The Forum (Volume 38, Number 5)

Valparaiso University School of Law

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WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Barack Obama launched his presidency before an estimated 1.5 million people on the National Mall on Tuesday with somber words that he will overcome its serious economic and international challenges.

President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden watch the inaugural pageant outside the White House.

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real," Obama said in his inaugural address. "They are serious, and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time.

But know this, America: They will be met.

Obama's tempered optimism, however, was bookended by celebration in the Mall and across the country for the inauguration of the country's first African-American president.

"This is America happening," said Evaday Minott, a Brooklyn, New York, resident who witnessed the inauguration.

"It was prophesized by King that we would have a day when everyone would come together. This is that day. I am excited. I am joyful. It brings tears to my eyes."

Obama's address came before a crowd that had been building since 4 a.m. Tuesday down the National Mall. People sang, danced and waved flags as his swearing-in approached.

Many in the crowd seemed moved as Aretha Franklin belted out a rousing version of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" before Joe Biden was sworn in as vice president.

Wearing a navy suit and red tie, Obama repeated the oath of office, his hand on the same Bible used in President Abraham Lincoln's first inauguration.

When Obama took the podium, however, the jubilant crowd grew somber and quiet, hanging on his every word. There was only scattered applause -- punctuated by an occasional "That's right" or "Amen."

Obama thanked those who sacrificed so much so "a man whose father, less than 60 years ago, might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath."

He promised to end petty squabbles on Capitol Hill, bring "old friends and former enemies" into the fold, and invoked the Bible, saying, "The time has come to set aside childish things."

He also vowed to leave Iraq to its people, responsibly, and to finish forging "a hard-earned peace" in Afghanistan. To Muslims, he promised "a new way forward, based on mutual interest," and to terrorists, he leveled a threat: "You cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you."

The challenges are daunting, he said, but anyone who understands this nation has understood about its past perseverance.

"Greatness is never a given. It must be earned," he said.

His words resounded with spectators and revelers who let out deafening cheers after his address. Spectator J.J. Caldwell likened Obama to some of the most heroic figures of the civil rights movement.

"When you think back, Malcolm [X] fought, then we come a little further. Rosa Parks sat, then come up a little further, and [the Rev. Martin Luther] King Jr. spoke. Then today, President Obama ran and we won," said Caldwell, of Somersett, New Jersey.

Celebrations weren't limited to Washington. Across the country, friends and strangers gathered on the streets and in schools, bars and auditoriums to witness Obama's inauguration, united in their hope that he will deliver on his promise of change.

In New York's Bronx borough, students huddled in the halls of a school to watch the ceremony on a projection screen.

"They were cheering; they were clapping; they were in awe because everything we had talked about, they were able to see," teacher Marta Rand said.

Leaders around the world offered their congratulations. French President Nicolas Sarkozy said the United States expressed "its resolve to have an open, new, strong and caring America." Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said Obama is "the hope of our time."

After Obama's address, hundreds of thousands remained on Washington's National Mall as Obama entered the Capitol and signed his first documents as the 44th president of the United States. Among those were his Cabinet nominations. The President signed most of those nominations later in the day.

Obama then linked with lawmaking at the Capitol's Statuary Hall, telling them, "What's happening today is not about me. It is about the American people."

Later, Obama's motorcade carried him past barricaded crowds along Pennsylvania Avenue toward the White House. He and his family watched the rest of the parade in a reviewing stand outside the White House. The president and first lady then headed to the round of 10 official inaugural balls scheduled over the course of the evening.

Many said before the festivities that they did not have tickets and would be happy to catch a mere glimpse of the nation's first African-American president. Some spectators were more than a mile from the swearing-in ceremony, watching on giant TV screens erected along the National Mall.

At St. John's Episcopal Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. John's Episcopal Church. See Inauguration, page 7

Baruffi noted that the portion of the parameters should be interpreted as mean- ing "not straight political conventions or party meetings will be assisted." However, due to their opportunities to students, Baruffi held that events such as Young Democrat or Republican lawyer Conventions would be considered for conference funding.

This year $30,000 has been allotted to the student conference fund on a first come first serve basis - this rolling admission process is set to continue next school year as well. This year the funds have been disbursed from the Dean's discretionary funds, but the plan for future allocation to this fund has yet to be determined. Proposals are currently being vetted to determine if the
The Tax Clinic at Valparaiso University School of Law (Valpo Law) is a good opportunity for those students who would like to explore an area of law other than litigation and is also a great experience for those aiming to practice business law after graduation. Unlike other Volpo Law clinics, the Tax Clinic is more transactional in nature, focusing on problem-solving and negotiation. Students work closely with the IRS attorneys in negotiating appropriate settlements for their clients and finding solutions to their conflicts. Students represent clients in Federal In­come tax controversy cases in adminis­trative procedures before the IRS and in judicial procedures before the U.S. Tax Court.

Clinic clients include low-income individuals, small businesses and non­profit organizations from all over the state of Indiana. Organizations need legal representation in particular when it comes to tax exemption procedures, which can be complicated and over­wheming for them to handle on their own. Among the different organizations represented by the clinic is a fire­fight­ers’ association, an orchestra, and a pet rescue organization.

A great deal of client correspon­dance is done via telephone, mail and e-mail because clients cannot always come to meet with their student repre­sentatives in person.

In order to be eligible to participate in the clinic, students must first take two classes: Federal Income Tax and Legal Professions. In Legal Professions, students are taught to ensure that students have a basic un­derstanding of how the federal income tax laws work. Legal Professions is a state imposed prerequisite for all clinic students.

Students work an average of ten hours a week and have office hours in which their clients can reach them. They may not be able to call twice a week during the first few weeks of the semester and less often as they become more comfortable with their tasks. During these meetings students receive proper training and work on case in­dents, in which they articulate their cases in front of the group. This enables them to be prepared when the opportunity arises for them to speak in front of a judge or negotiate with the IRS attorneys.

Professor Paul Kohloff, who has been director of the clinic since 2004, encourages students to participate in the clinic for two semesters since he considers this making the learning process more accurate and complete. Although the possibility to work at the clinic for only one semester is available, this is not advisable. The first semester allows students to become familiarized with the job, while the second semester enables them to work through the pro­cess and reach a solution to their case. Students also get the benefit of six cred­its for their participation in the Clinic during two semesters.

"The clinic gives students the op­portunity for a smooth transition from being a law student to being an attorney. It gives them the confidence to work on their own, deal with clients and negotiate with opposing parties. As op­posed to other learning opportunities such as mock trial or moot court, the work at the clinic is not scripted and students learn as their cases progress," Kohloff said. The cases are usually billing per hour process works in a law firm; having to keep track of the time they spend on each case and prepare a mock invoice for their billable hours.

Kohloff explains that, contrary to what some students think, the VITA program and the tax clinic are two dif­ferent and separate things. Students at the clinic do not work on fil­ing their tax returns for the current year. This service is provided by VITA program through the work of vol­unteers who receive pro-bono hours in return. The tax clinic is not conducted by volunteers, but by students who earn three credits per semester for the service they provide.

According to Andrew Schmuhl, a third-year law student working his second semester at the Clinic, the work done at the Clinic is much more time­pressured as the work in other clinics. "You get the opportunity to develop a good amount of time to re­search and writing, while making sure you are doing a good job for your cli­ent," Kohloff said. The cases are re­ally colorful and interesting. Contrary to the idea that most students have, that the Tax Law Clinic is all about filling out forms. The live stories of the people coming to the clinic sometimes are just unbelievable!"

Schmuhl also stresses the impor­tance of the clinic experience in find­ing a job, "once you graduate from law school, the likelihood of having to deal with litigation procedures at the stress level the clinic offers is really unlikely. Most students will start by doing work most similar to the one encountered in the tax clinic, where research and writing of memo­randums is a priority!

The opportunity to work with real cases, intensify your research and writ­ing abilities, and gain experience in re­cruitment procedures is right across the yard!"

Maru is a IL and can be reached at for­rum@valpo.edu.

FROM THE
LAW LIBRARY

Sally Holterhoff
Government Information/Reference Librarian

As the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States made you wonder how the events of January 20, 2009, take place every four years? The swearing­in ceremony, with its Con­stitutional basis and historical back­ground, marks the beginning of a new presidential term and sets the tone for the totality of the new presidency.

In the U.S. Constitution, the presi­dential oath of office is set out in Article II, Section 1, which reads simply: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Presidents­elect must protect all facets of our political process, even some­thing as seemingly mundane as its for­mal opening.

"You'd made you think about inaugurations since it usually only occurs every four or eight years. Yet, it is a monumental achieve­ment. Our country is successful because the power is passed from one administration to another. The event also provides citizens of every political background with hope and promise for the future. Americans are lucky to have this process and it should not be taken for granted. And we, as future lawyers, must protect all facets of our political process, even something as seemingly mundane as its formal opening."

Christy is a LL and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
Thousands of law professors all in one place—it’s an amazing sight! This was the view the first week of January in Chicago as we kicked off the meeting of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). You may not be aware of the fact that the law school started classes later than the undergradured campus. That’s because some schools (by Professor Berry’s count) were at the AALS meeting. We discovered your age ago that your professors are back from the beginning of Spring semester and then most of their classes are cancelled because the professors are away at the AALS meeting (which always takes place right after New Year). So we just start classes a few days later.

AALS’s annual meeting is the primary place to network with colleagues from the United States and (for foreign countries) meet to exchange information on legal education to network law school faculty, professional staff and deans to information and resources, and by being the principal representative of legal education to the federal government, other national higher education organizations, learned societies and international law schools. AALS has nearly one hundred Sections on various area of law and legal education.

The theme for this year’s conference was “Institutional Pluralism,” which recognized the fact that AALS member law schools come from a variety of perspectives. There are state law schools, private law schools, 49 religiously-affiliated schools, 50 schools at historically black colleges and universities, and schools that focus on particular subject matters or points of view. Several sessions at the conference discussed the institutional pluralism aspect of legal education.

Three of our Professors spoke on panels at AALS. Professor Penny Andrew spoke twice—once at the Section on African program on “Economic Development in Africa,” and again at the Section on Constitutional Law program on “Comparative Perspectives and Criticisms.” Professor Seymour Mosesowitz spoke at the Section on Women in the Law Program on “Consumer Protection Law and the Elderly: What’s New-What’s Needed.” Finally, Professor Witt spoke at the Section on Women in Legal Education section meeting. Her presentation was on how they didn’t support female candidates for president or vice-president in the coming academic year. One of the sessions was “The Cleopatra Syndrome: Golda, Indira, Bella, Margaret, Geraldine and Hillary—Education for Women Leadership Roles in the 21st Century.” Due to conflicts I was unable to attend the presentation, but I heard through the grapevine that they were excellent, which is only to be expected from our faculty.

I mentioned earlier that AALS is the primary event for professors to catch up with their school colleagues. The law library directors also get together several times at the AALS meeting to discuss various aspects of the library. A topic of interest is the law library from which I am going to be located throughout the building rather than enclosed in a particular area), current topics of interest, and how it can be used to analyze successful and unsuccessful searching on Lexis and Westlaw; and aging theory and how it can be used to

Networking is one of the most valuable aspects of the conference. Several presentations were given by librarians in San Diego was titled “Librarians as Scholar.” Five law librarians discussed their areas of research, which included the intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples; information foraging and how it can be used to analyze successful and unsuccessful searching on Lexis and Westlaw; and the influence of William Cook, who recognized the fact that law education is the primary event for professors to catch up with their school colleagues.

The Association of American Law Schools is an organization with 170 member schools. It was founded in 1900 and Valparaiso became a member in 1920. AALS serves as a resource for the improvement of the quality of legal education by networking law school faculty, professional staff and deans to information and resources, and by being the principal representative of legal education to the federal government, other national higher education organizations, learned societies and international law schools. AALS has nearly one hundred Sections on various areas of law and legal education.

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Student activity fee structure should be modified to create a funding mechanism for the conference fund—but that determination has not been made. The known funding changes for ´09 are currently expected that SBA funding for conference fees will be replaced by the new funding mechanism.

Upon submitting a proposal, a selection committee consisting of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (Mary Persyn), the Assistant Dean (Julie Morgan-Beck), and a representative from the SBA will review and accept the proposals. The selection committee’s purpose is not to seek out conferences for students to attend—that remains with their advisors.

Since the creation of this fund in December of 2008, several applications have been submitted to the conference committee, but many funds remain.

Nathan is a 2L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
I'm not just talking about Valentine's Day. We single people don't have to worry about all the vagaries of gift-giving. Basically, I don't have time to think about the perfect romantic idea to impress their brains, trying to come up with that perfect rocky road heart at the Brooklyn-based duo can fit into several different categories of music, but would prefer to simply be called commercial, happen to play in: in the alternative music scene can dance to and enjoy on a deeper level. Matt Johnson provides the guitars and机动rty of the vocals, while Kim Schifino handles drums andAT pes in her own vocals on some of the tracks. Music fans may scoff at an album so short, but it's worth checking out because every track is a fun ride, and overall it's a completely pleasurable listening experience for every occasion. I give it a solid 8 out of 10.

Q-Tip - The Renaissance

I have been nine long years since Q-Tip's first solo album was released, but "The Renaissance" was defined as being an album in 2003 that was never released because he was signed with the label he was signed with. Q-Tip also switched labels several times before this album was recorded for a major label. This album is one of the first albums ever released in the United Kingdom. But the former A Tribe Called Quest member returns with a new and sometimes irresistible release. Q-Tip records with a focus rarely seen on mainstream radiowaves and our televisions are being bombarded with the reigning and future winners of hip-hop. Q-Tip demonstrates that if you have the drive and talent you can still make it in the music industry by traditional means. On that note, for anyone who has listened to the radio in the past few months you have likely come across Q-Tip's hit single, "Love Story", which detailsof a forbidden romance between Swift's Jake and a real or imagined Romeo. The songs are pleasing to the ear and the album even more so. On "Change", Swift calls for a revolution and that the time has come for us to win. In some ways Taylor Swift represents everything this reviewer dislikes about mainstream music but it would be a disservice to dismiss her new album as anything less than what it is, a well-crafted pop record that displays her vocal and songwriting talents. I give it a 7 out of 10 for a pop star of whose parents don't have to afraid to let their teen-age son look up and admire.

Here is my list of top 10 Albums from 2008:
1. Fleet Foxes - Fleet Foxes
2. Bon Iver - For Emma, Forever Ago
3. The Black Keys - Rubber Soul
4. Q-Tip - The Renaissance
5. Beck - Sea Change
6. Q-Tip - The Renaissance
7. Beach House - Devotion
8. The Hold Steady - Stay Positive
9. Sun Kil Moon - April
10. Lila Wayne - The Carter III

Brett is a 3L, and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

S o, Valentine's Day is almost upon us, and for those of us who are romantically single, this is one of the most irritating times of the year. Ideal heart-shaped decorations, those chunky heart-shaped candies with sappy romantic messages, the mountains of trash, the flowers, the jewelry store commercials on ESPN; they're everywhere, and they're really annoying. But don't depart fellow single folk. Being single for Valentine's Day is actually a blessing in disguise. I know you don't believe me, so let me make my case.

For starters, you aren't responsible for ANYTHING on Valentine's Day either. Think about all the birthdays, anniversaries, dinners, lunches and other miscellaneous money-spending opportunities that you get to avoid if you're single. We're not responsible for ANYTHING on Valentine's Day either. Think about all the birth-...
Buckley’s Brewhouse

Discombolulation Celebration Ale, Shoreline Brewing Co., Michigan City, Indiana.

Chris Buckley
Forum Beer Critic

There are few things I would rather be doing than reviewing a barley wine. On a day when you either have nothing to do, or that’s been bad and you have to look for anything to make sure you’re not in fact wearing a postal uniform, that’s the day to purchase and savor one of these. Sit back, take your time and enjoy all that this style of ale has to offer.

Shoreline Brewing Company has not impressed me in the past with many of its beers. However, their barley wine that I sampled from this collection is a profound exception.

Despite what common myths would have you believe, barley wine is not in fact wine. There are a few circulating tales about how this came to be. The most interesting of which is that in order to be served at English pubs concoctions of this alcohol volume had to be classified as wines in order to be properly licensed. The other tales simply give barley wine the name it has today by its typically overwhelming sweetness or its aging characteristics. Either way, this is an exceptional class of beers that is particularly complex and delectable for all.

Unlike the Belgians who make similar classes of beers (Dubbels and Trippels), the English derived this style from its grain bill alone. In other words, barley wine is just simply beer taken to the next level. It doesn’t employ gummy candy sugar to spike the alcohol content. This ale is 100 percent pure barley, although it uses roughly twice the amount as a normal batch. Like many other styles, American versions of this ale typically possess a much greater happiness, and some utilitarian hops with higher alpha concentration to do so, which results in a citrusy like finish.

To me, when poured into a beautiful snifter, specimens of this type are truly art. I accompanied the snifter to the bar to watch him pour the ale and observed a very cloudy haze, which changed from overcast to partly cloudy. After cascading out of the tap for a few minutes, this gorganzola ale settled into a clearer, deep brownish copper red. In typical fashion, it had little to no head, but a course, creamy white frothy texture just accenting its surface. Overall, it gave an outstanding visual presentation. The whip of this ale took several minutes to unravel. It began with a very sweet, candy coated pistachio or pecan aroma, backed by the essence of caramelized oats. The overwhelming sweetness was reminiscent of Boston baked beans and caramel cheesecake sprinkled with allspice. As for its taste, a waft of sweet barley instantly struck me. It tasted of a heavily caramelized granny smith apple. The body smacked of sweet coffee candy, such as Werthers Original mixed with the crust of crème brûlée. This heavy body was balanced with very sweet dates, such as a sweet amaretto or hard cider. Its finish was extremely dry, clean and slightly astringy. In my opinion, this was a very well done American barley wine across all categories. I highly recommend it.

Chris is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

SudokU

David Johnson — Forum Staff Sudoko Creator

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Chris is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
Jon Morris
News Editor

2009 is here. We have a new President in office. A leader that has become a shining example of inefficiency and waste in the hands of former President Barack Obama. His inauguration speech was both inspirational and hisoric. Even as president of the Libertarian society I was captivated and in support of our new President's remarks.

That being said, our new leader and his administration are about to face a great deal of problems. Some economists, and most politicians, claim we are in a crisis. The crisis, the likes of which we have never "seen before."

My grandfather lived through the Great Depression. Over Christmas break he told me that, during the depression, his childhood Christmas dinner consisted of a piece of bread, a jar of peanut butter, and a chicken for which his father had hunted. My grandfather had 5 sisters. My other grandpa loved stories of real hardship fleeing from our country has quickly become to the losses they would incur should they begin re-negotiating mortgage contracts. Keynesian economists insisted that the only way to wrestle with this problem and, unfortunately, it seems as if nothing is getting better. Classical economists warned that a government funded over one trillion dollars at this point, $29 billion to JP Morgan, $150 billion to Fannie Mae, $325 billion to AIG. Yet when Congress authorized legislation to fix the mortgage market, it's unconstitutional. Congress has completely ignored the non-delegation doctrine and is currently setting bad precedent. Congress loves giving as much power as possible to government agencies. It relieves all the pressure of actually having to do something other than campaign for re-election, and responsibility disappears. If something goes right, Congress takes credit. If something goes wrong Congress passes the blame to the government agency in charge. Having your cake and eating it too, but wait there's more! The Court is too lenient on Congress. Their inelgible principles standards are almost nonexistent. The ineligibility principle is placed in the Constitution of Paulson unprecedented power to act as a super-legislature. Not only is the bailout bad for taxpayers, it's unconstitutional. Congress has completely ignored the non-delegation doctrine, and is currently setting bad precedent. Congress loves giving as much power as possible to government agencies. It relieves all the pressure of actually having to do something other than campaign for re-election, and responsibility disappears. If something goes right, Congress takes credit. If something goes wrong Congress passes the blame to the government agency in charge. Having your cake and eating it too, but wait there's more! The Court is too lenient on Congress. Their inelgible principles standards are almost nonexistent. The inelgible principle in place for Secretary Paulson of "fix it" is not an ineligibility principle, it includes absolutely no guidelines or restrictions on the choices of an appointed official. Congress must not be allowed to give away such vast decision-making power without any stringent guidelines and measures of accountability. The debates of this "crisis" is clear examples why.

So, what will become of this mess? Our national debt has already climbed to $10.6 trillion, which is staggeringly close to our national GDP of $14.3 trillion, and still growing understimated and rarely discussed. Add another one trillion dollars for the TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program) bailout, ad other bailouts. Then, consider Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Estimates prepared by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) say that the projected cost of paying for these programs in the future would be at least $57.7 trillion. Add it all up and you get approximately $64 trillion.

This is not to claim to be a mathematician or an accountant but I can't figure out how to pay for all of this when our tax revenues are only $2.4 trillion and we are ending the year with a nearly $500 billion budget deficit. Even if Obama raised taxes we would hardly make a dent in this debt, especially with all of the new proposed spending in the works.

Our government is operating on the Keynesian economic philosophy that a government can increase standard of living by increasing GDP which expends government spending plus consumer spending plus net exports minus imports. The theory is that our government can increase government spending and thereby cause an exponential increase in GDP and therefore standard of living. This theory is flawed because it assumes that government services respond at 100% efficiency. The government does not operate at 100% efficiency and wasn't last when we are forced to allocate all tax revenues towards interest payments on our insurmountable debt.

Indiana Congressman Pete Visclosky sent me a large majority of the information used in this article, straight from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports. Congressman Visclosky is a Democrat in Indiana's first district and he voted against the government bailouts for a reason. Our government is irresponsible, inefficient, biased and intrusive and typically causes more problems than it attempts to solve, wasting billions of dollars in the process.

President Obama, in his inauguration speech, talked about bringing back the core principles and philosophies that built this nation. He is talking about faithfully executing the office of President of the United States, and to the best of his ability, preserving, protecting and defending the Constitution of the United States. That's the kind of change all of us should embrace; the kind of change we deserve. We deserve to trust that our government will be wise, frugal, and law abiding, and to trust that if it should overstep in boundaries, our President will stay true to his oath. So help us God.

Jon is a 2L and can be reached at joram@iualg.org

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I've been searching the U.S. Code trying to find out how many federal holidays there are (11). Next, I would like to determine what federal holidays are dedicated in part or in whole to minorities. I came upon only one.

On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. In 1986 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a national holiday. On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama was elected President of the United States. MLK Jr. had a dream and many see Barack Obama as a partial realization of that dream. It has been over 40 years since MLK Jr. shared that dream, and 22 years since the United States started its annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr’s life and visions.

Some people treat the holiday as just another day off while others, like Valparaiso University, will be hosting many different events that look at what Dr. King’s dream has accomplished and what is left to be accomplished regarding his dream. To say that Dr. King’s holiday is just another day in the year fails to take into account those people who use the opportunity to reflect and continue pursuing his dream. One of those people was Barack Obama.

Throughout the process of campaigning for the presidency, Obama continually quoted from Dr. King’s speeches. Obama reminded people of Dr. King’s vision of hope and the potential of when people come together to get along without a yearly day to celebrate King would have faded in any small textbooks in middle and high schools.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicates his life to serving the community in an effort to help bring a divided nation together. But as it stands today, roughly 23 years after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was first created and publicly observed the question is: has it become just like any other day in the calendar year?

Every year, the third Monday in the month of January is set aside to honor a great man, a historic civil rights leader who no doubt deserves national recognition. At grade schools and universities around the country, several events are put together to commemorate Dr. King and his famous dream - a dream that has been adopted by millions of people across color lines. These activities range from community service projects and movie presentations to speeches on race relations and dinner gatherings.

Though the intentions are undoubtedly well-meaning, the functions that take place all around the country for MLK Day, however, don’t appear to make the day stand out to the extent in which it was originally intended. There is no question that community service brings us one step closer to realizing the society that Dr. King spoked of in his speeches. Yet at the same time, the chief factor of many speeches given on this day is that Dr. King’s dream has yet to be realized, which I believe can do honor to Dr. King in a manner in which he should be honored. I do indeed applaud those who put faith and participate in MLK Day events, as I myself have done year after year in an effort to give Dr. King the honor he deserves. However, there seems to be a feeling of apathy amongst younger generations for Dr. King’s day, perhaps simply because they fail to find it to emotionally connect to something that), they never experienced, and 2), may be hard to imagine having grown up in today’s modern society. But perhaps because it is so difficult to honor a man of such a grand character - a man who had the lead in helping to transform this country’s ideals - the events that take place every MLK Day have made it almost identical to President’s Day or Columbus Day – both days set aside to honor heroes, but which have unfortunately become just another Monday for far too many.

Terani Randolph
Forum Staff Writer

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to serving the community in an effort to help bring a divided nation together. But as it stands today, roughly 23 years after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was first created and publicly observed the question is: has it become just like any other day in the calendar year?

Every year, the third Monday in the month of January is set aside to honor a great man, a historic civil rights leader who no doubt deserves national recognition. At grade schools and universities around the country, several events are put together to commemorate Dr. King and his famous dream - a dream that has been adopted by millions of people across color lines. These activities range from community service projects and movie presentations to speeches on race relations and dinner gatherings.

Though the intentions are undoubtedly well-meaning, the functions that take place all around the country for MLK Day, however, don’t appear to make the day stand out to the extent in which it was originally intended. There is no question that community service brings us one step closer to realizing the society that Dr. King spoked of in his speeches. Yet at the same time, the chief factor of many speeches given on this day is that Dr. King’s dream has yet to be realized, which I believe can do honor to Dr. King in a manner in which he should be honored. I do indeed applaud those who put faith and participate in MLK Day events, as I myself have done year after year in an effort to give Dr. King the honor he deserves. However, there seems to be a feeling of apathy amongst younger generations for Dr. King’s day, perhaps simply because they fail to find it to emotionally connect to something that), they never experienced, and 2), may be hard to imagine having grown up in today’s modern society. But perhaps because it is so difficult to honor a man of such a grand character - a man who had the lead in helping to transform this country’s ideals - the events that take place every MLK Day have made it almost identical to President’s Day or Columbus Day – both days set aside to honor heroes, but which have unfortunately become just another Monday for far too many.

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where the Obamas kicked off a packed day, 5-year-old Laura Brattgerman wept with her mother, sister, and father, Jeff, of Bethesda, Maryland. The affordable crowd tried to let shorter man waited with her mother, Wendy, from Columbus, Ohio, before returning to their vehicle to finish the ceremony also drew celebri­ties like Dustin Hoffman, Denzel Wash­ington and Steven Speilberg. It’s behind the dream. We’re just here feeling it with the throngs of people. It’s amazing grace personified,” Winfrey said, sitting next to actor Samuel L. Jackson.

Obama and congressional leaders formally bade farewell to Bush, and the new-former president took a presiden­tial jet to Midland, Texas, shortly after­ward.

As Obama and his wife, Michelle, made their way to the White House, they stepped out of their limousine amid another round of loud boos.

The first couple arrived as they walked down Pennsylvania Avenue, waving to the throngs held back by police barriers. They walked a few blocks before returning to their vehicle to fin­ish the inaugural parade that took them to the White House.

“I have a theory that Buckn and Michelle will be out and about on the streets of Washington (during this holiday),” said one of them.

Tanya Miller, who was watching the Obamas arrive at the White House, Obama and his family watched the rest of the inauguration parade from a re­
Winter wonderland swimming

Rachel Sharron
Sports Editor

The month of January is often as associated with many traditional wintry things such as: cold weather, ice, snow, skating, snowmobiling and ice fishing amongst others. But apparently a new activity needs to be added to the list - outdoor winter swimming.

Cold-water swimming is hardly unheard of as many people have swum in the Great Lakes or across the English Channel or from Alcatraz to the shores of San Francisco. However, this past January should be individual, one-time events.

Winter swimming, on the other hand, began as a means of cooling off after spending time in a sauna and has since morphed into its own event altogether. Also called ice swimming in some countries, this event is now just what it sounds like - swimming in frigid waters. And it's a relatively popular event in countries including: Russia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, China, Canada and the United States. There are even winter swimming championships now, as well as other outdoor winter swimming events, many of which are held in the Northern Hemisphere too.

The 2008 Winter Swimming Championships were held in London, England in Tooting Bee Lido, which is the UK's largest swimming pool, in February of last year. Playing host to this event was the South London Swimming Club (SLSC), which is one of London's oldest outdoor swimming clubs, and was the first time this event has been held outside of Finland.

The 680 participants in the Championship braved water temperatures hovering around 42 degrees. Most of the 95 events held during the two-day meet were head-up breaststroke races, but non-competitive freestyle and relay races were also held. The head-up breaststroke is the official racestroke, according to the SLSC.

In addition to the yearly plunges of Polar Bear clubs in the United States. There are even winter swimming championships now, as well as other outdoor winter swimming events, many of which are held in the Northern Hemisphere too.

Winter visitors to Harbin, China come to join the approximately 200,000 registered swimmers who swim in a large hole in the Songhua River. Finland has its own ice swimming society and several swimming holes are maintained in the winter by both the society and the Finnish skating association. The Finns also participate in water performance, which is some sort of artistic endeavor, and won that event at the 2008 Championships.

Within the US, the most publicized winter swimming event is one of the many Polar Bear Clubs’ New Year’s Day plunges in which participants jump into frigid lakes, completely submerging themselves while wearing only a bathing suit as wetsuits are strictly verboten. The Polar Bear Plunge is often a charity event that benefits the Special Olympics or other charities benefiting children. But even within the US, winter outdoor swimming is more than just a one-day event for many.

The Coney Island Club Polar Bear Club of Brooklyn, New York, which formed in 1903, still meets to this day every Sunday from November to April to swim in the ocean off the Coney Island coast, and also hosts an annual New Year’s Day plunge to raise money for a children’s charity, Camp Sunshine. Another long standing club, the L Street Brownies of South Boston, Massachusetts, also host an annual New Year’s Day plunge in Dorchester Bay; an annual event for the Brownies since 1916. There is some debate as to whether the Coney Island Club or the Brownies is the oldest American Polar Bear Club. But either way it’s still another New York/Boston sports rivalry, it’s a bit lesser known than the infamous one between the Yankees and the Boston Red Sox.

And what’s not fun about this? Participants claim that winter swimming makes them feel invigorated and euphoric. Some swimmers even state that the sport has health benefits too, that it boosts both the immune and circulatory systems, though those claims are subject to debate amongst health care professionals. And perhaps it does have some benefit, but either way I’ll think I’ll pass and reserve my swimming for heated water only.

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