does it work? Someone sits inside of a cart, and four people push this cart along King's College Road, which is 840 metres long. Students line up on either side of the road, cheering on their college and watching madness ensue.

Historically, Bed Races were invented in 1966 by the Knarborough Round Table in an effort to raise funds for a charity event. Today, the town continues this tradition by holding Bed Races on the second Saturday in June.

According to Skulepedia, the Engineering Society's website, U of T's Bed Race standings are only dated as far back as 2002. And, as you can see, St. Mike's is a frequent Bed Race champion. Granted, not many colleges participate in the event, but that doesn't take



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

away from the fact that SMC wins every year, and will likely be the reigning champs for 2022.

For the first time in two years, the Blue and Gold Society has announced that they are bringing back the long-time tradition, and St. Mike's is ready to bring the Bed Races trophy to its rightful home for a post-pandemic celebration. Typically, SMC has 2 teams: one for staff, and one for orientees so that everyone can experience the joy of sprinting along a cobblestone road and exhibiting SMC spirit.

Looking to participate in Bed Races at SMC this year? St. Mike's Bed Race Tryouts will take place on September 5th at 3pm along Elmsley Lane on St. Mike's Campus. Bed Races themselves occur on September 8th. Make sure you're a part of the chaos and show your SMC spirit by attending!

Bed Races Champions [\[edit | edit source\]](#)

Year	Team
2019	St. Michael's College
2018	St. Michael's College
2017	Races cancelled due to inclement weather
2016	St. Michael's College
2015	St. Michael's College
2014	St. Michael's College
2013	New College
2012	St. Michael's College
2011	???
2010	St. Michael's College
2009	Engineering
2008	St. Michael's College
2007	St. Michael's College
2006	St. Michael's College
2005	St. Michael's College
2004	St. Michael's College
2003	St. Michael's College
2002	St. Michael's College

SKULEPEDIA

How to Join The Mike The impact of student journalism at SMC Tannaaz Zaraineh, FEATURES EDITOR



VICTOR BUKLIS / THE MIKE

If you've gotten this far in our special Orientation issue and are liking it, maybe you're thinking about how you can participate and join the newspaper team. The Mike is always looking for new writers. The only requirement is being enthusiastic in honing your craft (and being a U of T student, so that's two requirements).

I remember when I started writing for The Mike during my first year. I had previous journalistic experience from high school, but my portfolio was limited in types of articles and content. Once I started university, I could only think about how these were two different realms. I felt that whatever I wrote needed to be drastically improved from before. And it certainly didn't help that I'm a bit of a perfectionist and anything I produce must reach my personal standards.

I created so much imaginary pressure for my first article. I wanted it to be flawless for sentimentality's sake, so that ten years later I could reminisce about my wonderful work at U of T. I decided to write a review for BROCKHAMPTON's GINGER album.

At the time, I absolutely loved them, so as a reasonable fan, I believed I had to write the ultimate review. But I had no clue on how to properly structure it! My paragraphs were too chunky, each song had its own winding essay, and I was feeling overwhelmed on how to reach the given deadline. In hindsight, I could have asked for help, but I had my eyes set on reaching the deadline no matter what.

So, I had reached over 1000 words and wasn't finished either. I was sitting on my friend's couch at her apartment panicking over this article and she was trying to suggest ways to fix it. I just kept writing and rewriting, circling around the dread of shortening it.

The Arts section wasn't a place to normally submit something of that length, and I didn't know how I wrote that much—it just occurred naturally. I knew I had to shorten it, and it was a frustrating experience.

It's still on the website and if you read it, you might notice the last paragraph sounds rushed. That's because I tried to cram a few paragraphs worth of rambling into one. My review was published in print (this was before COVID), which was exciting. I concluded it was a learning experience, and it honestly helped me understand how to write better articles that are well-structured and equally entertaining.

Thankfully, I now know how to write interesting and legible reviews without rambling too much. I was determined to continue sharpening my skills and later became a Staff Writer, then the Lifestyle Editor, and now the Features Editor! All are amazing positions, and each offers something new to learn about writing, editing, working on a team, and staying organized, while maintaining a social life and staying on top of schoolwork. Joining The Mike has been a rewarding experience for me. Over time, my writing has improved, my style has developed, and I feel more confident in my skills.

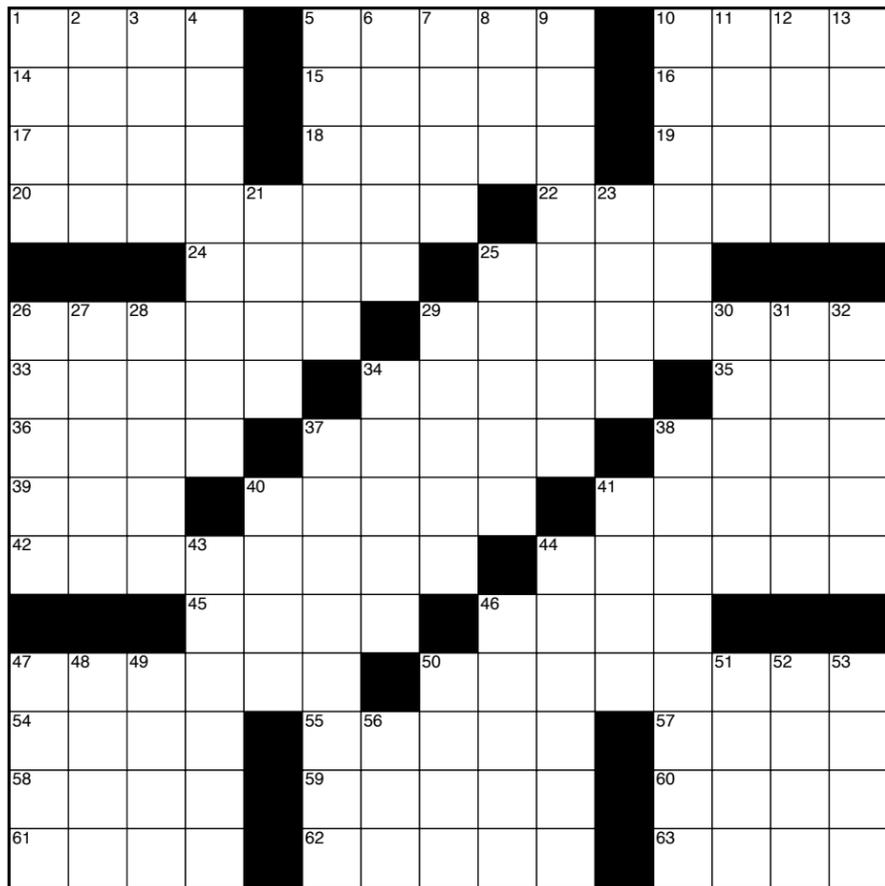
So, if you are imagining yourself on the team next year, I suggest writing for The Mike to gain some familiarity and using that experience to apply for higher positions once applications open near the end of the school year. You need to write three articles during the year to obtain Staff Writer status, but if you just want to write for fun and don't feel compelled to apply for anything later, this number can be less!

THE MIKE



Cheers and Fears

YANNI, MANAGING EDITOR



- 26 Temporary, as a committee
- 27 Painter's tool
- 28 Vowel sound in "wise"
- 29 Tooth buyer?
- 30 SMC Bulldog (Mascot)
- 31 Popular Filipino dish
- 32 Upper body
- 34 Move with haste
- 37 Large Spanish ships of old
- 38 Having a strong fragrance
- 40 Hay bundle
- 41 Fossil fuel
- 43 To an exceedingly great extent
- 44 "Legal," in Rome
- 46 Move stealthily
- 47 Digital clock setting choice
- 48 1200 hours, or lunch time
- 49 Alternate spelling for a surfer's sobriquet (ex: from "bro" to "bruh")
- 50 Encouraging lead-in to boy or girl
- 51 Miniscule amount
- 52 Ditch class
- 53 Canadian gas brand
- 56 Blubber

ACROSS

- 1 Coral formation
- 5 Tip of a shoelace (don't forget it!)
- 10 Blind as _____
- 14 French greeting
- 15 Pie chart alternative
- 16 Video recorders, for short
- 17 Campfire treat, without the "E"
- 18 Creepy
- 19 Hoof-on-cobblestone sound
- 20 Elements of a beloved SMC cheer, precedes 22a.
- 22 Elements of a beloved SMC cheer, follows 20a.
- 24 Cardinal directions acronym, counter-clockwise from sunrise
- 25 _____-chef (restaurant assistant)
- 26 Capable of
- 29 Large flying mammal
- 33 Bits of rain

- 34 Lacks, in brief (contraction)
- 35 "Much _____ about nothing"
- 36 Fifth-century nomadic warriors
- 37 Remorseful feeling
- 38 Hebrew lyre
- 39 Ontario Safety Group (easy acronym)
- 40 B. Benson of "Bee Movie"
- 41 Night spots for tots
- 42 It's dead, some say
- 44 Oft repeated in the SMC Bubbaloo cheer
- 45 One on your side
- 46 Line of stitches
- 47 Wait _____
- 50 Custard sauce, say: Crème _____
- 54 Not worth arguing about
- 55 U "of T" homophone
- 57 Pairs with popular video-sharing app's tiks
- 58 Swimming spot
- 59 Birth-related
- 60 "You know how _____"

- 61 Weekday with no vowels
- 62 Vampire vanquisher
- 63 Guitarist's gizmo

DOWN

- 1 Allergy symptom
- 2 Red muppet or sailor's saint
- 3 H.G. Wells' imaginary race
- 4 Permanently
- 5 Kids' "terrible time"
- 6 Earl's and Lady Jane's colours
- 7 "_____ and the Real Girl" (2007 film)
- 8 Prefix for gram or graph
- 9 Muppet who likes numbers
- 10 Confront boldly
- 11 Island near Java
- 12 Run _____ (go wild)
- 13 Sugar amts.
- 21 Tolkien tree giants
- 23 "Eight," in Montreal
- 25 "R U 4 real?"

THINK YOU'VE COMPLETED THE CROSSWORD CORRECTLY?

SNAP A PIC AND TAG US ON INSTAGRAM OR TWITTER @READTHEMIKE TO BE FEATURED!

HEAD TO READTHEMIKE.COM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN OUR "DEAR MIKE" COLUMN!

66 Dear Mike,

Dear Incoming Class,

Welcome to St. Mike's! It's so great to meet you.

I'm Mike, the columnist here at SMC. If you ever feel like your life is falling apart (which will happen more times than you think) or you just need to chat to a friend, I'm your guy.

Feel free to chat with me by scanning the QR code to the left, and submitting an anonymous message. Yes, I said *anonymous*—I don't believe in exposing my new St. Mike's besties. I'm here to help and provide advice, which could also benefit our other readers.

Hope to hear from you all soon,
Your Friend Mike

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE MIKE?

HEAD TO READTHEMIKE.COM/APPLY

