

# Editorial/Opinion

## Strippers or no strippers

Dalhousie students took strong stands on three issues this year, one of which was whether or not to allow strippers in the SUB. It's anyone's guess why students voted two to one against allowing this form of entertainment, be it a stronger 'no' campaign, some of the candidates endorsing this point of view during the platforms, a distaste for the act as immoral or degrading to women or a concern for our public image.

Strippers have been an issue at Dalhousie for a number of years, and the 'no' campaign, spearheaded by the Newman Club, has amassed significant support in the way of petitions and press. It's an issue worthy of debate. But was a referendum the right way? Should politics enter the realm of freedom of choice, realizing that however relevant at the time every decision to limit sets a precedent?

Referenda if not properly run can often be undemocratic. Allowing what should be a balanced, informed decision be subjected to fierce opposition and political tactics relegates the issue to a political battle.

Some thought council was copping out, taking to the voters what it didn't want to decide. Referendum sounds super-democratic, so why not?

It was democratic in that this decision could only be a personal one, no threats, smear campaigns or pay-offs involved.

But should we be deciding such a thing? Shouldn't we place our respect in people's individual choices, and strive for the ideal society simply through education, and not legislation? Perhaps the day would come when there would be no strippers in the SUB, not because of a rule, but because no one was interested. The Engineers' pay for this building too, so why should the majority of students take room rentals away from this group, imposing their subjective views?

Unfortunately, idealism as it applies to democracy is very hard to define.

The democratic process was correct. Things just work this way in our imperfect democratic system. Any interest group, no matter what issue, moral or not, seeks to change some part of the status quo they perceive to be unfair. Affirmative action, abortion, the death penalty, censorship of films, nudity in public places, where do we draw the line on what should be legislated. Some may think a referendum was wrong in that it's an issue we should not even be legislating. But any interest group that works to push society in a certain direction has all the tools available to them, be it the media, lobbying for legislation, awareness through films, speakers, petitions or whatever. The ultimate decision is up to the voters. Maybe an effective anti-censorship campaign would have changed the result.

The rightness or wrongness of the decision will always be up for debate, but the process was correct.

## Letters

### Electoral Officer's last words

To the Editor:

Re: Elections

Well the elections for student council have come and gone and now is the time when I must write my thoughts on the entire episode.

To begin with, the idea of going to classes to hold the elections did sound a bit bizarre, but when the final outcome shows to be 42% of the student

body, this idea becomes a reality.

Unlike last year, we didn't have the problems of stuffing ballot boxes; we didn't give people the chance. Also we were fortunate enough to have security allow us to store the boxes in their safe hands until the elections had ended.

I feel probably the hardest job of all was to spend 9-10 hours on a Friday, locked up with 20-25 people counting ballots. The atmosphere in that room on that day was one of excitement and tension.

I know that this job would have been much harder had I not had the help of my trust-

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"SO WHAT?..." FARNSWORTH, "SO WHAT?"  
IS NOT A QUESTION WE ASK OURSELVES  
AT THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.



## BeNichols



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