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Critics of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge can be divided into three broad categories. The first addresses the logically flawed rules of the challenge. To participate, one must donate to an ALS charity. Forfeiture is possible, but the penalty is pouring a bucket of ice water over one’s head. I can appreciate that initially, this seemed like a win-win strategy: it raises either funds or awareness. It is worth noting, however, that according to these rules, the more people participate, the less money is donated. However, as the phenomenon has grown and taken on a life of its own, a large number of people are participating as well as donating, I if spend too much time thinking about how the internet and social media have changed (damaged?) the way I relate to the world and the people in it, I am often overcome with a profound sense of surrealism at best and distaste at worst. If someone were to tell fifteen-year-old me that nearly everyone I know would one day be dousing themselves with freezing water, filming these antics, and posting them on the internet in the name of charity, I would be perplexed, to say the least. And yet, not only has this become a familiar sight, participation is required if one wishes to maintain their moral pedigree. Or, at least, if they want their Facebook friends to think so.

The ubiquity of think-pieces and social commentaries about the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge is nearing the pervasiveness of the challenge itself. Critics have expressed their disapproval in varying degrees of concision and clarity, and have been met with nearly universal backlash. To be fair, it can be difficult to criticize a charitable undertaking without sounding like anything other than a misanthrope. Though they might at first blush seem like empty cynicism, these voices can actually contribute a valuable perspective amid the cacophony of shrieking girls in bikinis.

PHILANTHROPY
YOU’RE DOING IT WRONG

I challenge you to tell me what ALS stands for. Photo credit: Kim Quintano

KAROLINA WISNIEWSKI › EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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AFTER MANY SLEEPLESS nights and much anticipation, the day you have all been waiting for has finally arrived. You may now officially tell your family, friends, and the guy sitting next to you on the bus that you are a first-year law student. With that comes an unease over what this year will possibly bring. Some of you more studious folk may already have the year planned out, charted, graphed, diagrammed, annotated, printed, spiral-bound, and sitting on your nightstand. Others may feel like a deer caught in the headlights as you experience the infamous “Imposter Syndrome.” And a select few may still be recovering from O-Week and having difficulty keeping this page in focus. Whichever camp you fall into, my words of wisdom remain the same: believe me when I say that if I can do it, so can you, and so can you as well.

Undoubtedly the pursuit of law attracts a disproportionate number of perfectionists and over-achievers to whom the thought of failure brings about a great amount of anxiety. I wish I could say that I felt differently but I’ll admit that I entered law school with the idea that my first year would play out like a scene from Battle Royale. Or I suppose, for this audience, The Hunger Games would be a more appropriate reference. Either way, it was only fitting to discover that the theme of my Orientation Week was Game of Thrones. Yes, let the beheadings begin indeed. So with that said, let me pass along a few self-evident truths that I learned in my first year.

Arrive to your exams early. The day before if necessary.

In my final semester, I was headed to my Property final exam when suddenly the next subway station happened to catch fire! I have rappelled down the sides of mountains in BC that have left my heart in my throat but that pales in comparison to the terror I felt when faced with the thought of missing one of your final exams. If your life seems to operate under the guise of Murphy’s Law then you ought to be mindful of expecting the unexpected. You never know when that hovering asteroid will suddenly fall directly in the middle of your path. Better to be safe than on academic probation.

Never swear at the judge. Ever.

Okay, I know what you’re thinking, “Derp. What kind of an idiot would let an f-bomb fly during a moot?” You’d be surprised by the things that leave your mouth when confronted by a line of questioning you hadn’t anticipated. Don’t be tempted to admit that your client is up shit creek without a paddle. No matter how charming you make it sound, I can assure you that the judge is not nearly as amused by it as you are. Neither is your mooting partner.

Mix equal parts solitude with study group. Garnish with paper umbrella.

Despite what some believe, the endless hours you spend in your Fortress of Solitude simply cannot make up for the fact that you are but one human being with one single mind. Admittedly, at times my study group would leave me wondering if we were the same. I think this realization leads many of us to take the attitude that if we just work harder we can maintain the status quo that we have been so comfortable in. I remember my father used to tell me this little story at times when I’d start to lose sight of the forest for the trees:

Once upon a time there were two men in a wood-chopping contest. They were tasked with chopping down as many trees in the forest as they could from sun-up to sun-down. The winner would be rewarded with both fame and fortune.

From morning till noon, both men steadily chopped and chopped. By noon they were neck and neck, but then one man took a break and stopped chopping. The other man saw this and thought to himself: The lazy fool, he’s probably taken a break for lunch. He’s given me a chance to get ahead of him and I will without doubt win this contest!

A while later the man got back to work. As the day continued he chopped more trees than his hard-working (and hungry) competitor and by mid-afternoon he had taken a clear lead.

When sundown came, the man who had taken the break at noon had chopped almost twice as many trees as the other man, who was drenched in sweat, hungry, and exhausted.

“How did you beat me?” he asked puzzled. “You were lazier than I and even took a break for lunch!”

“Ah,” said the other man. “I did take a break, but it was during that break that I sharpened my axe.”

So just keep calm and remember to sharpen your axe. Welcome to Osgoode! ♦

You made it to Osgoode! Now what? Just keep calm and remember to sharpen your axe.
I t was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authors insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.” – A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens.

What truer words can be said about law school? Indeed, what has been said about law school and what you may have heard is often presented in hyperbole. For anyone who has spent more than a semester at law school, it is simply going about our daily business. At the same time, however, a certain magic continues to ring true; it is a magic that is created when you take part in the vibrant and diverse community that is Osgoode Hall.

Incoming students, you’ll be exposed to both sides of the law, to the expected and unexpected, and be taken by both intrigue and disillusionment. You’ll likely be asked the question, “Why did you choose to go to law school?” many times in your first couple of weeks, not just by your peers, but in Ethical Lawyering as well. You’ll be asked to write down your motivations, your hopes and dreams, the defining moment that solidified your decision. For some, it might be dollar signs; for others, it might be to change the world. Whatever it is, don’t lose sight of that goal. It is easy to get lost. It is easy to get punished. It is far easier to regret than to step forward. In other words, do what you want and don’t let anyone or anything stop you.

From the always supportive faculty and staff to your interesting classmates, there will be no lack of excitement or opportunity. Every week, there will be events and seminars (and free food), and at least monthly, you will receive an email for a cool volunteer opportunity.

And guess what? For those of you that are interested in writing or journalism, and want to explore legal issues from a slightly different perspective, I have two cool opportunities for you to participate in. If you have any sort of inclination towards chronicling your time here at Osgoode or writing on the subject of legal issues that you are passionate about, then consider these two options closely. For each position, I will work closely with you in order to help each article you write reach its fullest potential.

1. Staff Writers, Obiter Dicta

This position is open for students wanting to contribute regularly to Osgoode’s biweekly newspaper. Staff writers can report on major events in the Osgoode and greater legal communities, but can write about non-legal topics as well. It requires that you submit at least one 700-1200 word article for each publication. You will have the opportunity to write for your own dedicated column and develop your writer’s voice. In addition, a new feature we are exploring this year is to implement themes for every issue. That means you will have the opportunity to lend your own perspective and conduct some investigative journalism for the particular legal theme of the issue.

Interested students should contact obiterdicta@osgoode.yorku.ca for more information.

2. Literary Journalists, Equality Magazine

This position is open for students interested in taking part in a new, long form journalism project that focuses on law and society issues. Over the span of the year, you will have the opportunity to produce a narratively intriguing and thoroughly researched article between 2000 – 4000 words on a topic of your choosing. The goal is to explore in meaningful and practical terms how the law impacts individuals and communities, and to be a voice of advocacy for those experiencing injustice.

If you are interested in this position or would like more details, please e-mail me at MichaelCapitano@osgoode.yorku.ca. For those applying, please provide a brief (250 words or less) statement explaining why you’re interested in this role.

Just as Charles Dickens used literature to champion social justice and to criticize the injustice of the law, too can carry on this literary tradition and advocate for legal reform. Instead of being part of the mindset that “Whatever is, is right” you can be part of a movement where whatever is doesn’t have to be.

REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

We invite submissions on virtually any subject, but we will offer reimbursements of up to $20 for reviews of local events, films, or the pub you were at last night.

If contributors wish to take advantage of our reimbursement program, please submit your pitches to the Editorial Board for approval first.

In order to be eligible, contributors must submit receipts of any expenses they seek reimbursement for. The number of reimbursement offered per issue is limited, and will be approved on a first-come-first-serve basis. We are also happy to apply for media accreditation for events that require it.

**THUMBS UP**

Japan offering a promising new drug for Ebola treatment.

**WE’RE NOT JUST LOOKING FOR EXCEPTIONAL LAWYERS,**
**WE’RE LOOKING FOR EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE.**

Within our firm you’ll find lawyers who’ve closed billion-dollar deals, represented Prime Ministers and argued precedent-setting cases before the Supreme Court. You’ll also discover adventurers, marathoners and humanitarians. Every year, through our summer and articling programs, we seek out students who, like us, have both a passion for legal success and a desire to push themselves to their limit.

To read our lawyers’ profiles and see if BLG is right for you, visit blg.com/student
Across Canada, about 1,600 PBSC volunteers provide pro bono service to the public and furthering your career at the same time. By exposing students to the value of pro bono work, we aim to encourage the next generation of lawyers to make pro bono service part of their practice. We aim to match students of all years with organizations based on experience, interests, and specific skills in order to create dynamic working relationships and maximize the benefit to both the student and the organization. Across Canada, about 1,600 PBSC volunteers provide approximately 127,000 hours of free legal services to approximately 400-500 organizations, courts, and tribunals across the country. That's equivalent to 62 people working full-time for a year!

Each year, PBSC Osgoode places over 100 law students with public interest organizations, legal clinics, and lawyers, working on pro bono files. Students perform a variety of law-related tasks, including legal research, providing legal information to organizations, performing client-intake, and in some cases working on files for unrepresented litigants and appearing before courts and tribunals (under significant lawyer supervision).

PBSO regularly creates projects in the following areas of the law: administrative, civil, constitutional, corporate non-profit, criminal, environmental, family, human rights, immigration and refugee, and all areas of poverty law. Some of the placements that PBSO Osgoode has recruited for this year include:

- Family Law Project
- Students volunteer at the Family Courts to assist unrepresented parties with document drafting and navigating the legal system.
- Tax Advocacy Project with Dentons LLP
- Students will be selected to advocate on behalf of self-represented litigants before the Tax Court of Canada. Students will gain hands-on experience working on client files, under the supervision of Dentons tax lawyers, and have the opportunity to meet leading lawyers and judges in the area of tax law.
- Medico Legal Society Advocacy Project
- Students provide self-represented complainants with assistance before the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board. Students in this project receive extensive training to take carriage of a client’s case in teams of two, under the guidance of both a legal and physician mentor.
- The Wills Project
- Students draft and prepare wills, power of attorney, and reporting letters for low-income individuals. Students receive sensitivity training, and work directly with clients under the close supervision of lawyers.
- Civil Litigation Project with Pro Bono Law Ontario
- Students attend the Law Help Ontario centre at the 47 Sheppard Ave E Court House. The program allows self-represented civil litigants access to legal information and support that they otherwise would not receive. Students gain intensive exposure to the practice of law and hands-on experience in civil litigation.

This is a small sample of our placements, please come to our information sessions and check out our website at osgoode.yorku.ca/pbsc to learn more about the kinds of projects we offer. The Annual PBSO Launch Event will be held on Wednesday September 10th at 12:30. It is a great opportunity to hear about the various initiatives being introduced by PBSO for this year over some food and drink. For additional information please contact probono@osgoode.yorku.ca.

In taking part in the Osgoode PBSO program, you belong to a large network of organizations and students across the country involved in increasing access to social justice. PBSO creates a platform not only to discuss the problem, but also to create viable solutions by applying your valuable legal skill set and contributing to the advancement of a community or cause.

NOORAIN SHETHWALA
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, PRO BONO STUDENTS CANADA

COURTS, LAWYERS, AND LITIGANTS are in the midst of undertaking a profound shift to address the harsh reality that legal justice is beyond the reach of average Canadians. There have been numerous new developments in the legal discourse aimed at tackling the prominent access to justice crisis. The needlessly high costs and complexity are shifting most Canadians out of the justice system, and the ones most susceptible to the deprivation are poor and marginalized communities. As law students we are taught that justice is a fundamental component of democracy, but are often helpless in our ability to advance the ideal of a fully accessible justice system. Through Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSO), students have the rare opportunity to use their legal training and skills to fill in some of the gaps in the system. PBSO is a national award-winning organization that matches law students with a variety of public interest organizations in need of legal resources. PBSO is the only national pro bono service organization anywhere in the world. By exposing students to the value of pro bono work, we aim to encourage the next generation of lawyers to make pro bono service part of their practice. We aim to match students of all years with organizations based on experience, interests, and specific skills in order to create dynamic working relationships and maximize the benefit to both the student and the organization. Across Canada, about 1,600 PBSO volunteers provide approximately 127,000 hours of free legal services to between 400-500 organizations, courts, and tribunals across the country. That’s equivalent to 62 people working full-time for a year!

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THUMBS DOWN

The Kardashians texting during the VMA
Michael Brown tribute like “Who’s Ferguson?”
The Career Development Office (CDO) is excited to announce a variety of programs and services being offered to students for the 2014/2015 academic year. The CDO is here to support Osgoode students in defining and achieving their career goals. We are here to expose you to the wide range of career opportunities available and provide you with the tools you need to succeed. Here is an overview of some of the services we offer.

**CDO Services:**
- Resume and Cover Letter review
- Mock Interviews
- Career Counselling
- Success and Wellness Counselling
- Career Development Resources, Information and Programming
- Success and Wellness Resources, Information and Programming
- Recruitment Programs and Job Postings
- Peer Counselling

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

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

**Getting to Know the CDO**
This fall the CDO will be continuing the highly successful program, “Getting to Know the CDO.” Students often have quick questions, suggestion, or updates they want to share with the CDO. These topics generally don’t require an appointment but can be hard to know when is the right time to chat informally. We will be hosting weekly hours in the Osgoode History and Archives Project Nook (in Gowlings Hall across from CLASP). Members of the CDO will be available to chat with students during this time. We have selected time slots that vary throughout the week in the hopes that all students have a chance to stop by! The schedule is available on OLE and in the Osgoode Events Calendar.

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

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

- Students are generally limited to one application review and one mock interview per academic year, commencing in September. It is therefore paramount you have reviewed the Career Guide (available in the Document Library on OLE) in advance of your appointment and are as prepared as possible.
- All documents related to an appointment must be uploaded to OLE at least 24 hours prior to your appointment.
- Failure to provide 24 hours notice of the cancellation of an appointment (without a reasonable explanation) will result in you being blocked from booking further appointments.

**The CDO Team**
Lisa Del Col – Acting Manager, Experiential Education and Career Development
kbonnar@osgoode.yorku.ca

Melanie Banka Goela – Student Success & Wellness Counsellor
mgoela@osgoode.yorku.ca

Nicola Martin – Career Development Officer
nmartin@osgoode.yorku.ca

Nadine Reid-Warren – Career Services Coordinator
nreid@osgoode.yorku.ca

The CDO is located in the Student Services Office (1012) off Gowlings Hall.
If you've set your sights on a career in litigation, you want to apply all that you've learned in a place where it really counts – in court. At Lenczner Slaght, you'll spend more time preparing and presenting cases, guided by highly experienced lawyers who can help you develop and polish your advocacy skills. As Canada's leading litigation practice, we don't just offer you more firsthand courtroom experience – we insist on it.

Move from the classroom to the courtroom.
Finding Yourself
The search to rediscover my sense of self

MARIE PARK | ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

As my first submission to my beloved Obiter Dicta as your Arts & Culture Editor, I wish to impart my own heartfelt words of advice to all of you now entering Osgoode, as well as to my 2L and 3L friends who have struggled, as I have, in finding their own little happy nook in this profession. I hope that this year will be an important one, made memorable by both the good times and the rough days, and that in the end, we all find victory in our collective quests to become the person we sought to become as we started this journey in the first place.

The best advice comes from lived experiences, and is given openly and honestly. Sometimes the truth is brutal, but being told that reality is tough can prepare you to embrace the challenges ahead. I hope that you read this story, imbued with my own long struggle of turning my self-hate into self-love, as a helpful guide to finding your way through law school and beyond. My story is not unique, and so I also hope that you find strength in the fact that these feelings and experiences are a commonly shared hardship that is internalized in too many instances for too many of us.

To begin, I can easily say that my summer journey began with an unhealthy level of anxiety. Second year was done, but I had no job for the summer. Dozens upon dozens of applications had been sent, only to receive automated letters to the effect of “we thank you for your application but sorry we don’t want you” in my inbox. All the while, I saw many of my classmates celebrate their successes as they found positions of their picking. The obligatory phase of dejection set in as my abysmal transcript was released after the exam period.

I believed it when I had been told that “first year is the hardest” and that “2L and 3L are a breeze” - but this advice, I learned, should be followed with important disclaimers about its oversimplification. Second year was not much easier, but rather, it came with its own set of specific struggles.

Through the humbling experiences of law school, I easily found that I was not as invincible as I had previously thought. With my self-confidence shattered and feeling ashamed of not meeting my initial expectations, I went down a path of quiet self-loathing and persistent doubt. Things got really bad. As the summer progressed, I knew that this had to stop.

The disappointment and dejection were affecting the way I valued life, and in turn, how I behaved around my family and friends. I just wanted to disappear and become one with the wallpaper. As long as no attention was directed at me, my seemingly blatant failures and could-have-beens were equally invisible.

In June, I made the conscious commitment to change all this. I found that the first lesson was to learn to know yourself. Law school is surely a momentous achievement for most of us, but it is all too easy to fall into the bandwagon mindset. Even from orientation week we are given the first parcels of imagery to paint our vision of an illustrious legal career - Bay Street, glass towers, big names. And then there is the “student privilege fever,” which I see as being comprised of two parts: the growing misconception that one’s student status is all-consuming and of utmost importance in a student’s life, and, the dominance of one’s student status over all aspects of a student’s behaviour in society (i.e. as a learned law student, my daily existence is something that is superior and of significant future importance to the fabric of this society).

What is easily lost in all this is that each law student, in varying degrees, loses their sense of self. What was previously important in one’s life is either abandoned or put on hold. Prior beliefs are left outside the threshold of the law school, like an old pair of well-worn shoes, so that the mind is more malleable and ready for absorption of legal academia. I fell into this trap, but I am glad to say that I have recovered my long-held passions in a meaningful way. I looked back at my life to determine what it was that I truly identified with as the core of my being. I easily found the answer: I am an aspiring visual artist. The best memories of my childhood come from endless days working away on my projects in the high school art studio, testing the limits of my skills and my aptitude for design. I knew I wanted to pick up my passion for art again in a heartbeat.

I searched for a meaningful way to make this possible, and this summer, I realized that no opportunity

THUMBS DOWN

Referring to Beyonce’s VMA performance as “feminist” #swingandmiss

Above below: I tried landscape painting on location for days 15 and 11 of the 100 Days of Art challenge.
Review of Osheaga 2014
Music and magic in Montreal

SAM MICHAELS › MANAGING EDITOR

This year’s Osheaga Music and Arts Festival went above and beyond to deliver a musical and interactive experience that wowed festivalgoers and provided musicians with one of Canada’s biggest and best audiences. A well-organized and curated Île Sainte-Hélène proved an excellent setting for bands and DJs from a variety of genres. Bands took to a number of stages spread out between concession stands, chill spots and activity areas. The weekend was an awesome, wild ride. Here are the highlights from some of my favourite performances.

Sam Roberts Band

Our first show of the festival, Canadian act Sam Roberts, kicked things off in smooth style, playing through his collection of hits with ease. The first chords of “Bridge to Nowhere,” “Where Have All The Good People Gone,” and of course, “Brother Down,” all received huge cheers from the crowd. New hits “Human Heat” and “We’re All In This Together” were well-received. It was an overall solid show, as Roberts showed control of both his old and new material, guiding his band through extended jams for some of the songs.

Outkast

The sole rap headliner of the festival, Outkast jumped into their Friday night set with their standard huge opening of “B.O.B”. Rocketing through their set in just over an hour and a half, Andre 3000 and Big Boi showed no rust on their continuing reunion tour. Drawing from their entire discography, Outkast played hits including “Rosa Parks,” “SpottieOttieDopaliscious,” “Crumblin’ Erb,” and “Elevators” to the delight of long time fans. Obligatory pop hits “Mrs. Jackson,” “Roses,” “Hey Ya,” and “So Fresh and So Clean” kept the crowd moving through the show, as Andre and Boi traded verses and songs all night. It was a great performance from two of hip hop’s best, clearly still on top of their game.

Other Friday Notables: Foster The People, Chromeo, Childish Gambino

Jack White

Taking the main stage for the Saturday night spot, Jack White took over the festival like no other performer over the weekend. Headlining a new band and debuting a new album, White kept a dedicated eye and ear on everything and everyone around him to ensure perfection in both sound and experience. The results were awesome, as White led his band through new interpretations of old hits “Hardest Button To Button,” “Seven Nation Army,” and “Fell In Love With A Girl,” and guided the crowd through the various moods and layers of his discography. The attention to detail and meticulous control White exhibited over his band led to a uniquely settled sound, and he seemed more comfortable on stage than he had been with outfits Dead Weather or The Raconteurs. Jack White showed off the full extent of his sound and song selection with one of the best performances of the weekend.

Other Saturday Notables: Phantogram, Reignwolf, J Cole

Half Moon Run

Quebec natives and up-and-coming band Half Moon Run took to the main stage late Sunday afternoon to one of the best crowds of the festival. The growing popularity (which has been steadily increasing since the release of their album, Dark Eyes) of the four-piece act which was visible as fans engaged with the band throughout the show. Half Moon Run blend folk, rock, and indie music in a fresh and interesting new way, with an organic and melodic sound brought together only by keys, guitar, bass, and drums. Their hit song “Full Circle” had the whole crowd singing, while other hits “Judgement,” “Call Me In The Afternoon,” and “She Wants To Know” were all met

THUMBS UP

Craig Rozynski for finally putting the ‘sans’ in Comic Sans with Comic Neue.

Left: International gypsy punk band, Gogol Bordello, keeps the energy in the crowd soaring high. Right: Fans enjoyed over 100 performances over the three-day long event. Photo credit: Sarah Stein

see OSHEAGA, page 11
A “very special festival”
Nothing but love for Vancouver Island’s third annual Rock the Shores

HEATHER PRINGLE › LAYOUT EDITOR

“I’ve done a lot of festivals, but this one is pretty special.” Raine Maida had captured the sentiment running through the crowd as Our Lady Peace closed out the final day of Rock the Shores. 

Organizers described the feedback from fans as overwhelmingly positive and added that “this is our new standard.” Mother nature failed to play nice with the festival organizers back in 2012 when an impromptu lightning storm kept Sam Roberts from performing his entire set. However, this year’s event went off without a hitch. RCMP officers reported only 17 arrests and aside from two broken bones from an overzealous mosh pit during Billy Talent’s performance, St. John’s Ambulance mostly attended to complaints of dehydration.

There were a number of reasons that cumulatively added up to what turned out to be the most successful edition of the festival to date. For one, it was a smaller sized venue. The event took place on the lower fields of the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre and averaged just 8,000 fans per day versus Pemberton Music Festival’s 20,000 and the 60,000 that flock to Howe Sound for Squamish Fest every summer. With such a smaller crowd, fans truly got to experience a casual and relaxed atmosphere in a way that only West Coast Islanders can provide – with shared beach blankets, Frisbees soaring overhead, and young girls weaving daisy chains.

Adding to the leisurely vibe in the air was a lineup that brought together an audience spanning generations. On one end of the spectrum, performers such as Mother Mother, USS, Kongos, and The Naked and Famous drew in a more youthful and arguably more ‘hip’ crowd whereas Gen X was drawn in by the favourites of our day such as Sloan, 54-40, Billy Talent, and Our Lady Peace. Finally, on the other end of the spectrum, the performances of The Cult, Loverboy, and Tom Cochrane had the silver foxes in the crowd jovially tapping their loafers.

The festival also served as the largest test-drive of BC’s new relaxed liquor laws which now allow for site-wide open liquor licenses. Fans were no longer confined to the sidelines in tawdry beer gardens and were free to roam the grounds with their $8 beer(s) in tow. Since the new changes took effect back in April there had been much speculation over allowing underage fans to be exposed to hundreds of 6 oz. plastic cups containing beer with a hefty 5% alcohol content. Surely the kids would be at risk of getting drunk (or at least very sticky) as it spilt over them while thrashing in the mosh pit. In the end, there was no sight of intoxicated children running through the fields, no groups of shady men offering to “boot” for the kiddos; all the liquor remained where it was intended – in the hands of those sporting fashionable ID bracelets.

Finally, the event offered a plethora of food trucks boasting nothing less than local, organic, antibiotic/hormone/cruelty-free cuisine. Even the beer served was a selection exclusively from the local-favourite Phillips brewery. Yes, it certainly did them favours.

Drunk jerks who untie women’s bikini tops in the mosh pit.
Philanthropy

which begs the question why one wouldn’t simply donate quietly. This rings especially true in light of the fact that, as it stands, the objective of raising awareness is a red herring: virtually everyone has heard of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, but a vast majority of the participants are no more educated about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis than they were a month ago.

A second oft heard concern pertains to the donated funds. Many have questioned where funds go, how they are used, and whether they are truly reaching those most in need. These are complicated questions, ones which require investigation and research to answer adequately, and which cannot be genuinely addressed in a generalist op-ed. But they are certainly questions worth raising. Supposing for the sake of argument that donated money is only going to transparent, well-intentioned charities, operating without the slightest trace of corruption and against whom such suspicions could not, in good conscience, be raised (hopefully that sounds as unlikely to you as it does to me), a more productive conversation can be had about the emphasis placed on the project of raising funds. Various labels are as “slacktivism,” “clicktivism,” and “lazy hashtag activism,” the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge rewards only the most shallow, facile, and non-committal way of engaging with charitable initiatives. Problematic though this is (and I’ll expound the parameters of it momentarily), I realize that participants who neglect to donate and also genuinely don’t care about the cause are outliers. Be that as it may, if such instances are unrepresentative by virtue of being worst case scenarios, we might ask, what is the “best” outcome that the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge aims for? All that its supporters can point to are the increased donations to ALS organizations.

While I am not saying that charitable donations are unproductive or unhelpful, focusing on them to the exclusion of other, more meaningful ways to aid a cause relates to our society’s growing non-profit industrial complex, which measures the success of philanthropic initiatives by the intuitively sensible but actually questionable metric of dollars raised. Many charities need donations in order to survive, and it is true that fundraising can be a significant way to help them, but the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge implies that it is all that matters. In the age of social media, where we judge our wit based on how many likes a post can attract in ten minutes, and where taking more than an hour to respond to a text message is tantamount to a slap in the face, the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge is a symptom of a culture that privileges instant gratification and which places emphasis on tangible, if trivial, payoffs. All else being equal, feeling like a good person after taking ten minutes to make a hilarious video with your friends is favourable to feeling like a good person after sustained contributions of time and energy for which you’ll receive no recognition, right?

The final (and my most significant) gripe with the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge is that it offers a self-absorbed and ignorant demographic a laughably easy way to feel morally accomplished. It devalues the project of supporting worthwhile endeavours by bringing it down to the level of selfies and hashtags. It purports to be doing something good when it is chiefly undertaken as an ego boost or act of physical comedy. It deploys the subject of ALS in service of cheap laughs and the vapidity of social media. If people spent half the time educating themselves about ALS that they do rewatching their videos and refreshing their Facebook pages to see how many “likes” they’ve received, the cause of ALS would be immeasurably better off.

But detractors will have a ready response: the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge may be grating, it may even be tasteless, but ultimately, it succeeds in securing donations from people who otherwise wouldn’t donate. If social media has revolutionized the way we interact, then why not harness that potential? To this, I can only offer a lamentably principled response. Concerns regarding the metric of dollars raised aside, I agree that more money towards charitable initiatives is better than less. However, I would prefer to see genuine mobilization and motivation to engage with such causes. While the benefit to ALS organizations is indisputably good, the implications of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge are disheartening. What does it say about us, as a society, if the most effective way to secure our participation in a worthwhile cause is to pander to our narcissism in only the most trivial and flippant way? The fatalist will respond that to expect anything more is to give people too much credit, and the pragmatist will argue that the benefit to ALS organizations justifies the means, however problematic they may be. In their wake, I’ll cling to my admittedly idealist stance. The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge may be better than nothing, but it’s less than we’re capable of.

THUMBS UP

The feeling you get when you buy brand new textbooks. So study, very book, much shiny, wow.

Finding

needed to be presented - I could make it happen so long as I had the desire. And so I did. I dedicated one hundred days to art, where I committed to create one piece a day, and in its culmination, to showcase the final collection in an art show. Thanks to the belief in myself, and with the support from a close community of friends, the art show was a huge success, a milestone of my life to be cherished through the long persistence of memory. I feel I achieve so much more than meets the eye through the completion of this event. I was able to learn that (1) my priorities in life lie not solely in law school, (2) the meaning of personal success is only truly defined by oneself, (3) honest introspection is essential to good mental health, (4) you are never alone in your struggles, and (5) loving and appreciating oneself is the key to finding love from those around you.

I can readily say now that I am in a happy place. I am better aware of my needs, my goals in life, and that more often than not, things do not go the way they are planned. I have also learned that it is okay to be anxious and crack under the pressures of school - it does not show a weakness of character, but only proves to demonstrate your humanity. The important point is to never let go of your sense of self, and remain true to who you are.
Shores

sponsoring the event. However, had there been other offerings they too likely would have been hometown stars such as Hoyne or Moon Under Water and not — gasp — Molson or Bud with lime. I personally thought the watermelon-mint salad topped with feta and balsamic vinegar paired nicely with their raspberry wheat ale. Aside from the drinks, the longest lineup on the fairgrounds was found at Kid Sister, a Victoria-based ice-cream parlour that offered a variety of handmade popsicles ranging from Vidal ice-wine to fig custard. Overall, the range of culinary options was enough to make any foodie satisfied both gastronomically and ethically.

Not even a last-minute cancellation by the Wallflowers was enough to cast a shadow over the glowing reviews of the festival. I would even say that it served as a blessing as the empty set was filled with an extra dose of Mother Mother. To close out what Maida described as “a very special festival,” Our Lady Peace performed their brand new song “Won’t Turn Back,” so fresh that it wasn’t released until two days later. Between that, the beautiful West Coast weather, and the $40 worth of Phillips running through me, it was a weekend full of nothing but love.

My Rock the Shore Top Picks:
Mother Mother
Hails from: Vancouver, BC
Genre: Indie pop-rock
Album: The Sticks
Nearing overplayed: “Business Man”
Hidden gem: “Little Pistol”

Kongos
Hails from: Johannesburg, South Africa
Genre: Alternative-rock
Album: Lunatic
Nearing overplayed: “Come With Me”
Hidden gem: “Take Me Back”

The Naked and Famous
Hails from: Auckland, New Zealand
Genre: Indie pop-rock
Album: In Rolling Waves
Nearing overplayed: “Hearts Like Ours”
Hidden gem: “A Small Reunion”

USS (Ubiquitous Synergy Seeker)
Hails from: Toronto, ON
Genre: Alternative dance-electronic
Album: Advanced Basics
Nearing overplayed: “Yin Yang”
Hidden gem: “Hydrogenuine”

Current Swell
Hails from: Victoria, BC
Genre: Indie Folk rock
Album: Ulysses
Nearing overplayed: “Keys to the Kingdom”
Hidden gem: “Gunsshots”

July Talk
Hails from: Toronto, ON
Genre: Alternative rock
Album: July Talk
Nearing overplayed: “Guns·Ammunition”
Hidden gem: “The Garden”

Osheaga

by huge cheers. The band showed poise and talent beyond their years, and were extremely impressive throughout the hour-long set.

Gogol Bordello
From the moment I saw the Osheaga set list, there was no doubt in my mind that Gogol Bordello would be my favourite show. Even though no one I was with had a clue who they were, I was certain they’d leave equally impressed. Needless to say, we were all blown away. Gogol Bordello is an international gypsy punk band comprised of members from across Eastern Europe and the Middle East. With a unique brand of punk polka-ska music, they’ve crafted an international reputation and following, and took to the stage at Osheaga in front of some of the most passionate and enthusiastic fans of the whole festival. From the moment the show began, the massive crowd turned into a giant party of jumping and dancing, and the band kept pace on stage, with several members jumping along with the crowd right through the performance. Fresh off a new album, Gogol played through new tracks and old hits including “The Wunderlust King” and an awesome close of “Immigraniada.” The most energetic and fun show of the weekend, Gogol’s music stood apart from the other bands, and their crazy and over-the-top performance proved the highlight of the entire weekend.

Other Sunday Notables: Portugal. The Man, Chvrches, Arctic Monkeys.

Osheaga

continued from PAGE 8

The feeling you get 5 minutes later when you realize you have to read all your new textbooks.
Pay It Forward
2nd annual legal networking event on September 4th

**Pay It Forward** is an annual event where over 100 legal professionals and law students gather to enhance their educational, social and personal growth and aim to establish a supportive network for future mentorship. This event aims to provide an opportunity for law students to learn more about their careers in the legal profession. In addition, it aims to enhance personal development of students through interaction with legal professionals serving as future mentors.

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- **WOOD GOLD LLP**, Family Law, Litigation and Appeals

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