



**The Dalhousie Gazette**  
North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

# While you were gone



Loaded Ladle wants first floor home, pg. 7  
Improve yourself in the New Year, pg. 13

Cover illustration by Caitlin McGuire

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DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION

# AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

# FEBRUARY 5

6:30PM DALHOUSIE SUB, RM 303

*More details to follow!*



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# FROST FEST

Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> **KEYS 'N KRATES**

Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> **Robbie Burns Day Ski Trip**  
Location: Wortworth | Price: Travel cost TBD  
FREE Mt. Snow if you wear a kit!  
Presented in part with DAL Ski & Snowboard Society

Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> **Halifax Mooseheads vs. Cape Breton Screaming Eagles**

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> **Society Carnival**

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> **Laser Tag**  
Location: McInnes Room

Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> **Winter Field Party**  
Location: Dal Quad

Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> **Winter Ban**  
Location: McInnes Room | ALL AGES

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> **Munro Day Ski Trip**  
Location: Wortworth | Price: TBD  
Presented in part with DAL Ski & Snowboard Society

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AT SUB INFO DESK  
JANUARY 6TH  
Check out dsu.ca/frost  
for more info on  
upcoming events!

Jan. 10 - Jan. 16, 2014 •

## The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

### staff

Ian Froese, Editor-in-Chief  
editor@dalgazette.com

Joelline Girouard, Copy Editor  
copy@dalgazette.com

Kristie Smith, News Editor  
Jesse Ward, Asst. News Editor  
news@dalgazette.com

Sam Elmsley, Opinions Editor  
opinions@dalgazette.com

Mat Wilush, Arts Editor  
Zoe Doucette, Asst. Arts Editor  
arts@dalgazette.com

Benjamin Blum, Sports Editor  
Daniel Bergman, Asst. Sports Editor  
sports@dalgazette.com

Chris Parent, Photo Editor  
photo@dalgazette.com

Justin Hartling, Online Editor  
online@dalgazette.com

Emily Davidson, Art Director  
design@dalgazette.com

Ian Fleming, Video Director  
video@dalgazette.com

Aaron Merchant, Business Manager  
business@dalgazette.com

Isaac Green, Financial Manager  
advertising@dalgazette.com

### contact us

www.dalgazette.com  
The SUB, Room 312  
6136 University Avenue  
Halifax NS, B3H 4J2

### advertising

Isaac Green  
Advertising Manager  
902 401 9666  
advertising@dalgazette.com

### the fine print

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. Views expressed in the letters to the editor, the Street, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Street feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff.

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## DalGazette.com Website Top 5

- 1) Graffiti litters Killam Library: harmless or hateful?—Jesse Ward, News
- 2) Future of Canadian libraries and archives discussed—Sabina Wex, News
- 3) Stolen photo equipment from Gazette office anonymously returned—Ian Froese, News
- 4) False advertising—Jacob Sandler, Opinions
- 5) Letters to the Editor: Killam Library's commitment to remove offensive graffiti—Donna Bourne-Tyson & Joyline Makani



Dal turns 200 in 2018. ••• Photo by Ian Froese

## 100 Days report has an “air of self-congratulation”

Dear editor:

I was excited to see that President Florizone’s report on his ‘100 Days of Listening’ had been released, and eagerly read all 196 pages. I do enjoy a nice report, even one as overly long as this, complete with lots of graphs and charts.

Overall, I enjoyed the read. I learned a lot about my university and what other people think of it. When I finished reading the report, I had a few complaints, but only one has stuck with me for days.

President Florizone’s report has a constant air of self-congratulation and excuse making. This can be seen in nearly every section.

In the report, people are quoted complaining about the class sizes, but our faculty-to-student ratio is so much better than any other school! On paper, that looks nice, but it doesn’t make a difference when I can’t get in touch with the

prof of my 200-plus class, and they are my only contact person.

Another example is the statistic that Dalhousie has 88 Rhodes scholars on the same page that discusses student debt. That’s a nice fact to whip out on the high school tours, but it doesn’t help me pay this semester’s tuition. There’s a time for that, and this isn’t it.

Reading through, there are many other examples of this. Name a negative fact, back it up with something positive and at least tangentially related. We need to stop patting ourselves on the back and explaining away our shortcomings and come up with a real plan for improvement. Enticing students in with nice graphs and charts and then leaving them to fend for themselves obviously isn’t working.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Kimmet  
Fourth-year biology



Killam Library responds to calls to remove graffiti. ••• Photo by Bryn Karcha

## Anti-Semitic graffiti must go

Re: *Graffiti litters Killam Library: Harmless or Hateful?*, Nov. 22

Dear editor:

Hillel Halifax, the Jewish student group on campus, was saddened to hear of the hate-motivated graffiti recently found in the Killam Library.

Racist and anti-Semitic graffiti have no place on campus. Such slogans are an affront to the values of freedom, liberalism and equality that Canadians of all backgrounds hold dear.

We condemn this illustration of hatred and intolerance, and we stand in solidarity with members of the student community also targeted by this graffiti. We urge the university administration to quickly remove the racist graffiti, and to put into place mechanisms for preventative monitoring as well as reporting.

Sincerely,

Jesse Zelunka

President, Hillel Halifax  
Bachelor of Arts and Social Sciences, '14

## Killam begins removing offensive scrawlings

Re: *Letters to the Editor: Anti-Semitic graffiti must go*, Dec. 9

Dear editor:

Thank you for your story about the graffiti in the Killam Library. We, too, are saddened and disgusted by the racist and anti-Semitic graffiti.

Clean-up on the graffiti in the Killam has begun; some of the graffiti in the washrooms has already been removed. On Dec. 17, 10 bulletin boards in quiet study rooms will be painted to cover graffiti. We are waiting to do this work after students are finished their exams to limit the disruption.

Some of the graffiti is on the original rosewood tables in the Killam. This graffiti is considerably more expensive and time-consuming to remove. To date, some of the rosewood carrel tops have been removed and replaced with small study tables. We are looking into getting more small replacement tables because the cost of having the rosewood refinished is prohibitive.

We have been working closely with Dalhousie’s Security Services and Facilities Management on

this situation. Currently, we are focusing our efforts on keeping the washrooms and stairwells as free of graffiti as possible. These are the locations where most of the hateful graffiti was found, likely because they are the most out of the way. Custodial staff are adding the restrooms and the stairwells to their rounds for daily graffiti checks and Security Services will provide staff with a training session on what types of graffiti they may encounter and how to document and report each incident.

Finally, Dalhousie Security Services will be leading a public education campaign about graffiti at Dalhousie in the coming months which we will be actively participating in. We hope that with these efforts, graffiti in the Killam Library will be a thing of the past. We appreciate the support that the Dal Libraries have received from Facilities Management and Security in addressing this issue.

Sincerely,

Donna Bourne-Tyson,  
University Librarian

Joyline Makani,  
Head, Killam Memorial Library

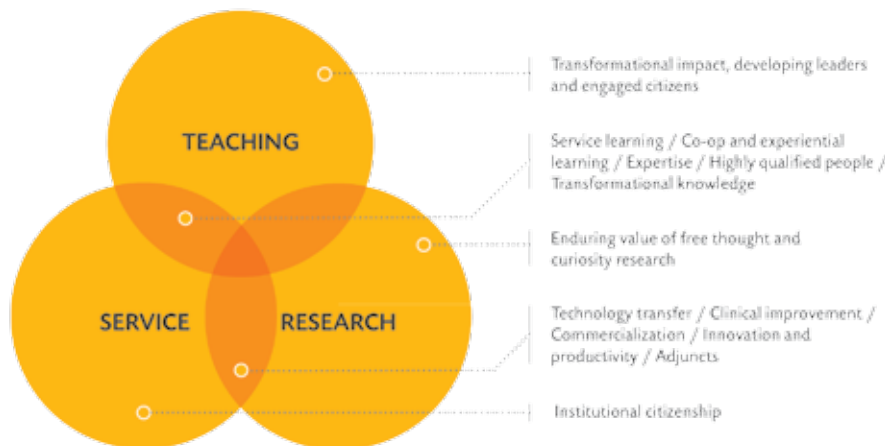
### On the cover:

A lot has happened since we last plopped a copy of the *Gazette* on newsstands in November. This week, Caitlin McGuire puts her artistic take on the news you missed. Can you find all six stories? See more of McGuire’s work at [caitlinmcguire.carbonmade.com](http://caitlinmcguire.carbonmade.com).



Kristie Smith News Editor

## 100 Days in 200 pages Report admits student retention is a problem



Florizone splits Dal's role into three categories to better address each. ••• Infographic via 100 Days of Listening report

**Kristie Smith**  
News Editor

Richard Florizone held 48 group consultations, 554 smaller meetings and received 766 online submissions during his first 100 days at work. His report, 197 pages long, was released on Dec. 23, cutting it close to the deadline and over double the anticipated length.

Clearly six very busy months wasn't enough to dent the new president's enthusiasm.

The good news is that there isn't much bad news, not that it was expected. The university has debt, which was known, and no clear way to eliminate it, which comes as no surprise.

### "I'VE SEEN SO MANY OF THEM STRUGGLING"

Nova Scotian universities are already at a disadvantage since provincial funding has taken a nosedive. In 1992-93, the prov-

ince contributed 74 per cent of operating revenue; in 2012-13, it covered only 54 per cent.

"Nova Scotia's provincial operating funding per student is now among the lowest in the country, although operating funding per capita is third highest," says the report.

One thing said without as many words in the report: this will not last.

In 2018, Dalhousie will turn 200. It's starting to show.

According to the report, Dal's five campuses house 146 buildings over 5.4 million square feet. Of that, 76 per cent of the space is 25 years old or older and described as "at risk of failure." While the report admits the vote is pretty much split whether Dal needs new buildings, "given the age of our buildings and our deferred maintenance backlog, the reality is that Dalhousie must continue to invest significantly in its physical infrastructure."

In the U15 index, a report of 15 equally sized universities to compare development, Dal has the second most aged campus. Sexton campus, in particular, is long due for an overhaul.

The need for increased and improved space has become more apparent over the past decade, as the student population grew approximately 24 per cent between 2002 and 2012. A large portion of this growth has been international students, up from 809 in 2000 to 2,686 in 2013.

But all is not well for Dal's relationship with international students. One of the only blatant problems repeated in the report was student retention, in particular first year students and especially international students. Retention rates at Dal are seven to eight points below the U15 average, showing a problem primarily among international students.

"We should not be encouraging international students to come here if we cannot deliver on what we promise them," said a staff member anonymously in the report.

"I've seen so many of them struggling."

Approximately 14.5 per cent of the student population of Dalhousie is international students, with students coming from over 100 different countries. While Canada is now receiving over 100,000 international students annually, the report suggests that Dal

needs to figure out how to get a bigger chunk of that number, and beyond that, maintain the influx after first year.

University programs were another point brought up. Dal has more undergraduate programs per student than any other U15 university, and in 2010, 24 per cent of undergraduate major programs accounted for 80 per cent of undergraduate enrolment. The question is whether this is good or bad.

The report did make a tangible recommendation: "We propose a process of Faculty-led program review, engaging Senate for input and approval, and with some central coordination to develop overall principles and practices and to monitor and learn from similar efforts at other universities."

Student finances, however, didn't get the same treatment. First brought up on page 57, it only went as far as explaining the differences between entrance scholarships, in-course scholarships and bursaries. It did not offer any resolutions or promises for review, or even mention that students are unhappy with the cost of their education for another 60 pages.

Tuition and provincial funding continue to represent over 90 per cent of all university revenue. As provincial funding has decreased, approximately \$11.2M since 2011, tuition has raised to make up the difference. Today, tuition is 36 per cent of all revenue, twice as high as it was in 1992-93. It's not surprising then to read that Dal has some of the highest tuition fees across the country.

The report includes a silver lining to the university's finances. If Dal were to go into debt in order to complete all of the major capital projects currently being considered all at once, the university would still only have the third highest debt in the U15.

The report covered more than student services, going into detail on workplace environment and the financial aspects of expanding infrastructure, among other things. ☹

## CLEAN-UP ON KILLAM GRAFFITI BEGINS

**Rachel Bloom**  
News Contributor

The staff of the Killam Memorial Library are taking action against the graffiti reported by the *Gazette* last November. Over the holiday break, starting as early as Dec. 17, washrooms and 10 quiet study rooms in the library were re-painted, showing the school isn't taking the issue lightly.

But don't expect the Killam to have become graffiti-less overnight.

In a *Gazette* letter to the editor, university librarian Donna Bourne-Tyson and Joyline Makani, head of the Killam Library, explained, "Some of the graffiti is on the original rosewood tables in the Killam. This graffiti is considerably more expensive and time-consuming to remove. To date, some of the rosewood carrel tops have been removed and replaced with small study tables. We are looking into getting more small replacement tables because the cost of having the rosewood refinished is prohibitive."

The beginning of the efforts to eradicate graffiti are mainly targeting stairwells and washrooms, where some of the most hateful graffiti can be found. ☹

# Hadfield to celebrate Dal's space oddities



Author of *An Astronaut's Guide to Life*. ••• Photo by Robert Markowitz via Wikipedia

## Gazette staff

One of the world's most celebrated moustaches is coming to Dalhousie.

Canadian astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield will be stopping by campus sometime in 2014 to personally congratulate last Movember's big winners, as well as give a public lecture.

Dal raised the most money per capita in Canada for the global men's health charity, with 645 students and faculty raising \$93,566. Elsewhere in Canada, the University of Toronto took top

prize globally, with 977 students and faculty raising \$148,449.

Several faculties at Dal raised money, but the most successful was the Rowe Mo' Bros & Sistat team. Its 87 members raised \$33,620, the 32nd most successful team in Canada and 97th in the world.

Two of the team's leaders, Mike Wilkes and Warren Mosley, ranked amongst the top 10 individual raisers in Canada. They finished in first and sixth place respectively, earning a combined \$12,376. ☺

## Saint Mary's promises culture of consent

Jesse Ward  
Assistant News Editor

Saint Mary's University is committed to serious cultural change following the release of a new report, says university president Colin Dodds.

The 110-page document, "Promoting a Culture of Safety, Respect and Consent at Saint Mary's University and Beyond," was made in response to an orientation week event in September where freshmen were led by frosh leaders in a chant promoting underage rape.

The executive summary of the report includes 20 recommendations on how SMU could handle issues of sexual violence, inclusivity and safety on cam-

pus.

One of the recommendations suggests SMU should "establish clear standards of behavioural norms that would apply to all members of the university community."

The report shows student leaders at SMU identified 23 "sources of sexualization/sexism during O-Week," including "society and cultures."

One response suggested to "repair the harms caused by the O-week practices" is to "come up with new (clean) chants about DAL."

"The University thanks the President's Council for its important work and commits to implementing all of the recommendations in a timely manner,"

said Dodds in a media release on Dec. 19. "This will not be easy, but it's necessary and so we have already begun to work on implementing many of them."

The same day, a commenter on SMU's official Facebook page said that if the report is "as well thought out as your smoking and e-cigarette policy," it "will be another complete failure and hardly worth the paper it's printed on."

In reply, SMU's Facebook account said "the council's report is substantial and includes a broad range of recommendations based in best practices found at other institutions and from the direct experiences of some of the council's members."

"The University will be judged by our timely actions and not on the independent council's words alone," said SMU. ☺

## CASA and SNS—what to do with these expensive acronyms

Kristie Smith  
News Editor

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has spent approximately \$113,000 this year on federal and provincial lobbying.

That number was higher last year, when Dal spent \$44,000 in membership fees to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). They've since lowered their membership (and the associated costs), but could be leaving the alliance all together this spring.

A report was presented to council on Dec. 4 by the Advocacy Review Committee, which was formed after the DSU downgraded its CASA membership. The report addressed the DSU's advocacy efforts, from executive restructuring to provincial and federal lobbying groups. One councillor described the report as having "way too much going on here for us to have a conversation" during the meeting.

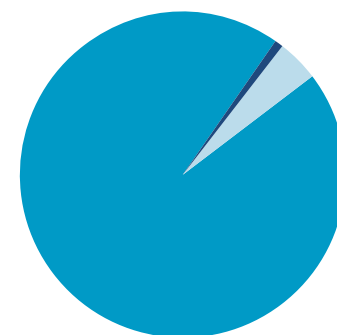
While it didn't outright call for an exodus, the report did include a road map and timeline for leaving CASA.

Josh Cooke, VP finance and operations, was less than impressed. He referred to a similar report published by the University of Manitoba when they reviewed their advocacy expenses, which he described as an approximately 60-page "full advocacy review that looks at everything CASA's done," adding that "we need something like this rather than a 15-page report... rather than something that to me came across more like an opinion paper."

Withdrawing from CASA would leave Students Nova Scotia (SNS) as the DSU's only lobby group. SNS, founded in 2003 as the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations, will cost the union over \$90,000 this year. One argument in SNS's defence is that university funding is under provincial mandate, so it needs more attention.

This report is one of the first (if ever) times the union has considered leaving SNS. Not all councillors were happy to see this suggestion included, given the referendum two years ago in which students voted to increase funding to SNS. One councillor

### Provincial and national student association fees



- Total DSU Budget: \$2,321,525.13
- CASA fees: \$20,662.27
- ANSSA (SNS) fees: \$92,377.15

said that Dal would "decimate the institution" by leaving SNS.

The DSU must decide which organizations, if either, they want to leave before putting the question to the student body. The latest this decision can be made is in February. ☺



CKDU's offer of additional ads to a frustrated hot dog vendor still stands. ••• Photo by Adele van Wyk

## CKDU sees day in court

**Tanya Kunwongse**  
News Contributor

The chair of CKDU's board of governors and the owner of Superdogs Succulent Sausages entered court on Dec. 19 to settle a financial dispute dating back to last August.

Steven Weagle, who catered CKDU's volunteer appreciation picnic on Aug. 17, claims the radio station owes him \$842 in compensation for food, supplies and legal fees.

"Mr. Weagle misunderstood the contract," Russell Gragg, chair of

the radio station's board of governors, told the *Gazette*.

According to CKDU, they agreed to hand out tickets to volunteers for a total value of \$250. These tickets could be exchanged at Superdogs for a hot dog or veggie dog and a drink—but Weagle was free to sell the rest of his stock. In return, CKDU would provide \$250 worth of advertising.

Weagle says he and CKDU's station manager, Gianna Lalonde, verbally agreed he would hand out all of the refreshments and receive full cash compensation the

next day.

"We have offered to compensate him because CKDU supports local businesses," says Gragg. That compensation would be in the form of a larger advertisement package.

Weagle was unsatisfied with the offer. He's since taken down the Superdogs website, but hopes the court will decide on a settlement "...that not only reflects the written aspects of our agreement, but the verbal ones too."

CKDU has not retracted their compensation offer. The court will give its decision by Feb. 17. ☎

## Meet Dalhousie's 88th Rhodes Scholar

### Biology major surprised by prestigious honour



Mackley will graduate from Dal this spring. ••• Photo by Ian Froese

**Ian Froese**  
Editor-in-chief

If you ask Michael Mackley, the hardest part of the months he spent applying for the Rhodes Scholarship was staying quiet after hearing the answer he was looking for.

"You can't tell your friends, they'll tweet. You can't tell your aunts and uncles, they'll go on Facebook. You could only tell your immediate family, that's it," Mackley recalls of his more than 24 hours of silence.

"That was so hard."

When the news broke Dec. 2, the 21-year-old Dartmouth native made some early phone calls. Think 6 a.m. early.

"I called all my friends who were asleep and they answered the phone and was like, 'Michael, what do you want?' he said. 'I said, 'I won the Rhodes,' and then they were really quiet and then they screamed.'"

Mackley received the Rhodes Scholarship, a renowned honour offering an all-expenses-paid ticket to Oxford University in the U.K. for two years of postgraduate study, with an option for a third. It's valued at over \$100,000.

The fourth-year honours biology student is Dalhousie's 88th Rhodes Scholar. He is one of 11 Canadians and 83 students worldwide to make this year's class.

His list of academic successes is long—the dean's list, research

grants and scholarships—but the breadth of Mackley's extra-curricular commitments is as remarkable. He's part of several musical groups as a singer and musician, coaches flag football, volunteers with sick children and tutors neighbourhood students.

In his application essay, Mackley wrote about his male acapella ensemble, which performs for medical patients.

.....  
**"I STILL THINK  
THEY MADE A  
MISTAKE"**  
.....

"I talked about my music and my love of medical research and sort of how I wanted to bridge the gap between the two, and how I wanted to play a role in this next era of medical research," he said.

At Dal, Mackley's been examining genetic diseases in humans. His lab hopes to enhance the treatment of individually rare 'orphan diseases'.

The budding clinician does not know how he curried favour with the Rhodes panel, but he's happy it worked out.

"I never really considered myself Rhodes-material, and I still think they made a mistake," he said. "But I'm going to show up next fall and represent." ☎

## DSU investing in Divest Dal

**Kelsey Power**  
News Contributor

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) unanimously voted to support Divest Dalhousie and their goal of having the university pull all investments in the fossil fuel industry.

The official support of the union, representing over 18,000 students, was voted on at the Nov. 20 council meeting.

The Halifax Environmental

Justice Collective (HEJC), or Divest Dal, is a working group of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG). It's made up of Dal students, alumni and community members concerned with climate change.

The group got a lot of attention last semester by asking Dalhousie to stop investing in fossil fuel companies using university funds—aiming to make Dalhousie's campus and conscience much cleaner.

"It is morally bankrupt for an institution who claims to be a

leader in sustainability to profit off the extraction of fossil fuels, the warming of the climate, and the displacement of millions of people," said Divest Dal member Rob McNeish in a press release.

For now, the group will continue to build awareness of the campaign but is largely hoping the board of governors will address the subject before spring.

McNeish believes the fact that the campaign hasn't been given a firm "no" as of yet to be very promising. ☎

# Loaded Ladle fights back against basement banishment

## SUB renovations “just not a viable option”



The basement would mean no attached kitchen or seating for Ladle fans. ••• Photo by Jasspreet Sahib

**Katherine MacNeill**  
News Contributor

The sticky-note plastered blueprint on the wall inside the Student Union Building (SUB) is covered with scrawled messages like “more room for the Ladle,” and “Loaded Ladle should be on the main floor.” Students have been speaking out since the plan to move the Loaded Ladle to the basement during renovations was announced. If plans can't be changed, the Ladle will lose its prime location on the main floor, and some practical assets like adequate seating and, well, a neighbouring kitchen.

“The proposed space doesn't have an attached kitchen,” says Drew Childerhose, a coordinator with the Loaded Ladle. “There aren't any tables down there and

there's not the same amount of foot traffic. We wouldn't have direct access to an oven, a stovetop, rice cookers, steamers.”

Childerhose makes his position clear: “The basement is just not a viable option for the Ladle. I don't think we'd cook anymore if we were put down there.”

Dal student groups and groups from other campuses have been writing letters to the Dal Student Union (DSU), arguing that the basement is no place for an important campus presence. “The People's Potato from Concordia sent in a letter,” says fellow coordinator Joan Moses. “And we have one coming in right now from the University of Maine,” adds Childerhose. “We've heard from the DSU that an overwhelming amount of the feedback they've received has been regarding the Loaded Ladle. At this point we

have been promised a first floor kitchen.”

But Moses adds that “we haven't seen it in writing, we haven't seen it in the blueprint. We kind of feel like the plans aren't confirmed.”

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Loaded Ladle serves lunch to hundreds of people. The food is vegan so it can be eaten by as many as possible. It's also free.

“A meal from a different place in this building will cost you \$7 or \$8,” says Moses. “Especially in a time where the DSU has been arguing for lower tuition or tuition freezes, this is something real that cuts costs,” adds Childerhose.

Moses and Childerhose want their own space equipped with basic equipment. “We don't have a full staff. We're mostly run by volunteers,” says Moses. “We'd be

open to sharing space with other student groups but I think the reality is we need to be able to create a welcoming space for volunteers. If we had our own space, serving five days a week would become possible.”

“We're also spread out over three floors to cook,” says Childerhose. “We wash our dishes on the second floor, we do most of our cooking on the first floor and where we cook our rice and where the ovens are is located in the basement. We serve between 220 and 260 people every day, but if we didn't have those hurdles to overcome it's not incomprehensible to think we could serve 400 people.”

It's not just the Ladle losing space during renovations that worries Moses and Childerhose. “I don't think one floor worth \$5 million is really the best use

of money,” says Childerhose. “I don't think the DSU is thinking in a progressive way. One would assume that if you were going to spend \$10 to 13 million on renovations, you'd be thinking about how the DSU could grow, and where it will be in 10, 15 years rather than creating spaces that aren't even suitable now.”

Moses adds that these plans could turn out worse for smaller groups than it will for the Ladle. “The Ladle is lucky because we're visible right now on the main floor and have paid staff. Not every society has that. The DSU never consulted a lot of the societies in a meaningful way.”

.....  
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DOWN THERE.”**  
.....

In the future, Moses and Childerhose hope to see the Ladle become more of a presence on campus. “Where we see it growing is in producing our own literature. We want people to think about the food they're eating and why,” says Moses.

Moses hopes that the DSU will help, rather than hinder their efforts. “The DSU has a responsibility to give student groups space. They're why a lot of students are even in this building,” Childerhose adds that the long life of student groups should convince the DSU not to underestimate their importance. “These are all societies that have passed many referendums. It's a track-record that speaks louder than winning one vote.” ☺

"Care for a little friendly competition?"



**LIKE** our new Dal SUB Chickenburger Facebook page and enter for your chance to **WIN** a hot and juicy \$25 gift card every week from your new favorite place to eat on campus.



**GO LIKE**

facebook.com/ChickenburgerDalSUB

	5	7			1			
8			3				2	
			8			5		4
			5		4			6
		5		6				1
9	1					2		
4						9		
				3			8	
		3			7			



Capital Health

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The study involves up to 7 visits to the Centre for Clinical Research, 5790 University Avenue, Halifax N.S over a one week period.

The following is done as part of the study:

- Assessed by a Hematologist and nurse
- Receive medication
- Have blood drawn
- Have bone marrow drawn

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Save the flip flops 'til June. ••• Photo by Jasspreet Sahib

## Summer comes early to Dal

### U-Passes will be available for the first time

**Katherine MacNeill**  
News Contributor

Advertising begins soon for a Dalhousie first: a summer bus pass. After years of discussion, full-time summer students will finally have an easy way to get around the city.

"We see this as a great service and are excited to offer it for Dalhousie students," says Sagar Jha, president of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), in an email.

"This will not only benefit students' commute to and from campus but also throughout the community."

Students have wanted the summer U-Pass for years, but Jha says

it took time and cooperation.

"The summer bus pass required a lot of effort, including having Metro Transit, the university and the DSU sit in the same room. Year in and year out, DSU representatives would campaign on

.....  
**"THE SUMMER  
BUS PASS  
REQUIRED  
A LOT OF  
EFFORT"**  
.....

this as a promise but not do any of the actual follow up."

Jha has heard great things from students in favour of the U-Pass.

"They are excited to be more mobile and active in the community during the summer months," he says.

The U-Pass will cost summer students \$72.50, the same as it would any other semester, and will be available starting May of this year. Dal students should start noticing advertising within the next few months, says Jha.

"There will also be information at the time of registration for summer classes." ☎

## Tom Traves admitted to the Order of Canada



Traves served as Dal's 10th president. ••• Photo by Katrina Pyne

**Kristie Smith**  
News Editor

Tom Traves served as Dalhousie's president for 18 years, and Canada is saying thank you.

Governor General David Johnson ended 2013 by announcing 90 appointments to the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest civilian honours. Near the bottom of the online list was Traves,

who stepped down from Dal's top job last summer.

The Nova Scotia native will be invited to Ottawa later this year to receive his new insignia. He was selected to receive the honour for his "contributions to post-secondary education in Nova Scotia, notably through his presidency of Dalhousie University," according to the governor general's website. ☎

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# opinions

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Sam Elmsley Opinions Editor

## In for the long haul (hopefully) Improving Dal's student retention rate



Grade shock isn't the only factor behind Dal's mediocre retention rates. ••• Photo by Kit Moran

**Josh Fraser**  
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie's student retention rates hover in the mid-eighties, according to *Maclean's*. On a national scale, we are mediocre. But when the upper extreme is less than 10 percentage points away, you could say we aren't faring badly—that dropouts are common and understandable. While it is difficult to feel urgent about a common problem among post-secondary institutions, we should examine why an eighth of Dal students call it quits prior to obtaining a degree.

In 2010, *Maclean's* wrote an article on the inflation of high school grades and how many top students suffer huge blows to their confidence when their university marks are much lower, causing some to drop out or fail. The article implores students to brace themselves for the grade drop and to understand it is not a reflection of their inadequacy. This is an important factor, but is also, in my opinion, an incredibly impoverished view of student life.

Personally, I am only invigorated by a fraction of the courses I take, and these are usually not core programme courses. There is something to be said for the skill of powering through bland, nec-

essary tasks, but the prospect of paying for the privilege of tedium for years stinks. It might be fine if degrees still meant jobs, but the rising levels of graduate applications, dismal economic forecasts, and mounting average household debt moulds education into an exercise in risk analysis rather than a pursuit of passion and aptitude.

Boldly, I hazard to suggest some causes peripheral to what *Maclean's* called 'grade shock.' Maybe I'm odd, but I find that interacting with Dal's university administration can be a frustrating and belittling experience. It seems to me that there is a growing disparity between the students and their school, which is unaffected by school spirit or friendly staff. To people like me, whose intelligence is emotional and environmental, these cold and confusing relationships with the curators of our education can be downright dispiriting. I'm not asking the administration to take sensitivity courses or start giving out free hugs (we all know they're not cheap), but something must be done to bridge the gap between the students and the mechanics of their institution.

I feel our current model of education is not keeping pace with student life. Increasing numbers of students have to work part-

time on top of a full course load, and I've seen this break one of my friends with fatigue as she tried to deal with life's curveballs as well. The sheer time commitment of slogging through enough material to keep passing grades allows for little exercise and recreation, even without financial concerns. There is no balance to student life, as it rockets to weekend highs of stress relief only to hammer us with the inundation of endless reading and studying that most students simply do not perform for lack of time and energy. This is a cycle of illness.

Moving forward, Dal could turn some heads by leapfrogging ahead in the retention rates category. We have a new president who has made initiatives to hear students, and it is up to us to speak. We must make this place inspiring and nurturing by loosening strictures on degree programmes. The markets are flooded with degrees, and it is time to inspire students to seek their passion and provide the opportunity to furnish themselves with the skills they require to build their dreams.

Frankly, students need hope. Retention rates are one among many categories of student wellness that would improve if we focus on building confidence in individual ability. ☺

## Walking in a winter iceland

### HRM vs. resident apathy

**Samantha Elmsley**  
Opinions Editor

Another winter, another Canada-wide attempt to keep the snow at bay. In previous years, standard seasonal dumpings have reduced Halifax to a city-wide slip 'n slide, making travel by foot a dangerous pastime. This year, the HRM is trying out a new snow removal policy, lifting the burden of sidewalk-shoveling from residents' shoulders and assuming that responsibility itself. Halifax streets have been zoned into three priorities. Depending on which priority your street falls under, you can expect your sidewalk to be cleared within 12, 24 or 36 hours after a snowfall.

I hope it works, because winter 2014 is shaping up to be a doozy, and for some reason sidewalk-clearing doesn't seem to be a Haligonian strong suit. Even I—strong, able-bodied student that I am—have been felled by the treacherous ice and snow combos on Vernon Street. Ironically, however, I'm sure I've been a factor in the HRM's decision to take on snow removal for itself: in my four years of living here, I have never once wielded a shovel to help clear away those pedestrian paths. Why? Partly because (I'm realizing as I write this) I'm a horrible human being, and partly because I'm never sure whether it's my job or the landlord's to take the snow away. According to Dalhousie Legal Aid's Tenant Rights

Guide, services provided by the landlord should be specified in the lease. I'm sure most students take time to look it over for the basics, but for most of us, snow removal probably isn't something we look for. In some cases, and certainly in mine, this means it just doesn't get done. Multiply that scenario by the hundreds of student or tenant households around Dal and SMU campuses, and you've got yourself a problem.

Unfortunately, it's not the able-bodied who are most impacted by dangerous sidewalks. Our elderly neighbors, people with a disability and others for whom mobility can pose a problem on a sunny summer day are those who have the most to lose when the snow comes down. For me, those icy sidewalks are a minor inconvenience; for others, they're a real threat to health and safety.

So I commend HRM for taking snow removal into their governmental hands. Clearly, love for our fellow human beings was not enough to motivate me and many others to scrape away the weather so others could walk safely through the winter. This winter will certainly be a test of the HRM's ability to follow up on the overhaul for more efficiency, and for the sake of my neighbors, I hope they pass. If not, I like to think I'll take it upon myself to carry an emergency haul of rock salt at all times. ☹



Saying 'Happy Holidays' can be a personal expression. ••• Photo by Josh Fraser

## Season's greetings

### Alternative phrases aren't just political correctness

Josh Fraser

Staff Contributor

As the transaction comes to a close, I hand my lovely customer her change and a holiday gesture.

I say: "Happy holidays to you," with a tired clerk's smile.

Kindly, conspiratorially, she leans in.

"It's okay, darling, you can say Merry Christmas."

At her receding frame, I can only stare. I feel wounded by her simplistic story of me; the good boy who is gentle and smart and will run the family business someday. Just once might have been fine, but after the third customer who poked fun at what they perceived to be an over-righteous sense of cultural sensitivity, I grew angry. To them I had become the wallpaper of the family business, and while they were being glib in a high-spirited holiday manner, they had not even considered that I might be using 'Happy Holidays' as a personal expression apart

from simple retail jargon.

Doggedly, I seek a practice of cultural sensitivity that takes into account the multiplicity of religious identities, one that assumes our vocal expressions are gifts, windows into our individual identities. I adore a hearty 'Merry Christmas!' from family and stranger alike; it tells me the style of their holidays, their background and beliefs. Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, I want to hear them all. This is the essence of positive cultural exchange in view of the diversity to which we aspire.

A word on my beliefs: ambiguous. I choose to voice a secular and neutral expression, not because I am worried I will offend others, but as sincere encouragement to find peace and happiness during the holidays. Human transactions are fleeting, and unfortunately we must craft micro-expressions that are supposed to be a meaningful gesture of goodwill and human solidarity around a chilly season of rest and celebration. I under-

stand my customers mean well; it is with kindness that they tried to connect with me, but in doing so a large assumption was made, perhaps several.

Christmas is inevitably a part of my life, a fact to which I hold no grudge. I enjoy spending time with my family; the relations of blood are special ones, and I feel blessed to enjoy them as people too. Christmas allows the shop to close for one day each year, when my father and I can spend rare time without talking business. After the lights go down, I slip outside into the quietest night of the year. This year it snowed, and I danced tipsily among the flakes, brushing through pine boughs and feeling their stalwart energy. I need not shun Christmas to experience it in a Pagan way, but my own prerogative is important to me, and I express this in all of my speech, no matter how quipped.

I spent a happy holiday; thank you for asking so nicely, so warmly. I hope the same is true for you. ☺

## Young professionals

### The ups and downs of undergrad conferences

Samantha Elmsley

Opinions Editor

The academy is heating up as we hurdle into the second half of the 2013-14 academic year. This semester, Dalhousie will play host to two major undergraduate conferences: the annual Atlantic Undergraduate Conference, and the annual Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society (DASSS) Undergraduate Conference—the only national undergrad gathering in Canada. On top of these exciting events, student academic journals will be in full swing this winter, with everything from English to physics churning out original undergraduate papers for publication.

Both the conferences and the journals are an important medium for original work that often gets marked and forgotten. However, in the rush of second semester, amid the pressure to do well, learn lots, volunteer and work part-time, are they what undergrads really need?

Full disclosure: I will be involved in organizing both of the above mentioned conferences, and am a member of the English Society exec, which publishes the ever-enlightening *Verso* and *Fathom* each year. Clearly, I feel there is some merit to these efforts. Also, it would be awkward for everyone involved if I didn't come up with at least some positives.

On that note: both conferences and journals are a means of salvaging the original thoughts and hard work undergrads put in to their papers, which usually end up languishing in a prof's filing cabinet after grading—if it's kept at all. Conferences in particular serve to further academic discourse, literally: participants can absorb and respond to their colleague's thoughts in

real time, face-to-face interactions. In many ways, undergrad conferences embody what I came to university for in the first place: a space to discuss ideas with other eager beavers. Plus, free dinners.

Journals, like school newspapers, are an outlet for students to hone their writing skills, teaching participants about the editing process and how to work with others to produce a finished product. Like the speaking skills sharpened at a conference, the tools gained by publishing with a journal are transferable to many other areas of life.

Despite these (very positive, very worthy) aspects, the proliferation of undergrad journals and conferences comes with ramifications as well. While their spread means more work is being saved and more voices being heard, it also increases the pressure to participate. For some students, for various reasons, it's hard enough turning in a class paper, let alone finding the time to rewrite it for a conference. This can put these students at a disadvantage should they choose to go on to grad school. Suddenly, it's not enough to have good grades; they have to have papers published and presented, too. In this sense, while these outlets further academic discourse, they also open up another avenue of competition, another means for some to get ahead while others fall behind.

This is not a call to stop the professionalization of undergrad (as if I could) but to reflect on its implications for whom lost opportunities are already a reality at university. I'm going to be there, and participate in that discourse; I only hope that everyone who wants to be, is there with me. ☺



## RESOLUTION: Dress better

Revitalize your bland dress sense, ya dummy



Clothes belong on hangers, not floors. ••• Photo by Adele van Wyk

**Zoe Doucette**  
 Assistant Arts Editor

Did you spend one too many a day in the same threadbare, pallidly

toned sweatshirt during exams? Is your blanket with sleeves starting to look like an attractive fleecy swaddling for non-couch activities? My friend, things can turn

around in your sartorial life in 2014. You probably have the solutions at hand...or, more accurately, in closet.

### Have a vision

Find an aesthetic vision or passion and follow it. If you've always admired 1920s flappers, Vikings or pastel Harajuku teenagers, than try bringing these interests into your clothes. Research the specific fits, cuts and histories behind this chosen aesthetic. Gather a library of images to refer to when recreating the look yourself. For instance, obvious places to look for flapper inspiration would be silent film actress Clara Bow and *Great Gatsby* adaptations. When you find something you like, save it.

### “SCAVENGE PIECES TO COMPLIMENT YOUR VISION”

### Edit

Look through your existing wardrobe and figure out what fits into your vision. Try to keep a minimal set of properly fitting, versatile clothes that can be adapted with tweaking or accessory changes. A longer dress could be tailored into a flapper appropriate drop-waist shift with a little effort, saving you a few bucks. Pick pieces you rarely wear out for consignment, donation or clothes swapping.

### Be a culture

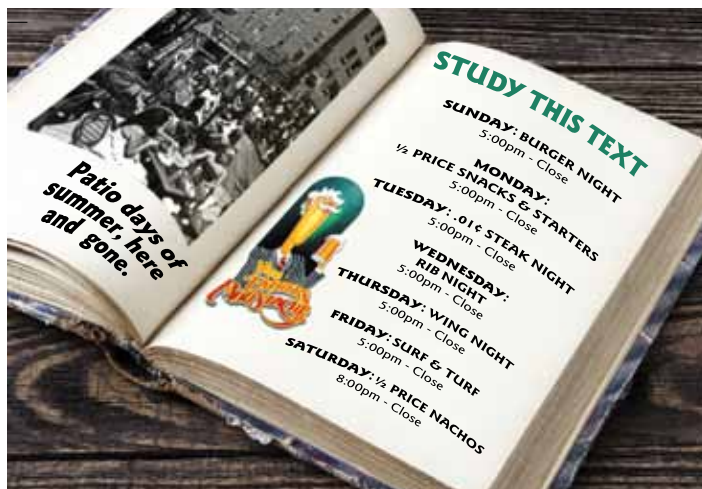
This is the fun part. Now that you have a fitted, basic set of clothes, you need to scavenge for accessory pieces to complement your vision. If you have no budget constraints, good for you. Go crazy with the cloche hats and long strands of pearls. For the rest of us, these items can be found cheaply. Check thrift stores, junk drawers, eBay, yard sales and crap on the curbside to put together a collection of unique and strange accent pieces. I find detachable fur collars at Value Village for under five dollars all the time, and these are a great ethical and affordable way to change a basic jacket.

### Preserve and protect

Pick up a simple sewing kit from the dollar store to learn basic stitches and clothing maintenance. You can alter garments to suit you better, keep buttons in place and help clothes to last longer for about two bucks.

### Tie it together

With your inspiration, basic items and accessory pieces assembled, you can finish off with easy-to-change touches through hair and face looks. For example, someone running with a flapper inspiration might try a messy bob and Clara Bow pursed lip to round out their simple set of clothes. ☺



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# RESOLUTION: Culture yourself

2014: Year of the anything

Mat Wilush  
Arts Editor

.....  
A week from now, that New Year's enthusiasm and exhilaration you felt as the ball dropped from 10 could be long gone. It's the oft-noted crisis of resolution; like a New Year's hangover, by the next morning, you've forgotten what it was that you were so excited about. But it isn't too late. Hang on to that curiosity and desire for self-exploration. Try and pull yourself up and out of your usual skin to learn something new this year, and get involved in Halifax's enormous arts community. It could be what you've been counting for.

.....  
"DON'T BE A  
STRANGER  
IN YOUR  
OWN HOME"  
.....

## Do It Live

Go see live music throughout the city. Gus' Pub and the Seahorse often have great music showcases on a weekly basis. Halifax and Nova Scotia are home to a heap of music festivals happening throughout the year. In late January, hit up the In the Dead of Winter Festival, a week of singer-songwriter showcases. The Halifax Jazz Festival is in town in early July. If you have the means, head over to Sackville, N.B. for SappyFest in August. Whatever you do, don't be content with

an iPod: you need to hear, see and smell it.

## Help Out and Hang Out

Halifax is overflowing with independent arts studios and galleries that would be only too pleased to have you stop in and lend a hand. Whether you're popping into Eyelevel Gallery's new location to sweep up or signing up with the Atlantic Film Festival as a ticket distributor, there are always perks to be had and friends to be made. There are a million things to keep busy with in the Halifax arts community; don't be a stranger in your own home.

## Do It Yourself

Why don't you just *do* it, already? Interested in issuing your own handmade publications? Become a member at the Anchor Archive Zine Library and pick up some tips on crafting your own photocopied magnum opus. If you're the type that dominates the playlists at every party, why don't you sign-up at CKDU and learn how to set up your own radio show? Dal has plenty of societies that cover the entire breadth of artistic possibility, from the Dal Theatre Society to the Dal Photography Collective; there is really no excuse for feeling stifled creatively. All it takes is a little bit of that energy you were so alive with at the start of the year. Who knows where you'll be by the next countdown? ☺



How about them apples? ••• Photo via freestockphotos.biz

# RESOLUTION: Salad days

Your guide to eating fresh and unboxed meals in 2014

Zoe Doucette  
Assistant Arts Editor

.....  
The battle to eat healthy begins anew each January as swathes of eager, optimistic folks full of New Year's resolve fill farmer's markets and organic grocery departments. Even if, like me, resolutions aren't for you, and you've resigned yourself to the fluctuating waistline of Oprah and occasional Pop-Tart consumption, eating more fresh and healthy food is always a worthy goal. Personally, I'm laying off the sauce in favour of the more mild peppermint tea after a few months of overindulgence, and trying to eat some tofu and spinach instead of microwaved rice noodles.

If cooking isn't your favourite activity, make like Beyoncé and Jay-Z, and check out some of Halifax's new vegan restaurants. In the North End, **Envie Vegan Kitchen** (5775 Charles Street) and the **Wild Leek** (2156 Windsor Street) offer tasty body and animal-friendly meals that will

please the palates of plant-based vegan warriors and meat-lovers alike. If too many days of crappy, prepackaged Bangkok Curry noodles have left you craving nourishment, try a coconut curry bowl loaded with fresh veggies at natural food vanguard **Heartwood** (6250 Quinpool Road).

Fresh, seasonal and organic produce can be found throughout the HRM. There are a myriad of vendors at the **Seaport Farmer's Market** on Marginal Road. The former Planet Organic grocery (6485 Quinpool Road) is now

independently owned as **Organic Earth** in the West End and shops **Homegrown Organic Foods** and **Local Source Market** serve the North End. Annapolis Valley vendors **Noggins Corner Farm Market** have a small storefront at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth, where you can pick up produce as the seasons change, from locally produced carrots and cider, to brussel sprouts and kale.

Vegetable selection can get a little bare-boned in Nova Scotian winter, but we'll always have cabbage and turnips... ☹

.....  
"IF TOO MANY DAYS OF CRAPPY,  
PREPACKAGED BANGKOK  
CURRY NOODLES HAVE LEFT  
YOU CRAVING NOURISHMENT,  
TRY A COCONUT CURRY BOWL  
LOADED WITH FRESH VEGGIES"  
.....

## 2014 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY GOVERNORS' AWARDS Call for Nominations

In 1992, to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Dalhousie Student Union, and to recognize students' contribution to the quality and vitality of the University, the Board of Governors established a set of awards to be known as Governors' Awards.

Up to four awards can be made each year, for exceptional contributions or leadership in the extracurricular realm in such areas as university governance, development of a sense of community on campus, community service, internationalizing the campus, visual or performing arts, minority access or athletics. To be eligible, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or equivalent. Otherwise, all students - undergraduate, graduate or professional faculty student, full or part-time, at any stage in their academic career - may be considered for an award.

Recipients are chosen by a committee consisting of the President, three members of the Board of Governors and the Vice-President, Student Services. Nominations are invited, but the committee may consider other persons as well. Awards, in the form of a plaque, are presented annually in the spring by the Chair of the Board or designate.

Nominations should include a written description of the student nominee's contribution to the University and up to three letters of support. To assist you in planning your submission, a nomination form can be found at: [dal.ca/governorsawards](http://dal.ca/governorsawards)

Please submit nominations to:

The Office of the Vice-President  
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**The deadline for nominations is  
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## Why aren't you playing: Starbound



Playing house has never been so sophisticated. ••• Press image

**Vaughn Pearson**  
Games Columnist

At a cursory glance, the game industry is stagnating. With the big name developers pumping out game after game, there seems little regard for innovation. It's lucky then, that while the titans of the industry clash, indie developers are creating fire.

Coming out of the holiday season, several games stood out from within the heaps of incredible deals and discounts. I say so, for these games came to us in a curious manner. Technically, they have not been released; not in full, anyway. Rather, they are still works in progress. But for a lesser fee than you would pay at full release, you can get them through the Early Access system. Early Access allows developers to release their games early, affording the masses to give input on how they feel the game could be improved prior to its release.

One such game is the addictive *Starbound*. While somewhat dwarfed by the release of the much-lauded *DayZ* and other such open world survival games, *Starbound* is a curious release. In the guise of a spiritual successor or unofficial sequel to the massively popular 2D exploration and survival game *Terraria*, *Starbound* takes players to the stars in their very own ships.

*Starbound* has players surviving on a hostile, randomly generated planet, their ship having run out of fuel in orbit. Teleporting down to the surface, you are tasked with survival, but unlike other open-ended games like *Minecraft*, the player is given goals to achieve. Finding fuel, discovering new powers (the first

power I discovered, buried in an ancient alien tomb, was the double jump, allowing me to gleefully vault over enemies), constructing more advanced armour and supplies, and building your homestead are key activities. With time and fuel, you take to the stars and find new planets, some inhabited by strange and varied civilizations. When you feel your journeying is complete, you can return home whenever you wish to garnish it with the spoils of your adventures among the stars.

What is most fascinating about the game, though, is that it is constantly shifting. The creators have opened up the game to modification by the public. With mod tools, players are improving, altering and expanding *Starbound* at a shocking rate. One such mod allowed me to create a mech which could carry me across the harsh terrain of the planet without worrying about the hostile wildlife. Another gave me Marty McFly's shoes from *Back to the Future 2*. In the final build of the game, the mech will likely stay, the shoes likely not, but the possibility remains.

With the game incomplete but wholly playable, the users have an actual say in how the game they have paid for turns out. Whether this will shape the evolution of video games as a medium, raising them up to a greater standard of quality, or will leave the games muddled and generic, suffering from lack of a focused voice is yet to be seen. Regardless of how Early Access programs come to shape the future of gaming, I highly suggest you pick up *Starbound* on Steam for \$14.99 on PC and Mac. ☺

that  
three-letter  
word

## Join the movement

Joelline Girouard  
Sex Columnist

Among the many “positivity” movements to sprung up lately, sex positivity is one of my favourites. For one, it goes hand in hand with body positivity: the happier a person is with their body, the more sex they’ll probably want to have. This can work the other way around, too—have lots of fulfilling sex, and you might find you have a lot more self-confidence. But sex positivity is about more than a physical act, and more than “fuck and let fuck”—it’s an exercise in self-love—an exercise in discovering and accepting your kinks and quirks, as well as your partner’s.

“SAY IT  
WITH ME: I  
DESERVE THAT  
ORGASM”

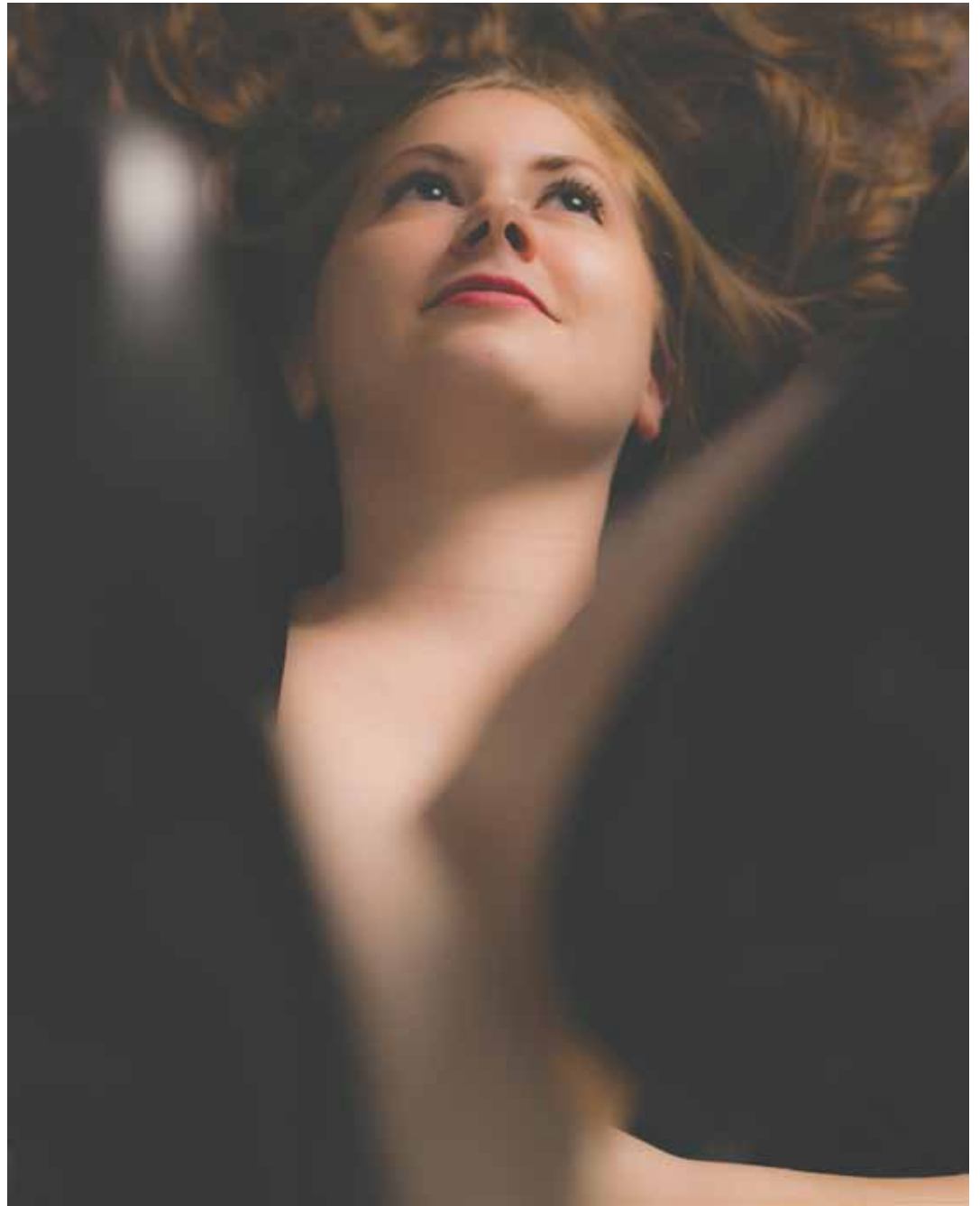
For those of you who aren’t glued to Tumblr or other social media (good for you, and try to keep it that way), the basics of sex positivity might escape your conscience. So, let me lay them down. One: no sex is “wrong” that is between, and causing no harm to, capably consenting adults. You don’t like threesomes or open relationships? Good thing you don’t have to have one. Two: a person’s sexual preferences don’t necessarily make them a bad person. Three: there is no “wrong”

amount of sex to have, only what’s right for you—even if that means no sex at all. (Keep in mind, though, that there *is* such a thing as too much sex—that’s when it starts interfering with your day-to-day life.) Four: being sex-positive doesn’t have to mean being loud and out there about it. Not talking about sex doesn’t mean you’re not pro-sex.

Beyond those basics, I think sex positivity goes much deeper than just the physical. Even if you’re not in love with the person you’re having sex with (which is entirely possible and in no way reprehensible), you should be head-over-heels in love with at least one of the people involved: yourself. Because sex, even solo sex, should be an act of love. And by that, I mean something that leaves you with a smile on your face and feeling awesome. You *are* awesome and you work hard and you deserve that orgasm—just because. Say it with me: I deserve that orgasm.

And that orgasm can help calm you down after a stressful day and put you in a good mood—both things that can increase your positive output into your surroundings. On top of that, sex is just good at getting rid of those little naggy negative feelings—the small, inconsequential things have a tendency to vanish in that post-o glow.

Don’t worry if you’re not always able to climax—sometimes connecting with your partner and sharing in their joy can be just as fulfilling as getting there yourself. ☺



Think good thoughts, have good sex. ••• Photo by Bryn Karcha



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WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs MtA, SMU Alumni Arena, 7pm

### Sunday, January 12

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[DALTIGERS.CA](http://DALTIGERS.CA)



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## More than just teammates

### One athlete gives thanks for her 'Tiger family'

**Raeesa Lalani**  
Sports Contributor

The holidays have come to an end and we're all back to the grind. We've left our families behind to embrace a new semester with resolutions at hand. As the New Year approaches with our families still in our hearts, I think it's important to share with you what makes up a sports team.

There is much more than meets the eye. There are many different people who contribute to the success of a team, creating our very own sports family.

First off, our teammates. These are the people we are going to be with for the rest of our lives. When you have to get up and go play, and you're with this big group of people day in and out, it is undoubtedly the greatest feeling in the world. Nothing can match walking into a foreign gym without knowing a single person, backed by your 15 best friends. These people are the definition of siblings.

I must also acknowledge the most recognizable group of people, coaches and assistant

coaches. After all, someone has to tell us what to do. Depending on the sport, the coach's role can be very specialized. Realistically, the list is endless. If there is something to know, there is someone to coach it.

Some of the members of our 'family' are so integral that overlooking them would be a serious mistake. Our trainers are the people who keep us broken athletes pieced together. Whether it's massages or tape jobs before practice, or massages and ice after practice (did I mention massages?) they keep our bodies working given the constant beating they take.

Along with personal team trainers we must also take a moment to recognize physiotherapists and massage therapists. They are the folks we pay to help us recover and get us back into working shape. They're the Band-Aid that helps us heal from injuries, and if you spend a lot of time with them they get to know you personally and become a very good friend. Let me tell you, every single dollar is worth it!

Next, we have the people who are similar to our coaches but are a little more specialized to make



There's more to varsity athletics than the games and races. ••• Photo by Chris Parent

us better at what we do. We have strength coaches, whose job is to make us fit and strong. They provide us with sport-focused workouts and keep us motivated in the weight room. Along with our physical fitness, there is the mental aspect of our game. This is where our sports psychologists come into play. They teach us how

to be mentally tough, and to better understand the mental aspect of the game.

Finally, we have the people who make the sport worth playing. Our sponsors and the financial support help make all of these dreams come true.

And the most important part of the sport, our last family mem-

ber, is you guys, our fans. Without your support, the sport wouldn't be worth playing. You keep us motivated. You're the parents of this family, so please don't ever stop believing in us.

*Raeesa Lalani is a member of the Dalhousie women's volleyball team.*

## THE TICKER: WINTER UNIVERSIADE

By Benjamin Blum


Tigers in action last year.

••• Photo by David Munro

### Canada takes gold in men's hockey

This year was the AUS's turn to send its all-stars to represent Canada at the Winter Universiade in Trentino, Italy. The national squad, which rotates among CIS conferences biannually, travelled to Italy from Dec. 10-21 to face off against univer-

sity-aged students from around the world. Dal's lone representative on the men's hockey team, **Pierre Vandall**, and the rest of the squad finished the tournament with an impressive 5-1 record, including a close 2-1 semifinal tilt against Russia

and a 6-2 thrashing of Kazakhstan in the gold medal game. This is the AUS's second gold medal and third overall, having won gold in 2007 and silver in 2001. 



**BEN'S  
10**

**14 for '14**

**Benjamin Blum**  
Sports Numerologist

To athletes and fans, numbers mean everything. They are the most focused on part of a game, from the number of points

scored, to the time left on the clock, to those three extra yards an unnamed running back could have gained to send me to the fantasy football playoffs...but I digress.

Numbers are better known for adorning the jerseys of our favourite (or feared) players). "Number 99" became an easy identification for kids who had difficulty spelling "Gretzky," and often we remember a number more than a name.

So folks, a new year is upon us and to kick off the 14th year of this millennium, here are some of the most fantastic fourteeners we could think of.

Shout-out to loyal fan Mark Altweiger for the idea for this one. Party on, dude.



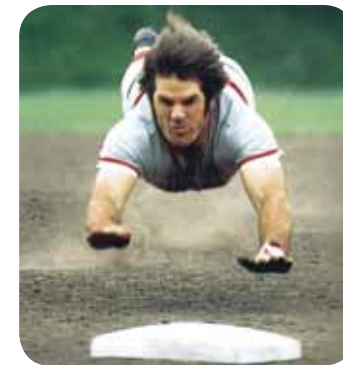
**7. Johan Cruyff, Dutch international forward**

Dude was big in Europe. Once you Google him, consider yourselves cultured.



**5. Dan Fouts, San Diego Chargers**

Equipped with stellar receivers and revolutionary coaching, Fouts single-beardedly led the Air Coryell offence in the late 70s and early 80s, expanding the NFL's passing game.



**3. Pete Rose, Cincinnati Reds**

Bit of a gamble putting ol' Charlie Hustle this high on the list, but it was worth it for the sake of reusing a 25-year-old joke



**Honourable mention: Kent Hrbek, Minnesota Twins**

I'd like to buy a vowel, Pat.



**10. Ryan Fitzpatrick, Former Bills QB**

You can do a lot with a Harvard degree, but what's the point if you end up in—shudder—Buffalo?



**9. Thierry Henry, French international striker**

This formidable Frenchman once scored a goal to propel his country into the World Cup...with his hand. Isn't that not kosher? Incroyable.



**8. Chicago baseballers**

Ernie Banks and Paul Konerko make #14 more popular in the Second City than #23. On second thought, maybe not.



**6. Vida Blue, Oakland A's**

To answer your question, no, I cannot go a single issue without mentioning the "Moustache Gang" A's. Nor should I.



**4. Brendan Shanahan, Detroit Red Wings**

Anyone else find it funny that a guy with 2,489 penalty minutes is doling out suspensions for the league now? Oh, he was also a Hall of Fame player and stuff.



**1. Dave Keon, Toronto Maple Leafs**

One of, if not the, greatest Maple Leafs of all time. The guy deserves a reintroduction to popular hockey discourse. You're welcome.



**2. Oscar Robertson, Cincinnati Royals**

Mister Triple Double rocked the 1-4 during his career with a basketball team that's now only mentioned in Trivial Pursuit.

**THE TICKER: SHOVELLER TOURNAMENT**

By Benjamin Blum  
Jarred Reid drives in.  
••• Photo by Chris Parent

**Tigers host holiday showcase**

The Rod Shoveller Memorial basketball tournament rang in the new year as teams from the AUS and RSEQ squared off at the Dalplex from Jan. 2-4. The Tigers opened their campaign with a 72-64 win over Bishop's on Jan. 2. **Devon Sted-**

**man** led the way with 23 points and seven rebounds. The next night Dal went toe to toe with UPEI until a buzzer-beating 65-foot shot from UPEI's D.J. Smith won the game for the Panthers. The Tigers would fall to the eventual tournament

winners Acadia on Saturday Jan. 4, with MVP Owen Klassen leading the Axemen to an 85-69 victory. **9**



# STREETEER

By Joelline Girouard and Chris Parent

## What do you resolve to NOT do in 2014?



"Procrastinate."  
**Ryan Henwood**  
1st-year music



"Procrastinate."  
**Meghan Carter**  
masters of arts



"Facebook."  
**Liz Creene**  
3rd-year psychology



"Make bad decisions."  
**Aaqib Mohammed**  
1st-year computer science



"Drink a lot."  
**Molly Mayer**  
2nd-year arts



"Procrastinate."  
**Alistair Ozon**  
1st-year science

Captain Cancan of the Horse Marines by Kat Moore



## EVENTS @ DAL

for more listings,  
visit [dalgazette.com](http://dalgazette.com)

### FRIDAY, JAN. 10

Health Law & Policy Seminar - The Deserving and Undeserving Sick: Withholding Public Health Care from Refugees, 12:10-1:30 p.m. at Room 104, Weldon Law Building.

Men's hockey: Dal vs. St. FX, 7 p.m. at Halifax Forum

First Class Bash with Signal Hill, 9 p.m. at the Grawood

### SATURDAY, JAN. 11

Women's volleyball: Dal vs. Memorial, 6 p.m. at Dalplex

Women's hockey: Dal vs. Mount Allison, 7 p.m. at SMU Alumni Arena

Men's volleyball: Dal vs. Memorial, 8 p.m. at Dalplex

### SUNDAY, JAN. 12

Free School, 1 p.m. Meet at the SUB.

Women's volleyball: Dal vs. Memorial, 1 p.m. at Dalplex

Men's volleyball: Dal vs. Memorial, 3 p.m. at Dalplex

### MONDAY, JAN. 13

Dalhousie senate meeting, 4-6 p.m. at University Hall, Macdonald Building

Free pizza and discussion about the student movement in 2014, hosted by Dalhousie Student Union. 6 p.m. at Room 218, SUB

### TUESDAY, JAN. 14

Workshop: Effective Learning Strategies for Quantitative Analysis in a University Environment, 2-3:30 p.m. at Killam Library, Room B400

ESL pronunciation workshop, 4-6 p.m. at Mona Campbell Building

### THURSDAY, JAN. 16

Open Waters Festival 2014, presented in collaboration with Upstream Music Association, features artists from around the region including Dalhousie music students. Runs until Jan. 18. Visit [www.upstreammusic.org](http://www.upstreammusic.org) for more details.

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar - Dr. Jan Rainey, 4-5 p.m. at Theatre D, Clinical Research Centre Building.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 17

Tango class featuring Tomas Howlin, 8-11 p.m. at University Club, Great Hall. Cost: \$20, free to students

YAS Ball 2014: Midnight in Paris, 9 p.m. at The Westin Nova Scotian

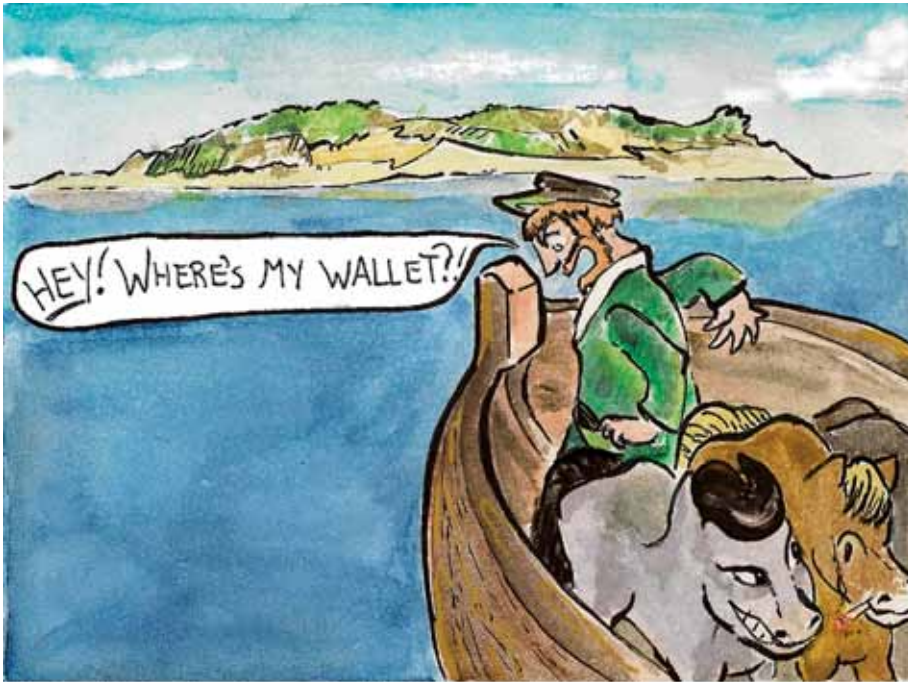
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# comics

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comics covers the funny ha-ha  
and the funny peculiar.  
Email Emily at  
design@dalgazette.com  
Emily Davidson Art Director



Old Heart by Amber Solberg



Where the histories of Sable Island + Australia converge

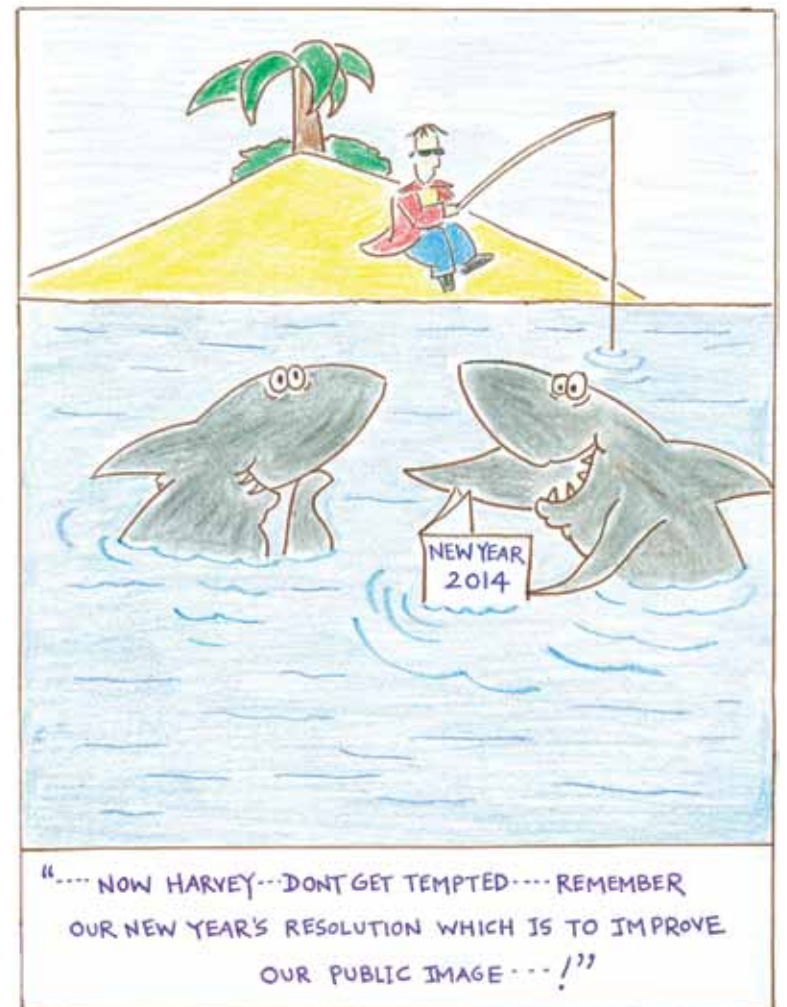
Hoo-Haw by Andrea Flockhart



Adventures in Servitude by Caitlin McGuire



Jocular Impulse by Aniruddha Waje



# Need to find a roof over your head?



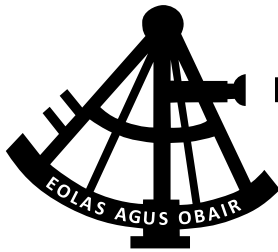
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# THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

Ahsan Umar  
M.Eng. Petroleum

## Renewable energy resources Hopes and challenges

Although there are still plenty of untapped fossil fuel reserves for the times ahead, there is the inescapable fact that one day they will finally be depleted. Moreover, the effects of using these reserves are serious, as burning fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide which is the greatest contributing gas to global warming. Exploration and collection of fuels also impacts the eco-system and the environment by releasing toxic gases like sulphur dioxide and other hydrocarbons into the air and water. All of these factors have led researchers to work on alternative energy resources for the sustenance and prosperity of mankind.

Solar, wind, and water resources have been said to have the potential to provide energy in abundance for the entire human race, but a major concern is how to effectively harness their energy. Developing the infrastructure to capture, convert and conserve these forms of energy efficiently has presented serious challenges. Furthermore, the world is divided into different geographical regions, each having its own distinct environmental and weather conditions. This makes the

implementation of solar, wind, hydro, or geothermal energy challenging in certain parts of the world.

We all know that the sun is a huge producer of energy. Therefore, why are we not able to fully depend on solar power for our needs? The answer lies, perhaps obviously, in the fact that solar panels are only useful when the sun is shining. During the night and in cloudy or rainy seasons, expensive solar equipment quickly becomes inefficient. Unfortunately, large regions of North America, South America and Europe where money and interest in solar energy is abundant, the solar potential is relatively low due to a lack of direct sunlight.

Certain territories in South Asia, India and Sub-Saharan Africa do have immense exposure to sunlight, approximately 325 days of the year. Despite having so much potential, these countries, due to lack of knowledge, low budget and improper policies, are not effectively utilizing solar power for themselves. A joint German and Jordanian company, The Desertec, has estimated that covering only one percent of global deserts

with solar plants could efficiently meet the electricity demands of many parts of Africa - though improvement efforts are being made. British renewable energy company, Blue Energy, has begun an initiative to construct Africa's largest solar power installation in Ghana. It aims to efficiently produce and transport electricity produced by these solar plants to Ghana as well as to its neighboring countries.

Like the sun, wind energy has been presented as an inexhaustible source for producing electricity. However, despite the huge potential of wind turbines, researchers are having difficulty obtaining constant electrical production as wind speeds are often uncertain and unpredictable. Similar to solar potential, the feasibility of wind mills is determined by the wind power density of an area. Thus, wind power is only suitable for those parts of the world where there are strong winds blowing consistently throughout the year. Countries with high wind potential include Japan, China, Australia, the eastern coast of the United States, and North-Eastern Africa.

Other renewable resources like geothermal and bio-mass are beginning to be harnessed at a large scale in several countries. Geothermal energy is limited to only a few sites in the world because of seismic activity. For example, Iceland, which sits on one of only a few key volcanic positions, has managed to meet more than 60% of its energy needs by efficiently utilizing its geothermal resources. Brazil has worked diligently to employ bio-fuels for powering automobiles and introducing ethanol as an alternative to petroleum fuel.

In light of the looming energy crisis, it is reassuring that research on and usage of renewable energy sources has been shown to be increasing. However, making this energy available for the whole world will require significant development before it can be considered a tenable solution. Countries must work jointly to exploit these renewable resources and develop systems for the conservation and provision of power to all. We all have to strive to provide for our future generations before the last drop of oil is burnt.☘



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Editor-In-Chief: Brett Ziegler  
Assistant Editor: Richard Wile  
Treasurer: Nikheel Premsagar

Questions, Comments, Contribute

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