

StirFry Seminars & Consulting

April 2012

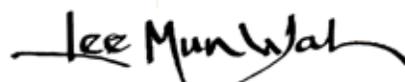
IT'S TIME TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Many of us remember our parents telling us to take responsibility if we did something wrong. We may even tell our children the same thing. Yet, how many of us actually do? I cannot remember a single President of the United States, member of Congress, Supreme Court Justice, university chancellor, minister, teacher, or CEO of any corporation ever publicly taking responsibility for something they'd done wrong before he/she got caught. And even when they were caught, often they would profess to be innocent of all the accusations.

This hypocrisy plays itself out every day in our country. Recently Rush Limbaugh called Sandra Fluke (a law student who was not allowed to speak at an all-male contraception hearing by Republicans) a "slut" and a "prostitute." After losing countless advertisement sponsors he finally apologized, but never acknowledged the "sexist" language that he used. House Speaker John Boehner called Limbaugh's language "inappropriate." Senator John McCain called Limbaugh's language "totally unacceptable." While women all over the country described Limbaugh's depiction of Sandra Fluke as "despicably sexist", "indecent", "outrageous", and "deplorable." The gender disparity of words and emotions used to describe what happened is only one more example of the dominant group not getting "it." The question begging to be answered was, "What was Limbaugh apologizing for?" Would he have apologized if no sponsors had cancelled? What was behind his calling Sandra Fluke a "slut" and a "prostitute?" Did he understand why so many women were outraged, besides blaming it on the liberal press or the Obama administration? Why didn't anyone at the radio station say anything publicly or personally to Limbaugh?

Another example was Marilyn Davenport, a member of the Orange County Republican Central Committee and a Tea Party activist, who sent out an email depicting President Barack Obama's face on the body of a baby chimpanzee with two other adult chimpanzees posing as his parents. Underneath the picture read, "Now you know why no birth certificate." After many protests, she asked forgiveness for her "unwise behavior." She said she didn't think of the "historical implications" and how this could be offensive. Actually, I think she did know the "historical implications." Otherwise she could have put his face on bird or a horse. No, throughout history, blacks have been depicted as apes and less than human. She was only playing out a racist stereotype that has been depicted in so many of our books, cartoons, and even in Disney films, such as *Jungle Book* and *Dumbo*, where the apes and bears all have black accents and the elephant who is the leader coincidentally has an English accent. What she sent was racist in her intent. What she was not prepared for was the impact and the publicity that it received outside her sphere of friends.

Racism, sexism or heterosexism isn't just what you say, do, or hear. It is also what you don't say, don't do, and don't hear. It's time that we, as adults, model for this next generation what it is to take responsibility for our words and our actions as well as our silence and our inaction. Someone once said, "If you accept and acknowledge your mistakes, what I see is your goodness. If you cover up your mistakes with excuses, claiming your goodness, all I see are your faults."



Contact Us: 510.204.8840 Trainings, Films & Diversity Products, ext. 101
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LET'S GET REAL: UNLEARNING RACISM (OVERNIGHT) RETREAT APRIL 13-15, 2012 • FRIDAY 2 PM UNTIL SUNDAY 2 PM QUAN YIN TRAINING CENTER • 2311 8TH STREET, BERKELEY, CA FACILITATED BY LEE MUN WAH

Before we can truly become a multicultural nation, we must have a relationship based on respect and understanding, reflection and curiosity; where our differences and our similarities are embraced, valued and integrated into the very fabric of our workplaces, communities, schools and governmental institutions. It also means coming to an understanding that awareness and holidays are just the beginning.

What is required is an on-going dialogue and relationship with each other. I hope that you will join us in making this not only a better world for our children, but for ourselves—not by starting tomorrow, but by beginning that conversation today.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT WWW.STIRFRYSEMINARS.COM/BTC

On Demand Digital Streaming Rentals of StirFry Films!!

For the first time, StirFry Seminars and Consulting is making their films available on line/on demand for students/individuals via digitally streamed video at www.diversitytrainingfilms.com. There, you can view director, Lee Mun Wah's new film *If These Halls Could Talk* as well as *The Color of Fear*, *Last Chance for Eden* and *Stolen Ground*. Your rental fee allows you access to each film for a 24-hour period. Please note StirFry Seminars' Copyright and Use Agreement prior to purchase. (If instead, you prefer to own a dvd copy of our diversity training films, you can purchase them on the Stirfry Seminars & Consulting website at www.stirfryseminars.com.)

For questions, contact us at: products@stirfryseminars.com or call 510-204-8840 x100. www.diversitytrainingfilms.com

StirFry Sale of the Month

Get **30%** off for a limited time off of **all** regularly-priced diversity training materials (including Lee Mun Wah's latest documentary, *If These Halls Could Talk*, and new book, *Let's Get Real: What People of Color Can't Say & Whites Won't Ask About Racism!*). Enter coupon code **SALE30** upon online checkout at www.stirfryseminars.com/store.

Some restrictions apply. Expires May 1, 2012

StirFry Calendar of Events

April 3, 2012 Ithaca, NY	If These Halls Could Talk: Film Showing & Diversity Dialogue with Film Director, Lee Mun Wah Open to the Public
April 4, 2012 Ithaca, NY	Building Relationships in a Diverse World Open to the Public
April 5, 2012 Ithaca, NY	An Unfinished Conversation Open to the Public
April 13-15, 2012 ** Berkeley, CA	Let's Get Real- Unlearning Racism (Overnight Retreat) Open to the Public
April 17, 2012 Stevens Point, WI	TBA Not Open to the Public
April 19, 2012 Elgin, IL	An Unfinished Conversation Open to the Public
May 6, 2012 Brattleboro, VT	TEDxSIT presentation Not Open to the Public

*** Held at the Quan Yin Training Center, 2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA*

For StirFry's complete Calendar of Upcoming Events, please visit www.stirfryseminars.com/events

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