

the
INFORMER

ONYX

September 2007

Welcome!

Welcome letters from NU's
Cultural Centers

NU Student Groups

Through the eyes of their
presidents.

Peter Roby

Making History



start in the right direction

TIPS FOR FRESHMEN ON PARTIES, MEN, WOMEN, AND MORE

ONYX

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.

Contents September 2007

EDITORIAL

- (3)** Wisdom for the Ages
- (4)** The Onyx is Yours

EDUTAINMENT

- (8)** The Trouble with Disney

FEATURES

- (6)** ONYX Staff Testimonials
- (9)** Tips to the Freshmen
- (11)** Welcome from Northeastern University's Cultural Centers

OUT AND ABOUT

- (16)** Student Groups: Through the eyes of their presidents

SPOTLIGHT

- (20)** Peter Roby – Making History

TALK BACK

- (21)** Ms. Nubian
- (22)** Round Table



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Wisdom for the Ages



Wow, this is it: my first issue as Editor-in-Chief of The Onyx Informer. I have only been in this position for a few months and it feels like a lifetime! I started off as a staff writer, then a copy editor, managing editor and now I'm in the big chair. While the tasks often seem daunting, being at the helm of the Onyx is one of the most rewarding experiences I could have ever asked for. I want all of our readers to know that I am firmly dedicated to making this year the Onyx's best year ever.

That said, I would like to welcome the new students-freshmen and transfers alike to Northeastern. I wish you the best of luck in your assimilation to our campus. Be sure to check out what have for you in this issue. From information about our cultural centers and student groups to advice about how to handle year one, the Onyx is here to help you adjust. And take to heart the quote from Langston Hughes. It's no secret that along with the fun and excitement of becoming an adult, you will face challenges and hardships. While these situations may not be under your control, you do have the power to decide how you're going to face them. It seems cliché to say that anything is

I have discovered in life that there are ways of getting almost anywhere you want to go, if you really want to go."

~Langston Hughes

possible, but if you really want something, go for it! You owe yourself that.

To returning students, remember why you're here. You have made it this far and with hard work and determination you can go all the way. We all know that it only gets harder with every semester, but think of how good it will feel to know you've accomplished all you set out to do.

For everyone, become active in the NU community and get involved in something that you will treasure years after you leave. College is supposed to be the best time of your life, but it will only be what you decide to make of it.

As for the Onyx, we're going to continue to improve and excel beyond any of our expectations. Inside this issue we have a Q&A with Athletic Director Peter Roby that will inspire you, a Roundtable that will get you thinking (and hopefully talking), and a host of other features that we know you will enjoy.

And, as always, I encourage all of you to come to our meetings, become part of the staff, or submit ideas. If there's something you don't like or something you want see, let us know! Your feedback is invaluable to our publication and I earnestly hope that you will take advantage of all we have to offer.

Candice Springer
Editor-in-Chief
editorinchiefonyx@yahoo.com



The Onyx is Yours

Several months ago, a senior confessed to me he did not know what The Onyx Informer was and he caught me off guard. My first reaction was to block my ears and pretend I did not hear him. But he asked the question again and this time I could not ignore him. His question echoed in my mind over and over. How was it that a student of color, who had been at this university for five years, was not familiar with the Onyx?

After I was able to compose myself, I smiled and answered, "It's a news magazine that aims to be the voice of the people of the African Diaspora on campus and in the neighboring communities."

But what I realized after talking to him was, as disappointing as it is to admit, there are a significant number of people who are also unaware of this publication.

If you are one of these people, regardless of the reason why, then WELCOME!

Welcome to a new beginning of becoming an Informer junkie. The Onyx is here to help enhance your Northeastern experience, so take advantage of it.

Regardless of your major or concentration, joining the Onyx team can provide you with valuable experience. Or maybe you just need to get something off your chest. Do it with words by publishing it in the Onyx.

The Onyx Informer stands proudly as the

only student publication on campus that caters directly to those of the African Diaspora and other people of color, so help make this year the best in Onyx history. Come to our weekly meetings, join our group on Facebook or find us on the web as www.onyx.neu.edu. You can also send us an email at onyxinformer@yahoo.com.

"Welcome to a new beginning of becoming an Informer junkie. The Onyx is here to help enhance your Northeastern experience so take advantage of it."

I'm hoping you will help us create our new beginning because the Onyx is back and ready to take on the year with full force!

Margaret Kamara

Managing Editor
managingeditoronyx@yahoo.com

ONYX

ADVERTISE IN THE ONYX

If you would like to advertise with us please e-mail us at onyxinformeradvertising@yahoo.com.

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 onyxinformer@yahoo.com or editorinchiefonyx@yahoo.com.

SUBMISSIONS

If you are interested in contributing your work to any of our sections including Speak Your Piece and SoulSpeech, please email us at onyxsubmissions@yahoo.com.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

Changes at the African American Institute – What's going on and what does this mean for us?

and

The Onyx Remembers a Civil Rights Champion

COMING SOON:

The Onyx Hits The Web!

Onyx

Testimonials

Margaret Kamara

Managing Editor

Every year it seems as though I become more excited about being a part of what I consider a written record of the legacy that people of color are making every day here at Northeastern. This year, as the managing editor, I am scared to hold such an important position, but I know my passion for writing and telling the stories of people I have met will help calm this fear. The Onyx Informer is stronger than ever and I am honored to be on board!

Ivelisse Sanchez

Submissions Editor

The Onyx has been a part of my life since my freshman year. It has been the source of frustration, happiness, and sadness, but overall a source of personal and professional growth. Joining the staff has been the best experience of my life. All of us are unique and though some of our personalities are like night and day we are collectively one unit whose main goal is to produce the Onyx and make it everything it should be.

Being a writer, editor, and overall contributor has given me a wide range of interpersonal skills I couldn't learn in the classroom and taught me the value of teamwork, communication, and patience. Though the Onyx isn't perfect, it has been the perfect fit into my life. Being able to do what I love while working side by side with people I respect has made all the sleepless nights of talking, editing, and screaming worth it.

Chris Cummings

Business Manager

To me the Onyx is an introduction for students to confront the problems and challenges they may have never acknowledged within our school community. More importantly, the Onyx is here to educate them about the world they will step into once their time at Northeastern comes to an end. It is my hope that this awareness will allow these students to face these challenges head on and push our society to even greater heights.

Christine Williams

Roundtable Editor/Copy Editor

I learned of The Onyx Informer during the fall of my freshman year at the 2004 Unity and Diversity Retreat. Mark Harvey told me he was really concerned the publication may not survive the year if no one stepped up to support and replace the graduating senior staff. He explained the magazine was one of Northeastern's oldest publications,

“Joining the staff has been the best experience of my life.”

– Ivelisse Sanchez

and expressed his pride in how it was a publication dedicated to recounting our experiences and ideas in order to relay our news on campus.

That was enough to prompt me to go to a meeting, and soon I was marking off my calendar and going to the meetings every week. I decided to become a staff writer because at the first meeting I realized the unlimited potential of the Onyx and I loved the vibe I got from the other Onyx members. We all flow so well together - I'm blessed to be able to work with such talented and creative individuals. This magazine is as much a service to the campus and the community as it is to ourselves.

Writing for the Onyx has given me a creative outlet, and has greatly expanded my knowledge about campus issues and politics. It has allowed me to test my abilities as a writer and Round Table editor (better read it!). I'll be sad to graduate this year and have to say goodbye, but I'm looking forward to the year ahead and to the fresh faces and ideas that will grace our magazine!

Shantelle Anderson Office Manager

I have been a member of the Onyx for two years now and I am proud of the changes we have undergone and the progress we still have to make. With every issue, I see the Onyx growing into a more mature and established magazine that needs to be reckoned with. Over the past two years, the Onyx has been the only student organization I have dedicated myself to because I wanted to be a part of an organization that was giving back to the community. This has led me to my most recent accomplishment. I am now a proud member, and Vice President of the Iota Gamma chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Although this is a big accomplishment and commitment in my life, I want my Onyx family to know that I am still here supporting them and that the Onyx will forever be in my heart. And remember that with each issue people will always have a critique or something to say although very few are willing to jump on board. We do the best we can and we do it to the fullest! When they stop talking and critiquing it is only then that we should be concerned. Until then, we will keep on doing what we're doing the only way we know how. So let's do it big for another year!!!

Brittany Bass Staff Writer

Upon entering my new major, journalism, I had no idea of what to expect but I was fortunate to find a safe haven where I could ask questions, learn new techniques and share experiences. I ended up at The Onyx Informer office. The Informer gave me the opportunity to submit whatever I desired. The staff encouraged me to challenge myself by writing pieces about topics that were unfamiliar to me. Though it was a challenge, I appreciated the push.

Since becoming a contributor in Fall 2006 I have been able to surround myself with people who share the same passion for journalism that I do. The Onyx is not only a safe haven for writers but also a breeding ground for artists, visionaries and anyone who wants to be heard. The staff gives anyone and everyone an opportunity to contribute whatever is on their minds.

The Onyx staff has acted as my disciplinary by encouraging me to write about things people may not want to hear about but need to. I hope that when people think about the legacy of The Onyx Informer they associate it with hard-hitting news and a valuable and respectable publication within the Northeastern community. The Onyx Informer means encouragement, opportunity and legacy.

Krisa Allen Staff Writer

The Onyx is more than words and pictures printed on some paper. It's something far greater than that. It's a doorway, an opening to something wonderful. The Onyx is an opportunity to be a part of something greater than yourself. It's not just the freedom to express yourself but a chance to record the African Diaspora's history here at NU. It's something that has given me immense satisfaction over the past couple years. I can't hide my enthusiasm whenever I get to tell anyone about it. It's also been a family that ultimately has made me a far greater individual than when I started.

MOVIES

The Trouble With Disney

BY CANDICE SPRINGER

In early March 2007, the Walt Disney Co. announced it has begun producing another animated fairytale, “The Princess and the Frog.” The film will be Disney’s return to 2-D animation since the 2004 release of “Home on the Range” and features the story of Princess Tiana, voiced by “Dreamgirls” actress Anika Noni Rose.

Since the debut of their earliest animated feature film in 1937, eight characters—Snow White, Cinderella, Aurora, Ariel, Belle, Jasmine, Pocahontas, and Mulan—have been adorned with the title of Disney princess. But Tiana will join only Jasmine, Pocahontas, and Mulan as princesses who represent minority cultures. The Walt Disney Co. has not formally mentioned that Tiana will also become the first black animated character to be the lead of a Disney film.

Disney has long been rumored to be a racist corporation. In 1967, “The Jungle Book” became their first movie to feature a lead minority character, Mowgli. This was a minor milestone because Mowgli was often overshadowed by the animals in the film including Bagheera the panther, Baloo the bear, and Shere Khan the tiger. Produced during the height of the civil rights movement, some critics believe “The Jungle Book” had racist undertones, citing parts of the film such as when Bagheera tells Mowgli that different species need to keep to themselves.

It wasn’t until the 1990s that minority characters really appeared at the forefront of Disney movies. In 1992, Jasmine became the first official minority princess in the film “Aladdin” and was soon followed by Pocahontas in 1995 and Mulan in 1998. But, it was only after Disney announced the formation of the Disney Princess franchise (now a \$3 billion enterprise) in early 2000 that

Pocahontas and Mulan were included. This means that Jasmine is the only minority princess in a Disney movie who actually owns a crown and she isn’t even a lead character.

While Disney has been making strides to diversify their movies, they still have a long way to go. And while they’re at it, they must also combat the tendency to portray cultural stereotypes. When “Aladdin” was released, it sparked outrage among Arabs and Muslims because it portrayed the Middle East as a place “where they cut off your ear if they don’t like your face; it’s barbaric, but hey, it’s home.” Similarly, Disney’s film “Pocahontas” angered historians who were appalled by the story’s extreme and inaccurate interpretation. Needless to say, I have reservations about “The Princess and the Frog.”

And it appears I’m not the only one, as Disney has already made changes to the story. Princess Tiana was originally supposed to be a chambermaid “living amid the charming elegance and grandeur of the fabled French Quarter” in New Orleans and her name was initially planned to be “Maddy.” These two details caused some controversy for those who believed that Disney was feeding into stereotypes of lower-class African-Americans. While Cinderella was a maid, she was also white, and Tiana’s portrayal as a maid would have probably been viewed with objection by black audiences.

It’s clear Disney wants this movie to be a tribute to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. Hopefully they accurately embrace the history and culture of New Orleans instead of using it as a ploy to draw audiences. But, with a story rumored to be filled with maids, voodoo priests and plantation owners, they need to tread delicately.

Disney has done excellent work

diversifying TV movies such as, “The Proud Family Movie,” “High School Musical” and “The Cheetah Girls,” but it’s time they extend that formula to the more profitable, feature films. “The Princess and the Frog” may be that turning point. And one day minority children may be able to say they love Disney and can physically identify with many of the characters.

TIPS

to the **FRESHMEN:**
for the
**MALES &
FEMALES**

Men and the women on campus have different issues to face, but below is advice to read and consider. We understand you want to make the most of your college experience but, like most freshman, you may just have to learn the hard way.

Compiled by past and present Onyx staff members

For the Males:

On Females:

- Distinguish between the females you want to holla at, sleep with, and be cool with. Make sure you let them know their category too; this will save you a lot of drama in the future.
- If you are planning on “doing you,” then do you with a condom. STDs run rampant on college campuses and it’s no fun being a statistic.

On Hygiene:

After you do physical activities, **get in the shower** – don’t wait for people to throw soap at you.

- Unless your game is that tight, females are not going to do your work for you. Keep in mind the price tag for being at NU.
- If you already have a girlfriend, remember it’s going to take a lot of work to keep the relationship going. A lot of “opportunities” will present themselves and that’s when things will get complicated. Be honest from the beginning.

For the Females:

On Males:

- It’s nice to be in love, but very few long distance relationships will work in college. There are guys from all over the country here who will look very appealing after a month of not seeing your boyfriend. Be honest to your man-and yourself-about what you want.
- Be friends first. If he only calls after midnight and always

On The Freshman 15:

Yes it does exist. The buffet style dining halls will destroy your waistline if you’re not careful.

- asks you to come over, take that as a warning; he just wants to have sex with you.
- Athletes are a main attraction, but proceed with caution. Try not to get too caught up in the “I’m different” mind frame; if you’re sweating him, there are dozens of others doing the same, but if you must be groupie, keep it on the down low.
- Always make your partner use protection and get on birth control if you plan on staying sexually active for a while. Remember, no one is too cute to have an STD and it only takes one time to get pregnant.

For the Males:

On Hygiene:

- ✦ A man's body odors tend to be stronger than a woman's. Please be aware of your bodily smells. After you do physical activities, get in the shower- don't wait for people to throw soap at you.
- ✦ Learn how to do your own laundry. If you can't figure out how to work the machines, then bring your clothes to Husky Express and let someone else do it.

On Parties:

- ✦ Don't assume it's okay to touch a female in an inappropriate way even if she is acting loose. The consequences can be much more serious than you think.
- ✦ Pick up lines don't work! All you'll get is an exasperated sigh and a roll of the eyes.
- ✦ Make sure you look up the dress codes and age restrictions before you leave for the club. Most of the clubs in Boston are 21+ and many require dress shoes and a button-up shirt.
- ✦ At a club, you probably won't get in free so always carry at least \$20 with you.

For the Females:

On Parties:

- ✦ Drinking is a fact of college life, but it's important to know your limit. Basically, know how much alcohol you can handle. It's never cute to be passed out on the sidewalk.
- ✦ Don't be "that girl." You know, the one who gets drunk and does things she wouldn't want others to find out about.
- ✦ Watch your drinks. Date rape drugs are real and yes, it can happen to you.
- ✦ Make sure you get your schoolwork done before you party. Flunking out of school is nothing to be proud of.

The Freshman 15:

- ✦ Yes it does exist. The buffet style dining halls will destroy your waistline if you're not careful.
- ✦ The Marino Center is your friend. If you're going to eat more than you know you should, make sure it doesn't catch up to you.
- ✦ On weight: It's easy to gain and very hard to lose.
- ✦ Practice moderation. You really don't need those three sugar cookies and a cup of ice cream for dessert.

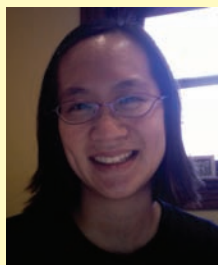
For Everyone:

Handle your business:

- ✦ Don't let your work pile up because the truth is you won't do it later.
- ✦ Find a place where you can focus. Distractions can come from anywhere. (i.e. the window, that girl, food...)
- ✦ Question any and everything you do not understand.
- ✦ Keep in touch with your academic and co-op advisors. Just send them an e-mail every once in a while. If they know you they are more willing to give you a hand.
- ✦ Don't let your ego get in the way of asking for help. You're paying to be here and other people have invested in your education. Get a tutor if you need one.

Everything else:

- ✦ Treat yourself with respect.
- ✦ Keep your business to yourself. People talk (a lot) so try to keep those late night creep sessions to a minimum or at best- quiet. Once word gets out, that's about it for your reputation.
- ✦ Explore all of Boston. Yes there are places to see outside of Fenway and Newbury Street. Ask us, we know.
- ✦ Try to get involved and support student organizations. Your college experience will be much more rewarding if you get involved.



Welcome!

Welcome Letters

from Northeastern University's
Cultural Center Directors

The Latino/a Student Cultural
Center (LSCC)

The International Student &
Scholar Institute (ISSI)

The John D. O'Bryant
African-American Institute (JDOAAI)

The Asian American Center (AAC)

The Latino/a Student Cultural Center (LSCC)



PHOTO BY CRAIG BAILEY

Rosa Rodriguez Williams

Greetings from the Latino/a Student Cultural Center!

The Latino/a Student Cultural Center (LSCC) at Northeastern University is more than a resource center for our students... it is a home away from home. The LSCC empowers Latino/a leaders of tomorrow in an increasingly global environment through facilitating academic, personal and professional development. The Center promotes interactions between NU students from diverse backgrounds to enhance their academic, cultural, and social experience, while also encouraging interaction between the University and the Greater Boston community to provide a nurturing environment for both students and our urban neighbors.

The LSCC offers programming that focuses on leadership development, socio-cultural experience, alumni involvement, relationship building with our surrounding neighborhoods and academic support. While we provide cultural and academic programming such as "Cocinar Con Gusto," "Las Series Socioculturales," luncheons, "Caminos," peer tutoring and service learning, the LSCC also offers personal and professional mentoring. How do we accomplish this? We serve as a link to the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA), the Latin American Law Student Association (LaLSA) and the Society of Latino Alumni (SOLA).

The LSCC promotes Latino culture and explores Latino identity and self-awareness within the NU community. We invite all students to join us in this journey. The consciousness building and fantastic friendships that are found here are a truly magnificent component of the NU experience. I hope you will take advantage of our center, its resources and its people.

The Latino/a Student Cultural Center at NU...
Cultura! Familia! Comunidad! Orgullo!

Los Espero!

Rosa Rodriguez Williams, MSW
Director
Latino/a Student Cultural Center

International Student & Scholar Institute (ISSI)

PHOTO BY CRAIG BAILEY



Scott B. Quint

Velkommen, bienvenidos, merhaba, karibu, akwaba, bienvenue, huan ying, swaagatam, selamat datang, hwangyong-hamnida, bem vindo, mabuhay, amkela

... in short, welcome to Northeastern University!

You are a vital part of a student community that represents 125 countries and countless cultures. Each person within this cultural mosaic has a unique perspective and life experience, and has much to contribute toward the bolstering of cross-cultural awareness and understanding both within and beyond the University.

At the International Student & Scholar Institute (ISSI), a team of 12 staff and more than 100 student volunteers/leaders are deeply committed to fostering an environment of respect and inclusion that celebrates our commonalities and differences. The ISSI offers a dynamic array of opportunities to explore the myriad facets of a diverse community and the exchange of ideas and experiences across cultures. Sponsoring more than 200 events and activities throughout the year, the ISSI aims to bring people together from all backgrounds to learn, to grow, to be challenged, to enjoy, and to appreciate what we have to share with one another on our ever-evolving journeys.

Whether mentoring a new student from abroad through the acculturation process, participating in our intercultural dialogue series, joining an ISSI excursion in New England or overseas, performing at one of our cultural evenings, relaxing in our “global conservatory,” or serving on a planning committee for our annual two-month cultural festival – International Carnevale – we hope you will find a special opportunity to learn about others and form friendships with people across the globe.

Wherever you are from... Boston or Beijing, Santo Domingo or Santa Clara, Nouakchott or New Orleans... the ISSI encourages your involvement in the numerous programs and services we offer, and is a cultural center open to everyone. Please visit us at 405 Ell Hall to learn about the many ways you can get involved. All of us at the ISSI truly look forward to welcoming you!

Best wishes,

Scott B. Quint

Associate Dean, International Student & Scholar Services and Intercultural Programs

Director, International Student & Scholar Institute (ISSI)

The John D. O'Bryant

African-American Institute (JDOAAI)



Richard L. O'Bryant, PhD.

The start of a new school year always brings great promise and opportunity. The 2007-2008 academic year is no different. I am excited, honored and humbled to have been asked to assume the role of interim director of the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute. Coming from a traditional faculty position in the political science department, I am keenly aware of the importance of engaging students at all levels toward supporting their academic success here at Northeastern. This year the Institute will continue to provide programs, resources, services and activities to support African American students in recruitment and retention and nurturing a supportive and welcoming environment.

This year I will also focus on bringing to life a vision and future direction for the Institute. This vision will not only support African American students in their progress here at NU, but will also develop and expand their focus to include competitiveness posed by colleagues both domestic and international. I hope to not only meet and welcome every incoming African American student and other incoming freshman, but also encourage them to connect with every aspect of university life and the city in which they will reside for the next several years. This year has the potential to be particularly inspiring as we increase the O'Bryant Institute's engagement with the broader university community, develop its research capacity, and engage our neighboring communities like never before. In the inaugural words of President Aoun, "we cannot merely be a mirror of what society is; we should be a model of what society can do."

Richard L. O'Bryant, PhD.
Interim Director,
The John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute

Asian American Center (AAC)



Delia Cheung Hom

Welcome and welcome back to Northeastern!!

From everyone here at the Asian American Center, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all of the new students at Northeastern. As we embark on a new year, full of new changes and new growth, I'd like to share with everyone some information about what's going on at the Asian American Center.

The Asian American Center strives to promote community and dialogue around issues relating to the Asian American experience. What does this mean? It means that we hope to provide a space where people feel comfortable and empowered to connect, to talk about things that matter to them and to build relationships.

Through our programming and Center, we hope we create spaces that are comfortable and welcoming. Our events, such as Bubble Tea Time, our AAC Book Club, and our ever-popular study breaks are open to everyone. Asian American Students in Action, our peer mentor program gives Asian American students an opportunity to enhance their college experience by having a mentor who can share valuable advice and provide feedback about being a college student, about living in Boston, and more. Our center is a home away from home – please feel free to visit anytime to study, use our computer lab or just hang out.

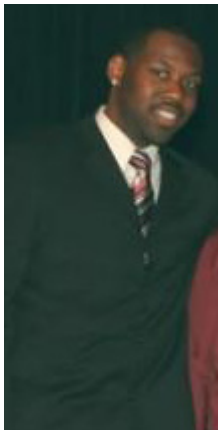
If you'd like to learn more about the Asian American Center, please visit our website at <http://www.northeastern.edu/aac> or drop by our center at 109 Hemenway St.

In unity,

Delia Cheung Hom
Acting Director, Asian American Center

Out & About

Parnel Jospitre **Brothers About Change (BAC)**



BAC is a student organization that was founded in 2000 at Northeastern University. We are dedicated to bringing awareness to the political, social, and economic issues affecting men of color in both the Northeastern community and the surrounding areas of Boston through quality programs, discussions, forums, and initiatives.

We have two signature events, Brothers From Another Mother: The State of Men of Color Conference (BFAM), which seeks to improve the quality of life of men of color by addressing the concerning topics of health, leadership, politics, finance/entrepreneurship, and criminal justice; the second is Women of Distinction, an event honoring the women of the African Diaspora who have made significant contributions to the minority student population on campus.

On Saturdays we volunteer with the Paul Robeson Institute for Positive Self-Development, which seeks to “provide a vehicle of educational, emotional and personal support to young Black males and their families.” BAC meets on Mondays at 6 PM to in the John D. O’ Bryant African-American Institute.

Why students should join:

Those students who would like to contribute positive change

and development in the community as well as in themselves (and have fun at the same time!) should join Brothers About Change.

Sara Grier **Black Engineering Student Society (BESS)**



The Black Engineering Student Society (BESS) motto is, “Believing in Excellence, Striving for Success.” BESS is the Northeastern University Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. BESS supports the students of Northeastern to fulfill

our national mission, “to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.” BESS holds weekly meetings and workshops which cover topics such as professional development, academic advancement, and cultural awareness.

Why students should join:

The Black Engineering Student Society (BESS) is open to all students of all majors. It supports and encourages students to improve on their academic, cultural, and professional skills. By participating in community service initiatives throughout the year, BESS strives to create a positive impact in the lives of students here at Northeastern.

Juel Swanston Caribbean Student Organization (CSO)



When asked to briefly describe an organization I am so proud to represent, it was relatively difficult. That is because a few words will not do the trick. With such a great mix of people and experiences, CSO is

known for its vitality. So many things make this organization great.

The Caribbean Student Organization was formed in the 1980s to create a home-away-from-home atmosphere where students like myself can express, share, and inform each other about the exotic islands that share the Caribbean Sea. CSO meets weekly and the academic year is filled with different events. We hold culture shows and attend annual conferences all with the intention to educate others about our culture and to foster an understanding and appreciation for the Caribbean Islands. I look forward to meeting the old and new students this upcoming school year as CSO goes above and beyond its expectations.

Cindy Goncalves Cape Verdean Student Organization (CVSA)



CVSA, or the Cape Verdean Student Association, was formed in February of 2002. Our mission is to support our local Cape Verdean neighborhoods by doing community service and giving back to the islands of Cape Verde. We also seek to educate others on Cape Verde, its people, and its heritage. Our organization is made up of a fun, diverse, and friendly group of individuals who are members of the Northeastern community. CVSA puts on a number of

events throughout the school year on our own and through collaborations. In the past five years of our existence, we have grown and established ourselves within the Northeastern community.

Why students should join:

Anyone and everyone interested can join CVSA. You do not have to be Cape Verdean to join. We are all one people from the motherland of Africa. Joining our group is like joining a family where we help and support one another in all that we do. CVSA meets on Tuesdays in the African American Institute and your support will only make us stronger. Keep your ears and eyes open for the exact room location and time!

Carline Bernard Haitian Student Unity (HSU)

The mission of Haitian Student Unity is to promote the Haitian culture throughout Northeastern University and its surrounding communities.

It is our mission to be a vehicle for Haitians and Non-Haitians to collaborate in developing significant dialogue, meaningful activities, and successful events that will enrich its members in the areas of culture, charity, and personal development.

The members of Haitian Student Unity will strive to bring the pride of Haiti's ancestors to its members in the hope that we can strengthen the present and brighten the future of Haitians abroad, domestically, and within the NU community.



Why students should join:

We learn from each other in so many ways and hope to find a comfortable setting for students outside the classroom. With the numerous events we will sponsor and participate in this school year, we are confident that members will develop leadership skills they will be able to use everywhere. Joining HSU is really like joining a family!

STUDENTGROUPS

through the eyes of their presidents.

Luz Mederos Latin American Student Organization (LASO)

LASO is a socio-cultural based student organization that was established in 1988 at Northeastern University for all students. We strive to advance our culture and preserve our identity through continuous innovation by developing leaders and getting involved in the community.



LASO is a “familia” of present and future leaders, uniting students to make a difference at Northeastern and in nearby neighborhoods. This organization adds to the quality of student life and the community by providing a truly unique and rewarding experience.

What LASO brings to campus is not only social and cultural learning but also educational and professional advancement by approaching areas of activism, advocacy, mentorship, diversity, race relations, community service, leadership and history. LASO constantly provides quality meetings, projects and events to enrich the experiences of students at Northeastern.

Why students should join:

You're invited!!! We have fun! Join us at our events including parties, community service, and meetings. Feel free to bring friends and make some new ones! You definitely do not have to be of Latino descent or speak Spanish to join!

Margaret Kamara Northeastern African Student Organization (NASO)

Since 1989, the Northeastern African Student Organization has been a home away from home for African students and those interested in the culture. Through programs such as the annual African Night cultural gala, comedy show, concert and pageant, NASO continues to expose the NU community to different aspects of the African culture that are often left out of the camera lenses, newspapers and magazines.



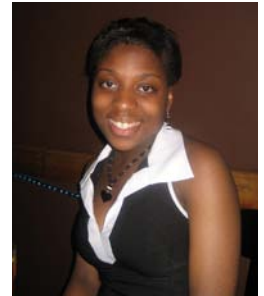
Why students should join:

Joining NASO is a life time investment to becoming

knowledgeable about a culture and continent that is wealthy and rich in non monetary ways. Everyone is welcome and we encourage you to join NASO.

Tricia Howell Northeastern Black Student Association (NBSA)

The Northeastern Black Student Association (NBSA) has been in existence since 1976 and wishes to explore the best ways to come together and create a potent voice within the Northeastern University community. NBSA embraces those who identify with and wish to acquire knowledge about the African Diaspora. More importantly, NBSA embraces those who are willing to acknowledge, denounce, and challenge the inequality of opportunity that many around the globe face and have faced due to their connection to the Diaspora.



NBSA wishes to open up productive, honest, and meaningful dialogue concerning a broad range of issues. The Northeastern Black Student Association seeks to augment the voice of students of color in order to strengthen the influence of the general student body with the administration of the University. NBSA recognizes the need for unification within the Black community on campus and will seek to pursue the best methods to achieve this goal.

On a campus with many different people and cultures, you can find one common factor: The African Diaspora. Please join NBSA on Wednesdays at 7pm in the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute.

Amanda Correa Northeastern University Barkada (NU Barkada)

Northeastern University Barkada began with eight Filipino/Filipino-American students who aspired to have their culture recognized at the university. With hard work and the aid of their club advisor Scott Quint, Barkada became an official NU



organization on January 26, 1998. The name “Barkada” is a word from the Filipino Language, Tagalog, which means “group

STUDENT GROUPS

through the eyes of their presidents.

of friends,” but being a part of Barkada runs even deeper-you’re part of the family.

Throughout its years as an established student organization, NU Barkada has grown to become a bigger family than its founders had ever imagined. Still, the organization holds true to the guidelines and values set forth by its founders and continues to build upon that foundation.

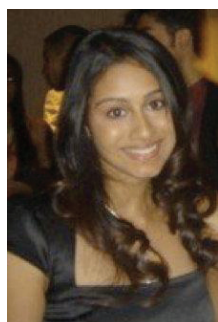
This school year, Barkada will be coming upon its ten year anniversary where we will celebrate our mission to promote diversity and fellowship and advocate the richness of the Filipino heritage by engaging members and the community in cultural, educational, and social activities.

If anyone is interested in learning about Filipino culture or having a great time, they should join Barkada. Barkada offers its members many opportunities to get to know each other, learn about the Filipino culture, and get involved in community service.

Nyisha Robinson The John D. O’ Bryant African American Unity Gospel Ensemble

The JDOAAI Unity Gospel Ensemble is an eclectic group of college students who use their voice and talent to spread the Gospel to others. Led by their talented Jonathan Singleton, the group has a diverse repertoire of music rooted in the African Diaspora, ranging from spirituals to contemporary Gospel. The members of the choir come from all over the country and the world and represent many backgrounds and denominations.

The choir is open to anyone who loves singing, gospel music, and performing. Practices are every Monday in the Amilcar Cabral Center in the AAI from 6-8pm. There are no auditions necessary to join the choir, just come to practice.



Rishi Palriwala & Mishale Mistry Utsav

Utsav, the Sanskrit word meaning ‘Festival’, began in 1991 by a handful of South Asian students. Now in its 17th year, Utsav has grown into a large community of over 150 South Asian students and continues to strive to

provide the South Asian community with a sense of belonging and knowledge about South Asian culture and heritage.

We represent students from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Although we represent these six countries, we would like to stress that anyone can become a member of Utsav.



Suzette Rivera Females’ Center for Excellence and Leadership (Xcel)

Xcel is a female-based student organization dedicated to the professional, academic, and personal development of its members. Within the Northeastern community, Xcel strives to provide its members with leadership and community service opportunities that will give them the skills necessary for success in the real world. In addition, Xcel has a unique Mentoring Program that allows its members to build a strong professional network and have guidance by professionals whom they aspire to emulate.



“Leaders don’t force people to follow; they invite them on a journey.”

Peter Roby – Making History

BY IVELISSE SANCHEZ

In 2007 we expect people of color in leadership positions to be a more common experience. However we often find we are still struggling to make history. One such man helping to pave the way is Peter Roby- the first African American athletics director at Northeastern University and only the second in the New England Region at a Division I school. Though not a newcomer to Northeastern he has already made history.

With a firm handshake and a warm smile, his tall frame is more inviting than it is intimidating. Mr. Roby welcomed me into his office and from that point forward I was impressed by his professionalism and his memory. If there is one thing that sets Roby apart is his understanding that his position has made a way for other people of color to become leaders in every dynamic. His easy conversational style and confident demeanor allow our chat to flow smoothly.

Ivy Sanchez: What is your biggest challenge as Athletic Director?

Peter Roby: I guess that would be juggling all the stakeholder groups. There are a lot of people to consider when you make any decisions. You always try to consider the coaching groups, administration, and alumni all while keeping the best interest of student athletes as the first priority.

IS: What is the best part about your job and what do you appreciate the most?

PR: I get the most energy from the student athletes and being on a college campus. There is so much hope and energy and it makes me get out of bed in the morning. This role definitely impacts the things you do and say but the best part is creating a supportive culture to get people to thrive.

IS: What is a typical day like for you?

PR: Actually this is fun job because everyday is not the same. I spend a lot of time interacting with students, attending their meetings, games and practices so I can show support for them and the coaching staff. But I also do the other stuff like conference calls, meetings, and touring our various athletic facilities.

IS: As the first African American athletics director, how did this position affect you?

PR: I have always been engaged in Sports in Society as an advocate on behalf of people of color and women to get more opportunities in sports so I was very conscious of [my race]. I knew I was only the first so the significance of that wasn't lost on me. I want people to view this as a natural thing and not a grand experiment.

IS: What do you want to accomplish in your tenure in regards to being the first person of color in your position?

PR: As a person of color in this role I want to be a role model but ultimately for all student athletes, white or not. There are still not enough people of color and women in leadership positions and what I'm trying to do is make it so when people consider what leadership is supposed to look like, and it's a person of color, it's natural and expected, not strange. My goal is to use this experience as a positive so this can become an everyday thing and not an exception.

If there is one thing to take away from this interview it is hope. Though our struggles are different and we have to prove ourselves more often, everyday we continue to break barriers. Mr. Roby is a man who maintains his professionalism and positive attitude



PHOTO BY CRAIG BAILEY

Peter Roby

while never forgetting he is African American. There is a lot to be learned from someone like him and even more to be appreciated.



Ms. Nubian

Holla at ya girl.

Send me an e-mail at msnubianonyx@yahoo.com

Major problem

Hey Ms. Nubian,
I'm a Computer Science major here at Northeastern. I do well in the major but I'm finding more and more that it's not something that I'd like to do for a living. What I've always wanted to pursue was Graphic Design or something else that's more on the creative side (like an Illustrator or even actor). My parents always discouraged this and because of that, I ended up doing computer science, which I hate. They'd be furious if I switched or went in that direction at all, as they see it as something you can't really make a living with and even if you can, not necessarily a good one. Right now, they're paying for my tuition and have implied that if I didn't stay in this major (or another field that guarantees lots of money), that I'd be paying for school myself.

How can I let them know about the fact that I'm really unhappy and not (if possible), have them pretty much drop any aid they're giving me?

Sincerely,
Dazed and Confused

Dear Dazed and Confused,
All parents want their children to grow up and become doctors, lawyers, and computer technicians because of all the wealth and success that comes with it. What some parents don't understand is that these are not the only avenues for success and most importantly personal success cannot

be achieved if you are not happy in your career. I am sure your parents love you and want you to be happy. I think it is important for you to talk this over with your parents. They want you to graduate and they want you to succeed, so you should let them know they are wasting their money on your education right now because computer science is not the direction you want to go in. Parents often threaten to do things they know they cannot do in their hearts. So go for it and good luck!

Stay Focused,
Ms. Nubian

Roomate sanitation

Dear Ms. Nubian,
I made the mistake of not talking to my new roommate about chore responsibilities when she moved in. Now it has been eight weeks and she has not yet once taken the initiative of cleaning either the bathroom or the kitchen. Now that I've become frustrated with the situation I decided to strike against cleaning the bathroom. It has not bothered her at all that the bathroom has not been clean for over 2 weeks and it's driving me insane. I want to speak to her about this but I can only think of rude loud frustrated comments. How can kindly tell her to clean her s%*t stains in the bathroom?

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,
You are asking the wrong person. I am not the one when it comes to hygiene. If I was in your situation I would not be able to tolerate a messy bathroom and the fact that you have been bathing in this dirt really disturbs me. However, let me step back and out of my box and try to assist you. The proper way to address this situation is to approach your roommate and tell her you need to discuss your living situation. Advise her that you are a person that likes to keep things clean and that hygiene is really important to you. Tell her you feel like you have been doing the majority of the cleaning and that this is a responsibility you think should be shared. Suggest creating a schedule of who is going to clean each week. Another suggestion is to purchase after shower spray that can be sprayed to clean the shower after each use. If that doesn't work and you don't see any changes, then inappropriate language may be the only way to get her to listen, but before that try getting your RA involved. Just don't hit her!

In the name of sanitation,
Ms Nubian



The Round Table is an open, uncensored discussion on hot topics.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ON THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

Join Onyx Round Table editor Christine Williams and our Round Table participants: Northeastern University's Paola Mesadieu, Khristel Cherismo, and Herculano Fernandes as they discuss their opinions and experiences concerning affirmative action on campus.

C: Please go around the table and introduce yourselves.

P: Paola Mesadieu.

K: Khristel Cherismo.

H: Herculano Fernandes.

C: So what are your feelings on affirmative action? Generally. Aside from Northeastern, just in general, in terms of college acceptance and the college experience, what are your thoughts on the policy?

K: I try to say it's fair, but it's not fair when you work so hard and then somebody who didn't work as hard gets in because of affirmative action. It's about [taking] AP classes in high school and all that. Say an anonymous person was in [high school] with me and got all F's, but is still in Northeastern for "some reason". That's the part I think is unfair. But I do think it's still needed. I suck it up. I circle Black or "other" and keep moving because it works in my favor.

H: I wouldn't say they don't work as hard... [affirmative action] is aimed at people from bad circumstances. I don't know how they go about choosing or how they decide if you're in a bad area...or how they determine who gets what – or say, if you're doing bad, how they really know that you're trying or if that person's doing bad because they're "dumb" or they're not trying. I don't know how they choose and implement the policy so I'm not too sure about the whole "they don't try as hard," but it does make you mad if you've never really been assisted technically by anyone else – [if] you just go to school, get good grades, and expect to be rewarded and you don't, or someone else gets more, and you worked way more than they did.

P: It's a hard question to answer because people have so many different ideas of what affirmative action is and what it means... I had to really do my research on it, and I find that when people think of affirmative action, what they have

PAOLA: When there's a diverse student body, there's an exchange of ideas that is so necessary when you are at this level of education...

in mind is the quota system. And I believe those (the quota systems) were deemed unconstitutional because the quota system is just like "we have a deadline; we need this number of women, this number of colored people...let's just fill the slots." From my understanding, this university, as well as a lot of other universities across the United States, since the Supreme Court decision has come down, they [use] "goals." They aspire to (at some point) have this number of women and this

KHRISTEL: I'm applying to med school, this guy in HR actually told me 'use it – that's the way to get in.'



Khristel Cherismo

number of people of color. There isn't a deadline set in place and they strive towards it instead of just picking like, "Hey you! You're brown – come here!"... With goals, it [involves] more sifting through; focusing more on quality rather than quantity. Focusing on the skills and experience of an individual who happens to be a woman or who so happens to be a person of color. When I look at it from that point of view...I'm all for it. If it's a quota system, not only does it hurt [its purpose], it also hurts all the people involved in it, whether you are woman, a person of color, or even white.

C: If the government stopped regulating affirmative action, do you think that universities would still take the initiative to diversify their campuses?

K: Nope!

[Group Laughter]

H: If they weren't under the microscope for it, they wouldn't think about it--

P: I would hope that if it wasn't in place, universities would still continue to promote diversity because it's a proven

fact that diversity engages students in the classroom. When there's a diverse student body, there's an exchange of ideas that is so necessary when you are at this level of education -- or any level of education. Whether you are 5 or 25 you have to have diversity, because it augments your learning experience in so many different ways. Sometimes I don't even think you need a scientific experiment to know that... [Diversity] is absolutely necessary but...

H: BUTTTTTT

P: (laughing). BUT, given our history in this country, I don't know--

H: Also, schools – usually what they do is governed by the student body (in general), and if people aren't asking for it...they generally don't find a reason to go after it unless you have strong leaders who make up their minds to go after it and initiate, which makes other people aware of it. Like, "Hey there's no black people, there's no colored people here, maybe we should start talking about this and make something happen." If no one's bringing it up, then the university doesn't take it upon themselves to take

or Black or Latino or other race scholarships, that are only given to specific groups of people?

H: That's hard.

K: Mmm.

P: Some of those race-specific programs and scholarships [are funded by] a particular group of people who went through college, who all happen to be from a certain background (let's say Haitian), and once they've graduated they annually put money into a fund, and then that fund is used to relieve the financial burden of students from the same racial background. In that case, if it's a scholarship from an individual or collective group, to encourage kids to stay in school...I mean, you can be as intelligent as you wanna be, but finances...if you can't pay for school it's definitely gonna be a hindrance. If that money is [privately funded] but not just based specifically on your race, if it's like oh ,you're also an engineer major and you also have this GPA, and you happen to be of this background, then I don't see why not. I see it as a legacy thing - to ensure that after you've overcome certain

Herculano: We have such vast separation, between – hell, not even the top and the bottom – just the middle and the bottom. I think we need something in place to try to equalize that

it up because they think no one has a problem, even though diversity would allow for, like Paola said, the betterment of all the students overall.

C: Do you think that there's still a place for race-specific minority scholarships? For example specifically Asian-Pacific

obstacles that the generation after you continues to strive for an education--

H: I also think that if you're gonna do race-based scholarships, if it's private money from a person or corporation, they're entitled to set the terms for the scholarship however they want. It's not

federal or state money... It might be they see a child they can see themselves in and so they aim [their scholarship] towards them – for example, this woman, this age, this major, this race. They want to push someone like themselves forward – that’s fine.

P: Mmm.

H: I think if it’s a government scholarship, they should aim less for race and more for socio-economic standing. For one, money is a bigger reason why people can’t go to college, and it just

a scholarship, but that you’re here on a scholarship just for minorities?”

P: Yea. Even jobs that I’ve gotten, I’ve had a person turn around and say: “There you go, that’s what you should’ve done – use the color aspect of it. You’re a double threat; you’re a woman and you’re black – that’s why you got it.” ...Not because I have this degree or this experience or because I worked my [expletive] off, no... [They see it as] because I’m black and I’m a woman and they needed to fill a quota that’s how I

going to be successful – it’s all about me right now. This (gestures with hands) is my bubble.

[Group Laughter]

P: (laughing) No, no I wasn’t saying you were wrong for saying or doing that. You’re not lying; you ARE black; you ARE a female. It’s just that, that’s how it’s going to be perceived, and that’s where the frustration lies because you’ve been proving yourself your whole life. You know what I’m saying? That’s what my frustration is, it’s like here we go



Paola Mesadieu

so happens that at the bottom of that socio-economic ladder, it’s mostly black people. So, if it happens that most of the money goes to black people because of that reason...you’ll be helping anyway.

P: But I think a lot of people are afraid to embrace the race-based scholarships because of fear of it turning into an accusation of “Oh this is reverse discrimination, how are you targeting a specific race of people? Oh you can’t focus on a specific group, that’s wrong.”

C: Have you guys ever had the experience where someone has assumed, without you even having said anything to them, that you are not only here on

PAOLA: [When affirmative action] is a quota system, not only does it hurt [its purpose], it also hurts the people involved in it, whether you are woman, a person of color, or even White.

got the job.

K: I’m applying to med school, this guy in HR actually told me “use it - that’s the way to get in.” I’m like okay. Will do!

[Group Laughter]

P: And then you stigmatize yourself. A part of you is like, when is this opportunity ever gonna fall in my lap again? And that part of you is like “hell yea, I’m going to check off female and Black” on this application. But then once you get in [people don’t treat you] like this person is going to be an asset to our team. It’s like oh no, this person is here to fill a slot because of their gender or color.

K: The way I see it is that’s when I just prove myself because already I’m trying to just succeed for myself...I’ll check “Black” if it means I’ll get more scholarships or I’ll check “Haitian” – I can do both...Even they feel like that’s the only reason I got in, I’m still gonna get my education. I’m still gonna get my degree. I don’t care what they think; I’m

again. But at the end of the day, like you said, I’m doing me, I am going to succeed regardless of how you think I got here and (to Khristel), I have to give you props for having that mentality.

K: Thank you. Because I just gave up this year. I’m like you know what I know by now I’m going to walk into this classroom and I’m going to be the only black girl and everyone else is going to stare at me; everyone’s gonna start holding their bags.

[Group Laughter]

K: When I go to [work], the people there assume that’s my full time job. When they find out I’m in school it’s like (faking amazement) “Really? That’s so great! Good for you.” That’s the quote I hate the most: “Good. For. Youuuuuu.”

[Group Laughter]

K: It’s getting to the point where I just have to wash it off, you can think about it all day but...housing, being blocked, everything... I will take all the

advantages that come with affirmative action. Check off “Black,” Check off “Female,” Check off “Haitian.” I’ll even work that 0.95% Cuban that’s in me.

[Group Laughter]

K: I realized Americans don’t care. Everybody’s trying to take advantage of somebody to get on top. Everybody wants to be on top.

C: Did any of you read the Ujima article printed by The Patriot?

(Just to refresh our readers, in their March/April ’07 issue, The Patriot published an article criticizing the validity of the Ujima scholarship program. The article [falsely] claimed that the program was based on race, citing it as unfair affirmative action, and urged the University to revisit its policies. This however, was misinformation. The Ujima scholarship is not a race-based scholarship. When it was introduced in 1972, the program did target minorities. However, that was later amended, and today, the scholarship is not limited by race. Instead need-based and given to students with need who demonstrate academic promise.)

P: I [read it].

C: What was your initial reaction?

P: All I can say is that when things like that happen, when our community is challenged like that, I definitely have a mixed reaction to it. Your initial reaction is of course, anger and frustration, but also, I kind of have to smile because I love to see my community rally together and push forward to address the issue and rise above it.

H: If anything, the article – if you can even call it that – it’s more of an opinion piece...to have barely any sources and be so ridden with mistakes and falsity... they needed to have done more research

and cited more individuals, faculty members, and university personnel involved with the program. The article was so bad you almost couldn’t take it seriously...You can address it and you can get angry, but at the same time you almost just have to laugh at it and keep it moving.

P: But it did, for a lot of students of color, wake some people up. ..A lot of students of color are just like alright, I’m in college pursuing my education, no other factors are gonna affect me other than my grades and my finances. But in reality, you still have to deal with [situations like] this. I remember this student in one of my classes, we were talking about affirmative action and she said “I don’t understand why we need it, we’ve come so far now, society got rid of racism in the past...”and it’s just like, really? And I raised my hand and I said “If you think things are so equal, then why am I one of four students of color in this room with 40 plus students?” and no one said anything...

C: Mm.

P: And so a lot of people of color may notice that they are of a minority when they are here on campus, but when stuff like this happens it just goes to show you that maybe things have not changed in people’s minds. People are either saying it out loud like The Patriot did or thinking it. And that will never go away. It’s just a sad truth...

K: I guess maybe the school we came from - Brockton High, where [minorities] where the majority, it was extremely diverse.

C: All three of you went to Brockton High?

H: Yes, and I just want to second how diverse Brockton was.

C: Quick, quick, quick though, is diversity [in this sense] a school that is

all Black? Or is diversity when you see more than two people in a room that don’t look like you and that come from different backgrounds?

H: Oh no, no. I’m not saying diversity as just a bunch of black people in a room. We’re talking Asians, Indians, Black people, and White people all in one room and nobody’s noticing it. It’s just people talking, and relaxing, and wearing different types of clothes and no one caring...the guy with his American Eagle and Timbs and lineup...with the gel.

K: Or that kid who’s on the football team AND in chorus.

H: Yea yea, the theatre kid who’s also a jock – that’s diversity. It’s not just racial. The lines were just so blurred in general at our school...whether it was activities or race or whatever it was. Even lunch tables – there was no “jocks sit in this corner”. You had people who came from all different areas with different interests all sitting together, and no one noticed it because it was no big deal. You could float in and out of groups and learn from everyone. HERE, you can see a group of this a group of that in blocks, and it creates this feeling that you need to adapt.

P: Yea, in our high school there was never really a need to adapt. It could be because it was diverse; it could be that it was high school and we all grew up in the same city and had went through similar experiences. There are so many different factors as to why our high school was so, to a certain degree, harmonious when it came to race relations...When you come here, people are from different parts of the country, and come from different ideologies and class. I do notice that here – class, not just the racial gap...

C: I guess then, ideally, what changes



Herculano Fernandes

do you think should be made and what changes would you want to bring about to improve the racial relations and amount of diversity on campus?

P: We need to open up to the community. We need a lot more community service with an urban campus like this, [especially] as we expand into the surrounding areas and we keep growing. It's absolutely necessary that we get out there and give back to the community that we are also

HERCULANO: I'm not saying diversity as just a bunch of black people in a room. We're talking Asians, Indians, Black people, and White people all in one room and nobody's noticing it...[but diversity] is not just racial.

a guest in...I could see my freshman year, the high school students who cut through the Curry Student Center to get where they need to go are primarily students of color, and we are in their neighborhood. All you have to do is go behind this building (780 Columbus)

and you are in a completely different environment.

K: Hm.

P: They complain that students are rowdy and that they steal or whatever – I'm not going to deny that there have been cases when that is true, but they're high school students. What 16, 17 year old do you know that's going to be prudent and calm and collected walking through this area with a group of their friends. Having students have something to do while they were here, I think would bring a different reaction. They (these high school students) don't care because they feel they're not wanted here... I think if we want to improve race relations here, we definitely need to get out more...and [do] more community service.

H: I like that idea a lot, in terms of integrating this school more with our environment, instead of them looking at us as something above them – or having them think we think we're above them. You see those kids and they're walking in our campus, but I don't think they could imagine themselves on our campus. I don't even think they consider that could even come here and they walk through it

every day.

P: (agreeing) EVERY day.

H: But I don't think they could see themselves getting accepted and coming to this school. I also think that community service would reduce [neighborhood] aggression towards us,

hopefully, and show them we appreciate being here, that we can take care of this place for them and for us. We can all work together. I think that maybe then a parent might say "hey, did you consider going there – to Northeastern – for school?" And hopefully by those new students coming here, they can improve the race relations on campus and help open people's minds up to a whole new world they may not have expected.

P: Exactly. And some people will say with students like that, I can play devil's advocate, how do we get them here? And that's when affirmative action comes into play...not by enforcing a quota, just striving toward a positive goal. I'm not going to deny that the policy has been corrupted. But it's just like a previous scholar mentioned. If a highway patrol officer pulls someone over for speeding; and the individual gets out of receiving the ticket by bribing the officer, do we completely do away with highway patrol safety because the system failed in that instance? No. We just need to enforce the guidelines – not to get rid of it.

H: ...We have such vast separation, between -- hell, not even the top and the bottom – just the middle and the bottom. I think we need something in place to try to equalize that. People say "let's just do away with it, oh you just work hard, you'll make it" – not when you come from a school where no one's teaching you anything...having the mentality everything around me is crap – how can I reach for the light when I can't even see it? I something needs to be in place where they revise it but they keep it, but there's no need to do away with it. The vast discrepancies between the two need to meet somewhere in middle.

October 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NASO- Applications available for King & Queen Pageant	2	3 LASO/SHPE- Cajitos Mexican Tradition	4 LASO -Jose Rios Puerto Rican Artist	5	6 LASO -Latin Night II
7	8 Columbus Day- No Classes	9	10 Meet the Author: Marcus Rediker-The Slave Ship: A Human History	11 LASO/HSU- General Body Meeting Barkkadda -Gen. Body Meeting 6p 346 CSC	12 UTSAV- Weekend Retreat COL.-BEATLESS 6p Ballroom	
14	15	16 Barkkadda- Diversity in Higher Education Workshop 4p AAI	17	18	19 Meet the Author: Michael Gates Gill-How Starbucks Saved My Life BESS -Outing	20
21	22	23	24	25 Barkkadda -Gen. Body Meeting 6p 346 CSC	26	27 BESS - Alumni Mixer
28	29	30	31 Halloween			



September 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4 Night @ Curry Student Center	5 Classes Begin NASO-African Dance Workshop 6p AAI	6 Activities Fair	7 COL.-Huskies Gone Wild Part Deux AAI Open House 5p	8 NASO- Welcome Back Party Afterhours NBSA-My Town Tours 11:30a AAI AKA-Fall Back III BBQ 12p WWQd.
9	10 COL.- Poverty Forum 6p AAI BESS- Guarentreed 4.0	11	12 UTSAV- Gen. Body Meeting 6p NBSA-Gen. Body Meeting 7p AAI	13 BESS-Gen. Body Meeting Barkada-Gen. Body Meeting 6p 318-320 CSC Greeks-Meet the Divine 9 6p Rathlorn	14	15 LASO-Latin Night I
16	17	18 LASO- Immigration Panel NBSA-Bake Sale Activities Pd. Lib. Quad	19 LASO/SHPE- Move "City of God"	20 LASO/SHPE- Move "Favella Rising"	21	22 HSU-Konpa Night 9p Afterhours NASO-Jump Off Party Ballroom
23	24	25 HSU/BAC- Danny Glover:Economic Turnmill 7p Blackman	26 LASO-Food Carnival NBSA-Little Shop of Horrors 6p AAI	27 LASO-Guest Speaker Pepe seira Barkada-Gen. Body Meeting 6p 944.CCC	28 LASO- Flamenco & Belly Dancing	29
30 NASO-Soccer Tournament 11p Poisons Field						
UTSAV-Gandhi Service Day						

