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This issue is dedicated to:

The 17 trees who perished in last
Wednesday's windstorm.
May you rest in peace.

The Brunswickan, in its 135th year of publication, is Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication.

We publish weekly during the academic year with a circulation of 11,000. We are the largest circulation student newspaper in Atlantic Canada and the largest circulation community newspaper in New Brunswick.

All members of the University Community are encouraged to contribute, however, only students are eligible to become staff members and hold editorial positions.

While we endeavour to provide an open forum for a variety of viewpoints and ideas, we may refuse any submission considered racist, sexist, libellous or those containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for brevity and even levity. Letters to The Editor generally shouldn't exceed 300 words in length, though exceptions may be made. All submissions must contain your name, student number and a phone number where you can be reached or the submissions will not be printed.

The opinions and views expressed in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Brunswickan, its Editorial Board, or its Board of Directors.

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Beyond blackface: racism at its best

Staff Editorial
The Maneater

(U-WIRE) COLUMBIA, Mo. — It's bad enough that someone at the Auburn University chapters of the Beta Theta Pi and Delta Sigma Phi fraternities thought it would be cute if his fraternity brothers dressed in blackface for a Halloween party. The fact that the members accessorized their costumes with FUBU shirts and nooses so the brothers in Ku Klux Klan costumes could perform mock lynchings is adding a few more feet to the hole they've dug themselves. All of it is a stomach-turning example of racism at its most bare-faced.

But the fact that the rest of the unknown genius' fraternity brothers agreed with him that re-enacting scenes from one of the greatest crimes to humanity would make for a bitchin' kegger makes one weep for the future.

It's when racism becomes this obvious, this brazen and reaches this level of caricature that everyone but a member of the Taliban, Eric Cartman or Ted Danson can look down their noses in contempt — confident that they are not a racist.

Discrimination usually doesn't present itself in a nicely packaged box labeled "Look at these idiots." Incidents like this let people think they can get off the hook too easily by thinking "I'd never wear blackface; ergo, I'm not a hate-monger."

But it's not that simple. With the exception of a few incorrigible advocates of the devil, no one would hesitate to condemn the fraternities' actions. After all, most people will tell you the great thing about America is that everyone is supposed to be equal.

If people really want equality, they're going to have to work harder for it, and they're going to have to answer themselves some questions that they would rather not ask.

Not to call anyone a racist, but a look around Columbia will reveal several signs

of discrimination so subtle, most people would never know there's a problem.

For example, MU cut minority scholarships across the board a few years back without offering a reasonable explanation. As The Maneater has pointed out repeatedly, because of state budget cuts and the looming albatross that is Student Recreation Center expansion, student fees are soon expected to increase dramatically, and perhaps make MU unaffordable to lower- and middle-class families, a disproportionate number of whom are African American. Sure, no one on the University of Missouri system Board of Curators probably wants to flush black students out of college, but the board is not making much of an effort to keep it from happening.

Or look at the case of Kent Heitholt. It is understandable that the man's murder has the city spooked and mourning. Heitholt worked in the city's First Ward, otherwise known as Columbia's ghetto, a place that is all too familiar with violent crime. Last year's triple homicide in the First Ward barely registered with most Columbians. Not to be disrespectful, but why was Heitholt's murder a much bigger deal than the equally horrific crimes that happen to non-white non-journalists in that neighborhood with sad frequency? Why is it that this time people are up in arms about increased security and more police? The First Ward is only five minutes away from MU, but to most people it may as well be one of those Compton ghettos that the rappers are always talking about.

Things like bad neighborhoods or price barriers that block education are not someone else's problem. They might not be as visible as some idiot dressed in a white hood, but they are just as offensive. And any society that would demand the immediate expulsion of those fraternity members from the otherwise rational Auburn University should also work hard to make certain that a commitment to equality is something they are working toward every day, not just something they say to make themselves feel better when the situation is convenient.

SU ROUNDUP

by Kate Whitfield
VP Executive, UNB Student Union

The first stage of the new UNB Student Union club and society structure is now complete.

November 10th brought us into a new fiscal year for clubs and societies. To those of you who have shown up at our offices recently, thanks for your patience.

All this comes from last year's recommendations to review our club and society funding situation. It was felt there were no strict guidelines to follow during the budget allocation process; too much was left to discussion and the allocation process tended to be subjective.

The goal of the new system is to set consistent guidelines to prevent favoritism and competition, and to promote fairness during the budget allocation process.

One of the biggest changes is we no longer have to pass detailed budgets bit by bit — meaning this much for conferences and this much for a banquet for each society. With the new system, a budget must still be submitted to ensure funds are not allocated for frivolous spending, but with the new way a society has more say. My feeling is that in the past we did not sufficiently understand the nature of each group to dictate where the money was spent. For example, if a group asked for X amount of dollars for one event and it was decided not to grant them that sum of money but if they asked for Y amount for another event we agreed to grant them that amount of money. The problem in this example is that the society can not charge the student to attend the first event but can for the second.

The new system allows for the executive of the club or society to have more say over their budget, while being

responsible to its members and the Student Union.

Another goal is to improve the communication between the Student Union and the clubs and societies. This will be done by creating a generic e-mail for all groups and by implementing a mandatory funding meeting in the Fall. We are here not only to supply funds, but to assist groups and improve communication so we can maximize this benefit for all.

One of our biggest problems is the perception of the Student Union "cutting" club and society budgets/funding when there are simply more clubs and societies every year. This is one of the driving forces behind us revamping the system. Research has been done on how other universities in Canada manage their club and society funding. Other schools spend under one percent of their budgets on clubs and societies — whereas the UNB Student Union is currently giving 20 percent of its operating budget to clubs and societies, making it difficult to incorporate their systems with ours.

The changes to club and society funding will not be complete until we resolve this funding formula problem. The solution may be to have separate formulas for faculty societies and special interest or cultural groups. There are so many details to consider that suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

One possibility is for faculty groups to charge a levy on tuition which would go directly to the faculty — then the Student Union would only fund cultural and special interest groups. This change in fee structure would have to be implemented by the Board of Governors and is not necessarily the first choice of the Student Union. This is just one idea of many on the table.

E-mail your VP Finance, Sarah Caines, for further information or with suggestions at finance@unb.ca.

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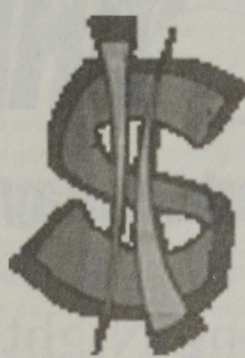
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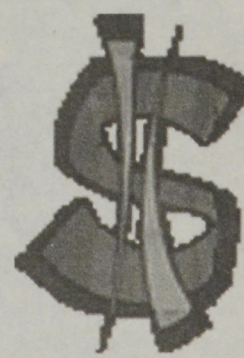
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