



Graphic by Jessica Xing

ASK THE NEWS

The following articles were produced as part of an initiative we're calling Ask The News, in which the Northeastern community can submit questions to us and, if it seems like we can put together a story based on it, we look into the answers.

Do you have a question you'd like The News to investigate? Submit it to us here:



Who is the campus personality Juggleslut?

By Ali Caudle
News Staff

This article was written in response to the question: "Who is 'the juggleslut,' as seen in this TikTok?"

A tall, ginger-haired man saunters shirtless around campus, giving a subtle grin to anyone whose eyes glance over him for a moment too long.

This is "Juggleslut," Northeastern's very own celebrity, famous for juggling shirtless on campus nearly every day.

A now frequent feature on Northeastern's shared Snapchat stories and Instagram meme pages, he got his name from a viral TikTok posted by Owen Skye Nelson, a second-year communications and design major, in September 2022.

Juggleslut's full name is Jonathan Phillip Chamberlain, and he's a second-year industrial engineering major from Clifton Park, New York.

"You just walk around, you see him, juggling. Being slutty," said Tiph Herrick, a third-year civil engineering major. He's heard of Juggleslut in different

contexts, like from an NUTV skit, he said. "He is kind of a campus celebrity."

Rain or shine, Chamberlain is almost always shirtless and often juggling barefoot on Centennial Common or another grassy quad. He said he loves being known by so many people on campus, as it's a great ego boost.

"Sometimes I'm walking, and people whisper 'Juggleslut' as I'm walking by," Chamberlain said. "One time, I was walking around campus with no shirt on, and there was this guy and this girl walking by and they looked at me, right? I kept on walking and they thought I was out of earshot, but I could hear the guy say, 'Oh, I want to touch his abs so bad.' It made my day."

However, Chamberlain says he doesn't do it for attention.

"Juggling isn't the main thing, people get this wrong. The main thing is that I like to get outside, get the sunlight on my body and get fresh air. ... Juggling is just something I can do in the meantime," he said. "It's the nature I want."

He learned to juggle in high school, he said, after he stubbed his toe chasing his dog playing fetch with a tennis ball around a coffee table.

Chamberlain used to juggle between classes in his high school's gym, with his shirt on. It wasn't until his school went remote during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic,

when he saw an Instagram post by Carnivore Aurelius encouraging people to get the sun on their body, that he started juggling shirtless.

While he started juggling as soon as he arrived at Northeastern in fall 2021 — taking on Centennial by his second or third day — Chamberlain isn't just a one-trick pony. He doesn't just use his hands to throw and catch balls; he also uses them to rock climb, something he picked up on a terrible first date.

"It was awful, it was so bad," he said regarding the date. "But there was rock climbing and instead of falling in love with her, I fell in love with rock climbing."

However, Chamberlain wouldn't consider juggling and rock climbing his hobbies.

"I wouldn't say I necessarily have hobbies because I like to spend my time doing the things that matter ... and get me close to my goals. And, personally, I perceive hobbies as something that don't do that," he said. "So as a result, I spend my time primarily doing schoolwork and getting a co-op, of course, but also researching into and executing stuff with respect to starting businesses."

That's why, Chamberlain said, he chose the project management and money managing major. When asked where he thought he would be in five years, he answered that he would be "making a crap ton of money."

In spring 2022, the rock climbing, juggling, money-making then-first-year started his own blog.

"Personally, I have a lot of ideas, right? And I really pride myself on being able to communicate those ideas

in a way that is easily understandable," Chamberlain said. "I really believe that the ideas I have are unique and can help other people and are a useful perspective change. So because of that, I spread them."

His friends at Northeastern frequently send him references to Juggleslut they find online. According to Chamberlain, they think he's a branding genius.

"I like to share my beautiful personality with other people, through my comedic skits," he said. "But lately I've been not putting a lot of effort into it because I made a list of my priorities ... and I noticed that building a personal brand is not in the top five. So I've been spending significantly less time on that."

While known by thousands, Chamberlain's private life, for the most part, remains hidden. He doesn't have a private Instagram account, and few Juggleslut fans know his real name. Most people also wouldn't guess that Juggleslut is a twin. Chamberlain's sister, older than him by a minute, is a second-year student at Rochester Institute of Technology.

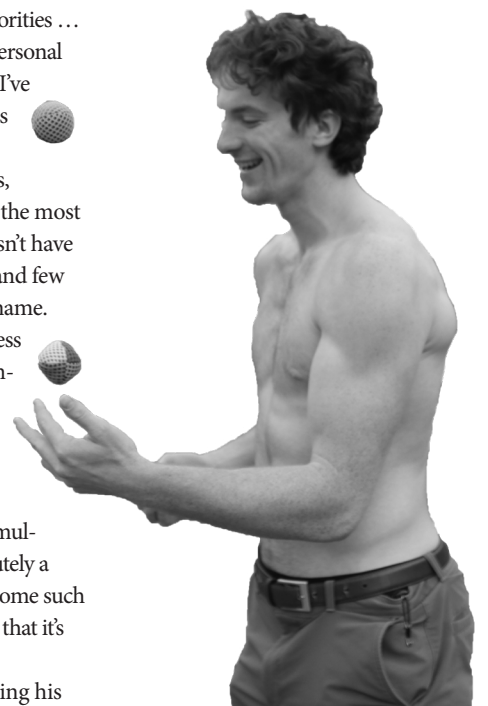
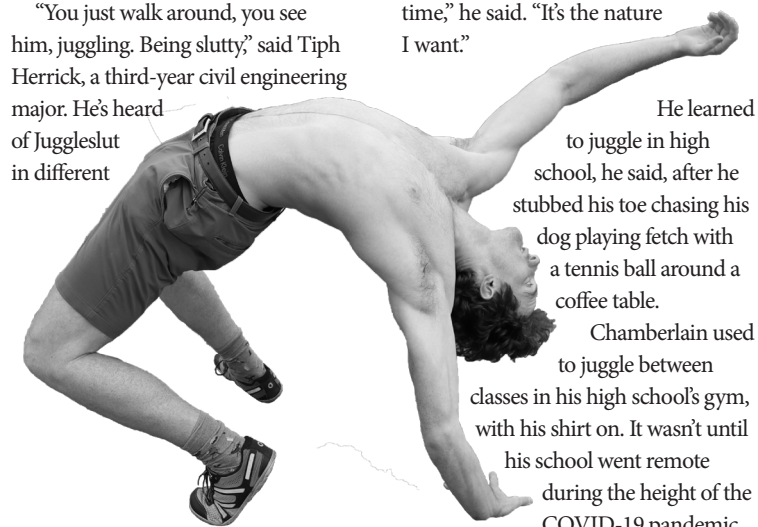
While his persona seems simultaneously authentic and absolutely a comedic bit, Juggleslut has become such a big part of Chamberlain's life that it's hard to separate the two.

"I think he should keep living his truth. I know some people judge him. I think it's fun that he can juggle. I can't juggle, so that's cool. I'm just happy that he feels confident to go out on the quad and just juggle for everyone," said Isabella Fisch,

a second-year data science and psychology combined major.

Sometimes he sees people commenting on videos making fun of him, he said, just "shitting" on him. He's amused by the attention, and explained he doesn't let negative comments bother him.

"It doesn't feel weird at all. Like some people might think juggling in front of everybody else is weird. Some people might think going shirtless is weird," Chamberlain said. "But, I don't think either is weird, and therefore I continue."



Photos by Ethan Valery
Chamberlain stretches and juggles in public. Also known as "Juggleslut," the Northeastern student has gained a lot of attention through social media.

Why is the aquarium designed like that?

By Alexis Algazy
News Staff

This article was written in response to the question: "Why is the aquarium such an ugly building? Why was it designed like that?"

To its architects, the New England Aquarium's exterior houses an immersive sea-creature-filled experience. But to everyone else, it might just be ugly.

The aquarium, initially a beige, concrete central building, opened its doors to visitors in 1969. Since then, the stainless steel angular extensions and glass windows have worked to enhance the aquarium's exterior.

But as designer Peter Chermayeff explained, the aquarium's design prioritized the interior function over the aesthetic of the exterior.

"Some like it, some don't, some find it brutal," Chermayeff said. "The use of concrete everywhere is not everyone's favorite material ... for me that's secondary because the purpose of the building was to become a framework for having an experience of life underwater."

Chermayeff explained when the aquarium was designed 55 years ago, architects and designers did not have the funding or resources they do today. The design team had a limited budget and popular modern techniques

like acrylic panels did not exist in the 1960s. So, the architects' focus went toward designing the interior.

With a variety of attractions for visitors to experience, from the Giant Ocean Tank, to a Penguin Exhibit and an interactive touch tank, Chermayeff and his team prioritized the functionality of the aquarium and its exhibits over its looks. One of the aquarium's main attractions is the Giant Ocean Tank, a four-story circular saltwater tank home to reef animals like sea turtles, eels and fish. Using custom luminaires and LED-lighting, designers from the company Lumenpulse sought to focus visitors' attention on the tank.

"The design concept for the Giant Ocean Tank was to add a sense of theatricality by highlighting the animals and coral reef with dynamic, enhanced naturalistic lighting," wrote Matt Zerkowitz, a stage designer that worked on the tank, in a Lumenpulse publication.

Another notable exhibit is the New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center, an open-air exhibit where aquarium visitors can watch mammal trainers interact with the aquarium's northern fur seals and California sea lions. In the wild, these animals spend time both on land and in water, so the exhibit features a large swimming area and deck space to replicate their natural environment.

While the aquarium's exterior bears the brunt of frequent criticism, some visitors find problems once inside as well. David Huang, an architect and designer at Payette, wrote an architectural forum titled, "Are architects out of touch?"

Huang asked respondents what buildings in Boston they disliked, and one response mentioned the New England Aquarium: "It is true that fish [need] dark spaces, but there could be more areas with natural light."

A handful of Boston residents and visitors share the opinion that the aquarium is dark, dreary and even ugly. In fact, a quick visit to Tripadvisor reveals similar descriptions of the aquarium as "dark and depressing," and an "old, tired, ugly, cramped, sad aquarium."

Outside of what some visitors may consider a poor design, many have written about good experiences at the aquarium. One aquarium-goer said the building had "great live displays of ocean life," and another reviewer said, "The multitude and variety of fish and other creatives in beautifully designed habitats is well worth the price."

While the New England Aquarium may not be the most beautiful to look at from the outside, the inside-attractions and educational experiences are what received the majority of focus when being built.



Photo by Elizabeth Scholl

The New England Aquarium sits on the Boston Harbor. Opened in 1969, many visitors have criticized the building's appearance.