



**SOME DON'T LIKE IT HOT** David Hik has helped further environmental research on the north and south poles.

# Hot future for Arctic researcher

David Hik’s work with International Polar Year has put the U of A on the map as a leading player in addressing issues afflicting Earth’s extremes

JENNIFER HUYGEN  
News Staff

As significant ecological changes sweep the Arctic and Antarctic regions, the University of Alberta’s David Hik remains at the forefront of this scientific and cultural exploration into the polar extremes of the globe.

The U of A is heavily involved in current interdisciplinary projects due to the influences of Hik, who’s the executive director of the Canadian International Polar Year (IPY) Secretariat.

“IPY [is] kind of the grand daddy of international scientific cooperation and collaboration,” he explains.

Hik spends his days as a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, and is a Canada Research Chair in Northern Ecology. With support from the federal government, the U of A community, and various Aboriginal and non-governmental organizations, Hik has also been able to travel extensively and bring his research skills to remote Arctic areas as part of IPY.

His involvement with the project began unexpectedly while sitting on a parliamentary committee in Ottawa during a sabbatical.

“We were looking at these questions of renewing Canada’s capacity of investment in the Arctic, and IPY really became the tail that wagged the dog,” Hik says. “It became the event that we could hang a whole lot of the other issues we were discussing on.”

Hik recently returned from a voyage on the Canadian Coast Guard

Ship Sir Wilfred Laurier, where he led researchers through Canada’s northern islands to study the water column and visit with students and teachers in the Territories.

“I was pegged as the terrestrial oceanographer,” he jokes.

According to Hik, the importance of northern research and outreach, especially in Canada, can’t be underestimated. He cites shrinking ice and snow levels, as well as global warming, as two urgencies of IPY that are affecting things like natural resources, health, employment, and technology.

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DAVID HICK  
U OF A PROFESSOR AND EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR OF THE CANADIAN IPY

“Here we were seeing significant changes occurring that were affecting the global atmosphere, the world oceans, the environment, [and] people,” Hik says.

“The current estimate is that global sea level will rise somewhere between 20 and 100 cm this century—that’s huge.”

As Arctic sovereignty and security issues dominate headlines and the melting of the Northwest Passage becomes an inevitable reality, Hik’s research is designed to provide new information and outreach to address these problems. He stresses the importance of passing on accessible knowledge to Arctic communities and policy makers to better inform them on how to deal with these rapid changes.

Hik sees the U of A as a concrete force behind the success of IPY to date, citing the involvement of the University’s Canadian Circumpolar Institute and the goals of its northern strategy.

“This is very much a part of the history of the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta faculty and students, and I’d like to say Administration as well,” Hik says. “It makes sense for the University of Alberta to take a lead and to help develop the partnerships that have contributed to making IPY a success.”

Hik emphasizes the success to date of the IPY in terms of local, national, and international involvement. However, he acknowledges that this is only the beginning.

“The Polar Year by its very definition is just a pulse of activity, which is a good thing,” Hik says. “But many of the issues that we’re addressing—issues of climate change, issues of sustainable development, issues of community health and well-being—these are all long term interests that Canada and the rest of the world has.”

which had been left behind. It’s a routine call on most days, but this particular item turned out to be a human skull, donated by a doctor to a local fraternity. The skull was eventually surrendered to 5-0 for proper disposal.

### TNT IN THE EAS BUILDING

On the morning of 4 October, a Facilities Maintenance staff member observed a suspicious object resembling a pipe bomb in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Building. CSS and the Edmonton Police Service’s bomb squad were dispatched. An x-ray was taken of the pipe, at which time it was confirmed no explosive materials were present. The pipe was then released to the EPS for safe disposal.

### SUGARRUSH

Nearing midnight on 4 October, Campus Security officers responded to a com-

plaint of an intoxicated male throwing doughnuts around the Lister Hall Marina. The suspect was identified and informed of proper dining hall etiquette.

### NOT SO TOUGH WITHOUT HIS TOY

On the afternoon of 8 October, a taxi driver entered the CSS office and reported that a group of youths had flashed a handgun at him as they exited the Health Sciences LRT platform. As a call was placed to EPS, a 5-0 bike patrol member located the group heading towards Whyte Avenue and observed as one of them ditched an item in a nearby alleyway. Numerous EPS cars arrived immediately, lights and sirens ablaze, and the entire group was arrested at gunpoint. During the investigation, a replica handgun was located in the area, and criminal charges are pending against the suspects.

## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

### WANNABE YOUTUBE CELEBS GIVEN A CEASE-AND-DESIST

On the afternoon of 1 October, Campus Security Services (CSS) members observed several males climbing the Education Car Park and filming their stunts. The males were advised that the U of A is private property, and the group was directed off campus.

### YOU WOULD LOSE YOUR HEAD IF IT WEREN'T ATTACHED

In the early morning of 2 October, CSS was asked to provide after-hours entry into a classroom to retrieve property

# DEWEY'S

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\$3.75 Grasshopper Pints

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**open** monday-friday  
from 8am until 8pm

In the old Powerplant Building, Look for the Red Door on the North side.



# Ratt

## 7TH FLOOR SUB

**RATT AND MOLSON WILL BE GIVING AWAY A PAIR OF TICKETS TO EVERY OILERS HOME GAME!**

tickets are given away at the beginning of the 3rd period for the next game. Must be present to win

- FRIDAY, OCT. 12TH @ 7PM (HOME GAME)**  
oilers vs. the vancouver canucks!
- SATURDAY, OCT. 13TH @ 8PM**  
oilers vs. the vancouver canucks!
- THURSDAY OCT. 18TH @ 8PM**  
oilers vs. phoenix coyotes!

Molson pints on for \$3.75, Molson bottles on for \$3.25 and pitchers for \$10.25 1 hour before and during the game.

## MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

### BUD ON SPECIAL!

\$10.25 PITCHERS!  
\$3.75 PINTS!  
\$3.25 BOTTLES!

## TUESDAYS – DUB THAT DITTY

Molson Canadian Rocks on Special Starts at 9 p.m.

## WEDNESDAYS – KARAOKE!

Kokanee on Special! Starts at 9 p.m.

## FRIDAYS – DJ!

## HOURS

monday-friday | saturday  
11AM-2AM | 3PM-2AM

