Perspective: Praxis

UMSL, Black Power and Society: A Proposal

The following article by Michael Hughes, S.A. President, is the first in a series of weekly articles. The views expressed are those of Michael Hughes, and are not necessarily shared by the Senate or the Current Staff. Any comments should be sent to MI or the Current Editorial Board.

By Michael Hughes

(Note: Although this column is written by the current president, the viewpoints expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Senate or any other Student Association body.)

On January 9, a group of University students agreed to meet with the faculty to discuss problems they could not solve even though they had the support of the Student Association. This was the only such meeting for the dialogue. I believe the meeting was highly successful because of the open, frank and free atmosphere that existed between both parties, the students and two officers of the Student Association—and because the students were willing and able to reconcile any mis-information or lack of information. These students happened to be Negroes.

This meeting was not opened to the general student body or to the campus press, but was limited to the request of the participants and because of the necessity of maintaining the free atmosphere, which was pertinent for the dialogue. The large number of students attending the meeting made it necessary to transfer the meeting, then to the Student Association Office to the student lounge in the Administration Building. This created some disturbance, but I am glad to report that the students were able to control the situation. The students who attended the meeting trusted the attention of the Current to an adjoining office. I commend the students who attended for their desire to keep the student body informed of the Student Association's activities. In this case, there was another case where the interests and concerns of the students were able to take into consideration: the request for privacy. I could not revolve this concern, but I may have used the wrong approach in informing the Current—and should have taken the time to explain the situation further, instead of taking lightly their acceptance of reporting a campus situation as they saw it at the time.

Black Power

The Current did mention in an editorial, "SA Seclusion—Current Exclusion," the rumors that the meeting was a "black power concept," and this is the subject for this column.

In August, delegates of the National Student Congress of the United States National Student Association passed legislation on the subject of black power, which reads in part:

Black power is the establishment of racial pride, identity, purpose, and direction in order to secure economic, political, social, and cultural power, and influence for the black peoples in America.

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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 16 UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AT ST. LOUIS JANUARY 26, 1968

Area Schools Confer Here With ASG Leaders

In a meeting with St. Louis area schools here Friday, January 19, David Laubernsheimer of Associated Student Governments, stated that, "The past has been intellectual in a body. This year will be a new year—a year of exploration, innovation and involvement. We are going to make ASG a dynamic force."

The meeting, which was headed by Robert Neeley, president of ASG, and his staff, was called for the benefit of St. Louis area colleges which are not members of ASG. The purpose of the meeting was to arouse the interest of the schools in joining ASG and to give them the opportunity to ferret out any specific information which the generalized ASG literature does not provide them.

Aside from Neeley, his staff, and Michael Hughes, UMSL Student Association president, Forest Park Community College was represented by their student body president, Carl Bartz, and the vice-president, Joanne Nustor. ASG coordinator Bunsie Riff was present with Marcie David, Diane Kennedy, and Mary Margaret Smith from the University of Cincinnati. The body president Madonna McGrath, Ella Hibiard and Kathy Brock of Webster College also attended, as well as Fonbonese's president Ellen O'Hana and senator Margie McNamee.

Neeley said his staff continually emphasized throughout the meeting the real purpose of ASG—that ASG is a clearing house of information or lack of information. The large number of students attending the meeting made it necessary to transfer the meeting, then to the Student Association Office to the student lounge in the Administration Building. This created some disturbance, but I am glad to report that this situation took into consideration: the request for privacy. I could not revolve this concern, but I may have used the wrong approach in informing the Current—and should have taken the time to explain the situation further, instead of taking lightly their acceptance of reporting a campus situation as they saw it at the time.

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With the development of po- tential and a positive self-im- age, the black man attains self- respect and self-determination.

With this improvement of the black man's lifestyle, he will have a role to play and will not merely to exist.

The student should be aware of the present situation. He should also be aware of the possible involvement in social and political action.

The strong reason behind black power is that after centuries of slow progress, at best, the Negro is being integrated into a white mentality which causes the break- up of the Negro family and "emasculation and loss of dignity of the American Black Man.

While I can fully agree with the alienation and socialization which a present system has produced for the Negro, I cannot see a solution in the NSA proposal that would include the exclusion of a large segment of society, namely, whites, in coming to an ac- ceptable solution. There is no solu- tion to the Negro problem in white power, there is no solution in ignorance or pre- tend to be a solution. There is no solution that exists for those who are not on either side.

There is a solution in practice, action, which is the step follow- ing and is the hope that has been pro- duced for the Negro. I cannot see a solution in the NSA proposal that would include the exclusion of a large segment of society, namely, whites, in coming to an ac- ceptable solution. There is no solu- tion to the Negro problem in white power, there is no solution in ignorance or pre- tend to be a solution. There is no solution that exists for those who are not on either side.

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Cagers To Play SW Baptist, Bearcats, Kansas State Teachers on Trip

By Doug Sutton, Sports Editor

When Coach Smith was asked what fans could expect in the second part of the season, all he said was “We’ll have to wait and see how the boys’ grades come out.” Characteristically, he said it with a smile.

When asked what kind of teams Southwest Baptist and Kansas State Teacher College have, his smile faded a little “Southwest will have a 6’5” All-States from Owensville, Jim White. And losing Bill Caldwell will affect our rebounding strength. It’s going to be a tough game."

Southwest Baptist, the school for which Chuck Caldwell played and averaged 17 points a game last year, has two returning lettermen from last year’s 15-6 squad. One of the victories was at UMSL’s expense. In that game, Chuck Caldwell led the attack for the Bearcats with 26 points to beat the Rivermen, 110-78. The Rivermen will play Southwest on Monday, January 29 at Bolivar, Mo.

On January 30, UMSL will take on the Hornets of Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia, Kansas. The Hornets feature five returning lettermen from last year’s 8-18 team. Dale Cushingberry, 6’7” center, will be the Rivermen’s biggest worry; last year he averaged 12.5 points per game. Other lettermen returning for the Hornets are Dan Davies, who averaged 11.1 points; Ron Davis, Sam Siegrist, and Bruce Shannon.

The next game following the Rivermen’s roadtrip will be against the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee on Saturday, February 3 at Concordia.

Bill Caldwell In Army

It took the army to break up the Caldwell brothers’ act at UMSL. Bill Caldwell, 6-4 junior forward for the Rivermen, reported for his physical on Tuesday, January 23 in his home town of Birmingham, Alabama, according to head basketball coach Chuck Smith.

Bill played high school ball at Ullman High in Birmingham and later went to Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Missouri. He transferred to UMSL this past fall.

Coach Smith described Bill as a tremendous all-around player and one who is going to be sorely missed. Bill was the leading rebounder for the Rivermen, pulling down a total of 163 rebounds in 13 games, for a 12.5 average per game. In an early season game against McKendree College, he pulled down 23 rebounds a season high for the Rivermen.

Bill was also the third leading scorer for UMSL, averaging 11.2 points per game.

Bill, a tremendous competitor, also was a good hustling ballplayer. In the game in which he pulled down 23 rebounds, he played 40 minutes. In several other contests he played 39, 38, and 40 minutes. Some­how Coach Smith could not afford to leave Bill on the bench.

When a reporter asked Bill if it got him down playing so much, he just replied, “No, it hurts worse sitting on the bench.”

Probably the thing players will remember most about Bill is his smile. Bill always had a smile. In practice, in the games, after the games, Bill was always smiling. A reporter asked Bill why he smiled so much in the game. He answered: “I’m just thinking about the next play I’m going to put on them. I’m not smiling actually, I’m laughing.”

Besides averaging 13 points and 12.5 rebounds per game, Bill was a demon on defense. Strong and agile, he frustrated many opponents who tried to drive the basket against him. And yet, as aggressive as he was on the boards and on defense, he fouled out of only one game.

For his 33-point, 47-rebound performance in the 3-game Concordia Invitational Thanksgiving Tournament, Bill was named to the All-Tourney team along with his older brother Chuck.

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Sports Calendar

January 29 Southwesi Baptist THERE 8:30
January 30 Kansas State Teachers THERE 7:30
February 3 University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee HERE 7:00
February 9 Concordica (HOMECOMING) HERE 8:00
February 13 Southwesterns of Memphis HERE 8:00
February 17 University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee THERE 8:00
February 19 University of Illinois, Chicago Circle THERE 7:30
February 23 Illinois College THERE 7:30
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