

Celebrating Ourselves

You Know You are Black When...

For those of us who have trouble identifying ourselves as Black, here are a few pointers. What follows are all forms of discrimination that most blacks face while in Nova Scotia. They are all products of ignorance and racism. This is not to say that there are no positive indicators of race - there are. The point is that these positive indicators are usually not apparent.

1. Being followed around in a store: This is generally a good indicator of your skin colour. If you are not convinced about this, try browsing through a Park Lane jeweller's most expensive ring collection (in your 'X' hat and 'Bulls' jacket) and you find a general reluctance to allowing a closer look. And in case you did not know, there is no layaway available.
2. Sitting alone on the bus: If you have noticed that the seat adjacent to yours is almost always the last to be taken and sometimes people would rather just stand (its good exercise you know), then there's a good chance you are black.
3. Not being allowed into downtown bars: If the ID you happen to have in your hand is usually NOT what the bouncers require at the door or it seems a dress code comes into effect as soon as you appear - you may be coming to some darker conclusions.
4. Not being allowed to join the KKK: Well... Enough said.
5. Spending a large amount of time at Immigration: Anyone who has had the opportunity to spend 3 or 4 hours cooling their heels at immigration may have observed a noticeable difference in service afforded based on skin colour. Quite often Africans are seen leaving with a most frustrated look on their faces and sure enough same time next day you'll be waiting in line together.
6. Being called a "nigger" by a small white guy on a street corner. SURPRISE! Surprise! You are indeed black. And only the goodness of your heart prevents you from pounding him to the ground.
7. Not seeming to be able to find a job despite your glowing qualification (Unless as a token of course!): If you have a PhD in Medicine and you are driving a cab, or a Masters in Economics and you are making pizza (and not of your own choice), you are quite likely part of the struggle.
8. Being stopped by the Halifax Police on Barrington Street at midnight: 90% of the time they are not stopping to ask if they can drive you home out of concern for your welfare. The questions asked are innocent: "Where are you headed?"; "Where do you live?". But they are all questions you are not necessarily obligated to answer by law.

Mona Kiragu



Editors

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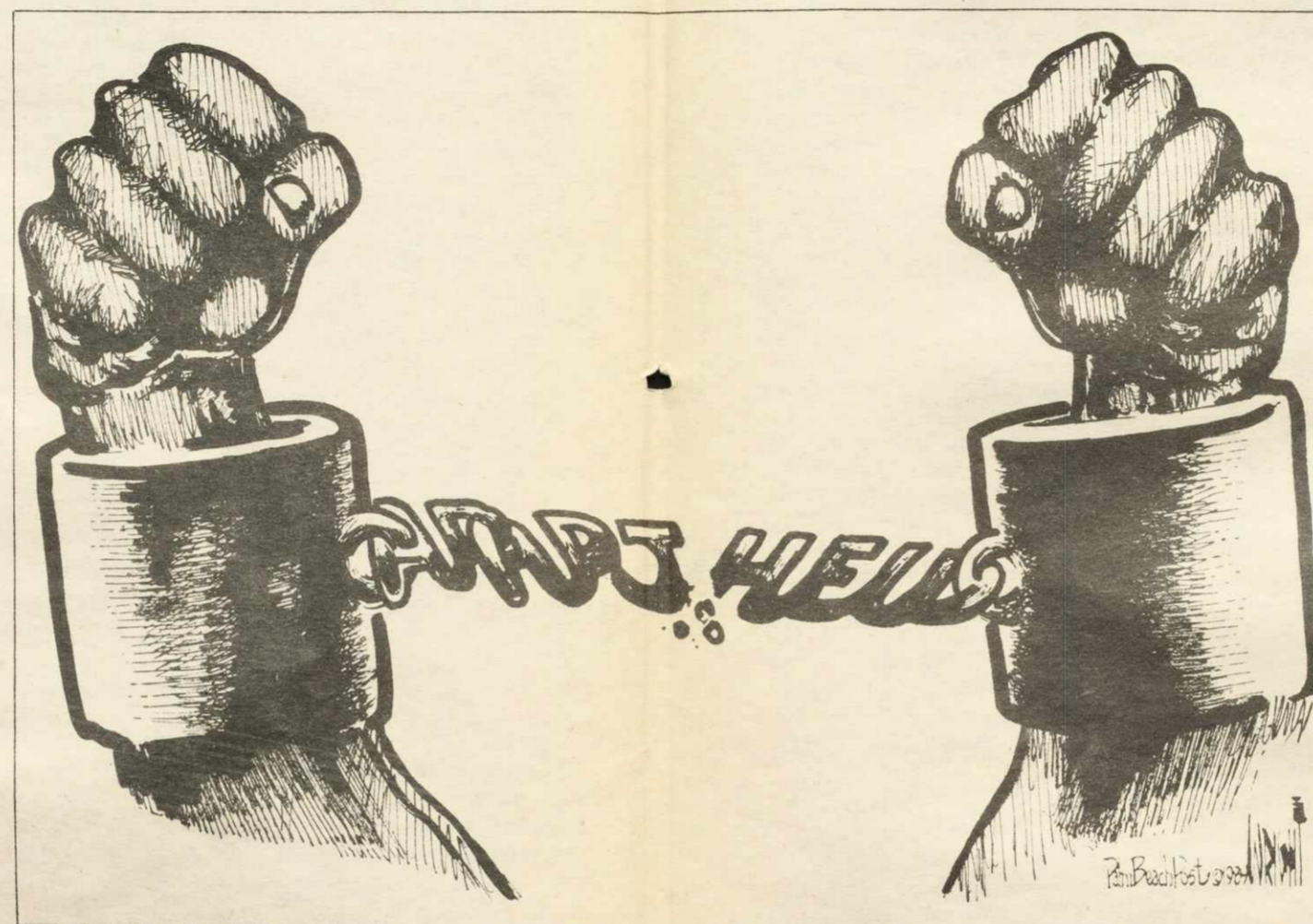
Writers

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Societies

African Students Association
Black United Students
Caribbean Students Association

Ain't I a Woman?



My Black People

The true beauties of the earth
The black mothers, the black daughter
The black fathers, the black sons
The Malcolm X's, the Martin Luther King's
The Mandela's, the Marcus Garvey's
YES! I'm proud to be BLACK!

BLACK! BLACK! BLACK! BLACK!
Don't be afraid to say the word
BLACK! BLACK! BLACK! BLACK!
Don't be ashamed of that beautiful color
For before us, there was none
And after us, there will be no one!

We are, undoubtedly, the most beautiful race
We come from all corners of the globe
We were stripped of our voices
We were stripped of our dignity
But our BLACKNESS remained strong!
Survival, they say, is for the fittest!

My BLACK people, BLACK, BLACK people
We are not afraid
We will overcome
We will capture them
We will enslave their minds
And they will NOT survive!

For they are not BLACK
They are not strong
Like my BLACK sisters and brothers
Like my BLACK mothers and daughters
Like my BLACK fathers and sons
My beautiful, beautiful BLACK people!

-Sheryl-Ann Stephens



Confessions, Revelations and Sequels

ANGELA NJOKU

I'm not sure if I'm a member of a minority or a majority of the Black community when I say that I do not have "the knowledge" nor a decent percentage of it. Being a Black, African-born female, who has lived in Halifax most of my life, I feel that there is no excuse for that.

I do not know many of the issues that pertain to my African (in general) or Nigerian/Ghanian (to be specific) heritage. I can and have always, used the excuse that this plight is inevitable considering I've been exposed to a non-African culture most of my life. But, that excuse can no longer be used or tolerated, in my opinion. Basically, my parents, extended family, and many friends of the family are African, particularly Nigerian or Ghanian. Therefore, any knowledge that I had wished to obtain about my heritage could have been obtained from them. In other

words, I could have asked! In addition, in being exposed to the culture here most of my life, I should have a decent amount of "Awareness" about the Black community here under my belt; but that is not the case either. I

knowledgeable of the Black experience and culture that I for once could educate another sister, brother, or other. But I decided to take the easy way out and preferred to sit back and wait for the knowledge fall on my lap;

I could have investigated

may use the excuse that I've spent all but four of those years being exposed to and living in the White culture (going to predominantly white school, churches, etc.). But what about those four years when I met and came to know so many of my Black sister and brothers? What about all of the experiences and information that they have shared with me? In this case also I have no excuse--I could have investigated.

A while ago, I came to the conclusion that I wanted to become more

for something or someone to inject a huge dose of it into my body. Rather than asking to read a book someone had, or buying a book on an issue that interested me I'd use the excuse that I didn't have the time or the money. Although these are good reasons, the fact remains that I do not have enough knowledge and no one can or will give me a huge dose of it in one sitting; my participation is vital if I'm serious about reaching my goal. Therefore, I must save money, or use money from a part-time job (or even

a GST cheque) to buy a book or a tape or a video. I must participate!

I guess the reasons why I decided to write this article and 'expose' myself in this manner are that a) this situation is not isolated to just myself, other members of the Black community also suffer from it. That is a fact. Also, b) in revealing myself, I have challenged myself to "practice what I preach" and actually make a concerted effort to participate in obtaining the knowledge. If other people who are just as broke and as busy as myself can do it, so can I.

In closing, I'd like to thank Malik Adams for the article he wrote earlier, that inspired me to place this challenge upon myself. And I'd like to thank Jason Gannon for saying "sacrifices must be made," enough times to get it through my thick skull.

Thank You.
Stay tuned for the sequel to my quest for knowledge.....

RECLAIMING OUR BLACKNESS BLACK UNITED STUDENTS

In Conjunction with Black History Month
Location: Dalhousie Student Union Building



Monday February 15, 1993
3:00-5:30 pm

CONFRONTING WHITE SUPREMACY:
OPEN DISCUSSION
Student presentations by Mona Kiragu (Kenya), Malik Adams (Nova Scotia) and Philippa McFarlane (Jamaica).

Tuesday, February 16, 1993
3:00-5:30 pm

RE-EDUCATING OURSELVES: AN OBLIGATION OR A CHOICE
Panel discussion with Ruth Riviere, African Canadian Education Program (ACEP) and Cecil Wright, Black United Front.

Wednesday, February 17, 1993
3:00-5:00 pm

AIN'T I A WOMAN: IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK WOMEN
Student presentations by Quenta Adams (Nova Scotia) and Ivy Kusungu (Uganda) and discussion with Buseje Bailey.

Thursday, February 18, 1993
7:00-9:00 pm

RECLAIMING OUR BLACKNESS:
CONCERT AND DANCE
A variety of music, dance and drama from the experience of students from Africa and the Diaspora. Followed by a dance in the Green Room, DAL SUB.

Thursday, February 19, 1993
3:00-5:30 pm

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH
THROUGH EDUCATION

DISPLAYS IN THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION BUILDING BY:
Jessica Bowden (Borderline), Artzar Galley, Ms. Ohanaka, Black Market, Ujaama Bookstore, Red Herring Bookstore, Lyn D's Deli, Karan Whiteman, Nova Scotia PWA Coalition and others.

Everyone welcome to attend!

