

opinions

Student reps accountable

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Express, membership has its privileges.

Your national student voice is not always in perfect pitch. Here is where we come back to that word 'privilege', by which I mean the responsibility to input on that to which you belong. So let's forget about constitutional and contractual obligations for a moment, as it might be more constructive to focus on ideas.

It is a good idea to force your national student voice to be accountable to you. Express yourself — to your VP External, and your national executive rep. It's not only our job to listen, but to do what we're told by you.

Why should you spend time chatting up your VP External? Precisely because this is the individual who has given themselves to the task of representing your views at the provincial and national level. Make sure their door is open to you. Tell them what you want them to do for you, and then follow up to see that they do it.

The same is true for your national executive rep (in this case, me). Theoretically, your VP External will in turn tell me what to do, based solidly on whatever it is that you've told them to do. And I in turn do what I can to see that it gets done.

I think I hear a voice saying, "But what has CFS done for me lately?" Well, let's see. Campaigns, anyone? How about 'Don't Tax Reading', 'Don't Tax My Loan' (a big success, as those of you bearing the burden of loans will have noted), National Student Day, 'Campaign Against Institutional Racism', International Women's Day, Week of Reflection, Year of Indigenous Peoples, Pink Triangle Day, and upcoming 'How

Accessible is Access?', slated for March 21 (also the International Day to Eliminate Racism).

Don't go yet — there's more. General meetings, which are held twice annually and about which you've possibly heard a lot of disparaging things, are the means by which student representatives can come together to plan the work and focus of CFS according to the direction you give them. All disparaging things to say aside, it's a megalithic challenge for roughly 200 people from all corners of the country to come to a consensus, or at the very least determine the will of the majority. The astounding thing is that they actually manage to do it. That's been my experience and having attended three of them, not one of which has actually killed me, I'm forced to conclude that I'm stronger because of it. In fact, to my knowledge no one has actually died as a direct result of a CFS general meeting, so it follows that since its inception in 1981 it's been responsible for a lot of strength.

An important thing to keep in mind is that all together, general meetings are only about two weeks out of the fifty-two weeks of every year spent giving a nationwide voice to the concerns of students. Researching, running campaigns and lobbying government on the issues that concern students goes on all year round.

And then there's Travel Cuts, the largest student-owned travel co-op on the planet — you own it. And so on!

I hope this won't be read as premature campaigning (that is not my intention) but I feel driven to say one last thing: I love being part of the national student movement. I have balanced the good against the bad and found that I came out on

top. The privileges I enjoy as a result of my membership are certainly well worth \$4, and yes, even \$6 out of my pocket every year. In terms of relative value? Well, I've mortgaged at least the next 20 years of my life just for the privilege of becoming more 'highly educated' — I think I can scrape together a couple of more bucks for the privilege of being a part of the national student federation that has a voice too strong to ignore.

Robin Mackinnon

Naked lunch

To the editor:

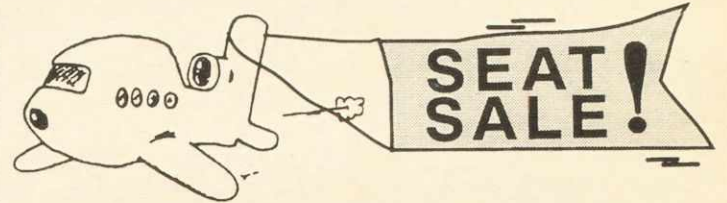
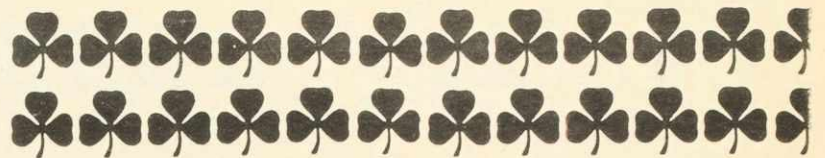
Breast-feeding on campus. Who's seen it? If you are one of the many students on the Dalhousie campus who hasn't, maybe it's time to think about why.

The answer is not that students aren't breast-feeding. With career changes, extended studies, and young families, many women find themselves in the university setting when beginning their families. Some students have experienced stares or remarks at just having their babies with them and would not dare to breast-feed in such an environment.

While some suggest that an easy solution would be for these women to use public washrooms, I suggest this topic needs further study. In fact, maybe you should try sitting in a bathroom stall on campus for twenty or thirty minutes while keeping a watermelon cradled in your lap — let me know what you think of it!

Perhaps Dalhousie has to keep up with the times and create breast-feeding-friendly areas and family washrooms for its students. Think about it the next time you don't see a breast-feeding student on campus.

Cynthia Peppard
Fourth-year Nursing



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IGNORANCE = FEAR SILENCE = DEATH REMEMBER YOUR RUBBERS...

LET'S TALK ABOUT HIV AND AIDS...

Tuesday, March 22 Noon - film "Thinking Positive"
Room 307, S.U.B. Newfoundland woman dispels the myth "it can't happen to me".



2 pm. "AIDS in Africa"
7 pm. "Fighting for Our Lives"
"Kecia Larkin" Two films about women and AIDS Co-sponsored by the Women's Centre

Wednesday, March 23 Is AIDS a gay disease?
Green Room, S.U.B. - panel discussion with representatives from AIDS-N.S. and B-GLAD



12:30 pm. Living with AIDS
- panel discussion with representatives from the N.S. Persons with AIDS Coalition
7:00 pm.

Thursday, March 24 Open Mike and Coffeehouse
Green Room, S.U.B. bring words, music, instruments and a couple of friends.



Co-sponsored by B-GLAD
7:00 pm.

Look for our info table in the lobby of the S.U.B.
Don't forget to get your D.S.U. condom
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Sponsored by D.S.U. External Affairs and Communications Committees

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