

# opinions

## Rant

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the weekends (since that is when the games are usually played) to be present at the games. This year, which is also our first, we were there at some of the regular season games of women's and men's basketball, soccer and hockey. We were also there for the bigger events such as Frosh Week, the Rod Shovellor Tournament and the opening game of the CIAU men's volleyball championships as well. In fact, that week we cheered at five games in total.

I realize that the comment was more likely a joke but I feel one must take on some responsibility for what one writes. Since Mr. O'Connor feels that the squad is such a factor perhaps he would like to come to our tryouts on April 17 and make a difference.

**Carmen Tam**  
Coordinator  
Dalhousie Co-ed Cheerleading

## Patronage games

To the editor:

As a student politician at Dalhousie I feel it is my duty to represent students on all issues, and to inform them on what's happening within the DSU. I normally wouldn't go as far as writing a letter, but when the incoming President and Vice-President Executive are in the process of hand-picking a few of their friends for key positions on council, I feel I must.

Before I give you names let me give you a little background. First off, for

those of you who don't know, the DSU appoints a number of positions with honoraria every year. These positions are selected by the DSU nominations committee, which was just struck by the new council this past Sunday. The new members, one of who supported Rod MacLeod and Tiffany Jay's campaign, will help their cause substantially in easing the process of stacking the influential positions of Treasurer and Chair with their friends. Interesting to note that Lisa Lachance, the newly elected Board of Governors Rep, and by far the most qualified councillor for a recruitment committee position, was denied. Perhaps this had something to do with the fact that she and Mr. MacLeod aren't exactly the best of friends?

Anyway, the fact is that there is an obvious attempt to fill the position of Chair with Louis Beaubien (presently chair of the Science Society), and the position of Treasurer with John St. Louis (friend of Rod MacLeod and campaign worker). This is widely known within DSU circles, but I'd imagine the average student doesn't know. My concern is that the average student who applies for either of these positions will never really stand a chance, despite the fact they may be granted a token interview. I do not take anything away from Mr. St. Louis' ability to do the job; but what I think students may be concerned with is the fact that such blatant patronage is going on within the DSU.

We have to stop these actions now, so that in the future the DSU maintains the representative face that it took on this year! I'd like to be a member of council next year and I'd still like my vote to count. I for one don't want to see a hidden agenda rammed down my throat next year. How about you?

**Pat Keith**  
Arts Rep

## CFS a waste of money

I am writing this in response to the opinion piece of Robin Mackinnon in the last edition of the Gazette. I am sure that many of your readers have noticed that a referendum is soon to be voted on by Dalhousie students, and this is a another reason that I am writing this.

Like the rest of you I paid money, and good money at that, to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) this year. We all gave up our four dollars willingly, and most of us unknowingly, with our Dalhousie Student Union dues.

I'm sure that many of you are unaware of what CFS is and what it does for Dal students, and this is why I am writing this today. CFS is a national student lobby group that represents over 400,000 students. The problem I have with this organization is that it uses our money to promote its own goals, and those are not necessarily the same as my own or those of many of Dalhousie's current population.

As Dalhousie students, and thus members of CFS, we are opposed to such things as Free Trade and NAFTA, CBC budget cuts, increased military spending, Canadian foreign policy, not to mention the death squads of El Salvador. While I am also opposed to the senseless slaughter in El Salvador, I would prefer that my student lobby group would spend its time and my money on student issues. Our money that is supposed to be spent on student

issues should not sponsor anti-NAFTA conferences in Mexico. Spend our money in Canada, please.

I am deeply disturbed by the fact that this group is misrepresenting students and not spending as much time as it should addressing valid Canadian student concerns. In fact it is doing little more than addressing the objectives of the select few in charge of CFS nationally.

Another tidbit of information about CFS is the significant deficits that it has recently incurred. It has spent \$200,000 more than it has earned the last two years. It has decided rather than cut back its budget it is going to raise our membership price from the current \$4 up to \$6 per person. Dalhousie gave \$36,000 to CFS this year and it wants \$53,000 from us next year. I for one am not in favour of giving it an extra \$17,000, let alone the original \$36,000. CFS also proposes that after 1995 dues will increase annually. It has raised its salaries 250 per cent since 1986, and now it wants more money from Dal to pay for it.

What we have to ask ourselves is whether it is worth \$53,000. The University of Saskatchewan asked themselves if they wanted CFS, and 72 per cent said 'no'. So did the University of Waterloo, of whom 73 per cent voted 'no'.

CFS has told you that you would lose Travel Cuts if you vote 'no'. Truth-

fully, Travel Cuts was here before CFS and will be here long after it has gone. Other schools have voted CFS off campus and they all still have Travel Cuts, and so will we. Waterloo and the U of Saskatchewan still have Travel Cuts, as does every other school that has voted CFS off campus.

I am not opposed to a national student lobby, or even a Maritime Student Union, but CFS doesn't do the job that it should for Dalhousie students. There is nothing that CFS can do that our own Dalhousie Student Union cannot and does not already do for us.

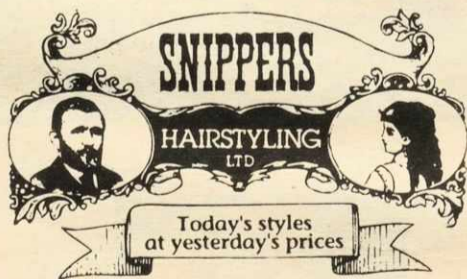
So let's take a quick look at this once more. CFS is running \$200,000-plus deficits for the last two years. It talks about representing students nationally, but among other things is spending our money in Mexico to try to fight NAFTA. There are over fifty workers in Ontario and CFS spent 250 per cent more on salaries in 1992 than in 1986. It stopped a resolution that said the words 'student' or 'education' have to be present in all their policies, but they claim to be a student lobby group dealing with education issues. Does this make sense to you? It doesn't to me. So how am I going to save myself six dollars in one minute? I am going to vote 'no' in the CFS referendum.

Chris Whynacht

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