UMSL Reconsiders Implementing Hiring Freeze

Chancellor Thomas George sent out an email to faculty and staff on December 10 saying that a hiring freeze would be in effect immediately for the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The estimated budget for the university has had a deficit of about $2 million that they hoped to see filled with a projected 4 percent increase in enrollment back in August; however, since the death of Michael Brown, the University has seen a decline in enrollment. As of December, the University had seen about a 10% decrease in enrollment, but that has subsequently been reduced to about 2%.

Chancellor Thomas George said in his email, “The result of this and other factors is that the campus budget currently is trending toward an estimated $2 million shortfall for the fiscal year that ends June 30. Therefore, I am taking efficiency measures that include, effective immediately, a hiring freeze that includes full-time faculty and staff positions.”

The hiring freeze is not permanent and only affects certain employees. Those affected are full-time staff, full-time tenure track faculty, full-time non-tenure track faculty, administrators, and part-time staff. Positions not affected by the hiring freeze are adjunct and part-time teaching faculty hired semester-to-semester, positions funded by external grants, student part-time employees, graduate assistants, postdoc positions funded by external funds, temporary staff appointments of less than six months, and courtesy appointments that are not paid. There are also forms to fill out for those seeking exceptions to the hiring freeze.

Sally Ebest, director of gender studies, said, “[The hiring freeze] hurts both faculty and students. Some departments can’t offer the full range of courses because lost faculty haven’t been replaced.”

Robert Bliss, the dean of the Pierre Laclede Honors College, said, “I would say that a temporary hiring freeze is a good idea at the present time. And remember, too, that no ‘freeze’ is at absolute zero. Where a vacant post must be filled, the Chancellor can grant an exception to the freeze. The ‘must’ would be decided on a number of grounds, but right now I am pretty sure the main criteria would be undergraduate education and undergraduate enrollment.”

UMSL has worked hard trying to close the gap in enrollment of about 600 students by calling each of them and asking why they have not signed up for the spring semester. While some excuses are typical procrastination and financial concerns, others cited safety concerns because of the proximity of the campus to the unrest in Ferguson.

Bob Samples, Associate Vice Chancellor of Communications, told The Current that UMSL is optimistic about the spring semester enrollment.

“We were about 10% down in early December and 2% down as of Monday [January 12].”

Professor Ebest also offered suggestions for how the University could avoid future budget problems, including developing a marketing plan to educate prospective students on the relative low crime rates at UMSL when compared to other schools in the area and trying to get the public to be more aware of the need for increased state funding. She also suggested a change to budgeting procedures, “For as long as I’ve worked at UMSL, budgets have been based on projected enrollments - which are never accurate.”

The Chancellor is to meet with the University Assembly Budget and Planning Committee, Staff Association, and Student Government Association to assess the budget for this year and the Fiscal Year 2016. The hiring freeze will not be lifted until those yet scheduled meetings occur.

Aladeen Stoll, graduate, gender studies student and teaching assistant at UMSL said, “…I have more respect for the student body as a whole heading into the Spring Semester of 2015. Many universities in the St. Louis area are doing good work in reference to the movement in Ferguson, but at the end of the day it is UMSL’s community.”
News Brief: UMSL Student Mistaken in Police Chase

KAT RIDDLER
NEWS EDITOR

The St. Ann Police Department offered a sincere apology to University of Missouri – St. Louis student Joseph Swink, junior, accounting, after they mistakenly took him into custody instead of the real suspect Anton Simmons on January 16.

Swink was driving home from his internship at Edward Jones when the police pursuit happened on I-70. Swink tried to help by getting out of the way, but ended up crashing his vehicle in the process. Police quickly pulled off the road to take Swink into custody instead of pursuing Simmons. Police saw Swink running from his car and assumed he was Simmons, according to Fox 2. Swink tried to explain his situation to the police that he was running because his car was filling up with smoke. He could not effectively explain over the loud sirens according to St. Ann Police Chief Aaron Jimenez in an interview with KMOV.

Swink was released only after the police received a report on their radios that the real culprit had been apprehended at a different location. Swink left with a head injury, severe damage to his car, and his car rotated.

Find the solutions in the next edition of The Current

Visit thecurrent-online.com for additional content

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent, or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to deny letters.

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The Current values feedback from the campus community. What do you think of our campus coverage? Let us know your thoughts at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

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THE CURRENT ONLINE

January 19, 2015
Pokemon ORAS Revisits the World of Hoenn

JENNIFER BOYER
STAFF WRITER

“Pokemon Omega Ruby” and “Pokemon Alpha Sapphire” for the Nintendo 3DS are a pair of role playing games developed by Game Freak and published by Nintendo. These games are remakes of “Pokemon Ruby” and “Pokemon Sapphire,” which were published in 2003 for the Game Boy Advance.

The objective of the games is to catch and raise Pokemon, defeat various trainers, collect the gym badges by defeating gym leaders, and eventually get to the Pokemon League to become the champion. While these games are a pair, only one of the games is needed for the full experience as there are very few differences between them.

The game takes place in the Hoenn region, a land with varying climates, such as grasslands, forests, seas, and even a small desert. The main character of this game is a new trainer starting out on their journey after their family moved to the town of Littleroot. The trainer can be a boy or a girl and the name is up to the player.

Professor Birch, who fulfills the trope of professor for these games, is not in his lab and went to do research when the player finds him being chased by a wild Pokemon and must help him out. This is where the player receives his or her first Pokemon. The player gets to choose a Pokemon of one of three types: the Grass type, Treecko, the Water type, Mudkip, or the Fire type, Torchic. After saving Professor Birch, he lets the player keep the Pokemon. From there the trainer’s journey begins.

Compared to previous releases of the series, the graphics are superb. While these are not the realistic graphics that many games of today have, they work swimmingly well. Pokemon has always known to be a cartoon style game, and it is still the case with “Omega Ruby” and “Alpha Sapphire.” The colors are bright and set the tone of the game well like “Ruby” and “Sapphire” had.

“Pokemon Omega Ruby” and “Alpha Sapphire” is one of the few games in the series to have 3D models and they look great. Some of the trainers may look different but that has more to do with the trainer class than the art being off.

The gameplay has role-playing game elements, such as having a team, traveling from town to town, taking on enemies, earning experience, and leveling up to learn new techniques and grow stronger. Each Pokemon has weaknesses and resistances against various types of other Pokemon, and it is up to the trainer to figure them out. The items in the game are very helpful and some of them get upgrades as the game goes on. The game’s story ends when the player has defeated the champion. That is not the end of the game however, as there is more to do after the story is done.

The musical score is unparalleled in the franchise. Going from 8-bit beeps to a remixed orchestra or a rock song was a smooth transition. Some new tracks were added to the game that were not in “Ruby” and “Sapphire.” The brass sounds that fans of the original games loved are not in that many tracks but that is not a bad thing. The new sounds are just as good as the old ones. Overall, Game Freak succeeded in making these remakes fresh and new.

While a great game, there are a few things that keep the game from being perfect. Still, old players will enjoy the nostalgia of playing, while new players can enjoy their first time experience of playing such a well-loved series.

WEDNESDAYS
@8:45 A.M.
A COLLAB WITH THE BABELMEN.

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER WANTED

Are you known for being reliable and hardworking? Want to get in shape? Then you may be just what we’re looking for in a Distribution Manager! The Current Student Newspaper needs your help with delivering copies around North Campus. Fill out the application, available at thecurrent-online.com & outside of our office, and then leave it at our office, 388 MSC. This position is available on pay, volunteer basis, or for internship credit. Apply now!
A ‘New Year’s resolution is a promise that many of us make on New Year’s Day as a means of self-improvement or to do something nice for other people. Historians trace the tradition of making New Year’s resolutions to the Babylonians who made promises to their gods to return borrowed objects and pay debts. The Romans made promises to the god Janus, for which the month of January is named, and in the medieval era, knights made a vow at the end of the holiday season to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. Even to this day, many faiths hold rituals that entail praying, reflecting on past infractions, and seeking to make restorations for those they wronged. Researchers from Scran-tonton University in Pennsylvania chronicled some of the most commonly made New Year’s resolutions as well as the most commonly broken ones. Another article in Forbes Magazine noted that in the Scrantonton survey, only 8% of people keep their New Year’s Resolutions. The article on Forbes.com cited Chris Berdick, author of “Mind over Mind—the Surprising Power of Expectations,” saying that the best way to keep a New Year’s resolution is to keep it simple. Avoid making a bucket list of resolutions which may become convoluted. Berdick also suggests that a person make smaller, more attainable goals throughout the year, rather than a larger, singular goal. Glancing over some of the more popular choices and their subsequent failures, Berdick may be right. Number 7 on Scran-tonton’s list is to quit smoking. A survey of 14,000 students at 119 colleges nationwide, conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health, indicates that one third of college students smoke. Quitting smoking was also listed as one of the most broken resolutions in a survey for Time.com. Falling in love was number 9. Something both have in common: they require more thinking and effort than one day’s worth of inspiration and deal with factors out of the individual’s hands. Similarly, the top 5 New Year resolutions from the Scran-tonton study are equally vague and grandiose: Number 5: Staying fit and healthy. This is among the most broken resolutions in the Time magazine list. Number 4: Enjoying life to the fullest. Number 3: Spending less and saving more. Getting out of debt and saving money are also among the most broken reso- lutions mentioned in the Time magazine website. Number 2: Getting organized. Number 1: Losing weight. The number one New Year’s Resolution, from the Scran-tonton University survey is the one that is most commonly broken according to Time Magazine. This brings us to the other ap-proach suggested by Berdick as a means to keeping New Year’s resolutions – making the goal more tangible. Comparatively speaking, making a resolution as vague as “lose weight” is a bit unrealistic. Instead, make a plan to avoid certain foods. Simul-taneously resolve to attend a fitness class or lift weights twice a week at the local gym. Accord-ing to Berdick, the approach of mindfulness and long term planning will carry any resolu-tion through the hard days and confusion.

Global Game Jam & Homecoming Highlight Semester

There will be free health and wellness classes this spring semester for students concerned with carrying out their New Year’s resolution to engage in healthy activities. They will take place at the Mark Twain Health and Wellness Center starting January 20. Students can stop by Mark Twain to join. There will be certified instructors who will lead the classes. Among the courses being offered during the semester are pilates, yoga, and water exercise training that will run at various times through May 9. For more information about campus wellness classes, as well as scheduled times, contact Pam Steinmetz in campus recreation at (314) 516-5326. You can also go to the campus recreation’s calendar at www.umsl.edu/services/recsport.

Tai Chi sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. from January 20 to March 19 at Mark Twain. Tai Chi is a Chinese martial art that places emphasis on defense training and has great health benefits to enhance awareness, meditation, and proper breathing. This is a great opportunity for students to get a good workout in before those evening classes. Fees for Tai Chi classes are $15 for UMSL students and $35 for UMSL faculty, staff and alumni. For a Byer and a registration form, contact Linda Gat-sun at (314) 516-5091.

The campus recreation department at UMSL will be sponsoring a golf tournament to take place from April 27 to May 3 at the St. Ann Golf Course at 4100 Ashby Road in St. Ann. There will be an individual medal 9-hole tournament with a men and women’s division. For more details about the tournament site and club costs, contact the St. Ann Golf course at (314) 423-6400. For details about the prizes offered in the St. Ann golf tournament, contact the Campus Recreation Office at Mark Twain.

If you missed the Global Game Jam in the past, there will be a new GGJ for 2015 from January 23 to January 25. Of 480 sites around the world, UMSL’s site was ranked as fifteenth in 2014 with 170 in attendance. Participants in GGJ have backgrounds and interests that include graphic design, art, music, storytelling and programing and no prior experience in game develop-ment is required for GGJ participa-tion. For more information on how you can join the 2015 Global Game Jam, contact Dr. Dinesh Mirchan-dani at (314) 516-7394, or go to http://www.igtigamejam.com/.

The Winter Expo will take place on Wednesday January 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Nosh, as well as the rotunda. Hosted by the Universi-ty Program Board, students are invit-ed to come out to learn more about departments and offices around UMSL, as well as how to join student organizations on campus. For more details about the Winter Expo and other events sponsored by UPB during the semester, call (314) 516-5533.

Finally, the UMSL Homecom-ing for 2015 is scheduled to take place February 16 to February 21. The homecoming kickoff begins at noon on February 16 in the Nosh. There will be live music, free food, and other giveaways. Also, there will be a homecoming information booth from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MSC rotunda. For more details on pur-chasing dinner and dance tickets or other information about homecom-ing week, contact Jessica Long-Pease at 314-516-5291, or click http:// homecoming.umsl.edu/events/.

UMSL Postal Services

Did you know UMSL has a United States Post Office on campus? Services such as express mail, priority mail, domestic and international mail, insured mail, certified / registered mail with return receipt to include delivery and/or signature confirmation. Stamps will also be available for purchase. Our hours of operation will be Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and daily mail pick up at 3:30 p.m. We accept cash, debit or credit cards. Please call 314-516-5299 if you have any questions or comments.
CATE MARQUIS
A&E EDITOR

Gallery Visio, the student-run art gallery, opens the semester’s exhibits with “Moments of Silence: A Response to The Ferguson Experience.” The traveling exhibit features the works of artists reflecting on the impact of the events in Ferguson on human relationships and the social fabric of this country. The aim of the exhibit is to spark a dialogue on campuses and in communities.

“Moments of Silence: A Response to The Ferguson Experience,” which opened January 14, will travel to four state colleges or universities between now and May.

Unfortunately, the exhibit will have a very short run on University of Missouri-St. Louis’ campus, and is scheduled to close on Wednesday, January 21. Gallery Visio will host a closing reception on January 21 from noon to 5 p.m., in which the public can view the works while enjoying refreshments. The reception will be followed by talks by the artists, in the Student Government Chambers of the MSC from 6 to 8 p.m. The exhibit, reception and lectures are all free and open to all.

Opening the exhibit here is especially fitting, given UMSL’s proximity to Ferguson. The exhibit is sponsored by the Coalition of Artists for Peace and Gallery Visio. The Coalition of Artists is a St. Louis-based organization of visual and performing artists and members of the arts community, which formed in the wake of the shooting of unarmed teen Michael Brown in August in Ferguson. In a statement that accompanies the show, the artists state that their goal for this exhibit is to “reaffirm the belief that art not only can certainly come from everyday life and must, more than ever, continue to confront complex issues to produce important social change in this so-called new post-racial America.”

Most of the works in “Moments of Silence” reflect the artist’s experiences or personal viewpoint on the state of human relationships and preconceived ideas around race, rather than specific events in Ferguson.

Among art works featured in the exhibit are some by artist-activist Chubi Bayoc, which address stereotypes about Black fathers using an appealing, colorful, graphical art style. Also on display are three works by Lucia Gomez. One of the most striking is “1982,” a photo of the back of an African-American man showing what appeared to be a bar code. Another artist whose works are featured in the exhibit is Fabio Rodriguez, a Dominican-born artist who is also co-curator of the show. Rodriguez’s piece “Exasperation” is a powerful painting that helps underscore the international nature of the struggle against injustice and the kinds of inequalities revealed by the events in Ferguson. Visually-striking and thought-provoking, this art exhibit is well worth a visit to Gallery Visio before it is gone. Gallery Visio is located in the lower level of the MSC, between the Nosh and Subway, and is open Mondays-Thursdays. The gallery’s next exhibit, “Aqueous,” opens February 11.

The Current
GRADE: B-

SARAH HAYES
STAFF WRITER

In his first novel, Pakistani author Bilal Tanweer manages to fit all the complexities and colors of his hometown of Karachi into a slim volume of interconnected stories.

“The Scatter Here Is Too Great” is a tightly coiled collection of fictional narratives, centered around a bomb blast at a public transit station that kills many civilians and injures even more. The damage done to property and lives through this attack are traced through each chapter and multiple points of view. Like the blast itself, the story rips through the violent event, until the explosion becomes background radiation of the violence that marks every day in Karachi for its citizens.

Stories include a paramedic traumatized by the blast, a journalist who follows a strange figure into a seeder part of Karachi, two students who skip class to spend time with police officers, and a young boy who spends his summer in his invalid grandmother’s house with his older sister who sneaks away upstairs when no one is looking. What seems like random encounters between characters turn into fated meetings, as the relationships between the various stories become much clearer by the third chapter.

All of the stories are, in one way or another, connected to each other, with the bombing of the train station the common denominator between them all. In some ways, it is a brilliantly executed storytelling device: seemingly meaningless people introduced in the first scene are woven into the fabric of other people’s stories without being present. Characters who are nameless in one viewpoint gain names and lives in other viewpoints.

On the other hand, if the reader has to flip back to earlier chapters to remember why the Communist poet is so important, or why Sadeq looks like an angel, then the author has not done his job correctly. Tanweer’s melding of multiple lives that end up being related more than they seem on the surface is solidly done for the most part, but the occasional shift from third to first person becomes confusing to read.

Another discomforting fact is that no women get to speak of their own lives in “The Scatter Here Is Great.” It seems that, among the ‘scattered’ voices of Karachi, women are merely there to accent the lives of men. The few women we do see who get to speak – big sister Aapa who tells stories, Noor Begum with the toothless mouth, the various nameless mothers – are heard only through the eyes of male protagonists and exist to further their own emotional development.

Beyond the flaws of its format and its male-dominated cast, Bilal Tanweer’s greatest accomplishment in his debut novel is bringing the capital of Pakistan to life in his verse. Somehow, through a turn of phrase here, a colorful description there, Tanweer crams the whole of Karachi’s sprawling urban city into just two hundred pages without stifling its life. In this, Karachi becomes as much a character, as the writer or Sadeq or Comrade Sukhansz, of Pakistan to life in his verse. Among the ‘scattered’ voices of Karachi, women are merely there to accent the lives of men. The few women we do see who get to speak – big sister Aapa who tells stories, Noor Begum with the toothless mouth, the various nameless mothers – are heard only through the eyes of male protagonists and exist to further their own emotional development.

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A&A Grade: B-

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
January 19, 2015

Visio Exhibit Spotlights Artists’ Response to Ferguson

Moments of Silence: A Response to The Ferguson Experience

Fifteen visual and performance artists reflect on the state of human relationships in America beyond Ferguson.

Show runs from January 14th-21st

UMSL Gallery Visio located on the lower level near Subway.

Monday - Wednesday
10:00am - 5:00pm

Thursdays.
10:00am - 3:00pm

Closing receptions at the Gallery Visio from 5pm-5pm on Wednesday, January 21st followed by artists lectures from 6-8pm in the EGA chamber on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center.

Presented by the Coalition of Artists for Peace and the UMSL, Gallery Visio.

‘The Scatter Here Is Too Great’ Offers Tales of Karachi

Cover art for “The Scatter Here Is Too Great”

Reading “The Scatter Here Is Great” is a lesson in observation. Tanweer leaves clues for the reader to follow to threading connections between people separated by distance but connected by blood and by circumstance. Vibrant verse and a deep sense of daily city life adds further layers of depth to these stories. In this, Tanweer’s debut becomes a modern Pakistan microcosm that feels as real as any non-fiction effort.

Grade: B-

Read More A&E online @ www.TheCurrentUMSL.com
Men’s Basketball Still Undefeated at Home

**D. B. FIELDS**

STAFF WRITER

University of Missouri-St. Louis’ men’s basketball brought their winning ways to the Mark Twain building on Thursday night as they defeated the Truman State Bulldogs 85-77. Forward Tyler Wimbish, senior, liberal arts, finished with a double-double, scoring 24 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Guard Aareon Smith, senior, business management, also contributed a double-double as he collected 23 points and 13 rebounds.

Neither team hit the court with any kind of offensive fire power as they both struggled to make shots and hold on to the ball. After eight minutes of play, the score was 11-2, UMSL. That would soon change as UMSL began a scoring run that was preceded by a three-point jumper from guard Tre Ogles, junior, liberal studies.

While Truman continued to struggle finding the bottom of the net, the Tritons managed to build a lead of 14 points a little over halfway through the first period. The Bulldogs fought back into the game, bringing it within single digits. With just under 30 seconds left in the first half, Truman’s Cory Myer hit two free throws to cut the margin to four.

Not to let Truman take the momentum going into halftime, Brandon Macguardt, junior, business management, hit a three pointer to end the half, giving the Tritons a 34-27 lead.

The second half saw Wimbish and Smith of the Tritons combine for 27 of the team’s 51 points scored in the period. On the opposing end, they faced the trio of Seth Jackson, Cory Myers, and Reed Mells, who combined for 80 percent of the team’s 50 points. UMSL’s biggest lead in the second half was by a margin of 17 points. While Truman scored more in the second period, they did not offer the Tritons much of a fight until near the end of the period. Throughout the half, the teams merely traded baskets and the Tritons lead held steady at double digits for a great duration of the period. The Bulldogs did manage to cut their deficit to six points late in the period. With only 30 seconds to go, UMSL held firm to their lead and fought off Truman’s late surge as they went on to secure the win.

UMSL’s next opponent is the Quincy Hawks on Saturday where they will go into unfriendly territory. After Thursday’s win, the Tritons record now rests at 12-3, 4-1. They remain undefeated at home with a record of 8-0.

Women’s Basketball Coming Back Strong

**D. B. FIELDS**

STAFF WRITER

Coming home after two straight losses on the road, University of Missouri-St. Louis’ women’s basketball team showed a solid effort as they defeated Truman State 70-56.

Guard Kelly McGovern, senior, special education, and forward Kelly Kunkel, junior, marketing, led all scorers with 15. Forward Tierra Snow, senior, social work, provided 14 points and 9 boards coming off the bench.

The Tritons led throughout the game, facing minimal opposition from Truman. UMSL got off to a fast start in its motion offense, leaving the opponents to cover the floor in a frenetic pace. Shooting from the floor in the first half at 46 percent, the Tritons jumped out to an early lead, at one point with a margin of 17. Truman, shooting just under 40 percent in the first half, began to apply full court pressure near the end of the period and had managed to cut down the lead to single digits. Tritons guard Alexis Lawrence, senior, business administration, scored 11 points in the first half, going 3-4 beyond the three point line. However, Lawrence struggled to recover her shot during the second half as she went 0-4.

The second period was a slight resemblance of the first. UMSL came out and with the help of empty offensive trips by Truman managed to once again build a double digit lead, all the way up to 17. Truman continued their full court trap and with less than two minutes to go, had narrowed the gap to eight points. This would be the closest they came to ever threatening the Tritons as UMSL killed any hopes of a comeback as they finished the game 6-6 from the free throw line. The win over Truman improved the Tritons’ record to 7-6, 3-2, with a perfect mark at home of 6-0. UMSL’s record on the road is 1-6. So far this season, the team’s troubles have not been here at home but rather away from the security of the Mark Twain building. The only question after last night’s win is whether they can find a way to carry some of the momentum into Quincy as they square off against the Hawks this Saturday.
One joke that is never funny. Period.

Abby Naumann
Staff Writer

Gentlemen, do not take this the wrong way. I love a good joke—in fact, I consider myself a connoisseur of stand-up. You berches! I have at least three episodes of Daniel Tosh or South Park awaiting me on my home DVR at all times. I have a countdown on my calendar until Bo Boring and Denzil Martin perform at a theater near me. I submit family, friends... random passerby...to outrageous clips of Louise C.K. I'll put this simply—boys. I am no stranger to the kind of jokes that make your grandma's hair curl. But there is one type of male comedy I wish would stay in the back of your mind. I am no longer a reliable judge of anything. Your problem? I know this.

Firstly, your period 'joke' would offend a man if a man menstruated, too. When you connect your emotions to your gender, you are basically saying that because of the way I was born, I have no control over my thoughts and feelings. Somehow, because of my physiology, I am no longer allowed to have legitimate opinions and convictions. Not everyone will not be taken seriously; it will be dismissed as a hormonal anomaly. That is your defense mechanism right there, because by stating that I am unstable, anything you or someone else may have done wrong flows away on a little misogynistic breeze, because according to you, I am no longer a reliable judge of anything. Your problem? I know this.

Secondly, allowing for extenuating circumstances, you have no idea what it is like to be a woman. How very unlike it is that an awkward male gym teacher told you everything you needed to know about your anatomy one day in the sixth grade, using a black-and-white projection of a uterus made as clinical and unrealistic as possible for 'appropriateness.'

I doubt that one day, your whole life changed when coach told you that you would experience a "disgusting, painful, and torrid" out-flowing of blood and guts for the rest of your life, or at least until age fifty. I'll let you in on a secret—it is terrifying. Suddenly, you despise your 'manly' anatomy and long for a solution. Women have cycllical hormones, menstruation differs for every woman. 'PMS,' cited as the source of such jokes by many men, stands for premenstrual syndrome, which actually starts approximately two weeks after a woman begins her period and ends when her period begins. Nor the same timeframe. And although some women may be fatigued, bloated, irritable, or even depressed, women are encouraged to see their physici- ans and are often relieved that they can be treated with birth control pills which regulate hormones. Now let me ask you this, what kind of a person would you be to mock someone for having symptoms which are both out of their control and upsetting to them? While you are at it, why don't you visit an oncology department and start berating cancer patients for growing such abnormal cells?

Lastly, allow me to string in some social psychology and tell you about prejudice and stereo- typing. That women are unstable, emotional, and better being one of a kind is a stereotype, because not all women fit this description. Some women have no emotional symptoms associ- ated with their menstrual cycle. Some women feel much better turned-on during their periods (do with that what you will). While you may not personally believe this stereotype, when you make up the minds of others in an offensive manner, you perpetuate it.

Continued online at www.thecurrent-online.com

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Relevance in 2015

Aaron C. Clemens
Staff Writer

As we begin a new semes- ter, and stand in the wake of a tumultuous, divisive, and all around difficult year for, not only Saint Louis or the Unit- ed States but for the entire world, it would be wise of us to reflect upon the words of this 20th century thinker and to con- template how we, as members of a world and a society that is becoming ever more complex and diverse, can better apply King's message in the future. It is simply that we would do well to remember that we are all inhabitants of this wonderful little blue planet and thus share a stake in its future and in the happiness of our fellow human beings. Specifically, in this time of racial, religious, and political tension, we could all stand to benefit from incorporating the values championed by Dr. King into our personal lives. These values of nonviolence, peace, equality, tolerance, courage in the face of injustice, and love of our fellow man and woman continue to resonate as an excellent example of morality and are very much needed in today's society. All Americans, specifically African Americans, owe a great deal to King and it is agreed upon that we have set him up among the pantheon of American heroes.

Let us begin our discourse on King by focusing on who he was, where he came from, how he developed his philosophy, why we honor him, and most of all, how his legacy can be applied in today's world.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was the second of three children born to Pastors Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King. As a child, he attended segregated public schools and excelled in his studies, so much so that he was admitted to Morehouse College at the tender age of 15. Initially, King wanted to study medicine and law but Dr. Benjamin Hayes' influence guided him to the life of a theo- logian. After graduating from Morehouse in 1948 with a B.A. in sociology, he subsequently attended and graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary with his Bachelor of Divinity, and Boston University with his PhD in systematic theology. It was around this time that he met his wife Coretta Scott King, with whom he would later have four children.

Around 1954, King became Pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. He developed a version of Christianity focused on pacifism and love of one's neighbor. However, at the be- ginning of his civil rights activ- ity, King was dismissive to the principles of nonviolence and was known to keep guns in his home for the purpose of self defense. This changed once he took on Bayard Rustin as his civil rights adviser. Rustin adhered to the Christian Pacifist tradition and had also been deeply influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and had imparted a great deal of his knowledge and ideals on to King. Unfortunately, Rustin's role in King's cabinet was great- ly downplayed due to his sexual preferences and the intolerant attitude toward homosexuals at the time led him to play a role in the background of the Civil Rights Movement. Nevertheless, King's belief in the power of nonviolence, began to expand his activism and in 1955, after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man, King helped orga- nize and lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This changed King from a relatively unknown preacher into a national figure.

In 1957, following the Montgomery Bus Boycott, King founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, through which he organized black churches and more non-vio- lent protests, such as eating or sitting-in at segregated locations or protesting or sitting in public spaces, led to the arrests of many protesters, including King himself. These protests took place in Albany, Birmingham, St. Augustine, Selma, and New York. These protests culminated with the March on Washington in 1963 where King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Following the march, King continued to fight for both social and economic equality until 1968, when he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968, the day after he had delivered his famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech which seemed to foreshadow his death. King has been the recipient of numerous awards, both during his life time and posthumously, and is still remembered as one of the most important figures in American history.

King's legacy of fighting for human rights, against injustice and in the face of adversity is something we could all stand to learn from him. In an age so heavily marked by the perversion of justice, today's society could use King's message in the future. It would be wise of us to take a moment to empathize and symp- pathize with our fellow women and men, for us to contemplate how we can make a difference in the world and make it into a place where one could truly believe that no matter what the color of a person's skin is, what god or gods they worship, or do not worship, whether they are gay or straight, male or female, or transgender, rich or poor, fat or skinny, ugly or beautiful, lib- eral or conservative, they would still be treated with dignity and granted their basic human rights. This day, unfortunately, has not yet come but if we con- tinue to make an effort to fight for what is right, there might in fact be a day where this dream can become a reality.
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