Thinking Back: A Personal History

CAROL HACKER
DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

It has been almost ten years since I came to Babson College from New York University, where I served almost twenty years since I graduated with my bachelor's degree from the university. It was 1985, and I have been here almost thirty years since I joined Longfellows Elementary School in Tanzania. Now, the question is: why do I note these milestones today and here in this special edition? It is simply because, until this month, again about a few days ago when I met with two Babson students to discuss this issue, I began to forget the lessons and experiences that have so richly shaped me as a person, along with the diversity, racism, and culture. It is also because I believe that my story, my experiences, my voice has not been talked about today and therefore will not benefit others unless I share them; for if the story of one person is not heard, one today because of racial conflicts in turbulent times, because of my geography, because of an incredible set of parasites, the question of the struggles and victories of those who proceeded me.

What people told me in recent reflect on the accomplishments of all peoples who have lived and died in this country today a better time in which to live. My mother a full-time homeemaker, one of my three older siblings recall days of having their car stolen by neighbors in Augusta, Georgia, because our housekeeper, Mary, an African-American woman who drives the car seat of the car with my mother on errands to the store and other. In spite of the fact that my father, a high school football teacher, who put me in an as a child, the 1960s, I would spend three years with the same kids, a third of the students who I would be in a third of the students who were American students, who would be based in

Not a Racist, Just a Confused Reality

JEAN CHALAMEAU '01

In his article in the February 1, 2001 issue of the Free Press, Sean Carrarah states that Black History Month "creates a race consciousness that subverts the noble goal of fostering the growth of colorblind society." I disagree. Blacks, who have been integrat in American History twelve months out of the year. It is not responsible for impeding the growth of a colorblind society. It is unfortunate that while I was educated in American history, I learned about all the great slave owners and never learned about the contributions of African Americans. Were these people not Americans to warrant a few pages in American history books? I'm sure we did more for this country than break our backs and work for nothing.

We live in a racist society and as long as we are human, racism never goes away. The real question is: if we wanted to be color blind, he would not allow us to see different colors, this is the beautiful thing being about humankind.

Thank You, and the Struggle Still Continues

DERICK ROMAN '83
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP

It has been about five years since I last visited my alma mater. There have been numerous worthwhile opportunities and invitations to return but, the event that made me visit the Babson's 3rd Annual African American Affinity Conference, was the invitation from the University in addition to the networking opportunities afforded African American students and alumni through the conference, Dr. Geoffrey Kapemzi, a 25-year veteran of Babson's faculty, who has been a mentor to countless students over his tenure, was also to be honored for his contributions to the College. Upon my arrival at the Conference, one of the students brothers and I met the February 1, 2001 edition of The Babson Free Press and referred me to an editorial on page 8.

"We want freedom," the student would have me bypass the cover article regarding President Higdon's resignation announcement, I dutifully turned and was shocked, appalled, and distressed to read the reprinted piece written by Mr. Sean Carrarah, Managing Editor.

To celebrate Black History Month in a variety of manners to racial insensitivity and racism: some turn their backs on the ignorance of color blindness; some fight with fury; others respond with pity and sorrow to a world that has such views; and others weep for a society which, by virtue of allowing people like me ignorant (the condition of being uneducated, unaware, or uninformed) it be. I'm sure that Mr. Carrarah has no idea what it is like to be a person of color, not being one himself. It seems as if Mr. Carrarah is stuck in a Utopia that doesn't exist, I would have freedom to move three times a long time ago.

Near the end of the article, Carrarah says: "It is embarrass ingest that institutions of higher education, such as Babson, try to create an atmosphere that will be beneficial to students of other's and not just the students of African-American higher education, far more whites have entered the gates of the ten most elite institutions through "alumni preferences" than the combined number of all Blacks and Chicanos entering through affirmative ac tion." This is a book that Sean and others of his train of thought should seriously consider reading. At least there are some minorities that may have been affected by the conditions that fall by the wayside if your father is an alumnus who donates considerable amounts of money to his alma mater.

There are many issues that affect minorities. Mr. Carrarah has written about the lack of opportunities for most of minorities have less money or live below the poverty line. Without further ado, the babson corporation courses or we do have time for them, as many of us feel that the burden of supporting our schools to support our families and ourselves. The public schools might not have adequate funding to provide...
Not A Racist, Just A Confused Reality

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Malcolm X as Black heroes. They should be considered American heroes. They have done a lot for this country. They don't lead in white, as well as for black people.

We are at Babson College, a school known for its privileged student body. For Sean to criticise affirmative action is downright ignorant. Have you ever been to an inner city school where the majority of the students were minorities? I have lived in both worlds. What kids at Wellesley elementary take for granted, such as the cleanliness of their school, the teaching ability of the teachers and the whole learning atmosphere, is not present in most inner city schools. Some of these students are working jobs. They are in an environment that does not promote learning, it is very difficult to have dreams of becoming a doctor, entrepreneur or whatever else the privileged kids have. Let's be realistic.

As a fellow Babson student, I agree that we should have the bright and creative minds of students like Sean become proud to be a minority and also proud to go to Babson, but it is difficult when the minority students in a graduating class of 400. I have friends that live in houses so big they can accommodate the entire senior class. On the other hand, I have friends that live in government housing that can hardly accommodate a small family. What is the problem? Should we not give the misfortunate a chance at upward mobility if the grades may not have been good enough, because he or she had to work part time or whatever? Those are tough questions to answer that should have been thought of before Sean wrote his article.

I have known Sean since freshman year. I come to the conclusion that Sean is not a racist. Sean is just a little confused and he is not aware of the fact that Babson provides us a sheltered environment in which we do not have any real experience.

When I was a sophomore, a friend came to visit me from his hometown. We were driving past the parking lot, Babson police stopped us and searched us for drugs. The Public Safety officer flashed a bright flashlight in my face and asked me dehumanising questions about being an engineer and I am at the best business school in the world and I gave up my desire, nor the money to do drugs. I told him that I was a student here but he did not believe me. I filed a complaint with public safety but nothing ever happened, it just happened. I'm sure Sean didn't know things like this happen here.

I was pulled over twice this summer and did not get one ticket. I think that is unfair. I am sure that was just a coincidence for your pull over. Do you think I can forget that? I am Black if this continues to happen and I know that the world, or at least our little world underneath the Babson bubble is not real, but we have a long way to go.

A Clarification for Smurfs in Bubbles

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I smile and make statements like, "Oh Bahamas, forget you're a black woman. Your just a person good. Badly, I do not think that is simple, because my bubble bursted a long time ago when picked by injustice. It is not Jewish, Bluebubble, Black bubble, reality sets in. Sometimes reality is not fun. It presents circumstantial evidence and I am not sure how to smile about. However, I smile back at those still living in a bubble because I am not sure what to do with my ignorance. All people are not created equal, but also treated equal in their identity. Social idealism is likened to youthfulness innocence. When I say that I am a world traveler, that is a lie. I have never been to a candy store, she tried to buy $10 worth of junk food because she had never been to a candy store. I looked at her and decided that I was not going to get all of that candy with only a dollar. She looked at me with disgust and said, "I can buy things with money." The simplicity of her logic was rather obvious to me. I was thinking such an obvious concept of money-value. She didn't understand that money was a tool to get what we want. She really thought that she could just get purchase $10 worth of merchandise and pocket the money. I am proud of the value and life experience and really think that they should not be taken for granted. We are equal people living in a utopian society where we all get along. It's good to understand that I am just a person. But in America, there are still those who see a person, a Black person, looking for something from there for all that is worth.

So it is important for me and other African Americans to celebrate Black History last we forget. We can forget that what does not kill us only makes us stronger. We can forget that the education, occupations, and voting rights we see now "allowed" us to just as easily exist even worse, if we all don't celebrate Black History, black and white, we might forget that we do not live in a bubble. The injustice still remains and we will fail the progression of the American people and democracy.

To just act and assume that there is no need to celebrate diverse history is to be blind to what is happening outside our bubble. I do not have to live a life full of PowerPoint presentations, a job we do not have to work and occasionally work-study. It was time when I was once encouraged to go and travel and see the world. I am proud of my citizenship and the meaning of life, to fight a candle in the darkness and not let that darkness consume me. I am proud of the success uninterrupted by meetings with the "best," tax money, and monthly obligations. It was a textbook world that I had not seen before that I had yet to test. And I thought that bubble sucked. I couldn't wait to leave and see the real world.

Well now in retrospect, from my apartment in Jamaica Plains in a spot in a house on Commonwealth, in a land I called America, I realized, that was fun.
Would You Know Racism When You Saw It?

OVBILE Randolph B97 PEABODY & ARNOLD LLP

Ignorance is Clearly Redefined

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Advanced Placement classes or, in some schools, even basic classes. Our parents did not read the paper, discuss current events at the dinner table, and so on. Many of us were not exposed to any of these experiences. This is changing, however, and it is not too late. A minority student may be at the top of their class, but they may not have a higher SAT score than someone from a boarding school, or even a public school in a more affluent neighborhood, who has many more resources. Should the minority student not deserve a chance at acceptance?

These issues all stem from something deeper and maybe we should all be asking ourselves how much our school played a role. Maybe we should improve our public schools and have more minority enrollment programs. But, until these situations improve, what will we do with the nation's disadvantaged minorities who are trying to get into college?

A renewal of affirmative action, what about college market- ing? If such a great school as Babson is not marketed in the inner city, how will minorities even know to apply? That is one very easy way to increase diversity. Wouldn't that bring us closer to our goal?

The Need for a Voice.

THE BLACK STUDENT UNION E-BOARD

Is the Babson Free Press the voice of the students, or that of the predominantly white, male Free Press editorial board? What about the voice of the Black students? Why is there not one woman on the Free Press editorial board? Will the opinions of Gay, Indian, Black, Asian, and Latin students not be printed due to consent claims of 'space constraints'?

Each of these letters to the editor were submitted to the Babson Free Press. This three-sentence piece entitled "Racism Redefined by Black History Month" was written by Managing Editor, Sean Carragher. Olivia Mora, the Website Designer of the Babson Free Press, has not been involved in this matter. Anthony Micale, Editor-in-Chief of the Free Press, the night before production of the February 8, 2001 issue. The purpose of that meeting was to discuss the letter to the editor and understand why they decided which of the letters would be printed in that week's paper. None of those letters were printed. Only one letter was printed; the rest were revised and never printed.

It is important to note that one entire page of the paper was dedicated to a photo essay of winter sports athletes. If the photo essay had captions about the same people and their achievement and other pertinent information, then we would understand the value of this particular page to the Babson community - however they chose to present it. If the Babson Free Press page could have been a place where dialogue on the issue of race could have taken place.

The student voice is clearly not important to the Free Press editorial Board. This was heavily emphasized recently, when the production manager passed on to Mr. Micale a telephone message in connection with the Black History Month special issue. The telephone message was not to return the telephone call, rather he stated that he would call the individual back if they continued to call. When Mr. Micale then called back, he learned that their waste bin even though the production manager urged him not to.

Apparently, Mr. Micale and his editorial board do not feel it necessary to discuss the letters to the editor and telephone calls about editorial content. If disseminating opinions are not read, printed or acknowledged, why should any member of the Babson Community (faculty, staff, students, alumni) choose to write to, or for that matter for the Free Press?

Based on these issues, we have published this single issue of the Babson Free Press.

We, the Black Student Union executive board, want every Babson community member's opinion to be heard, which is why we are holding this Black History Redefined by... Tuesday Febru- ary 21, 2001 in Trin 201 at 6:30 pm. There will be macks and refreshments served. This is not a place for right or wrong, but one where we can hope to have students that care about us all, and hope you enjoy this issue and anticipate your participation in the forum. See you there.

Mario Tate, President
Reginald Johnson, Executive VP
Rashonda Richardson, VP Finance
Olivia Mora, VP of Public Relations

A Time to Reflect, Recognize, and Educate

KIMBERLEY SYD B94 BABSON WOMEN'S POLO SPORT AND POLO JEANS CO. POLOMAILOLACEN

As I read the oped piece by Sean Carragher's article in the February 1, 2001 issue of the Babson Free Press, I failed to under- stand his frustration with the Black History Month. He stated that he didn't care that he was Black and that he didn't care about Black History Month as some kind of scan for diversity and racism is a growing issue.

As students at Babson, each of you should focus on gaining the skills you will need to become successful. University life is not only about having a diverse curriculum such as Mr. Carragher is no different with Puzzly Zollet making its way to the first committee. A law student meeting at the Masters ceremony after Tiger Woods won the event. Simply move on.
Contributions of a Culture
DENNIS HORTON

I was recently made aware of the greater opportunities that would be offered me, provided I attended an institution as prestigious as Babson. The more I became informed of this well-established institution, the more interested I became. Although, there is one particular issue that made me question the integrity of Babson College.

In the February 1, 2001 issue of the Babson Free Press, Sean Carraher, wrote an opinion piece entitled, "Racism Redefined by Black History Month". Although I respect the Editor's right to express his opinion, I would hope that this does not reflect the views of all staff and faculty at Babson. The first thing the article erroneously states is "institutional racism has been so thoroughly eliminated..." He then further states that "modern civil rights and multiculturalist movements have abandoned the pursuit of encouraging the final defeat of racism".

Only one who has not experienced, or selected to recognize, institutional racism could make such an ignorant statement. As long as the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nation, Neo-Nazi and Confederate flag flying dissenters exist in sufficiently large numbers to influence election results, make significant campaign contributions, donate buildings, buy air time via cable and satellite, build web sites and even occupy both teaching and administrative offices at universities, institutional racism will continue to not only be alive and well, but to flourish.

I remember devout Christians telling me on more than one occasion that the devil's best weapon against mankind is the fact that so few even believe in his existence. It is easy to live in a fantasy world, where we turn a blind eye to ills that do not directly affect us. But as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a great man, and yes a great BLACK man, said it best, "an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." I would advise Mr. Carraher to either be more informed as an editor before writing one sided erroneous editorials or leave the journalism to those who are more informed and experienced regarding the subject.

Secondly, it is a sad occasion when an educated young man fails to grasp the significance of bringing about change through education. The importance of quelling the flames of apprehension, prejudice, fear, and even outright hatred that threatens to destroy the house of humanity which exists in each and every one of us cannot be undermined by the opinion of a few individuals that have the luxury of pretending these vices no longer exist in this civilization world. Daily, my brothers and sisters are still denied jobs, beaten by the police, turned away from private schools, portrayed as buffoons in every sitcom on television and taught that to take pride in themselves is to be militant and rebellious.

To take time to educate a nation about the beauty offered in all the different cultures that come to the shores of America on a daily basis is not to encourage division, it is to encourage acceptance. Ignorance is the mother of fear. The word prejudice itself means to prejudice, or judge before encountering. Black history month and every other cultural/ethnic holiday is intended to do two things.

The intent of Black History month is to educate those who do not interact with "Black America" on the simple fact that Blacks are people too. The differences on the surface only add to what America already has to offer. From the Motown sound, to Langston Hughes poetry, from Hip-Hop to Negro Spirituals, to Thurgood Marshall, the history of America the progress of America, the wealth of America would be incomplete if not for the black experience. Which brings me to second reason for black history month.

Black History month also serves as recognition of all those who fought, sat in, marched, went to jail, endured dogs and fire hoses in that our generation could work toward a society where institutional racism truly did not exist. I take personal offense to anyone so disrespectful as to imply that the plight of my forefathers is not worthy of the same recognition as the trials and tribulations of the pilgrims, which brought us Thanksgiving or the veterans that brought us Veterans and Memorial Day. More slaves died than pilgrims. More civil rights activists died than presidents. But the merit of their contributions is not brought into question - only the merit of the contributions of black America. It makes you glad that we finally did away with institutional racism.

Religion Redefined by Christmas
CORNELIA STOKES-MINORS
MGR
SALES COACH
PSG TELESALES, HCL.COM

The article "Racism Redefined by Black History Month" in the February 1, 2001 issue of the Free Press is about as ridiculous as writing "Religion Redefined by Christmas" or "Racism Redefined by St. Patrick's Day". Instead of a drawn out debate - Babson needs to converse Sean Carraher, Managing Editor, and inform him that a student paper must by definition reflect student viewpoints instead of allowing his ink to thwart what Babson is trying to become. Certainly, if Sean is sensitive to anyone so disrespectful as to imply that the plight of my forefathers is not worthy of the same recognition as the trials and tribulations of the pilgrims, which brought us Thanksgiving or the veterans that brought us Veterans and Memorial Day. More slaves died than pilgrims. More civil rights activists died than presidents. But the merit of their contributions is not brought into question - only the merit of the contributions of black America. It makes you glad that we finally did away with institutional racism.

Speak Your Mind!

Tuesday
Feb. 27, 2001
Trim 201-2
6:30pm

An open forum for the whole Babson Community to discuss issues of Race. Although this is spurred by the Feb 1st and 8th issues of the Babson Free Press, this is a place to discuss the underlying ideas and views people may hold in order to encourage understanding and respect for differing views.

We hope to discuss such issues as the assumptions people have of one group versus another, the meaning of a "color-blind" society versus a society that acknowledges and celebrates differences, how people view personal friends of a particular ethnicity versus their views of an entire group of people, and other issues raised by the articles. Please join us.

Free snacks and refreshments.