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DAL AT THE OLYMPICS

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DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



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WEEKLY DISPATCH



21ST CENTURY DEMOCRACY Jamie Arron President

It seems to me that the basic structures of our government systems are bound to be quite drastically revamped within our lifetimes. Given the explosion of communication technologies and digital medias that have been born in the last 20 years, the traditional means of interaction between governments and citizens feels just a tad bit outdated to our generation. After all, the basic concept of representative democracy was created at a time when people had to ride a horse for

a few days or even weeks to get to Parliament or the Legislature or City Hall. Now, with the click of the button everyone has the capacity to speak for themselves.

Yet, today our governments are still operating in more or less the same way as they did 150 years ago and we have trouble envisioning anything particularly different. I can testify to this first-hand having spent a year working in Halifax's Mayor's office. But I'm a cautious optimist. People want to make our governance systems more accessible and accountable, they just don't know how. They are scared to be the first ones to test the waters.

I find it incredibly exciting to think about the potential role student unions can play in this great societal shift. SUs represent potential sites for important, small-scale experimentation in creating a deeper form of democracy; one in which citizens' involvement goes beyond showing up to a poll every few years (usually out of a sense of obligation rather than passion).

This years' DSU exec is excited to contribute our small part that we can only hope will have ripple effects far and wide. One of our primary aims for the year is to drastically deepen democracy within our Union. On top of various policy reforms and consultation processes, we are implementing an online tool called Soapbox that will allow us to track students' priorities in real-time.

CHECK OUT THIS 90 second video to get a glance of what it's all about.

<http://vimeo.com/42842721>

Then visit www.DSU.ca/SoapBox to contribute your ideas and comment on those of others.

Admittedly, it's a little scary. We don't know exactly what will show up. If it's wildly successful, will we really have the capacity to meet all the requests? Will we raise peoples' expectations too high? But sometimes you just got to take the leap. This is one of those times.

Stay connected with the DSU through Facebook & Twitter

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September 21 - September 27, 2012 •

The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

staff

Katrina Pyne, Editor-in-Chief editor@dalgazette.com	Rachael Shrum, Acting Photo Editor photo@dalgazette.com
Torey Ellis, Copy Editor copy@dalgazette.com	Ethan Calof, Online Editor Joelline Girouard, Asst. Online Editor online@dalgazette.com
Daniel Boltinsky, News Editor Calum Agnew, Asst. News Editor news@dalgazette.com	Ben Gallagher, Other Editor theothergazette@dalgazette.com
Sam Elmsley, Opinions Editor opinions@dalgazette.com	Jonathan Rotsztain, Art Director design@dalgazette.com
Andrew Mills, Arts Editor Meagan Deuling, Asst. Arts Editor arts@dalgazette.com	Paul Balite, Financial Manager business@dalgazette.com
Ian Froese, Sports Editor Graeme Benjamin, Asst. Sports Editor sports@dalgazette.com	Aaron Merchant, Business Manager advertising@dalgazette.com
	Isaac Green, Advertising Manager advertising@dalgazette.com

contact us

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

advertising inquiries

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, Overheard at Dal, 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 Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff.

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CATCH THE ACTION!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Soccer vs. CBU, W 1:00pm, M 3:15pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Soccer vs. MUN, W 1:00pm, M 3:15pm



MEET THE TIGERS...

NATHAN ROGERS

#5, Defender
6'1" - 4th YoE
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Calgary, AB

DAPHNE WALLACE

#14, Midfield
5'9" - 3rd YoE
Science (3)
Ottawa, ON



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Daniel Boltinsky News Editor

University administrators overpaid: ANSUT

John James
News Contributor

With tuition fees rising at universities across Nova Scotia this year, one might expect the administration and faculty to cut back as well. However, a report released this week by the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT) shows that salaries being paid to higher-tier administrative positions in the province have been rising consistently over the past seven years.

Presidents' salaries at ANSUT-represented universities increasing by an average of 27 per cent compared to an average of seven per cent for faculty members.

ANSUT's report focused on eight Atlantic Canadian universities. Dalhousie and University of King's College were not included in the report because their members of faculty are not represented by ANSUT.

According to documents released by Dal under the Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act, Dal president Tom Traves is the highest paid public figure in Nova Scotia with a salary of \$397,735. That salary is only a drop in the bucket, amounting to little more than one tenth of one per cent of Dal's labour costs, which total nearly \$255,000,000. The university is required to disclose the salaries of those 684 employees who were paid over \$100,000 last year.

Students will face a 3 per cent increase in tuition fees this year.

At the ANSUT press conference on Sept. 11, a member of the press made the point that high salaries are necessary to attract the best administrators, and may benefit universities in the long term.

Nick Stark, the Nova Scotia representative for the Canadian Federation of Students, says that this type of corporate attitude has no place in the university system.

"Universities are public institutions and must remain so," says Stark. "Administrators must not be seen as executives of businesses"

Representatives of both faculty and students at Dal disagree with the ANSUT report's conclusions. David Mensink, the president of the Dal Faculty Association, says that "in such a complex organization, it's unfair to zoom in on one part," adding that "a systematic study looking at the costs of running a university would be a useful study."

Although the report outlines increasing administrative costs in contrast to decreasing faculty costs at other Nova Scotian universities, Mensink says this does not necessarily mean Dal follows the same trend.

In a memo to the Dal community in 2011, Traves said that faculty salaries were in fact increasing and that "first-rate faculty deserve competitive salaries."

For some, the most frustrating thing is the apparent lack of constructive communication between higher administration and students

at the university.

Chris Ferns, president of ANSUT, said at the press conference on Sept. 11 that part of the solution to many of the monetary issues at universities is greater transparency and more involvement of students and faculty in deciding how their money is spent.

"Transparency is in fact required in the agreement between faculty and admin," says Mensink. "To make flinging accusations about transparency is superficial."

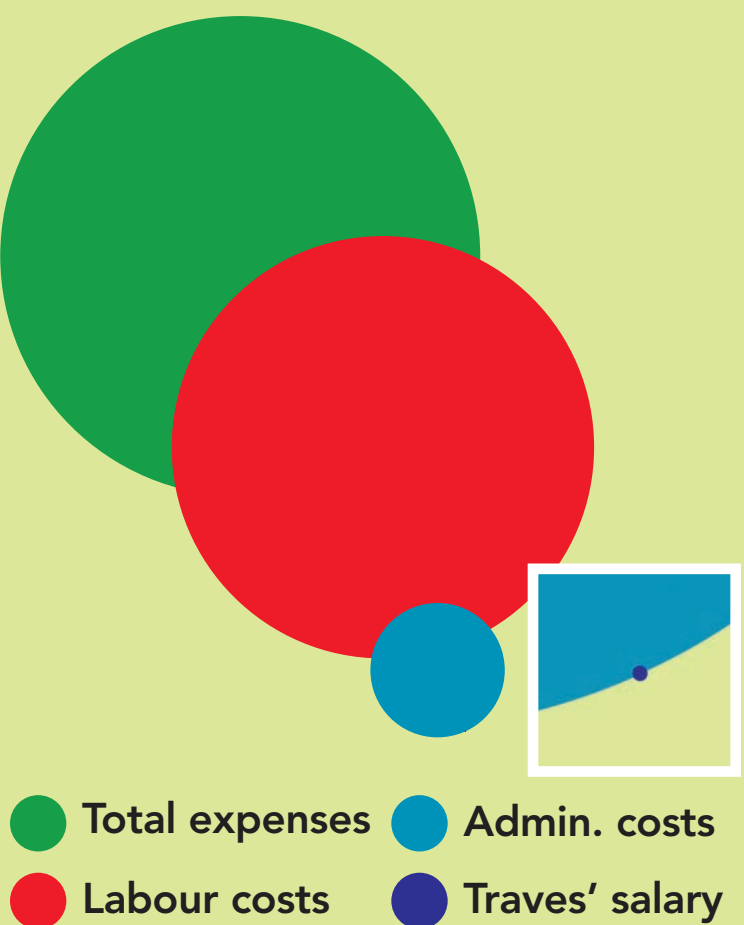
Although transparency is required between the faculty and administration, many students feel they are still left out of the loop.

"I feel that as students we are sometimes unaware of all the processes that go on in administration, especially pertaining to finances," says Jacqueline Wigle, a second-year psychology major at Dal.

"I would like to see some evidence as to whether the salary increases of higher tier administration are directly from tuition payments, or if there is more happening in the exchange of funds between students and the university."

Mensink would like to see more constructive communication. "If we all work together in talking about the rising cost of education and appeal to the government, that could work," says Mensink. "But if we sling mud at each other we won't make any progress."

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Dal students to take to the polls

Out of province students now eligible to vote in elections

Adele van Wyk
News Contributor

Oct. 20 will mark the first time students from outside Halifax—the majority of students at Dalhousie—will be able to vote in municipal elections.

Changes to the law in 2011 clarified the eligibility of students. Anyone who is over the age of 18 and has been a resident in Halifax for at least 3 months prior to the election can vote. Crucially, leaving the city for the summer does not disqualify someone from voting.

Dal has over 18,000 undergrad students according to the Dal website. Although 12 per cent of these are international students, and roughly a quarter will be under 18, that still leaves over 10,000 newly eligible voters from Dal alone.

Considering that the Halifax peninsula has a population of around 70,000, and Dal is just one of six post-secondary institutions situated here, students should play an important role in the upcoming elections. Politicians will take note, and according to the Dal Student Union (DSU), students should too.

The DSU, along with the student unions of other post-secondary institutions in the city, have formed a coalition to raise issues that affect the 30,000 students they represent. This Metro Student Community Coalition will be hosting two debates in the McInnis Room of the Student Union Building (SUB) on Oct. 1 and 2 in partnership with Our HRM Alliance, the Right to Know Coalition

of Nova Scotia and *The Coast*. These events will be open for all to attend. DSU president Jamie Arron says this should affect the way municipal politics includes students in the future.

“Hopefully this will set a precedent in the future. We’re a population of 18,000 students, 75 per cent of whom are now eligible voters,” says Arron.

“They traditionally hold registration tables in public libraries; they should have registration tables in our library as well in the future.”

“WE NEED INSPIRING IDEAS.”

The DSU is looking to get students to the polls, not simply for the sake of the ballot, but to voice the need for change in the community. The union has launched a campaign to “get students involved so they that its not just a one time thing, and platforms become policy,” says Arron. The campaign aims to engage students on issues such as bike lanes and arts and culture, as well as students’ relationship to the community.

“Youth are becoming more and more disenfranchised with the democratic system. We need inspiring ideas,” says Aaron Beale, VP (academic and external) of the DSU.

The election takes place on Oct. 20. There will be registration booths open Oct. 6 to 18 around the HRM for eligible voters who have not yet

registered. The DSU has organized one of these voter registrations to be held in the SUB in room 224 on Oct. 15 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Students interested in registering will need to bring ID and proof of their Halifax address. This could be a piece of mail for those who don’t live at the address on their driver’s license, as would be the case with many students from out of province.

The DSU push for community involvement is echoed by Election Nova Scotia’s website: “When you vote, you are telling the politicians what you want life to be like in Nova Scotia. If you don’t tell them, they can’t change things.” ☎

For more information, including candidate profiles visit: Halifax.ca/election/voterregistration.html

CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 7 article “Turkey’s not-so-friendly neighbors” the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was described as having 29 member states, when in fact there are 28.

In the Sept. 14 article “Q&A: The Dawgfather,” the district in which the Dawgfather is running for city council was incorrectly identified as district eight. He is in fact running in district seven.

Both articles have been corrected online. The *Gazette* regrets these errors.

The election will be held Oct. 20. ••• Photo by Adele Van Wyk



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Cheating has doubled in the past three years. • • • Photo by Calum Agnew

STUDENTS REQUIRED TO TAKE PLAGIARISM TEST

PLAGIARISM CONCERNS PROMPTS FACULTY TO MAKE BLACKBOARD MODULE MANDATORY

Kristie Smith
Staff Contributor

Cheating is getting more frequent at Dalhousie—but that's not why the faculty of science is making a newly developed Blackboard module on plagiarism mandatory for first- and second-year students.

Swapan Dasgupta estimates that in his three years as the associate dean (administration) and academic integrity officer at Dal, the number of students who've cheated has doubled from about 40 per year to 80.

The newly created module will help faculty address some of the common mistakes students are making. When it comes to plagiarism, the goal is to

prevent the avoidable cases.

"There are obvious issues, but how to deal with them isn't always so obvious," says Dasgupta. "Paraphrasing, improper collaboration, file sharing, improper citations, and how to even prevent being copied off of."

The Writing Center, located in the Killam library designed the module over almost two years. It's currently geared specifically to the faculty of science, but open to be used by anyone. It was completed in January, and was made available to faculty and related societies to see what the module covered.

The faculty of science made the module mandatory for first and second year students this semester, with

a deadline of Oct. 8.

Johanna Goosen, the external director of Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service was one of the first to test the trial version.

"Right now it's multiple choice," says Goosen. "Yes/no, pass/fail, that sort of thing and I think that, while that's great, it doesn't really force students to engage with the process as much as much as it could."

"It's quite simple and straightforward, but on the same token they're mostly simple and straight forward issues. The purpose of it, it seems to me, is just so that people have academic integrity issues in the forefront of their mind when they're going into their programs."

What the faculty and administration want to make clear is this: the module is a tool to help students before they find themselves in a compromising position.

"It was felt that a more proactive approach would benefit students and faculty alike," says Dasgupta.

"Actual academic integrity cases in science, with details changed to protect privacy, were used by the Writing Centre to effectively illustrate the kind of problems which can easily crop up in science classes and which perhaps could, equally easily, have been prevented by taking proper precautions."

It is not uncommon for students to receive a failing grade or expulsion

over something as innocent as an improper citation, or for letting their roommate read over their assignment and having it unknowingly copied.

But the module cannot prevent students from willfully plagiarizing. For the students who do cheat, completing the module will have no effect on the severity of their punishment.

The project will be reviewed in a year's time. Whether or not it will continue to be mandatory, whether other departments pick up on the idea, or whether or not it affects how punishments are doled out to students will be decided then.

"I think that it's a great start. You've gotta build from somewhere," says Goosen. 9

A waiting game for cleaner power

Halifax residents told to wait for Dal to switch to natural gas



Peter Allen says the natural gas monopoly hurts residents. • • • Photo by Rachael Shrum

Katherine McKenna
News Contributor

Documents from Heritage Gas, who have a monopoly over the Nova Scotia natural gas industry, indicate the company waited until Dal signed onto the natural gas program before considering offering the more eco-friendly program to neighbouring residential tenants.

Dal made the switch from Bunker C heating oil to natural gas in October 2010—two years after Saint Mary's University and five years after Victoria General Hospital (VG). Until the conversion, Dal was burning 14 million litres of heating oil per year, enough to fill the Wickwire football stadium about a metre deep.

But in emails from Heritage Gas, the company says it was waiting for the 'big three' institutions—SMU, Dal, and the Victoria General—before offering the more sustainable alternative to the residents of Halifax.

In an email from Heritage Gas to a Halifax resident in April 2008, the company wrote it intended to serve the area surrounding Dal with natural gas, but only if Dal also signs on, along with 40 to 50 per cent of surrounding homes.

"Dalhousie and VG heating plants are in the construction plans," writes the customer service department of Heritage Gas. "We are making every attempt to get the hospitals this year

and Dalhousie at the latest 2009."

But in an email dated March 2010, Heritage Gas spokesperson Erin Robertson says, "We are quite pleased Dalhousie will become a natural gas customer this year. As for residential expansion, feasibility studies are being completed for numerous residential streets in the HRM."

Dal mechanical engineering professor Peter Allen says this is par for the course with the heating monopoly.

"Heritage Gas won't bring the gas to the consumers. They need to sell a lot to big consumers. They make less money from individual people like you and me."

"I kept waiting... and waiting. It was moving at a snail's pace."

Allen says the province should treat heating as an essential service instead of allowing a monopoly with corporate interests to oversee the implementation.

"Halifax Water Commission supplies our water. That's far more difficult than distributing gas," he says.

"The rate of return (for Heritage Gas) was 13 per cent from 2003 to 2012. It was the highest on the continent," he says. "That's been brought down to 11 per cent recently."

But Dal isn't taking the blame for Heritage's decision not to offer to residential clients until the university signed onto the agreement. Rochelle Owen, director of the Office of

Sustainability, says Dal has spent over eight years trying to negotiate a better deal to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

"We look like laggards, but we were trying to work together," says Owen.

Since 2006, Dal has tried to work with SMU and Victoria General. Dal owns a large central heating and cooling plant that networks through downtown Halifax. Its system provides greater reliability with less equipment, which means that fuel and electricity are cheaper, with other heat recovery and energy efficiency potential.

"When you buy electricity from NS Power, it's about 55 per cent energy efficient. We want to be at about 85 per cent efficiency," says Owen.

In 2005, Dal and SMU were involved in a larger power project—one that would be more efficient than switching to natural gas. But when federal funding was pulled, SMU and Victoria General slowly stopped negotiations. Finally, Dal also switched to natural gas.

Owen is skeptical that the three institutions would be able to work together again in a combined heat and power system.

"We could, but it doesn't look like it's going to happen," she says.

"Dal is actively trying to overcome the juggernaut that is Nova Scotia policy and incentive errors." 9

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This author's experience with a local food movement has reworked her opinions on food. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT

Organic eating only way forward for sustainable world

Alia Karim
Opinions Contributor

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This past summer, I had the pleasure of working with the Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN) in Sackville, N.B.. ACORN is an organization that brings together farmers, consumers and agricultural organizations in the local organic food movement, a pertinent issue from the field to the table.

Farmers everywhere are suffering. The effects of corporate dominance and climate change are clear: the use of products such as synthetic fertilizers cause climate change by increasing methane emissions from crop fields that use ammonium-based synthetic fertilizers. Even pesticides are directly linked to climate change. The surface runoff contaminates local water sources, causing skin rashes and sometimes death when ingested. Organic fertilizers such as manure can also contain harmful nitrates, but farmers who handle it carefully can avoid nitrate pollution.

Internationally, the actions of companies like Monsanto have been devastating. Monsanto has been linked to more than a quarter million farmer suicides in India, who reported poor yields leading to mounting debt (as in the Monsanto Canada Incorporation v Schmeiser case of 2004) as well as increased need for costly pesticides and seeds sold exclusively by Mon-

santo. Monsanto denies this, attributing the suicides to other factors and even proclaiming their corporation as a supporter of sustainable agriculture.

Eating organic is really the only way to ensure that what you consume is free of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. It does not use food irradiation or growth hormones, and of course, it's free of genetically modified organisms (GMO). Organics are also grown under humane animal standards and ensures the well-being of animals (and farmers!) at every stage of development. In late August, I helped organize ACORN's first Beginner Farmer Symposium in Sackville. This event aimed to attract new entrant farmers to network and participate in workshops. Throughout the day I saw smiling faces and connections made between new and experienced farmers. It was truly inspirational.

While organic agriculture may appear to be a simpler process than conventional farming, it comes with a financial cost—to the farmers. Farmers pay for a third party inspector, hired by a certification body, to determine whether the operation is in accordance with the Canada Organic Standard. If the inspection is successful, then the farmer is able to market products using the Canada Organic logo. Organic certification can cost around \$500 to \$1000 per

year for the farmer, a cost that can be detrimental to small-scale operations. It seems ludicrous that a natural process such as this needs a label, yet it's the only way consumers know they're eating organic. Currently in Nova Scotia, the provincial government does not subsidize farmers for organic certification, meaning that several farmers have dropped their organic certification simply because they cannot afford it.

In a world dominated by capitalist interests, local food movements are essential. ACORN supports conferences, workshops and other resources for organic farmers. Importantly, they provide a network of members who share knowledge and resources to get farmers started and to build on their experience. While capitalism teaches competition and the value of property, organizations like ACORN support co-operation, sharing knowledge and resources for *everyone's* benefit.

We must become more aware of what we eat every day. Huge grocery stores provide a convenient illusion, disconnecting shoppers from the source of their food and its true cost. Some grocery stores are aware of these issues and provide food with organic certification. However, consumers must remain aware that green has become a marketing tool. Foods labeled as "natural" cannot guarantee the standards of organic



The Canada Organic logo indicates that the product contains at least 95 per cent organic ingredients. • • • Logo via the Canada Organic Trade Association

certification. Products must have the Canada Organic logo to ensure that the product has an organic content greater than 95 per cent and has been certified according to Canadian requirements for organic products.

The best way to support the local food movement is to buy from farmers directly. Attend the Farmer's Market at the Halifax Seaport. Shop at your local organic or natural foods store. In Halifax, you can grow food at an urban garden, join the food committee at the Ecology Action Centre, or attend events supported by

ACORN—check out Organic Week at restaurants and retailers across the city from Sept. 22-29. There are tons of opportunities abroad, including the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), apprenticeships with Stewards of Irreplaceable Land (SOIL), and ACORN's Grow a Farmer program to be launched this fall.

We need to share land, knowledge, and resources, mobilize ourselves and support agriculture—for our farmers, and for ourselves. Organic farmers of the world, unite! ☘



PAGE BY PAGE

A student-friendly book list to cover all of your spare time. ••• Photo by Adele Van Wyk

SIX BOOKS TO KEEP YOU FROM GOING INSANE IN UNIVERSITY

Nick Laugher Staff Contributor

It's a given that when not in class or at the pub, most students are frantically scanning their way through hundreds of pages a week. Staff contributor Nick Laugher offers an alternative to the frantic rush of readings, tailored to student needs. Relax—this book list doesn't have a deadline. —Samantha Elmsley

Franny and Zooey by J.D. Salinger

Arguably Salinger's magnum opus. It's *Catcher in the Rye* for the university crowd. Existential angst, complete disillusionment of the self, grappling with the concept of knowledge and lots and lots of smoking. Not to mention the staggeringly beautiful, tragic ennui of Franny and brilliant, spitfire scenes that will make all you English majors doubt your ability to write dialogue forever.

Monkey Beach by Eden Robinson

A twisted, gritty tale of the struggles of First Nations people in remote British Columbia in the 1980s. Stark scenes of poverty, sexual assault, violence and alcoholism interspersed with bizarre meta-narratives, jarring juxtapositions of morals and family loyalty, and a sweet and prescient underlying message about the frailty and preciousness of life. If you think you've got it bad because you're hungover for class, think again.

Dharma Bums by Jack Kerouac

On the Road would be the obvious choice. *Big Sur* would be way too heavy—though I'd argue it's his best. *Dharma Bums* finds a delicate balance between enlightening and utterly depressing, contrasting deep self-realization with ragged, startling alcoholism and personal disillusionment. There are few such honest and Western-applicable explorations of Zen culture.

The Ethics of Ambiguity by Simone de Beauvoir

One of the simplest, most thorough and mindblowing examinations of what it means to be human. De Beauvoir tackles everything from the horror of freedom to self-awareness and human consciousness. She possesses a clarity and understanding sorely lacking from the existentialist literature usually pushed on us, as well as a serious, pro-female advocacy (sorely lacking in *most* literature pushed on us.) Will it tell you everything's going to be okay? No, but it lets you know there are people just as screwed up as you are, and that's almost better. Well...it's more cathartic, at least.

Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace

Clocking in at over 1,000 pages with footnotes that run on for more than three pages at a time, David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest* is, to say the least, a dense read. However, there's a reason it's heralded as the definitive novel of our generation. It's a mantra for the down-and-out, spiritually aggravated who struggle with sincerity, irony and what it is to be real. A true testament to brilliantly crafted literature and a complete and total overhaul of the concept of what a novel can be.

100 Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez

Everything comes full circle. An immensely moving and cerebral offering from a Nobel Prize laureate, *100 Years of Solitude* is a crazed and manic overview of many generations of the Buendía family in the fictional South American village of Macondo. From the invention of ice to the deciphering of one's own demise, this heavily magical tale is one of extreme caution. Learn from the past. Don't repeat it.





Our wasteful society: The annual global dollars spent on makeup could almost eliminate world hunger. ••• Photo by Bryn Karcha

Thinking globally

PROBLEMS WITH OUR WORLD TODAY

Sam Vlessing
Staff Contributor

There are over 7 billion people on the planet who engage in consumption patterns never before seen in recorded history. Coupled with tremendous economic growth, albeit asymmetrical between the West and the rest, industrialized states of the global north have created an unhealthy reliance on fossil fuels. For over half a century, per capita consumption of natural resources has been increasing much faster than population growth. The carrying capacity of our planet has been surpassed, we are destroying the very biodiversity that sustains human life, and if our society continues on with current trends, we may very well reach a point of no return.

Talk about a huge problem.

Although developing states like China, India and Brazil have been experiencing increased economic growth and consumption levels, the economic disparity within and between countries is stark. According to Pamela Chasek in her book *Global Environmental Politics*, the 12 per cent of the world's population that lives in North America and Western Europe accounts for 60 per cent of private consumption spending, while the one third living in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa accounts for an abysmal 3.2 per cent of consumption spending.


Take the United States and Canada for example: with less than five per cent of the global population, our countries combined use approximately one quarter of the world's fossil fuel resources. We have health care, a literacy rate closing in on 100 per cent, clean drinking water for all, and a system that nearly eliminates hunger and malnutrition—but at what costs?

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the disparity in global wealth is so severe that an individual with \$2,200 US would be in the top half of the world's wealth distribution. One out of five people on this planet live on less than \$1.25

a day, nearly one billion people lack access to safe drinking water, and according to the United Nations, double that amount live without basic sanitation. These numbers have fallen in the past two decades, but are still disturbing.

Equally distributing the very resources that have so selfishly been exploited by the global north can be done. According to the United Nations' *Millennium Development Goals Report*, it is possible to provide adequate food and clean water for the world's poorest populations for less than the West spends on makeup and pet food.

Annual global expenditure on makeup is \$18 billion US. Reproductive health care for all women, which would go a long way towards curbing population growth in the most underdeveloped countries, would cost \$12 billion. Expenditure on pet food in the U.S. and Europe alone is approximately \$17 billion while the cost for eliminating hunger and malnutrition is estimated to be around \$19 billion. For \$2 billion more, which is equal to 0.29 per cent of the United States annual military budget, we can take one huge step towards ending this hunger pandemic. I'm not saying that the major developed states in the Western hemisphere don't give emergency and development aid. They do—but not nearly enough to make any real progress.

Discourse on these pertinent issues exists, and with the United States elections right around the corner they have become an extremely hot topic. But in order for true change to occur, it is up to our generation to take on a paradigm shift in the way we see ourselves with the rest of our planet. The resources exist to rectify many of the biggest issues we face today. It's just a matter of diverting our attention from what we think matters, to what truly matters. We are all interconnected, and if our western society doesn't change its ways, the problems facing billions of people today may one day be our own. 

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Ben Gallagher Other Editor
Jonathan Rotsztein Other Other Editor



ADVICE FOR STUDENTS



Bruce Frisko Anchor, CTV Atlantic News

If you're not sure what you want to do with the rest of your life, rest assured—you've come to the right place. In your university career, you'll be introduced to many new ideas and concepts. You are surrounded by fascinating people from all over the world. Keep an open mind, have fun, and your passion will find you.

REACTIONS

When to drop a class

SWITCHING MAJORS ✗

SCHEDULING CONFLICT ✗✗

SUBJECT MATTER TOO HARD ✗✗✗

ZERO TOLERANCE LATE POLICY ✗✗✗

TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING ✗✗✗✗

BORING PROF ✗✗✗✗✗✗✗✗✗✗✗



—Bethany Riordan-Butterworth

bh '12

GLAMOUR PIG "sign of the times"

like, I know it's
september but
I still thought it would
feel different



—Kathryn Johnson

OTHER OTHER OTHER

Interview with my cat

Me: Where did you go for those two weeks in the spring?

Pat: That was a freaky night also full of adventure, I found some smells, it was good. The rest is private.

M: How do you feel about your name?

P: I only show up when I want to. You can call me what you like. Short and rhyming never hurt, but it's not tough either, is that what you think of me?

M: Why don't you drink out of your water dish?

P: Since the landlord kindly installed that personal watering device in the bathroom, I haven't been drawn back to the still waters of the dish.

M: Cat vs Rat: how does it work?

P: Damn those rat kings in the yard outside! Moving all about, communing, stinking it up. They're bullies, nothing more nothing less.

M: Brown triangles or brown circles?

P: Triangles have superior crunch.

—Ben Gallagher



the other
WAY TO GET
AN OLYMPIC MEDAL
is to make one out of tinfoil



MICRO-FICTION Small talk

"So," casts my mother, pouring chai and eyeing me. "How've you been?"

I stare at the tan liquid. I want to say, I am submerged, compressed under an ocean of expectations. I am eroding, too tired to stay composed. I am soaked in hopelessness.

Her question dangles alluringly. I am desperate for lifelines. Perhaps there is no deadly barb in the mug she fills.

I breathe in the ginger-scented steam and think about the therapist that she knows. Can I ask for the number without explaining why I want it? Can I say my life feels like treading water and longing for the shore, until I tire and drown? I wonder if she has ever felt entangled in a net of roles. I pick up the mug to thaw my hands.

"Fine." I put the mug down; it's too warm. "The usual. Busy at work."

—Sonal Champsee



EAST COAST

Oak Island treasure

Oak Island lies in Mahone Bay on Nova Scotia's south shore and in the imaginations of hundreds of treasure seekers. For over 200 years, fortune hunters have been exploring the island hoping to unearth its legendary prize.

The origins of the treasure rumours remains murky, just like the treasure itself. It's said that in 1795, a group of young men discovered a hole on the island that appeared to be manmade. Though no booty has ever been found, crews have come back again and again trying to find their fortune.

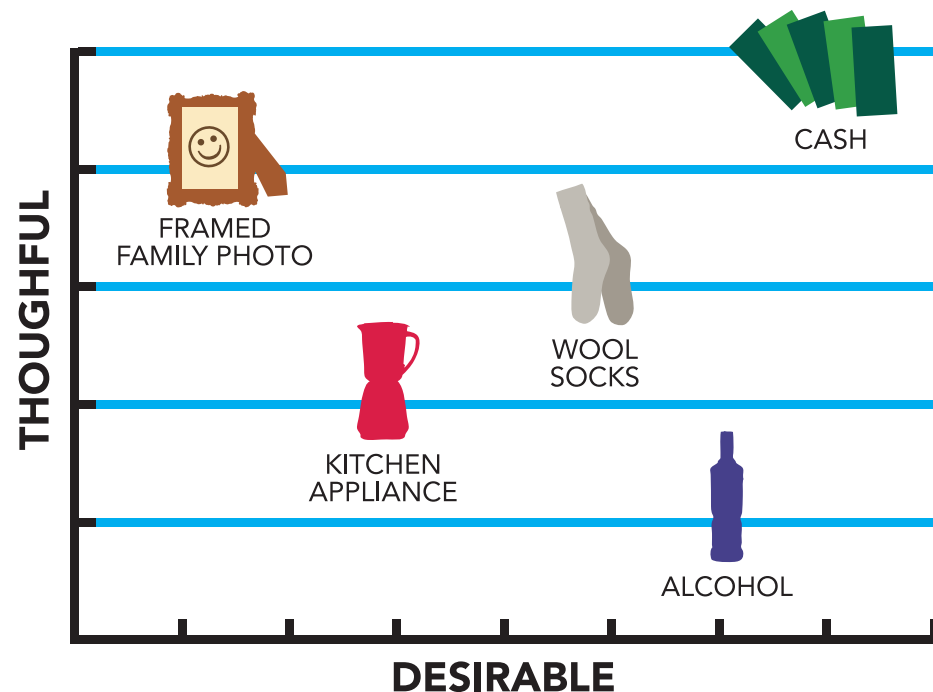
Though the treasure may not even exist, that hasn't stopped generation after generation from speculating whether or not it's pirate or naval treasure, a freemason plot or even Mary Antoinette's long-lost jewels.

Known as the 'Money Pit' since it's supposed to hold the prize, in reality it's even more so: literally millions of dollars have been spent to the present day trying to excavate what is now essentially a wet, empty hole.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Birthday presents from your parents



EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:



No Exceptions! ~AM

—Jessica Perrie

STREET

In the Olympics of life, what would you medal in?



"Dodgeball"

Anthony Clements
4.5th-year sociology



"Gymnastics"

Marissa Firoz-Ali
4th-year IDS



"I can make a nice BLT"

Heather Fournier
4th-year commerce



"Rising from bed early"

Jonathan Reyes
3rd-year computer science



"Brownies"

Kathryn Line
4th-year commerce



"I don't expect that I would"

Patrick D. Ryall
1st-year English



"Esports. DOTA"

Qihao Zhang
2nd-year science

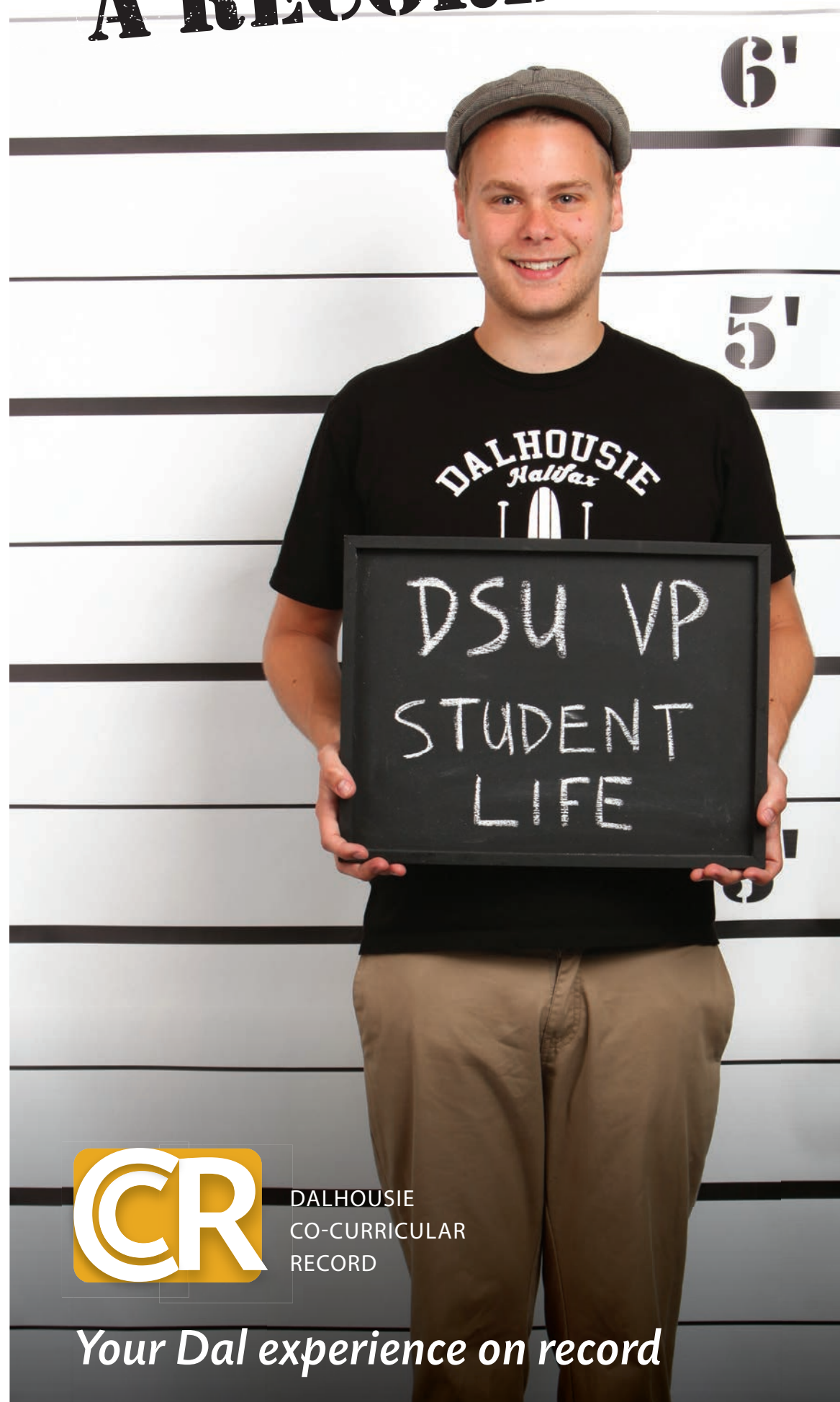


"Beer pong"

Charlotte Bondy
5th-year European studies

by Chris Parent and Calum Agnew

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CKDU is your radio station. ••• Photo by Rachael Shrum

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MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

THAT 90'S NIGHT!
19th Young Hearts presents
That 90's Night NEON PARTY
Gus' Pub 10pm, 19-
\$3 before 12am & \$5 after.
90's outfits and neon
are highly encouraged.

*Carmen
Townsend &
Adam Newbery
20th
Garrison Brewery, 8:30-10:30
\$10 advance, \$12 at the door.
19- Limit of 50 tix
Reserve tix 494-6479

EAT IT!
21st
Eat It: A Night of Comedy,
Burgers and 100 Weird A's.
Gus Pub 10pm, 19- \$5
Burgers by Alex Burger Co.
Geordie Wilson, Catharine Gaudier, Brian
McGowan, Steve Harris, Sam Andros, David Wilson.
Weird A's cover songs featuring The Fat Tingles,
Jon McKee, Special Comedy with DJ James Tandi
and K & K 4K, vike, hosted by Winston Kane

DANCE PARTY
21st
The Seahorse Tavern
10pm \$8 cover, 19-
featuring R.A. Wallace, Girls
Would Kill, and Jaguar Knight
hosted by CKDU DJ Pat Balazo

WHY FOLK? WHY NOT?
22nd
The Company House
8pm, \$5 cover, 19-
Featuring sets by:
The Modern Grass,
Ruth Minnikin,
and Jared Klok

NIGHT AT GUS'
22nd
Get rowdy with Envisions,
Fat Stupids, Mean Mug,
Vixens, Batholith, Dan
Hayward Hosted by:
Seeker's of the Truth,
\$5, 10pm

LISTEN LOCAL!
23th
The Listen Local
All Local Music Request Show
live on the air from 7:30-9pm
hosted by Glenna and Kat.
Special guest Tara Thorne.
Call in your local music request
to 494-2487
Tweet @CKDU881FM

OPEN HOUSE
24th
Drop by the Station Lobby
from 3-7pm to take a tour,
learn how to use some of
our equipment, meet the
crew, and more! Find us
in room 420, of the Dal SUB

THIRD WAVE
PANCAKE BRUNCH
25th
Dal SUB lobby, 11-2pm, PWYC
Syrup and chocolate
chips galore!
Presented by
Third Wave Radio,
Thursdays 2-3:30pm

HAFXRXX
26th
Good Food Emporium 6:30-
9pm, all ages, \$20, includes
Good Food meal. Presentations
by local visionaries
on how to make Halifax a
better place to live. Presented
by Habitat, Fridays 1-2pm

Lobby Show!
26th
CKDU Lobby show featuring
Owen Steel and Matt
Reid 2:30-4. Tune in or join
us for free in the lobby.
4th floor Dal SUB!

KATY & LIL TALENT
HOOTENANY
27th
The Bus Stop Theatre, 9pm, \$5
Register your talent at:
Halifaxtalentshow@gmail.com
\$5 registration fee per act.

More events online at CKDU.ca. ••• Poster by Fish Bone Prints via CKDU

Hilary Stamper
Arts Contributor

I was driving home last Wednesday in serious need of good tunes. I didn't have any CDs, and all the usual radio stations were uninspiring. So I tuned into 88.1 CKDU, Halifax's only community campus station. Last time I listened to CKDU they played Bollywood music and had a gentleman read people's futures. This time, I caught the tail end of DJ Mindtrip's *Big City Beats*, a trance and electronic show. And it was pure magic—exactly what I needed for the long journey out of the city.

Trance is not everyone's cup of tea, but the beauty of CKDU is that there are currently 101 different programmers actively broadcasting over their airwaves, so you are bound to find at least one show you love. Megan Clark, who hosts a show called *Why Folk, Why Not?* Tuesday mornings, features banjos, washboards, spoons and maybe even jug band for country and bluegrass enthusiasts.

"One of the things that is so exciting about CKDU is how many amazing and different programs air every day," says Clark. "CKDU is truly original in all sorts of ways."

There are 10 different languages featured in CKDU's programming, not to mention shows that represent a variety of different cultures from all over the world. For the politically-minded, CKDU offers shows

like *Democracy Now!* or *Third Wave Radio*, which are alternatives to mainstream news.

CKDU is accessible both to listeners and to those who want to work behind the scenes, says station coordinator Gianna Lauren.

"People can come from any background, they don't need a journalism background, and they can learn the [necessary] skills," she says.

"People can walk through this door and feel like they have found an open space that is community oriented."

As a student at Dalhousie, you're automatically a member of CKDU.

"Students pay through the student levy, which we are extremely grateful for," says Lauren. "We wouldn't exist if it wasn't for students."

Students might fear the over-commitment of a radio show on top of school, work, and family—but Lauren says they needn't worry.

"We offer quite a bit of flexibility for students who are busy and have a bunch of other things going on outside of their class schedule if someone only wants to have a show once a month or get involved without necessarily having show," says Lauren.

CKDU is a radio station for the Halifax, but it is also a Dalhousie student society. "The only way we can be more in tune with the student body is if we get more and more student broadcasters and volunteers, and we are always looking for more," says Lauren.

CKDU must work hard to keep their station current with quality equipment. The annual funding drive is a way for the station to spread the word about its programs and raise money for facilities. The funding drive starts Sept. 22 and CKDU aims to raise \$28,000 dollars for a new production studio.

"Radio stuff is expensive. The mixing board alone costs \$20,000," says Lauren. The money it takes to refurbish a radio station is well outside CKDU's not-for-profit budget.

"\$28,000 is not an arbitrary number," says Lauren. "As a not-for-profit organization, we are not going to ask for more money than we need."

CKDU will host 16 events as part of the drive in HRM, ranging from live music to panel discussions. Money raised goes directly to the station. Students on tight budgets may be wary of donating money, but Kat Shubaly, the funding drive coordinator, says it's worth it.

"CKDU is your radio station, it is what you make it at the end of the day. \$30 doesn't seem to be too much when you realize you get 24 hours a day, 365 days a year of opportunity to do anything with this station. It is whatever you want it to be," she says.

Considering the current state of radio in this country, it's important to support independent broadcasting in order keep our communications as diverse as our communities.

Switch to wheels and roll to Premium Rush

ART MIMICS LIFE

Rachel Bloom
Staff Contributor

.....
This past Sunday, Halifax made a switch. To encourage Haligonians to cycle, rollerblade or walk, two kilometres of road were shut down for Open Street Sunday, also known as Switch. The event included activities and sidewalk shops.

Ross Soward, a community planner for the event, says Switch is multipurpose.

“It’s a way to use our streets on Sunday mornings. They can be used for people to recreate, to public-art on, to teach their kids to ride a bike on, to do a scavenger hunt. It’s essentially an organized street party,” he says.

Recent moviegoers may wonder why Switch isn’t called Premium Rush Sunday. The weekend’s event is reminiscent of the movie starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt, which is essentially 91 minutes of him cycling the streets of New York.

In Premium Rush (2012), Gordon-Levitt plays Wilee, a bike messenger who is given an important message to deliver that will affect the future of multiple people, including his girlfriend’s ex-roommate. There are

crooked cops and gambling scandals, making viewers’ hearts race in tandem with Wilee’s accelerated cardio pulse.

“LEARN HOW TO NAVIGATE THEIR STREETS WITHOUT THE TRAFFIC.”

.....

Viewers will have to see the movie themselves to find out whether Wilee will save the day, but the movie is exactly what it sounds like: a basic Hollywood formula of action plus Joseph Gordon-Levitt plus an interesting perspective on how people use streets plus a bad guy plus a love interest with complications. The result? A likeable, easy-to-watch movie that realistically won’t be shown at the Toronto International Film Festival.

One thing to say for the movie is it makes the audience think about their own relation to the streets that surround them in everyday life. The

main character consistently maps out his routes and weighs what options are best, having to think fast in New York traffic. In scenarios, Wilee sees that he will be hit by a cab if he goes one way and will knock a baby out of its carriage if he goes the other—he has to think fast.

But what does this have to do with Open Street Sundays, again? Switch offers Haligonians the opportunity to learn how to navigate their streets without the traffic. The event is the project of the Planning and Design Centre and has received support from community organizations such as the Halifax Cycling Coalition, North End Business Association, Ecology Action Centre, and Mountain Equipment Co-op, helping to make the first event a success.

After a fight with the city and having to pay an inflated price to make this happen, Switch Halifax is not going anywhere for a while. Switch Halifax promised via Twitter that last Sunday was the first Open Street Sunday but certainly not the last.

Halifax, get ready to take to the streets. ☺



Bikers navigating bikers and Capoeira at Switch • • • via Switch Hfx Facebook page



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Rococode kept Seahorse's ghosts company on Sept. 4. ••• Photo by Melissa MacAulay

Rococode and Halifax love each other

Vancouver band rocks the Seahorse

Alana Westwood
Staff Contributor

Rococode's haunting refrains are not the ghostly remains of the Canadian indie megaprojects from which the band sprang: they're infused with a spark all their own.

The Vancouver band's songwriters Laura Smith and Andrew Braun, of Said the Whale, augmented by Shaun Huberts and Johnny Andrews, of Tegan and Sara, offer a unique brand of eerie sound that bears little resemblance to their past endeavours. After their 2012 release *Guns, Sex, & Glory*, the initial boost from their past has

become less and less relevant as the band carves their niche.

After their Sept. 4 performance at the Seahorse Tavern, Rococode members spoke of their journey thus far.

"It is helpful to name drop in the beginning," Braun admitted, "but that angle is playing itself down."

Nevertheless, most of their fans know them from former projects, which places heavy expectations on Rococode's sound and performances.

"The expectations give us something to live up to, something to strive for, and hopefully to exceed," said Smith.

This should not be difficult for

these veterans. Rococode's polished album and energetic shows make them a formidable act. This band is a collaboration, and with no single focus on stage the musicians exude individual charisma in an incredibly powerful live show.

Rococode's style evolved slowly, when Braun began to sing backup vocals for Smith's solo project a number of years ago. With undeniable vocal chemistry, Braun's voice began to move more to the forefront, and eventually the two alternated taking the lead.

"At first we had very clear separation between 'Andrew songs' and

'Laura songs,'" Smith said, "but that barrier is breaking down, which you see in 'The Riot.'"

Fans will have to wait to hear these new tracks recorded, as the band is in the midst of an ambitious cross-country tour—its second this year. Frenetic tour experiences like this one led Huberts to publish the book *How To Pack Like A Rock Star*, a cheeky and enjoyable guide that involves artists such as Hayley Williams, Dan Mangan, and Dallas Green, among many more.

Despite the arduous schedule, Huberts still enjoys touring. "We love coming to the East Coast. People are

so warm and friendly," he said.

"People in Vancouver tend to stand way at the back, nodding their heads, and then tell us after that they loved the show," he added with a bemused smile. It was certainly not the case in Halifax, and as the buzz around their debut album continues to grow, the band will leave many more enthusiastic fans with haunting licks echoing in their ears.

Rococode will take their flavourful sound to Western Canada next, accompanied by Regina's Rah Rah and Winnipeg's Cannon Bros. ☎



Even weighty ghosts can float

Wintersleep guitarist goes solo on *First Transmission*

Andrew Mills
Arts Editor

I want to dismiss Jon Samuel and his album *First Transmission* as just another sweet-hearted downer with an acoustic guitar. The first song is too jaunty for the morning. I don't turn it off, but indulge with some gentle swearing at the speakers instead. By fourth track, "Follow the Leader," distorted vocals reciting "we are drones" crawl up my spine like coffee tendrils. It's not the robot indictment that gets me, but the music, which has subterranean-acoustic yang.

"Crater," in the middle of the album, is such a pretty and scary articulation of existential guilt that the airy love songs around it are altered by proximity. "What could I have to tell you about wasting far too many days/How could you answer for charging me guilty before I was born?" It doesn't matter if Samuel's question is for God, lover or void—suddenly his surface catchiness isn't so damning. By the time he sings "Sucked into a black hole where I may roam/Roam forever, around in the dark," like hell

might be an endless free-fall, I have to stub my cigarette prematurely, roused to the small self-deceptions that keep me happily overstimulated.

In contrast, the title track is a love song from a material realm, Samuel's soft-spoken underground with roots in a tangle of images: "I am the seeing-eye dog/I'm stars/I am the picture of the quiet one." You might recognize Samuel as the quiet one from Wintersleep, though he makes plenty of noise in his main gig as the group's multi-instrumentalist.

The album artwork, a hot air balloon floating towards an upside-down "sky" of grass, rhymes with the weightless/heavy inversion at heart of the record. "I was hoping for a reprieve/that your ghost wouldn't haunt me/Send me someone to love," he sings on "To Love," like he's praying to a spirit in the soil, or the sky. ☎

Fans of Wintersleep's debut will fall for Samuel's first album.

••• Album art by Anne-Marie Proulx



SHARPE GRADUATES TO OLYMPIC POOL

TIGERS SWIMMER MAKES MOST OF WHIRLWIND SUMMER

Paula Sanderson
Staff Contributor

In Grade 1, David Sharpe decided that he wanted to be a swimmer.

He was already playing soccer and gymnastics but he soon turned his attention to swimming full-time, joining the Halifax Trojan Aquatic Club.

His mother, Helen Sharpe, remembers her son's first race fondly.

"He must have been seven or something. He swam up to the other end of the pool, swam back and then asked the timer if that was all," she recalls. "No, he had another left to do, so off he went and back he came," she says, laughing. "I think he was like any young kid; he enjoyed doing it."

He picked up the strokes very quickly and was identified at a young age as a butterfly specialist. He was even the novice winner of the swim-a-thon that first year.

Sharpe's longtime friend and current Dalhousie teammate Chris Reith started swimming the same year as Sharpe. Little did he know a future Canadian Olympian was in his midst.

"He was always faster than everyone else in the group," Reith says. And he still is.

A swim to remember

Wednesday, March 28, 2012 is a day David Sharpe will never forget.

The 21-year-old varsity swimmer had spent months preparing for the Olympic trials. He only took one class in the winter semester to focus all his energy on swimming. He even visited other centres to train with the other top flyers in the country.

But after a poor showing in his heat, he was lucky to even qualify for the final at the Olympic trials.

"In the morning he missed his swim. He played around with [his technique] a little too much," says Aaron Maszko, Sharpe's coach.

The Dal student got over it, despite his underdog status. He was listed to swim in what is traditionally the slowest path, the eighth lane: a lane where swimmers are not expected to win.

But Sharpe is not like most people. "When he sets a goal, he can do it," says his mother.

Maszko agrees: "I don't think there was a single Nova Scotian athlete that was there that wasn't on the edge of their seat come the last length of the race."

Sharpe came out of nowhere to swim the fastest 200 metre butterfly of his life, clocking in with a time of 1:58.81. He won.

"We were all delighted, just jumping up and down when he won that race," says Sharpe's mother.

Yet anyone watching the highlights at home would have never seen Sharpe touch the finish line. The camera operator seemingly did not expect Sharpe to win either, cutting out lane eight from the last shot, and in doing so cutting out history.

By winning the trials, Sharpe was technically nominated to the Canadian Olympic team (although the official team was only announced in June)—something no Nova Scotian male swimmer has ever done.

This is not insignificant. When Sharpe first decided to try out for the Olympics years ago, Maszko asked him if he wanted to go out of prov-

ince. Training in Nova Scotia just wasn't done.

"I think David likes to see himself as the first of many. He wants to be the role model that inspires others to go out and do this," says Maszko. "Getting people to believe that it is possible is the biggest step towards having others achieve what he has done."

Within a week of learning he made the team on June 29, Sharpe was in Montreal training with the Canadian team. He then stepped on an airplane to Sardinia, Italy for further training before heading to London in the middle of July.

"I probably learned more at the staging camp [in Sardinia] those two weeks than I have ever learned swimming-wise in any experience," says Sharpe. "I was training with guys like Brent Hayden and Ryan Cochrane, guys who won medals; I was with them."

Once at the athletes' village, the goal was to establish a normal routine.

Eat, sleep, swim. Repeat.

To discipline themselves, the swim team skipped the opening ceremonies to rest.

"If you go, you go three hours early, stand up the whole time and get back at 2 a.m.," says Sharpe. "It's exhausting."

Sharpe, however, watched the show from a big screen in the village with athletes from all over the world.

"As each individual country came out, people from that country would cheer," he says with a smile.

Sharpe went to bed that evening only a few sleeps away from what he has spent months, even years training for.

World's biggest stage

Sharpe swam on July 30 at the London Aquatics Centre in front of 17,500 people. He says he has never heard a pool that loud.

"When I was in the ready room before my race I could hear the crowd rumble, because we were under the stands," he says. "That was terrifying and exciting and exhilarating all at the same time."

Although he was in second at the halfway mark of the 200 metre butterfly, Sharpe tumbled to a seventh place finish, ending an Olympics he was lucky to qualify for in the first place.

His swim was a full second slower than his trial time. Sharpe took a technical gamble with his stroke that did not work out.

"Through five-eighths, almost three-quarters of the race, he looked very good, but in the last length he tightened up a bit more than he did before," explains Maszko.

Reith, who was watching the race from home with his roommates at 6:15 a.m., thought Sharpe would break the Canadian record.

"He went out really fast in the race. We were all really excited about that and we thought it might be going down there, but next time it will happen," Reith says.

"We still think he can break the Canadian record."

That swim sets up Sharpe for an exciting future. His new goal is to not only qualify for the 2016 Olympics but to be in the top 20 internationally.

"I know it's the starting point for what I have to do now," he says. "That was the biggest event I could go to. Now, everything else is small potatoes, I guess."

The full Olympic experience

After one minute and 59 seconds, Sharpe's competition came to a close—but not his Olympic experience.

He saw other sports and met other athletes, explored London and went to parties.

"There was no alcohol in the village so most of the party was downtown," he says. "When the party ends downtown, you go to meal hall and start again the next day."

There were parties like the Speedo after-party, which Sharpe describes as the who's who of swimming, from American swimmer Michael Phelps to Ryan Lochte. Invitations were only sent out to the British, American, Australian and Canadian teams.

"To have a plus one at that party, you needed to have a medal," says Sharpe. "It was a great party."

As the Olympics wound down, more and more athletes finally let loose. A record 150,000 condoms were given out.

All in all, Sharpe says it was a memorable time. "It's a lot of fun," he laughs. The smile on his face suggests we will never know just how much fun the Olympians had.

But the fun didn't stop when Sharpe left London.

He was recognized at the airport—even without wearing any Olympic gear—and Reith says when they go out on the town in Halifax, people recognize Sharpe.

"The first night he got back we went to a bar and the band was like 'Hey everyone, David Sharpe's here,'" says Reith. "That was crazy."

Back at Dal, Sharpe is trying to bring his life back to normal.

"Everybody asks, 'How was the Olympics?'" he says. "It was like a 45-day saga with months and years of preparation, and I have to sum it up? It was amazing. It changes how people look at you and how you look at yourself. It was life-changing."

His friends and family notice some changes, but they still know Sharpe as the guy they play board games and video games with.

"I think he's probably grown up a bit from this experience," says his mother. "But his basic character seems to be about the same."



Dal now has an Olympian in its pool, David Sharpe. Photo by Calum Agnew

Sharpe's friend, Reith, sees the same guy he's known for most of his life.

"He hasn't gotten cocky or have a big head at all," he says.

Sharpe even made time on his first day back from the Olympics to encourage the next generation of swimmers at a provincial tournament three hours away in Digby, N.S.

"All the kids were lining up for autographs. It really made their day,"

says Reith. "It was a class act."

Sharpe's friends and family all agree: the swimming star has a newfound sense of focus and determination.

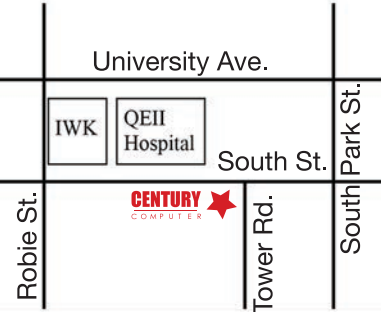
"He wants to be a major player and that's really inspiring," says Maszko. "When he talked to me after his race for the first time, he said it was great to go to the Olympics as a nobody, but next time he wants to be a somebody." 🐾

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life after london



Paddles up: Jason McCoombs already has his sights yet on a 2016 Olympic berth. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

Dal transfer student paddles to London

Jason McCoombs: the Olympian who almost wasn't

Kristie Smith
Staff Contributor
•••••

At eight years old Jason McCoombs was just a boy, paddling at the Banook Canoe Club with his friends because it looked like a lot of fun. Eleven years later, the world watched him compete in sprint canoeing for the first time at the London Olympics.

Born and raised in Dartmouth, McCoombs, 19, was the Olympian who almost wasn't.

His battle began last May at the Canadian Sprint Team Trials in Georgia.

"I ended up coming second in that race, so I needed to win the next two races to qualify because it's a best two out of three scenario," explains McCoombs, a transfer to Dalhousie this fall.

The paddler went on to do exactly that in a pair of international races in Poland and Germany. Twice he

managed to pull ahead of the same competitor who beat him in Georgia, earning himself a surprise spot in London.

The Olympics were not even on McCoombs' radar until a training camp before the trials in May. Later that month, his ticket was stamped to London.

"I mean, the Olympics is always something amateur athletes in general strive towards. But it didn't really become a realistic goal until Florida camp this year; I really thought I could go for it."

Despite an impressive resume to back up his Olympic berth, from taking home three gold medals and two silvers at the 2010 Junior Pan American Canoe Championships to a strong showing at this year's World Cup, none of this prepared him for the shock of going to London.

"When I was lining up for my heat, it was very surreal. And when they

said 'ready, set, go,' it was almost like I couldn't believe where I was," recalls McCoombs.

“WHEN THEY SAID 'READY, SET, GO,' IT WAS ALMOST LIKE I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHERE I WAS.”
•••••

Ultimately, he finished 13th in his Canoe Single 200 metre heat, but it hasn't deterred him.

In an interview with Postmedia News, the Canadian team's veteran

coach Laszlo (Csom) Latorovski said he has every reason to believe the Dartmouth native will only improve.

"I invited him to [the national] camp just to learn, from the older ones. He held up to the training very well," he said, adding that McCoombs has made a two-second improvement on his time in the 200 metre sprint since last year, which they compared to jumping two grades at school in half a term.

"This is incredible," said Latorovski, who has coached world-class paddlers for 35 years. "I never expected anything like that," he said.

"He's the most talented I've ever seen."

Now, McCoombs is working toward a degree in physics at Dal after previously studying at Saint Mary's University. He'll take a full course load this semester, then drop to three credits in the winter term to accommodate a training session in Florida

during February.

He doesn't know what he'll do yet, joking he can't be an athlete forever, but he's excited for the challenges ahead. He'll continue to train for the 2016 Olympics and other international races in between, but will work toward his degree whenever he can. He may consider a master's later on in life as well, inspired by fellow athlete and Dal alumni Mark de Jonge.

"I figured these guys have done it before—graduated from engineering and just won a bronze medal," says McCoombs of his Team Canada teammate.

"Guys like Steve Giles, who has an engineering degree as well. So I know I can do it."

For now, he's concentrating on his labs and waiting for his workload to pile up, just like a regular university student. ☹

Dal represents

Three alumni show their stripes

Monica Mutale
Sports Contributor

Though it may not compare to his Olympic glory, kayaker **Mark de Jonge**, 28, was honoured to take part in this year's football season opener at Dalhousie.

"I learned that there are a bunch of engineers on the team," he says, "so it was cool to be able to do the opening kickoff for Dal and for Dal engineering."

It has been a whirlwind summer for the 2009 civil engineering graduate, culminating in a bronze medal for Canada in the 200 metre kayak sprint.

"It felt very satisfying," he says of reaching the podium.

"I had trained for 15 years until I was able to compete at the Olympics, and a lot of hard work went into that. To have that culminate in something meaningful like an Olympic medal is really satisfying for me."

The season opener was de Jonge's first Tigers football game. The team, after all, only returned from its 34-year hiatus in 2010, following his graduation.

"I never really had time to get into the school spirit because I was always away training," he says. "So it's nice that I can come back and enjoy it now as a Dal alumnus."

De Jonge was not the only former Tiger competing at the Games.

Geoff Harris, a former arts student,

ran in the 800 metre event. Harris qualified for the semifinals with a career-best time of 1:45.97 but he needed a faster time than his seventh-place finish of 1:46.14 to advance.

Harris, however, did not even expect to compete in London this past summer.

"It was a bonus along the way," he says. "I was prepared that 2012 was not an option, but I had a season that was a bit remarkable." That season included running four personal best times.

Life for the 25-year-old runner has only changed slightly since London.

"I'm definitely more recognizable, and there are all the little perks that come with that," he laughs.

"My support has always been pretty exceptional, so it's the same as usual from my support staff. We've been doing the same thing for four years. Not a lot from that perspective has changed."

Management graduate **Danielle Dube** also competed in London. It was a challenging week on the water for Dube, placing 27th overall out of 41 competitors in women's laser radial sailing. She needed to finish in the top 10 to compete for the medals.

Canada's sole representative in the competition earned her berth in January at a World Cup event in Florida. ☎



Dal's best Olympic showing was a kayaking bronze medal from Mark de Jonge. ••• Photo by Pau Balite



Dal dropped the ball offensively. ••• Photo by Martina Marien

Tigers football only musters two points

Dal drops offensively-challenged bout

Ian Froese
Sports Editor

When a football team's kicker is the only player to get points on the board for his team, you know your team is having difficulties offensively.

That was the unfortunate situation presented to the Dalhousie Tigers in their home opener Sept. 15, which saw over 1,000 fans witness a penalty-prone black and gold squad struggle to move the chains at Wickwire Field. The UNB Fredericton Red Bombers capitalized on Dal's poor offence, but not by much, clinching a tight 13-2 victory.

Dal's head coach Stuart MacLean explained it wasn't all doom and gloom on the offensive side, but a rash of penalties, from offsides to holding and unnecessary roughing calls, put the Tigers at a disadvantage.

"Even in the offence, we did some things well. We had some nice passes, some nice runs, but if every first down comes back with a penalty, that's not the way to win football games," says MacLean.

"You can't win a football game with 20 penalties."

Two singles from first-time kicker Rob Wilson in the second quarter gave the Tigers a 2-0 advantage, but Dal saw its lead evaporate when the Red Bombers' John Morse scored a touchdown on the last drive of the half, benefitting from a blocked punt.

The scoring would have come exclusively from the special teams if it wasn't for Tyler Doak running through a scrum on a goal line to give the defending league finalists a 13-2 result late in the final quarter.

Dal's deficit would have been much steeper if it wasn't for a sensational defence that kept the Tigers in the game.

"I couldn't have asked for anything better from those guys," says MacLean. "I think they came through in spades."

Defensive back Nico Jones, a transfer from McMaster University, said this defeat is only a minor setback for the Tigers. They just need to execute on the scoreboard, too.

"We know we can hang with the best of them for sure," says Jones. "That's why I feel that we can show them what we can do, show them how good we'll be for the rest of the year."

Jones was integral in the match with two picks, including an end zone interception that would have widened the gap in the third quarter. He was named Dal's player of the game.

At the quarterback position, Dal's Brendan Festeryga received the start but a carousel between him and second-year standout Michael Tassone saw both of them receive considerable playing time.

Festeryga figures it's anybody guess when the coaching staff will pick their go-to guy.

"It'll probably be like this for a while until," Festeryga says, trailing off. "Actually, I have no idea to be honest," he adds with a laugh. ☎

The Tigers head on the road on Saturday, Sept. 22 to play UNB Saint John. Dal's next contest, on Sept. 29, will be their homecoming game against Holland College at Wickwire Field.

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THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

Version Control: Rewriting history

'Git' with it and keep your files organized



Melwyn Neelankavil
Staff Contributor
Internetworking '13

Have you ever come across a situation where you have multiple copies of the same document/code and keep naming the new ones as derivatives of the other? For example, if you have a document resume.docx (quite the most common nowadays), when you apply for another job, you create another one and name it as resume_1.docx, or resume_new.docx or something of that sort. After a while, you have so many such "resume" files in your folder that you don't have a clue on what is what. The same is true if you are writing a code for some application. You modify the code based on the requirements and rename the succeeding code (for another requirement) as a modified name of the preceding code.

A solution to this problem is using a Version Control System (VCS). In a

broader sense, this is a software that allows you to create and maintain multiple versions of the file under the same filename. The tool allows you to add a short comment (commit message) on what was important or what changes were made in that version of the file. You can even go back to the old version(s) of the file whenever you want to i.e. "You can go back and re-write history". This approach also helps you in saving disk space and keeping your directories clean. However, this is just one of the benefits of using a VCS.

Suppose you are working in a group and want to exchange file(s) after modifying them. A crude approach would be to send e-mails with the file attached. And if you want to get a particular version of the file, you won't know where it resides (in which mail sent/received). Using the VCS, a repository keeps track of all the old versions of the file and who edited them. If it is a text file, you can even see the differences between any two versions of the file using VCS. Another awesome feature is branch-

ing. Consider a scenario where in you have developed an application with some features. You are unexpectedly asked to modify the application to support another set of features which may involve removing some of the original features. You want the old code and also want to start fresh on the new one. What would you do in the idealistic case? You would probably tar and zip the directory containing the original features, keep it carefully in a separate folder and begin working on the new one. With VCS, you can create branches i.e. start a new "branch". This allows you to simultaneously work on both the requirements and maintain the history of both. Today, there are two types of Version Control software's - Centralized and Distributed (we have come across these two terms so many times). In the Centralized type, a server maintains a repository of all your old versions of the file. So you will have to "checkout" that particular version of the file from the server and work on it. One of the benefits of this

approach is that even if your copy is deleted, the server has another copy. Examples for this include SVN (open source), Perforce (proprietary) etc. The Distributed type is a peer-peer approach i.e. there is no central server to maintain a copy. The users/peers themselves are responsible for maintaining and exchanging their own repositories with others. Because of no central entity, this approach is especially advantageous to freelancers who work independently. The most popular example is Git (written by Linus Torvalds, the author of Linux). Version Control has definitely proven to be an indispensable tool for programmers. Having mastered one of the related tools will definitely speed up the development and maintenance of projects. ☘



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Climate Change: A systematic approach



Alex Holgate
Staff Contributor
Industrial '13

Most people have a morning routine, mine happens to include reading the newspaper. Of late reading the newspaper seems mundane, though I glance at the front page or go online to immediately be assaulted by a headline decrying the perils of the oil and gas industry more often than I can count. The same eco-journalists writing these articles are almost certainly lining the pockets of the same energy firms by turning on their lights at home, or fuelling their cars with gasoline. With so much backlash against oil, I have to ask myself why none of this attention is turned towards coal generated power. Coal is indisputably worse than oil, so why not focus our attention on the real bad actor first?

The energy needs of our planet are rapidly growing and I find it very shocking that most of the environmentalists I know, or read about in

the news, are buying into the same system against which they rally. In Canada we have the celebrated environmentalist David Suzuki; it amazes me how easy it is for him to bash the oil industry while flying incessantly around the world with jet fuel they produce. If the environmentalists, the so called proponents of Our Planet, are unwilling to renounce cheap electricity and power produced by fossil fuels then I find it very unlikely that there will be a concerted global effort to stop burning said carbon. Left with this scenario it is likely that we will need to wean ourselves from carbon based fuels over some period of time.

So, if humankind is set to continue using carbon resources to generate power for ourselves, why is so much media attention directed at Big Oil? The Big Oil companies are evil, destroying our environments, et cetera; quite frankly, I am tired of hearing it. I am not trying to step up and defend the industry, but simply put it is not our biggest environmental problem. Even when considering the tar sands

of northern Alberta, an easy target for environmentalists looking for a quick smash against the industry, coal can't compete! Bob Weber of the Canadian Press says, "one of the world's top climate scientists has calculated that emissions from Alberta's oil sands are unlikely to make a big difference to global warming and that the real threat to the planet comes from burning coal." The climate modeller in question was Andrew Weaver, of the University of Victoria and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, coal generates 35% more carbon emissions than burning oil. And compared to oil's other friend, gas, it generates almost double the emissions! That is just looking at carbon emissions, when you look at other pollutants and greenhouse gases coal is last in nearly every category. Oil still emits many contaminants in other categories, but both oil and coal fall far short of matching natural gas for efficiency and cleanliness. I'll leave

natural gas for another day. Given these facts I ask why not focus on eliminating our use of coal first? Afterwards we can certainly turn our attention to oil. Every watt, kilowatt, or megawatt of energy we produce with oil or gas, could be one that we are not producing with coal; that is helping the environment. Where is the sense in confronting our second largest problem and leaving the worst culprit untouched? I am not writing this in defense of oil. I would like to see our civilization power itself with renewables as much as the next tree hugger. However, why isn't the problem approached in a systematic manner? In my opinion it would be prudent to turn our attention to oil only once we have stopped burning coal. Simply put I am tired of seeing all the media attention go towards oil and gas when coal is our biggest problem and would challenge all journalists and environmentalists out there to realize the same. ☘

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