Orientation week a resounding success

TRAVIS WEACHANT
Editor-in-Chief

1Ls and other incoming students arrived on August 29th this year, earlier than last. The early arrival was to facilitate an Orientation Week unencumbered by classes, since such things inevitably awaken a penetrating keenness in law students, a keenness that has, in past years, depressed attendance at certain O-Week events. While the incoming students’ enthusiasm for learning was not to be defeated, the new format made for a whirlwind week that left many, if not all, energized for a stellar year at Osgoode.

Adam Del Gobbo, Orientation Committee Chair and generally known to be the man behind O-Week 2013, has 6 years of experience as a participant or leader in orientation activities, but this was his first year as an organizer. Asked to comment on how things look from the O-Committee’s point of view, he said: “This was a very different experience but in the end I think it’s likely because we were better at disseminating information.”

Del Gobbo is confident that this year’s Game of Thrones-themed week went smoothly. He states: “I'm not sure if [the improved turnout is] because of the new dates, I think it’s likely because we were better at disseminating information.”

This year’s agenda comprised some classics from past years, including trivia night, the pub crawl, and graffiti bowling. A new addition was a karaoke night, held at the Fox and Fiddle Yorkville, where the four 1L sections vied for the all-Osgoode singing crown, which Section C ultimately captured. Del Gobbo remarked that the event “went off without a hitch,” and wishes to give “special recognition to the girl in 1L who ripped her pants while twerking on stage.”

The Obiter Dicta would be remiss if it did not add: “don’t mind me tooting my own Horn of Jaramun here.”

Indeed, this year’s event turned out 293 registrants, 43 more than 2012. Del Gobbo is unsure whether the early start was responsible: “I’m not sure if [the improved turnout is] because of the new dates, I think it’s likely because we were better at disseminating information.”

Adam was joined by a large and competent O-Committee, comprised of Vice-Chairs Lisa Durnford and Steven Broadley. Crossing over from L&L were President Dylan McGuinty, Social Convener Alex Payne, VP International Douglas Judson and Treasurer Waleed Malik. The indispensable Events Team: Sarah Munkittrick, David Nisker, Florence Sze, Eman Khoshbin, Jamie Walker and Nicole Veitch. Sylvia Guirguis, Mitchell Rattner and Petter Hurich were the logistics wizards, and Hurich deserves a case of Blue Star for repeat-edly straightening out the bus transportation provider. Lucy Liu oversaw finances; Jon Silver and Laura Wilson took care of the Spirit and Leadership portfolio, and Harjot Atwal and Trevor Moum looked after securing sponsorship from the week’s many benefactors. Last but not least, the Obiter’s own Marie Park sketched this year’s section crests, which were so prodigiously creative that we might have to start paying her.
Is it a bad time to be studying law?

NADIA GUO
Staff Writer

It’s a bad time to be studying law. Perhaps others have said it before. Did others say it before? All I want is that simple consolation prize; to know that others have felt the way I have felt. (Is that the human condition? To sit in good company.) I mean, I was always critical of certain aspects of the law, especially post-G20 and #occupy. The question of whom the law really serves always looms above my head. But a year ago when I first started out at Osogoode, I was still somewhat wedded to the idea that law separates us from chaos, and that texts like the Charter were a true shield against corruption and interference with individual liberties. I wasn’t going to law school to change the world and feed every starving World Vision mascot or anything, but at least I could get to know the system a little better, sidle up to it, sway into its lap, and identify its weaknesses.

But then one warm day in late May, that NSA thing happened. Pieces of the trust I had tentatively reserved in the system were swiftly annihilated with every article I consumed.

It’s a terrible time to be studying law when the executive branches of “the developed world” can surreptitiously sidestep the laws that supposedly govern everyone. It’s a terrible time to be studying law where there are secret courts that almost indiscriminately authorize wiretaps into our everyday communications. It’s a terrible time to be studying law where the evidence gathered this way is used in a prosecution with its methodology falsified, thereby weakening the defence’s right to make full answer and defence. It’s a terrible time to be studying law when government transparency and accountability has been proven absent time and time again. It’s a terrible time to be studying law when activists like Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning, Barrett Brown, and Edward Snowden face lifetime sentences in solitary confinement for attempting to create that transparency and accountability. It’s a terrible time to be studying law when everything that is supposed to be empowering about knowing how the law works is swept under your feet.

It’s not just what Snowden has leaked either. On August 22nd, blogger Aditya Mukerjee posted an entry about his detention by TSA and FBI agents. Unfortunately, this sort of detention seems to be an expected protocol by now. One of the chilling aspects of the story isn’t the injustice of the detention and interrogation to which Mukerjee was subjected, nor is it the fact that TSA agents don’t seem to understand the difference between Muslims and Hindus.

Rather it is what he reveals at the end of the post: during his detention at JFK, unknown persons had entered his New York apartment, which was evident from a religious photograph missing from his wall.

Cynics reading this might want to point out that all of these events concern the American government, not ours. But Snowden revealed that it was not only the American government that was spying on their citizens. The United Kingdom, Germany, New Zealand, and France were all doing it too. There is little reason to not suspect the Communications Security Establishment (CSE), NSA’s Canadian counterpart, isn’t also hiding its dirty laundry. In fact, Commissioner Robert Decary, a retired judge who oversees the CSE, has indicated that although there is reason to believe that the agency is spying on Canadians, he can’t be sure due to “poor record-keeping.” Previously, Defence Minister Peter MacKay had unequivocally denied that the government was spying on its citizens, which would be an affront to section 8 of the Charter. But President Obama essentially said the same thing and was proven wrong, so you can be the judge of those statements. It wouldn’t really be the first time a politician has lied to the people, something that seems to be the rule rather than the exception.

Am I right to be so disillusioned and disempowered? Maybe I’m being pessimistic. A less embittered person would say maybe this is the best time to be studying law. Be the generation to improve the system, triumph over corruption, and all that. But the more bites I take from the apple of knowledge, the less likely the possibility of doing that from within the system appears to be. And law school is all about teaching how to uphold the status quo. There are things the state is terrified of its people knowing, and there is proof that it will go to great lengths to prevent, denounce, and punish those who try to flout their barriers to accessing that information.

As Andy Greenberg posits in This Machine Kills Secrets: How WikiLeakers, Cypherpunks, and Hacktivists Aim to Free the World’s Information, an exposé on whistleblowing in the post-WikiLeaks, hacktivist era, technology has made copying and sharing classified documents exponentially easier than back in the days of The Pentagon Papers, where Daniel Ellsberg had to manually photocopy an 8-foot tall document page-by-page. It’s important to remember that Chelsea Manning got caught not because she didn’t properly cover her tracks — it was her lapse in judgment when confiding in what she
Rethinking frosh

MIKE CAPITANO
Staff Writer

“We like ‘em young. Y is for your sister; O is for oh so tight; U is for underage; N is for no consent; G is for grab that ass.”

I could end my article here and let the students of St. Mary’s do the talking for me. But where’s the fun in that?

The now infamous chant has led to flurries of commentaries, calls for discipline and the like. There hasn’t been one frank discussion about why we even bother at all with the tradition of Frosh Week. It’s wrought with stereotypes, much of it is forgettable and it forces students to engage in hollow revelry.

That’s not to say orientation isn’t important. Your new school should feel like a place where you belong. It’s just that mindless chanting doesn’t foster school spirit (just sore throats and fleeting feelings of camaraderie). I’m sure being inculcated with a culture of rape doesn’t make girls feel at home.

For me, the most memorable moments of orientation were not getting drunk or trying to spout off verses louder than the rival group beside mine or listening to speakers drone on about what great experiences await. They were found in the lulls: on the bus ride to the pub crawl, in between throws at a bowling alley, getting lost on campus with a new acquaintance. Organic moments. Not socially constructed, overly planned adventures.

Hookup culture doesn’t exist. Only half of the population are extroverts. Being herded like sheep from one event to the next degrades individuality. So why is frosh week tailored to be a giant party, replete with alcohol, booming music and awkward conversations?

I’m not saying Osgoode does it wrong. Law students are more mature than our fresh out of high school brethren and our student leaders are smart enough to find the right balance. I was determined to step out of my shell and put in as much of me as I could. I embarrassed myself singing karaoke, participated in a ball hockey tournament, went to dinners with new classmates. I ended up winning the spirit award for my floor. A month later, someone wrote on the whiteboard attached to my dorm room door: Stop playing music. You fucking suck. By November, I was homesick beyond belief and didn’t really feel like my campus was my home. I know it’s partly because of my personality. But returning the next year, it was no longer a scary place. The time spent learning and bond-

Opening ceremonies seem necessary. So do the welcomes of upper years. Silly icebreakers too. Throw in a concert to generate some buzz. Maybe a pub night and a semi-formal. A guest speaker here and there. Ah, that didn’t really get us anywhere.

What if schools did nothing? What if the underage teenagers with their first tastes of freedom weren’t received, but were simply expected to unpack their things and go to class. Would it be alienating? Frosh week or not, students who like to party will end up partying; students who prefer low-key events will enjoy quiet nights alone or with a few friends.

Frosh is fun, but often overwhelming and tiresome. Before my first year of university began, I was determined to step out of my shell and put in as much of me as I could. I embarrassed myself singing karaoke, participated in a ball hockey tournament, went to dinners with new classmates. I ended up winning the spirit award for my floor. A month later, someone wrote on the whiteboard attached to my dorm room door: Stop playing music. You fucking suck. By November, I was homesick beyond belief and didn’t really feel like my campus was my home. I know it’s partly because of my personality. But returning the next year, it was no longer a scary place. The time spent learning and bond-

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An open letter to my fellow 1Ls

KORTNEY SHAPIRO
Contributor

It seems that the perpetual question plaguing our minds for the last four months has been, “where is summer?” due to the inclement weather we have been experiencing here in Toronto, much to our disappointment. The question now remains, “how is it already the start of school?”

Although the subsequent storm of assignments, readings and exams will no doubt fill our schedules in the coming months, we have so many opportunities at our feet this year—our first year, let alone our first semester at law school. Let’s take the initiative to meet one another and branch out from our sections to learn more about how truly diverse this class is. It has only been one week, and yet I already feel an undeniable energy from the group, a different kind of energy from that of undergraduate or post-graduate orientations and introductory terms.

Who was it that said, “There is something in the air?” Surely, there seems to be something in the Osgoode air. Maybe it is that romanticized notion of the fall season, where you can still ride your bike around campus, begin to pull out your sweaters and fall boots and comfortably sit outside reading without the oppressive summer heat. Whatever it may be, we are all coming to Osgoode, each with different life experiences, educational and professional backgrounds and it is this very variety that we should take advantage of and learn about our peers as people, friends and colleagues. Perhaps this will be through collective study groups, discussions with one another after class on cases that left us confused or inspired, inter-section events (a film screening of the 1973 cult classic The Paper Chase, anyone?) among others.

For those who are not from the city or are here studying as visiting students, take advantage of this amazing city when you need a break between studying and your academic and extra-curricular responsibilities. Take in everything Toronto and its surrounding areas have to offer in the form of culture, food (think gastro-pubs, elaborate food trucks, the best brunch), theatre, markets and architecture. Check out the St. Lawrence market downtown on Front Street on a Saturday for an array of imported cheeses, cured meats, sweets and exotic produce from the world over.

On Sundays, the market is closed and in its place across the street, remains a corner stone of Toronto’s prized weekend activities; the St. Lawrence Flea Market, which is bound to pique your interest especially if you are one for discovering that what is old is new again. Walk through Trinity Bellwoods Park or check out the stores in Bloor West Village or in the posh shopping district of Yorkville (a prime location for the occasional star sighting). From the Art Gallery of Ontario with its newly renovated space, to the visually enticing Daniel Libeskind addition to the Royal Ontario Museum on Bloor, we are so lucky to be studying at a university here in Toronto.

With O-Week having come to a close, let us maintain the excitement we had over the course of the last few weeks for the coming semester and soak up everything we can for the coming year. In the meantime, enjoy your first few weeks and lets make 2013-2014 the most interesting and exciting year yet.

I leave you now with a Seinfeldism, a piece of pseudo-law related humour from our dear friend Jerry.

“Kids could always resolve any dispute by calling it. One of them will say, ‘I got the front seat. I want the front seat. I called it.’ And the other kid has no recourse. ‘He called it, what can I do?’ If there was a kid court of law it holds up. ‘Your Honor, my client did ask for the front seat.’ The judge says, ‘Did he call it?’ ‘Well, no, he didn’t call it...’ He bangs the gavel. ‘Objection overruled. He has to call it. Case closed.’” – Jerry Seinfeld

Editor’s Note: the Obiter Dicta endorses J. Seinfeld J’s approach to justice. Justice Fish left some “big shoes to fill, but the Prime Minister would do well to consider Mr. Seinfeld for a lay appointment.

Caring about your food is more important than you may think

KIRAN KANG
Contributor

Toronto’s 29th annual Vegetarian Food Festival took place this past weekend, bringing together vegetarians and curious allies for three days of workshops, lectures, cooking demonstrations, and delicious food samplings. Certainly, when one thinks of vegetarianism, food comes to mind. The wide array of events held during the Festival, however, proved that vegetarianism is a much heartier topic than simply saying ‘no’ to eating meat. The Festival included a panel discussion on the moral, ethical, and political implications of eating animals, a workshop on using food to help cope with common diseases, and a lecture on how to incorporate sustainable practices into your day-to-day. Festivals like this encourage us to remember that the choice of whether to eat a burger or not isn’t just a simple yes/no question. Underneath that decision are equally important questions: whether or not you support certain farming practices, animal welfare, or environmentally sustainable agriculture, to name a few.

In Toronto, we’re lucky to have a vibrant local food community that’s committed to supplying the city with ethically farmed fruits, vegetables, and meats. And, it looks like our Ontario government is also interested in putting local foods onto our plates. The proposed Local Food Act, 2013, which aims to promote local food economies throughout Ontario, has already received its fair share of support within agricultural and health-minded circles. Ravenna Nuaimy-Barker, Director of Sustain Ontario, described the proposed Act as a “positive step in the right direction” for Ontario’s farming communities, noting that “truly supporting local food systems in Ontario will require addressing many more issues and opportunities.” Events like the Vegetarian Food Festival play a significant role in getting conversations about what we eat and where it comes from started. Defining what the issues and opportunities are that we need to focus on can only be determined through discussion, conversation, and trial and error. Festivals like this provide a positive space for these discussions to be had between farming experts and those who just love to eat and are curious to learn about their food.

If you’re interested in talking more about the Local Food Act, vegetarianism, or farming practices, feel free to drop us a line at environmentallaw@osgoode.yorku.ca. We’d love to hear your ideas to keep the conversation going!
Law student volunteers for local gang of petty thieves to help underprivileged youths

EVAN IVKOVIC
Contributor

A second year law student at a prestigious law school, Graham Wilkins, has joined a local youth gang and is helping them rob people of their possessions and money. When asked about his motivation for joining the gang, Graham said, “As a representative of my law school, which is committed to helping underprivileged members of society, I decided to volunteer my time helping the under-18 members of the local gang in their operations. This typically involves the robbery of local university students by way of ‘deft’ hands, intimidation or sometimes force.”

When further pressed on why he joined the gang, Graham noted that “the gang I joined is largely composed of impoverished youths, and since my school requires me to do social work for a law degree and I need a law degree to work for a large corporate law firm, it just made sense.”

We approached members of the gang for a statement. They promptly stole most of our material possessions. Afterwards, one member, who chose not to disclose his identity, praised Graham’s ability to quickly adapt to the rigours of robbing random civilians, noting that “he’s robbed more people than any other member of our crew and he’s only been with us for 3 hours”. Another member of the gang said, “Graham is the scariest person I’ve ever met and I regularly hang around guys who’ve been to prison.”

Graham’s work for the gang has not gone unnoticed. A partner at a large business law firm, who spoke under the condition of anonymity, said, “That’s the kind of initiative that we look for at our firm. Graham’s volunteer experience shows that he has the right kind of attitude to be a successful corporate lawyer.”

But volunteering for the gang has not been without unique challenges. “It’s pretty awkward robbing fellow law students, especially if I know I’m going to have class with them the next day”, said Graham. He followed up on that statement by clarifying that “that’s just the nature of the work, though.”

Some are hesitant to join in on the praising of Graham. Third year law student Ashley Greene, when asked about her thoughts on the matter, said, “I’m pretty sure robbing people is illegal, and if it’s illegal a law student and future lawyer should not help anyone rob others, even if those people are underprivileged. I don’t know for certain though, I’ll have to go check my textbooks.”

Nyla Nardique, an alumna of the school, touting herself as a rare voice of reason, took a more dogmatically critical stance, stating that “what Graham is doing is unequivocally horrible and my law school’s endorsement of Graham’s gang affiliation has completely tarnished the fondness of my law school memories, as well as my grip on reality.”

Yet Graham is not bothered by the challenges, or the criticism. “I believe in myself and everything that I do. Honestly, I’m loving this, and I plan to be with the gang for the foreseeable future,” said Graham, later flashing a subtle but menacing grin that left us with a chill feeling. We then ended the interview and scurried away in fear when Graham began leering at our iPhones.

Thursday Pub Nights

Keep your eye on the “Thursday Osgoode Pub Nights” Facebook group for details on upcoming Thursday merriment. We never miss a week.

Student Caucus Applications

Fancy a spot on a Faculty Committee this year? There are seats available on the Academic Policy, Admissions, Equality, Information Technology, Osgoode Community Enhancement, Research and Seminars, Teaching and Learning, and Student Awards committees. Send a current CV and statement of interest (max 500 words) to jeffreyhernaez@osgoode.yorku.ca by Friday, September 20 at 5PM. You can apply to a maximum of 3 committees. Questions can be forwarded to same or to jeffreymitchell@osgoode.yorku.ca.

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An orientation week for the history books

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also acknowledge a certain Section A leader who “twore” his pants at the Welcome Gala the following Saturday.

The week was not without its snags. Del Gobbo recalls that the first day of the week was “the most stressful overall,” citing delays in registration, a mismeasured BBQ, and an unidentified individual at the bus company with their head implanted steadfastly in their ass.

Nevertheless, Del Gobbo has an orientation spidey sense, and he “knew it would be relatively smooth sailing for the rest.”

Together, trivia night, karaoke, the pub crawl and bowling capped four jam-packed days from August 29 to September 1. The afternoons preceding these events also held their share of excitement, sending incoming students on a scavenger hunt around the barren York University wasteland; into the grand avenues of Bloor West in an attempt to trade up dollar store merchandise for the biggest and best material goods possible, and finally to the fields beside Osgoode Chambers for spirited sports and games.

New to this year’s games repertoire was the thematically-appropriate jousting, in which smaller students sit atop a sturdier partner, armed only with a pool noodle dipped in water-based paint. The pairs galloped toward the centre of the arena, each attempting to spear the other rider and mark them with a section colour not their own. When asked if he learned anything at all in his first-year Torts class, Del Gobbo dismissed the question, calling it “another discussion for another day,” and mumbled something about waivers.

The excitement was palpable, and a couple of tumbles only added to the crowd’s enthusiasm. The very picture of sportsmanship, Adam DiSimine of the Section D Starks simply smiled after receiving a noodleful of Lannister red to his face and teeth from Roop Dhillon of Section A, who was perched atop noble steed Zack Garcia.

Given the holiday Monday to recuperate, Orientation returned from September 3-6, introducing incoming students to Osgoode’s enthusiasm for board games, BBQs, and its clubs, including the faithful Obiter Dicta. Friday night nearly ended in disappointment as an administrative misstep left the Moot Court unavailable for a low-key movie night. Luckily, a flash of law school resourcefulness produced an intimate screening of The Dark Knight in the Owl’s Nest.

Saturday saw leaders and incoming students alike discover that Ozzies are a good-looking bunch when they trade in their section t-shirts for jackets, ties, and dresses. This year’s Dean’s Welcome Gala was held at the Ontario Bar Association-owned venue at Twenty Toronto Street. After a welcome message from Dean Sossin, each section successively tore up the dance floor in a last effort to bring home bragging rights and the newly-minted – and suitably hefty – Spirit Cup.

Before the presentation of the ultimate honour, the four sections’ leaders bestowed MDC gift cards and their praise upon the incoming students they felt best exemplified the O-Week spirit. Section A Lannister winners were 1L Abigail Cheung and Dutch exchange student Imran Hyder, who, as you may expect, always settle their tabs. The Section B Barathenes honoured Ryan Robski and Mykim Truong, though it is possible they were not previously aware that they were Barathenes at all. The Section C Greyjoys recognized Melissa George and Sandy Hayne as true ironborn, and the Section D Starks proclaimed Ladi Onayemi and Danielle Knight to be virtuous beyond any other in Westeros.

Likewise, incoming students nominated those leaders that they felt had exemplified the same spirited quality. Though she demonstrated no particular proficiency at controlling dragons, the O-Committee Targaryens paid homage to Florence Sze. Baratheon Robyn Blumberg took home some free textbooks. The Greyjoys’ inimitable Steven Holm and David Major of the House Stark were also honoured. Section A chose to reward… er… this is awkward…

In the end, it was the Lannisters’ lion-inspired routine – spanning a Disney soundtrack, 70s funk, and Katy Perry – that allowed Section A to twerk their way to the Spirit Cup. The rest of the night was thick with revelry, much of it consumed directly from the Cup itself. It will need to be washed.
The curious case of Chief Wahoo

DANIEL STYLER
Staff Writer

During my early elementary school days, my wardrobe almost exclusively consisted of sports-related clothing. I was completely indiscriminate when it came to the team depicted on my T-shirts, sweaters, jackets, and hats, so long as I thought that what I was wearing looked cool. Teams that I had no allegiance to or interest in were well-represented in my dresser drawer, all in the name of ten-year-old Daniel’s idea of high fashion.

I was quite fond of Cleveland Indians apparel. In particular, ten-year-old me loved the over-the-top caricature of an Indian (the team’s choice of words, not mine) depicted on their hats and jerseys. This wasn’t just any Indian, either. This was Chief Wahoo, the cartoonish, very red-faced, headdress-waring American Indian with the triangle-shaped eyes, wide smile, and bright white teeth:

Twenty-six-year-old me thinks this is a problem, and this problem was articulated in a recent Cleveland Scene article by Sam Allard: Chief Wahoo is “an aggressively racist symbol, and it’s mortifying if you take thirty seconds to look at the image, or think about it in a human context, or any context other than, you know, a ‘logo.’”

Chief Wahoo isn’t just a harmless caricature drawn by a street artist depicting some nameless kid skateboarding or playing guitar; it’s a caricature that has the effect of portraying an entire race of people in the least dignified way imaginable. Despite innumerable protests – including annual Opening Day protests held in Cleveland – against the use of the Chief Wahoo logo, he is still featured prominently on every uniform the Cleveland Indians wear.

Earlier this year, Cleveland Indians president Mark Shapiro, echoing earlier statements by the team’s owner, stated the following: “Chief Wahoo’s not going anywhere” and the Indians’ team name is “recognition of our pride and affiliation with the first Native American baseball player.”

Louis Sockalexis, a Native American, did indeed play parts of three seasons with the Cleveland Indians in the late 1890s, and is often credited (though not universally so) as being the first person of Native American ancestry to play Major League Baseball. Using Sockalexis as continued justification for Chief Wahoo, though, appears to be nothing more than an example of a bad (and overly convenient) case of revisionist history.

Sockalexis played fewer than 100 games for the team, dealt with racism and taunting throughout his short-lived career, and was an alcoholic (he once injured his ankle after jumping from the second-story window of a brothel in a state of drunkenness). Joe Posnanski, one of the most distinguished and well-respected sportswriters of this generation, asks the following: “Why exactly would people in Cleveland – this in a time when Native Americans were generally viewed as subhuman in America – name their team after a relatively minor and certainly troubled outfielder?”

Even if Bob DiBiasio, the team’s VP of Public Relations, is sincere when he insists that Wahoo is a means to “acknowledge and foster the legacy of” Sockalexis, fostering the legacy of someone via racial caricature is a bit perplexing. It seems to be the Aboriginal equivalent of the Los Angeles Dodgers honouring Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play Major League Baseball, by replacing the iconic interlocking LA logo on their hats with a depiction of Little Black Sambo and his dark, dark skin, excessively white eyes, and exaggerated bright red lips (he could be holding a baseball bat for good measure).

The Cleveland Indians may be the most egregious offender when it comes to offensive logos in professional sports, but they are certainly not alone.

The Washington Redskins, for instance, are currently enduring controversy over the team’s name. Two of the most prominent sportswriters in America, Bill Simmons and Peter King, are both boycotting the use of the nickname Redskins (with Simmons calling them the “Green and Orange” and King calling them the “Red Skins”) currently enduring controversy over the team’s name. Joe Posnanski, one of the most distinguished and well-respected sportswriters of this generation, asks the following: “Why exactly would people in Cleveland – this in a time when Native Americans were generally viewed as subhuman in America – name their team after a relatively minor and certainly troubled outfielder?”

I do not consider myself to be some sort of politically correct zealot, and often find myself rolling my eyes at some of the things people find offensive. But it is discouraging when, in 2013, we are still talking about why it is wrong to disparage a historically underprivileged and marginalized race of people (and to make money via merchandise sales while doing so).

Is it a bad time to be studying law?

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thought was a trusted source. A shrewder individual would most likely have avoided Manning’s fate. Cryptography has developed to a point where drug dealers can deal Schedule I narcotics openly on online black markets such as Silk Road without criminal repercussions thanks to the anonymizing aspects provided by new technologies such as the onion routing network (Tor). Senator Chuck Schumer has called Silk Road “the most brazen attempt to peddle drugs online that we have ever seen... by light-years.” This technology was fundamental to how WikiLeaks protected the sources of leaks such as Cablegate in 2010.

Greenberg predicts that information leaks of this type are inevitable on the rise. Despite their legality, I am becoming more and more convinced that they are better servants of justice than the law itself. Manning was sentenced to 35 years for exposing the vast misconduct of the American military to a population that deserved to know. There is something sick about a legal system that calls that justice.
Pigskin prognostications

ANDREW CYR
Sports Editor

Of all the major professional sports, NFL football may be the least predictable. Last year, I wrote an article attempting to predict the NFL’s division winners at the season’s midway point, and was still laughably incorrect, as three of the teams I picked to win their divisions missed the playoffs altogether. Nonetheless, I am going to attempt to do the same this year. Feel free to track me down in December and laugh at me when these predictions prove horribly wrong yet again.

AFC North
Last year’s Super Bowl champs, the Baltimore Ravens, lost a number of key veterans this off-season and will look to their Super Bowl MVP quarterback Joe Flacco to direct them back to the playoffs. However, the division title will be hotly contested among the Ravens, the Cincinnati Bengals, and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Look for this to be the year that the Cincinnati Bengals finally take the division crown. The Cleveland Browns are a team on the rise, with a strong defense; however, they are not going to be successful with Brandon Weeden under center.

AFC South
The Houston Texans should have little difficulty repeating as division champions this season, as both their offense and defense is head-and-shoulders above the rest of the division. Sophomore quarterback Andrew Luck can be counted on to keep the Indianapolis Colts competitive, but I expect them to take a step back this year after last year’s surprise playoff appearance. The Jacksonville Jaguars and the Tennessee Titans each have a long way to go to catch up to their division competition.

AFC East
With both the Buffalo Bills and the New York Jets starting rookie quarterbacks, the AFC East appears to be the New England Patriots’ division to lose, despite the loss of star receiver Wes Welker. The Miami Dolphins are an intriguing team that loaded up on free agents this off-season, however, they do not yet have the weaponry required to dethrone Tom Brady and the Patriots. Expect the Dolphins to challenge for a wild card spot.

AFC West
After watching Peyton Manning’s seven-touchdown domination of last year’s Super Bowl Champion Baltimore Ravens, I do not think I am going out on a limb by predicting the Denver Broncos to run away with this division. It is Super Bowl or bust this year in the mile-high city. While Oakland and San Diego appear to be on the decline, look for the Kansas City Chiefs to push for a wild card spot with new quarterback Alex Smith, superstar running back Jamaal Charles and a surprisingly strong defense.

NFC North
The site of some of the fiercest rivalries in all of sports, the NFC North has belonged to the Green Bay Packers in recent years. Expect this trend to continue, as Aaron Rodgers and company will find a way to win, even if the Packers’ D remains suspect. The Minnesota Vikings rode running back Adrian Peterson to a playoff spot last year; however, I expect them to come up short this year. Instead, the Detroit Lions will return to the playoffs behind a more balanced offense thanks to newcomer Reggie Bush. The Chicago Bears will put up a fight, but age is not on their side and I expect them to fizzle down the stretch, similar to last year.

NFC South
The Atlanta Falcons have dominated the NFC South for the past couple of years. I expect it to be much more competitive this year, as the New Orleans Saints should bounce back with coach Sean Payton reinstated from his one-year suspension, and as the Carolina Panthers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers continue to improve. It may be a couple more years before the Panthers or Bucs catch up to the Falcons or Saints. I think the New Orleans Saints will win the division this year, and the Falcons will earn a wild card.

NFC East
The always-entertaining NFC East was turned upside-down last year, as rookie sensation Robert Griffin III led the Washington Redskins to the division title. Having undergone knee surgery, RGIII will be hard-pressed to repeat this feat in a traditionally tough division. The Philadelphia Eagles are expected to bounce back from last year’s disappointing season, and the New York Giants and Dallas Cowboys both have enough talent to win as well. I’ll take the Dallas Cowboys in another very close race.

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I know what you did last summer

CITLALLY MACIEL
News Editor

This piece is for you 1Ls. If you are like me, you are already thinking about next summer and beginning to explore your options. If so, congratulations! You are on the right track. Succeeding in law school requires, among other things, methodical planning. First, do your research. If at this point you do not know your options for summer employment, you are so behind you should not even bother. A job in retail awaits you.

Yes. This is my attempt to prank you 1Ls, but you guys are probably too smart for my jokes. In fact, you probably know everything there is to know about summer jobs. I will nonetheless give you some unsolicited advice and share with you my own summer experience. At the risk of sounding trite, I will tell you to relax. Yes, anxiety is unavoidable in law school but it is important to keep things in perspective. This is especially so when it comes to summer jobs after first year.

First, let’s talk Bay Street. The reality is that there are not many jobs available for first year students. At about 250 students per each of the six Ontario law schools (plus those out of province), you have in theory a total of more than one thousand students competing for a very small number of available jobs. Yet, you should not let this discourage you. If getting a summer job is very important to you, you need to work really hard. Especially during first semester, as the marks you get then will be the measure by which law firms will evaluate your suitability. Again, it is all about perspective. If after all the effort, you are not successful in getting a job, remember that there are many other disappointed souls just like you. Smile.

Second, always remember that you have other options. There is no doubt that a Bay Street job comes with many perks. However, this is not the only choice out there. Do not feel pressured because everyone else is doing it. You are not in high school anymore. At this point, many of you have probably heard of community legal clinics such as CLASP and Parkdale. These two places are excellent alternatives to Bay Street jobs. In fact, if you are all about practical experience, working at one of these clinics may be a better choice for you. This is not to say that the Bay Street experience is trivial. The difference is that 1Ls will rarely have the opportunity to manage their own files with these firms. At the legal clinics, however, students run the show. They are involved in interviewing clients, attending court, and other similar tasks. These are also coveted positions, and so volunteering at either one of these places during first semester is a good idea.

Third, you do not even need to get a legal job. All of us have schooling or work experience that is sufficient to land a worthwhile summer job. Some students decide to go back to their old job, or opt to try something new, or decide to open their own business. If this is a possibility for you, you should give it a go. Aside from the obvious financial gains, you will acquire valuable skills that will translate into the legal field. Opening your own business will show that you can take initiative, while working at a summer camp will reveal that you can be a leader. It is all about being creative.

Fourth, you do not even need to get a job. Many of us do not have that luxury. If you do, you might want to consider taking advantage of it. Seriously. For one thing, this may be the last fun summer of your life. I know it sounds dramatic but the fact that life will become more stressful and full of responsibilities is unavoidable. Second, that first year of law school is stressful and is an understatement. You deserve a break!

Now, the best part! My internship at the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACE) through the Ian Scott Public Interest Internship Program. Ok, that was a mouthful so let’s divide and conquer. First, the Ian Scott Public Interest Internship Program is a program funded by our school with the assistance of generous donors such as the firm Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP. The official description, a.k.a. Osgoode’s description, is as follows:

This award was developed to support the initiative of students interested in social justice/public interest and is available to students who attain summer work experience at a public interest organization such as a legal aid clinic, advocacy organization or non-governmental organization. Preference will be given to a student who is working unpaid or underpaid. Recipients must demonstrate consistent high academic achievement and financial need.

Second, ACE is a legal clinic based in Toronto that specializes in the legal issues of seniors. When I first learned about the Ian Scott Public Interest Internship Program, I knew that I wanted to volunteer at a place like ACE. Call me crazy but volunteering and interacting with seniors has always been a fun and rewarding experience for me. I have always treasured their wisdom and charm. Yet, through these experiences, I have also become aware of the neglect and abuse that can afflict their lives. My search for a placement inevitably led me to ACE.

In general, volunteering at ACE provides an opportunity to experience the diversity of endeavors of the legal profession. In addition to providing free legal services to low-income seniors, ACE undertakes to educate the public and engages in advocacy efforts to generate legal reform. For my part, I was interested in the legal reform aspect and so I wanted to focus on conducting research that would assist ACE in their advocacy efforts. Coincidentally, ACE was planning to write a research paper that, if accepted, would become part of a legal reform project funded by the Law Commission of Ontario.

Accordingly, the main part of my internship was devoted to conducting research for this project. However, I was also involved in other interesting activities. For instance, I was able to attend a number of events, such as the Elder Abuse Symposium. The Universal Challenge. I was also asked to be ACE’s proxy at a meeting assembling representatives of a number of Toronto’s legal aid clinics such as the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Disability Law Centre. Attending this meeting was a unique experience that allowed me to meet individuals involved in remarkable work. Other undertakings included assisting with the intake process and, most notably, managing the file of one of ACE’s clients.

Overall, this internship was an excellent introduction to legal practice through the lens of social advocacy. In addition, I was able to meet interesting people with whom I established professional and personal relationships. Most importantly, this internship allowed me to make a contribution that, although small in the greater scheme of things, was of enormous significance at a personal level.
European envy

KAROLINA WISNIEWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

Though I profess no expertise in the realm of fashion (I instead defer to our resident fashionista, Angie Sheep), and though I prefer to reserve all extraneous and non-law-related thinking for the things that really matter (how will Mary cope with Matthew’s death in the upcoming season of *Downton Abbey*?), my interest was sparked by an article I recently read on the *Toronto Standard* entitled, “Why Montreal Style is Just Plain Sexier than Toronto Style” (http://www.torontostandard.com/style/why-montreal-style-is-just-plain-sexier-than-toronto-style).

The provocative title drew me in and the colourful language made for an interesting read, but I was left feeling skeptical regarding the conclusion of the article and vaguely disconnected about its implications.

The author unequivocally typified Toronto as the less edgy, less interesting and less adventurous city in terms of its denizens’ fashion choices: “Toronto definitely doesn’t have Montreal’s balls when it comes to putting yourself out there and risking public ridicule for the sake of fashion.” The author went on to conjecture that “If a guy wearing a top hat, a metallic gold crop top, jean cut-offs and faux fur platforms strolled down Boul. St-Laurent and asked a group of locals for directions, they’d simply direct him where he wanted to go without blinking an eye. In Toronto, I’d half expect people to clutch their Louis Vuitton bags in horror as they dialed CAMH to report an escaped patient.” As a native Torontonian, I resent the implication that we are inherently puritanical and cripplingly conservative – the lifestyle that we should all pursue? And is it really antithetical to our “North American way of life” to enjoy life as a sad, poorly-dressed, overweight corporate drone with no sense of aesthetic discernment. I may be speaking hyperbolically to drive my point home, but there is some kernel of truth to this, and I’m curious about just how deep it runs. Is it simply a case of “the grass is greener on the other side”? And what about the deeply unsettling suggestion in the article that ability to enjoy life is somehow inversely proportional to economic well-being? Is this all just another rebel sell, the endorsement of some purer, more organic well-being? Is this all just another rebel sell, the endorsement of some purer, more organic well-being?

As previously alluded to, the article carries through it the unmistakable equation of good or superior aesthetic sense (exhibited via fashion choices) with subversion and counterculture sensibility. The author even spent an uncomfortable portion of the article pondering whether Montreal was sexier because it wasn’t “a money city like Toronto.” In a similarly distasteful vein, the difficulty of playing the “Hipster or Homeless” game in Montreal was cited as evidence for the city’s style sensibility. In contrast, a round of said game in Toronto would be thwarted, said the author, by “Urban Outfitters tops, Opening Ceremony pieces, and expensive vintage garments.” It became clear, the more I read, that just as sexiness was equated with style superiority, that superiority was equated with genuine appropriation of alternative culture. In other words, the yardstick for measuring fashion sense is one’s ability, put simply, to dress like a hipster.

Of course, the glorification of counterculture as visionary and otherwise aesthetically/socially/intellectually/metaphysically superior to the rest of us drudges meekly serving The Man and unquestioningly embracing the hallmark of the status quo without so much as a passing thought to the fact that we’re all being 1984-ed is nothing new. It’s also none too permissive. The rhetoric employed by espousers of this view is about as convincing as any of Mitt Romney’s campaign speeches. But precisely because it is nothing new, and precisely because every generation has embraced counterculture in its own way, it is likewise per- vasive and a tendency that is apparently not going anywhere. Our collective obsession with all things “alt” is also, I think, closely related to our glorification of European culture as the more open-minded, liberal and unprejudiced alternative to stuffy North America. Though this was not explicitly discussed, the author obliquely alluded to it when she mentioned “European liberalism” as one of the things that makes Montreal such a great city. It would be easy enough to substitute “Montreal” for “Europe” and “Toronto” for “North America” in the title, leave the rest of the article unchanged, and draw the same conclusions on an international scale. And suddenly it all made sense. The article, if a little misguided, perfectly articulated our collective North American cultural envy of Europe. Characterizing this envy purely as an issue of fashion simply misplaced the emphasis; substandard Toronto style is not the problem, but merely a symptom of it. Whether it’s fashion, music, film, art, food or wine – whichever pseudo-liberal lens you use to measure the cultural sophistication, and consequently (at least the argument goes, in the article), the ability to embrace the essence of life, Europeans seem to come out on top time and again. This sentiment is so widespread it was featured front and center in the somewhat recent *Eat, Pray, Love* (although, to be fair, Italians weren’t the only victims of Julia Roberts’ shameless cultural fetishization in the film).

How sad, then, that we seem to all have implicitly accepted such a lot. And how sad that at least some people feel that a North American tendency to torpedo through life without stopping to smell the flowers seems to sentence each one of us to life as a sad, poorly-dressed, overweight corporate drone with no sense of aesthetic discernment. I may be speaking hyperbolically to drive my point home, but there is some kernel of truth to this, and I’m curious about just how deep it runs. Is it simply a case of “the grass is greener on the other side”? And what about the deeply unsettling suggestion in the article that ability to enjoy life is somehow inversely proportional to economic well-being? Is this all just another rebel sell, the endorsement of some purer, more organic lifestyle that we should all pursue? And is it really antithetical to our “North American way of life”, whatever that means?

As a first step to sorting through some of these questions, I propose that we all start wearing top hats, metallic gold crop tops, jean cut-offs and faux fur platforms to class. Who’s in?
We always want to look good, and some of us want to look good every minute of every day. But how do you reach this goal without giving in to your laziness? Check out our tips for last minute occasions or when you hit the snooze button a few too many times.

**Check All Angles**

This is one of the best pieces of advice I have ever received myself. I believe every girl dreads going through the awkwardness (and utter embarrassment) of finding out that her skirt has been tucked in her underwear or learning that there is a huge run down the back of her pantyhose. Therefore, always check your backside by taking a reverse look in front of your mirror. When we are in a hurry, it is easy to forget everything but our fronts, and (as I’m sure you all know) when you’re in public, no side of you is left unseen or unexamined.

People are paying attention to how you look and to the directions you are giving. Therefore, always check your back. This will ensure that your fashion perfection shines through all angles.

**Are You Hot to Go?**

Another important pointer is to practice moving around in your outfit before hurrying out the door. You can start by taking a bow in front of the mirror. Is your skirt riding up? This is a particularly important step when it comes to the workplace, as you may often encounter occasions where you have to reach across the table or pick up something you’ve dropped. Next, sit down and then walk around to see if your skirt is riding up too high. A full or half body slip can be the solution to your dress or skirt climbing up your thighs. If you discover that your outfit is not as “hot to go” as desired, it is oftentimes the best idea to change; don’t torture yourself the entire day with worries about whether people around you are noticing (or worse, discussing) your faux pas.

**Simplicity Can Be Your Answer**

We always want to look good, and some of us (the more ambitious ones I guess) also want to create the next brilliant fashion statement. But when you’re pressed for time and only have a few minutes to select the day’s outfit, it is probably best to opt for simplicity. There is a reason why we all have our go-to’s. They may not be iconic or covetable, but for some reason, they always work, always look good, and always come to our rescue in desperate fashion times. And if you want to change up the ordinary look, grab an eye-catching accessory (e.g. scarf, necklace, handbag) to complete your outfit. If you don’t have a go-to or are looking for a new piece, select wrinkle-free materials because who has time for the iron when the alarm fails to go off?

**The Iron Substitute**

My deep disdain for ironing has compelled me to adopt some lazy tactics to combat (deep-set) wrinkles, one of which is throwing my wrinkled clothes in the dryer for a few minutes before putting them on. This technique has saved my outfits many times when I stubbornly insisted on wearing those pants that were wrinkled beyond help. But don’t forget to check the clothing label first to ensure it is dryer-safe!

**Throw on A Blazer**

Blazers have become one of my favorite and most relied-on pieces since starting law school. They pull almost any look together and never fail to give you the professional aura that adds a bounce to your step. A bright, unique blazer can also be the item you need to make your go-to pieces come alive. One drawback about blazers is that they can be easily wrinkled, and if you opt for one that is not dryer-safe, you should always take the extra step of hanging it up after wear. This simple task only requires seconds but will save you many minutes later on. Nothing is more disappointing than finally selecting the perfect item and then discovering it is not ready for wear due to your laziness days ago.

My busy Ozzie pals, I hope these few tips will enable you to have a smoother and stress-free morning so you have the time to run to the bistro to grab that much-needed cup of coffee. These easy-to-follow pointers, though extremely simple, are often overlooked in times of hurry. So remember them and never be a victim of time crunches!

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**Rethinking frosh**

(continued from page 3)

ing with my school over the course of eight months did the trick. Not a week packed full of activities and random people.

The goal of orientation should be to take the magic of new experience and try to string it out for as long as we can. Not reinforce stereotypes and offensive behaviour for the sake of tradition. No one likes missing out on frosh events. We need to remember that we’re in control of what we link that feeling to.

We know what kind of culture we would like our universities to be. It’s high time we re-evaluate how to make that play out on the ground to stomp out despicable behaviour before it’s allowed to fester.

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**Where great work and great people come together**

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crossword

Across
1- Fool
5- What’s left
9- Diminutive being of folklore
14- Suit to
15- Switch ending
16- Causing goose bumps
17- Celestial body
18- Large village
19- Spoil
20- Short-tempered person
21- Where junk may be held
24- Extraterrestrial
26- Yes, to Yves
27- Occur
30- Infinite time
35- Bottomless gulf
36- German Mister
37- Exultation
38- Craggy hill
39- Dancer Duncan
42- Nav. officer
43- Paradise lost
45- Sect
46- Fable
48- Resound
50- Emphasis
51- “… ___ the cows come home”
52- Mead subject
54- Taro
58- Relate
62- Moral precept of conduct
63- Object of devotion

64- Made a hole
65- ___ European
66- Peter of Herman’s Hermits
67- Songwriter Bacharach
68- Draft classification
69- Supermodel Cheryl
70- Cpls.’ superiors
71- Snack

Down
1- Cummerbund
2- Sock ___ me!
3- Crux
4- Possibly
5- Keep possession of
6- Eat into
7- Plant
8- Heaps
9- Circuitous way
10- Eroding
11- “Tosca” tune
12- Circular band
13- Celebration
21- Varnish resin
23- It’s human
25- Teases
27- Misanthrope
28- Dwelling
29- Funeral fires
31- Horse’s gait
32- Actress Graff
33- Camp sights
34- Approvals
36- ___ monde
40- Climb
41- Role player
44- Naught
47- Speech
49- Sisters’ daughters
50- Separates metal from ore
53- Nautical direction
54- Fender bender
55- Yours, in Tours
56- Foot covering
57- Pen points
59- Part of A.D.
60- Mid-month times
61- Flood survivor
64- Made a hole

Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com and Canadian University Press. Used with permission.

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