

# THE MOKE

Volume LXXV, Issue 9  
14 April, 2023

[readthemike.com](http://readthemike.com)



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# THE MIKE

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Alessia Baptista**  
editorinchief@readthemike.com

## MANAGING EDITOR

**Julliana "Yanni" Santos**  
managingeditor@readthemike.com

## BUSINESS MANAGER

**Nicolas Martinez-Gonzalez**  
business@readthemike.com

## SENIOR COPY EDITOR

**Natasha Aust**  
srcopyeditor@readthemike.com

## EDITOR-AT-LARGE

**Victor Buklis**  
editoratlarge@readthemike.com

## NEWS EDITOR

**Shmily Lin**  
news@readthemike.com

## ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

**Arib Hassam**

## OPINION EDITOR

**Josephine Murphy**  
opinion@readthemike.com

## ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

**Reem Baghdady**

## FEATURES EDITOR

**Tannaaz Zaraineh**  
features@readthemike.com

## ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

**Kaitlin Wilson**

## ARTS EDITOR

**Claudia Doyle**  
arts@readthemike.com

## ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

**Agata Mociani**

## LIFESTYLE EDITOR

**Lana Kamal**  
lifestyle@readthemike.com

## ASSOCIATE LIFESTYLE EDITOR

**Darian Trabold**

## SPORTS EDITOR

**Nidhil Vohra**  
sports@readthemike.com

## PHOTO EDITORS

**Sajal Mohsin**

## COPY EDITORS

**Andrew Roberts, Jack Iglar, Audrey Lepez, Omnia Adam, Nicole Gordon, Nadine Maarouf, Adel Zlatopolsky**

## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGERS

**Jiaao Yu, Mariam Abbasi, Sophia Poulimenakos**

## DESIGN MANAGER

**Brandon Tan Jin Yong**

## ILLUSTRATION EDITOR

**Joyce Qiu**

## STAFF WRITERS

**Lucas Carpignano, Madelaine Chrisanthidis**

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Melanie Stibbard, Tony Xun, Lucia Harley, Zoe Zusman, Aramayah Ocol, MJ Baroudi**

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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.**

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

# EDITORIAL

## Don't Read The Mike, Read The Alessia Instead!

### Alessia Baptista, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In case you're new here, allow me to explain the greatness that is The Mock. The very last issue of The Mike, and most campus publications, is an absolute joke, so our take on this satirical last issue tradition is to call The Mike, The Mock. All articles are sarcastic and the design is extra chaotic to end the year in a fun and lighthearted way.

Now that you're caught up to speed, allow me to bless you with my newspaper and all its brilliant articles for one last hurrah in my role as your Editor-in-Chief. After all, this paper is all about me, since I'm literally the front cover.

Since you're all going to be so sad that I'm leaving The Mike, I've decided to change its name to The Alessia, because you have to let my legacy live on.

This name change has been an executive decision made by me because this year's paper has been a total flop. Who even reads newspapers anymore? Please, get a grip. Our website is called readthemike.com, but it should be called something else because nobody reads The Mike. Seriously, the food in the Canada Room is better than anything we've produced all year. I hope The Alessia adds more flavour to SMC's journalism.

So, what should you do in the meantime? Literally do anything else except read The Mike. Get your own newspaper, because The Mike is mine. You can try writing for The Innis Herald or The UC Gargoyle because word on the street is they need to do better.

Zero mistakes were made in the design of this newspaper. Actually, all the mistakes were made. We've purposely gone against every single principle of design and printed uneven body text just to piss you off. Sorry! The only serious piece in this issue is my final letter from the editor, which you can find on page 14.

Have a great summer SMC! I hope the Hoikety Choik haunts you in your dreams for the rest of time.

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# NEWS

## What's Really in Your Chicken? The disturbing secret about Canada Room Chicken, something suspicious has clucked its way into the croom. ?

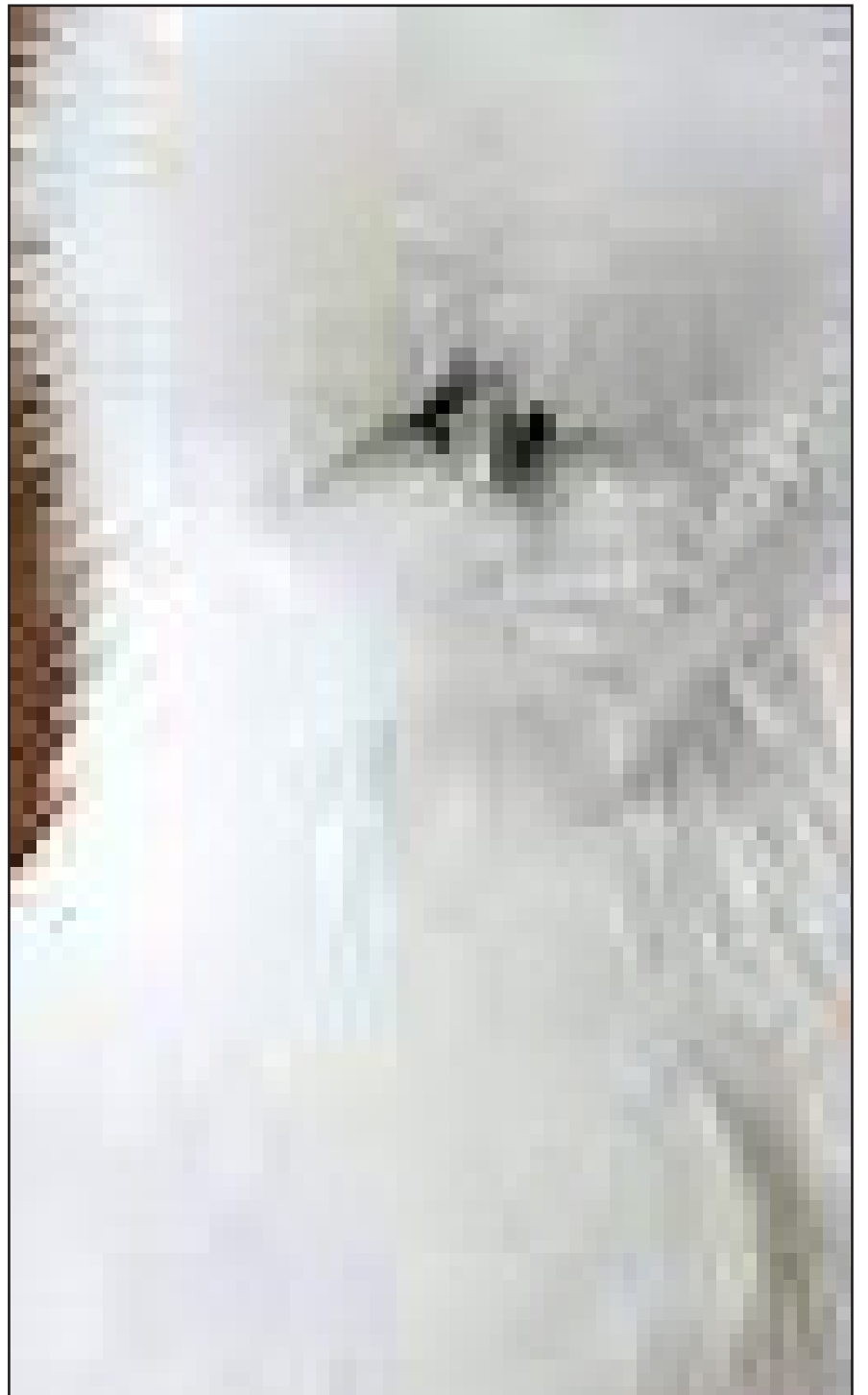
Most St. Michael's College (SMC) students and Canada Room regulars have sat in the Canada Room and had a nice meal of chicken and rice. Served often, the chicken dishes have almost always had a starchy, bland taste and an almost fibrous texture. Or maybe, every so often, one hits a morsel of something like cardboard biting into their chicken burger. The mystery behind this flavour palette was finally uncovered this past Friday, March 1st. A student at St. Michael's College found remnants of old textbooks in their sweet-and-sour popcorn chicken.

The student, who wishes to remain anonymous, was confused by the woody taste that the chicken left in their mouth. They took a small sample, wrapped in a Canada Room napkin, to the Lash Miller Chemical Laboratories near New College to conduct some minor tests. "I was just curious," the anonymous student reported, "I had no idea it was something this, like, detrimental." The results of the tests showed something extremely peculiar. A complete lack of any trace of chicken, and large amounts of adhesives, dyes, and paper. Upon further research and inspection, the student, and several consulted peers, discovered that each of these materials combined would equate to every chemical used to make a university-level science textbook.

Upon further inspection, a group formed by the anonymous student and their peers found that there had been a suspicious dip in the admittedly large and unused supply of old textbooks in storage in the basement of the John M. Kelly Library. As it so happens, a group of staff members in SMC seemed to have banded together to make use of the textbooks.

The group was discovered in the act by said group of students in a sort of textbook detective case showdown. They were stopped in their tracks, caught in the act of breaking up the textbooks and shaping the "chicken." Their hideout was a small room hidden below Brennan Hall that still smells of fake chicken flavouring today. The group of students followed a trail of ambiguous clues left by a member of the fake chicken committee who had grown to regret their part in the destruction and lies.

The committee is awaiting trial, and, as a dedicated Canada Room visitor, I was hoping that they would be punished accordingly. However, this week's developments have led me to reconsider. A stir arose among students, who seem to have grown accustomed to the textbook-chicken flavour. Now that regular chicken is being served, complaints about every chicken dish have been sent in, in increasing amounts. Complaints so brutal and frequent, sources say, that SMC may even be looking to rehire the committee that began making the textbook chicken. In most recent events, students are emerging with papers on the nutritious benefits of textbook materials, and there is a rumoured protest scheduled for this coming Friday. Students and Canada Room visitors have been left lost and confused, missing the unique taste of the old chicken. For now, we are just left hoping that someday reparations will be made, and that we can find some way to remain dedicated Canada Room regulars for the years to come.



## Riverdale Renewed for an Eighth Season Filming to take place exclusively at St. Michael's College ?

In a surprise announcement, it has been confirmed that Riverdale has been renewed for an eighth season. Fans of the show can expect even more over-the-top drama, wild plot twists, and a whole lot of smoldering looks from Archie, Betty, Veronica, and Jughead.

But that's not all. In a first for the series, the entire eighth season will be filmed exclusively at St. Michael's College at U of T, with one iconic location taking centre stage: the Canada Room. As the current cafeteria, the Canada Room, also known as "The Croom," is a storied gathering place for students at St. Michael's College. It is a room steeped in tradition, with oak-paneled walls and windows that overlook the campus quad.

In the eighth season, the Canada Room will play a central role in the plot. The gang will discover that the room is actually a portal to an alternate dimension, where they will encounter new friends, enemies, and challenges. But they won't be alone. The gang will also face off against the mysterious Father

Madden, a legendary figure at St. Michael's College. He is a priest with a dark past, and his motives are unclear. Is he a friend or foe? The gang will have to find out for themselves.

Amidst the chaos, they will immerse themselves in the unique culture of St. Michael's College. They will attend Mass at St. Basil's Church, join in the traditional Hokey Choik cheer during Frosh Week, and even live in the hospitable dorm rooms of Elmsley Hall. Fans can also expect some exciting guest appearances from St. Michael's College faculty and staff, including President David Sylvester, who will play himself in a few episodes. The eighth season of Riverdale promises to be a thrilling adventure full of surprises and nods to the rich culture and history of St. Michael's College, so mark your calendars and get ready to join Archie and the gang on their new journey.

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# NEWS

## Reports of Saint Michael at SMC Rumours swirl around campus of a mysterious visitor — has the archangel come to save us from finals?

**Sulaiman Hashim Khan, STAFF WRITER**

During the middle days of Lent, a collection of scared little first-years reported a curious sight — camping in the nook between St. Basil's Church and the stairway down to the backdoors of the Windle Historic House was a man claiming to be Saint Michael the Archangel himself.

Rumours quickly spread across the college, as students from as far as the Kelly Library, and even a few curious attendees from neighbouring Victoria college, came to peek at the mysterious mage.

But just as quickly as fascination festered, so did fear and scepticism. Was the man who claimed to be the one who leads the armies of God against His adversaries, and escorts good men to the pearly gates, actually resting on the grounds of his eponymous institution?

Curious, I, the dedicated journalist, took leave from (begged) news editor Shmily Lin in order to seek out the truth about the enigmatic individual, and sought him out to interview him. The journey from the Coop, through the exit of Brennan Hall, and up the stairs to St. Basil's was arduous, but my quest for the truth — and a coffee I had grabbed from the Starbucks on Bay Street that morning — fuelled my voyage.

I found myself at Clover Hill Park across from the Kelly Library in search of St. Mike. I finally found the man, who now sat nearly bare, cloaked in what looked like a bedsheet, at the feet of Primrose, the donkey. Before I was able to approach him for an interview, I was astonished at my observation of the absence of the pink casts that usually clasp at Primrose's front legs! Could Saint Michael have healed her maladies? Was the ass to become a beautiful mare? My confidence that Saint Michael had actually descended to Earth grew.

I walked up to the man, and asked if I could interview him, to which Mike assented. He spoke with a thick Hebrew accent, and his voice was coarse, but I assumed that banishing Satan from the heights of the universe down to the lowest of lows would take a toll on a person's health — archangel or not. After exchanging some pleasantries, I asked the angel his purpose for showing up at St. Michael's College.

"I've come here for one reason, and one reason only, my child," began the archangel with a warm paternal flair. This elegance was short lived, however, as the angelic entity continued, "And that reason is to inquire: is that goddamn eyesore in the middle of your quad supposed to be me?"

At this point I, speechless, let the soldier of God continue.

"I mean, look at that thing! It's fucking insulting! Look at me. Do I look like a stupid sheet of metal bending back on itself, Sulaiman? I'm an angel for God's sake!"

I experienced great anxiety at this point. How could an angel of the Lord use His name in vain so flippantly — could this be an imposter? But Primrose's legs and his sudden appearance made his identity more convincing to me. I was about to ask him how he knew my name, as I had deliberately not mentioned it before beginning the interview for fear of eternal damnation, but my thought was cut off as the angel began yelling even louder.

"You know what? I don't even want this place to be named after me! How can I be proud to give this place my namesake? Raphael has an entire artistic legacy behind his name!"

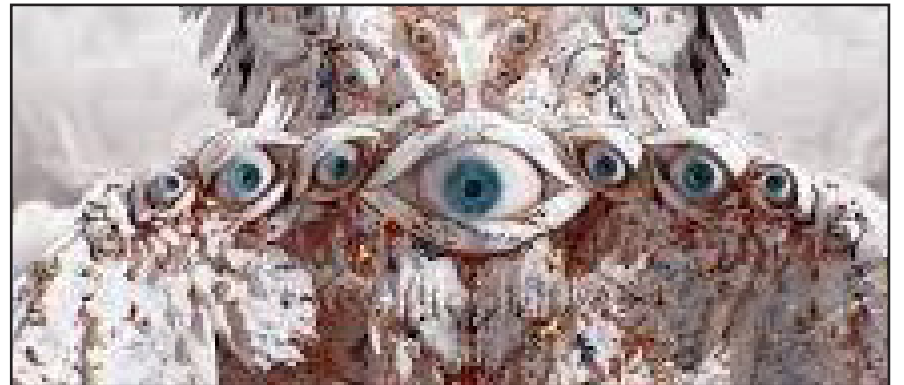


Photo Credit / HE WATCHES

tween his fellow archangel and the Italian Renaissance artist, but my thoughts were once more interrupted. This time, however, it was not by Michael.

Another man appeared walking over to us with his hands in the air in a manner that could only be read as frustration.

"Santiago! What are you doing?" Asked the man as he came.

I watched their interaction, and I shall present it to you with the greatest fidelity:

"Gabby! What? What is it?" Replied Saint Michael.

"Santiago, I've been looking for you for two days, where have you been?"

"I had some business to attend to. So, if you'll excuse me—"

"No, you're coming home. Dad wants you home."

"Let me just take care of th—"

Before Michael could finish his protest, the man, who the archangel called Gabby, grabbed him by the arm and pulled him along. I, not wanting to lose our Patron Saint, stopped them, and explained to the man what Mike had told me.

"Archangel? Statue? Saint Michael? What? No. This is my brother Santiago Miguel. I lost him after a party on Saturday and when I heard about a strange man found here at your college, I came to collect him."

My hopes were shattered, and the illusion was ruined. This Saint Michael was no saint at all. He was a simple partygoer who got lost in what was probably an inebriated stupor. I began to walk away dejectedly, but I remembered the miracle of Primrose and how Michael, or Miguel rather, knew my name. But, as I looked behind me — just quickly enough for my eyes to register their movement, I saw Santiago Miguel's bedsheets transform into a flowing robe, and with his hand interlocked in Gabby's I saw the two ascend toward the sky like rays of light.

Primrose the Donkey declined to comment.

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## Blast From the Past: Reviving Old Fashioned Beauty!

### The comeback of your favourite old beauty trends

**Karen Maktabi, CONTRIBUTOR**

We've avoided this topic for far too long, it's all over your TikTok For You Page, and it's plastered across your Instagram feed: Old Fashioned Trends. What goes around eventually comes around, as these trends are back and they're here to stay. Sorry, I don't make the rules!

**Thin Eyebrows.** Yeah, you've seen the filter on TikTok. Tempting isn't it? Ditch those thick brows, and go for a 90's Pam Anderson look. Trust me, you won't regret it later at all.

**Low-Waisted Jeans.** You knew it was coming; it is practically unavoidable. Yes, low-rise jeans are coming back. Everyone throw your sweatpants away! I promise you don't need a skinny body to pull it off. Use them as an excuse to show off those curves!

**Frosted Blue Eyeshadow.** Listen, I know it may not be your colour, or it doesn't compliment your features, but 90's shimmery blue eyeshadow is making a comeback, whether we like it or not. And I promise, it's worth a try! Hear me out, a little bit on the inner corners, maybe some on the lower lash

line? Only if you're feeling brave. Start small, and you never know, you might just love it!

**Tracksuits.** Those 2000s iconic sets are back in line for the fashion wagon. The velvety feel, the limitless colours... It's not a want, it's a need. I'm sorry, but comfortable, practical, and fashionable?! Count me in.

**Round Framed Glasses.** These are a given. Circular glasses have been slowly but steadily making their way back onto the market for some years now. The 70's fashion staple is marking its return to style, and we're not mad about it! If John Lennon and Jennifer Anniston once rocked it, you can too.

**Plastic Bangles.** Did I save the best one for last? Maybe. Plastic bangles are a hit or miss, really. However, the 80's plastic bracelets need to return: think of the colours, the designs, and the stacking ability! How many do you think you could fit on one arm without seeming too ridiculous? They're lightweight, comfortable, and affordable. I got you, already one less thing to worry about during this inflation.



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# FEATURES

## Your Quirky 'n' Cute 2023 Travel Destinations Places you never thought to add to your bucket list, until now

**Aramayah Ocol, STAFF WRITER**

Unsure about this summer's travel plans? Why not try something new and be adventurous? You're only a U of T student once, right? Below, I would highly recommend these student-friendly places. They'll allow you to find yourself via travel while testing your boundaries. You'll learn something new about yourself; these travel suggestions will lead down the road of self-discovery. Forget Paris – they don't even pick up garbage there anymore – and go down the road less travelled.

### To Be or Not To Be A Country, That is the Question:

#### Turkmenistan: Authoritarianism

1. Any country that has large gas reserves must be extremely safe to go to. Want proof? All the great powers will protect your gas for you. They'll even tell you who will buy it from you for the best price. Doesn't this guarantee stability? Regardless of your opinions, Turkmenistan is what they call an "isolated" country; hence, it is quite clear that they could never be at war with bordering countries. You can basically consider Turkmenistan like your introverted besties: non-confrontational. Although the Government of Canada reports that you need a letter of invitation along with a visa, once obtained, the lack of cell-phone service will guarantee an uninterrupted vacation.

#### South Ossetia: The De Facto State

1. Considered by the United Nation to be a part of Georgia, but more closely affiliated with Russia and also the use of the Russian ruble, South Ossetia is definitely an easily accessible place to visit for the average Westerner. Pay no heed, you might not be able to officially fly into South Ossetia. However, long borders provide not too legal entry flexibility. You've heard of illegal immigration... well, now we could try a similar process for entry with illegal tourism! Scared of deportation? Not to worry. Where there is a capital city there is always a Canadian embassy. This is most definitely always a tried and true statement, is it not? Just flash that Canadian passport, and authorities will definitely let you off the hook. After all, Canada is known to be the nicest nation in the world. You'll be fine. Go and adventure, maybe just make sure your mom has a photocopy of your passport at home just in case she has to report a case to international affairs.

#### Somaliland: Economics Students Can Prove That It's SAFE

1. Considered a breakaway territory that declared its independence in 1991 after the overthrow of Somali military dictator Siad Barre, why wouldn't Somaliland be the ultimate beach destination? Scared of the pirates that made the film, Captain Phillips, such a hit? Well my friend, let me tell you this: Somalia and Somaliland are definitely two separate territories. Why would the Somali pirates all the way on the shores of Somalia be interested in nautical cargo from Somaliland? Besides, there really isn't

the safety concerns your parents are bringing up. Even BBC News reports that "Somaliland has a working political system, government institutions, a police force and its own currency." Are these not all the components of a well functioning and stable country? Just ask your Economics friends, I promise your parents are wrong.

#### The Islands Edition:

#### Russia:

##### 1. Sakhalin Island – An Appeal to U of T Engineering Students

Known as one of the great Russian writers, Anton Chekhov was also a practicing doctor who went to the Russian penal colonies of Russia's most eastern remote island of Sakhalin. To the U of T Engineering students who don't think they have their lives together, I recommend that you take a trip to Sakhalin and mirror Chekhov's journey while reading Sakhalin Island. Spend your time descending into Chekhov's logistical hell: Imperial Russia's penal colonies are easily replaced by what CNN reports as the "exploitation of its offshore oil and gas fields..." For a U of T Engineering student, wouldn't this trip just be another day in a life?

#### Uzbekistan/Kazakhstan:

##### 1. Vozrozhdeniye Island – Got an Itch for Biological-Warfare?

The New York Times reports that Vozrozhdeniye was the place in which Stalin implemented the testing of biological weapons before being abandoned in the 1940s. Not far from the ghost town Kanutbek, check out the delightful infrastructure that monitored the health of animals before being tested on by nuclear weapons. Owned by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan since 1992, this destination would be a real blast to the Soviet past. Guaranteed, you won't mutate an extra arm or toe, or start a whole blown anthrax endemic. Apply a little sunscreen every two to three hours and you might just get that hot girl summer beach tan under Vozrozhgeniye's scorching sun.

If you're feeling wanderlust and want to come back to school with an exciting couple of stories, these top travel destinations are perfect for you. Your intuition is normally right, and if it's asking you to travel to places unknown, you'll definitely feel the thrill by visiting these locations. Happy travels!



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# ARTS

## Size Doesn't Matter But personality does

**Devarya Singhania, STAFF WRITER**

James Bond is weak. I mean, what kind of a hunky, rich, smug protagonist has a talk show name like James? Both the talk show host and Bond are similar in many ways: both are annoying, always in suits, obnoxious, and British. Although Bond's rizz, compared to James Corden's, is pretty much non-existent. Bond is weak. What kind of a coward only fights after he has acquired weaponry of the highest caliber? Pretty pathetic. That's why I'm here to explain how Austin Powers could take him on any day of the week, and in doing so, can settle the debate on why personality matters more.

Austin Powers – that's a name with gravitas. Austin. Not weak like James. The only reason Bond hasn't fought Powers is that he's afraid. You can practically see him trembling as he constantly switches actors to play the role while Powers' portrayal has remained constant. Oh, how cowardly to be a chameleon in the world of Powers' excellence.

By the time Bond has loaded his fragile, overly glossed, basic pistol, Powers has already finished twerking fifteen times – lethal, immediate, perfect. It is hard to resist such an adorable man who twerks with such astute passion while an arrogant man in the most clichéd of suits is lethargically loading his gun, smirking, and trying to appear mysterious. That's Powers' power.

Have you ever seen Bond laugh? Has he ever made anyone laugh? All of Bond's seemingly funny lines come when he's desperately trying to woo one lady or another. When will he realize that his rizz is only as much as the money in his bank – like graduates of a major I'd rather not reveal. He tries to sound so raspy it hurts to listen to; Powers, though, he's hilarious. If you had Powers flirt with the same girl as Bond, Bond would have to concede within mere seconds. You cannot out-rizz Powers' "Shagadelic, Baby." I would certainly want my date to be funny rather than an aficionado of the martini – the worst possible drink you could order.

"Shaken, not stirred." Yuck. That's a Bond catchphrase? So unfathomably generic. Sure, Bond is handsome and can carry a suit well, but who in their right mind orders a martini as their first choice drink? It's such a dry, bitter, dehydrating choice out of all the flavorful cocktails. Pretentious, pompous, pathetic. I'd cringe if my date ordered a martini, embarrassment looming over me. I would have to dine and dash.

Powers catches you with his catchphrases. "I Don't Kiss And Tell." "I Shag And Brag, Baby!" Of course he does. He's quirky, charming, hilarious and humble. I would laugh, and probably fall for him right away if his twerks and quirks weren't already enough.

Size doesn't matter; personality matters so much more. Choose personality or else you'll end up with a smug guy in a suit, who seems to joke but can only talk about matters so pretentiously grisly that you feel like drowning him in his martini. I so want Powers to fight Bond, and vehemently, alluringly stroke his gorgeous ginger hair just to see Bond grow insecure about his masculinity

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# ARTS

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## Trashing Abstract Art ?

Angelin Thipahar, CONTRIBUTOR



Photo Credit / National Gallery of Art

Have you ever spent some time looking at abstract art and wondered how random circles, blobs, and lines constitute art? Well, I can't say that you're alone. Abstract art always struck me as strange when I was a kid because I'd see adults staring contemplatively at what seemed like very simple pieces. Lines on canvas or a few paint splatters on a piece of paper — I mean couldn't anyone do that? Well...as an adult, I can say that abstract art is a bit more than what meets the eye. When you look past the fact that several abstract pieces look like a fourth grader's art project, you start to realize that the shapes and lines that appear somewhat haphazardly painted across the canvas actually make sense in the larger composition of the piece. Now that sentence may have been worded a bit like an abstract painting, so bear with me as I unpack this notion.



There is, as it happens, good and bad abstract art. Good abstract art contains deeper meaning that requires a knowledge of colour, size, scale, proportion, juxtaposition, framing, and composition to decipher. In that way, abstract art is a misnomer as it implies there is no rhyme or reason to the artist's choices. Abstract art actually came into being during a time of social change and was a part of the modern art movement of the 20th century. Where in the 19th century there was a fascination with realism, the modern art movement brought in elements of surrealism in an effort to make art more about what it feels like when looking at a piece, rather than just a skillfully rendered scene on canvas. In this way, what appears to everyone else as swirls of paint on canvas might be representative of something greater. Languid, long lines might be interpreted as lethargy while short, sharp strokes might connote urgency. Anyone might be able to create such lines, but the emotion and feeling of one such compilation of lines might not be like the other.

Now, if at this point you feel somewhat silly for prior misconceptions about abstract art, it might placate you to know that Picasso himself had his misgivings about the art form. He was famously quoted in an interview where he said, "I have a horror of so-called abstract painting... When one sticks colours next to each other and traces lines in space that don't correspond to anything, the result is decoration." That's all well and good sir, but you did spearhead Cubism which is a fairly abstract style.

Abstract art, while it may be mocked by a select few, does hold a special place in the hearts of many. Good art is meant to inspire its admirers and evoke emotion. While it may appear as chicken scratch to one person, to another it could appear as a reflection of several cascading feelings. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder after all. I suppose one could debate that philosophically, but that is a question for another time perhaps.



## University Is Not All about Studying! A 10-step guide to finding a new best friend in your prof

Tannaaz Zaraineh, FEATURES EDITOR

“It’s all part of the plot.”

Those are words you should say to yourself when you wonder what it would be like to have a genuine friendship with someone on campus. Specifically, when you wish to be friends — nay, best friends — with your favourite professor.

I think we’d all be lying if we said we’ve never thought about what it would be like to stay after class and discover you have so much in common with your favourite prof. Although tricky exams and that not-so-nice discussion post grade may make it seem like they are out to get you during your somewhat flourishing academic career, what if it was never about the credit or degree, and instead it was leading to true friendship? After all, what do professors do when they’re not proving theorems, studying cell cultures, and reading classic literature?

Perhaps you’ll find yourself in line for the pink food truck and complaining to them about how they don’t get enough funding for the lab. Like Top Gun: Maverick’s infamous montage, your blossoming friendship might find itself playing football at the back campus field. Or, imagine braiding matching BFF bracelets for each other in the student lounge. How about taking that cottage trip you have been planning for months? When they go across the world for research, they’d take you along because they know you’re obsessed with the culture. And when you get married, well of course your BFF will be part of the wedding party! Maid of Honour/Best Man, anyone??? Even if you don’t have such wild dreams, there’s nothing wrong with having a friend for only as long as you attend school. Casual friendships are totally doable!



Everyone needs a friend. And maybe your prof is destined to be your next BFF. My guide exists to discuss ways you can culminate this, with detailed examples free of charge!

\*\*\* (Huge Disclaimer: Don’t actually do these, you will get in trouble. I am not promoting stalker behavior teehee).

### 1. GIFTS!

If I were a professor, my number one tip for getting on my good side would be to buy me gifts. Sure, you could play it safe and give me a nice pen or a Starbucks gift card. But if you want to find real friendship, you must take a different approach. Go big or go home. Examples include: an antique typewriter from 1882, a year-long membership to the Wellcome Collection in London, or buying the Starbucks store near my office so I always get free morning coffee. These aren’t showy examples, they show effort and thought. Getting them a sports car, like David Dobrik, is an idea for pleb celebrities who aren’t creative enough.

### 2. ASK QUESTIONS!

Who doesn’t like to talk about themselves? I know I do from time to time! And friendships rely on people getting to know each other. After class, before class, and even during: ask questions. It’s important to make it clear that you’re trying to get to know them outside of academics, so ask the important questions! You can start with simple questions such as, “Did you see that new art exhibition?” or “Who are you voting for?” Or stick to class-friendly ideas like, “What’s your favourite font for powerpoints?” If the conversation starts to feel more buddy-buddy, you could try asking a personal question such as, “What’s your favourite colour?” or maybe “If you could have any superpower what would you choose?” These questions will practically ensure you’ll get to know your prof on a deeper level. You can even push things along by asking yourself questions and answering on the spot. The question offers context instead of just blurting out random stuff. For example, you’d ask, “What’s (your name)’s favourite colour? Blue!” It’s attention grabbing, especially if it’s mid-lecture. Your prof will appreciate the initiative!

### 3. DRESS UP!

If you want to be friends with someone, copying them helps. It’s the most sincere form of flattery! You do this when you have no originality and are experiencing an identity crisis. To add, mirroring is said to be body language that connects people together. Mirror what they wear to lectures. Wear that sweater vest, or a similar coloured shirt that goes with nothing else in your closet because you’re that dedicated. Fashion crimes do not exist in this realm.

However, if that doesn’t work, or if you’re not experiencing an identity crisis, make sure you dress up. Having a nice style goes a long way. Wear your most expensive dress or suit as you will be dressing to impress. Wear heels. I cannot stress this enough. They force you to stand up straight and therefore look more confident. Just make sure you can walk in them and aren’t running late. Falling flat on your face is not going to dazzle anyone. If you don’t own heels, wear expensive sneakers that you know you will go into debt for. Sometimes friendship comes with a price.

### 4. MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS!

I’ve had profs who have asked the class for music suggestions so that a group playlist could be made, and later played before class started. I suggest you turn the tables and let them know what you’re listening to by just playing it for them out loud. Everyday, walk into class (late) and hold a speaker above your head like the movies for a dramatic entrance. Your prof is essentially forced to listen to what you’re listening to. They should appreciate how you’re not gatekeeping your impeccable music taste from them and the rest of the class. Plus, everyone knows one of the best ways to bond with a new friend is by listening to and talking about your favourite musicians.

This means you should eventually try to align your music taste with your prof’s and use the mirroring technique from tip #3. The way to go about this is just assuming. If your professor smiles when you play it, that means you have great estimation skills! If they frown and ask you to leave, listen to them. The following week, you enter with something new. This is a great way to show them you’re using critical thinking skills. Try some powerful rap like Playboi Carti or Drake to start. Not the vibe? Maybe they’re a Swiftie. Or, it’s something more particular like psychedelic jazz. If it’s something you never listen to, nobody cares. You’ll learn to like it.

Also, if you want potential bonus marks, create a presentation that shares why you chose to share the song using properly referenced images and cool slide transitions. I know I would give you bonus marks for that.

### 5. OFFER YOUR TABLE TO THEM!

If you happen to run into a professor on campus, offer to share your table. This works best when the location is busy. I actually had this happen to me at Starbucks while writing this article (no joke). But do not talk to the prof and let them enjoy their coffee and muffin. If you see them later, reveal yourself as the kind stranger that shared your table and leave. Mysterious interactions offer your prof to wonder who you are. You’ll feel like a good samaritan and part of the U of T community, while also making your prof think the same.

### 6. OFFER TO PRESENT THEIR LECTURES!



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#### 6. OFFER TO PRESENT THEIR LECTURES!

To expand on being a good person, if your professor is emailing the class to say they are sick or can't make it to lecture, email them back. Let them know that you have read every single textbook chapter in advance and have already solved everything (because you have). You want to be there for your new friend. Offer to teach the class in their absence because you don't want them to stress and have your classmates feel like they will be behind. This tip is extra effective if paired with tip #4 - wearing your prof-inspired outfit while you lecture might make the students more comfortable too. If your professor friend wants to record a lecture, tell them you will do it instead. Why should they put themselves under pressure? You should lighten their load by offering your services! That's what a true friend would do.

#### 7. GO TO OFFICE HOURS!

This is probably the most practical idea. Professors already ask students to come during office hours to ask questions, so use that time to get to know each other! Don't ask weird questions, but if you saw a funny meme and you need to show more people because it's just that funny, show your professor. It will show your sense of humour and maybe you'll share a laugh!

#### 8. PARTICIPATE LIKE A PRO!

Participation matters in some courses. If you want an A and you want to impress your prof, you must participate. First, start by answering questions. Make sure most of them are correct answers. This way your prof is conditioned into thinking you're smart and reliable when nobody else wants to answer, and you'd be a reliable friend as covered in tip #6. Obviously you sometimes have to answer them wrong too. If you don't, you'll be considered a robot or a cheater and your classmates and prof won't appreciate someone who doesn't take their education seriously. Similar to the idea of knowing the material beforehand, you have to make sure you've read the textbook front and back multiple times and memorized all concepts. If you can contact someone who has taken the class before, get their notes for ample competency. Then, when your prof is presenting a new concept to the class, you can finish their sentences. People sometimes think it's annoying because you're interrupting, but let's be honest, they're just secretly jealous because you're such an academic weapon. What if they wanted to do the same but you beat them to it? So, don't worry about coming off as pretentious. Your prof will appreciate how studious you are. Guaranteed.

If you want to take it further to keep things lighthearted and totally groovy, interrupt by saying, "fun fact" and follow with a fact about the concept being presented. Everyone will be wowed by your expert knowledge. Your prof won't wonder why you're trying to teach concepts they already know. They may instead suggest you join them on their research trips without having to bother applying. Lucky you!

#### 9. BRAG!

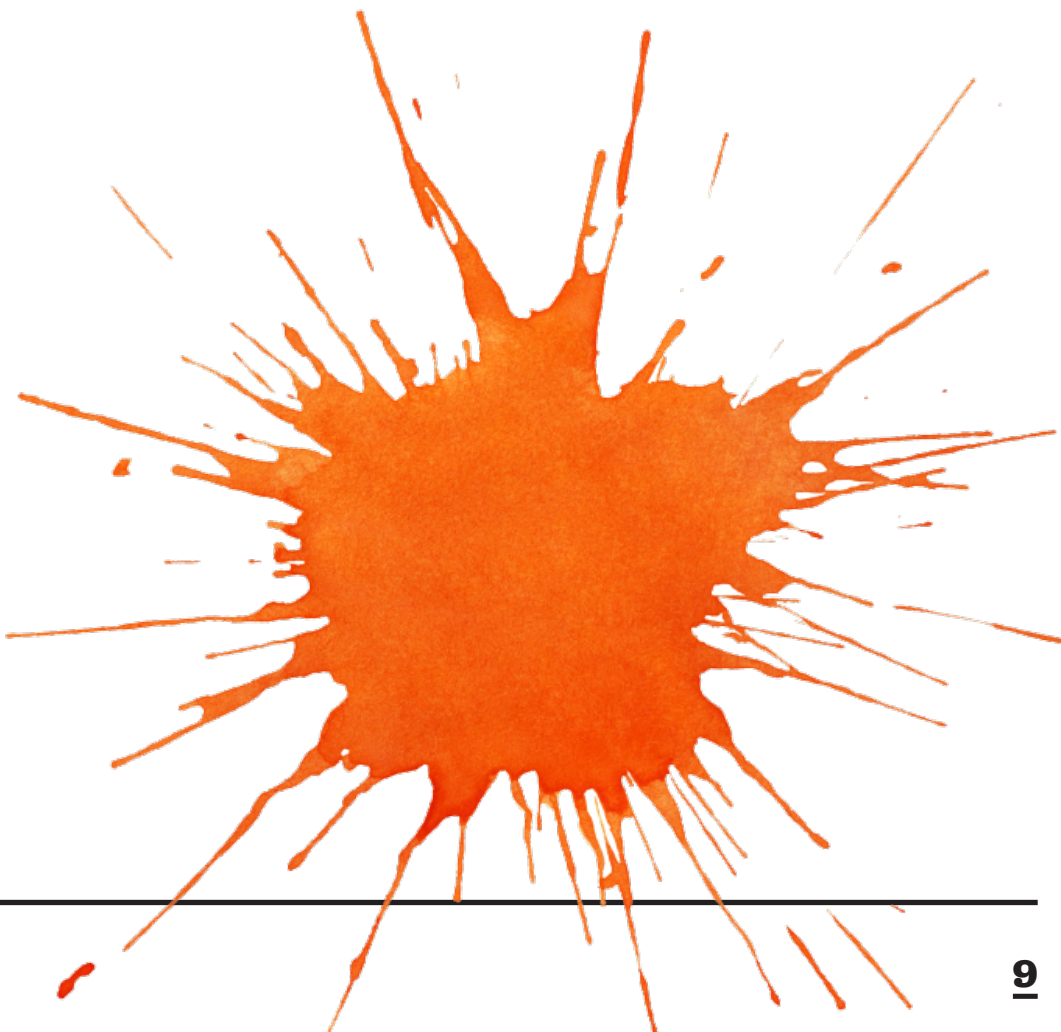
Bragging is actually a great way to find like-minded people. For example, if you say to a bunch of students that you have a 4.0 GPA, those who have lower will be intimidated and leave, but those who are also at the same level will start to brag too, and you will find some new friends. Telling your prof the same thing is impressive, but you have to go bigger than just perfect grades. Also, don't be afraid to bend the truth a little. While talking to your prof about your research interests, slip a humble brag such as, "Yeah, my dad works in Mexico City, so he was able to snag me an internship to help with an archaeological dig at a site nearby, but it's all thanks to my 4.0." Your prof, who might be teaching something about that subject, will be so interested and will most likely ask questions. You may have to add some lies in between to keep things going, and it might be beneficial to have some photoshopped images on hand if you really need to sell your white lie. It's important to make sure to follow up by letting your prof know the internship was cancelled for some reason out of your control, and definitely not because you didn't actually have any connections (or stellar grades). The point of bragging is not only to impress, but to exert your prestige over any other students vying for attention.

#### 10. FINALLY...Just let them know uwu

I know I gave some really good tips above, but often the easiest way to make a new friend is to be true to yourself. Some people I've met were through fate itself, but since I wanted a genuine connection I tried my best to be kind, funny, and persistent in my efforts. If you believe one day you will be absolute besties with someone, just go up to your prof after class and let them know you are interested in being friends. Like all friendships, the response could go either way, but you were yourself in the end. If your professor questions your motives and says no, don't take it personally. Rejection sucks, but you can take it as experience, assess where you went wrong and go find a new professor. You have four years for a reason!

I hope you were able to find a few good tips through these steps. My goal was to provide a way to create genuine connections between people. Oftentimes there seems to be a disconnect between profs and students. Students feel pressure to always sign off emails with "Best Regards" instead of "Hope you absolutely slay your next lecture <3." And profs sometimes take their careers too seriously and may not even think about their social lives. Perhaps with this guide, there can be a bridge built to help those who feel lost. If U of T is truly #1, then our social lives shouldn't be impacted by our academic pursuits.

Hope you absolutely slay your next friendship,  
Tannaaz



# Main Character Starter Kit

## Four steps for advancing your plot

Ridhi Balani, STAFF WRITER

Are you bored? Are you tired of your bland existence? Are you annoyed that no one fell in love with you at the bookstore? Well, fear not! I am here to provide you with four things to kick-start your main character journey and make you a potential kidnapping victim for boy bands.

The first thing you're going to need is a confidence boost. And nothing is better for building confidence than the greatest song ever written and performed. This song is better than anything Queen, Nirvana, Taylor Swift, or any other so-called artist has ever come up with. That's right! I'm talking about "This is Me" from the classic film: Camp Rock! Grab a hairbrush, jump on your bed with your shoes on, bend your knees at a 45-degree angle and let the greatness of the notes inspire you. By the end of this ritual, you will be assured of your power and will be ready to continue on the path to becoming a main character.

Now that you're in the right mindset, you're going to need to figure out the rules of the mysterious world you are venturing into. Fear not! There is an app designed for this very purpose. It will shake up your world and show you things that you will never be able to unsee. The name of this app is...Wattpad! From fashion tips about prime hairstyles (messy bun, always) to optimal worldly attitudes (you are not like the others), Wattpad has it all. The app will even tell you the best ways to get sold to boybands. What more do you need? All the instructions are at your fingertips.

Once you have familiarised yourself with the writing style of Wattpad's excellent stories, you will be ready to understand a legendary TV series that defies expectations at every turn. Get ready to never know what's going to happen next, which offers great preparation for life as a main character. You've guessed it - Riverdale is your go-to. Is the show's villain maple syrup? A board game? A cult? Who knows? That's the beauty of it. You will learn key skills that schools nowadays are too scared to teach you like owning - no, becoming - the colour red, and, of course, choosing the correct beanie for prime weirdo status. After all, a crucial step towards learning something is to observe it being done perfectly.

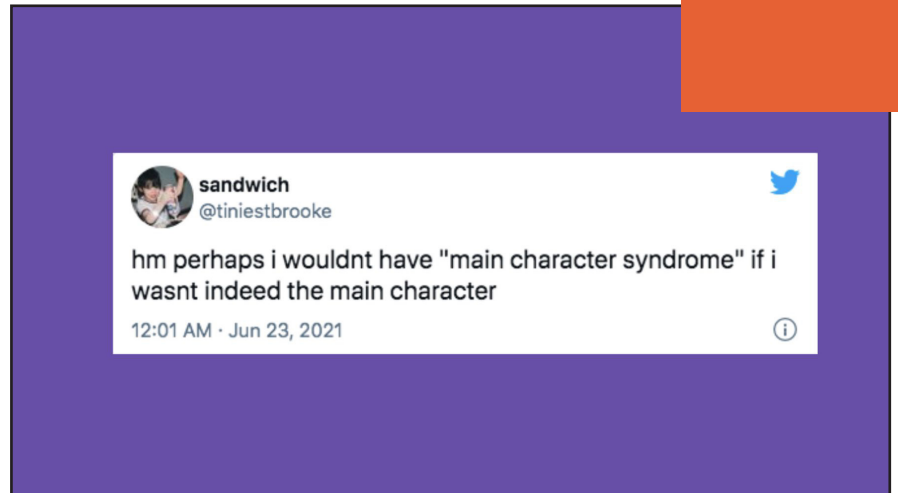


Photo Credit / OSV

Now, there is one last key to becoming the best main character of all time - and this is the one with the highest kidnapping rate. Reject society and its rules. Educate yourself. My number one recommended text for becoming a main character is the Twilight series. What is a greater rejection of societal norms than following a vampire that continuously reminds you that he wants to kill you? A normal person (side character) would just run away, perhaps move across the country. But not Bella, who is a true icon. Study the story, every word, and the world will shine like the skin of a killer.

You are four steps away from advancing your plot and becoming a main character. Not everyone is brave enough to complete all the steps, but don't be intimidated. I believe that there is a main character in everyone just waiting to be kidnapped. So, pick up that hairbrush and get ready to shine!





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# Ugly Love — 200 Pages of Absolutely Nothing

## 1/10, would NOT read it again

Ananya Handa, STAFF WRITER

Ugly Love by Colleen Hoover. Where do I even begin? If you want to experience a rocky ride of absolutely nothing happening for 200 plus pages, go ahead and grab this book, you'll have a great time! Never in my life have I loved to hate a book so much – so bland, so beige, so insignificant that it took me a week to remember what even happened in this book and, quite honestly, I'm still not too sure. I have to applaud Hoover for creating a main character who fits the idea of a 'pick me' so perfectly you wonder if she's the reason they even exist in real life. Tate, our young 20-something protagonist in nursing school, has moved in with her brother, Corbin, and meets the guy who lives across the hall, Miles, who also happens to be her brother's best friend. He is drunk in the hallway and calling out for 'Rachel' his long lost love – the definition of a bad boy with a heart of gold, so of course all of the plot, writing, and character flaws are immediately forgiven.

They meet, and Miles magically gets fixed enough to date Tate – or so it seems at the end, I quite honestly could not tell you because I may have fallen asleep by then. That is all. That is the entire story. The only mildly entertaining things about this book are the flashbacks showing Miles and Rachel's relationship, but Hoover just loves to focus on the worse relationships (refer to: It Ends With Us). If you love a story with no chemistry, no plot, no goals, menial conflict, and even worse sex, by all means read Ugly Love. It managed to waste the 3 hours I deigned to spend on it and honestly, I would rather have written a U of T exam in that time.

Now let's talk about the mildly entertaining plot in this book which didn't even occupy half the pages (such a disappointment). Rachel and Miles get together in high school and the idea of an 'Ugly Love' comes into existence through Miles's obsession with Rachel. It is concerning, to say the least, that they actually end up being step-siblings...who date...and have a baby. Yes, for some odd reason Hoover decided to make them step-siblings even though it added almost nothing to the story besides the 'forbidden love' trope. That trope could be done in so many better ways, but how dare I expect anything better from Colleen Hoover!? Quality writing would be a true travesty for her. Granted, Miles's obsession with Rachel was communicated very well, which is high praise for anything in this book, but does that make up for anything else? No. Their relationship was interesting, it kept me hooked, and the few and far between moments I did get to witness that were 'quality writing,' or as 'quality' as I could expect from Colleen Hoover, kept me mildly engaged. I honestly think it was a trick because she knew they were the only good moments in

this entire story.

So what is the final verdict? Ugly Love is a literary masterpiece... in the sense that it's a masterpiece for those who want a step-by-step demonstration on how to not write a book. I genuinely question if Hoover's editors and publishers even proofread anything she writes before printing anymore. 1/10, would NOT read again.

# LOGOS

## How to Get the Most Out of Sunday Mass Seven tips and tricks for a better church experience

**Victor Buklis, EDITOR-AT-LARGE**

For those of us who go to church every week, an ever-present question is how we can get the most out of our Sunday experience from the pews. How do I immerse myself most fully in the Mass? Fortunately, The Mike has compiled a list of seven time-honoured tips and tricks – from churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike – that are sure to enhance the experience of the Mass for all.

*Tip #1: Check your phone frequently.* And not just so that you can follow along with the readings. Send text messages. Read emails. Surf the web. Open every social media account you have. Perhaps even take pictures during the liturgy. Your actions are sure to provide others an exercise in loving their neighbours.

*Tip #2: Talk to those around you.* Make sure to engage in plenty of small talk during the readings, during the hymns, during the priest's homily, and in the line as you approach the altar to receive the Eucharist. Try to talk to as many different people as you can before Mass ends. Bonus points for speaking about different topics with different people. Fit in a conversation about the weather, about your new car, about the repairs going on in your house. Church is supposed to be a community, after all!

*Tip #3: Arrive late and make lots of noise as you try to find a seat at the front of the church.* Following this step ensures that everyone inside the church will know that you have, in fact, made it to church. It is not enough to slip quietly into one of the pews in the back, as then, people might not notice that you have arrived. Another key to this step is wearing clothes with loud, ostentatious patterns and colours to make sure that everyone can see you.

*Tip #4: Don't sing or say the responses.* When the cantor says, "Please join us in singing" a particular hymn, it is a mere formality. The cantor does not truly expect people to take the hymnals, so carefully placed right in front of them, and attempt to sing along. There's no telling what might happen in such a scenario – like a church full of music. Likewise, there is no need to respond, "And with your spirit," when the priest says, "The Lord be with you." He isn't expecting a response because he figures it's implied anyway. No need to participate.

*Tip #5: Don't pray or think deeply about what is going on during the Mass.* You can always pray at home. And if you do pray, be sure to focus on all the things God should give you, not on what God wants you to do. Also, paying much attention to what the priest does while he consecrates the host, for example, is unlikely to yield any especially profound insights either. It's safe to skip that part.

*Tip #6: When genuflecting, don't touch your knee all the way to the ground.* A quick, insignificant bend of your right knee is plenty. You otherwise might get



*Tip #7: Finally, only go to church on Christmas and Easter.* That's right – if you want to get the most out of Mass, only go twice a year. Indeed, Christmas and Easter are the most important days in the liturgical calendar, and those are the days when everyone goes to church. Church isn't as busy every other Sunday of the year, so you might as well not go because only a handful of people will be there anyway. The experience won't be as good.



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# OPINION

## Why U of T Should Install a Slide to Make Up for All the Stairs

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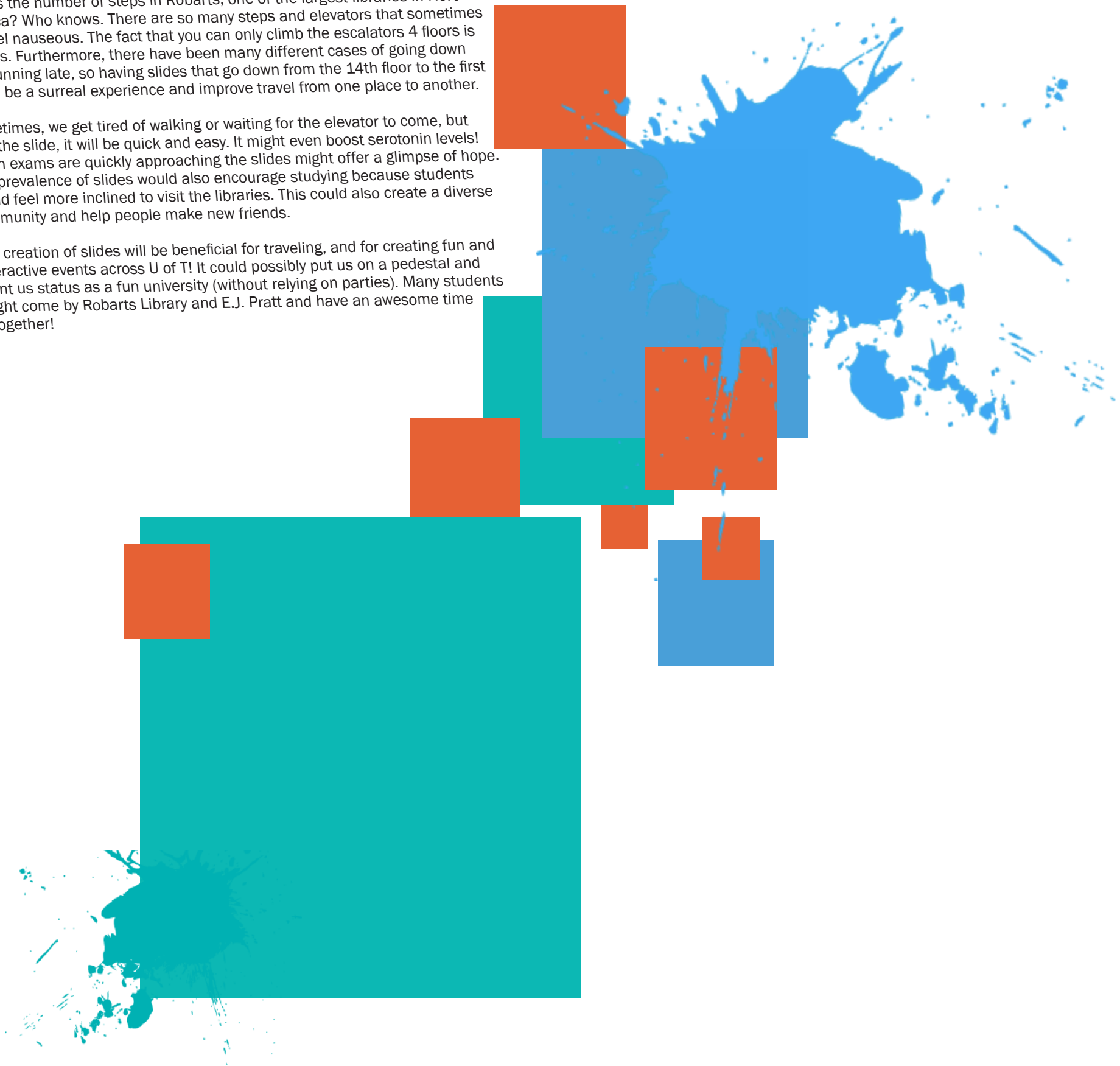
**Nyah Vasudeva, CONTRIBUTOR**

As children, we loved whizzing down slides. Not only were they fun, but they made it easier to get down the playground. Therefore, I think we should install slides in the major libraries, especially Robarts and E.J. Pratt. While elevators are useful for traveling up to different floors, why not connect a slide? It would bring fun to the university environment and help you get to class on time! Including them in the libraries would be a blast from the past!

What is the number of steps in Robarts, one of the largest libraries in North America? Who knows. There are so many steps and elevators that sometimes you feel nauseous. The fact that you can only climb the escalators 4 floors is tedious. Furthermore, there have been many different cases of going down and running late, so having slides that go down from the 14th floor to the first would be a surreal experience and improve travel from one place to another.

Sometimes, we get tired of walking or waiting for the elevator to come, but with the slide, it will be quick and easy. It might even boost serotonin levels! When exams are quickly approaching the slides might offer a glimpse of hope. The prevalence of slides would also encourage studying because students would feel more inclined to visit the libraries. This could also create a diverse community and help people make new friends.

The creation of slides will be beneficial for traveling, and for creating fun and interactive events across U of T! It could possibly put us on a pedestal and grant us status as a fun university (without relying on parties). Many students might come by Robarts Library and E.J. Pratt and have an awesome time altogether!



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# **BREAKING NEWS FROM THE EIC:**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF EMBEZZLES SMCSU FUNDS**

**THE BRENNAN HALL WASHROOMS ARE HAUNTED**

**DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE STEALS DEAN'S CUP TROPHY (it's literally in the name- they deserve it more than Elmsley or Sorbara or any other residence, whatever their names are)**

**THE HOIKETY CHOIK WILL HAUNT YOU IN YOUR SLEEP**

**WHO'S YOUR DADDY? PLOT TWIST- ST. MIKE'S DOESN'T HAVE ONE. APPLY NOW BECAUSE YOU COULD BE NEXT.**

**BASIL IS NOT A BULLDOG. IT'S A HERB.**

**ORIENTATION IS OVERRATED (LET'S BE HONEST NO IT ISN'T)**

**ST. MIKE'S INTRAMURAL TEAMS GO PRO AFTER 5 STRAIGHT LOSSES**

**THERE IS A TROLL THAT LIVES UNDER THE ELMSLEY BRIDGE.**

**SELL YOUR SOUL TO SMC. DO IT.**

**2023 OC'S DECIDE NOT TO WEAR YELLOW- THE ULTIMATE SCANDAL**

**EDITOR-AT-LARGE OWNS JEANS (SHOCKER)** \*Designer's Note:  
what.

**ST. MICHAEL AND BASIL SPOTTED HOLDING HANDS IN THE QUAD (BUDDING ROMANCE???? I THINK YES!)**

**THIS IS NOT FAKE NEWS. WE WOULD NOT LIE TO YOU. THAT WOULD BE POOR JOURNALISM.**

**GOODNIGHT.**



# FINAL WORDS

## An ode to journalism, rejection, and moving on A letter and many thank-you's

**Alessia Baptista, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

It all began on June 8th, 2019, when I walked into Brennan Hall for the first time. On my Welcome Day at SMC, I was given a tour of Brennan Hall where I noticed The Mike's banner outside its office. I recall taking a photo of it on my little iPhone 5s and dreaming of what it would be like to write for a newspaper. My dream has now become a reality.

During my Orientation, I recall obsessing over The Mike to my first ever friend, Sofija, going on and on about how I dreamt of writing for the paper. I held a copy of The Mike in my hands as we sat on one of the benches in the quad, and I remember her looking at me and saying something along the lines of: "I'm going to read everything you write and watch you run this newspaper one day." I owe it to her for believing in me from the start.

I'm proud to announce the success of The Mike while serving as its Editor-in-Chief this year. As students returned to campus for the first time in two years, The Mike resumed print publication and circulated 12,000 copies across the U of T St. George campus over the course of the academic year. As we've continued to publish online at readthemike.com, The Mike has averaged just over 6,000 page views per month from readers across the country. The work of our student writers has such a wide audience and that is something to be celebrated.

The Mike also supports USMC's yearbook, designed by our wonderful yearbook team, to capture the highlights of this year at the college. Initiatives like this are what preserve campus life and the beautifully diverse community here at the University of Toronto.

Thanks to the pandemic, production at The Mike has become infinitely more flexible and has allowed us to work remotely. A priority of mine this year was the mental health of our masthead, as I know firsthand what it's like to experience journalism burnout. Working remotely and having this flexibility allowed me to foster a more positive experience for our staff and contributors alike. Another priority of mine was broadening the range of voices we publish at The Mike, particularly through our Logos section. With this section unique to our college, I hope students find comfort in Logos and continue to reflect the diverse faiths of students here at St. Mike's.

This year, we've welcomed some talented first-year students, all of which I hope continue to gift this newspaper their brilliant writing and editing skills. You are the voice of the next generation of this paper, and I encourage you to push the limits of journalism and continue to lend your voice to difficult topics and entertaining pieces alike.

I owe a large part of who I am to The Mike. To Chiara and Sana, our Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor in 2020, you made my time as Lifestyle Editor during the pandemic infinitely less isolating after allowing me to establish the "Day in the Life" column. Thank you for teaching me how to be an editor, accepting all my ideas, and believing in me enough to encourage me to apply for a larger role in the newspaper.

For the entire 2022–2023 masthead: thank you for your endless work on The Mike, the late hours of editing, and your incredible pitches every week.

To my production team: thank you for being so patient with me as I learned how to be an Editor-in-Chief. Yanni — everyone's favourite bean — thank you for being such a positive light during this entire newspaper process. I admire your devotion to student journalism on campus and aspire to be as well-versed as you. For Victor, thank you for taking on anything and everything I threw your way. Natasha, my favourite grammar police, I owe you so many cups of tea for the rest of my life. Finally: for Brandon, our Design Manager, thank you for taking on this daunting role and fighting InDesign with me every single issue. Your energy is infectious and I'm glad we're bonded by the chaos corner.

Accompanied by my love and gratitude for The Mike lies The Varsity. I'd picked up an issue of The Varsity during my first week of classes back in 2019, and I was (and still am) in awe of the university's tri-campus newspaper. I cannot bid farewell to my career as a student journalist without thanking some people at The Varsity who have had an immense contribution to my involvement in campus journalism.

I extend my thanks to Stephanie for teaching me how to write for a newspaper. You are the reason for making my first article come to life and I'll never forget the feeling of seeing "Caffeinated Anonymous" in print for the first time. I've since spent most of my time with The Varsity in its sports section. Mekhi, thank you for letting me goof around in Varsity Arena all semester and interview some of U of T's finest athletes; it's been a privilege to tell their stories. The Varsity has been an intimidating but comforting escape from the challenges of being a student, and I will continue to support this publication as I move onto the next chapter.

The Mike is in excellent care with Victor Buklis as my successor. Victor brings a wealth of journalism experience to the team and is more disciplined than I will ever be. I have every ounce of faith in him to lead The Mike beyond success next year — one Americano and suit at a time.

As we end the 2022–2023 year with our last issue of The Mock, I extend my deepest gratitude to anyone that has picked up a copy of The Mike this year. I've been internalizing my excitement and pride any time I've seen a student holding a print copy, so here I am externalizing that feeling. Your commitment to reading our biweekly issues and hunger for our crosswords is crucial to keeping journalism on campus alive.

It's been an honour and a privilege to serve as the 75th Editor-in-Chief of The Mike. I think back to a terrified yet determined first-year student, eager to make words on a page come alive and tell people's stories through her writing. I hope the incoming staff of The Mike realize the vast amount of creativity this newspaper allows for. As I bid this newspaper farewell, I wish the next staff all the best of luck as they navigate new challenges and evolve The Mike into greatness. The Mike will live on to accept student's voices and foster a greater sense of community here at USMC through its diverse array of students. To many more late night editing sessions and chaotic production days, I pass on this publication with pride, gratitude, and confidence in the next generation.

– Alessia Baptista, Editor-in-Chief  
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**FROM US AT THE MIKE TO ALL OF YOU, GOOD MORNING, GOOD EVENING AND GOOD NIGHT.**

**THANK YOU ALL.**