

THE ONLYX INFORMER

Ali G,
 You are the love of my life, and
 have made me so incredibly
 happy. So Happy Valentine's
 Day Kiddo! I love you.
 Love,
 Matt

Love
 STINKS!!! Better luck next year.
 Anonymous

To a Good black man,
 I love you!!! You are truly
 legendary. Happy V-Day!
 Much love,
 Salem

Mauricio Coloma,
 Happy Valentine's Day Bookie!
 I love you & I'm looking
 forward to many more years
 together!
 Love your boo,
 Marta

Becca,
 You are the most beautiful
 person I know. Thanks for
 everything love bug. You are my
 shining star.
 Car

NASO,
 Happy Valentine's Day to my
 African family! Stay close and
 keep up the good work.
 Love,
 Roland

Dear Cassie,
 Happy Valentine's Day! This
 year has been a year of great
 changes and thank you for mak-
 ing me a better man.
 -Anthony

Dear Monique,
 I love you more than
 words can express. Happy
 Valentines Day!
 Love,
 Rocklyn

Spandara & Manasa,
 You girls are 2 of the cutest
 and sweetest sisters I know. It's
 always a pleasure hanging out
 with ya'll. Don't ever change.
 Happy Valentines Day!
 Much Love,
 Jose A.

THE ONYX INFORMER

FEB/MAR. 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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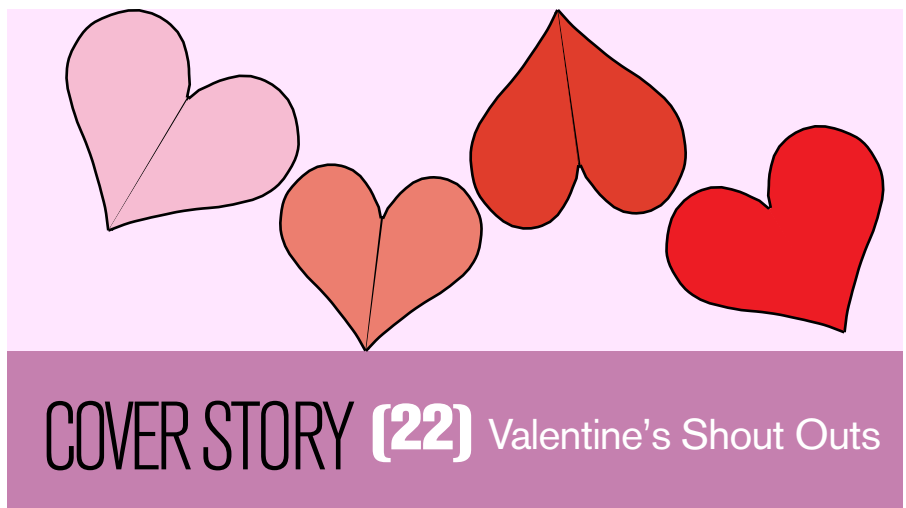
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THE SACRILEGIOUS ANNUAL ONYX INVESTMENT'S
80s BOSS



April 11, 2009 9PM-2AM
at afterHOURS, NU+1
Free event, NU+1
Best dressed will be featured in Onyx

Letters from the Editors

From this day forth I declare myself an American

I've been living in the United States for nearly fourteen years and never have I considered myself American; although, I've been naturalized for six years. I really didn't accept the title of African American until the week of January 20, when Barack Obama, the first African American president of the U.S, was sworn into office.

Some may call me ungrateful or even suggest I go back to my native land but I am not saying that I regret being brought to America at all. I have spent more than half of my life in this country and in some ways it is more of a home to me than Sierra Leone, my birth country. The reason why I never introduced myself as an American, even when I was out of the country, was due to the fact that I feel I belong to a country that questioned my capabilities because of the color of my skin.

Even though I attend a prestigious university, I still have to prove to my professors and colleagues that I am not just an African American, but also a woman, aspiring journalist, a published writer, and someone that has something to offer to the world. I sit in the front row of all my classes, raise my hand in class, even if I may not know the answer, attended every class, even when I am sick, just to prove that I am not just another African American stereotypes that society has ingrained in our culture.

For this reason, the inauguration of President Obama was a personal journey. As I cheered along with the rest of Obama's supporters, at the inauguration concert on the National Mall on January 17, and cried on the bus ride from Washington D.C. to Boston, I finally came to terms with my identity. I am an African American. I understand the struggles of the past and recognize the strengths of my people, and how we will always overcome whatever obstacle comes our way.

This February is only the beginning of the celebration of the past, present and future of the greatness of being Black. The purpose of this issue is to showcase that Black history will not be limited to 28/29 days of the year. Enjoy!

Margaret Kamara
Editor-In-Chief
onyxeditorinchief@gmail.com

Simply Inspired

We are living in such a historic time; our first African American President was just sworn in and another African American, Michael Steele, also made history by becoming the first Black to hold the position, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

These individuals have helped to awakening my generation's revolution. President Obama targeted the younger generation during his campaign because he understand that his presidency is about the future; our future. This is the time for young people to feel empowered, inspired and to take action. Education shouldn't stop once you leave the classroom; I urge you to take an active interest in our country's history. This is not just American history but it's our history. I love this issue because it showcases both the accomplishments and the setbacks of the Black community. I think we have to address our setbacks before we can move forward into a prosper future.

We spotlight some trailblazing African Americans who have and continue pave the way for the great minds of tomorrow. Both "Blacks in the World of Greys" and "Self Destruction of the Black Community" are articles that will provide real commentary on the state of African Americans. And "24 Random Black Facts" will highlight some of the extraordinary accomplishments of the African Diaspora. I hope you enjoy the issue because we truly were pleased to create it.

Brittany Bass
Managing Editor
onyxmanagingeditor@gmail.com

The Onyx Informer's New Advisor Dr. Vanessa Johnson



We would like to welcome the newest edition to our *Onyx* family, our advisor, Dr. Vanessa Johnson. Dr. Johnson is the director of the College Student Development and Counseling (CSDC) and an associate graduate professor of the Department of Counseling and Applied Educational Psychology here at Northeastern University.

Besides college student development, Dr. Johnson also has certification in recruitment and retention of African-American college students and developing and applying pre-college programs. She specializes in research that includes the racial climates that are present in the residence halls of colleges and universities, resident assistants' capability and knowledge to tackle concerns of cultural diversity, African American college students' development, and Black single mothers', which are first generation college students, access to higher education. Dr. Johnson has earned both her bachelor's degree and

Master's in Education from Kent State University and her Ed.D. from Western Michigan University. She began teaching at Northeastern University in 1999 and currently resides in Providence, RI.

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!

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:

Academia In The Current State of Depression

Seniors Taking The World By Storm

Coming Soon:

The Onyx Hits The Web

The Onyx Blog

Updates:

We have a new addition to the Onyx team Dr. Vanessa Johnson

Facebook us!

Search group page "Onyx Informer"

Corrections

Dec. 08/Jan 09

Who Runs NU? p. 10
Maxine Roca is the external vice-president of the Northeastern Black Student Association

MOVIE REVIEW

Notorious B.I.G.

BY STEPHANIE OFFICER

Northeastern Alum and blogger Stephanie “Ms. Brooklyn” Officer weighs in on the new film Notorious, a motion picture based on the life of Brooklyn rapper Christopher “Biggie Smalls” Wallace.

As a Brooklynite and a Biggie fan, I already knew the story. Hell, I used to sneak into my grandmother’s bedroom to watch “Video Music Box” & “Bobby Simmons’ Flava Videos.” I managed to catch music videos like “Warning” & “Big Poppa” so often that I learned the words. Nonetheless, I was thoroughly impressed with the film.

Newcomer Jamal Woolard, a Brooklyn rapper by the name of Gravy plays The Notorious B.I.G. and does quite the good job. Angela Bassett starred as Violetta Wallace, B.I.G.’s mother and Derek Luke played Puff Daddy. Other entertainers in the movie include Tupac

Shakur played by Anthony Mackie, Naturi Naughton plays the role of Lil’ Kim. And newcomer Antonique Smith stars as B.I.G.’s love interest while Marc John Jefferies plays Lil’ Cease.

What can I say without spoiling it? You know the story of B.I.G.’s life but to watch it in front of you is a different animal. I really liked the movie, but I can’t help but feel like something was missing.

I thought that Lil’ Kim’s part could’ve had more depth. She is what she is...but she definitely is one of the most thorough females rappers. Say what you will about who wrote her rhymes but what set her apart from other female rapper is her delivery. And where was Charlie Baltimore? I know they could have found someone as light as her to portray her role in the film. Lol!

Nearly two hours passed and I

hadn’t realized. I was thoroughly entertained; it kept my attention. The selection of real footage with the movie itself, the chronicling of the Bad Boy Family allowed the audience to reminisce about the hot Brooklyn summers and rap along to some of Biggie’s classics.

The actors who played some of the characters really mastered the mannerisms of the people they portrayed. I really wasn’t sure what to expect when Antonique Smith opened her mouth to belt out a Faith Evans classic but I was relieved she did it justice. Props to Derek Luke’s examination of Puffy’s immaculate dancing skills; his movements were on point.

I hope that *Notorious* serves as an inspiration to all those who think Charles Hamilton was the one who came up with, “Spread love it’s the Brooklyn way.”

www.msofficer.com

Cadillac Records

BY LORRAINE MCMASTER

Cadillac Records takes a glimpse into the history of Chess Records and the lives of its founder and some of its artists. The relationship between Leonard Chess (Adrien Brody) and his first and most prized artist Muddy Waters (Jeffrey Wright) seems to be the main focus as they experience the successes and tribulations that come with the territory of being apart of the music industry.

Another focal point of the movie is based on the life of Little Walter (Columbus Short), a talented young harmonica player that is mentored by Muddy Waters. Columbus Short does this character justice as he skillfully masks the pain of being abandoned by

his mother through violent outbursts (which can be both comical and scary all at once) and excessive drinking, leading to his untimely death.

Much to my relief, Beyonce Knowles appeared toward the latter portion of the film (still weary from her lack of acting ability, however her vocal performance was wonderful) as singing legend Etta James. She becomes the saving grace of Chess Records and much like Little Walter struggles with abandonment issues and experiments with drugs.

Along with the drug usage, it is hard to ignore the blatant failure of Chess to properly pay his employees, expecting contentment through giving

away brand-new Cadillacs.

I enjoyed being able to experience the music, but loved having the opportunity to see into the darker, more troubled side of the artists. However, it could have done better providing depth into the storylines of vital figures such as Chuck Berry (Mos Def), [whose music was often reworked] and given to popular white artists and Howlin’ Wolf (Eamonn Walker) [who rivaled Muddy Waters].

Overall, Cadillac Records wonderfully captures the essence of 1950’s and 60’s Chicago including the exposure of sex, the ever-present racial tensions, the destructiveness of drugs and alcohol and most importantly the timeless music.

TELEVISION

Blacks in the World of “Grey’s”

BY SHARLENE JUSTE

During the last year or so, it seems as though African Americans in all facets of public life are getting a little extra spotlight. Whether it is in the political, entertainment or business world, Blacks are moving up to the forefront at a faster pace than ever. Particularly, in the realm of entertainment, African American writers and producers are receiving praise from the highest academy institutions, funding, and better opportunities in general from mainstream television companies.

Tyler Perry, a former struggling playwright, attained \$200 million from a deal with TBS, which includes full ownership and creative control. His hit show, “House of Payne” premiered early 2008 and earlier this year his second show, “Meet the Browns” was aired.

Another African American pioneering the entertainment industry is creator and executive producer of the hit show “Grey’s Anatomy,” Shonda Rhimes. Rhimes who has broken into ABC’s primetime, earned an English degree from Dartmouth University and a master of fine arts in television-cinema, from the University of Southern California. Before pitching the “Grey’s,” Rhimes worked on movies like Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement and the award winning Introducing Dorothy Dandridge, which starred Halle Berry.

Although, the motion picture won both an Emmy and a Golden Globe, Rhimes had yet to see what was in store for her. To date, the series has been nominated for nearly 60 awards from institutions including Emmys, Screen Actor’s Guild, and Grammys. The show has won at least 23. Not bad for the youngest of six.

As a child, Rhimes was self-proclaimed bookworm. Her parents, both

employees of universities, surrounded her with literature, which sparked her interest in writing.

can Americans.”

The chief of surgery, played by James T. Pickens, and resident surgeon,

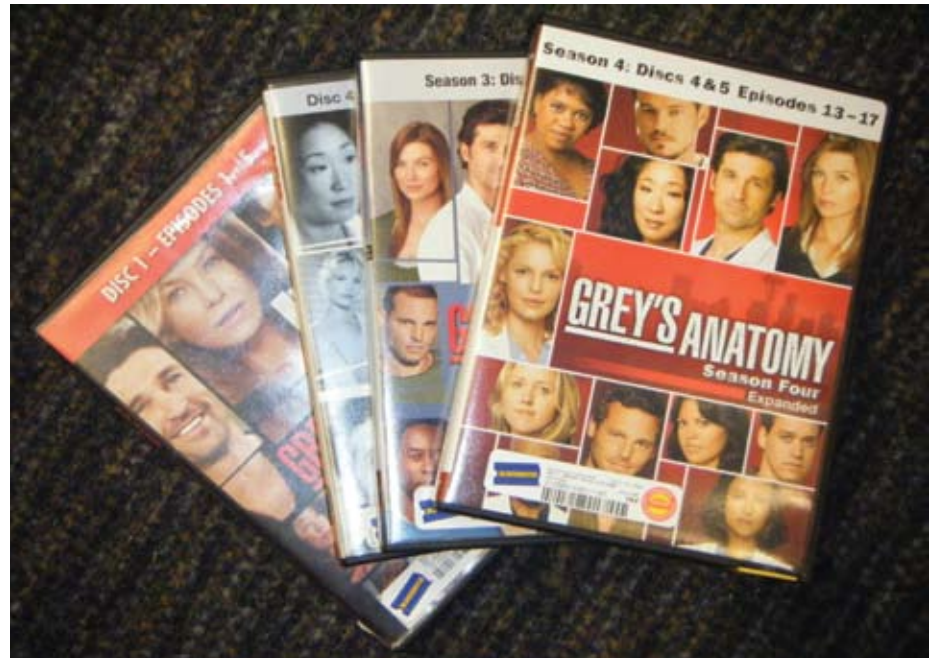


Photo by Brittany Bass

Rhimes is very much involved with the casting of “Grey’s,” according to an interview with Ebony magazine; she wants the best actors regardless of color. “I don’t care what color they are. If a Black man comes in and he’s great for a part and a White woman comes in and she’s great for the part of his wife, well then, suddenly it’s an interracial couple. It’s about who’s the most talented getting the parts.”

In the show, the chief of surgery and chief resident are both Black. African American fans of the show are pleased with the positive representation. Freshman, Danielle Howe, is one of these supporters. “None of the [Black] characters are in “stereotypical” roles. “The two most important [professional] positions in the show are held by Afri-

played by Chandra Wilson, are both accomplished actors who have earned Screen Actors Guild Awards. The series also positively portrays people of other minority groups including Asian and GLBT communities. Sandra Oh, who plays Christina, is of Korean descent and T.R. Knight, who plays Dr. O’Malley, is openly gay.

International Affairs major, Samantha Huncharaek points out “by putting more African American characters in higher positions, “Grey’s” shows that anyone of any race is capable of holding those positions, which is how it should be in the real world.”

Self-Destruction of the Black Community

By: Jasmine Woods

Onyx contributor, Jasmine Woods, discussed the self-destruction with the Black community with Dr. Robin Chandler, associate professor at the African American Studies Department. In 2005, Chandler organized “Breaking Bread: Women of Color Dialogue,” a forum where women could openly discuss racial issues that affect ethnic minority communities. Both the media and the NU community criticized the event for its exclusion of non-minorities.

For years, the Black community struggled to overcome racism and discrimination for a pursuance of equal treatment. Extensive efforts of civil rights activists during the 1950s and 1960s paved the way for our parity today.

As Martin Luther King Jr. boldly stated, “Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.” That’s exactly what our ancestors did, and thanks to this phenomenal success that required unity and accordance among people of color, we live in a society in which racism from other ethnic groups is far less severe than it was in previous decades. Though it still exists, laws have been enacted to keep it to a minimum.

However, there is now a larger issue at hand, larger in that it is internal and cannot be fixed by laws or judicial systems. “Laws control the outward expression of intolerance, but they don’t control what you think and what you feel,” said Chandler.

“If you’re white, you’re right. If you’re yellow, you’re mellow. If you’re brown, stick around, and if you’re black, stay back.”

As African American people were striving for external liberation, much attention was not placed on the liberation of our internal notions. As a result, people of color have become both partakers and victims of Black on Black racism.

One example of this is an ideology that existed on several slave plantations, throughout the years of segregation and is still subconsciously present in the minds of African Americans today. The notion that lighter complexions and finer hair are indicators of a higher social status are still ingrained in our society. Dr. Chandler described these pathological thoughts as being part of an “embedded set of social beliefs and customs



Photo by Brittany Bass

within ethnic groups that create hierarchies of superiority and inferiority.” She pointed out an old saying: “If you’re white, you’re right. If you’re yellow, you’re mellow. If you’re brown, stick around, and if you’re black, stay back.” This saying was also referenced by Rev. Joseph Lowery during the benediction of President Barack Obama’s inauguration. Some people cheered upon hearing it, while others criticized it, failing to understand the history behind it.

This whole idea of darker skin being associated with inadequacy was exemplified through a “doll test,” designed by

psychologists Kenneth and Mamie Clark during the 1940s. Black children, ages three to seven, were shown dolls identical in everything but skin color. When asked a series of questions pertaining to which doll they preferred and wanted to be like, the majority of the children chose the White doll.

Though segregation was eliminated shortly after the Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas case, the idea of “colorism” lives on in the minds of unaware Black people and is made evident through many of today’s media trends. For instance, it is rare to see a Black female on TV wearing her natural hair. It’s typically, permed, straightened, or dyed blond, as in Beyoncé Knowles, Tyra Banks, or Keyshia Cole. Inherently, there is nothing wrong with

changing hair or appearance to reach a desired look, but when this is done without first realizing the beauty that lies within one’s natural aspects, it sets the stage for conformity and overlooked self-dissatisfaction.

By accepting the notion of “colorism”, whether intentionally or unintentionally,

one adopts the views of White America during the 17th and early 18th centuries, and becomes participants in what is known as “escape psychology.” As stated by Dr. Chandler, this term refers to the “ways in which people, particularly in communities of color or marginalized communities, in an effort to make social or political advancement demonize or reject ethnic others within their own ethnicity based on phenotypes or physical traits ...”

“It’s a strategy used when people try to cross class lines,” which brings up another misconception that perpetuates

Black on Black racism than ideas about complexions and hair texture.

It's an idea of boundaries and subordination that some of our ancestors adopted from White America at that time as well. Black people daring to excel are said to be acting "uppity," stepping outside of their limitations, and "acting White."

When broken down to its essence, that phrase is symbolic of the large intersection that exists between class and race. Somewhere in the middle of this intersection are confused people (of all ethnicities) who allow statistics, stereotypes and the media to guide their views of others. This is common and, in fact, very understandable, but still not okay.

When looking at the numbers, it's easy to see that a significant number of minorities fall into the lower-middle class. Anyone can refer to the U.S. Census Bureau and find data that supports stereotypes and the truth that lies in some of them. However, it takes a genuine person with ambition to search for the story that numbers can't tell.

Yes, the U.S. Census Bureau ac-



Photo by Brittany Bass

curately states that Black people have the lowest median income of all racial groups in U.S., and because of this, there is a common association of negativity with all people of color. There are two things wrong with this association. First, it assumes that everyone of a particular ethnicity is the same. Secondly,

it assumes that there is a pessimistic sentiment that goes along with being in the lower-middle class. That's not entirely true. In fact, people of both lower-middle class and higher-middle class have contributed to this country greatly.

Nevertheless, with the inaccurate idea that all people of color belong in the "negative," "inferior," lower class, it is no surprise that African Americans sometimes subconsciously develop animosity toward each other.

If a Black individual is prosperous, educated and a member of the upper class unknowingly has this idea in mind, he or she will naturally feel separated from other Black people. Likewise, if a Black person who is not as prosperous and falls into the lower-middle class unknowingly harbors this same notion (that people of color are meant to be inferior), that person will naturally deem upper class and/or more affluent Black people as "acting White."

Through this involuntary act, people give ownership of certain behavior traits, most often sophistication, wealth and to the race that has the largest presence in the upper class, which happens to be Caucasians.

Black on Black racism can cause African Americans to feel they are meant to be lesser, and therefore, have anger toward other black people who rise above this ignorant prospect.

It is pertinent to un-

derstand that being brilliant, articulate and a "go-getter" does not make one an outcast of the Black community, but rather an exception to the negative stereotypes of African Americans. Rising above negative and falsely created ideas, however, should not encourage one to turn against his or her own people with

"the beauty that lies within one's natural aspects, it sets the stage for conformity and overlooked self-dissatisfaction."

the illusion that he or she is superior to them. The perception that money, education, and material things create superiority is another fallacy that empowers the phenomenon of Black on Black racism. There is no harm in people having nice things, but the moment they lose themselves in their possessions and their social statuses and they distant themselves from their heritage.

If we continue to revert back to our negative history we will never progressively move forward. Though, we were lead to believe we were free from bondage in 1863, through the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, this is false. As long as we allow these feelings of inaccuracy to fester, we will remain captives of our own ignorance.

Dr. Chandler says, we can overcome the self-destruction that comes from not just Black on Black racism, but from a lack understanding between all people. With courage and initiative to seek an underlying truth, we can eliminate racism within our own minds and become assets to society by inspiring others to do so as well. Chandler states, "Once you see the world's brutalities as they really are, you either have to accept them or move to change the world."



The RoundTable is a forum for Northeastern students, staff, faculty and members from the outside community to discuss and debate on issues affecting ethnic minorities. The statements made by participants are not censored but are edited for space purposes.

The Family Unit

Join Onyx editor Margaret Kamara, contributor Dominique Walker (scribe) and participants: Courtnie Bennett, Marcus Howard, Rachel White and Nicholas Wisdom as they discuss their thoughts and experiences about their family, and the way families are perceived in society.

Courtnie Bennett: Freshman, Sociology/
African-American Studies

Markus Howard: Freshman, Majoring in
Engineering

Dominique Walker: Senior, Majoring in
Psychology

Rachel White: Middler, Majoring in Nursing

Nick Wisdom: Junior, Majoring in Accounting

Onyx: Welcome everyone. Let us go around to introduce ourselves, and then describe your family.

Markus: I have four sisters, two brothers. [Of my four sisters] I've lived with my whole life. The rest [of my siblings] are older and have moved out. My dad is always working night shifts. So during the day he's always sleeping and at night working so I never got to spend time with him, which I think affected me later on. [My] mom did everything for us basically.

Nick: I have four brothers, and I'm the second oldest. I have both parents, like Markus my father worked all day, my mom worked but was there most of the day. All of my brothers and I are about five years apart.

Rachel: I have one older brother and both of my parents work. My mom has either worked a night shift or day shift depending upon which job and my dad has worked the eight to five. My brother is four years older than me.

Courtnie: I am my mother's only biological child. I have a God sister who was raised with me. My parents divorced when I was two. My father has four other children besides me. I have an older sister who is married and has a kid. I also have a 12 year-old sister. My father's current wife has twins, a boy and a girl. All together I have three sisters and one brother. We all have different moms.

Dominique: I come from a two -parent home and I have a little sister. I was brought up in a very White area, we were the only black family. We had to live and act a certain way. My father works, my mom doesn't. When we were kids my father would always travel. We were raised more by my grandmother than my parents.

Onyx: What is the relationship between you and members of your family?

Markus: I feel disconnected from my father. Ever since I was really little my dad worked from three to midnight or one so when I got back from school he wasn't there and sometimes he worked overtime. It affected us now because we were not that close. But when I was little we were close [but now] we've

“we keep secrets because we fear what our parents will do, so we share everything with our friends.”

gotten closer. My mom has always been there because she worked a nine to five and she would pick my little sister and I up from school.

Onyx: Are you doing anything to address your relationship with your father since it's not really something you can control?

“they [parents] don’t really know who you are and what’s important to you”



Dominique Walker

Markus: Yes, just recently I found out they [my parents] were going through a divorce. I talked to both of them [and I] told them they shouldn’t do it. During that time I spoke to my dad, [I] talked to him about why we were not close.

Onyx: What were your parents’ reactions?

Markus: My mom was shocked. I didn’t tell them not to do it, I talked to them about it. I told them it’s their choice. I told [my father] how it could possibly change [our relationship]. My dad got the [divorce] notice on my mom’s birthday. He didn’t want to ruin [her day], but he did it later that night because he was in so much shock. Because my dad is jobless now he doesn’t have anywhere to go except back to North Carolina, where his family is.

Courtnie: When I was growing up I had a good relationship with my dad even though he wasn’t with my mom. If you have to choose a favorite parent I would say my father was my favorite parent because he didn’t scold me. My mother was the caregiver. The relationship went

south with my dad. Now, we have a very distant and hostile relationship. We can’t be around each other too long without him doing something to upset me. Now, we’re trying to mend the relationship. During the [winter] break, we talked about it and he even dropped me off to school. Now, we [try] to talk about once a day, not like heavy conversation, just something. Mom and I are similar we’ve always kind of butted heads up until recently; we have a very good relationship.

Rachel: I guess with my parents growing up they’ve always been really honest with me. People say I don’t look like them. They adopted me when I was four months from Korea. I used to not think about it until I was about five, when I was being told that based on my appearance I didn’t look like my parents. I never really thought about my family

at that point I realized I didn’t always look like the rest of my family, but it was never to the point where I would sit down and ask mom dad why don’t we look the same. I always accepted them as my mom, dad, and that’s my brother.

Nick: I have always been close with my mother; even today when I call I always talk to my mother first. Growing up she has always been my number one, Dad was always at work. My father is the one I’m not as close with. *(Markus interrupts)*

Markus: Do you think it’s because you are alike?

Nick: Maybe, I don’t know, in some ways we are alike. He is very opinionated person and when it comes to a topic he has to be right I like to compromise, and that can cause arguments because I’m willing to hear sides.



being white especially in the summer time, my mother gets so sunburn easily, and me I’m like “so why am I not turning red!” It’s never really affected me then and even now I didn’t know that skin tone made your family because

Markus: My dad and I are a lot alike that’s why I can’t get mad at him. We’re both stubborn; always have to be right and prove each other wrong. I do respect that when he’s wrong, he will

admit it but with me I won't admit it. I think that's why we argue a lot. (*Nick and Markus laugh*)

Nick: That's the opposite. I don't want to be wrong but I will admit it.

Rachel: I didn't really argue with my father because he worked the nine to five. ...It was normal for my brother and I are to go to our mom and be like settle the argument, not him. He was just like at times I can't deal with you go find your mother. My dad and I have a good relationship though he was not really around growing up. My mom and I are a lot closer and when she and I argue it ends up with me being wrong and her being right, and so I just let it go.

Courtnie: I've found out that parents and parents of my close friends; don't really know you as a person. Of course, they love you unconditionally and have all these plans for you but my parents, especially my mother, they don't really know who you are and what's

know their children, until they are much older. As we get older, we gain a respect and understanding to our parents. We also learn who we are as people and become independent. This question that was stated in my class was why is it that parents don't really know their children and friends tend to know us better? I believe it's because as children we sneak around, and we keep



secrets because we fear what our parents will do, so we share everything with our friends.

Nick: I think it's always natural you have one parent who you kind of gravitate towards who is there more.

Onyx: What creates the divide in family? Studies say one of the causes of

money than him. He feels she makes more money than him but it is not that big of a deal because we are still getting by. And he didn't go to college, which make it even harder like to find a decent job without a degree. My mom got her degree here at Northeastern and she has always had been the vice president of her department, she pays for basically everything but we are still getting through.

Courtnie: I have a personal problem with men who leave because they feel emasculated by a woman's strength. As a Jamaican woman, I know how the culture is propagated on masculinity. It's about men being men and women being women and men doing men things and women doing women things. If a man can't provide then he's not a father,

that's just retarded! Money is transitive; it comes and goes. I think of my father; he is unemployed now and this is a catalyst for all of his problems. Before, when he did work, he use to just pay for things, and now he has to deal with things and he is not equipped for it because he has no money to bury the

“I think people who say that those who come from single parent homes are not successful--I just don't see that”

important to you. For me, especially going through adolescent, my parents were just horrible! I felt like I generally despised them and I was like I can't wait to go to college to get out of this drama. At the end of it all and now that I am here and I am growing up I can sort of understand where they are coming from in certain things.

Dominique: I think parents don't really

the division in families is women. They say when women make more money than men [and that's] a problem. It states that males feel unworthy so they leave. What are your thoughts?

Markus: My mom has always made more money than my dad. It wasn't actually until recently when I had this conversation with him that he brought that up that she has always made more

problems.

Rachel: I think you are right because if people are not willing to talk about it, they just bury it but when it comes to the surface it's like a volcano erupting no one is equipped to deal with this type of disaster. It kind of sounds like your father is not willing to deal with this situations and he rather have

something else to hide under it.

Dominique: Communication is key. My parents are going on 25 years together. My father has never slept on another bed or the couch or anything. They do believe no matter what they should always sit down and communicate and they should never go to bed upset. It is important and it does break a relationship. And it is hard for men to communicate and deal with social issues. In society, communication is seen as a way to be vulnerable and men don't want to appear this way.

Onyx: What other factors cause the



Courtnie Bennett

divide?

Markus: I have something else to say. My family, I have learned a lot from them. My dad, he tries to tell me things but I am too stubborn. I always say I know, but I don't really know it (*everyone laughs*). But I have learned so much from my dad even though he hasn't been around. He is teaching me how to be a man. He is that manly man but he also has that compassionate side to him, which is like good. He never wants to go to bed mad at somebody. Like me, we may get into an argument and talk all day, but when it comes to the end of the night he would apologize

even though it's not him but it's probably me which make me apologize. Ah, he is not religious, he does not go to church every Sunday but he says his prayers every night before he goes to bed. He's taught me things like; well this is his own thing but I kind of took it from him; don't let anyone mess with you woman, money and food. (*everyone laughs*) And I held that up every time he's told me this. I never really saw it that way till he said that. My mom has taught me to be driven, be a nice person. I have also learned from my siblings. You learn from your family and that is one of the things that keep a family together.

You know how I say I feel disconnected from my dad? Honestly if they got a divorce I would probably go with my dad. Because we haven't been close like that it would be my chance to be closer to him. I know my mom and I will always be close and will always talk, why not start a relationship with my other parent? Unconditional love is what makes family, do everything for your family.

Courtnie: Good or bad you always learn something from your family, they shape who you have become. When you see people go through things you learn to apply it how you want to your life. My sister, she is still one of my best friends and I admire her. The way she can rise above the situation from my father and make herself a better wife, mother and sister and just forgive that's admirable and I want to get to a place like that. She's only 22 and she's already at a place of peace even with all the things she's gone through.

Onyx: Is it true that people who come from two-parent homes are more successful? Look at our new president, he did not grow up in the traditional parent home but was raised by his grandparents and he is successful. (*Group laughs*)

Rachel: It's what you make of it. I mean people can say have all these disadvantages, am sorry for that, but that's no reason to be pitied. Some people don't use that and they rise above it. If you have everything handed to you it does not mean you are going to be successful.

Dominique: There was a woman, she was on the "View," she wrote this book about single mom and how single mom's children end up being rapist, she is not a parent or married, but she wrote a book on this subject. She was saying that single mother need to stop complaining, making excuses and using the system. It was interesting because Whoopi [Goldberg] called her out, and said to her 'you can't say this you have no experience'.

Rachel: She needs to spend a day and take every single mother's child and try to raise them and then she can say these statements.

Dominique: One thing that I love is that my boyfriend [Robert], he is one of five and their mother raised them all. She got her Ph.D. while raising all five kids and she has done a lot for herself. I don't think that just because you come from a single parent home you are doom or anything.

Rachel: I think you are right, look at your boyfriend's mom; she has to be an inspiration to her own children. I think people who say that those who come from single-parent homes are not successful I just don't see that. I guess because I grew up with people who have single-family homes their aspiration is going to college. Their parents have told them I want this for us and they were pushed harder in school than other kids. I want you to not struggle the same way that I have, I want you to experience life to its fullest.

Dominique: I definitely agree with that because my parents, boy did they put pressure on us for education. I

remember from birth my father was like education! But I see Robert has so much respect and admiration for his



Rachel White

mother and how he takes education just as seriously as I do, but at the same time he had an advantage because he did not experience the same pressures, instead just a trust between him and his mother to get his schooling done.

Courtnie: My mom is like his mom, (Robert's mom). She is a registered nurse, she sent herself to school while she had me. In high school, I put a lot of pressure on myself to do well because we had that understanding. Sometimes I would be afraid that my mom would choke me if I had a B, but she says as long as I'm doing what I'm supposed to do it doesn't matter. I know a lot of people who have both parents and they do not care about school. It's just not important to them.

Onyx: What does your relationships look like in the future, based on what you have learned from your relationship with your family members? Will you be like your parents?

Markus: You take what you learn, what you want to do and what you don't want to do. How you want to be like them and how you don't want to be like them. I am probably not going to work a night shift, (*group laughs*). I have learned not to go to sleep mad at somebody, say my prayers at night, be driven, and do what you do. Don't be too hard on them; I have always had a lot of leeway with school and everything else. I think I'll make the right choice. Basically, take what you've learn and run with it.

Dominique: I learn that parents who are hard on children, they think that it can be a positive but sometimes it can come back on them and be negative. Because even with children today, I tell my parents sometimes that that pressure is what makes it hard to talk. It's even hard for parents to acknowledge that the things we see and do and what they taught us we need to apply. Rearing a child can end up in a negative way. I definitely take things from my parents on what I will do and wouldn't do. My father and I have as lot of respect for one another, great communication skills and I can see that continuing.

Rachel: I have learned from my parents. They were married after my mom had my brother, and she had to go back to school and worked to be a nurse, and my father supported that. I

need that support too because after this I plan to go to medical school, there's going to be a need for an understanding that I'm going to spend my life in the hospital. My co-workers will see me more often than you may see me and if you don't like that then maybe we should talk about that because its not fair for the person to go through a relationship and keep going on when you hate that that someone is not being there.

Courtnie: I don't know. I know there's a lot I wouldn't do. Well with my mom and her fiancé now I like that they are friends and laugh at each other. There are just clowns. They are comfortable being around each other. Despite everything, their problems both of them are never not themselves. Back to my future, I want someone who is going to love me for me. Sometimes I can't see how they can stand each other but I guess that's when you know you have found the right person. They're fun, they eat dinner together they talk like they are friends. You can be yourself. I want that for me in the future.

Nick: I could say you can learn things from your parents for things you would do and wouldn't do in a relationship. Communication, being able to work through the problems you might have, being supportive of each other and being and letting each other be each other. Like you said, just being there for each other, whether it's emotionally or financially.

Onyx: Thank you guys so much! I

➔ Interested in joining a Round Table discussion? You too can be part of the experience. Send an email to managingeditor@gmail.com to volunteer!

24 Random Black History Facts

1. Martin Luther King Jr. changed his name from Michael to Martin Luther to pay homage to the great philosopher Martin Luther.
2. The first woman and African American to run for presidential candidate and be elected to the United States House of Representatives was Shirley Chisholm.
3. The first African woman to own-and-operate a newspaper was Charlotta Bass.
4. The first African American U.S. Senator was Hiram Revels; the Mississippi Legislature elected him in 1870.
5. Lena Baker, an African American woman, is the only woman to ever be put to death in Georgia's electric chair.
6. E. Frederic Morrow, an African American man, was the first man to hold an executive position at the White House; he was appointed to administrative aide by President Eisenhower in 1952.
7. The first African woman to earn a Ph.D. in United States at University of Pennsylvania in 1921.
8. Edward Alexander Bouchet, an African American, was the first Black man to obtain a Ph.D. in the United States at Yale University in 1876.
9. The first and only African American member of Thomas Edison's engineering laboratory was Lewis Howard Latimer.
10. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated is the only Historically Black Fraternity/Sorority that was founded at an Ivy League institution.
11. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated was the first African American organization to be recognized by the United Nations.
12. The first Black supermodel to appear in VOGUE fashion magazine was Donyale Luna in 1966.
13. Willie O'Ree was the first African Canadian NHL hockey player who played for Boston Bruins in 1958.
14. One of the first African American NFL player and the first African American NFL coach was Fritz Pollard.
15. *The Onyx's* Advisor, Dr. Vanessa Johnson is the only African American in the nation to chair the Graduate Department of Applied Psychology and Counseling.
16. The first president of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, graduated from Lincoln University.
17. The first African model to become a spokeswoman of, cosmetic company, Estee Lauder was Liya Kebede.
18. Dr. Lolita Shante Gooden, also known as Roxanne Shante, was the first female rapper to earned Ph.D. in psychology from Cornell University.
19. The youngest head coach to win the AFC Championships is the Pittsburgh Steelers' Mike Tomlin.
20. Suzan-Lori Parks was the first African American woman playwright to win the Pulitzer Prize for "Topdog /Underdog."
21. The first African American/woman to hold the position of director of U.S. Peace Corp was Carolyn Robertson Payton.
22. *Freedom Journal* was the first own-and-operated Black newspaper, which was established in 1827.
23. Macon Allen was the first African American to earn a license to practice law in the United States (specifically Boston, Massachusetts.)
24. The longest –running African American sitcoms is "Girlfriends" (created by Mara Brock Akil, who is became one of youngest African American creator.)

Allean Beane

BY: MARGARET KAMARA



Allean Beane (right) with other members of the Northeastern community; Cynthia Brown (left) and Beverly Russell (middle) at the NU Arts in the Park, part of the week long of events that took place to observe the inauguration of President Joseph E. Aoun in 2007.

Photo by Craig Bailey

She is the first person that you see when you walk in the Student Activities Business Office. She has a serious look. Though she does not say much it is clear that she does not take any none sense. This is the perception students have of Mrs. Allean Beane, administrative staff assistant of the student business office.

When asked about this Beane laughs. “I don’t know. My facial expression has always shown; it is the way I am. I am exactly like this at home, it’s not something I have to turn off and back on.”

For seventeen years “and still counting,” Allean has watched Northeastern University grow from a commuter school to an internationally recognized institution and students leaders develop from trainee s to professionals. Her dedication, she says is to serving the NU community.

“I don’t think you get the instant gratification from Cooperate America as I get from working with students, helping them with their questions about accounting and you see the light bulb cone on (in their head). I think it’s amazing to be part of their development.”

Currently, Beane is chair of Northeastern’s Staff Council, a member of the Black Faculty and Staff Council, co-advisor of UTSAV (NU’s South Asian Student Organization). She was also part of Legacy 2000, a mentoring program for students of color. Her outside NU involvement includes being a member of Concord Baptist Church, in Boston, the Order of the Eastern Stars.

Speak.
your piece

“Diplomacy is key; both sides must put an end to this at once.”

A Student's Response to the Israeli-Gaza Conflict

When a country is attacked, by an individual, group, or nation, it has every right to defend itself. However, defense must be pursued in a socially responsible and swift manner. The attack should be of equal or lesser force.

The Israeli response to rocket fire from the terrorist organization, Hamas, is a shame. Hundreds of people in Gaza have died because of the outlandish military force used, compared to the pathetic rocket fire from Hamas. Fire from Hamas is weak and can barely reach Israeli towns, while Israeli munitions have proven to be powerful while possessing technologically advanced capabilities. Comparing numbers is a must in this situation. Twelve days after conflict erupted once again, more than 770 Palestinians were killed and at least 2500 were injured. Whole families were wiped out and 40 percent of the casualties were concluded to be of women and children. On the Israeli side, four citizens were killed since the start of the war.

Let's not have these numbers cloud our judgment, Hamas is a terrorist organization and an extremist faction that should be stopped. However, Israel is committing a hot headed, terrible mistake in their response to the situation. Not only are these attacks out of

line (i.e. the attack of a UN Refugee camp); they will create a new wave of social insecurities among factions in the neighborhood. The Israelis are planting a seed, and with its growth we will see the production of new and desperate martyrs. Diplomacy is key; both sides must put an end to this at once. What will come out of this one is going to be big.

“Hundreds of people in Gaza have died because of the outlandish military force used...”

Additionally, Hamas has made a clear commitment in their doctrine. They have pledged to fight the occupation of the Palestinian territories and destroy the state of Israel. As response to this, Israel has also used soft power to retaliate to attacks from Hamas. They cut relations with Gaza after the group seized power from the rival Fatah party, which controls the West Bank.

The issue now is the rebuilding after the conflict is put to a halt. The

infrastructure in Gaza has been brutally damaged by the Israeli military response. Basic supplies such as food, petrol, and electricity are extremely limited. I would like to see Israel change its policy toward Gaza after a cease-fire. As we speak, families are lacking the basic needs necessary for survival. The present embargo will have to be lifted for the sake of human rights in Gaza. Even the United Nations agrees that restrictions must be eased in order to pursue reconstruction.

As a final anecdote, it is necessary to point out that in a world where individuals are constantly bombarded by news media; it is easy for one to become accustomed to constant reports of conflicts in the world, particularly in the Middle East. What is happening is very real, and we cannot get used to the present violence. It may be out of site, but it cannot be out of mind.

*Edwin Figueroa, '09
International Affairs
Political Science
Middle Eastern Studies*

Out & About

The Annual Martin Luther King Convocation, commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., held on January 14. It was sponsored by the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute featured performances celebrating African-American culture, as well as speakers including President Joseph E. Aoun and Rev. Dr. John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., executive dean and associate professor at George Washington University.



Photo by Craig Bailey



Photo by Craig Bailey



Photo by Devin Phillip



Photo by Devin Phillip

Inauguration 09'



Photo by Victoria L.B. Hamilton

On January 20 the nation watched as Barack Obama was sworn in by Chief Justice John G. Robert, as the first African American president of the United States. The inauguration was held on the west front steps of the Capitol. As President Obama so eloquently said, “The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.” As President Barack Obama addressed the nation, Michelle, Sasha and Malia Obama could be seen in the background smiling.

Later that night, the presidential and vice presidential family celebrated at numerous inaugural balls that were hosted throughout Washington, D.C.

Students from various colleges, including Northeastern, captured this historical moment.



Photo by Victoria L.B. Hamilton



Photo by Victoria L.B. Hamilton



Photo by Andrew McConnell

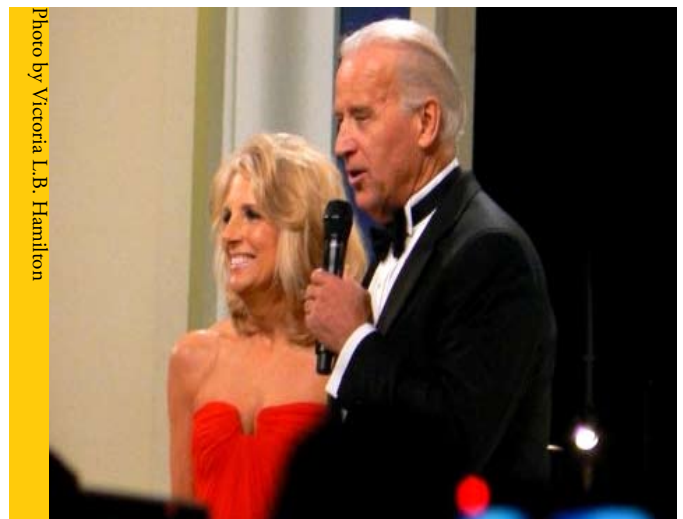


Photo by Victoria L.B. Hamilton

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

More Than Just Friends

Dear Mr. Nubian,
What should I do if I start to develop feelings for my friend, who is already involved?

Signed,
I want more than friendship

Dear I want more than friendship, Friendship is a bond that unifies two willing individuals. Sometimes this situation escalates into fiery romantic passion, all the making for a fairy tale ending...BUT HE (OR SHE) IS TAKEN! ROADBLOCK! I hope that you can set aside your personal feelings and focus on your friendship. If you've been friends for a while then it is clear that you have a history together, which may not be worth risking. However, if your friendship is very young you can try taking a chance but remember your friend already has a partner. See if your friend's relationship is serious or just for the moment, and decide whether to make a move based on this. Think about as if the shoe were on the other foot. How would you feel? Yeah...you would

not be cool with that. My experience in life has taught me that if it is meant to be it will be...peace and blessings!
-Mr. Nubian

Need a Man not a Toy

Dear Ms. Nubian,
Recently, this guy approached me and he seemed very confident and secure in his own skin but lately he's been acting quite coy. I mean he was the one who approached me so clearly he liked something about me but now he doesn't seem that into me. Why do men approach women but don't want to pursue a relationship?

Signed,
I need a man not a boy!

Dear I need a man to be a man, Believe it or not, most guys are human; they get shy and insecure sometimes. There is a stereotype that men are the confident ones and girls are the shy ones. This is incorrect.

However, in this case it looks like

the guy is confident when it comes to flirting with you, but when it comes to making the first move towards an official relationship; he's lacking. This leads me to either two conclusions. Number one, he's all talk and you're going to have to make the first move if you actually want something to happen. Number two, he's not actually shy or afraid at all; he just isn't looking for a commitment. Either way, he is hiding something that you need to get to the bottom of.

Now if you're interested in a certain guy who is acting this way, I would make the first move by asking him what's up, is he interested, does he want to take this a step further. If he does, ask him why he didn't say something sooner. If he's not, move on and find someone who isn't going to lead you on and is going to make moves when a good opportunity comes along (i.e., being with you.)

Good luck girl!

-Ms. Nubian

Horoscopes

The Onyx Informer's own video vixen Bambi gives astrology advice to all those lovers just in time for Valentine's Day.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19

You've been thinking about getting back in shape before the warm weather hits and you're the only one stuck at the beach in a full tracksuit. But somehow you keep "forgetting" the hours at Marino and that extra cookie from the café always seems to end up on your plate. Honey, you're not fooling anyone. Stop thinking and start doing!

Pisces Feb. 20-March 20

It's been weeks and you still haven't received "the call." Your friends have dutifully given you reason after reason why this could be (after all, this is the time of year when classes are most hectic and some people are just intimidated by someone who seems too good to be true). What they're really trying to muster up the courage to say is that some things just aren't meant to be. Do everyone a favor...count your losses and move on.

Aries March 21-April 19

This recession is in full swing and it seems like it may take a while for the Obama administration to get things under wraps. You, however, have seemed to master the art of living well beyond your means. Your bills haven't been paid in months yet you somehow manage to have the entire collection from "Rip the Runway" hanging in your closet. Cutting back isn't even an option for you. Believe me sweetie; you just need to stop!

Taurus April 20-May 20

Things seem to have gotten out of whack in your life lately. Somehow your personal life is affecting your schoolwork and academics keep getting in the way of having fun. After all, the real reason you're here is to make as many Facebook and MySpace friends as possible, right? Think again. With every class you take (and fail), Northeastern's pockets will get bigger and bigger. Surprisingly, yours will only shrink.

Gemini May 21-June 20

One lie always breeds another and your tally seems to be on the rise. But lately things have seem to unravel. The guilt is written all over your face and your secret has never really been safe with anyone. If you really want to deceive people, you're going to have to step your game up. After all, if you're going to be known as a liar, you may as well make the effort to deserve the name.

Cancer June 21-July 22

Maybe things haven't been going your way for a while. Everyone's prone to at least one bad spell every now and then. But the pity party ends here. Your friends can only listen to "woe is me" but so many times before they start plotting ways to kick you off BFF island. Someone's gotta tell it to you and I'm glad it could be me. Get off your butt and get your life in order.

Leo July 23-Aug. 22

Recently you've made a mistake and though no one's had the cojones to tell you exactly how big it was, we both know it was a whopper ::Sigh:: What's done is done, hun! You can only hope to learn from your past. Just remember it's always best to listen to your conscience rather than your friend. Because unlike Keisha or Craig, it's there for life and it never says "I told you so."

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Looks like someone will need a very big favor from you towards the end of the month and the timing just couldn't be any worse for you. My suggestion is that you suck it up and put someone else first for a change but we both know this is highly unlikely. Of course it's up to you to do as you please but keep in mind that sometimes karma is more than a bitch.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Beauty really must be in the eye of the beholder because you and your new love interest seem to be a miss-match made in heaven. Even your friends know this is true though they tell you they "approve." Some things may seem worth holding onto but like the tired fads of 2008, you really need to let it go.

Scorpio Oct. 23- Nov. 21

With someone new attempting to infiltrate your circle of trust you should stay true to the mantra that all that glitters isn't gold. You may believe they're not after anything in particular but, honey, you're not that special. Ha! You'll be used and thrown out like yesterday's trash. Don't say I didn't warn you. There's a thin line between trusting and just plain dumb...

Sagittarius Nov. 22- Dec. 21

You may not be known for your luck when it comes to the big things but surprisingly you managed to capture someone's attention this time around. Before we get excited, let's try to focus on not screwing it up...many would say just follow your instincts and it will all pan out. But in your case, this couldn't be farther from the truth. Head to Barnes & Noble and pick up as many "how-to" guides as possible before someone gets hurt.

Capricorn Dec. 22- Jan 19

Time for a makeover! There's something about you that isn't quite working for you or anyone around you. Before you do anything else you need to work on doing something new for yourself. I say you find and confront this issue head on so that you can focus on bigger and more important things... and so that your friend can stop lying in your face, it's hard work you know!

My Love Andrew J,
I wish you'd consider me, over Rachel. You're guaranteed a better time. Can't wait to lock lips,
Lover.
-Anonymous

Dougie,
Dougelius, I enjoy every minute we spend together. Between Pimp Lucious and Fire + Ice, we've had many great times. There are many more to come!
Love,
Jan-nay-nay

Jordan,
Happy Valentine's Day Jordan!
Thank you for keeping my hands warm in the winter weather.
Love,
Elsie

Emem,
Where would I be without you? You have been such a blessing. BFF!
Love you Always,
Tina

Hi,
I want you to know you are my life! You make my heart smile. I look in your eyes and fall in love all over again! Baby I love you! Christine McDonough!
Love,
Sasha

Jordan,
Happy Valentine's Day Jordan!
Thank you for keeping my hands warm in the winter weather.
Love,
Elsie

To Valerie, Junelia, Dayina & Christian,
Thanks 4 being there. Even though there were times that I wasn't there, y'all were still there & still my friend through it all.
Love you guys,
Kunbi

Dear Money,
Love is love, Money, will you marry me?
Love,
Stickz

Jordan,
Happy Valentine's Day Jordan!
Thank you for keeping my hands warm in the winter weather.
Love,
Elsie

Kelly,
Happy Valentines Day Roomie! I love you and hope this semester eases up for you!!
Love,
Jess

Karelle,
I am so blessed to have you in my life. You are such an amazing person. I love you so much! BFF!
Always,
Tina

Davenport A Staff,
Sandra, Matt, Sam, Dan, Claude, Temple and Josh...I love you guys! Thank you for making this year amazing! Cheers to the best staff...I love you all! Would You Be My Valentine?!
Kisses and Lap Dances,
Asha

Hey!
I'm giving a BIG Valentine's shout out to my girls who've been holding me down since freshman yr. LOVE YOU GUYS! *You know who you are.
Mucho Besos,
Auri

2: X-Kalibur
Sweetie, you are a diamond in the rough...and your existence is a blessing to those around you. Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Auri

To my truest friends,
Kunbi, Valerie, Junelia, Dayina, Christian, & Shawlette. It has been a long road but we made it to the end, together. I love you all and wish you nothing but success & happiness!
Love always,
Irma

To the ladies of Onyx,
Shout out to Makieya, Shanise,
Alexa, Margaret for working with the
magazine!
Love,
Stickz

To my best friend Irma,
I wish you a Happy Valentine's
Day!!! You are such a great friend & I
thank you for your support & love!!!
Thanks 4 being a great friend!!!
-Kunbi

Sabrina,
Happy Valentine's Day! Thanks for
your help YARA and everything else!
Love,
Roland

DAAS Workstudy Staff,
Wishing you all a Happy Valentine's
Day, Thank you all for being a
wonderful family.
-Roland

Some gorgeous red-haired mixed
girl,
You need to be my valentine ASAP
because there needs to be a meeting in
my bedroom (in the silk voice)
Looking forward to meeting you,
waiting for you

Brittany,
Happy Valentine's Day! Thanks for
your help YARA and everything else!
Love,
Roland

Sexy Single Ladies,
Free kisses will be provided for all
true believers of Love and Heart Ache.
Love,
Dem Pretty Boy NUPES

Jennifer Vincent,
Will you be my valentine?
Naomi

Bethel,
Happy Valentine's Day! Thanks for
your help YARA and everything else!
Love,
Roland

Dear Boo,
Can't wait to have your babies be-
cause you make me crazy, and all day we
get wavy Baby!
Love,
Brooklyn

To the sisters of Delta Phi Omega,
Happy Valentine's Day! I love you
girls!
Love,
Amrita

Dalinda,
Happy Valentine's Day! Thanks for
your help YARA and everything else!
Love,
Roland

Still waiting for it to come my
way...
Anonymous

To my female sticks,
I'm at a loss for words. Happy
Valentine's Day. Shout out to money!
From,
Sticks

Dear Alex,
Be my Valentine? I love you!
Love,
Your sister

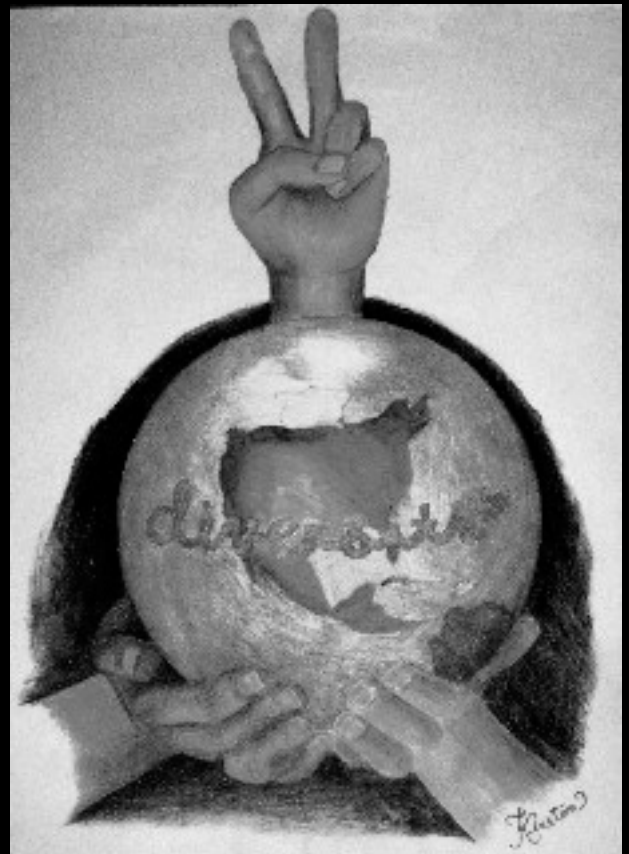
SOUL *speech*

Submit to SoulSpeech
onyxsubmission@gmail.com

Baller *By Brittany Bass*



Diversity *By Kristen Forsberg*



Blushing Bride *By Brittany Bass*



Just the way you look tonight

Just the way you look tonight
With the magic in your eyes
The power that you have placed within me
Makes me always want to smile
I have always yearned for your touch
And your powerful kiss
Given to me on the forehead
As enduring as it has always been
You have always made me feel like summer
With a cool breeze in the wind
I want to sit between your legs on the concrete walk-up
With your arms around my shoulders looking to the sky
I want to listen to your heartbeat as you listen to my dreams
And I want us to listen to our heartbeats dancing in the warm wind
But after tonight you have to return
To fight a battle that I can not be apart of
I was never courageous as you to fight in a war
But I have been strong enough to hold your heart in my soul
I wait for the day that you return to me again
So that I can say just the way you look tonight makes my world
Worthwhile...

By Alexa Harper-Lewis

H.E.R. Mistress

Hip Hop needs an intervention. Oh yes, she (Or he for all my ladies!) needs to be sat down with all of her closest loved ones and told about herself. Now besides the obvious interventions needed i.e. weak lyricism, oversaturated beats, and frontin' a\$\$ emcees, there is one problem that may be too deep to fix. Now I personally believe that most things can be experienced in moderation. But Hip Hop passed moderation and crashed into overdose before any of us could blink.

Drugs and Hip Hop jumped the broom, broke the plate, said "I Do" a long time ago (mid eighties?). They have been happily ever after since. No six month separation, no two-week break up, no 24 hour ignored phone calls, none of that. There are reasons for their impeccably flawless relationship. Some of these reasons are both obvious and unfortunate. Others may not be as easily recognized.

Let's pump crack, poverty, disease, and education deprivation all in one place and see what we cook up: certainly an interesting project. Hey, why not call it the projects?! Whether that's irony or ignorance is neither here nor there (you decide). Communities suffer hard. Drugs have been a solace, a salvation, and a suicide for urban ghettos nation -wide.

As drugs damaged some and delivered others, music came along for the ride. Some of our best musicians, our smartest song-writers, our strongest voices, lost control of their substance use. Drugs traveled throughout the following years from R&B to the newfound Hip Hop of the late eighties. Fast forward 20 years ahead to today and drugs and Hip Hop are stronger than ever.

These days the relationship is a tad different. Sort of like if you just start out dating someone and two months later your other half becomes obsessed. But not the obsession that initially comes to mind. This isn't a behind the scenes type of thing that only you know about your boo. This is the shameless, fearless type that will stand on a mountain and pronounce their love for you. THAT O.D. LOVE!

It's gone so far now that people have added another sub-genre to Hip Hop: "Cocaine Rap." As I sit and write this article with my itunes on shuffle, three songs have popped up already with drug references laced (pun intended) all over the track. Shame on me, right? Jay-Z, Young Jeezy, The Clipse, Camron, Gucci Man, Rick Ross, Santana...I'm out of breath and I'm only typing! The list goes on kids. Everyone is a Dope Boy!

Don't let me misguide you. I'm not saying that there aren't musicians with legit drug relations. We all remember losing Pimp C in 2007 to Promethazine/Codeine aka "syrup." With Pimp C being a foundation of southern hip hop, it's safe to say this was a big blow to the game. Lil Wayne doesn't fall too far behind Pimp C's stride, having a serious syrup addiction and no sign of quitting in sight. How can we forget our boy Snoop? I mean I'm a vegetarian, naturally making me a tree hugger. But Snoop stays one blunt away from being bagged at all times. Get it together!

Now back to the session at hand. In my opinion, the game (universally speaking) drips morphine from every verse. I'm a fan of lyricism. I won't deny that drug references can provide some hot wordplay. But have we gone too far? Is longevity in this game synonymous with narcotics? Furthermore, is it doing our community any good? Our boy, Jelani, senior music industry major, sheds some light on the issue.

"In the vast array of Hip Hop Culture, I wouldn't say a lot of MCs have based their careers off of being "Drug King Pins." I will say, however, that some very influential MCs have depicted the struggles they lived and grew up around and slightly embellished upon them. There are plenty of MCs who haven't. But some very influential ones have. To the credit of those who have, none of them STRICTLY rap about drug dealing. All of them were able to show versatility at one point or another." Touché Jelani, touché.

J brings up a valid point. Hip Hop is vast and not everyone is talking about drugs. Furthermore, there are those who actually lived that life before and have a reason to rap about it. I love everything about Hip Hop and I try to maintain critical honesty at all times. As emcees we are given this extraordinary opportunity to spread our word to millions and at times we choose to say ordinary and redundant things.

Yes, that isn't everybody in the game. But everybody doesn't get the same look. A kid who looked up to the dope boy looked up to the dope boy. Nobody was looking at the middleman even though they're both were getting paid! With our youth especially, Talib and Lupe may get overlooked for the Ross and Jeezy. If they are going to get pushed aside, what will the other two artists do with the spotlight?

Words are heavy. Nobody is forced to be a role model. But here we are. Everybody is somebody to someone. Why not create the greatest effect? Why not showcase your whole portfolio, let these kids hear everything they can be.

"I think about these talented kids/
with new ideas being told
of what they can and can't spit/
I can't stand and watch it/
So
Shit I'ma drop it/ LIKE IT OR NOT" -Nas "Hero"

"Whether they like it or not, let's make the most of every bar, every hook, and every beat. I know drugs weren't the only things we learned along the way. It was good while it lasted, but we gotta let it burn. NEXT!" -Rayel

To Kimberly Clarke,

To my loving wife for dealing with all my man strife. I wanted to let you know you my boo fo sho!

Love,
Hubby

To the Latin American Student Organization for making my years at NU some of the best. I love you all ¡Siempre Familia!

-Joshua

To my Ezzy,

Happy Valentine's Day Babe! I just figured I'd give you a shout out so that not only you know that I love you, but the whole NU community and more! I love you!

Your Love,
Michelle

Imani,
Your love to me has enlightened my world and given me the hope of believing in a new tomorrow with renewed faith in our Creator.

Love,
Kantig

Dr. Bill Tita, CBA

For always being there for your students; Happy Valentine's Day!

-Roland

I would like to give a Valentine shout-out to the lovely ladies of the Kappa NU Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc!! Eee-yip!!!

Love,
Your Soror, Kunbi

To my true love money,

I love you forever.

Love,
Sticks

Emily,
Thanks for being the most amazing roommate ever. Cheers to us, I love you babes!

Love,
Laura Nelson

Mariama,
Keep your love for mommy and daddy and increase each day as we instruct you how to love others.

Love,
Dad

Ren,
There is no amount of words to truly describe how I feel about you. When we're together, all my worries seem to disappear. You make me so happy and with everyday that passes, I know more and more that what we have is real. Remember...though we are apart, you are always on my mind. Happy Valentine's Day Baby!

Love,
Tina