

SERVING THE AFRICAN DIASPORA SINCE 1972

DEC. 08 / JAN. 09

THE **ONLYX** INFORMER

1 2 3 **WHO RUNS NU?**

- ▶ STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION?
- ▶ BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE?
- ▶ RESIDENT STUDENT ASSOCIATION?
- ▶ ADMINISTRATION?

THE ONYX INFORMER

DEC. 08 / JAN. 09

exists to be a voice for the people of the African Diaspora and the greater Boston community in which we reside. The ONYX embraces the unity and values of diversity in both the content of our publication and in the membership of our organization.

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Letter from the Editors

Dear Northeastern Community,

The Onyx Informer magazine would like to apologize for our absence this semester. Traditionally, our first issue has been dedicated to welcoming freshmen/transfer students and remind returning students of our presence. *The Onyx* regrets not being able to continue this tradition this year.

With the help of new and returning staff *The Onyx* is proud to be back under new leadership. Over the semester, several transitions have taken place including the appointment of new editors and the resignations of others. Throughout these transitions our mission remains the same, to serve as a news source for students of color.

This issue, "Who Runs NU," focuses on events that have affected the student organizations this semester. Through attending meetings, conducting a survey and investigating *The Onyx* is shedding light on the administration, and two main student organizations, the Resident Student Association and Student Government Association; including its subcommittee the Budget Review Committee. Our purpose is to present the facts and to answer the question that students have raised ... WHO RUNS NU?

We hope that you enjoy this edition and accept our apology. Please feel free to submit any feedback or comments.

Happy Holidays and see you in 2009!

With pride,

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ONYX

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN?

Meetings are Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the West Village C Classroom (you don't need to be signed in...)

COME AND BE A PART OF HISTORY!

Latino/a Student Cultural Center 2008-2009 Calendar of Events



Spring 2009 LSCC Events

LSCC Fiesta de Los Reyes Magos/ Three Kings Celebration

1/6/09, Time TBA
African American Institute, Cabral Center

LSCC Cocinar Con Gusto (To Cook With Pleasure)

1/16/09, 11:00am-1:00pm
African American Institute, Cabral Center

LSCC Series Socioculturales Boston's Latino Community: Preserving the Stories

2/12/09, 4:00pm-6:00pm
University Snell Library, Room 90

LSCC Series Socioculturales Dr. Silvia Dominguez, Assistant Professor of Sociology

2/26/09, 3:00pm-4:30pm
African American Institute, Cabral Center

LSCC Series Socioculturales "The Professional Look"

Inesita Santos Sobers
3/12/09, 3:00pm-4:30pm
African American Institute, Cabral Center

LSCC Series Socioculturales

3/26/09, 3:00pm-4:30pm
African American Institute, Cabral Center

CAMINOS

3/26/09, 5:00pm-8:00pm
NU Alumni Center

LSCC Civic Engagement Award Ceremony

4/16/09, 6:00pm-8:00pm
NU Alumni Center

LSCC Senior Banquet

4/25/09, 6:00pm-11:00pm
NU Fenway Center

Locations and times may be subject to change. For more information about any of our events you can contact the Latino/a Student Cultural Center at LSCC@neu.edu or (617) 373-5845.

Attention Student Groups:

Want your event in the Onyx? Please send event info to: onyxphotos@gmail.com. Type: "Out & About" in the subject line. We are now accepting events for February-March!

Comments, suggestions?

If you have any comments, critiques, topic ideas or suggestions please let us know! We want to hear from you.

Please email us at onyxsubmission@gmail.com or onyxinformer@gmail.com.

Attention Poets, Artists, and Literary Writers:

Want to get published? Send your pieces to onyxsubmission@gmail.com. Type "Soul-Speech submission" in the subject line. We are now accepting pieces for our February-March Issue.

Need Advice?

Direct your questions to our advice columnists Mr. and Ms. Nubian. Send questions about life, relationships, school, and everything in between to:

Mr. Nubian: mr.nubian@gmail.com
Ms. Nubian: ms.nubian@gmail.com

In Our Next Issue:

The Onyx Celebrates Black History Month in Boston/America

Onyx Valentine's Edition

The Onyx Roundtable

Coming Soon:

The Onyx Hits The Web

The Onyx Blog

Updates:

We have switched from yahoo to g-mail

Facebook us!

Search group page "Onyx Informer"

COMMENTARY

Black America's Victory

President-Elect Barack Obama

BY BRITTANY BASS

As Stevie Wonder's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" blared from the speakers of Chicago's Grant Park, Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) took the stage to proclaim that he was, indeed, the 44th President of the United States.

November 4 will forever be a surreal night for the nation; Americans watched as results from each state revealed that the people had elected the first African American president. Faced with many adversities and setbacks Obama triumphantly claimed the victory so he knowingly earned.

Borrowing from America's Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, Obama said in his acceptance speech, "We are not enemies, but friends...though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection," which enthralled the audience. The President-Elect thanked his supporters and addressed the rest of the nation by saying, "And to those Americans whose support I have yet to earn - I may not have won your vote, but I hear your voices, I need your help, and I will be your President too."

He captivated a nation by providing the people with a new voice offering hope and change. The man with the funny name, lack of experience and cool demeanor was seen as the underdog to say the least. Armed with Grassroot Campaign-like tactics and young voters the boy from Kansas was able to win Democratic, Liberal votes and even some stark Republicans as well.

People around the world watched in a state of disbelief as news anchors announced that Barack Obama became

President-Elect. In Kenya, the home country of his father, November 4 was declared a national holiday. News channels displayed people fainting, crying and screaming as they watched Obama change the face of the American Dream.

Ann Nixon Cooper, the oldest African American voter and daughter of a slave, never thought a Black president was a reality she would experience in her lifetime.

When Michelle Obama, wife of President-Elect, said, "...for the first time in my adult life I am proud of my country because it feels like hope is finally making a comeback," the media ridiculed her, but many minorities shared that same sentiment. After the First Lady's "unpatriotic" comment, Black community seemed to immediately endorsed the senator, t-shirts and sneakers bearing Obama's face began popping up across the nation.

According to Project Vote, a non-profit organization dedicated to minority issues including job placement to voter registration, 87 percent more Hispanics in Nevada voted in the 2008 election than in the 2004. The seven million minorities that came out on that fateful day felt like they had a voice and Obama was the right man to articulate them.

This election was historic in more ways than one; we witnessed a former First Lady and an African American candidate battle for the Democratic ballot. While the Republican Party back a former POW for the GOP ballot who teamed up with a rookie governor from Alaska. For the first time Americans

were entertained rather than inspired by the presidential candidates. Comedy shows such as "Saturday Night Live" and "MadTV" included satirical skits about the candidates' levels of intelligence, ethnicities and personal lives.

The 2008 Presidential Election will remain a memorable moment in America's history. This election was a message to the masses; our nation is growing and changing. We elected a man who 40 years ago in this very country could not vote and now he is leading that same nation. With an ensemble cabinet and the support of the country, Obama has promised to echo change, hope and that "timeless creed: Yes, we can" to "restore prosperity" within our nation.

President-Elect Barack Obama's inauguration will be held in January 20, 2009, at the West Front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.



Courtesy of M.E.Design & Photography

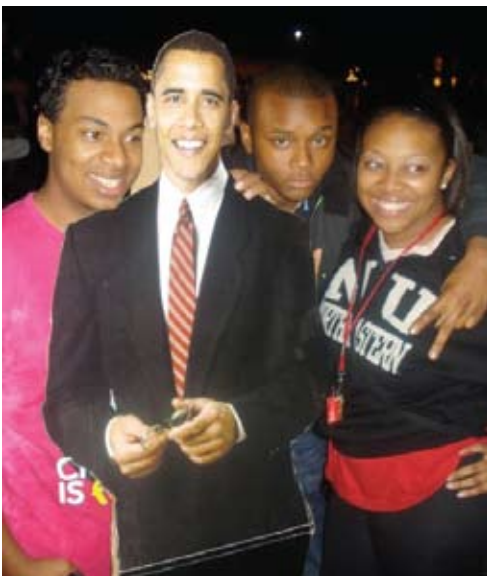


Courtesy of Manny Heriveaux



Courtesy of M.E.Design & Photography

Barack Support Around The World



Courtesy of Kristin Jones



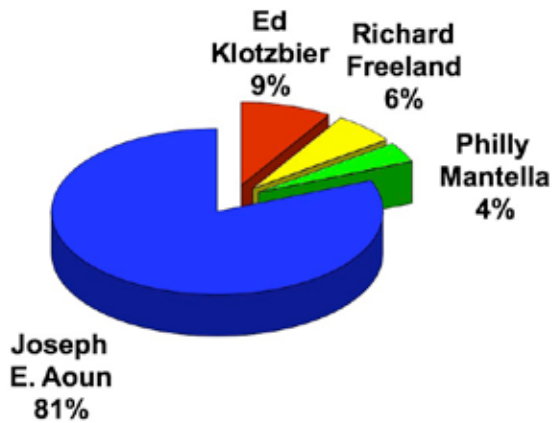
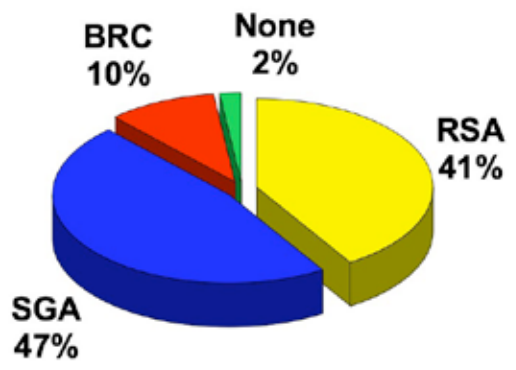
Courtesy of M.E.Design & Photography



Courtesy of Dahila Bass

WHO RUNS NU?

The billion-dollar question that has been raised to *The Onyx* this semester is “who runs Northeastern?” On both the administrative and student level it is clear that there is a certain group of people who have more power, or say on what takes place on campus than others. Joseph E. Aoun holds the title of president, but is he really doing the job? Can students pick him out in a crowd? Similarly, the question also applies to student leaders. With over 15,000 undergraduate students as their constituents are the appointed student leaders doing their best to communicate the needs of the student body to the administrators? Or do they have another agenda? To help answer these questions and the main question of who are the main players in the NU hierarchy, a team of *Onyx* contributors and writers have been assigned to research and investigate the NU infrastructure. In addition to the President, there are two main student groups being focused on: the Student Government Association (SGA), its subcommittee the Budget Review Committee (BRC), and the Resident Student Association (RSA). The reason for this is that they are directly appointed to serve the student body and are giving a budget, which comes from the dues paid by students. While the findings may not answer all questions the intent is to provide you, our readers with some type of information and eventually motivate you to look for the answers yourself. *The Onyx* surveyed 100 students on their thoughts on “Who Runs NU?”



An Association Lacking in Representing Students: SGA

By Ryan Payne

Student Government Association (SGA) is the quintessential group that can turn students' voices into action. But are they really listening to you?

According to the organization's website, SGA's purpose is to act as a liaison between the student body and the administration. Through initiatives such as promoting school spirit in athletics, bringing new food vendors to the Curry Student Center, and extending library hours, SGA is helping to communicate students' ideas and concerns.

Nomination Process

As every student is required to pay the Student Activity Fee, they are automatically a part of the student government; but many students are not aware of this membership. However, students wishing to take an active role in school and community politics can petition to become senators. There are two types of senators, academic and special interest. To become either, students are required to complete a nomination form and collect signatures. The signatures collected by academic candidates are from students of their respective colleges and the ones from special interest candidates are from their respective student groups. These students become the constituents of that senator and as senators they are the constituents' representatives.

"We have about 60 senators, and every single one of them has at least 30 constituents. It is their job as senators to go out and listen to their constituents and bring issues back to the table," said Erin Pritchard, SGA Vice President of Student Affairs.

Can you Hear Me Now?

Despite its organization's description, there is still a question of whether the Association is representing all students. Lucia Allen, special interest senator for Northeastern Black Student Associa-

tion says while the likelihood of being a senator is high, the chances of being heard are slim to none.

"I feel it is important to join but I think it's also a flawed assumption to think if you automatically join you're voice will definitely be heard. You can propose things but it doesn't mean you're issue will automatically pass." Allen said.

But how do students who don't have access to a senator get their voices heard and are they a priority?

"Most of the time, if a student comes to us with a concern or presents to us an issue, we will do, in whatever capacity we can, to make sure that voice is heard," Erin Pritchard said.



Students' concerns are then put on the SGA's agenda, which is comprised of other issues presented by senators and then presented at a senate meeting. At the senate meeting, senators discuss the relevancy of the issues and votes are sometimes cast, or either to further investigate or dismiss it from the agenda.

"To [see changes], the strongest and most effective way is through SGA," said Allen. "The administration really sees SGA as the official voice of Northeastern students. If they see that SGA has approved something they see it as Northeastern students speaking. When [a student groups make proposals outside of SGA] they see it as a special interest group speaking for that select group of students and not an official interest of all students."

Recently, two proposals were presented to the senate for gender-neutral and Greek housing by members of

NUBiLaGA and Fraternity/Sorority Life (FSL). After several discussions with administrators, the proposals were approved; and in Fall 2009, the new resident hall, Parcel 18 will include gender neutral and Greek affiliated housing.

Allen says though she supports these proposals because they benefit a large number of students, she believes the SGA's "ear is not in the ground for marginal groups." Her student group has continuously proposed the need to diversify programs during orientation. However, it has been tabled till the spring semester.

I feel it is important to join but I think it's also a flawed assumption to think if you automatically join you're voice will definitely be heard.

Keeping their name from fading

Pritchard says part of the reason why the Association's representation has been questioned is due to the decline in membership, and admits that the group has been struggling with recruitment and retention.

"I think it's very difficult to represent all students when you have such a small membership," said Pritchard. "But what we're also doing is looking at ways [to utilize] constituents and trying to add new members."

One of these ways is by using special interests senators to represent everyone not just their specific student groups. "We realize that representation is difficult and we know we are not doing as good of a job reaching out to everyone as we should be."

WHO RUNS NU?

Breaking Rules Consistently, But Still in Power: The BRC

By: Keir Bristol and Margaret Kamara

The Budget Review Committee (BRC) has the biggest responsibility of all of the student groups on campus; it decides how the \$109 Student Activity Fee (SAF) is spent. But for the most part, the BRC has always been lost in the alphabet soup of student groups—until this fall. The organization, a subcommittee of the Student Government Association (SGA), has been the talk of the campus.

The Straw that Broke the Camel's Back

According to Maxine Roca, external vice president for the Northeastern Black Student Organization, the talk started in early October in the Student Activities Office. Students leaders began meeting with their advisors to complain about not receiving adequate funding for their programs, Roca said.

Their programs had been rejected by the BRC due to incomplete paper work, but once they had submitted the missing contents, the committee found another issue. In other words, students were getting the BRC version of the NU shuffle, the process of being misdirected.

In an email sent by Jennifer Hardy, vice president of the Student Government Association Financial Committee and chair of the BRC, students were informed that the committee did not have enough funds to accommodate the needs and requests of the increasing number of student organizations on campus.

"In the past, there has always been a rollover that took care of the increasing program requests, last year was the threshold where now we are seeing more requests than the total amount of the SAF," said Jennifer Hardy in an email interview.

"It's a simple supply versus demand

issue, more groups are having bigger and better programs, but the SAF cannot fund all of them fully."

The question that ran through the minds of student organization leaders, including Roca, was this: Where did the one million-dollars for programming go when the semester had just begun?

NU Concerned Student Organization

Roca and other student organization leaders took matters into their own hands and came together to voice their concerns about the BRC and to get answers to their questions. They obtained documents from the BRC containing information about how the one million dollar budget had been spent.

"[Our first] meeting was an eye opener," said Roca. "We all realized that we were all going through the same problems."

The NU Concerned Student Organization was formed literally over night. Then, an editorial war began between Hardy and the Concerned Students in the October issues of *The Huntington News*:

The SAF can no longer fully fund all of the great programs proposed to the BRC...the BRC has been faced with a difficult decision: drastically increase the SAF or scale back on the amounts allocated for each program. (Jennifer Hardy, Oct. 9)

Programming for this semester has been drastically unequal. For example, according to the BRC spending reports for the months of September and October, 23 Fraternity/Sorority Life events were funded...compared to [seven cultural. Five special interest and one religious]. Section 5.2 of the Student Activity Fee Manual reminds us that it is BRC's responsibility to fund programming that is in the highest benefit to undergraduate students. FSL only makes up four percent of this university, yet it is evident from these spending reports that the majority of funded programs this semester have been FSL-

affiliated. If the SGA's job is to represent the entire student body, and the BRC is an extension of SGA, then we feel that neither is doing their job. (NU Concerned Student Organization, 10/23)

"Hi, my name is _____, I represent _____ and I paid \$109 for my Student Activities Fee..."

The BRC and Concerned Students met on Oct. 29. The meeting, which was supposed to be a closed internal review of the BRC, was made public. Nearly 100 students were crammed into a 40-person room in the Curry Student Center. The doors had to be opened for air and microphones were used so students could hear each other speak. Few administrators were present.



Courtesy of Asha Cesar

The meeting started with a slide show presentation by Hardy on how funds would be allocated. However, the presentation was cut short. Students refused to hear the BRC's proposal for a solution without voicing their concerns. It turned into a finger pointing session that questioned the ability of the BRC to manage the budget.

"I appreciated them [the members of the BRC] taking the time to come to listen to what we have to say. But at the same time, we didn't get a chance to say everything we were concerned about," said Odav Jallah, a senior biology major and treasurer of the Northeastern African Student Organization. "I felt as though [the BRC] was trying to propose

solutions when they didn't hear our specific questions. [A personal question I had for the committee] was how can you propose solutions when you haven't heard the problems?"

The anthem of the night became students stating their name, what student group they represented, if any, and stating that they paid their Student Activity Fee, and therefore had a reason to be concerned with what was happening with the BRC.

The students were concerned that the majority of the BRC members were Greek-affiliated, and a large amount of the funds had been allocated to their organizations. Out of the 41 programs that had been funded between July and September, 23 of the programs were Greek-affiliated.

For instance, Pi Kappa Alpha put a request on Aug. 4 for PIKEtoberfest, the largest Greek sponsored event and part of Homecoming Week. The concert did not take place until Oct. 13, on Columbus Day. BRC allocated Pi Kappa Alpha \$63,925 for the event.

The highest funded event for the year would be the annual Snow Ball, hosted by Resident Student Association, which will be taking place in February instead of January, its usual month for the past two years. According to the documents provided to *The Onyx* by the NU Concern Students, a separate budget was already set for this event, thus should not be coming from the request pool.

However, this leaves little funding, if any, for any programs held in February, including NBSA's Souls of Black Folk, an annual Black History Month Program.

The attention quickly turned to Hardy's shortcomings as chair. Some documents that were presented by the committee contradicted the ones that were given to members of the NU Concerned Students. *The Onyx* could not obtain these documents.

Hardy defended herself by saying that she was not a business major and sometimes made mistakes in her work.

"Sometimes there are clerical errors,

even in the professional world," said Hardy. "I'm a student like anyone else, and I spend more than 40 hours a week completing work for Student Government... I'm technically only required to 30 hrs a week."

Still, students expressed higher expectations of Hardy because she is in a leadership position, and said that if she could not fulfill her role, she needed to step down.

"In the real world, if you are not meeting your job requirement you are let go," said Roca.

The two-hour meeting was supposed to be a critique of the BRC, yet it turned into a platform for frustrated students; as a result, no decisions were made.

"I am pretty sure no one trusts BRC at this point," said Joshua Torres, executive vice president of the Latin American Student Organization.



Courtesy of Asha Cesar

The Future of the BRC

A second meeting was held on Nov. 3 in the McLeod suites. It focused on solutions to help address the problems with the structure of BRC.

Of the one million-dollar budget for programming, \$44,000 has already been used for Fall Semester programs. \$100,000 of the \$645,000 allocated for the Spring Semester has been dispensed for January and February programs.

Several questions still remained unanswered... will the BRC be sanctioned for their poor management of the Student Activity Fee? Or should administrators take part in the allocation of the budget?

Since the accusations of lack of diversity within the BRC in that a ma-

majority of their members were Greek-affiliated, the BRC has switched members. Initially, all seven BRC voting members were Greek.

Michael Rockland, a junior finance major and member of Kappa Sigma, recently resigned from the BRC. He wrote a Letter to the Editor for *The Huntington News* explaining his thoughts on the BRC and admitted the committee's poor decisions, particularly with the full funding of PIKEtoberfest:

At the time that PIKEtoberfest was funded, BRC rarely, in 23 years of operation, cut a program for reasons outside of a direct conflict with the SAF manual. After funding PIKEtoberfest, BRC received more requests for the month of October than predicted; a month where about one-third of the budget had been taken up by one event. The BRC soon ran out of funds for the month of October and realized there was a problem: a large and excessive event was approved and many smaller efficient events had to be denied funding.

Rockland points out; the BRC has never approved funding for programs that violate any aspect of the SAF. Although, PIKEtoberfest was geared towards NU students yet a significant number of the audience were from neighboring institutions. The BRC's signature question during request proposal presentations is "how will your program benefit the Northeastern community?" The question is how did PIKEtoberfest benefit the NU community besides occurring during Homecoming Week?

Hardy believes the best way to solve the problems of the BRC is to have a similar budget next year, so that student groups will become accustomed to the smaller budget and not receiving full funding for their events.

"The future of the BRC is similar to this year," said Hardy. "Processes will need to be tweaked and worked on each year to determine a procedure that is flexible and fair to all student orgs requesting funding."

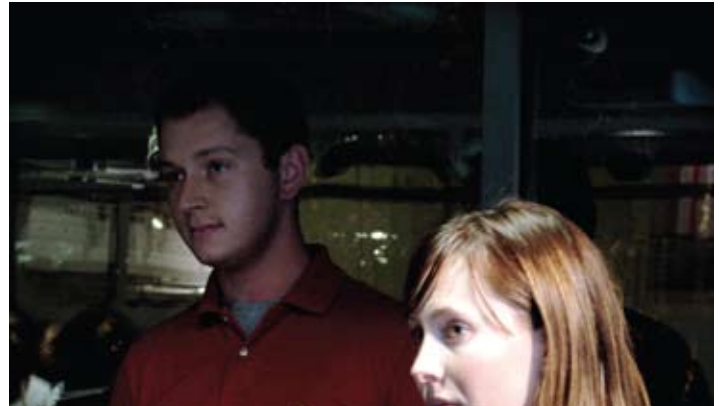
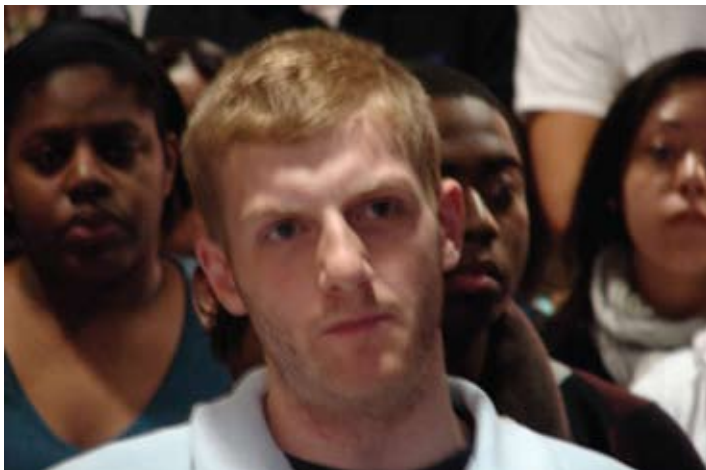
But the problem remains...

WHO RUNS NU?

The October 29 BRC Meeting

The BRC and students concerned about the state of the programming budget met on Oct. 29. Nearly 100 students crammed into a 40 person room in the Curry Student Center for the two hour meeting that was supposed to be a critique of the BRC. The doors had to be opened for air, and microphones were used so students could hear each other speak. Few administrators were present. The meeting turned into a finger pointing session that questioned the ability of the BRC to manage the budget.

All Photos Courtesy of Asha Cesar



Advocacy is our Priority but Programming is our Forte: RSA

By: Anuli Akanegbu and Margaret Kamara

Living on campus has proved to be one of the most effective ways for students to get the full college experience. At Northeastern approximately 7,500 students get to partake in this luxury that includes getting out of bed ten minutes before classes begin.

The Main Players

One of the groups responsible for ensuring this experience is the Resident Student Association (RSA). The organization's main responsibility is to advocate for students through programming to ensure student residents feel at home in the resident halls.

"RSA does not directly answer to the administration but we have to follow the university's policies and guidelines," said Matthew Soleyn, RSA Vice President of Housing Services. "We answer to the residents and they hold us accountable."

Soleyn is one of the six executive board members that make up the heads of RSA. He is responsible for issues such as the dining halls and laundry facilities. There is a VP of the Finance Committee, which manages the organization's budget; Administrative Committee; which deals with membership and Programming Committee, which spearheads programs such as paintball and the annual Snow Ball; and the president, who oversees all of the organization's operations.



Three subdivisions also exist: the General Council, all RSA members, Hall Councils, these students elected by their fellow residents to be liaisons between RSA and residents, and the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), the main cheerleaders of the NU community. NRHH recognizes students, staff, faculty and departments for their efforts and initiatives in making the NU experience memorable by implementing programs such as Of The Month (OTM) and Breakfast of Champions (BoC).



Courtesy of Matthew Soleyn

Members of RSA on a tour of Parcel 18.



RSA = Fun

Given 35 percent of the \$30 Resident Activity Fee (RAF) that every student living on campus is required to pay as their budget, RSA can make just about anything possible.

RSA does not directly answer to the administration but we have to follow the university's policies and guidelines. We answer to the residents and they hold us accountable.

Last year, the organization purchased a cable network, RSA Cinema, channel 117 on Husky Cable, which allows students to watch movies and view content created by their peers. This year students were able to get laundry bucks, \$40 a semester to do their laundry, paid by the RAF.

While RSA is a spokesperson for student residents, its reputation on campus is synonymous with programming. It won the 2008 Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH) program of the year for its Husky Hunt city-wide scavenger hunt.

This reputation on campus has caused the organization's mission to be overlooked, and RSA is misinterpreted as being for programming only.

"You can't just have a reputation for being fun," said Khadijah Balfour-Jeffrey, sophomore majoring in chemistry and a member of RSA. "If students have concerns about serious issues they are not going to think about bringing it to RSA. They should advertise as much as they do about their fun programs about serious events."

Soleyn says that while RSA tackles many projects programming ends up being the most visible, but the Association is working to improve this. He said the group has started a blog and sending weekly emails to encourage students to seek out the organization when they have questions and concerns.

WHO RUNS NU?

An International Figure Struggles to Win Over Students: Dr. Joseph E. Aoun

By Margaret Kamara

Since August 2006 when Dr. Joseph E. Aoun, “an internationally known scholar in linguistics” took office as the seventh president of Northeastern University, he has made it his mission ‘to charge the university to excellence.’

No Average Joe

In just two years he has polished the institution’s name. According to the Office of the President’s Web site, under his leadership the university’s co-op program has been expanded into 88 cities in 46 countries. The university’s undergraduate admission application reached an all-time high when the number of applicants increased by 32 percent for the fall of 2008. Princeton Review also ranked it number one in the best career/job placement services category.

A campus-wide makeover of the grounds helped boost the morale of the university. From Columbus to Huntington Avenues, the NU emblem can be located all over campus. The university’s mascot has been transformed to reflect the different departments and schools. Situated in the School of Law is a husky statue holding a scale in its mouth and in the Alumni Center, another with portraits of alumnus styled in the Pop Art style of Andy Warhol, and outside of Behrakis Health Sciences Center stands a third statute symbolizing an environmental friendly NU.

Externally, Aoun seems to be the best thing to ever happen to the university, but internally his intentions are questioned. Is he putting more effort in making a name for the university or ensuring that students have a great college experience?

In the Public but not Accessible

President Aoun is known for casually strolling around campus with his entourage of other administrators and donors. He is seen at hockey and football games and socializing with students at campus events. He also reaches out to students via the MyNEU Portal. His messages address everything from campus and world events to simple words of encouragement.

While students say Aoun appears to be everywhere, his availability is limited. Several events were put on by student groups and the administration to enhance the president’s accessibility.

Last year Aoun spoke to students in a public forum, “Eye to Eye: With President Aoun,” hosted by the Council for University Programs (CUP) and the Student Government Association (SGA). The event was intended for Aoun to answer questions from students about their experiences and what improvements could be made to the University. This year SGA, in collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs, gave students the opportunity converse with the president.



Courtesy of Northeastern Department of Public Relations

Both forums received mixed reviews; some students believe Aoun is doing his best to connect with students, especially with a tight schedule, and

I felt like when students asked [Aoun] questions, his responses were very defensive and he did not respond to them in an appropriate and professional manner

others say they were expecting to get a more personal connection with Aoun. Instead of addressing questions directly he fielded them to members of his executive board such as Philomena Mantella, senior vice president of Enrollment and Student Services, and Ed Klotzbier, vice president for Student Affairs.

One of organizers of the “Eye to Eye: With President Aoun” was very satisfied with the president’s responses.

“From the stand point of an administrator, whoever is dealing with the issue [that a student has a question on] is going to be the most knowledgeable,” said Garrett Marques, a senior political science major and former vice president of collaborations for CUP. “If it is about admissions you are going to have to deal with the dean of admissions. They are the ones that deal with these issues on a daily basis.”

Third Time’s A Charm

On October 15 the annual State of the University address was held several members of the administration includ-

ing Aoun briefed students, faculty and staff on where the university stands and where it will be in the future. Booklets that summarized the university's accomplishments in student recruitment, faculty research, and goals in leadership and curricular innovations were handed out.

"I'll begin with student recruitment and the wonderful advances we are making in this arena," Aoun is quoted to have said at the meeting in the address transcript on his website. "...really, we have our students to thank for these achievements. Our students have been our best ambassadors in recruiting such high-caliber applicants...so I want to thank you, our current students, because you have been our great ambassadors."

The president should always strive for transparency, as the student body is the constituency, the financial backing, and the life force of Northeastern University.

The assembly was also another attempt for students to voice their concerns and connect with the president. After the address the floor was opened for questions.

"I felt like when students asked [Aoun] questions, his responses were very defensive and he did not respond to them in an appropriate and professional manner," said Marsha White, a senior music industry major. "He passed them off to other administrators. He did not want students to make statements that were critical to his policies or that questioned his intentions."

Other ways that have been created to improving the relationship between the president and students is monthly meetings with Aoun, takes place at the

president's office on the sixth floor of 716 Columbus Place. The first office hours were held on September 24 from 5:30 p.m. - 7 pm. Students can also place a request to have Aoun make an appearance at their event via the president's website.

The Future of NU Under Aoun

The debate continues between students on whether Aoun is putting students first versus the university's public image. What changes will take place next and will students benefit from them?

"I honestly think it's too early to tell. Any changes and transitions is going to take a while for the results of these changes to be noticeable," said Marques. "It took Freeland 10 years to change the university from a commuter school to a top 100. I think it is too soon to tell how effective Aoun is as a president. I do have confidence that Aoun will take the university in a good direction."

Gabriela Swider's, a junior psychology major, advice for Aoun is to be more open with students.

"The president should always strive for transparency, as the student body is the constituency, the financial backing, and the life force of Northeastern University."

Several attempts were made to reach specific members of the administration but due to new interview policies *The Onyx* was unable to get interviews to bring the administrative perspective to the story.

Onyx staff Candice Springer and Managing Editor Brittany Bass contributed to the article.

The Northeastern Illuminated, a five-day event that was held from March 26, 2007 to March 31, 2007, transformed Northeastern into an elegant country club like campus to celebrate the inauguration of Dr. Joseph E. Aoun and Northeastern's 'excellence and distinctiveness'. At the inauguration, Aoun outlined his academic plan that he hoped to implement during his reign as president.

The five themes Aoun announced at his inauguration were:

- Experiential Learning
- Interdisciplinary and Translational Research
- Intellectual Life and Creative Expression
- Urban Engagement
- Global Opportunities

According to Northeastern's Academic Plan website the University's core values include;

Contribution

Northeastern seeks to contribute to the individual fulfillment of each member of the campus, to the welfare of the surrounding communities, and to solutions that will address global and societal needs.

Diversity

Northeastern celebrates diversity in all its forms and fosters a culture of respect that affirms inter-group relations and builds community.

Engagement

Northeastern promotes active engagement in teaching and learning, in scholarship and research, in the life of urban communities and with our alumni and friends.

Integrity

Northeastern pursues each of its activities and interactions with integrity, maintaining the highest ethical standards.

Opportunity

Northeastern provides opportunities to those who strive to overcome disadvantages and show great promise for future success.

Stanley Porter: Hidden Treasure

BY: MARGARET KAMARA

When Stanley Porter joined the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute staff in 2006, he was known as the cool brother with locks that student group leaders consulted to organize events at the Amilcar Cabral Center. Only few knew about his other life as a successful musician.

On August 23, Porter, a recording artist and producer, released his third gospel album, "All to You." A CD release party was held for him at the Good Shepard Church in Roxbury, where he is a youth minister.

The album, Porter says is his third in a chronicle of his life journey from his entry into the music industry ("No Turning Back"), the hard times ("Grace Amazing") and now finding God ("All to You").

It is a wonder that Porter was able to keep his status as a thriving artist on a hush-hush for this long.

"Honestly, when I came to campus my focus was on the job," says Porter. "I did not want it to be misconstrued... I am happy with the decision to not talk about my music sooner because I feel more established as a part of the campus community... If done the other way I may have been seen as an opportunist."

According to his Web site, stanleyporter.net, Porter has been in the music industry for over a decade. He was a hip-hop performer in the 1980s. Today he composes songs and plays the keyboard and organ. His first CD, "No Turning Back," released in 2001, was aired on local radio stations, and his sophomore album, "Grace Amazing," released in 2005, is getting international recognition in England and Japan.

However, Porter says he has given the Northeastern community a sample of his music.

Porter performed at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Convocation held in January 2008 to commemorate King's legacy and dream for racial justice. In the past he has also performed with a local gospel-jazz band at NU's afterHOURS night club.

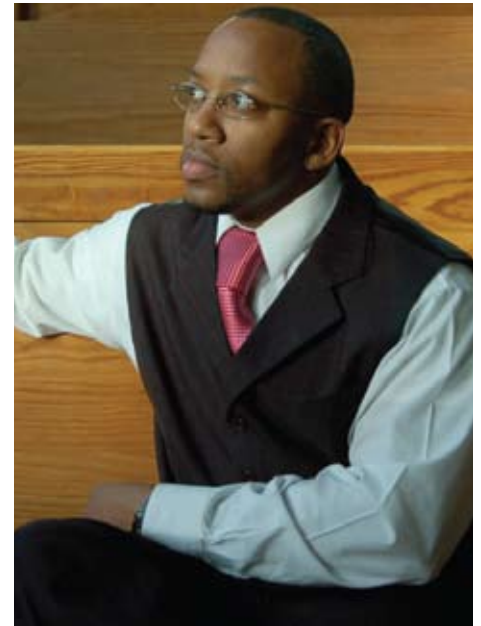
Porter has also performed on numerous occasions at the annual jazz-fest hosted by Heath Careers Academy, a preparatory high school for students interested in health profession that is located on NU's campus.

Though Porter is happy with the direction his music career is going he says he enjoys being part of the NU community because he is able to utilize his skills as a former teacher and help students.

"I like to build relationships first, business is second" said Porter.

As a way to give back to the community, Porter will be donating a portion of the proceeds of "All To You" to the Boston Urban Music Project, Inc., an organization that uses music to help elementary and middle school children in the Boston area succeed in and out of the classroom.

"I know, from experience as a teacher, that a good education provides two things: skills and self-esteem," said Porter, a former teacher in the Boston Public Schools, in a press release. "If we get these two things to our children at an early age, they will grow up making better decisions. BUMP provides this much needed support and I want to raise awareness for this wonderful organization."



Courtesy of Stanley Porter

Recently Porter revealed that due to some "restructuring" that took place this summer at the JDOAAI his position has been "discontinued." Where will he work and whether he will still be on campus are questions that Porter does not have the answers to yet.

In an email sent out to student leaders, Porter gave his farewell to the Northeastern community:

I want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to all of your hard work at improving the quality of life for Black students on this campus. I have always been encouraged after our planning meetings and impromptu conversations... I am also blessed to have served as a mentor to some of you, and believe me, you inspired me as well!

At the time of the interview Porter was still employed by Northeastern

Speak. your piece

Dear Wollaston's Store Manager/ Owner,

As a concerned student at Northeastern University, I am very vexed by the injustices perceived and experienced by the Black student body, and the treatment we received while attempting to purchase items in your store. As you are well aware, or may not be, there are many instances of social injustice in our society as well as on this campus.

I entered your store with the intentions of making a purchase with my two friends, who happen to be Black. Unfortunately, this did not happen due to your obnoxious and rather ignorant behavior. We entered your store and immediately walked over by the toothpaste and deodorant section, however, before we could browse around I noticed that you had dodged the long line at the register and began to follow us. You were very territorial; invading our personal space, standing so close that we could feel the harshness of your breath. Feeling very uncomfortable and violated we moved to the back of the store, once we made eye contact, you decided to turn the other way. When I was no longer looking you turned your focus back at us. Just to make sure that you were really following us, my friends and I then, went over to the deli section. Within seconds you were following us again. For your information neither my friends nor I are thieves. So much for being the "Friendly Neighborhood Grocer."

I am not sure what possessed you to follow us around but it made me wonder if this was sheer ignorance or just racism. However, since you work on a university's campus there a few things that your need to know, not all Black male fit the stereotype that you have adopted from the media. We are not all suspects, violent, or criminals. Did you missed the new MacBook that I was carrying or designer jeans and polo shirts we were all wearing? I am not only an intelligent Black man who comes from an upscale environment where we do not need to steal to survive. It's a shame that the only thing you saw when my friends and I walked in was our brown skin.

The role of a manger, the last time I checked, was to make your store as inviting as possible for ALL customers. As manager, you need to know that the way you acted was not okay. Surveilling Black students on campus is not only unethical but unprofessional. My friends and I have no problem with boycotting your business but hopefully it won't come to this and you should take this letter as a friendly advice.

After my experience at Wollaston's, I realized that the issue with racial profiling was a campus wide issue. For this reason, I have also written another informal letter to the administration/ president.

I am not sure what possessed you to follow us around but it made me wonder if this was sheer ignorance or just racism.

Dear Northeastern University Admin- istrators/President Aoun,

I find it very hypocritical and disturbing that you boast about diversity and yet we have enterprises on campus who treat students of color very unfairly. Wollaston's is not the only establishment that is guilty of this. The Northeastern University Police Department is also another division that has been racial profiling. I hear stories all the time about NUPD stopping Black students asking them to furnish identification while White students are allowed to roam around freely and without any disruption.

President Aoun, I urged you to make sure that your diversity initiatives reach these units. More efforts need to be made to ensure that diversity is practiced instead of being preached, and that the businesses on campus all help to build communities instead of tearing them down.

Jonathan Lawrence



Northeastern

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STUDENTEVENTS

Out & About



Courtesy of Chae D. Reid

The National Pan-Hellenic Council at the Autism Speaks Walk Now for Autism of Greater Boston on Oct. 19 at Suffolk Downs Racetrack.



Courtesy of LSCC

Latino/a Student Cultural Center and Latin American Student Organization's Hispanic Heritage Month BBQ at Centennial Commons on Oct. 24.



Courtesy of Jordan Clark

Members of the Northeastern Black Student Association on a Multicultural Youth Tour of What's Now tour of the Southend on October 25th.



Courtesy of Tamika Gordon

National Society of Black Engineers at their Fall Regional Conference held on Nov. 7-9 at the Sheraton Hotel in Parsippany, New Jersey.

Want to have your organization or department event featured in *The Onyx*?
E-mail: Onyxphotos@gmail.com

STUDENTEVENTS



Courtesy of Elbert John of Image Impressionz

Models, Roselyn Berry and Unique Long, at the Haitian Student Unity's Second Annual Sickle Cell Awareness Fashion Show on Nov. 8 at the Fenway Center.



Courtesy of Asha Pandya

The Northeastern University Bhangra Team at the Boston Bhangra Competition 2008 on Nov. 15 held at the Orpheum Theater.



Courtesy of Asha Cesar

Newly crowned queen and king Raquisha Charles and Peter Faiteau at the Northeastern African Student Organizations Third Annual King & Queen Cultural Pageant on Nov. 15 in the Curry Student Center Ballroom.



Courtesy of Asha Cesar

The Cape Verdean Student Association's Second Annual Fashionably Aware fashion show on Dec. 5 at the Curry Student Center Ballroom. The show was part of HIV/AIDS Awareness Week 2008 with NASO, NuBiLaGA and NBSA.



Courtesy of Tiffany Malcolm

Tricia Howell and Ricardhy Grandoit at the Class of 2009 Senior Soiree on Dec. 5, held at the Alumni Center

Mr. & Ms. Nubian



Get at me.

Contact me at mr.nubian@gmail.com

Holla at ya girl.

Send me an e-mail at ms.nubian@gmail.com



Nubian images created by Herculano Fernandes

She Wants A Title

Mr. Nubian,
So there's this girl I've been talking to for about four months. We chill, go to the movies and go out to eat. But all of a sudden she comes to me a couple of days ago and wants to know what we are. I told her, "We're just chillin." I do have feelings for her, but I'm a middler. It don't sound like marriage anytime soon, so where is this really gonna go? I'm comfortable with our relationship so we don't need a title, do we?

Signed,
...She Wants a Title

She Wants a Title,
You are in a situation that many young brothas find themselves in; you want to have your cake and eat it too. Examine the situation: you like her, but you don't see it going anywhere? Well, move on because it is better that you don't waste her time or yours. And, it is best that you move on before she gets attached and pulls an Angela Bassett in *Waiting to Exhale*. I don't think Husky Express can remove the burn stains from your

True Religion jeans. So before the situation gets ugly, you might as well let it go.

-Mr. Nubian

A New Me

Morning Ms. Nubian,
Ever since I started attending college, my friends and family have noticed a change in me. I mean, I have a desire for bigger and finer things and my standards, not just for guys but my girlfriends, have changed as well. I prefer to surround myself with goal-oriented people striving to climb the social ladder. I am not saying everyone has to have a college degree, but they have to be doing something with their life. Working at the mall as a manager is a step, but it does not have to be a life career. I only ask that the guys that approach me and my girls aim higher. Now am I being bourgeois or just eliminating the negative forces in my life?

From,
A New Me

Dear A New Me,
I want to applaud you for pushing yourself to be the best you can be. Too many people settle for "okay" and don't push for excellence.

That said, there is no problem with trying to surround yourself with good influences. Just make sure that you're not getting snobby. There are plenty of people out there who may not have the opportunity to go to college, or the best job at the moment. But that doesn't mean that they won't get where they need to be in the future.

Don't get me wrong, there are people that will hold you back from what you need to be doing. Maybe they — too much, fill in the blank. It doesn't mean that they are bad people, but it also doesn't mean you need to stay friends. Talk to them, but don't get too close; they can become a setback. Encourage those who ARE close to you to strive for excellence. Don't forget where you came from. It's great that you're in a good place in your life. Remember you had to work hard to get there.

-Ms. Nubian

Onyx Kitchen

From My Family to Yours

By Jennifer Barris

During the holiday season most families look forward to the exchange of gifts while my family looks forward to the exchange of recipes. For us, food is what centers us. Although, far apart we can count on food to pull us back together. Being a part of a family of phenomenal cooks, there are many recipes that are never to leave the family circle but here are some family recipes that I received permission to share.

Café Creations

By Melanie Araujo

Going to the cafeteria after the holidays can be dreadful. The excitement you once had to have a bite of pizza, pasta, chicken, burgers and even stir fry is lost due to the weeks spent eating home-cooked meals. To help you readjust I have some tricks that will have you going for seconds and perhaps even increase your meal plan. Let your inner chef shine!



Broccoli & Cheese Casserole

Ingredients:

1 can condensed cream of chicken soup
1 ½ cup of milk
2 tsp. yellow mustard
16oz. frozen broccoli flowerets (thawed)
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1/3 cup dried bread crumbs
2 tbsp. melted butter

Directions:

Stir soup, milk and mustard with a whisk in a large bowl until smooth. Add thawed broccoli and cheese. Pour contents into large casserole (1 ½ quart) dish. In another small bowl mix bread crumbs and melted butter and sprinkle on top of the broccoli mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Pan- fried Pork Chops & Gravy

Ingredients:

4 pork chops
½ cup flour
½ tsp. black pepper
1 tsp. seasoning salt
¼ tsp. garlic powder
¼ tsp. onion powder
3 tbsp. vegetable oil
1 ½ cup chicken broth

Directions:

Mix flour, black pepper, seasoning salt, garlic powder and onion powder together and set aside. In a skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Evenly cover pork chops in flour mixture on both sides. Fry in skillet and remove until brown. Pour off oil from skillet. De-glaze the pan with the chicken broth. Boil on medium-high for 1 minute. Return pork chops to pan and cover and let simmer for 10 minutes or until done.



Stock Photo

Jumping Buffalo Chicken Salad

Want to avoid gaining the Freshmen Fifteen and start off your college years with a healthy diet while indulging in some flavorful food? This recipe provides you with the best of both worlds.



Courtesy of Jordan Martins

Ingredients:

- 2 Grill Chicken Breasts
- Fresh Spinach Leaves (or Lettuce)
- 2 teaspoons of butter
- 3 pumps of hot buffalo sauce
- Cherry tomatoes
- Salad dressing

Directions:

At the grill, ask for two chicken breasts, making sure to say “no buns,” to avoid all unnecessary carbs. While your chicken is grilling, collect some spinach or lettuce for your salad base. Next create the buffalo sauce; microwave hot buffalo sauce and butter in separate containers, for 30 seconds. Then stir the two together and reheat for another 30 seconds. At this time your chicken should be grilled. Get your chicken, thanking the cook, and cut the chicken breast into strips or cubes. Combine the chicken and sauce together. Place chicken on top of salad. Add cherry tomatoes and salad dressing. Enjoy!

Waffle Cake Fantasy

Not a breakfast kind of guy or gal? After you try this waffle, you will convert to being a breakfast eater in no time. It’s good at all hours in the day, as long as the waffle maker is available.



Ingredients:

- Waffle
- Butter
- Desert of your choice; cake, pie, etc
- Vanilla ice cream
- Maple Syrup
- Cinnamon

Directions:

Make your waffle; this should take less than two minutes. While the waffle is cooking head over to the dessert bar and grab some apple pie or chocolate cake and crumble it. Microwave the crumbled dessert for 30 seconds. By now the waffle should be done. Retrieve your waffle and begin the layering process, the waffle will serve as the foundation. Butter your waffle, and then add the crumbled dessert. Next add the ice cream, and top it off with a splash of maple syrup and sprinkle the cinnamon to add some spice. Warning: This meal contains a lot of calories so only eat it occasionally. Consider it a reward meal after acing that anatomy exam.

English Muffin Pizza

This dish is an alternative to the long pizza line during the lunch or dinner rush. This recipe is for all types of eaters, including vegetarians.



Ingredients:

- English muffin
- Pasta sauce
- Salt and Pepper
- Yellow and white cheese

Directions:

Slice English muffin into two halves, then toast. Spread pasta sauce on English muffins and sprinkle pepper and salt for flavor. Add both types of cheese. Microwave the English muffin turn pizza for 30 seconds or until cheese is melted. Wait till the muffin-pizza cools to eat.

The key to these goodies is making use of food available at the dining hall. Imagine that you are a chef and go with the flow or what your tummy is craving!

SOULspeech

Submit to SoulSpeech
onyxsubmission@gmail.com

Going Going Gone

Marks of passion cover my body
As I glance at myself through the mirror.
Who is this man I see before me?
He is NOT me!
He can't be,
His flesh manifests an aurora that is unlike everything I once strived to be
One word describes his soul used
Used because he gives all of himself to individuals who don't deserve a second
glance,
Used because he is taken advantage of on one the regular,
His body abused, just for a glimpse at pleasure.
Used used used... four simple letters but they all say so much. This doesn't
make much sense, if you say why these words mean that would help.
His self-esteem lowered by each forceful thrust.
Penetrating deep into his soul.
Losing me losing me lost...going going gone

By Anonymous

The Question

What is being in love?
Is it merely a reaction
of chemicals in one's mind?
Is it merely just an attachment
to another?
A feeling that you cannot live without them?
Or is it a feeling of pure euphoria?
How do you know when you are truly in it?
And how do you know when
you are just holding onto something?

The Answer

Being in love is looking into her eyes,
And wanting to see deeper and deeper,
So that your eyes are dazzled by the beauty of her soul.
Being in love is wanting to whisper into her ears,
Dying to express a love so deep it cannot be expressed with mere words,
But as futile as it is you cannot stop.
Being in love is never wanting to let go of her,
Always yearning for her kiss, her embrace, her touch,
And feeling that you are "home" when she's next to you.
Being in love is excitement and happiness
To even merely hear her name mentioned,
To merely see it written on a piece of paper.
Being in love is dying to see her,
And dying when she has to leave.
Being in love is wanting to be with her forever,
But feeling that forever is not enough time.
Fully capable of doing and being anything great

By Akeem Williams



Your world, in 20/20

seminar schedule



educational



experiential

For more information, visit us on our web site or contact us via our email address.

www.neu.edu/housing/huskyeyes

huskyEYES@neu.edu.

Northeastern University
Department of Residential Life
4 Speare Commons,
Boston, MA 02115

FALL SEMESTER

Student Rights and Responsibility
Curry Student Center 333
September 11, 5:00pm

Negotiating for a Win Win Solution
Curry Student Center 333
October 9, 5:00pm

Time Management 101
Curry Student Center 333
November 13, 5:00pm

Thriving In a Global Community
Curry Student Center 333
December 4, 5:00pm

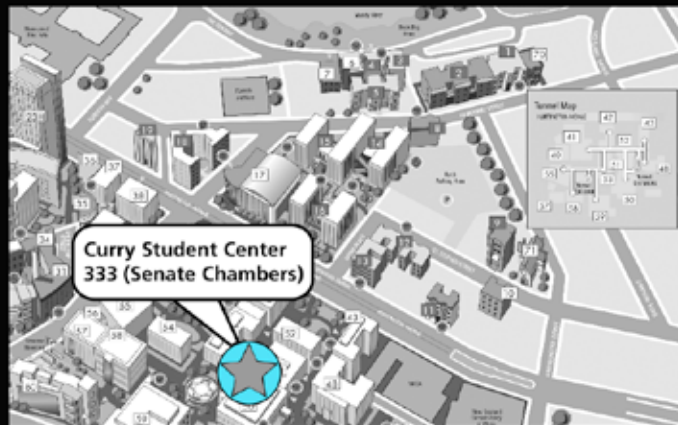
SPRING SEMESTER

Healthy Year, Healthy You
Curry Student Center 333
January 15 5:00pm

Move It or Lose It: Upperclass Room Selection and Placement
Curry Student Center 333
February 5, 5:00pm

Ultimate Money Skills
Curry Student Center 333
March 12, 5:00pm

Exploring Careers, Finding Jobs
Curry Student Center 333
April 2, 5:00pm



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