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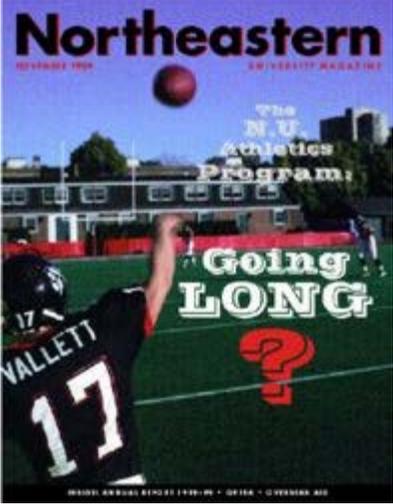
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NOVEMBER 1999/VOLUME 25, NUMBER 2

FEATURES		DEPARTMENTS
1 GAINING GROUND		LETTERS
2 OPERATIC INTRIGUE		E LINES
3 BALKAN SUNFLOWERS' SEEDS OF HOPE		TALK OF THE GOWN
		SPORTS
		CLASSES
		CO-OP CHRONICLES
		CROSSWORD
		HUSKIANA



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Nov. 1999

FEATURES

[GAINING GROUND](#)[OPERATIC INTRIGUE](#)[SEEDS OF HOPE](#)

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[LETTERS](#)[TALK OF THE GOWN](#)[E LINE](#)[SPORTS](#)[CLASSES](#)[HUSKIANA](#)SEARCH
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Gaining Ground

Husky Athletics Seeks to Win on All Fronts

By Daniel Penrice

To gauge the fitness of Northeastern's athletics program today, take a look back to 1996/97. Although posting his first winning record (6-5) since coming to N.U. in 1991, head football coach Barry Gallup led a team that remained mired in a tradition of mediocrity. On the basketball court that year, both the men's and women's entrants took pratfalls: new men's coach Rudy Keeling-taking over after a disastrous second and final season on the part of his predecessor, Dave Leitao, BA'83-debuted with a 7-20 mark, while veteran coach Joy Malchodi's women's team fared even worse at 4-23. The men's hockey team, under the tutelage of another new coach, Bruce Crowder, wobbled through an 8-25-3 campaign. Among the major, marquee sports, only women's ice hockey gave Husky fans anything to cheer about, as coach Heather Linstad's squad (slated for club status only a year before) skated to a 27-9 record and an ECAC (Eastern College Athletic Conference) title.



Off the field that year, N.U.'s athletics department was trying to gain ground after being thrown for a few losses. After finding that some of Husky basketball legend Reggie Lewis's teammates (although not Lewis himself) had used drugs while at Northeastern, a commission appointed by former president John A. Curry had recently recommended



significant changes not only in the supervision of student-athletes but also in the governance of the department. The need for reform had been reinforced in the spring of 1996, when the men's crew was compelled to withdraw from the National Rowing Association meet because a team member was found to be academically ineligible. And early in 1997, the university was slapped with its second lawsuit in as many years charging failure to comply with Title IX, the federal civil rights law mandating equal opportunity for women in college athletics. This was a lot to handle for a football coach doubling as athletics director, as Gallup was at the time.

If the end of the 1996/97 academic year found Northeastern athletics in a bit of a slump, since then the program has been staging a rally. The women's ice hockey team has kept winning, the football and men's hockey teams (although still struggling) have each managed one successful season, and-as no one who follows N.U. sports will have forgotten-the women's basketball squad won the America East title last year and made it to its first NCAA tournament. As the new basketball season rolls around, both the women's and men's teams look forward to playing in a renovated Cabot Center. Meanwhile, among the sports with smaller followings, Husky athletics has not only continued several winning traditions-in field hockey, baseball, and track, for example-but has also begun raising the level of its game in programs that have foundered in recent years, such as volleyball and soccer.

Up in the front office, Ian McCaw, hired in 1997 as the full-time athletics director, has implemented the reforms recommended by the Lewis commission, including random drug testing of student-athletes. In 1998, the athletics department adopted a strategic plan aimed not only at increasing the teams' competitiveness but also at raising standards in every aspect of its program: the student-athlete experience (including academics); sportsmanship, compliance, equity, and diversity; departmental management; and finances. Northeastern athletics today is not only in compliance with Title IX, but has become a national leader in ensuring gender equity. The thirty-seven-year-old McCaw, whose combination of youth and professionalism promises a new chapter in N.U. athletics, summarizes the direction of the university's program today as a transition "from adolescence to adulthood." for most people with an interest in college sports, winning is the only thing that matters. Yet an overview of the competitive strength of Northeastern's teams today reveals many success stories, some notable laggards, and reminders that-in athletics as in life-results are often mixed and unpredictable.

There are probably more New England sports fans who associate Bill Buckner with manual dexterity or Larry Bird with charm than Northeastern University with its football team. The Huskies' 19-14 record over the three seasons preceding the current one represents N.U.'s best three-year showing on the gridiron in thirty years-hardly the kind of performance that kindles passions. On consecutive weekends last month, the team thoroughly outplayed and nearly beat Boston College (the first Division I-A opponent that a Northeastern squad had ever faced, as well as the Goliath of New England college sports), then collapsed in a 77-0 loss to Atlantic Ten rival UMass. Winding up his second consecutive losing season since going 8-3 two years ago, coach Gallup says, "Obviously we're very disappointed with our record." By next fall, he hopes to have the Huskies back on track towards his goal of either capturing an Atlantic Ten title or winning enough games (eight or nine) to secure a I-AA playoff berth.

Unlike its gridiron counterpart, the men's basketball program is no stranger to the limelight. The great teams of the 1980s-when Northeastern made six trips to the NCAA tournament, including one every year during Reggie Lewis's phenomenal career-still cast their shadow over a program that has fared poorly in the second half of the 1990s. Coach Keeling's reputation as a turnaround artist is being tested after three seasons in which he has compiled a record of 31-52 (21-33 in America East). The other major men's squad, the hockey team, faces a similar challenge, as the years since the Huskies' 1994 NCAA tournament appearance have been lackluster. Coach Crowder, with a record of 40-60-9 for his first three seasons (and a last-place finish in Hockey East last year), has rightly described the task that he faces as "building" rather than "maintaining" a program.

The recent history of the women's teams in basketball and ice hockey offers a brighter, even inspiring, story. The basketball team captured three Seaboard Conference championships and made one trip to the ECAC Division I tournament in the 1980s. Since then, the team has had its ups and downs, but took only two seasons to rebound from an abysmal 1996-97 campaign and go all the way to the NCAA tournament-and a near upset of North Carolina-last year. The ice hockey team, which had gone 14-15-5 in 1995-96, not only won the ECAC and Beanpot championships the very next year but goes into the 1999-2000 season with a three-year mark of 78-22-8.

Beyond these major sports, N.U.'s overall athletics record today is a strong one. (For a summary of how the rest of the teams have fared of late, see the article below.) At the same time, the athletics department's strategic plan

proclaims that one of its major goals is to "achieve competitive success in every sport program." As one means of accomplishing this, the department has replaced a tiering system, in which football, field hockey, men's and women's basketball, and men's ice hockey received formal priority for staffing and funding, with a new sport-by-sport programming plan. Still, athletics director McCaw admits that certain sports-football, men's and women's basketball, and men's and women's ice hockey-generate more revenue than others, and asserts, "It would be foolish of us not to emphasize those programs and do everything we can to capitalize on their value."



Among those teams that bring in few or no dollars, one coach has openly questioned the athletics department's commitment to his program's success. Last spring, the department announced that the men's and women's soccer programs would be combined for budgetary reasons, and subsequently chose men's coach Ed Matz to lead both squads without making the job a full-time appointment. In an interview with the N.U. student newspaper in June, Matz complained about a lack of resources for his sport, saying, "The administration really has to sit down and ask, 'Do we want to have soccer?'" McCaw denies that the athletics department is wavering in its commitment to soccer (although he allows that "on our food chain, soccer is on the bottom"), and describes the combining of the two programs as temporary. among the toughest competitions in which college athletes engage is the one between sports and academics. Although Northeastern's soccer teams are still proving themselves on the field, their players are clearly winners in the classroom. With team GPAs of 3.08 and 3.06, respectively, for the fall through spring quarters of 1998-99, both the men's and women's soccer squads have outscored the average N.U. student-athlete.

Not that the typical Husky player does poorly academically. The average GPA for Northeastern student-athletes for the fall through spring quarters of 1998-99 was 2.86-not far behind that for all N.U. undergraduate day school students over the same period, which was 2.99. These athletics graduation rates advertise the moral advantages of life outside the charmed but infernal circle of the "big time." For the class of students on athletics scholarships who entered college as freshmen in 1992-93, N.U. boasts a graduation rate of 67 percent. This number compares quite favorably with graduation rates over the same period of 58 percent for scholarship athletes in Division I schools generally,

and 45 percent for all Northeastern students.

Although N.U.'s student-athletes may not face the same pressures as their counterparts at the Ohio States (or even the Boston Colleges) of the collegiate sports world, balancing athletics and academics-along with co-op-remains a contest for Husky players. Volleyballer Elizabeth Waclawik, a middler who has played a two-season sport while maintaining a 3.64 average in mechanical engineering during her first two years, speaks of the challenges involved in keeping up with classes: "You have to be disciplined enough to bring your work and do it on the bus, or in your hotel room, whenever you have time." While acknowledging the heavy time demands on student-athletes, both coaches and players say that the pressure itself can help with the development of time-management skills. "I think I do better in school when I'm in season," says men's soccer co-captain Greg Ehrman, a senior majoring in architecture, "just because I don't have time to waste."



Sometimes the potential conflict between academics and athletics becomes real and unresolvable, as recently happened for Doug Tillberg, a former defensive lineman on the football team who decided this past summer to leave the team in order to focus on his studies. "In my twenty-five years of coaching, I have never seen anything like this," coach Gallup was quoted as saying when Tillberg-a senior political science major with a GPA he calls "a hair under 3.7" going into the current quarter-announced his decision. Yet Tillberg, who says that he has long been bothered by "not being able to immerse myself in subjects," would appear to be an exceptionally focused student rather than the harbinger of a trend. Gallup expresses a view endorsed by other coaches when he says, "I do see them looking to the future more, because they know they have to go to law school or grad school or business school. But I see them balancing [athletics and academics] more too." college athletics programs face more pressure today than in the past to ensure that student-athletes can compete in the classroom as well as on the playing field. This requires particular attention to the academic fitness, conditioning, and success of minority student-athletes, who have too often supplied the cannon fodder for big-time sports at American universities. At the same time, colleges and universities today are not allowed to treat their female student-athletes as second- or third-stringers. In these two critical areas-racial and gender equity-N.U.'s athletics department is currently putting up more than respectable numbers.

The strategic plan talks about diversity as well as equity, and by the athletics department's own reckoning, African-Americans, Latinos, and other minorities accounted for twenty-one percent of all Husky student athletes in 199899, when the comparable figure for full-time Northeastern undergraduates was just over nineteen percent. These numbers meet the plan's objective of developing a "diversity plan for intercollegiate athletics which exceeds the representation of minorities in the university community." Yet because America's legacy of racism has historically made athletics both the surest path to college for many African-Americans and a way of denying their aspirations once they get there, the real story here is how well the university does in providing genuine educational opportunity for African-American student-athletes.



In 199798-the most recent year for which NCAA-compiled figures on scholarship students are available-African-Americans accounted for 15.2 percent of N.U. scholarship athletes, as opposed to 5.1 percent of the undergraduate student body. The real significance of such figures is revealed by the strong graduation rates of African-American scholarship athletes at Northeastern in recent years. For the four classes of African-American students on athletics scholarships that entered the university between 198990 and 199293, the graduation rate is 67 percent (57 percent for women and 74 percent for men). These figures can be compared with graduation rates, for the same entering classes over the same period, of 41 percent for all Northeastern students (43 percent for women and 40 percent for men), and 26 percent for all African-American students (28 percent for women and 24 percent for men).

N.U.'s two African-American head coaches speak of other, more qualitative measures by which the university has become a good place for African-American student-athletes. While praising academic support programs for minority students and students generally, men's basketball coach Rudy Keeling also says, "I think that one of the major components of Northeastern is the image that our student-athletes can have of the success of the black athlete [outside of athletics]. You take a [dean of student services] Keith Motley [Ed'78, GB'81], who played at Northeastern, or you take our provost, [David Hall], who played at Kansas State-those type of role models, I think, are genuinely the best for minority kids." Track coach Sherman Hart, LA'74, who played football for N.U., says that things are "far better" for African-American student-athletes than they were when he wore a Husky uniform. "They're treated more as

students-not just as athletes-from what I see in the halls and from talking to other coaches," he observes.

Female student-athletes have also come a long way at Northeastern. When the National Women's Law Center brought suit against the university and two dozen other institutions in 1997, charging failure to comply with Title IX, the complaint was based on the amount of athletics scholarship aid that N.U. awarded to women relative to their levels of participation in the school's intercollegiate athletics program. A year earlier, members of the women's gymnastics team-disbanded at the end of the 1995-96 academic year-had filed a Title IX complaint against the university on the grounds that women's participation in intercollegiate sports at N.U. failed to match their representation within the undergraduate student body. (The women's gymnastics team was reinstated for 1997-98, then permanently disbanded.) Today, both lawsuits have been resolved and N.U. is in full compliance with Title IX in terms of both participation and scholarships.

N.U. reached the required gender balance only after three men's teams-in swimming, tennis, and golf-were eliminated in the 1990s. Critics of Title IX sometimes point to such moves to argue that the statute, in the guise of expanding athletic opportunities for women, actually restricts them for men. Yet Gallup, who served as athletics director during the period when the three men's programs were cut, says that Title IX should not be blamed for those decisions, which were based on a combination of factors besides gender. In addressing gender equity, he also explains, "We basically followed the trends." This led to N.U.'s hiring of full-time coaches in women's ice hockey and crew, a dramatic increase in scholarships in women's crew, and the addition of varsity women's soccer. More recently, according to McCaw, the athletics department has used "roster management" to "essentially cap our men's programs and . . . expand our women's rosters to come into compliance."

Gender equity, as defined in some of Title IX's more obscure provisions, was also a factor in recent, significant changes in the track and soccer programs. In the summer of 1998, the men's and women's track teams were combined under the direction of a single coach; veteran women's coach (and former part-timer) Sherman Hart was named full-time head track coach while former men's coach, Mark Lech, BB'79, became an "associate." (Lech has since left Northeastern to assume the post of women's cross-country coach at the University of Maine.) Then, this past spring, the athletics department decided to combine the men's and women's soccer programs. While soccer coach Matz now leads two teams

as a part-timer (although with the help of three part-time assistants), former women's coach Julia Claudio has left the school.

Although the women's soccer team may still take a while to become a consistent winner, it is noteworthy that every one of N.U.'s other women's programs is strong, and indeed that the women's teams, on the whole, are now significantly more successful than the men's. What accounts for this disparity? Gallup points to the "continuity" that many of the women's programs have enjoyed, with coaches such as basketball's Malchodi (who came to Northeastern in 1980) and field hockey's Cheryl Murtaugh, MBA'91 (who arrived in 1988), having had years to build their programs, while major men's sports such as basketball and hockey have had significant turnover at the top in the 1990s.



For her part, one of these long-serving and successful women's coaches offers measured praise for the university's current support of women's athletics.

When she first came to N.U., Malchodi observes, women's varsity basketball "was more like an intramural program." Today, she says, "The university is finally really giving a lot more attention to the gender-equity situation than ever before, and that's a big plus." Even so, noting that Title IX was passed back in 1972, Malchodi says, "For me it's been too darn long. Quite honestly, I've gone through all the fighting, people fighting Title IX-it has not been, 'Hey, Title IX [is in place], we're going to give you this and we're going to give you that.' It's been a struggle." Moreover, Malchodi believes that women's athletics at Northeastern still has "a long way to go" when it comes, for example, to budgets. as the attention now given to issues such as racial and gender equity suggests, there is much more at stake in college sports today than school pride or a little good, clean fun for students and alumni. Athletics' strategic plan notes that "As universities compete for the high-stakes benefits which successful intercollegiate athletics yield, including substantial revenues, unique institutional marketing and development opportunities, and national visibility, an environment of scrutiny, unprecedented pressure, and extraordinary expectations are descending upon athletics departments." In this new arena, a college athletics program without professional management will flounder like a football coach without his headphones.

As far as management is concerned, the hiring of McCaw as athletics director seems to have been a big step in the right direction. Much of his prior experience (at the

University of Maine and Tulane University) was in the area that McCaw describes as "really the majority of the job at this point"-bringing in revenue. The reason that Northeastern, anachronistically, had its football coach doubling as athletics director from 1993 until 1997 was the university budget crisis of the early 1990s. While the annual athletics budget (which includes funds for campus recreation as well as intercollegiate sports) has held steady at approximately \$10 million since McCaw's arrival, the department now has a mandate from President Richard Freeland to pay more of its own freight. McCaw and his management team are starting to have to play for real money.

McCaw reports that the athletics department is currently bringing in revenues (apart from fund-raising) of approximately \$1 million per year, or about twenty percent of the portion of the athletics budget designated for purposes other than financial aid. This sum-which comes from ticket sales and sports passes, merchandising and licensing, corporate sponsorship, and Marino Recreation Center dues and fees-has doubled in the two years since McCaw took the reins. He now wants to double revenue generated from these sources again by 2001. As part of this aggressive agenda, the athletics department has recently begun a campaign aimed at increasing ticket sales by twenty percent per year, and is developing new merchandising and licensing initiatives as well as a corporate sponsorship program (in which Northeastern University Magazine participates).

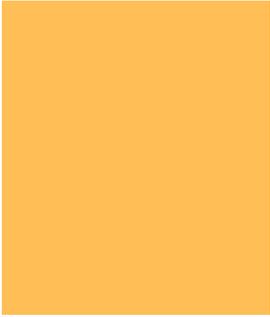
Money that the department generates through fund-raising is not counted in the establishment of annual budgets, and therefore constitutes an important means for N.U. athletics not only to maintain its current programs but also to realize its aspirations for the future. Here too the department's plans are ambitious: a three-year-old annual fund, which raised \$217,000 last year, is seeking \$300,000 for 1999-2000. While the actual dollar figures are still modest, Jim Madigan, BA'86, N.U.'s new director of athletics development, notes that the university has a "relatively young alumni base," and sees "a lot of room for growth" in giving to Husky sports.

The athletics department's overall goal for increases in fund-raising, annual and capital, is now a hefty twenty percent per year. On the capital projects side, the current renovation of the Cabot Physical Education Center will require \$4.5 million, \$2 million of which the department aims to raise on its own. Basketball coaches Keeling and Malchodi agree that the formerly dismal condition of their facility has hampered recruiting in the past, and describe the Cabot renovation as a major boost for their programs. Stating that he hopes to schedule one home

game per year against a big-name opponent in the near future, Keeling adds, "And then ultimately what I want to get to is that Cabot becomes too small-that we get such a crowd, and going to our games becomes such a happening, that we can't play in Cabot." no doubt most husky football fans-whose team has had its problems over the years in persuading potential recruits to spend their college careers playing in the humble precincts of Parsons Field-would love to shout "sis-boom-bah" in a shiny new stadium. (McCaw says that this prospect is high on his wish list, although when and how this aspiration will become reality it is still too early to tell.) Meanwhile, with last month's football matchup with Boston College having transported the Huskies, however briefly, to new competitive heights, some supporters dream of a heroic new era in Northeastern sports-through a leap into Division I-A football, for example. Do their fantasies have any hope of becoming reality?

Given that turning N.U. into a big-time sports school on the BC model would require, first and foremost, a significant financial investment, no one in the athletics department talks of any major expansion in the foreseeable future. "I don't think we have the infrastructure to go I-A now," says McCaw of the football program, also noting that the NCAA's divisional structure for football will soon be undergoing an overhaul, in which the nation's fifty or sixty truly big-time football schools will be separated out from the rest of the current Division I-A. Most coaches questioned about resources for their sports acknowledge that, like others around the university, they would like to have more funds, but pronounce themselves generally satisfied with existing support for their own programs. Women's ice hockey coach Linstad expresses contentment with her own situation but goes so far as to say that the athletics department's "hands are a little tied on the money and the support that athletics actually gets here at Northeastern." Associate Athletics Director for Communications Jack Grinold also thinks that N.U. athletics could use some more "administrative and recruiting dollars."

Yet overall, says Grinold, the athletics program is "on the right course." "I think [N.U.] has a very nice niche," he observes of Northeastern's standing among New England's Division I schools. "I don't think we should chase the bigs, and I don't think the university is aspiring to chase the real bigs." What N.U. is doing, according to Boston College athletics director Gene DeFilippo, is building up its program "the right way": "They're totally compliant with conference and NCAA rules. They are doing it with student-athletes who are students as well as athletes. I commend them for a job well done." The old adage, often forgotten in the fevered world of big-time



college sports, holds that it isn't whether you win or lose that counts, but how you play the game. With plenty of wins to cheer, Husky fans should also get a boost from rooting for a school that actually knows where the goal is.

[Return to top of page](#)



Nov. 1999

FEATURES

[GAINING GROUND](#)

[OPERATIC INTRIGUE](#)

[SEEDS OF HOPE](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[LETTERS](#)

[TALK OF THE GOWN](#)

[E LINE](#)

[SPORTS](#)

[CLASSES](#)

[HUSKIANA](#)

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Operatic Intrigue

The Comic, Tragic, True Tale of Opera on Huntington Avenue

Don't get me wrong. I love boston, and I think it deserves its reputation as the "Athens of America." Even though- to my untrained ear- some native Bostonians talk funny (in their dialect, my name comes out as "hollow"), I have discovered since moving here to teach at Northeastern three years ago that the Hub offers a culture vulture like me more than enough to feel fulfilled.

Several world-class art museums. More colleges and universities than you want to count. The Boston Symphony, one of the world's finest orchestras, and many other instrumental ensembles. An active theater scene, both nonprofit and commercial. The Boston Ballet, one of the country's youngest and most dynamic dance companies. Plenty of cinemas, with snack bars stocking designer health food and imported chocolates.

And let's not forget some of Boston's more earthy attractions. The Celtics, Bruins, Red Sox, and (a short drive to the south) the Patriots. Cuisine of all nations- even Julia Child lives in nearby Cambridge. Colorful politicians with national aspirations. Whale watching off Cape Cod and fireworks on the Fourth of July on the Charles River Esplanade.

But there's one thing Boston doesn't have much of: opera. True, there are several small companies, most of them performing within walking distance of the Northeastern campus. In recent years, Boston Bel Canto Opera, Boston Academy of Music, Boston Baroque, and Opera Unmet have produced concert and semistaged

performances at Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory, which lies adjacent to N.U. Every other year, the world-renowned Boston Early Music Festival and Exhibition presents a short run of a little-known opera (usually from the seventeenth century), like the lavish production of Luigi Rossi's *Orfeo* presented at the Emerson Majestic Theatre in June 1997. The most established by far of Boston's opera companies is the Boston Lyric Opera, which offers limited runs of three operas a year, with a mixture of local and imported vocal talent.

Usually so proud and smug about our city's many cultural assets, Bostonians blush when you ask them about the opera "problem." How can it be that Boston, a city crammed with connoisseurs, intellectuals, eggheads, and blue bloods, trails operatically far behind places like St. Louis, Houston-even Omaha? Only comparisons between the Red Sox and New York Yankees produce more defensiveness and angst.

Over the years, many theories have been advanced to explain Boston's difficulty in sustaining an opera company-its "operapathy." The Metropolitan Opera House in New York (not to mention the New York City Opera) is too close. Boston doesn't have the required "booster" mentality. The dominant puritanical attitudes of Massachusetts clash with opera's glamorous, flashy aesthetic. People here seem to prefer literature and sermons. Or maybe the problem is a fundamental anxiety over the erotic content of most operatic libretti, so often crammed with sex, violence, adultery, and suicide. Remember that (hopefully increasingly irrelevant) phrase "Banned in Boston"?

It's true that Boston audiences seem more interested in substance than style. Even at the Boston Lyric Opera and Boston Ballet, sensible shoes and professorial tweeds are often as adventurous as wardrobes get. Yankees don't go in for needless display. One early spring night not long after the April Fool's Day blizzard of 1997, I even saw a fellow wearing knee-high boots and tie at a performance of Donizetti's frothy and tuneful *The Elixir of Love*. Then again, there was two feet of snow on the frozen street outside.

At the beginning of this now rapidly vanishing century, it looked like things could turn out very differently for opera in Boston. In 1909, just eleven years after the founding of Northeastern, the Boston Opera House, a state-of-the-art facility with legendary acoustics and sumptuous decor, opened on Huntington Avenue, midway between the Museum of Fine Arts and Symphony Hall. Lavishly underwritten by Eben Jordan

(of Jordan Marsh department store fame) and other prominent Boston philanthropists eager to assert Boston's cultural supremacy over New York-its upstart rival to the south-the BOH was the first opera house in America to have a revolving stage, among many other modern amenities. On November 8, with most of Boston's social elite in attendance, the Boston Opera Company staged its first opera in the new house, a star-studded production of Ponchielli's *La Gioconda*. During the extended intermissions, the nearly 3,000 members of the audience admired the sky-blue ceiling with white clouds, the glittering chandeliers, the Palm Room on the second-tier box floor for smoking and chatting, the Italian Renaissance proscenium arch over which the names of the operatic composers Wagner, Mozart, and Verdi had been enshrined in plaster, gilt, and paint.

But in that era before government support for the arts, the Boston Opera Company survived only five glittering seasons before expiring of debt and insufficient popular support. In 1918, the BOH was purchased by the mighty Shubert organization, which owned and operated theaters all over the Northeast. For the next forty years, until 1957, with Northeastern gradually expanding all around it, the BOH was used by touring companies, including the Chicago Lyric Opera and the Metropolitan Opera, whose annual visits were one of the highlights of the Boston social and artistic season. Among the great singers who performed at the BOH were Caruso, Mary Garden, Lawrence Tibbett, Kirsten Flagstad, and Renata Tebaldi. Meanwhile, this cavernous and beloved temple of that most impossible and spectacular of all the arts was aging and deteriorating, the victim of deferred maintenance and the unforgiving New England climate.

This is the moment where Northeastern enters the tangled tale of opera in Boston. It's a complicated and melancholy story about changing taste, unfortunate timing, urban "renewal," institutional expansion, and governmental neglect. On August 30, 1957, alarmed by the increasing frequency with which bricks and masonry were falling off the front of the BOH onto the sidewalk below, the Boston Building Department pronounced the building unsafe and ordered the Shuberts to undertake immediate repairs. This would have entailed removing all the splendid glazed terra-cotta decorative panels on the facade and replacing them with new masonry. Barriers were placed around the elegant but crumbling building.

But the Shubert organization in New York, which claimed to have been losing money on the Opera House for years, was unwilling to spend the estimated \$300,000 required to restore the building and its waterlogged foundations, set-like much of the Back Bay and South

End-upon landfill. According to most reports, the Shuberts then canceled all the bookings for the coming season (including tours by the Metropolitan Opera and the Royal Ballet) and tried to persuade the City of Boston to purchase both the building and property. At the time, however, Boston city officials were focusing their energy-and funds-on the impending construction of the Prudential Center farther down Huntington Avenue. (It finally opened in 1965.) The Pru's design included a large auditorium originally intended to host large-scale musical and theatrical events, including opera. It eventually served primarily as a convention center.

After Boston declined to buy the BOH, the Shuberts quickly sold it to a local construction company for what sounds today like the ludicrously small sum of \$135,000.

Within days, the S. and A. Allen Construction Company announced plans to demolish the building and use the land for parking. At that moment, Dr. Carl S. Ell, who during his years



(1940-1959) as Northeastern's president had been shrewdly and quietly investigating all possibilities for the crowded university to acquire property for expansion in the neighborhood, made public his desire to purchase the Opera House from Allen Construction. After all, the Opera House stood directly across Huntington Avenue from the newly laid out main quadrangle of N.U., on the corner of Opera Place, stretching back to St. Stephen Street. On September 25, 1957, it was announced that S. and A. Allen Construction had sold its new acquisition to Northeastern for \$160,000, and that the university planned to tear down the structure to build what the Christian Science Monitor described as "urgently needed additional school facilities."

In his own public statements, President Ell expressed feelings of regret over the impending demise of a revered cultural monument. "It is fortunate, however," he added, "that this same site will continue to serve our community constructively, especially the young people of this area, both present and future." Nor did any prominent government agencies or community groups seem to dispute President Ell's assertion that "Northeastern was a natural owner of that property" or that it was the university's manifest destiny to develop and upgrade the area along Huntington Avenue, then home primarily to

warehouses and railroad yards. At the time, too, in the late 1950s, "urban renewal" was the rallying cry in cities small and large all over the United States. In New York City, two other magnificent architectural treasures—Pennsylvania Station and the old Metropolitan Opera House—would be destroyed within the next few years, while Carnegie Hall and Grand Central Station would only narrowly escape the same fate.

And so, Northeastern began tearing down the Opera House in the summer of 1958. Given its enormous size and the sentimental and historical value of the contents, this was a long and painful process that went on for months. Many of the furnishings were removed and given to various schools and colleges in the area. One of the BOH rehearsal pianos is still in use today in the N.U. Department of Music's headquarters in Ryder Hall, according to music professor Joshua Jacobson. By summer 1958, the spot where the Boston Opera House had once stood so grandly was an empty lot. In 1963, construction began there on Speare Hall, a residence hall for women, which was completed in 1964 and named after N.U.'s founder and first president, Frank Palmer Speare. Today, the only visible reminder of the BOH is the street sign "Opera Place" on the corner of Huntington Avenue.

Fortunately, opera did not entirely disappear from the Hub. In 1957, Sarah Caldwell, an enterprising conductor and impresario, founded the Opera Company of Boston. This daring and adventuresome outfit presented many significant premieres with international stars from the late 1950s through the 1980s, performing in unlikely venues all over town. Eventually, the Opera Company of Boston established a permanent home in a former vaudeville hall on Washington Street originally known as the Savoy, now renamed the Opera House. Some of Northeastern's music students sang in the chorus. A brilliant artist and musician, Caldwell unfortunately was a notoriously inept administrator who managed to alienate many of Boston's leading philanthropists. Her company finally expired in 1991, when Boston Edison turned off the lights. Recently, there has been talk of restoring the now empty and abandoned Opera House and bringing Caldwell and her company back. Whether this becomes a reality remains to be seen.

For the moment, the field of professional staged opera belongs to the Boston Lyric Opera, now run by Janice Mancini Del Sesto. In its early days during the 1980s, this company used N.U.'s Blackman Auditorium for its home before moving to the Emerson Theatre in 1990. Last year, Boston Lyric moved down Tremont Street from the Emerson to the Shubert Theatre, across from the

Wang Center. The Emerson had poor sight lines, limited stage space, and a lobby smaller than many living rooms. (During intermission at a recent Boston Lyric performance of Puccini's *Tosca* at the Emerson, the crush for the restrooms at intermission resembled the scene at a Filene's Basement sale down the street.)

Blackman has also hosted some performances by the New England Conservatory Opera Theater, including last season's gritty and compelling *Threepenny Opera* by Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht. few students at northeastern aspire to careers as opera singers, but there are some prominent exceptions. One is

Ja-Naé Duane. Currently a senior honors student planning to graduate in June 2000, Duane hails from West Haven, Connecticut, where she started singing semiprofessionally at weddings (her repertoire included standards like "Ave Maria" and the Carpenters' "We've Only Just Begun") at age thirteen. At first she was thinking about a career on Broadway, but her high school music teacher instilled in her a passion for opera. She remembers going with her high school class to see Verdi's *La Traviata* at the Met in New York. "We got standing-room tickets, and by the end of the performance I was saying to myself, 'I have to do this.' And then my teacher told me that I had a big mouth so I should go into opera."

Like so many others, Duane chose to come to Northeastern because of the co-op program ("to make connections in the world of arts administration") and also because of its proximity to the New England Conservatory and many other musical institutions. At N.U., she began as a music education major, but then-with the help of her professors in the music department-she took the initiative to create an independent major focusing on the elements important for a career in opera: singing lessons, music history and theory, acting training, languages (Italian, French, and German), and practical business knowledge gained in the courses offered in the department's popular music industry program. Under a student exchange program established by Professor Jacobson, Ja-Naé has also been able to take courses at New England Conservatory. At NEC, she is the only female undergraduate enrolled in the demanding Opera Workshop.

Duane has also made the most of her co-ops. In summer 1996, she was the coproducer (with music and African-American studies professor Leonard Brown) of the John Coltrane Memorial Concert, presented each year at Northeastern, an experience that gave her invaluable hands-on training in musical/theatrical production. More

recently, she worked for Opera New England (which has now merged with Boston Lyric Opera) on their productions for children, developing contracts and grant proposals. ("It helped me learn how to find funding for myself," she observes.) In spring 1999, she worked for the Boston Academy of Music, assisting on three fully staged productions at the Emerson Theatre and serving as assistant stage manager for a semistaged production of Puccini's *Il Trittico* at Jordan Hall. For the last two summers, Duane participated as a scholarship student in the Bay Area Summer Opera Institute at the University of San Francisco, which has only heightened her enthusiasm for pursuing a career on the operatic stage.

In order to support herself and pay the bills, Ja-Naé has at times worked four jobs simultaneously. Needless to say, she has a lot of energy and drive. "It takes a certain mentality to do what I've done here at Northeastern," she admits. "You have to be determined and know who to talk to. I cannot say it has been easy."

Not long ago, at the advice of her voice teacher, Patricia Craig, Duane switched from the voice range of soprano to mezzo-soprano. Right now she is preparing such roles as Cherubino in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, the sexy title role in Bizet's *Carmen*, Dido in Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, and her first "pants role" (a female singer portraying a male character) of Idamante in Mozart's *Idomeneo*. Among her role models as opera singers are Maria Callas and the currently hot star Denyce Graves, both known not only for their vocal skills but also for their acting.



"I'm really a singing actress. I just hate singers who just stand up there and sing without acting-it's enough to make me leave a performance. I've also acted in many nonmusical stage plays, which has helped me a lot. Notes on a piece of paper are not music-it's what the performer does with them," Duane says.

In the future, she would like to specialize in the late-Romantic repertoire: Richard Strauss, Wagner, Mahler songs. With her big voice, she is particularly drawn to the roles of sirens like Salome (in Strauss's *Salome*) and Delilah (in *Samson and Delilah* by Camille Saint-Saëns). After graduating from N.U., Ja-Naé hopes to start graduate study at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia.

In pursuing her dream, it has not always been easy for Ja-Naé to explain to her classmates why opera matters so much. "I'm always very aware of my audience, and opera really is so relevant to our lives. It has love, death, sex,

violence-and all those things are very much still around us. I would like to see more productions that update the standard repertoire, to bring these operas further into the cultural mainstream, and better marketing. I'm very big on the idea of crossover."

Not long after arriving at Northeastern, Duane heard the story of how the grand old Boston Opera House once stood on what is now the university's campus. "I was upset when I realized that N.U. had torn it down," she admits. "Why?" Perhaps Ja-Naé Duane will be able to give back to the world something of what was lost in 1958 on the corner of Huntington Avenue and Opera Place.

Harlow Robinson, professor of Russian and cinema studies in the Department of Modern Languages, has written about opera and music for the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Opera News, Opera Quarterly, and other publications. He also appears regularly on the TexacoMetropolitan Opera International Radio Network broadcasts, and has lectured for the Metropolitan Opera Guild, the Los Angeles Music Center Opera, Seattle Opera, the Boston Symphony, and the New York Philharmonic.

[Return to top of page](#)

Nov. 1999

FEATURES

[GAINING GROUND](#)

[OPERATIC INTRIGUE](#)

[SEEDS OF HOPE](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[LETTERS](#)

[TALK OF THE GOWN](#)

[E LINE](#)

[SPORTS](#)

[CLASSES](#)

[HUSKIANA](#)

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N.U. MAGAZINE

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Balkan Sunflowers' Seeds of Hope: A Volunteer's Story

By Douglas Williams

Two years after my graduation from the College of Business Administration in 1996, I landed it. My dream job. It had all the hallmarks of success: a great salary, great benefits, in a solid company with rapid growth and a record of inside promotions. I was ecstatic. But as the months quickly passed and I toiled away from dawn to dusk, I found myself becoming less and less satisfied, until one day, I woke up and just couldn't go in. I couldn't do it anymore. The question "What does it all mean?" ran through my head over and over. What did it matter how many office supplies I sold? What did it matter how nice a catalog I could create? Who cares?! I'd had enough.

Shortly thereafter I was lying in bed, watching CNN. I was dumbstruck by the plight of column after column of refugees, mostly women and children—since most of the men had been killed—streaming from the province of Kosovo. They had been beaten and raped, their family and friends massacred, their homes and belongings burned, their lives destroyed. "What is next for them?" I muttered. They would be herded like cattle into a filthy tent city resembling the aftermath of yet another Woodstock concert, where they would do nothing but sit and wait. Sit and think about their plight. Sit and feel

their despair. Sit and contemplate the revenge that will spin the wheel of violence for yet another generation.

As I continued to watch this stream of cold, stark images, a thought quietly surfaced. "Oh, well, these are refugees. They should be used to this, shouldn't they? This is what refugees do." The realization of what I had said jolted me from the trance I was in. I was appalled at the ease with which this thought had come to me. What had I meant by "that's what refugees do"?! These were not just empty images; not actors on a film set or in a sitcom. These were real people. These people had lives like mine. They had families, friends, jobs; they went to universities, went out for groceries; they had feelings, had doubts and dreams. These people had the right to have these things. This was not what refugees do; this was what regular people, like me, had been forced to do.

I thought for a second. What would it be like? If one day uniformed men-many of them having been my neighbors for most or all of my life-came to my house and raped my sister, shot my father and uncle, and, in front of my very eyes, murdered or imprisoned all of the men aged sixteen to sixty in my neighborhood, and forced me to walk west towards the New York border 100 miles distant, as the house I grew up in, containing the recently mangled and bloody bodies of my relatives, burned to the ground behind me? If I made it to New York, if I were allowed to cross the border, if I did not become separated from my remaining family members-what then? And what could be done about it?

That afternoon I scoured the Web looking for any organization involved with the relief effort. I'm smart, a veteran adventure traveler, good in a crisis, a psychology buff-somebody had to give me a job or at least pay my expenses so I could join in the relief effort. All in all, I contacted 250 organizations asking how I could help. I figured they must be desperate for volunteers willing to help.

Wrong. Every reply I got said the same things: we need medical personnel, we want people with refugee experience, you don't speak the language, a crisis is not the time to recruit green volunteers. I was turned down by all of them. But attached to one of the rejection letters was a copy of a message sent by a man named Wam Kat in Belzig, Germany. It was addressed to anyone who would listen. He had launched several grassroots relief projects during the Bosnian war and wanted to organize another relief project for the Kosovars. No experience necessary.

I contacted Wam, he replied, and two weeks later other

concerned people around the world joined in and we began to formulate a plan. Offers of help came in from all over. Wam's e-mail had inspired thousands to action. That was last March. Within a few weeks, we were two thousand strong with a headquarters established in Belzig. My original intention was to join Wam and four others on a "pathfinder" mission for reconnaissance and preparation. By the end of May, however, I found that I had been so busy in planning projects and operational details, sending out press releases, answering up to 100 e-mail inquiries a day, and communicating with HQ that I had not raised my own funds to finance my participation. What I had done, however inadvertently, was become the coordinator for the U.S. arm of what was to be called the Balkan Sunflowers. The group's name arose from sunflowers that Wam had planted in sandbags in Zagreb, Croatia, during the war there in 1992. As the seeds sprouted and blossomed, so did people's hopes for recovery and normality.

As the crisis wore on, I found myself getting busier and busier until I had no free time left at all. And I loved every minute of it. I was using all of the marketing and business skills I had learned at Northeastern. I squeezed every bit of knowledge and experience out of my life and diploma and poured it into the relief effort. I was my own boss, I was at the top of an international organization, and, more important than anything, what I was doing meant something. This time it mattered. Knowing that my efforts would benefit thousands of war victims was worth more than any salary I could have earned in the corporate world.

I am now the founding director of Balkan Sunflowers USA, which was legally incorporated as a nonprofit organization last month. I function as the group's marketing director. Balkan Sunflowers now has offices in Tirana, the capital of Albania; Skopje, the capital of Macedonia; Pristina/Prishtine, the provincial capital of Kosovo/a; and Dakovica/Gjakove and Pec/Peje, two cities in Kosovo/a. (Why two names? The former spellings are used by Serbs, the latter by Albanians, who are the majority in Kosovo/a. Each term carries a political connotation. To avoid the appearance of taking sides, we use both names together.)

The Sunflowers are now 150 volunteers from all over the world, serving in the Balkans on more than thirty projects thus far. We have bettered the lives of the Kosovar Albanians stuck in refugee camps in Albania and Macedonia and, working with NATO, CARE, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), have provided safe havens along the roads leading back to Kosovo/a during the mass return after the war. We have set up

community centers in Skopje to serve the new wave of Serbian and Roma (Gypsy) refugees fearing reprisals from the returning Kosovar Albanians. We have stayed behind in Albania when all of the other relief organizations have left, to begin new projects in this country, which in many ways is worse off than Kosovo/a. We are helping those still in camps and those whose homes have been destroyed prepare for the unforgiving Balkan winter. And we are still going strong.

"There are not many African-Americans in this line of work. I am often asked, 'Why are you helping these people? Why aren't you helping our youth and our inner cities?' My response to this question is that I am doing what best fits my skill set. The world is larger than your own ethnic group. I am proud to be part of an international humanitarian effort and to show that African-Americans are more than what foreigners see in movies like *Boyz N the Hood* and *New Jack City*, which is often the only impression that many of them have of us. (I am actually African-American, Cherokee Indian, German, Russian Jewish, and Amish, but not many people can tell.)"



Doug Williams

Upon arriving in the Balkans in late September, I assumed the position of country coordinator for Albania, and, soon after, Balkan regional coordinator. I am writing now from Dakovica/ Gjakove, in southeast Kosovo/a, where I'm on a fact-finding and troubleshooting tour. Although I was briefed in advance on the differences between Kosovar Albanians and Albanians, I was still surprised by the severity of the difference. Kosovo/a is a semideveloped country with a standard of living nearly ten times that of Albania. Fifty years of isolation during the repressive Communist era stripped Albania of its cultural heritage and spirit of self-determination and destroyed its economy and infrastructure. As one Kosovar Albanian put it, "They are our brothers, we know that, and we thank them for their support during the conflict. We want to help them to recover from the transition to democracy, but we have been separated for so long, we are very different. We are civilized in Kosova, [in Albania] they are crazy."

For the time being, Kosovo/a is the dominant news story. This is the story that people want to hear. Americans

know little, if anything, about Albania. However, I would be neglecting my duties as a relief worker to focus only on the situation in Kosovo/a. Albania is absolutely poverty-stricken. The country is in a state of anarchy that the government can do little to correct. A near civil war in 1997 provided every family in the country with at least one Kalashnikov machine gun and many with hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenades, and even shoulder-fired missiles. The law here is the law of the gun, as a strong belief in defense of the clan and clan feuding and revenge pervade this society. Albania is in great need of international assistance.

The situation in Kosovo/a is different. Walking around at night, you feel completely safe as long as you do not stray from paved areas, for fear of mines. The UCK-the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA) in English-is still a strong presence here and the resurgence of the Kosovar Mafia insures that, as in Albania, there is gunfire on a nightly basis. Although the people have gone through indescribable horrors that will smolder in their minds for generations to come, the order and infrastructure in Kosovo/a is strong enough to have facilitated an incredibly fast recovery. The presence of more than 250 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) has speeded up the process.

Albania, on the other hand, remains in a state of crisis and anarchy. People there are well aware that the world's focus is on Kosovo/a and not on them and they are truly jealous of their Kosovar brothers, and with good reason. The Albanians are in greater need of assistance. This fact eludes coverage in the international media.

Because of this situation and the location of our Balkan headquarters in Tirana, I have chosen to focus my time on projects there. The Sunflowers work at an orphanage and at one of the remaining refugee camps, where we conduct children's activities and give English lessons; we work at one of the collective refugee centers in Tirana; we have built Tirana's first community center; and we work with children at the children's hospital, the only pediatric hospital in Albania and Kosovo/a. Child victims of the war have to make the long journey to Tirana in order to receive care. Although I am responsible for all of the projects in Kosovo/a, Albania, Macedonia, and now Montenegro, one project has captured my heart with particular strength: our flagship project, Bathore. I love Bathore.

Bathore is an unofficial suburb of Tirana with some 60,000 inhabitants, economic refugees from northern Albania. Eight years after the fall of Communism, property issues are still paramount. There is not a piece

of land in the country not claimed by at least two parties. Bathore was a collective farm and its ownership has not been established. Thus the entire community is illegal and without utilities, government recognition, or much employment. The living conditions are horrifying.

By the time I arrived, Balkan Sunflowers had already set up two children's programs in Bathore. Through teamwork and dedication, we have gone on to establish sanitation and sewage systems, rehabilitate Bathore's school, distribute over sixty tons of food and supplies, and get eighteen NGOs and governmental agencies to work together to solve Bathore's problems-an unprecedented task. The things we have been able to accomplish (without a budget) have amazed the city and the NGO community.

I can claim some personal accomplishments, too. I have discovered that your career is what you make of it. The skills you have and the skills you are learning can be applied to whatever you want to do. A degree in international business and marketing does not mean that you can't become a refugee relief worker. A degree in political science does not mean you can't become a musician. And I have learned that success is not measured by the size of your wallet, but by the size of the smile on your face. Is anything worth more than that?

Balkan Sunflowers has been organizing projects with refugees in Macedonia and Albania since the conflict arose in March and will continue to do so for the coming decade. We have been asked to continue our work in Kosovo/a, since so many people are coming back to burned houses and unstable situations. This does not mean that the work in Albania and Macedonia will stop. We will continue to organize projects with orphans, disadvantaged children, and Roma and Serb refugees in both countries. We are always looking for volunteers to serve, both at home and in the field.

Douglas Williams, BA'96, is the founding director of Balkan Sunflowers USA. For more information on Balkan Sunflowers, visit their Web sites (<www.balkansunflowers.org> and <www.usbsf.org>) or call 202-726-3317.

[Return to top of page](#)

Nov. 1999

FEATURES

[GAINING GROUND](#)[OPERATIC INTRIGUE](#)[SEEDS OF HOPE](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[LETTERS](#)[TALK OF THE GOWN](#)[E LINE](#)[SPORTS](#)[CLASSES](#)[HUSKIANA](#)SEARCH
N.U MAGAZINE

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Letters

Building Campus Cohesiveness

I applaud the university finally expanding the West Campus ("Building a New Northeastern," September). In September 1986, I moved into Museum Villa Apartments, now known as Burstein Hall. When I would tell fellow students where I lived, I would receive puzzled looks and the question "where's that?" It was as if campus life did not exist beyond the Stearns co-op building and West Apartments, now Willis Hall. My roommates and I felt isolated and missing campus life compared to those students who lived in the area surrounding the quad. The West Campus initiative is exactly what the university needs to tie all students into university life.

James F. Nardozzi, CJ'89

Waterbury, Connecticut

Reproductive Science Snag

In response to "Uncommon Law" (September) and attorney Susan Crockin's decade of advocacy in "working on the cutting edge of reproductive science and the law," there are some critical issues that need to be addressed. Crockin is justified in questioning whether the young egg donors understand the risk of taking fertility drugs. She states, "I'm concerned about the effects of those drugs and the hyperstimulation of the reproductive system." Her concern, after all these years, is perplexing, as she must have been cognizant of the fact that the industry and drug companies have downplayed the risks for years. Donor eggs are big business and the ethical and safety issues should have been debated in a public forum before becoming routine practice.

Since there's no regulation of the baby-making business, legal disputes will require specialized services. In the

meantime, the children created have no rights, and fertile and infertile women who have been harmed by these procedures have no legal representation in the high stakes of reproductive science, which, in my opinion, is out of control.

Linda DeBenedictis

Norwood, Massachusetts

DeBenedictis is president of New England Patients' Rights Group.

Sore Scholars, Livid Lecturers

A number of errors and misrepresentations in Bill Kirtz's September article, "Gypsy Scholars and Liberated Lecturers" [Talk of the Gown], necessitate my response.

First, as a basic issue of journalism, my name is Deanne (not Diane) Harper, as I told Kirtz at our interview and as is printed on the business card I gave him.

Kirtz's representation of me as a part-time faculty member misleads your readers and misrepresents my status. I am an Associate Academic Specialist, not an "academic specialist" as Kirtz describes. Academic specialist is my job title. The quotation marks he put around this phrase when describing tenured faculty reflect the bias with which he approached the topic. An academic specialist at Northeastern University is a full-time faculty member, non-tenure-track, and thus represents a third category of faculty beyond part-time and tenured. That I am an associate academic specialist shows that I have been promoted within that rank. I do indeed supplement my modest salary with adjunct work at N.U., teaching mostly upper-level professional writing courses, so I know of the part-time situation. Yet I spoke to Kirtz very much as a full-time faculty member who has found many and varied career opportunities at N.U.-and who has made significant contributions to several of its programs. I wish he had made that clear to your readers.

In agreeing to be interviewed, I had one purpose. I wished to show that, in my opinion, N.U. has made a wise decision in introducing the academic specialist position. This position makes possible a pool of accomplished and experienced faculty whose primary activity is to teach, whose primary loyalties lie with N.U., and whose compensation package allows important time for professional development and program service. I meant to suggest that this is a much better response to institutional and student needs than

the large pool of exploited adjunct faculty. Part of my discussion, however, included a recognition that the expansion of the academic specialist rank could be viewed as something that challenges tenure-though I respectfully disagree. I support the idea of tenure and I (and my students) benefit significantly from the assistance and cooperation of tenured (or tenure-track) faculty. Any attempt to pit tenure-track faculty against non-tenure-track faculty offers no value to the N.U. community. The problems of compensation and status for all faculty are real and need a great deal of discussion within this institution. I wish Kirtz's article had done more to contribute to that discussion.

Deanne Harper
Ryder Hall

Harper is an associate academic specialist in the School of General Studies.

One hardly knows where to begin with "Gypsy Scholars and Liberated Lecturers." One might analyze Professor Kirtz's tone (flippant and supercilious) or his use of tired and hackneyed phrases ("newly hatched doctors," "sheepskin snobbery"). Perhaps one might choose to take issue with his inaccuracies that would not be tolerated in a piece by a sophomore journalism major. One should be most concerned about Kirtz's misrepresentations of facts: while it is true that humanities departments create more PhDs than there are university jobs, it is not true that all PhD candidates pursue the degree with the intention of joining the tenured ranks. And to say that the bulk of courses in the Department of English are taught by part-timers takes on quite a different meaning if one also specifies that the number of full-time, tenured or tenure-track faculty in the department is twenty-and, according to the admissions office, the number of first-year students this year is 2,833. Tenured and tenure-line faculty teach writing, of course, but we obviously cannot cover the sections mandated by a university-wide writing requirement.

Kirtz was apparently unable to furnish a balanced cross-section of part-time experiences across disciplines, instead making writing instructors his main subject. He seems unaware of changes in English departments across the country and various movements for reform that have emerged in response to these changes.

Like many others in the university, Kirtz believes in the myth that the draw of Boston and New England is

enough to supply an unlimited pool of qualified, experienced part-time writing instructors. On the contrary. While most of the people who apply to teach writing in the Department of English have MAs, and some hold the PhD, such people often have little experience teaching writing and even less knowledge of the field of rhetoric and composition. Last spring, the Department of English conducted a search to fill nine full-time positions in teaching the required writing courses of the university. Out of a pool of sixty-odd applications, and after interviewing twelve or so candidates, we identified only three external applicants in whom we had enough confidence to make an offer. (That is, in addition to the experienced, knowledgeable, and hardworking internal candidates to whom we made offers.) Two of the external finalists found themselves better jobs-that is, less teaching and more money-elsewhere.

"Talk of the Gown" is hardly the forum for a reasoned, thoughtful discussion of the very serious issue of the status of part-time lecturers at N.U. and elsewhere, nor is it intended to be. However, this is no excuse for the way in which Kirtz constantly goes for the cheap shot, the empty zinger, and the cute alliterative phrase in his article. I do not find the systematic and institutional exploitation of non-tenure-track faculty amusing. I am angered and disheartened by Kirtz's distortions of the realities of part-time employment at N.U. It is a source of bitter embarrassment to me that we are once again conducting an external search for full-time lecturers and asking them to take on a tremendous amount of work for very little pay.

Finally, there is something very disturbing about the way Kirtz uses the issue of part-time instruction and the words of non-tenure-track faculty (here twisted out of context) to attack the tenure system. Of course there are tensions between tenured faculty and non-tenured faculty; any system in which salary inequities exist is bound to create problems. Kirtz exacerbates and exploits these tensions by describing part-time instruction as an "attractive alternative" to tenure attractive, in my mind, only to those who revere the bottom line and ignore the long-term benefits of developing a faculty, full-time and part-time, committed to the intellectual well-being of a university and its teaching and research mission. Of course we are in need of tenure reform-not the abolishment of tenure by attrition and accident, but reform through a careful post-tenure faculty development and review system.

I read "Gypsy Scholars" as a companion piece to an equally incoherent article Kirtz wrote a few years ago, in

which he described most tenured professors as craven, self-serving, and lazy ["The Academic Womb," Talk of the Gown, November 1995]. I am led to conclude that Kirtz is a self-hating tenured associate professor. Perhaps as part of his campaign for abolishing tenure, Kirtz should give up his own tenured position and become one of those "liberated lecturers" that he finds so entertaining. Kirtz might then find himself out of a job-if the journalism that he practices in N.U.'s alumni magazine is any indication of what he teaches his students.

Kathleen Kelly

Holmes Hall

Kelly is an associate professor of English.

We were quite surprised to read Bill Kirtz's piece: surprised that a journalism professor would write so poorly, research so irresponsibly, and above all boldly report so much false information.

Kirtz's information about lecturers and part-time instructors at Northeastern, and in particular lecturers in the English department, is irresponsibly researched. The dichotomy he suggests (either tenured/tenure track or part-time) is used for university budget and governance discussions, but not for most other daily university and department operations. English department lecturers are full-time, with benefits (including retirement investment options and health benefits).

Lecturers and part-time instructors are fully involved in curricular development. Lecturers receive consistently high merit evaluations based on their teaching, and even though we are not able to use scholarship or committee work towards merit consideration, we are active committee members and scholars. We publish poetry, novels, articles, composition manuals, and present papers-the activities of academia, and not the highly insulting "gypsy" scholarship Kirtz suggests.

He begins the text of the article with the ultimate insult, "They can't get on [the tenure track]." He insults our students and demonstrates his outdated pedagogy by naming some English sections "remedial." His insults continue: he suggests in the title that we are "liberated lecturers," which we suppose is one way to describe the experience of serving at the pleasure of the chair, the dean, the university. He fails to recognize the ambivalence and complexity of our positions: we are simultaneously excellent and exploited, and he in fact

participates in our exploitation by presenting us as liberated.

Finally, we would like to point out that the tensions and alliances in the English department-and of course they exist, as in most situations involving human relations-are not clearly cut along tenure/nontenure fault lines, but along lines involving subject areas,

pedagogical priorities, and sometimes simply personalities.

In sum, we are quite surprised that his article was published. We are at a loss to explain why he may have decided to pursue this topic about which he seem to know so little.

Tiane Donahue
Mary Annas
Mary Balestraci
Aleta Cane
Carole Center
Kalo Clarke
Lynn Dornink
Andrew Grobman
Matt Higgs
Ruth Lepson
Matt Noonan
Susan Pilaud
Cynthia Richards
Ellen Scharfenberg
Lorianne Schaub
Gregory Zuch

The signers are lecturers, part-time instructors, and PhD candidates in the English department.

Safe Conduct

I was just forwarded a copy of the letter from Richard DiBona in the September issue. In the letter, DiBona chided Stephen Cotter and me for wearing our fall protection equipment incorrectly. If DiBona were more familiar with the equipment, he would realize that we are wearing a multipurpose harness with four D rings. This commonly used harness has one ring on the chest for descending (rappelling), two on the hips for positioning, and one in the back for fall protection. Since our backs are not in the picture, and the anchorage point is on the boom behind us (obscured from view), even someone without an engineering background should be able to figure out that they will not be able to see the lanyard connection. I think it is admirable that DiBona has some

understanding of safety issues, but as a manager, he should know enough to get all of the facts before implying wrongdoing on the part of a professional. I can assure all of your readers that my first concern is with the safety of my crew, whether 150 feet in the air or on the ground. Only a fool would need further justification of its effects on the bottom line to act on such vital safety issues.

Robert Rottenbucher

Boston

Robert Rottenbucher is a professional engineer at the HNTB Companies.

Millennium Bug

I was surprised to read in your September issue that the June 1999 graduation is described as "Northeastern's final graduating class of the twentieth century . . . " Unless you don't plan to have a graduation in the year 2000, that graduation next year will be the final one of the twentieth century. It's amazing to see that even N.U. is infected with the common misconception about when the turn of a century occurs. Just as the years 1 through 100 represent the first century, the years 1901 through 2000 represent the twentieth century. You could look it up.

C. C. Anderson, E'48

Rolling Bay, Washington

School Inspirit

On October 2, I attended my first Northeastern football game, on the campus of BC. I did not at the time own anything with a husky on it. When I attended N.U., it was not a proud time in Boston history. I transferred in during the years of the busing riots. The city was spewing hatred of all kinds, and while it was a great time to listen to the lectures of Jack Levin on social deviance, it was very threatening to be in the midst of such evil. It is difficult for me to separate the city's trauma from my years at the school. I do not regret my education from N.U., and I do contribute monetarily to the school's future.

And so, I purchased some hats and a T-shirt in anticipation of the upcoming game. For the first time in the almost twenty-five years since I graduated, I was extremely proud of N.U. They showed up at BC clearly ready to play a team that is in a different league (I-A) and obviously is supported by a system that outspends

N.U.'s athletic budget many times over. They never lost sight of the fact that they might actually win the game.

I've been reading with great expectations the planned changes taking place at N.U., especially that of transforming the school into a residential, campus-oriented school versus a commuter school. Hear! Hear! Go Huskies!

Felicia R. Penn, LA'75
Hyannis, Massachusetts

Correction: In "Uncommon Law" (September), Deena Hurwitz, L'96, is quoted as saying the right to trial was unknown in Bosnia before the recent conflict. In fact, a right to trial did exist in the former Yugoslavia, but there was little protection for the rights of an accused before or during trial. Also, she worked in the West Bank after law school, not Israel.

We welcome your letters and reserve the right to edit them for space and clarity. Send them to: Letters to the Editor, Northeastern University Magazine, 360 Huntington Avenue, 598CP, Boston, MA 02115. Fax: 617-373-5430.

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[Return to top of page](#)

Nov. 1999

FEATURES

[GAINING GROUND](#)[OPERATIC INTRIGUE](#)[SEEDS OF HOPE](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[LETTERS](#)[TALK OF THE GOWN](#)[E LINE](#)[SPORTS](#)[CLASSES](#)[HUSKIANA](#)SEARCH
N.U. MAGAZINE

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Talk of the Gown



A Monumental Victory

Jack Martin's project of healing

At first glance, it's an incongruous pair-cancer and Northeastern. Not only incongruous but unnatural, and certainly not the usual stuff of this column.

Writers for the "Talk of the Gown" column have addressed such relevant topics as heading the Faculty Senate or the trials and tribulations of a journalism professor. What could Northeastern, a living, working, prospering institution that suggests the picture of health, have in common with cancer?

But then I thought of my metaphor. When I was diagnosed with Stage IIII colon cancer in the fall of 1998, my instinct was that I needed a way of thinking about the life-threatening disease that could make it manageable. The standard comparison of cancer as a war to be fought-a "battle with cancer"-was less than palatable. I had already experienced real war in Vietnam and was not anxious to repeat anything closely resembling that.

Next, I thought of a journey: the road, hopefully, to recovery. But with cancer, there is no known destination. And since my life had abruptly changed forever, this was

not a journey from which I would return the same, with only a scrapbook full of happy memories to show for it. No, the metaphor needed to be something with which I was familiar, something I could hold on to while enduring whatever it was I was going to have to endure.

When I thought of the words of the Holocaust survivor and eminent psychologist Viktor Frankl, who said, "Everything can be taken away from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms-to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way," I knew my metaphor was to be found where I had spent my college years and thirty-plus years of my professional career-Northeastern. And so the relationship between my cancer and N.U. unfolded.

I decided to treat cancer as a project to be completed. Since I oversee the

planning and building of the university's facilities, completing a project was familiar territory. And, as with the Marino Recreation Center or the new West Village Residence Hall, I knew where to begin. I would make lists similar to those I use with staff and contractors: lists that can range from ranking of the nation's top architects to cataloguing potential shades of precast concrete. These lists, both functional and exhaustive, would help me organize my cancer. Lists of surgeons, hospitals, possible treatments, people who had recovered, and what needed to be done at Northeastern while I was undergoing treatment-these helped to objectify the disease, to put it in its proper perspective so that it could not overwhelm me.

After the lists came the fact-finding phase. As with any project, responding to the cancer diagnosis required extensive research. Internet searches, interviews, and books armed me with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions.

If I wanted to survive, I really had little choice but to have surgery. Once the decision was made, I was ready for the challenge. Drawing on my project

management skills and accounting background, I recorded everything and made sure I had documentation of every process, procedure, and discussion.

I logged 100 doses of radiation, six months of chemotherapy, and three major surgeries. I checked off the days on my calendar, giving myself a year from start through completion. Although these dates were artificial, I wanted to ascribe a finite quality to a disease that promised no neat conclusions. When setbacks occurred

(and there were many), I looked at them as change orders that needed to be taken care of to stay on schedule. To face the unexpected radiation burns or the next round of chemotherapy, I thought of these occurrences as delays in the project, not as a sign of something grave.

Perhaps most importantly, treating this disease as a project allowed me to make it public. Disclosing my cancer was one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made. I consider myself a very private person, but I firmly believe separating my cancer from the rest of my personal life has been critical to my survival.

I now know that cancer has touched the lives of most of us at the university. People on every level of the institution, from the trustees to the faculty, administration, staff, and students, have dealt with this disease. How do I know this? Because these people, in various walks of campus life, have approached me confidentially and shared their cancer experiences with me. I gained strength from their strength, wisdom from their wisdom, and the will to go on from their kindness.

Surprisingly, along with the words of inspiration that I gained from my colleagues and friends at Northeastern, I also gained inspiration from my old routine. Maintaining as many of my vice presidential duties as my doctors would allow during treatment and recovery allowed me to focus on the positive, the constructive, and the goals I had set for myself the previous year.

My fax machine, computer, and cellular phone allowed me to conduct business in the hospital and at home. A few meetings on the major projects of the past year (West Village, the Warren Conference Center at Ashland, Stetson East Marketplace, the university's master plan, the new garage, and the Behrakis Health Center) were held in the waiting rooms at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. At other times, staff members pulled up chairs in my dining room to discuss possibilities for centralized conferencing or renovations for Matthews Arena.

The difficult part was when I was not involved in the daily goings-on at the business office. A close friend of mine told me that one of the most surprising things about cancer is that it is a truly humbling disease. Part of this humility stems from having to relinquish total control—allowing my directors and staff to take over when I was unable. The effort of my staff during the past year was monumental, but not unexpected. Their ability to keep everything on schedule and in focus is testimony to their dedication to the university and to their professional talent.

My off-campus responsibilities continued, including leadership positions in organizations and on boards. Ironically, these increased my strength. The encouragement I received from my colleagues involved in the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, which secures funding to preserve parkland; the Fenway Alliance, working to establish the Fenway Cultural District; the Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges, formed to preserve the charitable status of independent schools and colleges; and the Greater Boston YMCA taught me two things: how special Boston is, and how big the hearts of Bostonians are.

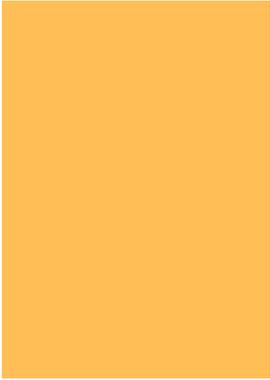
But there were times I did not feel strong. I am fortunate that I am comfortable in my faith, for there were times I was tested. During chemotherapy and radiation and in the first weeks after surgery, your natural state is exhaustion. The questions I asked myself were, "How can I handle this? How can I go on positively?" I sought answers to these questions in books such as Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*, Senator Max Cleland's *Strong at the Broken Places*, and Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm*, and in the poetry of Patrick Kavanagh.

Although these works were inspirational, comfort when I was at my weakest often came from something to do with Northeastern. The Black & White Business Profile Award for the university's efforts in supporting minority businesses and my induction ceremony into the athletics Hall of Fame were events that lifted my spirits and reinforced my pride in N.U.

Now, three months after the final surgery, I am back in my office at 122 St. Stephen Street. I think about the amazing support of my wife, my mother, my family, and my friends. Then I think about N.U., and the support I have received from the president's office, the trustees, and my colleagues in the administration and faculty who, through their thoughtfulness and concern, treated me like family.

I know that without them and their belief in me, this project would not have been completed. It is not complete in the usual sense of the word, such as a building being completed, because I will live the rest of my life with the knowledge that this disease can recur. However, I am so fortunate to have had Boston's best doctors, nurses, and technicians. My prognosis is excellent and I am forging ahead with the personal strength that can only be gained from knowing that there are people who truly care for you.

As I look back over the past year, I realize that although



Northeastern had nothing to do with my cancer, it had everything to do with my healing.

Jack Martin is the university's vice president for business.

[Return to top of page](#)

Nov. 1999

FEATURES

[GAINING GROUND](#)

[OPERATIC INTRIGUE](#)

[SEEDS OF HOPE](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[LETTERS](#)

[TALK OF THE GOWN](#)

[E LINE](#)

[SPORTS](#)

[CLASSES](#)

[HUSKIANA](#)

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ELine

High-tech MBA named nation's best

For years Daniel McCarthy believed that Northeastern's high-tech MBA program was the best in the country. Now the program's codirector has the ranking to prove it.



Northeastern was rated first in the nation in Computerworld's annual "Top Techno MBA Survey," beating out such luminaries as MIT, Stanford, and the University of Pennsylvania. The poll identified the twenty-five schools that "do the best job of preparing students to become tomorrow's technology leaders."

"I know how good we are," McCarthy said in an interview. "But the ranking is still surprising because sometimes it takes an awful long time to develop a reputation and get the word out."

The study by Computerworld, a newspaper and information services company, asked 1,000 campus recruiters to rate the top programs. The top sixty-three schools cited were then surveyed about curriculum, student-to-faculty ratio, admission requirements, job placement, and any special features. The end result was Northeastern's number-one position.

"This is truly a special program, and the epitome of practice-oriented education for our local high-tech community," said Marc Meyer, the program's other codirector. "It's a high-impact program for corporations."

Meyer said the high-technology MBA is designed for fast-track managers in the product and services industries, and focuses on professionals who work full time and use the program to achieve advancement in their companies and industries.

"This program takes a very practical approach, and that's what makes it stand out," said Steven Hawes, an Internet project manager at Fidelity Investments and a student in the program.

Hawes said the program allows students to address and solve real-world workplace challenges while earning an MBA. Already the program has helped him with two major projects at Fidelity.

"So not only are you getting the classic MBA skills," Hawes said, "but they're augmented with very practical exercises for the technical environment."

On graduation, more than half of Northeastern high-tech MBA students receive promotions or change positions, earning on average a twenty-six percent salary increase over two years.

"Our survey reveals that while the better-known business schools excel at training MBAs, they've stuck to the business basics and haven't moved rapidly into technology programs," Computerworld editor in chief Maryfran Johnson said in a statement.

Computerworld's Top 10 Techno-MBA Schools

1. NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

2. University of Texas at Austin

3. University of Maryland, College Park

4. University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

5. University of California, Irvine

6. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

7. Purdue University

8. Southwest Missouri State University

9. Carnegie Mellon University

10. University of Florida, Gainesville

Freeland prods N.U. to be "best in class"

Faculty and staff must embark on an institution-wide effort to transform Northeastern into a visionary

university whose reputation and leadership in higher education reach a new excellence, President Freeland said during his annual university address last month.

"We must be the best in our class," Freeland said. "If we aspire to play at another level, in a tougher league, we need to work harder and better and smarter to succeed."

The president detailed what he called the imperatives of Northeastern's transformation: improving its standing in national rankings and becoming the country's premier practice-oriented institution.

Freeland said the university's competitive position could be enhanced by securing a better placement in the U.S. News & World Report annual four-tier ranking system.

By asserting its national leadership in practice-oriented education, the president said, Northeastern assumes a responsibility to its students and to all those who "might flourish in the form of education that [Northeastern is] defining."

"We stand for important things at Northeastern," he said. "We stand for opportunity-especially the opportunity of young people from all backgrounds to obtain an outstanding education. We stand for excellence in our professional work, as teachers and scholars. We stand for engagement with the urban community. And above all, we stand for an educational idea of great significance-the principle that many students will develop best in an educational environment that includes both classroom study and practical experience, and that provides them with liberal learning as well as professional preparation."

Move to semester calendar considered

The quirky quarter academic calendar, which has gone the way of the brontosaurus in higher education circles, may have seen its final days at Northeastern as well. President Freeland last month endorsed the change to a semester-based system, beginning in either 2001 or 2002.

Freeland's plan, which he hopes to present to the Board of Trustees next month, calls for dividing the academic year into two sixteen-week semesters plus a twelve- to fourteen-week summer session divided into two terms of equal length. Most students would attend classes for seven full semesters plus two summer sessions and take three six-month co-ops during their five-year academic careers.

"I've concluded that this is the right plan for Northeastern

at this time," Freeland said. "It meshes perfectly with our agenda" of becoming the premier practice-oriented university in the country.

Freeland said the semester model at Northeastern would make courses stronger learning experiences for students; be more conducive to the preferred six-month co-op placement; enhance faculty research efforts; reduce the strains and disruptions of student life imposed by the quarter system; and simplify administrative procedures.

A change in the academic calendar has been discussed off and on for the past decade. In 1990, the Faculty Senate and faculty at large recommended to former president John Curry that the university adopt a trimester calendar, breaking the academic year into three equal sessions. Curry postponed a decision, citing financial and other concerns. Five years later, the Senate repeated its call for a trimester calendar, but once again no action was taken.

"The reasons we didn't do it in the past no longer exist," Freeland said. "There will never be a better moment than this [to make the change]."

Campus Footnotes

Animal attraction

President Freeland has been named the 1999 Humane Educator of the Year by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and its education affiliate, the American Humane Education Society. Freeland, who was presented the award last month at the group's "Reasons to Care" dinner, was cited for his support of "two of the three pillars upon which humane societies depend: education and principled citizenship."

Medallion winners

Amin Khoury, MBA'89, and Rhondella Richardson, AS'90, have been named winners of the inaugural Medallion Award for outstanding achievement by recent alumni. Khoury, chairman of the board of B/E Aerospace, and Richardson, a reporter for WCVB-TV in Boston, were honored October 15 in a ceremony at the Egan Research Center. Also at the event, Deborah McConchie, BA'75, past president of the Alumni Association, was named winner of the 1999 W. Erwin Story Citation for alumni volunteerism.

Food for thought

The folks in food services have cooked up a new recipe

for success in residence hall dining. Called the Marketplace at Stetson East, the newly refurbished cafeteria features seven food kiosks serving up selections ranging from homemade soups and garden-fresh salads to rotisserie chicken and freshly cooked pasta. And the critics have noticed. The National Association of College Auxiliary Services honored the Marketplace with its 1999 Innovation Achievement Award, and student business is up, to the tune of 1,000 meals a week.

Red and Black gets a touch of Brown

Steven Calvert, former vice president for alumni relations at Brown University, began work last month as Northeastern's new executive director of alumni relations. He succeeds Eliza Dame, who held the post from 1997-98.

Calvert, who holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University, has been helping universities connect with their graduates since 1976. Before Brown, he worked in the alumni relations field at Dartmouth College and Carnegie Mellon University. In his two years at Brown, Calvert is credited with generating more than \$600,000 in new funds for programs, starting up Internet-based career networking, and implementing new outreach programs for alumni clubs.

A COOL idea from co-op

The hottest thing going in co-op these days is COOL.

The new Web-based initiative, which stands for Co-op Opportunities On-Line, gives students access to more than 7,600 co-op listings at the click of a mouse. The service is one of the first outgrowths of President Freeland's Call to Action campaign to strengthen co-op education.

"In the past, we weren't leveraging technology the best we could," explained interim co-op dean Robert Tillman. "We did not have a systematic way to make information available to students with respect to computer technology."

The co-op division also recently unveiled Career Link, an on-line career placement service for soon-to-be graduates and alumni. You can find it at www.dac.neu.edu/coop.careerservices.

Put up a parking lot

In a move heralded as the next step in the economic revitalization of lower Roxbury, Northeastern officials, government leaders, project developers, and community residents last month celebrated the groundbreaking of a new university-owned parking garage next to the Renaissance Park building.



The \$23 million endeavor, being developed in cooperation with Columbia Plaza Associates, marks the second phase of the Parcel 18 development project on land long overlooked by city and business interests.

"This is a great day for Northeastern University," President Freeland said. "It's a day rich in significance for both the community of lower Roxbury and the very important partnership and relationship between Northeastern and lower Roxbury."

Slated to be finished next fall, the 980-car, ten-story garage will provide parking for employees and visitors of Renaissance Park, university students, faculty and staff, and any future development on Parcel 18.

The project furthers N.U.'s commitment to revamp the former Registry of Motor Vehicles site and three adjacent parcels, which the university purchased for \$17 million in 1997.

"A project that was on the verge of becoming a symbol of another failed hope, another broken promise, has become a project symbolizing the future and a symbol of what can be accomplished," Freeland said.

[Return to top of page](#)

Nov. 1999

FEATURES

[GAINING GROUND](#)[OPERATIC INTRIGUE](#)[SEEDS OF HOPE](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[LETTERS](#)[TALK OF THE GOWN](#)[E LINE](#)[SPORTS](#)[CLASSES](#)[HUSKIANA](#)SEARCH
N.U MAGAZINE

Click [here](#) to search other servers at Northeastern.

Sports

Breaking through the Ice

Men's hockey hopes for breakout season.

By Paul Perillo



So many times last season the story remained the same for the men's hockey team: work hard, stay close, fall a goal or two short.

The result was a disappointing

11-20-3 finish that found the Huskies in the basement and out of the Hockey East playoffs. You might think Bruce Crowder would want to leave that bitter feeling behind, but the fourth-year coach is taking the opposite approach.

"I told our kids that when they go home for the summer and talk to people, tell them that we came in last place," says Crowder, who has compiled a 40-60-9 record during his first three years. "Don't say we came in ninth. I want them to say 'last place' because I want to engrave that feeling into the pits of our stomachs. I want everyone to remember how bad that feeling is so we fight hard to be sure it never happens again."

The seven one-goal and five two-goal losses last year resulted directly from a stagnant offense. To improve the situation, Crowder and his staff set up a shooting area in Cabot Gym where each player shot a couple hundred pucks a day throughout the summer.

"Sometimes [the coaches] are too concerned with the off-ice training things," says Crowder. "What we did with the shooting was give the players a chance to improve their hockey skills. The kids were religious about it. Our biggest priority was working on stepping up our offense."

Crowder will rely on the senior leadership of captains

Roger Holeczy and Billy Newson, as well as last year's leading scorer, Todd Barclay (19 goals, 12 assists, 31 points). Holeczy has played in all 109 games since coming to Huntington Avenue, but suffered from the offensive woes that hit the rest of the team. He finished with 29 points, but just 4 goals. Newson (7-13-20) also struggled as he battled shoulder problems for much of the season.

If the Huskies are to improve in the goal-scoring category, it will likely be the junior class that gets it done. Among a talented group of junior forwards who reached double figures in scoring in their rookie seasons, only Graig Mischler notched a career high last year. That meant a drop in production for Brian Cummings (22 points in 1997-98 to 13 last year), Bob Haglund (12 to 8) and Sean MacDonald (21 to 6). Throw in junior Bobby Davis (24 to 7) and it's not hard to figure out how the team went from twenty wins in '97-'98 to eleven.

"It's pretty much the same situation as last year except with juniors now," says Crowder. "We talked about all the sophomores moving up 10 points. Except for Mischler [20 to 23], everyone took a step or two backwards. We need those guys to move forward, along with this year's sophomores."

The two main cogs in the sophomore class up front are Hockey East All-Rookie team member Willie Levesque (12-10-22) and team Rookie of the Year Chris Lynch (10-14-24). Levesque was drafted in the fourth round by the San Jose Sharks in June's NHL draft and Lynch was the surprise of the league, coming in as a walk-on to finish third on the team's scoring list despite not dressing for the first six games. Another

second-year man, Ryan Zoller (7-6-13), improved as the year progressed. His finest moment came in the Beanpot final against Boston University, when he notched a pair of goals.

While the forward ranks were hit hard by sophomore slumps, the defense was not. Juniors Mike Jozefowicz and John Peterman enjoyed stellar campaigns, mixing tenacious defense and steady offense. Sophomores Jim Fahey (All-Rookie Team) and Rich Spiller were terrific and will be joined by Arik Engbrecht, who will return after missing all of last year with back problems.

The incoming freshman class is talented as well. Mike Ryan highlights the group. He was taken by the Stanley Cup

champion Dallas Stars in the second round of the NHL

draft and is expected to boost the offense immediately. Forward Joe Mastronardi and defenseman Brian Sullivan (also drafted by Dallas) are expected to help.

The area that received the most concern last season was goaltending. With the loss of All-America Marc Robitaille, Jason Braun was asked to fill his shoes as a rookie. He did an adequate job, finishing with ten of the eleven wins and goals-against average of 3.61. Rookies Mike Gilhooly and Todd Marr will join Braun and all will battle for the starting job.

"People were quick to point to our goaltending last year," says Crowder. "But Jason had a solid year. We just didn't give our goalies any breathing room. We need to score more frequently to take some of that pressure off the net.

"Now is the time to take care of all these things. We can't worry about the past or future . . . it's time to win now."

Women's Basketball: Star Nets a Year



As Joy Malchodi enters her twentieth year at the helm of the Northeastern women's basketball team, she does so after one of her most successful campaigns ever. The Huskies finished the 199899 season with a 22-8 record and behind only Maine in the America East conference with a 13-5 mark. But N.U. defeated the Black Bears, 57-55, in the conference title game and earned its first-ever trip to the NCAA Tournament.

The Huskies battled perennial power North Carolina in Chapel Hill in the tournament and gave the Tar Heels a scare before dropping a hard-fought 64-55 decision. Northeastern led the game late, but Malchodi felt her troops simply ran out of gas in the final five minutes.

The Huskies' chances for a return trip were bolstered in late September when the NCAA handed down a decision that will allow N.U.'s star, Tesha Tinsley, to return for a fourth and final year of eligibility. Tinsley, a lightning-quick guard out of Baltimore, came to N.U. as a partial qualifier, thus making her ineligible as a freshman. Under NCAA rules, she would get the fourth year of eligibility back only if she graduated in a four-year

period-no easy feat at a five-year school like N.U. But she did it on September 16, with a bachelor's degree in history.

"It's incredible how far she's come since she's been here," says Malchodi. "She's the kind of player that really makes me look good as a coach. Having her back makes us an instant contender."

Tinsley does just about everything for N.U. She averaged 21.2 points, 4.8 assists, 5.5 rebounds, and 2.5 steals per game last year. She ranks second on the school's all-time scoring list and will likely surpass leader Pam Green sometime around the midway point of the season.

Despite Tinsley's return, the Huskies will be hard-pressed to repeat as conference champs. America East powers Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Delaware all return their entire teams from last season. "There are a lot of returning stars in this league," says Malchodi. "Having Tesha back obviously gives us a star, too. We're playing a very competitive schedule, with games against number fiveranked Rutgers and Wisconsin. We'll be competitive."

Sophomore Genny Caruso will join Tinsley in the backcourt. As a rookie last season, Caruso averaged 8.0 points and 3.7 assists per game. The Huskies caught fire after she was inserted into the starting lineup, going 11-2 down the stretch.

Junior Lani Lawrence was a pleasant surprise last year when she averaged 9.9 points and 8.9 rebounds filling the center spot. Lawrence will be relied upon to provide even more offense this season. Wanda Almengot (8.0 points, 4.2 rebounds) will start at one forward position and fellow senior Beth Hanewald (4.4 points, 2.9 rebounds) has the inside track to replace Betsy Palecek, the only departed starter from last season.

"Our trademark as a team is our man-to-man defense," Malchodi says. "We try to create turnovers to get us into a quick transition game. That's where Tesha becomes so dangerous. She has great court sense and makes good decisions in the open floor."

Malchodi has some experience and a quality recruiting class to call on from her bench, leading to high hopes.

"Our goal is to try to improve as a team as the year goes on," says Malchodi. "If we can get some experience during the year, we think we can get our record to where we can realistically hope to contend for the title."