

Letters to the Editor

I am Canadian

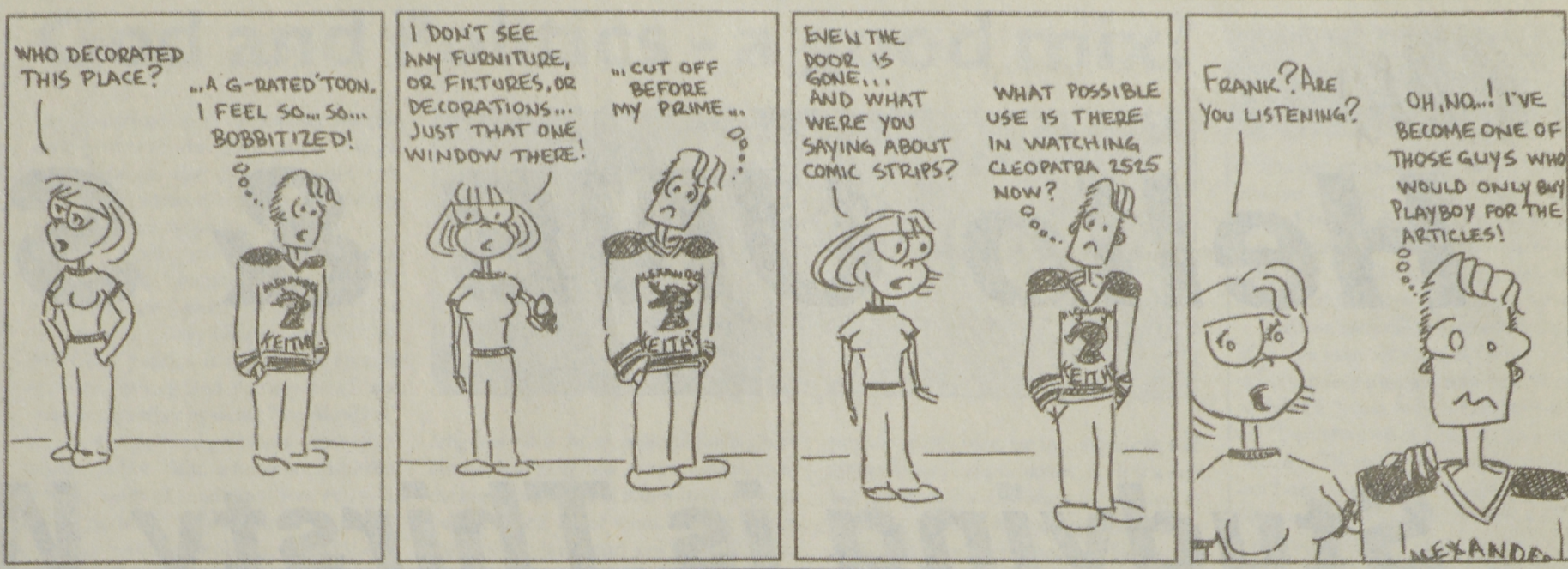
Continued from Page 6

the other, and as this country becomes more pluralistic, so will our lives become more enriched each time we encounter another Canadian and share our experiences, whatever they may be.

The stUnb Diversity Team was established last year to promote harmony on our campuses through the sort of diversity that has come to define life in Canada. Bringing together concerned and interested students, staff, and faculty members from both universities, the committee strives to foster understanding, tolerance, and acceptance among all the individuals who make up the varsity community in Fredericton.

This is not an easy task. Most, if not all, of us have put up some sort of barrier to a particular kind of difference, whether we are conscious of it or not, or whether we are willing to admit it or not. These barriers can be very subtle, such as automatically assuming the guy you are speaking to is heterosexual, or asking the Chinese woman sitting next to you in class what part of China she's from, when she was actually born and bred in the Miramichi. Frequently, these barriers may take on a much more hostile form, like offensive remarks or even beatings.

It is important for us, as a committee, to ensure that the students here can live and learn in an environment that is not



only enlightening, but safe. It's tough enough dealing with the stress of writing papers and studying for exams without adding things like racism, misogyny, and homophobia into the mix, however, many students at STU and UNB deal with those very issues every day.

Last year, for example, the UNB Student Union severely cut the budgets of many of the cultural groups on campus, including the Malaysian and South Asian students societies, making it very difficult for them hold their annual events to promote and celebrate their heritage.

Many students travel to UNB from all over the world and often suffer through depression from loneliness and isolation as they deal with life in a small town in a strange country. These cultural

festivities provide a small but significant measure of comfort and relief for these students. Hindering their ability to hold such festivities through the cuts shows a lack of sensitivity and awareness on the part of the Student Union to the situations of these international students.

In a more violent incident last year, UNB law student, Robbie Peterson, was brutally beaten downtown because he was gay. This followed a number of bashings which occurred earlier in the year, and preceded a few that happened this year. As well, STU student and anti-racist activist, Shane Martinez, was assaulted by an alleged neo-Nazi at his workplace a few months ago. His assailant was recently given an outrageous minimal sentence for the crime.

The Diversity Team believes education is key to alleviating many of the intolerance that exists on our campuses. Through a variety of projects, including presenting an anti-homophobia show by Rhythm Activism member, Norman Nawrocki, and organizing a poster campaign to push diversity appreciation among the student body, we hope to make UNB and STU better, safer, and more fun places to study for everyone. And we do mean everyone.

If you're interested in contributing to the promotion of diversity, tolerance, and acceptance on campus, why don't

you come to one of our meetings? The stUnb Diversity Team meets the second Wednesday of each month. Contact Cristine Medford at diversity@unb.ca for more information.

There are also a couple of social justice groups at both UNB and STU you might want to be on the lookout for as well.

Remember, the time you spend here at university is supposed to be the time of your life. Let's work together to make sure that statement is true for everyone on College Hill.

Alan Wong

Don't count Pakistan out

Continued from Page 6

unprecedented growing economic power China is its Northern neighbor, recently liberated (from ex-Soviet Union) Central Asia is on its western borders, and it shares the potential of South Asia with India and the far east.

Besides being privileged to have a rich and diverse culture, today Pakistan is unleashing its magnificent human potential towards the digital information age. Being the newest of nuclear powers, (unfortunately) involved in one of the most hostile disputes in the world, an active member of United Nations Missions all around the world, a partner in developmental and humanistic efforts with Europe and North America, and one of the largest sources of skilled immigrants for the developed world, this country is an interesting subject for the academic community on campus.

Unfortunately, the resources available in our libraries are not enough to support the need to explore this emerging Asian country. The books available were mostly written in the 1980s, and there is no link available on library websites to any Pakistani search engine or web site. While I strongly recommend the addition of at least 25 new books, at least one regular periodical/magazine/newspaper from that country, I also suggest the following two links be added in the appropriate sections of the UNB website:

1. In the library website, where there are search engines and links available to different countries of the world, please add this Pakistani search engine/directory: <http://www.pak.org>

2. Where ever the word 'Pakistan'

appears in any context (such as origin of international students, news, student associations, cultural diversity of UNB etc.), please link that word to the Govt. of Pakistan website (<http://www.pak.gov.pk>) so that readers can further search for authentic and reliable information.

It is very unfortunate for us all that with more than 50 Pakistani students

on both campuses, one of our UNB publications (website) wrote ex-Pakistani Prime Minister as ex-President. This lack of unawareness definitely needs some attention.

I am always available for any help in finding information or resources about Pakistan.

Imtiaz Minhas

Tired of going to bed early on Wednesday night?

Wanna meet new people?

Wanna go to all the great parties?

Come and write for the Bruns - we are here every Wednesday and sometimes we don't go home until Thursday!

Oh Yeah! We have great parties with LOTS of interesting people.

Come get to know us.

We have staff meetings on Friday @ 12:30 in Room 35 of the SUB

You are invited to Clubs & Societies Day 2000!

Where: SUB Blue Lounge
When: October 4 & 5
Why: Pick a club to get involved with, make some new friends and learn new skills

There will be lots of prizes to give away and the coffee is on us.

Break free Go Solo

Just pick up and go with a new prepaid cellular phone from NBTel Mobility.

No monthly bills.
No credit checks.
No contracts.

\$99 Audiovox 605 after \$50 bill credit

\$129 Nokia 252 after \$50 bill credit

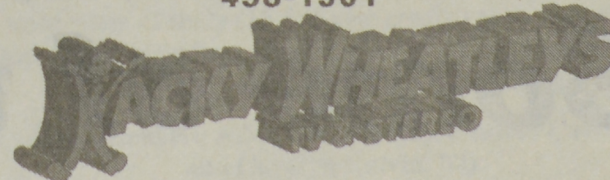


NBTel Mobility

Wacky Wheatley's
Fredericton Mall
450-0945

Wacky Wheatley's
Kings Place
450-0950

Wacky Wheatley's TV & Stereo
281 Prospect St. West
458-1901



"Wells, pumps, pipes... we need water every day. USC makes water programs happen — with your help."



Call 1-800-5656 USC to pledge your support today!

www.usc-canada.org

56 Sparks Street, Ottawa ON K1P 5B1
(613) 234-6827, Fax (613) 234-6842

My contribution of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

☐ Please send me your information kit on how to make planned gifts.

CHARITY REGISTRATION NO. 11922-81-99-0001

THE CELLAR
EST. 1994
Pub & Grill

