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Obiter*Dicta

Vol 87 Issue 14

The Definitive Source for Osgoode News

April 7, 2014



SAY HELLO TO THE TEAM THAT'S BEEN BRINGING YOU COVER STORIES ALL YEAR: (LEFT TO RIGHT)
STAFF WRITER SAM MICHAELS, BUSINESS MANAGER ADAM CEPLER, LAYOUT EDITOR HEATHER PRINGLE,
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF TRAVIS WEAGANT AND CASS DA RE, STAFF WRITER EVAN IVKOVIC, LAYOUT EDITOR MARIE PARK,
NEWS EDITOR CITLALLY MACIEL, AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF KAROLINA WISNIEWSKI.

Obiter insiders dish on inner workings of secretive organization

CASS DA RE, TRAVIS WEAGANT, AND KAROLINA WISNIEWSKI Editors-in-Chief

The three of us sat in 0014G of the Ignat Kaneff building. As the sun set on one of the last Fridays of Cass and Travis' law school careers, the mood in the *Obiter* office took a nostalgic turn. After unsuccessfully attempting to piece together the events of the Dean's Formal that took place a week earlier, the last meeting of the 2013-2014 *Obiter Dicta* editorial board meandered towards decidedly more introspective territory. What follows are the sage words of your outgoing EICs, as they answered my (sometimes inane) questions and shared the wisdom they've amassed in their years as law students.

Karolina: So how do you guys feel about graduating? Are you excited, depressed, nervous? What's the consensus on all the feels?

Travis: The feels haven't really set in yet.

Cass: I don't think I've come to terms with the fact

that I've never been out of school. I did JK to JD so I've never been an adult.

K: Well, at least the regularity of your student lifestyle will remain. You'll have to be somewhere everyday at like 8 o'clock, right?

C: That's optimistic. I'll be articling at a downtown firm, and I'll be getting there at 6:30 am so...

K: What's the bar situation?

C: I'd like to go.

K: To one?

C: Yes. There's like a black box in my brain that I have filed it in. I don't want to think about it.

K: Are you going to start studying as soon as exams end?

T: You don't have to. They send you the stuff...I don't really read.

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Obiter Dicta

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"A witty saying proves nothing" - VOLTAIRE

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See you in September!



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EDITORIAL

The Unreasonable Man gives you advice

I don't take advice well. I think I'm naturally mistrustful of the presumptuous, despite being very presumptuous myself. When people give me well-intentioned guidance, I usually disregard it. Thus, I have no expectation that any of you will consider the following seriously. In fact, I've never expected anyone to agree with anything I wrote here (there's a special circle of hell for those that do). But some of you read it, and that's good enough for me. So, without further ado, I present to you the wisdom of decades (and I barely qualify for the plural) in 900 words. As far as the Unreasonable Man is concerned, here are the two things you should know about life.

The first is that no one can be extrapolated. I'll explain what I mean. The world is awash in sloppy reasoning, mostly because it's easier to take mental shortcuts than it is to come to terms with the staggering uncertainty inherent in human beings. I don't blame folks for taking these shortcuts, but that doesn't make them less troubling.

The most insidious of these fallacies is guilt by association. It happens when you claim to invalidate someone's opinion or argument by associating it with an undesirable person or idea rather than addressing its substance. For example, arguing against the construction of divided highways because a certain German happened to enthusiastically support the construction of the *autobahnen* in the 1930s.

This fallacy has crept into our consciousness in less pronounced ways. I speak of the tendency to extrapolate other people's beliefs, situation, personality, experience, and other personal characteristics from unrelated things that you happen to know about them. We do this with political beliefs when we assume that card-carrying Liberals who advocate for a national daycare program are also pro-choice, or when we assume that a union activist supports an increase in the minimum wage. We do this with language, when we assume that an anglophone living in Québec is not a sovereigntist. It's more than stereotyping; it's the agglomeration of stereotypes into mutually exclusive categories until there are, conveniently, fewer types of people in the world. It seems to be instinctive to think this way.

An economist, an accountant, and a lawyer visit Scotland. They come upon a field; in the field stands a cow. The economist says "Ah! I see that the cows in Scotland have spots." The accountant says "No my friend, one cow in Scotland has spots." The lawyer chuckles, shakes his head, and retorts: "You are both wrong. One side of one cow in Scotland has spots." Professor Li told me this joke. It's supposed to mean that lawyers lack the ability to make the inferences that facilitate normal human

interaction. Perhaps this is true, but the same attitude is what allows us to fight the tendency to extrapolate. That's the kind of lawyer I aspire to be. If you want to know something about someone, don't infer it. Ask them. I've never met a person who couldn't surprise me.

The second thing you should know about life is that nothing is ever as big a deal as it seems. Whenever contributors submit work to the Obiter and want to be published anonymously, I tell them this story. 18 months ago, I Googled myself. Among the first page of results were: multiple results from this fine publication in whose very title I claimed to be the embodiment of unreasonableness, a Globe and Mail story from 2010 in which I was misquoted, and another Obiter article in which I claim that the publication's secret backissue archive is hidden "in our porn folder." And yes, the word "porn" appeared on the results page. In fact, I've used the word twice more now, which probably means that if I Google myself in a week, the search engine will probably ask "Did you mean Travis Weagant porn?" But until that time, and since a few months ago, the top Google result for my name is the website of the firm where I will be articling. They hired me, unreasonableness, misquotes, porn, and all. Turns out that my Google personality wasn't a big deal at all.

I was also told in 2010 that law schools scan applications for extracurriculars in which candidates have participated for many years, demonstrating focus and commitment. During my undergraduate, I gave away almost none of my time for free, and had six different jobs, two of which lasted for less than four months. And yet here I am, about to graduate from law school. Turns out that my extracurriculars weren't a big deal at all.

The point isn't that everything always goes your way despite setbacks. Hell, I wanted to be an astronaut. The point is that the setbacks, especially the ones you can't control, are never the end of the world. If you can ride them out with grace and perspective, you'll be happier. Plus, overcoming obstacles is like employer catnip. Interviewers love that shit.

So that's what I've learned. Now that I've written it down, it looks a tad cliché. I wouldn't blame you at all if you ignored it. But if you've made it this far, at least you read it. In fact, it seems that some of you have been reading my tripe for three whole years now. For that, you have my sincerest thanks. As parting words, I have to come back to what I'll miss the most about law school – my friends – and the two things that always brought us together. The best advice I can give you, Osgoode, is to eat pizza, and drink beer. Worked for me. •

Blue Jays to not play anyone at second base

EVAN IVKOVIC

Staff Writer

The Toronto Blue Jays, in a surprise twist, have just announced that they will not be playing a second baseman, despite initially confirming Ryan Goins as the opening day starter at the position. In a press conference, General Manager Alex Anthopoulos said, "Out of desperation we named Ryan Goins the starting second baseman. The previous year we signed Macier Izturis with the expectation that he would be our second baseman for the foreseeable future, but he turned out to be god-awful and has continued to be god-awful in spring training as well. We thought that Ryan Goins would be the logical, in-house alternative, but after carefully reviewing our decision, we have decided that this team is honestly just better off without the shitbag options we have at second base disgracing the field with their incompetence, either defensively or at the plate."

In response to criticism of his decision, Anthopoulos responded by saying, "Listen, it's in the numbers. Ryan Goins, according to our internal statistics team, projects to be a below replacement level player, so by not having him play it's addition by subtraction. Also, new hitting coach Kevin Seitzer says Ryan Goins is hopeless, and this is the same guy who didn't even think Jeff Francoeur was hopeless enough to not bother. As for Macier Izturis, we speculate that he was the cause of Melky Cabrera's back tumour, so we're just hoping he either retires or dies. We have no interest in having him even give eye contact to the other players on the team, let alone actually play baseball in any capacity."

What about free agency? Stephen Drew, whose natural position is at shortstop, has expressed a willingness to play second base—as he has in the past—depending on the right situation. Drew turned down a qualifying offer from the Red Sox, and has still not found a suitor to meet his contract demands, despite the impending start of the season. The Jays could sign Drew to play second base, and also to act as a back-up to Jose Reyes at shortstop in case of injury—which would be especially prudent for the Jays given Reyes' history with injury and his most recent MRI confirming a mild hamstring strain that could bother him throughout the early parts of the season.

Anthopoulos, when pressed on the issue, defending his inaction this offseason, saying, "Okay, for one, we got rid of JP Arencibia, so that should give us about 10 wins right there. Dustin McGowan has been on the weighted balls program, so we project him to win the Cy Young. Buehrle is not depressed about his pit bull anymore, so we shouldn't have to worry about him



encountering the same early season woes that he did last year. During the offseason, RA Dickey climbed three more mountains, wrote two additional autobiographies, a screenplay about his journey through baseball, and started a religion centered on worship of the knuckleball—so we're confident that Dickey will get his Zen back and pitch like a front-end starter. Hutchison is a young kid who shows a lot of promise and who definitely won't get injured due to our poor pitching instruction and lack of a competent medical team. Ditto for Morrow. What I'm saying is that this team looks so good we don't need Stephen Drew, or anyone playing second base at all. The position is just overrated anyways."

The *Obiter* approached Scott Boras, Drew's agent, for a comment on the Blue Jays' offseason "activity", and the front office's decision not to play a second baseman. Boras said, "It's ridiculous. Stephen Drew is a legit player and the Jays desperately need him; they have no viable internal options, even at the lowest levels of the minors. The only reason they haven't signed him is either because Alex Anthopoulos is an idiot or Rogers is just cheap—and it's probably the latter. Have you seen how much they charge for internet and data plans? And you're telling me you can't sign Stephen frickin' Drew? I mean we're talking about...

Stephen. Frickin'. Drew. I know I'm his agent, but there's only so much selling of a player I can do before I'm not taken seriously in the industry. It's Stephen Drew, man. Just give him whatever you have in your piggy bank and I'm sure he'll be ecstatic to sign. If you don't have anything in your piggy bank, then whatever you have under your couch will work, like an old piece of gum or even just lint."

Regardless of the criticism, the Blue Jays plan to continue the year without a second baseman—that means no Ryan Goins, Macier Izturis, or even free agent Stephen Drew. How long the Jays will continue with this strategy of not having anyone play second base remains a mystery. One thing is for certain, though: the Blue Jays do not have the foggiest chance in hell of making the playoffs. •

THUMBS DOWN to...

Lawyers. A slimy profession, if there ever was one.

NEWS

Entertainment for all: a perspective on the 2014 **Osgoode ESLA Conference**

SAM MICHAELS

Staff Writer

With television and movie producers increasingly turning to the Internet to reach audiences, and the music industry in a state of chaos as they lose hold of the proprietary value once held in their product, it is clear that major changes to the entertainment industry are underway. Significant shifts in the expectations of audiences, the makeup of that audience, and the availability of services, have meant that a fundamental rethinking of the value of entertainment is required. Within this context, entertainment lawyers are being forced to choose sides, holding on to the traditional values of the industry, or innovating to try and capture profitability within the changing landscape. Given that such substantial changes have already become engrained in our culture and expectations, I would argue that innovation has emerged as the only viable option.

At the 2014 Annual Osgoode Entertainment and Sports Law Association Conference, an interesting and well-run event held in early March, the growing divergence in the entertainment industry was on full display. While some speakers seemed to approach the changing marketplace with excitement and intrigue, others made clear they were perfectly comfortable in the confines of the status quo. In the morning session of the conference, Dave Hopkinson of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment accurately articulated the excitement in the sports world over the changing landscape. With greater access to games through online services, MLSE has begun focusing their efforts on a user-driven, customizable viewing experience, utilising new technologies and services available through the Internet. The United States is already years ahead of us on this model. This year, March Madness was streamed online for free through the NCAA.com website, on a customizable platform that allowed users to switch between games, check stats, and interact on social media. With such services entering the Canadian marketplace, the industry has little choice but to seek out the benefit of such changes.

The hesitance to take such a forward-thinking approach was clear during the conference's afternoon session. Pamela Dinsmore of Rogers Media seemed to embody the attitude which has garnered her company's negative reputation for years. Rogers is prepared to take only incremental steps into the online television market, and only after other companies have proven such changes successful. While Netflix continues to gnaw away at their customer base, Rogers seems prepared to hold fast. Unfortunately, given their monopolistic position in our marketplace, Rogers is one of only a few companies that could actually still garner

making activities in an online world where viewership does not necessarily translate into profits. Within the legal context, this will likely mean that lawyers provide increasingly consultative services for clients, helping them understand the new financial landscape as they adapt.

Where adaptation seems most needed, and, ironically, most fiercely resisted, is in the music industry. The dissemination of music over the Internet has virtually gutted the industry of its



AT THE ESLA CONFERENCE.

PICTURED, LEFT TO RIGHT: TAYLOR, ESLA CO-PRESIDENTS JONATHAN SHERMAN AND DAN MOWAT-ROSE, MEEHAN.

profits with such a lacklustre approach. Fortunately, another speaker on the same panel, Raja Khanna of Blue Ant Media, proved that hesitancy does not completely permeate the industry. Mr. Khanna discussed the need to diversify profitproduct's value, leaving uncertainty and inconsistency in how the industry is viewed and treated. On the one hand, this shift has led to an even fiercer homogenization of pop music, since, with profits so uncertain, record labels have become even more hesitant to break from anything but the most standard model. It has also led industry figures to continue fighting a losing battle

ESLA Conference speakers Steve Teixiera and Sundeep Chauhan sounded woefully out of touch

THUMBS UP to...

Section Editors Citlally Maciel, Angie Sheep, and Andrew Cyr for stepping up and taking responsibility for content all year.

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Lost in the advice maze: what happens when I can't find the legal help I need?

HANNAH DE JONG

Contributor

Your landlord refuses to address your mold problem. You were wrongfully terminated from your job. You doctor neglected to follow standard procedure. All of a sudden, you find yourself faced with a legal problem. Who do you call? Where do you start looking for help? Seeking answers to your questions seems like an impossible task, and as frustration sets in, you soon feel like giving up. This cycle of conflicting, confusing, and inaccessible legal information and advice is called the "advice maze".

What we know from access to justice research is that legal problems gather and cluster with other problems such as mental health, relationship, or unemployment issues, forming a complex web of difficulties. Many individuals and families do not experience one isolated legal issue, but clusters of inter-related issues, which can sometimes stem from a single "trigger" problem. People with one or more of these complex problems are unable or unsure of where to turn for help. This is due to a lack of access to reliable legal advice, social exclusion, inability to enforce rights, and a lack of awareness of rights and responsibilities.

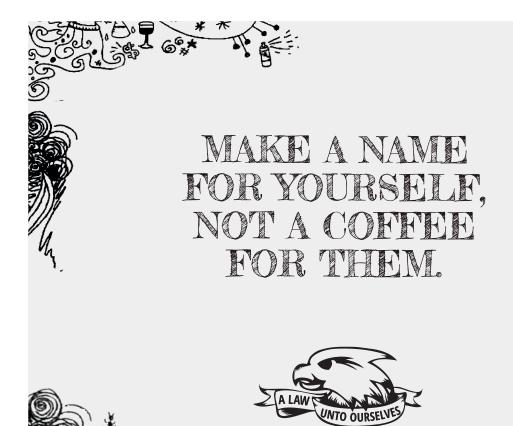


One significant side effect of the advice maze is referral fatigue. The more advisors and services a person visits, the less likely he or she will obtain helpful advice. A report outlining the advice maze by the Legal Services Research Centre (LSRC) (2004), states that while 83% of users did not have success with the first advisor they had been referred to, the rate of success declined for each subsequent advisor. Understandably, this phenomenon of the advice maze and referral fatigue causes many people facing legal problems to become overwhelmed and give up – leaving many legal problems unresolved. The LSRC report

found that about 1/6th of those who looked for legal advice did not obtain it successfully.

What can we take away from the "advice maze" phenomenon? Clearly, it is very important to equip people with the right information and tools as early as possible, so they can navigate sources of advice effectively. Legal information should be clear and easy to understand, as well as readily available. In terms of giving advice, service providers should provide clear direction to an appropriate alternative source of advice to discourage people from giving up trying to solve their legal problems. Additionally, there is a need to raise awareness of individual rights and the processes that can be used to affect them. These findings are of particular relevance to community legal services, and are key for making access to justice for all a reality rather than an aspiration. 💠

This article is based on the Canadian Forum for Civil Justice's new infographic "The Advice Maze". CFCJ's infographic series takes academic articles and summarizes their most important points in graphic form. Find it online via the CFCJ website at http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org/infographics/advicemaze.



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Scan this and see what we mean on YouTube.

THUMBS DOWN to...

the 381 unused agendas sitting outside the L&L office. We counted.

OPINION

Access to justice issues are pervasive

PAUL GILL

Contributor

There has been substantial discussion about access to justice issues in the past several years. The inability of the most vulnerable in our society to utilize the legal system has been addressed through reforms to the legal system, the availability of *pro bono* services and clinics, and Legal Aid initiatives or programs. However, most of these discussions and reforms have been on the topics of family, civil, and criminal law matters... but what about the other areas of law? Are they so accessible that they need not be addressed?

The Canadian Bar Association (CBA) Access to Justice Committee's mandate states their objective as:

"[to] improve and promote access to justice for the poor and middle class in Canada. Within the framework of policies adopted by Council, the Committee stresses government responsibility for a publicly funded legal aid system as the essential foundation, promotes pro bono service in the legal profession and supports innovative delivery options for legal services, as a supplement to (but not a substitute for) a publicly funded legal aid system [emphasis added]."

The concern I have is the ability of not only poor or middle class individuals from accessing justice, but also small businesses, entrepreneurs, recent immigrants, and the like. Access to justice arguments are not limited to the family and criminal areas of law. Arguably there are access to justice issues in employment law matters, where the imbalance in finances prevents an employee from adequately defending his or her rights. Similarly, smaller businesses cannot access legal services to defend their trademarks or intellectual property against corporate giants. The poor or middle class person cannot afford to engage in human rights litigation (lengthy processes and cost concerns). The length of litigation and legal fees involved in litigation are a concern in near all areas of law as well. The point I am trying to make is that issues of access to justice are pervasive throughout the legal system as a whole, and limiting such discussion to civil, criminal and family law is a gross understatement of the problem.



PICTURED: PEOPLE WAITING. FOR JUSTICE.

The CBA has recognized some of these concerns with access to non-criminal law matters. However, the CBA has also recognized access to justice as a legal crisis in Canada. I wholeheartedly agree with this position. The increase in self-representation within the legal system alone supports this position. The question is what can be done?

Balancing the scales

Unfortunately, as a law student, I do not have the ultimate solution to the pervasive issues of access to justice. I do not propose that I can do any better than entities such as Legal Aid or CBA (who are doing everything they can in my opinion), but the CBA's Equal Justice Project is a step in the right direction. I would be skeptical of the effectiveness of a national standard as suggested by the CBA, but there is no question that access to justice issues are the core of today's issues with the Canadian legal system. My concern is that the discussion has galvanized towards areas of civil, family and criminal law.

The focus on the poor or middle class persons in civil, family and criminal law has limited the scope of the discussion and resulted in an understatement of the problem. Recognition of the broader systemic issue here would allow the legal community to develop a better and perhaps more inclusive model of access to justice in the legal system. Considering the goals of access to justice initiatives are to "supplement and not substitute," a tax law subsidy for legal fees may address the problem. Perhaps an overhaul of the system as a whole is required... but all I know is that "the price of justice should not be so dear". •

Note: This is not meant to be an exhaustive explanation, and readers are assumed to have a basic knowledge of the law being discussed. Visit my website for some background information regarding passing off should you be curious to learning more.

Stay tuned for more at my BLAWG at www. paulblawg.com and follow me on Twitter @ PaulG_Law

THUMBS UP to...

Layout Editors Heather Pringle, Marie Park, and Devin Santos for their endless hours spent implementing change notes from their impossible Editors-in-Chief.

Thinner: the gypsy curse is the new South Beach Diet

DANIEL STYLER

Staff Writer

In my mind, there were two possible options for the topic of my final *Obiter Dicta* article. I could write a sentimental, well-written article waxing poetic about my nine years of post-secondary education and the great memories associated with my time as a student at Osgoode Hall; alternatively, I could write a review for a 1996 movie that scores a paltry 5.6 out of 10 on IMDb.

Having chosen the latter, I spent the day watching *Thinner*, an adaptation of Stephen King's 1984 novel of the same name. I do not regret this decision; despite it being one of the worst movies I can recall devoting almost one hour and a half to, *Thinner* provides its viewers with memorably bad line after memorably bad line at such a frenetic pace that I'm convinced it is one big joke (and a supremely funny one at that).

I should first note that nothing illustrates the power of the internet better than my ability to find *Thinner* online in a matter of seconds. The fact that someone (Stephen King, maybe?) took the time to upload this piece of shit to a variety of hosting websites so that I could illegally stream it is truly an act of humanitarianism; Bono and Bill Gates would be proud.

Billy Halleck, played by some three-named actor I've never heard of (Robert John Burke, if you're interested), is a lawyer. He's overweight, looking like a white version of Sherman Klump, Eddie Murphy's morbidly obese character in *The Nutty Professor*. He can barely walk up a set of stairs without passing out, and weighs in at a hefty three hundred pounds; his wife tells him to stop digging his grave with a spoon and a fork, but he has difficulty avoiding the temptation of Doritos (product placement was alive and very well in the mid-90s) and other sweet treats (or anything, really).

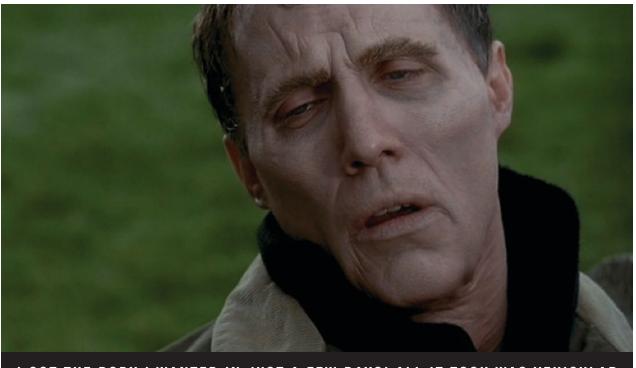
I will summarize the plot of this movie as briefly as I can: while driving and receiving oral sex from his wife, Billy hits an old gypsy woman with his car, killing her. Fortunately for Billy, he is connected: a police officer and judge from his town combine to rule the gypsy woman's death accidental in the span of about one minute at a coroner's inquest. The dead woman's 106-year-old father is furious, and proceeds to curse Billy, as well as the police officer and the judge.

Fortunately for Billy, his curse is — at least initially — helpful: he begins to lose weight at a rapid pace, despite consuming a Michael Phelpslike 12,000 calories per day; concerned (though at this point unaware of his curse), he sees a doctor, stating that he has lost the "equivalent of a fuck-

ing suitcase." Having learned that his judge friend is sick, Billy pays a visit to his house; he encounters the judge's crazed wife, who says that her husband is turning into a lizard (which, presumably, is a worse curse than losing weight at a rapid pace) and convinces Billy that he and the judge have been put under a gypsy curse.

Billy learns that the curse must be removed by the person who was responsible for putting the curse in place; fortunately for Billy, he has a mafia friend that he successfully defended in an attempted murder case who is willing to help him ments. Just stay in shape. Second, it pays to successfully represent mafia types, because when you're really in a bind they will be there for you.

At one point, Billy screams at the gypsies, saying that justice isn't being served by slowly killing him (and the judge and the police officer). He goes on to say the following: "You know as much about justice as I know about turbine engines... NOW TAKE YOUR FUCKING CURSE OFF ME!" I don't have much to say about this, other than to say that it was hilarious and that I wonder why Billy knows so little about



I GOT THE BODY I WANTED IN JUST A FEW DAYS! ALL IT TOOK WAS VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER AND A FAVOUR FROM THE MOB!

out. The mafia friend threatens the gypsies, and the old gypsy man removes the curse because he fears that his granddaughter is in danger. This was fortunate, because Billy was "being erased" and looked frightfully thin; someone even said to him that "I worked with cadavers in med school that looked better than you do."

I think *Thinner* is supposed to be some kind of lesson in morality. I just can't really figure out what the lesson is. From a legal perspective, I took away a couple of things. First, legal work – by and large – is desk work. You sit around a lot, and aren't totally active during the day. For this reason, exercise is important, unless you want to become fat. Because when you become fat, you hit old gypsy women with your car. When you hit old gypsy women with your car, they die. When they die, their fathers exact revenge by cursing you. When you're cursed, you lose weight. And when you lose weight, you have to bring in mafia reinforcements. Don't bring in mafia reinforce-

turbine engines and why he thought to use them as a comparative tool in such a stressful circumstance.

When the old gypsy man removed his curse, he explained to Billy that the curse couldn't be fully removed; it had to be transferred to someone else. This was done by cutting Billy and letting his blood drip into a pie... which would then have to be consumed by an unsuspecting person, who would die a quick and painless death. Fortunately for Billy, he knows just the person: his wife, who

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THUMBS DOWN to...

people crunching on pineapples in the library during exam season. Have some respect.

ARTS & CULTURE

Jurisfoodence: York University

LUKE JOHNSTON & DAN MOWAT-ROSE

Staff Writers

Laugh now, cry later, Osgoode. This is our 3L swan song, our last dance. And we've saved this dance for you. After today, we're handing off the column to our successor contributors, who we hope will continue in our stead by leaving a trail of steaming culinary justice across the GTA.

Our inspiration for this week's column is the misguided but well-known rhyming couplet that equates the ability to grip cutlery with fulfillment of the admission criteria at the very University with which Osgoode affiliated itself back in 1969. Unfortunate derogatory tone aside, the association between "a fork" and York is relevant to our adventures. Without any more delay, here is our rapid fire rundown of the best, and worst, that Keele campus has to offer.

Goodman's Bistro:

Dan: No analysis of campus food options would be complete without mentioning the Aramark-run abomination that is the bistro. I take umbrage with almost everything this place does. My only positive is interacting with the staff, who are all friendly and mostly free of responsibility for the bistro's failures. A special shout-out to Alice the afternoon cashier, she's a gem. Unfortunately Rodolfo et al. don't serve alcohol but you can slake your thirst and fulfill your JCRticling requirement across Gowlings Hall on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

Luke: Dan! Are you taking shots at our organic, sustainable, and artisanal eatery? That's how it was pitched to me on Welcome Day anyway... I too have many tales about plastic fork fees, expired tuna sandwiches and tepid tea water. Alas, out of respect for Rodolfo, and in light of the scores of noodle stir-frys I ate in first year, I think we should focus elsewhere!

Dan: Alright then. To the Lanes!

York Lanes Food Court: The Islands:

Dan: Jerk chicken from this place is fantastic. The sauce is rich and the spiciness is on point. Pro tip:

ask for gravy from the oxtail dish poured over your lunch special: a few pieces of chicken, rice and coleslaw for less than \$5.

Luke: We're on the same page here. The chicken is tender and has perfect texture. You get a huge portion for that price. Cons: lineups get to be an issue, and you might get shot.

The Underground: AGCO Licensed

Dan: If an afternoon adult beverage and some terrible service is your thing, look no further. Wings, burgers, flat bread etc. are the offerings here, along with York's best-stocked bar (sorry Zorn). The food is okay, but maybe stick to drinking.

Luke: I've have had zero good experiences here. Food should be grown underground Danny, not eaten there! Slow service, limp flavours and general staff indifference.

Sushi Mac:

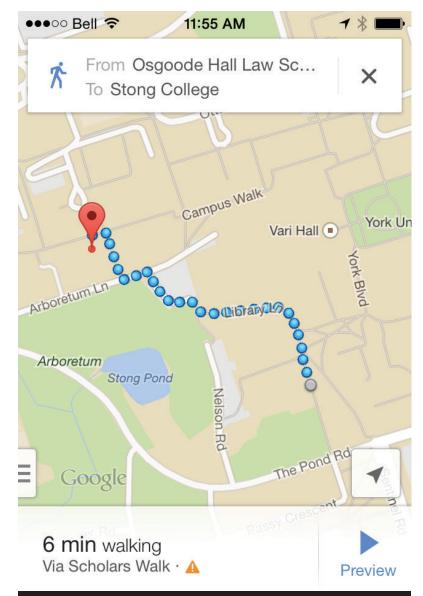
Luke: Now we're talking! I can't understand why people line up for crappy burgers and horrifying Thai food when Sushi Mac is right upstairs from the hectic food court. The sushi is made right before your eyes with obvious aplomb. After 5:00 pm it's half price! It's as good as anything in its (York inflation-adjusted)

price range that I've had downtown. For a healthy soda alternative, try the canned cold green tea.

Dan: The economic concept is just washing over me; half-price-late-night-fish, what could go wrong? Let's move on to the actual mall area.

York Lanes Mall: La Prep:

Luke: Costco-style mass produced sides dishes and bath water soups! Did I nonetheless spend \$500 bucks here over the past 3 years? Yes I did. Mostly on fresh squeezed OJ (passable) and grilled cheese



SOAP OPERAS AND ROTI ARE JUST SIX MINUTES AWAY. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THE DOTS. LIKE PAC-MAN."

with granny smith apples (decent).

Dan: In my opinion one of the biggest rip-offs on campus. Healthy? I guess. Expensive? Better believe it. A small sandwich and two sides will set you back \$11.

Sakura Japanese:

Luke: We're a long way from Kinton Ramen, and much like the two of us in property law, Sakura Japanese is riding the B curve. Drop spicy peanuts and veggie tempura right in your soup.

Dan: I've eaten here a few times, all of them before I discovered Indian Flavour next door and Sushi Mac upstairs. Do yourself a favour and use my upper year summary.

Berries & Blooms (York Lanes):

Luke: When you told me the name of this place I thought perhaps wedding bells were finally going to ring for you and Lindsay, and you wanted my opinion on centrepieces.

Dan: Ha, nooope. Say hello to a huge lineup, as

THUMBS UP to...

Staff Writers Michael Capitano, Sam Michaels, Evan Ivkovic, Daniel Styler, Daniel Mowat-Rose, and Luke Johnson for religiously submitting top-notch content, week after week.

ARTS & CULTURE

students pack their platters from the buffet. But steer clear of the massive pile of cottage cheese and alpha your way to the front, where the second, "secret" lineup starts. This is where the \$5 sandwiches happen, probably the best lunch deal on campus. I only discovered this place this January (props to Alex Payne), leading to an existential crisis over where my lunch money had been going the past 3 years.

Luke: It's hard to imagine a less efficient way to run a takeout joint, but you're right, the sandwiches are very solid.

Indian Flavour:

Dan: I love this place. Tons of food for \$7 via the daily special. Lots of vegetarian options if that's your jam, and rarely a line. Do not miss out on the cabbage masala. For reals.

Luke: I am loath to eat Indian food in malls generally, so the idea of eating butter chicken at a place across from a doctor's office did not appeal to me. You were right though, this place is the real deal, with a great mixture of authentic and North Americanized dishes. Now let's move on to places outside the mall.

Freshii (Computer Science & Engineering Building)

Luke: Freshii demonstrates a common theme in York cuisine: same franchise brand as off-campus, but way worse. Anywhere else Freshii is a good place to get a tasty, healthy lunch. On campus, however, the same menu items transform into Soviet factory cafeteria delights.

Dan: I blame corporate America, mostly because they're an easy target. Plus side: Undergraduates seem to prefer Wendy's so this place is never busy.

SCORE		
	DAN	LUKE
FOOD	2	3
SERVICE	3	2.5
ATMOSPHERE	windy cement	Ha!

OVERALL: LOL/5

#ibetsossbosspacksalunch



Absinthe Pub (Basement of Winters College): AGCO Licensed

Luke: Let's venture across campus to enjoy the patio and a cold beer. Wait, do York undergrads actually drink on campus? Do not order anything to eat - unless you want to harken back to the culinary treats you made in your first year common room microwave.

Dan: A stalwart favourite of the Passy crew when we were in 1L, the "Ab" is a true campus dive. Don't bother ordering a nice import draft, because no one else does and the keg is likely a month old. Stick to cheap and domestic and play some darts. Great sheltered patio for warm weather.

The Orange Snail (in the basement of Stong College): AGCO Licensed

Dan: Hell yes. And finally we arrive at my favourite spot. This place is a hidden treasure, and I do mean hidden. Cheap and never really busy (like a 3L close to their line of credit limit), and the friendly staff have found a place in my heart. Great patio in the warm months, the Snail is a go-to in early fall and after exams. Have a Red Stripe to go with your Jerk Chicken Roti, and watch soap operas with the owner.

Luke: It is embarrassing that we didn't find the Snail until 2L. The roti and the fish cakes are the perfect foods to sustain you through York's Game

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ARTS & CULTURE

A Little Sheep Told Me: Trends of spring/summer 2014

ANGIE SHEEP

Arts & Culture Editor

It's here: SPRING! After what seems to be an eternity of "Frozen", we can *finally* do a revamp of our closets and unveil the good stuff. It's (almost) time to ditch the winter bulkiness altogether and break out the satins. If you're like me and stuck with dark colors all season, then you'll probably be thrilled to see what's in for Spring and Summer. A lot of our old favorites have returned but there are still an abundance of new trends to try. So let me present to you: the styles of Spring/Summer 2014!

Crop your body

I have to confess that I don't personally own a crop top. It's not because I am against it; I just haven't found the perfect one yet. But crop tops continue to be one of the most coveted items this year. Whether it's on the runways, magazines or downtown Toronto streets, we just can't seem to shake this little piece of fabric. It must be because the midriff-baring tops help combat the sweltering heat so well. For those of you who favor more conservative styles but still want to incorporate this great trend, pair the tops with high-waist trousers or skirts.

Please don't stop the neon

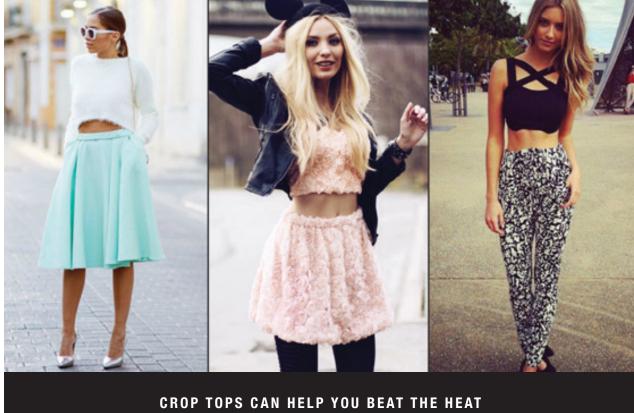
Bright colors once again dominated Fashion Week this year. This is no surprise as they tend to be the hallmark of our summers. 2014, however, is different in that it's making orange the centerpiece. Being a lover of orange, I am thrilled by this bold step. Furthermore, the trend has not been limited to clothing; lipsticks, accessories and footwear are not excepted. Because orange is such an attention-grabbing color, it is better to complement it with other subdued pieces to avoid looking like the fruit. Patterns that include patches of orange are also recommended.

All days in white

White has been a fashion favorite for countless springs and summers. It seems to pull every look together by adding a fresh, crisp air. And unlike orange, a completely white outfit is chic and fashion-forward. So don't be hesitant to break out

THUMBS UP to...

Webmaster Asad Akhtar, for knowing so much and never missing a deadline.



that white blazer you've been saving for warmer weather. Just stay away from dark sauces and red wine!

Pop goes the collar

Contrast colors are finally dominating. Sure, the trend has been around for the past several years, but it has not received nearly as much attention as it had this year at Fashion Week. Contrast colors are collars that are different from your shirt. You know, the sweater-over-blouse look. However, instead of going for the traditional "school prep", try matching the top to a dress. It'll add a sophisticated touch to your flowy summer piece.

Tea length skirts

This is the style that I found most interesting. First of all, I never thought the mid-calf skirts were referred to as "tea length" (fun fashion fact!) and second, are they really figure flattering? The answer is yes. Not only are they great pieces for most of you ladies out there, tea length skirts also add a "good girl" chic to any outfit.

Varsity jackets

These are the bulky jackets that often appear at baseball, football, and most ball-related sports games. Even though I'm not a devout sports fanatic, I find these jackets to be really unique and fashion-worthy, especially when paired with a sophisticated undertone. These jackets are also amazingly comfortable.

When selecting your varsity jacket, opt for the bulkier side, but make sure you don't overdo



CONTRASTING COLLARS ADD A POP WORTHY OF SPRINGTIME.

» continued on page 14

Knockout blow: the NFL and NHL concussion lawsuits

ANDREW CYR

Sports Editor

A group of former National Football League (NFL) players made headlines in April 2011, when they filed a federal lawsuit against the league alleging that the league's negligence contributed to their suffering repeated concussions over the course of their careers. Since then, over 4,800 former players have joined the suit, including former stars such as Jim McMahon and Bruce Smith. The players' Complaint alleges that the NFL "was aware of the evidence and the risks associated with repetitive traumatic brain injuries virtually at the inception, but deliberately ignored and actively concealed the information from the Plaintiffs and all others who participated in organized football at all levels." The NFL made an attempt to settle the suit in August of 2013, reaching a \$765 million settlement, only to have the settlement rejected by U.S. District Judge Anita Brody as insufficient to satisfy the claims of all potentially qualifying plaintiffs. The NFL will thus likely end up paying a larger settlement at some point in the future, although when is uncertain. There is an obvious incentive for the NFL to allow litigation to drag on in an effort to force the hand of the plaintiffs' lawyers, who are working on a contingency fee.

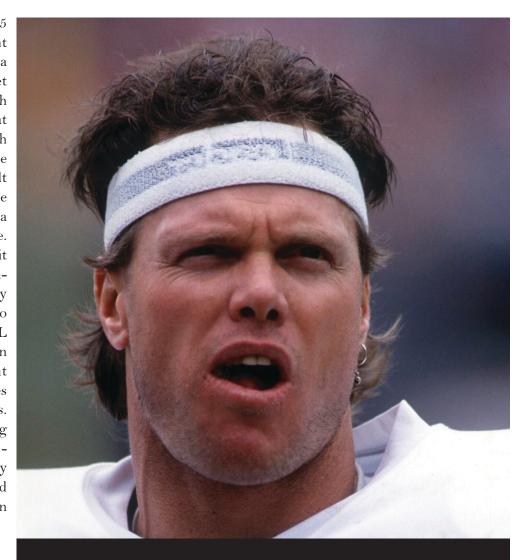
When the NFL's concussion lawsuit was filed, many hockey fans knew it was only a matter of time before retired NHLers would follow suit (pun intended). Sure enough, in November 2013, a group of 10 former NHL players filed a lawsuit with U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia making similar claims to those contained in the NFL lawsuit Complaint. Specifically, the NHL players' Complaint states that the league knew, or should have known, about the dangers posed by concussions and failed to do enough to reduce the risk of head injuries and educate players about the issue. This assertion is largely based on the league's failure to take remedial action in light of mounting evidence of the long-term dangers of head injuries. However, the Complaint also alleges that the league's negligent conduct persists by, "refusing to ban fighting, refusing permanently to ban players who, after investigation and a fair hearing, have been shown to have intentionally hit another player in the head, and by continuing to permit teams to employ hockey players whose main role is to fight or violently hit players on the other team ("Enforcers")." The parallels between the NHL $\,$ and NFL suits goes beyond their timing and content, as the plaintiff's attorney in the NHL suit, Mel Owens, is a former NFL linebacker.

While the \$765 million settlement was considered a drop in the bucket for the behemoth profit-machine that is the NFL, such a sum would be much more difficult to stomach for the NHL, which is a fraction of the size. While the NHL suit features fewer plaintiffs (and is actively seeking more to register), the NFL settlement sets an obvious precedent given the similarities between the claims. While reaching a similar settlement may be wholly unpalatable, it could pale in comparison to possible damages that might be awarded at trial. As the NHL grows in popularity throughout the United States, and its annual revenues creep over \$3 billion annually, this

lawsuit has the potential to completely derail the league's finances.

These lawsuits have been a long-time coming in light of the growing evidence of the devastating long-term effects of repeated head injuries. Perhaps in anticipation of, or in response to, these lawsuits, the NFL and the NHL have both placed a renewed emphasis on player safety over the past 5 years, implementing numerous rule changes in order to reduce head injuries and ensure the proper treatment of head injuries that occur. Both leagues have struggled at times to reconcile these rule changes with perceptions, perhaps outdated in light of modern scientific evidence, of how these games should be played. Interestingly, it is almost always the players who offer the most significant resistance to changes that are designed to ensure their safety. Regardless, these actions may be too little too late, as most of the plaintiffs had retired long before they were implemented.

While the negligence alleged of the leagues



JIM MCMAHON'S NFL CAREER SPANNED OVER A
DECADE. HE SAW REGULAR SEASON PLAY FOR SIX
PROFESSIONAL TEAMS. NOW, AFTER STRUGGLING WITH
MENTAL ILLNESS, HE IS ONE OF THOUSANDS OF
PLAINTIFFS IN A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE LEAGUE

has yet to be proven in court, and the onus on the players to do so will be steep, the lawsuits certainly raise some interesting legal questions about the sports. While recent efforts to improve player safety are a positive step, both sports are inherently violent and not all risk can be removed. It is certainly easy to empathize with the players, especially those who played before salaries began to skyrocket in the 1980s and 1990s. If the leagues were indeed aware of

» continued on back cover

THUMBS DOWN to...

people who hide library books during exam season.

NEWS

Interview with the editors

continued from front cover

C: Problem.

T: I can read, I just don't enjoy it.

C: Key skill for next Editor-in-Chief: literate.

K: That would help. So are you guys daunted by the prospect of reading those five thousand pages in preparation for the bar?

C: Travis and I both have such different law school styles. I'm the type of person that has to know and read everything...

T: And I haven't read anything past a headnote since first year. All of law school has been a chance for me to game the exam system.

C: But there are just so many ways of approaching law school. If by the end of this you find out you don't like the law – some of us do, some don't – how do you manage that?

K: That's the thing. So many people have this idea of what law school is like. I know I did. And I got here and realized it isn't like that at all. I think it took me a long time to accept that.

T: Ok, this is on point and I really need to share this anecdote with the Osgoode student body. There is a true intellectual giant here at Osgoode, who I think has gotten to the center of everyone's reason for coming to law school, and his name is Waleed. A couple of weeks ago I was judging the Osgoode Cup. Someone was chatting with him and he asked them why they came to law school and they responded that they loved the law. And Waleed said: "No, you like the law — you love *The Good Wife*." And I just went, "Oh my god. Yeah." Matter of fact, last semester I binge watched *The Good Wife* instead of studying for exams.

K: I've become basically the world champion of binge watching TV since I came to law school.

C: So much TV.

K: While we're on the topic, which Real Housewife are you most like, and why?

C: I wanna be Lisa! She runs her own business. And she wears so much pink. She drives her own car. She's the only housewife that still drives. But really, I'd like to be a mob wife. Don't put that in.

T: No, put it in.

C: I feel like the mob wives are the most badass.

T: You know, there's a whole show about that too.

C: Yeah, it's called Mob Wives.

T: I was thinking of *The Sopranos*.

K: There's clearly a divide here. Different calibers of TV watching.

C: Let's give Travis a housewife identity. First we have to decide which city.

K: I feel like he's probably –

K & C (in perfect unison): New York.

T: You have to explain yourselves!

K: They're very high strung.

T: You could have chosen a better characteristic than that, if you had to sell to me why I'm a New York housewife....

C: They are the most high-brow. They really are cultured.

K: So which New York housewife is he?

C: LuAnn. She was married to a Count. She's got a level of international class.

K: Worldly without being obnoxious.

C: I mean, a little obnoxious.

T: Thanks.

K: We're all a little obnoxious. I like that we're all psychoanalyzing each other.

C: This is part of the *Obiter* editorial board; it's part of the creative process.

K: It's totally part of the creative process. Ok, next question. What's your favourite law school memory?

T: I've destroyed all of those, with beer.

C: Tom Johnson. In general.

K: I could've guessed those. If you were going into law school now, what would you have done differently?

T: I would've written my first year exams a little better. I would also have worried a lot less about my first year exams.

THIS PICTURE AND THIS ARTICLE ARE THE ONLY EVIDENCE THAT THIS YEAR'S EDITORS-IN-CHIEF HAVE EVER BEEN IN THE SAME ROOM TOGETHER.

C: I would've held on to some more direction. I got really caught up in the idea of being a law student and what you're supposed to do without any real introspection or respect for what I wanted to do. If I had more direction, I might've been in a different space. And the thing is that at the end of it, you are in a good space, no matter what.

K: Minus the articling crisis.

T: What crisis?

C: We get it, London.

T: Look, all I'm saying is that if you have a C average and you don't wanna leave Toronto, then yeah, there's a crisis. But if you're flexible in where your law career takes you, then you'll be fine.

C: And if you do that, you get a whole different understanding of work-life balance. Like you probably won't be in the office on a Sunday.

T: You can do that? I don't know how to get into my office on a Sunday.

K: What was your most awkward interview experience?

T: The firm I am articling at, I interviewed with in first year, and I wasn't hired. And when I came back to interview in second year, the lawyer said he remembered me from last year and had no questions for me. I work there now, so he was obviously messing with me. But it was awkward.

C: It's a good lesson. Every single year you better add something to your experience. In a world where everyone's always getting better, getting better is your job. Being good is never good enough. Not in Toronto, and definitely not downtown.

THUMBS UP to...

Business Managers Adam Cepler and Alvin Qian, because we made money again.

T: That's what I've told people. All you need is one good story for OCIs. They're gonna ask a series of questions and they'll remember one good story. Try not to make it about alcohol.

K: Who was your favourite lecturer?

C: I really will miss Michael Mandel. He was a big part of my first year. I feel very honoured to have been one of the last classes he taught.

T: I'm not going to pretend that I loved every class I took or even that I think that everyone on faculty is a great lecturer.

K: Off the record.

T: No, put it on if you want. But Marilyn Pilkington will never know how I admired her from afar for an entire semester. I've never been so comfortable with so much material, but she's just able to convey her knowledge, which is massive, in such a clear and easy way. I don't think I'll ever have a lecturer like that ever again.

K: What will you miss most about Osgoode?

C: My fellow EICs, obviously.

T: Well of course I'll miss the *Obiter*. I went to a meeting in September of 2011 and I haven't not been part of it since. It's been something I stuck with the whole time and really enjoyed. I didn't think there would be something I would do for free that would engage me in this way.

K: Spoken like a true law student.

T: I'm not gonna miss class. But I will miss-

K: Passy!

T: I actually liked living in Passy because I was so close to school all the time. The thing I'll miss most is being able to go to the JCR and have a beer at the law school I go to and have a chance to chit chat with everyone I know.

C: I'm going to miss this office.

K: We basically lived in it this year.

C: Yeah, so the *Obiter* is something I stuck with for all three years. And I wouldn't have been here if not for Karolina. I won't forget that first week of 1L, you told me: "There's free pizza, we have to go."

K:I was like: "We're gonna be on the newspaper and we're gonna be friends."

C: I really enjoyed seeing how other people write and giving them a space to do something that's in law school but doesn't have anything to do with it. The *Obiter* gives people an outlet to be creative and honest about life inside and outside the institution.

That's why I was so willing to put my time into this thing. It was rewarding and there was a tangible result, and people like doing it.

K: Well if that doesn't incite half the student body to join the *Obiter*, I don't know what will. All it took for me was some dude yelling as I walked by the *Obiter* table at clubs fair: "Join the *Obiter*, it's not pretentious at all!"

T: Well, we showed them.

C: Did we ever, LuAnn. ❖

ESLA conference

continued from page 4

as they paraded recent legal victories against The Pirate Bay and ISOhunt (sites which are both already back up and running). The approach of fighting Internet music dissemination through litigation not only alienates fans, but is also a lost cause. Even services like Spotify and Rdio, which seem to be making at least some advances in a changing market, have failed to capture profit-

ability through music streaming. What may be needed is a renewed focus on the live act, or on the album as a piece of art worthy of purchase, in order to reinvigorate the industry. However, the feeling – from the ESLA Conference, at least – is that industry players continue to hold out hope on the old model, and are content to enjoy the short lived victories while reminiscing about the time Napster was taken offline (which, I should mention, was actually referred to as a relevant success story by one of the speakers).

Though the experiences for listeners and viewers continue to improve, within the entertainment industry it is clear that market changes face a mixed reception. The hesitation, in the television and music industries especially, is carving a void in both profitability and viability. Hopefully, some of the more innovative players will pick up the slack from the old traditionalists and help the industry keep pace with changing services and expectations. Fortunately for the entertained public, however, the technology is advancing at such a rate that we will continue enjoying an ever-improving entertainment experience, regardless of whether the providers are quick enough to figure out how to cash in.



TOM BAKER LOOKS AT THE CAMERA WHILE PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE FOR THE 2014 OSGOODE ESLA CONFERENCE..

THUMBS DOWN to...

people who raise the bar for inclass presentations with Powerpoint.. **NEWS**

Thinner

continued from page 7

he suspects of cheating on him with their doctor (though I don't know if this is actually the case; I think all these gypsy curses have gotten to Billy's head). Sure enough, he gets her to eat the pie. She dies. Unfortunately, his daughter eats it too (we don't see her die, but that pie is instant death so it is safe to assume she died). As his final act of insanity, Billy eats a piece of pie with the possibly cheating doctor, presumably killing them both.

So it was a happy ending, I guess. Oh, the morality thing: don't have sex in your car while you are driving, and don't be jealous of moderately attractive doctors who have a friendly relationship with your significant other, and also try to avoid serving Death Pie to your daughter.

I guess it's also important to not be so critical of yourself: being thin doesn't equate to being happy, so be happy with yourself, even if you don't look exactly how you'd like to look. Because it's better to be overweight and a successful lawyer than thin and a cursed, sociopathic murderer.

Thinner isn't a great movie, and I'd be inclined to say that whoever made this movie knows as much about film-making as I know about lintroller manufacturing. But I did enjoy it, and I'm sure you would too. �

York Lanes

continued from page 9

of Thrones-style winter. The self-serve homemade casseroles and salads are obvious winners. Why is a similar buffet not available at Osgoode's bistro?

So that's it. Our glorious arrangement, which we never dreamed the Obiter would accept, has run its course. It's been a great experience, and we want to thank you, dear readers, for your kind feedback and hearty chortles at our expense. Remember: stay healthy, stay hungry, and don't forget to tip your server. *rides off into sunset* �

Spring/summer 2014

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it. You definitely don't want this heavy piece to drown out the rest of your outfit. The picture provides an example of how this look can be pulled together. Because it can take a longer time to pull the look together, save it for the weekend or a night on the town.

So mesh-y

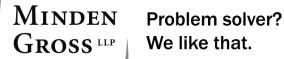
I find this to be a functional alternative to the crop top. You can easily control the amount of skin you show by selecting the right tightness of knit for you. Therefore, this piece is extremely accommodating and should be added to your closet if it's not in there already.

There you have it Ozzies: a quick summary of the trends dominating this season. But no matter what's in style, you should never let it compromise your own taste. Wear the clothes that please you and don't let your own inner fashion queen be silenced. And although this has not been proven (yet!), satisfaction with your outfit contributes to better exam results. Yes, that totally makes sense. 🔷



THUMBS UP to...

Copy Editor Patricia Wood, for her exceptional knowledge of punctuation.



We like that.

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Dean's Formal 2014



SPORTS

Knockout blow

continued from page 11

the mounting evidence of the long-term effects of repeated head trauma, was it their responsibility to shield the players from these risks, or to make them aware of them? Would it not be fair that those who profited from the players' participation in the sport and their resulting injuries be made to compensate them?

On the flip side, one can easily see an argument that such players voluntarily assumed such risks or even contributed to them by refusing to wear a helmet or a visor, once such technology was made available. A true cynic may even view the lawsuits as mere opportunism on the part of the players, seeking to supplement their retirement income at the expense of the highly successful leagues that once employed them.

Whatever view one takes of the lawsuits, one thing is certain. The years of providing entertaining and (sometimes) profitable "old-time hockey" and "smashmouth football" have caught up with two of the continent's most prominent sports leagues. The NHL and NFL are about to have their bells rung. •

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