

BSU Holds Emergency Meeting Over Racist Bars

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The Black Student Union held an emergency meeting on Wednesday to discuss alleged discriminatory admittance policies by several of Buffalo's bars.

Several African-American UB students had approached the BSU office and expressed that certain area night-spots have prohibited minority students from entering the establishments by utilizing a variety of methods. They specifically named Mickey Rats City bar and Mr. Goodbar.

"These places and others have purposely scrutinized, harassed, and attempted to filter out African-American students from not coming into the bars, solely on the basis of their skin color," said Oswaldo Mestre, BSU president.

Rick Pfeiffer, from WIVB-TV, elaborated on the purpose of his month long under-cover investigative probe into the students' racial allegations. Part of the assignment included groups of African-Americans instructed to frequent approximately ten local discotheques and observe how they were treated compared to their white counterparts. The volunteers noticed that they were asked to submit several forms of identification while the majority of whites seeking admittance were immediately let in or asked to present only one form of identification.

Pfeiffer's original three part series that aired a few weeks ago was presented at the meeting. This,

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in part, sparked this emergency to occur, Mestre said.

Pfeiffer explained that, "the series, which included a special follow-up story struck a major nerve in the Buffalo community. Now it is up to the people and the local government to decide exactly what measures should be taken to handle and demolish the situation."

Need for action

Pamela Jackson, a BSU member, addressed the significance of an increased awareness, understanding, and unifying force between all UB students. She also proposed actions that should be utilized by them to directly combat the situation.

"These bar incidents that have rejected blacks and other minorities is about nothing but overt ra-

cism," Jackson claimed. "Subtle racism is becoming louder and we, as responsible students and citizens of this community must join and work together to make a statement to implement these necessary changes. A combination of boycotting, picketing, and legal action is needed to make a greater difference."

Students of varying nationalities are encouraged to help develop a network composed of individuals committed to belonging to a new Student Coalition Against Racism in Buffalo, Jackson continued.

Students need to act and react against the situation to bring about an apparent change, said Kadra Small, coordinator of the Student Coalition Against Racism. We need to know how many students are willing to help fight the struggle for equality, or simply taking time out of their schedules to picket for a worthy cause.

The discussion shifted to an open forum, in which several students in the audience relayed personal testimonies as to their experiences with racism. It was beneficial for the students to vent their candid feelings and opinions with others who have been made the subject of similar degrading incidences, Mestre explained.

Small mentioned that the group is planning to meet again on December 6 to consider purposes and functions of the new Student Coalition Against Racism in Buffalo.

The owner of Mickey Rats could not be reached for comment.