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Obiter ♦ Dicta

Vol 86 Issue 1

The Definitive Source for Osgoode News

September 3, 2013

**“EQUAL PARTS
SWAGGER AND SMARTS”**
-THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



The definitive guide to law school success

DANIEL STYLER
Staff Writer

Entering law school can be an overwhelming time for even the most level-headed student. During your first year at Osgoode you will be faced with circumstances and engaged in conversations that you never considered as you played Minecraft and ate Doritos in your artificially lit basement apartment this past summer. What the hell is an OCI? Why are people camping out overnight to volunteer at a legal aid clinic? And why does my Property Law professor keep saying “fee simple”?

For this reason, upper year students (colloquially known as “upper tiers”) can be an invaluable resource as you navigate your first year of law school. With this in mind, I have consulted with two of the brightest students I know at Osgoode, Paul Burd and Daniel Hamson, to compile a definitive guide to success. By reading this and taking somewhere between 4-5 hours to contemplate what you’ve just read, you’ll already be well on your way to becoming the Class of 2016 Gold Medalist.

First, you need to be competitive. This involves more than merely having a strong desire to be more successful than others; it involves displaying this desire in the most audacious manner imaginable. Rather than viewing your fellow students as classmates and future colleagues, view each one as an individual rung on a ladder to The Top.

For example, if you see a fellow student at an interview for a job that you really want, we would strongly suggest commenting critically on their choice of clothing. The employer will notice the resultant deflation in confidence displayed by your classmate, and you will be in a better position to secure that coveted position.

When people ask you how you did on your Torts mid-term, the only acceptable response is, “A+, of course. And I didn’t even study!” Don’t worry if you actually received a C and have no idea what the “duty of care” is. The perception of success, even if not combined with actual success, is more than enough to have your fellow students questioning their probably completely acceptable studying techniques and wondering why everything comes so easily to you.

Second, don’t be too social. Once employed, you will want to brag about the 2,000 hours you have billed (while a tangential benefit of billing this many hours will be making yourself money by way of a bonus, the primary benefit is making your firm money). Therefore, organizing your social time in six minute packets in a way that helps you remain cognizant of the need to minimize non-law related activities and interactions is a must from Day 1. Here are some tips to reduce your daily social time from a shamefully high, undergraduate level 8.0 non-billable hours into an efficient, Legal

Eagle law school caliber 0.3 non-billable hours.

You can ward off those pesky casual conversations by swinging your arms widely (and wildly) and avoiding eye contact when you walk down the hall. This has the added benefit of showing your colleagues who are slothing around in Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP Hall or loafing in the locker room that you are destined to bill more hours than them: you mean business.

Another effective method is telling people that it strikes you as odd that the library is not open 24 hours a day, especially if the conversation is

» continued on back page

In this issue...

Dean’s Welcome Message
page 3

Legal and Lit plan for the year
page 4

Game of Thrones and fashion
page 11

Obiter Dicta is hiring
page 2

Obiter Dicta

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"Science is the belief in the ignorance of experts."
- Richard Feynman

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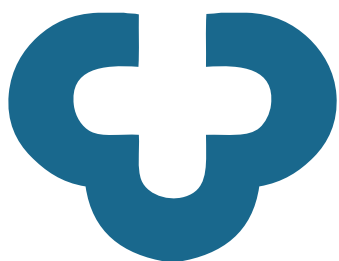
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Submissions for the September 16 issue are due at 5PM on September 8, and should be submitted to the email address above.

Obiter Dicta is the official student newspaper of Osgoode Hall Law School. The opinions expressed in the articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the *Obiter* staff. The *Obiter* reserves the right to refuse any submission that is judged to be libelous or defamatory, contains personal attacks, or is discriminatory on the basis of sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation. Submissions may be edited for length and/or content.

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editorial

From world domination to wordplay

Welcome back Osgoode. The hallowed halls of Osgoode are alight again with the beaming faces of fresh faced first years and their much wiser and more weathered second and third year counterparts. With the cool whispers of the early autumn wind, new change has billowed into the *Obiter Dicta*. We are happy to announce an new and innovative website design and interface, a revolutionary social media platform, and two new Editors-in-Chief.

Our new Editors-in-Chief, Cass Da Re and Karolina Wisniewski, first joined the *Obiter Dicta* in their first year at Osgoode, enraptured by the stories and promise of the literary genius that had come before them. Like a well-written Bildungsroman, they blossomed into careful and meticulous editors, aiding in the growth of young budding writers. It was soon clear that the dynamic duo were destined to etch their legacy in the timeless black ink that stains one's fingers, the ultimate marker of success in the newspaper industry. In the third installation of this story, Cass and Karolina are honoured to have joined the ranks of the many reputable and successful lawyers who also once shared this title.

Cass and Karolina join veteran editor Travis Weagant as this year's Editors-in-Chief. Together, the trifecta plan to rule the universe with a firm, but benevolent hand. As a tripartite team, we are committed to internal democracy, feast days, and scepters à la Leviathan. However, if, in the off chance said goals for global domination do not pan out, we are equally dedicated to the time-honoured tradition of spearheading your definitive source for Osgoode news.

Lest we neglect to honour and acknowledge our stellar editorial staff in our relentless pursuit of global domination, allow us to introduce the impeccable editors, without whom we would be tragically amiss. Citlally Maciel, who is quickly outpacing Christiane Amanpour as the most trusted and accomplished journalist to grace this world with her presence, joins us

as News and Opinions Editor. Angela Yang – or as you may know her, Angie Sheep – spent much of last year whipping Osgoode's woefully substandard fashion sense into shape, bestowing upon us the wisdom of Tyra Banks with the poise of Anna Wintour in her fashion column. This year, she heads up our Arts and Culture section. Andrew Cyr reprises his role as Sports Editor, and among other things, we hastily await what is sure to be his diligent coverage of the Maple Leafs' inevitable rise to success... or something like that.

Patricia Wood joins us as Copy Editor, flexing her accuracy and attention to detail as she catches all the typographical errors that occasionally fail to be caught by the tired eyes of Ozzies who have spent one too many hours poring over their Tax Law textbooks. Adam Cepler will be our Business Manager. It is a rare and wondrous thing for a law student to be able to draft a memo AND successfully use a calculator in his or her spare time, but Adam has managed to master this impressive feat. You can thank our Layout Editors, Wendy Sun, Marie Park and Devin Santos, for utilizing their flawless aesthetic sensibilities and piecing together the mind-boggling jigsaw puzzles of articles and advertisements, thus bringing you the *Obiter Dicta* in its laid-out glory every two weeks, like clockwork.

We have utmost faith in our excellent team of editors, staff writers, and contributors to share cutting edge and breaking news on a biweekly basis. The year ahead promises challenge and excitement, as law school tends to do. We are looking forward to braving the unknown together with our fellow Ozzies, and to having some fun whilst doing so. Here's to another year of classes and exams, interviews and applications, moots and Mock Trial, cram sessions and all-nighters. We hope you've missed us as much as we have missed you.

Sincerely,

Captains of the Universe (a.k.a. Editors-in-Chief)

the obiter is hiring

For those of you who missed the impeccably-crafted emails, we're looking for some help doing what we do. We'd like to fill two positions:

1L Business Manager: the unstoppable Adam Cepler is looking for a 1L partner to assist with the management of the *Obiter's* finances and its relationship with advertisers. Must enjoy beer and pizza.

Website and Social Media Editor: the *Obiter's* new website is currently under construc-

tion and will be up and running by October. We need a dedicated soul to post articles more frequently than our regular biweekly publication dates, and to make humorous status updates and Tweets (unless they're about something really serious). Must enjoy beer and pizza.

If either of these positions sound like your dream job (or even if they sound like CV padding), send a current CV and cover letter to the email address in the masthead. We'd love to hear from you.

Welcome to the class of 2016!

LORNE SOSSIN
Dean

Welcome to Osgoode for what promises to be a remarkable year!

You will be on hand for (and, I hope, will help shape) a range of “firsts” for Osgoode. For example, this year we welcome Osgoode’s first “Artist in Residence,” Cindy Blazevic, who will be leading a course built around photographic essays of the closure of the Kingston Penitentiary. We look forward to the completion of Charles (Ya’Ya) Heit’s signature indigenous carvings, which will transform the former “mixing area” between Gowlings Hall and the Classroom wing of the new Osgoode building. We welcome two academic stars who joined Osgoode’s faculty in July 2013, Professor Philip Girard and Professor Cynthia Williams. In addition, our teaching and research program for this year will be enriched by a host of visitors, including Professors James Allan, Fay Faraday, and Jennifer Nadler, Osgoode Catalyst Fellowship holder Amar Bhatia, Lewtas Visiting Professor Ronalda Murphy, McMurtry Visiting Clinical Fellowship holders Ronda Bessner, Jeffery Hewitt, Mark Freiman, and David Lepofsky, and Genest Global Faculty Victor Nabhan, Peter Fitzpatrick, and Isabel Karpin.

And, the Class of 2016 has much else to look forward to in the years to come as well – among other highlights over the next three years, you will be among the first Osgoode students to arrive at York by subway (scheduled to open in 2015)!

Osgoode’s 2011-2016 Strategic Plan, “Experience Osgoode,” (<http://digital.yorku.ca/i/59910>) which was unanimously adopted by Faculty Council, represents a bold roadmap for the future.

For students, the Plan highlights the importance of experiential learning, community engagement, accessible legal education, and undertaking research which helps shape public debate.

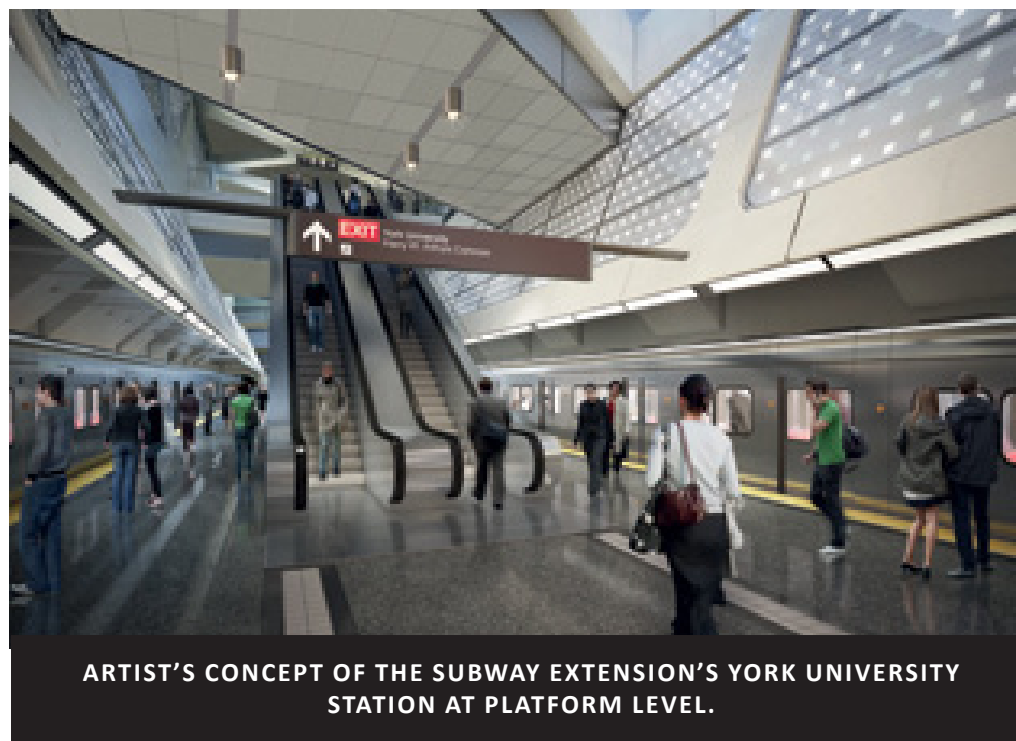
Beginning with the Class of 2015, every Osgoode student will complete an experiential component as part of the J.D. Program.



DEAN LORNE SOSSIN

Last year, to support this new curriculum, we launched the Office of Experiential Education. The first of its kind in Canada, this Office provides a centre of gravity for Osgoode’s diverse experiential programs. Kim Bonnar (’09) returned to Osgoode to lead this Office, alongside her leadership role in the Career Development Office.

Experiential learning takes seriously the entire student experience, not just what happens in a classroom or clinic, or what gets graded and assessed. For this reason, Osgoode has also added its first-ever Counsellor and Wellness Officer. Melanie Goela (’03) returned to Osgoode last year to provide students with her expertise, resources, and support. We also have arranged with York University’s Counselling & Disability Supports (CDS) enhanced access to mental health services for Osgoode students. This year, Osgoode’s commitment to inclusion and experiential education will come together as we launch the Disability Intensive Program, led by CLASP Clinic Director Marian McGregor and Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk, in collaboration with ARCH, a legal



ARTIST’S CONCEPT OF THE SUBWAY EXTENSION’S YORK UNIVERSITY STATION AT PLATFORM LEVEL.

aid clinic specializing in disability rights.

While accessibility, experiential education, and deepening the culture of research at Osgoode continue to be priorities, the aspect of the Strategic Plan on which we will focus for the coming year is digital legal education. The digital transformation has the potential to affect

every aspect of the Law School, from recruitment and admissions, to student services and alumni relations, from the curriculum to pedagogy, from the conduct of research to the dissemination of scholarship. Under the banner, Osgoode’s Digital Initiative, we will chart an ambitious path forward, and we are keen for your ideas. You can read the background document, check out the resources that will inform our discussion and share your own thoughts on the Osgoode Digital Initiative Moodle site. You can access the site by clicking the link on the MyOsgoode student portal homepage and entering the following enrolment key once you login to Moodle: Ozdigital13/14.

While we focus on a bold future, we also continue to explore and celebrate our rich history. This

Fall, we will mark the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources & Government with an exhibit in the Osgoode: Then and Now niche and an event as part of the Indigenous Bar Association’s Annual Conference to be held this year at Rama, Ontario. We will also be unveiling a birthday video as we get ready to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of Osgoode Hall Law School in 2014.

Looking back and looking forward, the bonds that tie together the Osgoode community con-

tinue to resonate – especially the desire to see law as a journey to justice. Your years at Osgoode will be shaped by continuity and change. Ultimately, however, your law school experience will be what you make of it. I hope it provides for you the same wealth of opportunity, challenge, support, and sense of purpose that it has provided and

continues to provide for me.

For updates on my take on life at Osgoode, including an elaboration of some of the themes touched on here, please check out my blog at <http://deansblog.osgoode.yorku.ca/> or follow my twitter feed @DeanSossin.

L&L President Dylan McGuinty welcomes students (back) to Osgoode

DYLAN MCGUINTY
Contributor

Welcome to Osgoode! ...And also to our community, to a new stage in your life, to the beginning of life-long friendships, to study groups and group work, the library and lectures, to new prescription glasses, and fond memories.

At Osgoode, when you invest in yourself, the professors and staff honour your effort with their time and energy. If you participate in extracurriculars and student government, the experience enriches you. And when you invest in Osgoode after you graduate, you get a classroom named after you!

“Legal and Lit” (as it is affectionately known) is here to help make law school a positive and transformative experience for everyone. You can join a club, start a club, or just focus on your studies - we are here to enhance your experience. Law school can be stressful, and it’s important that you remain aware that because it is a sizable investment for each of us, resources are available to support you. Melanie Banka Goela, Osgoode’s first Student Success and Wellness Counsellor, provides support when pressures become particularly difficult - shoot her an email at mgoela@osgoode.yorku.ca. The Osgoode Peer Support Centre in the clubs area will also be launching its open-door drop-in sessions again this fall.

Legal and Lit has many exciting activities and initiatives planned for the year. Our focus will be to continue in the tradition of our predecessors to build our law school community. We plan to do this with the following initiatives, but would like your input along the way:

1. Continuing the events that bring students together and create and strengthen friendships, including:

- The annual ski trip;
- Pub nights, including the JCR pub;
- The Dean’s Formal and 1L Informal;
- O-Week; and
- Intramural sports.

2. Encourage Clubs to Work Together

This year we will allow the 70-plus student clubs at Osgoode to share resources with each other while maintaining the strict accountability measures put in place last year. We will also create a central online calendar that clubs can use to collaboratively find dates to organize events that don’t conflict with each other; and create a database to which clubs can contribute ideas they are willing to pursue together.

3. Promote Student-Led Working Groups to

Develop Policy Proposals

This year we are making funding available to clubs to organize policy working groups at Osgoode. These student-led, clubs-driven working groups will organize guest lectures and expert panels to explore policy issues that interest students and create policy proposals as well as legislative bills and amendments which they can disseminate to the public.

L&L will not dictate or approve policy proposals, but will create the forum for genuine discussion and advocacy.

4. Weekly Programming in the JCR

Legal and Lit will work with our bar manager, the one and only, the effervescent and energetic Zorn Pink, to organize weekly programming in the JCR to showcase Osgoode student talent as well as cultural and artistic expression.

We will also be organizing a number of outings to some of Toronto’s hippest joints and most posh places with the help of our very own Alex Payne, L&L’s Social Convener. Why not take in a musical on your way to Pub Night?

5. Establish an Alumni Outreach Program within the Career Development Office

Last spring I met with Osgoode’s outstanding

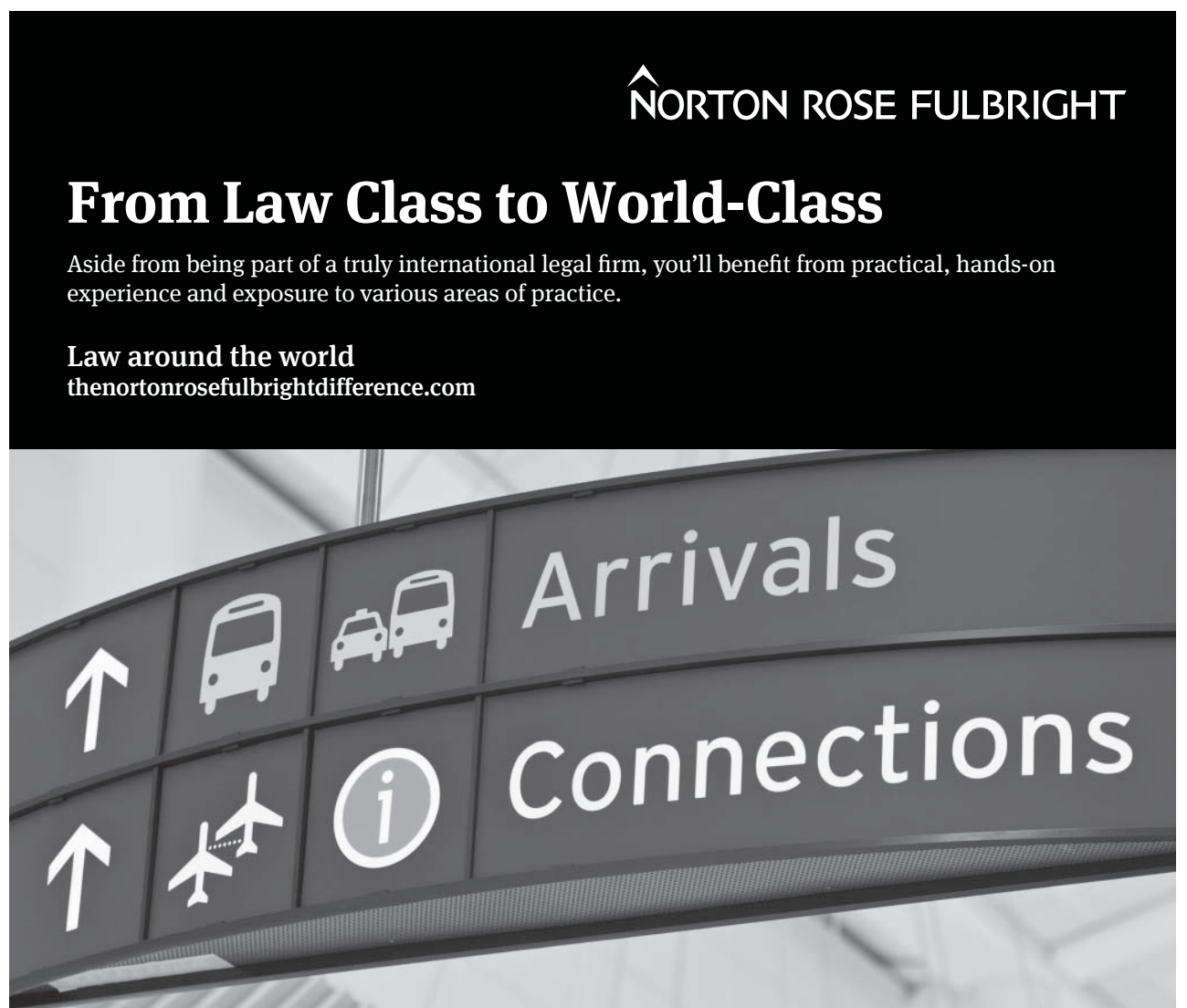
Manager of the Experiential Education at the Career Development Office, Kim Bonnar. Kim and her staff have been hard at work creating a database to help students find workplaces and practice areas through Osgoode alumni who are willing to offer mentorship to students.

6. Mental Health

This year’s O-Week leaders will be trained to be sensitive to the realities of mental health needs, as with all health needs. I will work with faculty over the coming year to advocate for the dissemination of information about mental health services to students. In addition, the Legal and Lit Equity Officer, Ebony Rose, is already busy organizing Mental Health Awareness Week and promoting open discussion around the pressures students face.

The members of the Legal and Lit executive are here to help out. Let us know what you think needs improvement, and what things are working well. Legal and Lit members will hold regular office hours and check their email daily. If you’ve got an idea, you’ve got an ear with L&L! Have a terrific year!

Dylan McGuinty is the President of the Legal and Literary Society.



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Corporate weed has arrived in Canada

NADIA GUO
Staff Writer

Hola. I'm writing this article poolside from a resort condo in Cabos San Lucas, where the weather is fabulous, the sea turquoise-clean and nice, white, American retirees have exerted enough influence over the area that cartel violence hasn't made its mark here. Yet. A Wal-Mart has opened up on the outskirts of town, happily putting all the small grocers out of business, and McDonalds is slowly distributing type-2 diabetes to the town's residents.

A decade ago on a family vacation to Florida my mother was swindled into a timeshare deal. Now she has too many vacation days to know what to do with, and this is why you can find me in this cultureless hellhole full of bros, hos, and middle-aged lobsters. I can understand why old, rich Americans and Canadians would want to retire here, though, because not only are the beaches totally kickass, but we've discovered that if you are interested, you could also buy pretty much any prescription drug you want without a prescription. I suppose they're just "drugs" in that case. Advertisements for Ambien, Viagra, and Vicodin are plastered over every window. It wasn't like this in Mexico City or Xalapa, where I travelled earlier this summer, but one local told us the municipal police have "struck a deal" with the pharmacists. Thank god for the persuasive pull of dólares Americanos, I suppose.

But this article is about weed, not benzos or aphrodisiacs. Corporate bud has come to Canada and you should know what to expect out of marijuana in the next few years.

This summer I worked under the mentorship of Ron Marzel at Marzel Law, who represents a handful of clients soon to become the head honchos of legal marijuana in Canada. Remember that interview I wrote for *Obiter* back when I first started law school on how awesome Alan Young is? Well, one thing led to another, and I was referred to Ron. He represents several big players in the pot industry, including one of the largest compassion clubs in Canada.

It's been a busy summer. Over the past few months, I made my first (and second, and third) semi-legal purchases of prime quality bud, smoked at business meetings, got chastised by serious connoisseurs for calling marijuana "weed" ("It's not a weed. It's a beautiful plant with potentially life-saving properties"), was given an idea of just how highly and jealously pot growers covet their strains, and also learned a great deal about the quickly changing landscape of marijuana policy.

On June 19th, the Marihuana for Medical Pur-
the obiter dicta

poses Regulations ("MMPR") came into force to little fanfare from the general population. More attention was given to Justin Trudeau's announcement that he wanted to legalize cannabis, and his subsequent "gutsy" declaration that he did, in fact, smoke weed, and, not only did he inhale, but he – gasp – "sometimes" even got a "buzz". Ignoring that Trudeau's recent support to legalize is (unshockingly, because come on, he is a politician after all) hypocritical given how he had once voted in favour of imposing mandatory minimum sentences for cannabis offences, we can focus on how legalizing marijuana will certainly facilitate the large-scale commercialization of a crop that is currently a heavily prohibited substance in most jurisdictions.

But, legalized or not, many are unaware that the promulgation of the MMPR has already swung the doors wide open to the production of marijuana on an industrial level. Individual patients with a constitutional right to use cannabis for medical purposes (thanks, *R v Parker!*) will no longer be able to grow for themselves as they did under the repealed program, but licensed producers will be able to sell directly to patients without requiring pre-authorization from Health Canada. Patients will get the equivalent of a prescription from a health care practitioner that they can then

take to licensed producers to buy pot. They are not actually called "prescriptions", however, since this would require cannabis to be recognized as a drug under the Food and Drugs Act, which it currently is not due to "lack of conclusive evidence of the therapeutic benefits of marijuana". This is so even though a court has declared that to deny certain patients' access to cannabis is a breach of their s 7 rights, go figure.

Unfortunately, you won't be seeing Purple Kush and White Shark on your Shoppers Drug Mart's shelves in the next few months. We did come quite close to pharmacists being authorized to dispense in the first draft of the regulations, until they complained that this would put them "at an increased risk of being robbed", or some crap like that. This is a particularly lousy excuse, considering pharmacists stock their shelves with expensive and highly addictive narcotics like oxycodone and other opiates without complaint. Give me a break. No pothead is going to hold up a store for some bud. But opiate addicts hold up pharmacies all the time for hillbilly heroin. However, I've long given up on logic or rationality dictating any policy decisions concerning drugs in this society, so whatever.

» continued on page 10

Green is the new black: be part of the environmental revolution

BIANCA BELL AND NINA MAZZE
Contributors

Are you interested in being part of the environmental revolution?

Are you concerned with how our planet is affected by our actions? Do you want to learn about the connections between environmental law and societal practices? What about how to use the law to promote sustainable development and environmentally responsible resource management? If so, the Environmental Law Society (ELS) is excited to hear from you! We have already begun planning events for the new school year. For our first event, we will be hosting a mixer in the JCR with great prizes to be won, including a lunch with lawyers from Willms & Shier Environmental Law LLP. Later in the semester, we will be hosting a career panel, a movie screening, and a pub night. If you're interested in environmental research or journalism, we hope to have a regular column in the *Obiter*, as well as our "Green Issue" in the winter semester.

We also have a subcommittee, Sustainable Osgoode, that will be addressing all of our campus sustainability issues, including waste reduction and composting.

If you are interested in joining ELS, or inter-club collaboration, come out to the Social Justice Mixer on September 4th between 2:30-4:30 pm, find us at the Clubs Fair on September 6th from 2:00-4:30 pm, visit our website at <http://osgoodeels.wordpress.com/>, or email us at environmentallawsociety@osgoode.yorku.ca.

We are currently looking for two 1L representatives for ELS. If you are interested in applying, visit our website or email us for details. The deadline for applications will be mid-September.

Have a great first week back at school, and a warm welcome to all the 1Ls and transfer students!

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The Career Development Office welcomes you (back) to Osgoode!

KIM BONNAR
Contributor

The Career Development Office (CDO) is excited to announce a variety of new programs and services being offered to students for the 2013/2014 academic year. The CDO is here to support Osgoode Students in defining and achieving their career goals. We are here to expose you to the wide range of career opportunities available and provide you with the tools you need to succeed. Here is an overview of some of the services we offer.

CDO Services:

- Resume and Cover Letter review
- Mock Interviews
- Career Counselling
- Success and Wellness Counselling
- Career Development Resources, Information and Programing
- Success and Wellness Resources, Information and Programing
- Recruitment Programs and Job Postings
- Peer Counselling

Osgoode Legal Ease

Your first source for Career Development information should be Osgoode LegalEase ("OLE"): here you will find job postings, the CDO programming calendar, important CDO announcements, and a vast resource library! You can also book all of your career and wellness counselling appointments through OLE.

You can access OLE by linking through MyOsgoode or at <https://law-osgoode-csm.symplicity.com/students>. First year students will get an email with instructions on how to create an OLE profile. If you are an upper year student and are having any difficulty logging-in, contact Nadine Reid-Warren at nreid@osgoode.yorku.ca for assistance.

New and Improved Document Library

We have reorganized and categorized all the documents in the Document Library on OLE to make them easier to locate. The Document Library Index now lists all the documents available and the category each one falls into. We hope this will make it much easier for you to find the documents you are looking for.

Getting to Know the CDO

This fall the CDO will be piloting a new program called Getting to Know the CDO. Students often have quick questions, suggestion, or updates they want to share with the CDO.

These topics generally don't require an appointment but it can be hard to know when is the right time to chat informally. We will now be hosting weekly hours in the Osgoode History and Archives Project Nook (in Gowlings Hall across from CLASP). Members of the CDO will be available to chat with students during this time. We have selected time slots that vary throughout the week in the hopes that all students have a chance to stop by! The schedule is available on OLE and in the Osgoode Events Calendar.

Working with Student Groups and Clubs

Many student groups and clubs bring practitioners in to speak to students about career related issues. We at the CDO think this is an incredible opportunity for students to be exposed to different areas of law, different types of practices, and different career paths. The CDO would like to support clubs in continuing and growing these initiatives. We are able to suggest/reach out to speakers, help with the administration of the event, advertise to the Osgoode student body, and anything else you may need support with. If your group or club is considering hosting an event send Nicola Martin an email at nmartin@osgoode.yorku.ca and we will be happy to support your event however we can.

Reminders

As many of you are aware the CDO gets very busy at certain times of the year (including the fall recruitment period). The CDO has a number of policies it would like to remind students of, as the enforcement of these policies helps ensure we are able to provide high quality service to as many students as possible.

- Students are generally limited to one application review and one mock interview per academic year, commencing in September. It is therefore paramount you have reviewed the Career Guide (available in the Document Library on OLE) in advance of your appointment and are as prepared as possible.
- All documents related to an appointment must be uploaded to OLE at least 24 hours prior to your appointment.
- Failure to provide 24 hours notice of the cancellation of an appointment (without a reasonable explanation) will result in you being blocked from booking further appointments.
- NEW: resumes and cover letters will only be reviewed after being uploaded in word format on OLE. Emailed documents will no longer be reviewed by the CDO.

The CDO is in Room 1012.



Law is what we do, but it doesn't define us. We're looking for individuals who are passionate about everything in life, including being a lawyer. If this sounds like you, please check us out at www.torlys.com to learn more about us.

TORYS
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Your community and you

MICHAEL CAPITANO
Staff Writer

Law school horror stories surely have made their way to your ears by now: important resources being hidden or sabotaged; students playing mind games or spewing misinformation to gain an upper hand; the niceties and convivial environment are only a façade; the endless hours of readings and assignments that will make you feel like you don't belong and that you'll never succeed; even if you pass, you'll never get the job you want.

'It can't be that bad, can it?' is what you all convinced yourselves. Despite the news articles detailing the grim predictions of the future of lawyering, or the YouTube videos that repeatedly warn prospective law students away from this ancient field of study, you've made your way here, to Osgoode Hall Law School, ready to begin a new chapter in your lives.

I'm not going to lie to you. 1L is tough. Like anything new and challenging, it takes continual adjustment and effort. You'll get so swept up in the commotion that before you know it the year will be over, landmarked by celebratory highs and mental and emotional lows. You'll meet new people, learn new skills and knowledge, feel lost, feel hopeful, grow tired, sweat, laugh.

In mid-November of last year, as exam stress was on the rise, I wrote an article for the *Obiter Dicta*, "The Existential Crisis that is Law School", that attempted to offer reflective advice on how to find oneself in the midst of all the pressures that can often make us feel like we're being pulled apart and pulled away from what makes us who we are. It was more of a stop-and-think piece, perhaps too light on practicality. But after finishing 1L and having a good summer to unwind, the best practical guidance I can give you as you navigate your way through your first year is: do not neglect your community.

So many great things are always going on at Osgoode Hall and York University with so many great, like-minded people taking part. Exploring something new and interesting through organized teamwork is the best way to learn. Make something of your community during your time here and you'll discover more about yourself than you've ever known. As it has been said countless times before: experiment, contribute, create. Organize classroom activities and play games. Think of creative ways to support your causes. If you can't find what you're looking for because it doesn't exist, make it. Start a new club, fundraise, network to seek out opportunities. Do whatever it takes

to make you feel comfortable; seek out ways to make Osgoode your new home.

With an arts and sciences degree behind me, I was ready to delve into the new opportunities that awaited me. I attended Clubs Fair (don't forget to show up!) and signed up for every club that interested me. After sorting through countless club advertisements and calls for executive positions, I ultimately decided on two clubs I could actively take part in. On the cultural side, I helped found OLICA, the Osgoode Law Italian Canadian Association, where we hosted fun events such as an Italian dinner night and an Italian movie night. With an interest in sustainable and socially responsible business practices, I joined the executive of OSCG, the Osgoode Society for Corporate Governance. Among other things, I learned a lot about corporate governance practices, helped organize and attend several interesting talks and lectures, and contributed to the establishment of internship opportunities.

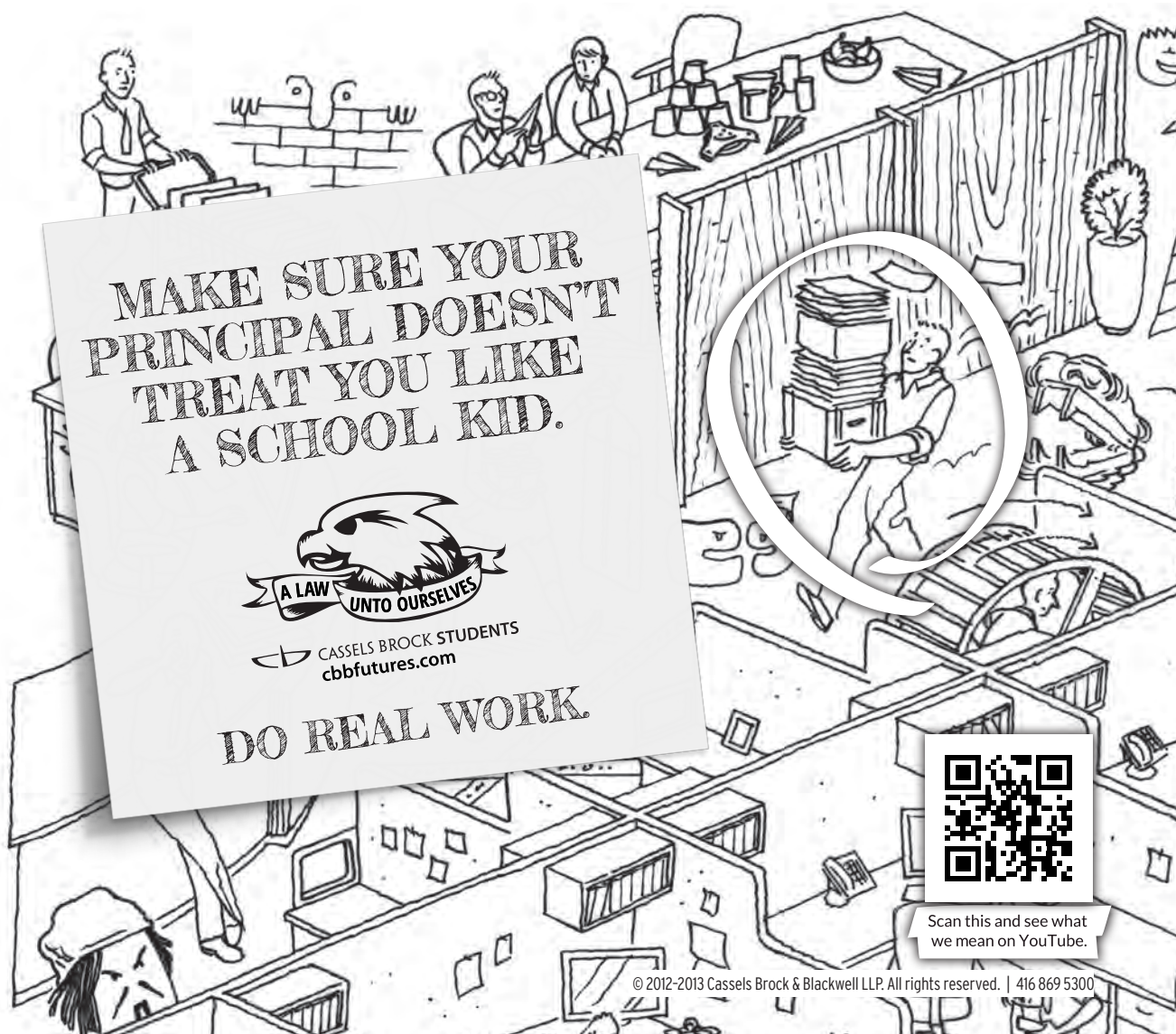
I had no idea I would be engaged in such awesome new activities with new friends prior to law school. I was nervous, unsure of myself, worried that I didn't fit the mould of a typical law student. I soon realized there isn't one. This year, I'm enthusiastic on taking on more responsibility and putting my all behind the

clubs in which I'm invested. Whatever you decide to do, big or small, do it with excitement and eagerness. Another truism: you get out of something what you give into it. Law school is no different.

Time management is as important as ever, so spend your time wisely and keep up with your hobbies. Committing yourself to extracurricular activities adds much needed structure to your hectic schedule. Before coursework began to get heavy, I thought that I would have time for everything. As time became more precious, less important activities fell by the wayside. But I soon found out that there were certain things I didn't want to sacrifice. While I couldn't read much besides cases, writing emerged as something necessary for peace of mind. I would take a brief stroll across campus to the Second Cup at York Lanes, order an Americano and let my creative energy flow. It really helped me keep calm and gave me control over my day as things got busy.

Unite your passions. Just because you're now in law school doesn't mean everything you've done before is insignificant. It's one of the reasons why Osgoode accepted you as its student and why you chose Osgoode as your law school. Take what you know and build upon it. Listen

» continued on page 10



From Bay street to Richmond street

TRAVIS WEAGANT
Editor-in-Chief

I'd like to make a pitch for London. Take a drive two hours west down the 401; take exit 186, and turn right. London has been growing since the 19th century, and is now a city of 360 000, according to the 2011 Census. In the 18th century, Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe selected a location for the future capital of Upper Canada in what is now southwestern Ontario. When a village was founded there, it was thus named for the English capital. However, the presence of dense hardwood forests prevented easy access and construction, and the capital was eventually established in York instead. To this day, London is known as the "Forest City".

I worked there this summer, at a 25-lawyer firm located in the downtown core. For those of you who are still unsure about settling down for a legal career in Toronto, here are some reasons you might want to give London more than a passing thought.

1. It's cheaper

Toronto is the most expensive city in Ontario. One room in a respectable-looking three- or four-bedroom house can cost anywhere from \$600 to \$800 per month. The cost of living alone is even higher, with bachelor apartments available for \$1000 per month, and one-bedroom units for even more.

Ottawa, Ontario's proverbial second city, isn't much better. A city replete with hundreds of thousands of federal public servants, Ottawa's upper middle class is such a dominant demographic that it has permanently damaged the economic incentive to cater to students and debt-laden young professionals. Clean and spacious one-bedroom apartments go for \$1000 per month here. I also won't dignify the price of groceries in downtown Ottawa by discussing it in these pages.

I arranged a sublet for one room in a newly renovated duplex adjacent to downtown London for \$275 per month, utilities, Internet, and 20-minute pedestrian commute included. I could live alone in a spacious one-bedroom apartment for \$800 per month. Parking spots are not a premium option, either; it would be difficult to find a property without one included. It is considered reasonable and affordable for an articling student to own a car in London.

2. It's better for your mental health

I grew up about 20 kilometres south of

London, in St. Thomas, a town of 36 000. London is where we did our Christmas shopping and where we went out to eat. 10 times the size of St. Thomas, it was the "big city." Indeed, London is quite large enough to sustain a small boutique legal practice, and more than large enough to sustain several mid-size and large full-service firms (Lerners employs more than 100 lawyers), which have gathered along and near Richmond Street and Queens Ave in the downtown core.

In other words, you can get an enriching legal experience in London, even though it's not a major financial centre, and you can do it without working yourself to the bone. Some people

tute for that prestige.

London summer and articling students make daily trips to the courthouse (which, admittedly, is a lot less fun than it sounds), occasionally appear in civil motions court, conduct client meetings, interview witnesses, and carry their own small claims files. They also work across many different areas of law. Sometimes this only confirms that you have no desire to work in a particular field. Sometimes, however, it changes your mind about an area of law you never thought you'd enjoy. In all, you simply spend less time at your desk in London than you do in Toronto.

A few warnings: you will make less money (though the cost of living differential compensates for a large part of the salary gap). You will probably need to buy a car. You will occasionally find yourself doing unusual work, and question its relevance to your career. You won't have Toronto's massive breadth of after-work options available to you (though London's food scene is nothing to scoff at).

Furthermore, you'll have some convincing to do, especially if you aren't from southwestern Ontario. Your interviewers will grill you about why you want to come to London, and they will respond to any disingenuous answer with hostility. After all, these firms aren't interested in hiring someone who will jump

ship in 2 years and return to Toronto.

However, if the fast-paced Toronto lifestyle doesn't appeal to you, it's not because you won't be a good lawyer. It's because sitting in traffic or on packed subway cars, paying \$1000 per month to live in a mediocre apartment, and working until 10PM at your desk just aren't things you're willing to stomach to achieve a fulfilling career. So if a more low-key summer, articling, or career experience is for you, I would urge you to participate in the London interview process in February. Keep your eye on LegalEase for details.

Even if London isn't the place for you, I think my summer experience represents a valuable lesson for all Ozzies to keep in mind: when you're called to the bar, it means you can practice law in Ontario. There are lots of cities in Ontario. And they all have lawyers in them.



THE FOREST CITY FROM ABOVE

thrive on pressure and long hours. The sense of urgency and importance fuels their body to superhuman billables. Not me.

The firm I worked at is not stress-free. The practice of law always involves deadlines, many of which are unexpected. Nonetheless, stress is not the norm. The atmosphere there is certainly more relaxed than it is in Toronto. I arrived at work at 8:30, and usually left between 5:30 and 6:00, occasionally because I would have nothing to do in the morning if I did not. I can truthfully say that I never set foot in the office on a weekend. Instead, I carried on living my life.

3. It's a more diverse summer/articling experience

Bay Street summer and articling students work on high-profile projects with national to global reach. They deal with the country's largest clients' most important work. There is no substi-

Corporate weed in Canada

» continued from page 5

There are other workings going on in the background of the MMPR that are certainly going to create some moderate waves in the pot scene in Canada and abroad. For one, the MMPR is – sort of – in direct contravention of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, which stipulates that any production of cannabis is to be treated in the same way as production of the opium poppy (ha!), and thus must be delivered to and distributed by a centralized government agency. The Single Convention was a UN treaty Canada entered into as part of the now laughable effort to fight “the war on drugs”, and is overseen by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). Apparently, the United Nations were overly optimistic when it came to naming this convention, for this “single” convention was followed by two more international conventions on narcotics in 1972 and 1988.

Anyway, the import provisions were exciting news for our clients and their investors alike. You see, the Single Convention provides ample exceptions for the production and trade of narcotics for medical and scientific purposes. So like any good with a healthy demand in the first world, we can outsource its manufacture to some developing country in the global south! We’ll get them to grow our weed, for like, two dollars an hour! Yay, globalization. (Hey, don’t



URUGUAYAN PRESIDENT JOSE MUJICA WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE COUNTRY'S NEW LIBERALIZED MARIJUANA REGIME. (PICTURE FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

give me that look. Why don't you think long and hard about where your iPhone came from, and then come back to me? Welcome to capitalism, baby.) The fact that Uruguay was the first country to fully legalize the production, sale, and distribution of marijuana for recreational use (a huge middle finger to the INCB) was further excellent news for us.

Forget Justin Trudeau, politicians, the INCB. Once marijuana becomes legitimized and commercialized on a national level – where it's no longer your neighbourhood stoner with the grow-op in his basement, but Purdue University with its 40-acre production factory overseas – it won't matter that it's restricted to medical use. There's enough support in the population for decriminalization and legalization. This, coupled with the inevitable corporate cannabis lobbying that is sure to come, means that the doors to the rest of the market will eventually be forced open. Let's face it – corporations are bigger and badder than the state, and this is one of those rare instances where I find myself in support of the corporate interest. For one, there will be lots of money to fund those clinical trials Health Canada needs to authorize cannabis to be treated like any other marketed drug under the FDA, be they objective or not. “Everybody must get stoned!” will

be the chant in Parliament.

It's a great time to make some good money in this industry. Growers who want to become licensed under the MMPR are going to need a lot of capital to meet regulatory compliance thanks to all the security and sanitation requirements. This in turn will mean a lot of money for security consultants, architects, engineers, electricians, quality assurance specialists, lab technicians, and most of all, legal counsel who are masochistic enough to actually read the legislation. In fact, legal advice in this field is in such demand right now that Ron tried to persuade me to ditch law school for good to continue working with him. Or you know, at least defer for a year, which Osgoode allows students to do. “You want to be a starving criminal lawyer forever?” was his pitch.

I had to turn him down in the end, despite how badly I wanted to not be a poor student anymore, and despite how cool it was that the guys who invested and ran Leafly, the awesomest and most well-designed weed app, ever, were looking to invest in our clients.

As much as I love weed, this whole game was too boringly corporate for me. These clients weren't underdog enough for me, and this was all about playing within the rules, not challenging them – a position I'm much better suited to. I was too young to start selling out just yet. I decided to go back to school to learn how to defend murderers and gangsters.

That being said, Osgoode: if you want the dough, you might want to start thinking about chasing down those pipe dreams.

Your community and you

» continued from page 8

to your heart. Seek out opportunities that allow you to maintain your old interests but in the context of the law. For me, I've decided to start OSLAC, the Osgoode Society for Law, Art and Culture, so I could do something productive with writing, while exploring issues related to law and society—and providing a new avenue of exploration within the Osgoode community. All it takes is a little imagination and a willingness to grow. But don't expect to be able to do everything at once. Pace yourself and open up, since you never know what the universe has in store.

So what is the easiest way to become an active member in your new community? Make friends you can trust. I cannot stress that enough. They

will be your lifeline and fall-back when you get into a tough spot. Remember though that you're moving in a tit for tat world. Be kind and expect kindness back; reply to grumpiness with a smile, but don't waste time on people who are only looking to use you for a cheap advantage. Simply seek that awesome place for each of you waiting to be discovered.

But enough with the advice you've heard in some way or another all before and the shameless plugs on my part. I'm going to leave you with an anecdote about someone very special to me that I met at law school. She didn't attend every event during orientation, but made the most of the ones she did. In the first weeks of school, she carried around candy with her to

make friends. She kindly invited me to a study group; we ended up studying all year together. As she got more comfortable with our section, she planned a prank for Halloween on one of our professors. That led to her organizing class fundraisers and activities for causes she supports. She did what she could to make Osgoode a place to call home.

I could go on, but the simple message is this: be genuine; don't forget be yourself; find yourself through your community. Because without community, all those hard moments you're bound to face will trick you into thinking you're alone.

A Little Sheep Told Me: Which *Game of Thrones* lead are you?

ANGIE SHEEP

Arts and Culture Editor

Happy New Year! School year, of course. Hopefully you have all had a wonderful break and are refreshed for another exciting term. For those of you entering Osgoode's halls for the first time, welcome and thank you for picking up the very first 2013/2014 *Obiter* issue.

The *Game of Thrones* series seems to have captivated the entire globe. During my travels this summer, I encountered *GoT* fans from all over the world; even Osgoode chose to adopt this theme for Orientation week. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the hit drama of the season became a strong focal point for the fashion world as well. Many top designers have used the show's female leads as inspirations for the centerpieces of their fall collection. The audience could often readily tell which personality the outfits represent and I am here to share some of the most characteristic and astonishing pieces of this year's fall runway. Maybe you will even find yourself particularly drawn to one influence; I certainly do.

find a contradictory yet fitting necklace.

Fit for a Queen

For me, the word "Queen", when associated with *GoT*, immediately conjures the image of Cersei Lannister. She depicts herself as a willful, powerful and ambitious woman and her wardrobe certainly matches that boldness. Cersei is predominantly clothed in rich, royal colors such as gold and red which never fail to complement her cunning personality. This strong presence and confidence was especially noted on Marchesa and Zuhair Murad's runways. Another signature of this Queen's fashion is the intricacy of her dresses, which have been adopted by Dolce & Gabbana in its covetable shoe collection. The costumes of the dangerously beautiful Cersei never fails to astonish me; I am forever awed by the unapologetic attitude that they seem to portray. Bright colors and rigid fabrics can be the perfect answer when you're feeling like you need a boost.

A Tale of Contradiction

In many ways, Daenerys Targaryen is just as strong, if not stronger, a female lead as Cersei. However, their wardrobes differ dramatically. While Cersei clothes herself in luxurious shades



EMILIA CLARKE AS DAENERYS TARGARYEN

and fabrics, the costumes of Daenerys are meeker and much softer. Nevertheless, they still contain an edge, exemplified by the hard armour and jewels that correspond with her dragons and the ability to rule ruthlessly. This polarity in style has captured the attention of many astute gown designers, such as Blanka Matragi and Terani Couture. As can be seen in the pictures, the dresses are extremely fluid yet there is an unfaltering hardness that completes them. I like this combination for its transferability to everyday fashion. Next time you pick up a soft blouse, head over to the accessories section and

find a contradictory yet fitting necklace.

The Devil is in the Cut

Despite her later introduction, the stunning and mysterious Margaery Tyrell has captured the hearts of many and emerged as a dominant influence for the fashion world. Like Daenerys, Margaery's dresses are easy and flowing, but there is an obvious element of sexiness that is not as dominant in the former lead's costumes. The cuts of Margaery's pieces are daring and invite intrigue and curiosity so it is no wonder that, coupled with her charitable heart, she has become an adoration of the locals in the kingdom. Renowned gown designers Tony Ward and Mireille Dagher have brilliantly adopted these characteristics in their collection. The beauty of this style is in its subtlety. It is revealing but neither flaunting nor tasteless. To achieve this balance in everyday fashion, look for figure-hugging pieces

lined with translucent fabrics, such as lace, silk, rayon, nylon, etc.

A Stark Contrast

When speaking of strong female personalities, Arya Stark is one that cannot be overlooked. Her wardrobe is full of practical and boxy pieces that complement her fearless attitude. This boyish style was readily seen in Jean Paul Gaultier's fall/winter collection. The calculated rip in the sleeve (see picture) aptly represents the harshness of war and strife. As can be seen, leather remains to be a signature piece for this season (as it has been the last two years) - all the more reason to invest in a good quality jacket! For other leather pieces, such as tops and trousers, H&M and American Apparel offer a variety of choices at an affordable price.

Bring Out the Inner Lady

Sansa Stark is a lady. Her feminine grace is exemplified by her movements, speech, and most certainly by her demure wardrobe. Her conservative and underwhelming style provides a perfect juxtaposition to that of the other characters. But even without the extravagant fabrics and jewels, Sansa's beauty is indisputable and shines above many. Designers Zuhair Murad



BLANKA MATRAGI'S GOWNS EVOKE DAENERYS' STYLE

and Jenny Packham have incorporated this stunning simplicity in their current collection. This look is easy to achieve in daily life as it mainly requires plainness, but that should be distinguished from dullness. In order to maintain a sense of fashion, pair the outfit with classy and modest accessories.

There you have it Ozzies: how *Game of Thrones*

has influenced fashionistas all over the world. The characters highlighted here are vastly different and maybe you'll identify with one, a couple, or all of them. In that case, I hope these designers have inspired some new or fresh ways of expressing your style.

The definitive guide to law school success

» continued from cover

about a completely irrelevant topic (eg. family, sleep, a tragic event suffered by the person you're speaking to, etc.). People will shy away from further interaction with you, as they will be intimidated by your undying commitment to success.

You should also reveal only those parts of your personality that strictly relate to legal work. When the opportunity arises, never miss a chance to drop a casual reference to your undergrad Latin honors or administrative experience at a Shop (firm) on The Street (Bay Street). This will reduce social interaction by boring your classmates into submission. By sharing your more interesting and unique qualities (the ones that make you who you are), you may draw colleagues and potential employers alike into pointless and time-consuming social interactions that do nothing to bolster your credentials or expand your knowledge.

Lastly, eschewing social events not only reduces needless social interaction, but also invites your colleagues to draw the inference that you are working harder than them. By rattling them with your reputation as a manic workaholic early on, you may just throw them off when you are thundering away on your keyboard in the exam room. Remember, stories of wildly competitive games of flip cup should remain just that – stories. Law school is a nuclear arms

race, and you should be America.

This brings us to the third and final topic of today's lesson: study habits.

We are sorry to inform you that no longer will your notable wealth of raw talent alone guarantee you success in your academic pursuits. You are in law school now and, unfortunately, the lacklustre work ethic that allowed you to rise above the vacant efforts of your mouth-breathing undergraduate peers will not suffice here at Osgoode. So if you, like us, dream of one day sitting in a corner office, drinking the finest malt beers (Yankee Jim comes highly recommended) while staring into your custom-made temperature-controlled snake habitat, you are going to have to work hard. And work hard you will – all day and night.

But, you may ask, will effort alone be enough to pave my way to academic success, especially given the ambition and enthusiasm of my colleagues? Reflecting on this concern, we are reminded of an old Buddhist saying that is particularly apt in this circumstance:

Q: If a law student studies all night long but no one is there to witness it, has the student accomplished anything?

A: No, they haven't. Studying for absurd lengths of time is meaningless unless all of

your peers know about it. Thus, after a particularly gruelling 27 hours straight of cramming the subtleties of Contract Law into your brain ("past consideration is no consideration, GODDAMN IT"), make sure to remark on this exhausting feat when in earshot of your "friends". This will have the double effect of disheartening others while also demonstrating to those around you that you are a relentless law-bot. Indeed, from now on you must think of yourself as a machine, sent from the future to alter the course of history by destroying law school exams.

And don't bother taking time away from your busy schedule to consort with friends or family – these people are anachronistic relics in your new life, things to be discarded in a dirty Jarvis Street stairwell during your meteoric rise to the top. Remember, "work-life balance" is just a myth propagated by winners to weed out less ambitious students.

Sweet and innocent bottom tiers, internalize these simple steps and you will not only be successful at Osgoode, but will also understand the true spirit of the law school experience. If any of you burgeoning Legal Eagles want further elaboration on what you've read, stop by and visit. You will find us in a boardroom somewhere, sipping on scotch and commenting on the tasteful thickness of our business cards.

The Davies summer experience?

Ask your Osgoode classmates.



Jonathan Bilyk
Class of 2015



David Kim
Class of 2014



Marc Pontone
Class of 2015



Shubham Sindhwani
Class of 2015



Emily Uza
Class of 2014



Alysha Virani
Class of 2014



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